

# OFAH ZONE J NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2022

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

My name is Greg Balch and for those who have never met me, I am an angler, hunter, and a professional trapper. I was elected to the position of Chair of Zone J this past March. I also travel and teach Wildlife Ecology and Canadian History with a large display of wildlife mounts doing a program that I initially created in 1993 now entitled "Community Wildlife Management Workshops".

I don't know everything, and I never will. I learn on a daily basis, and I will continue to learn every day of my life. I also learn from those I see during my presentations. In 2020 I spoke to a group where I repeated a myth created by Walt Disney in the 1960's about Lemmings killing themselves. A Zone J member was in the audience emailed me after the presentation explaining my mistake and provided a link to a research paper on Lemmings that explained they have mass drowning events. Lemmings must find new sources of food as their population grows and they must swim across large bodies of water. Not all of them make it across. Other Animals that can experience mass drowning events are Bison, Caribou and Wildebeest to name a few. Thank you to that member for the correct information!

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*Conservation is the effort by  
conservationists to maintain the entire  
resource in a healthy state.*

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I feel we need to improve the image that anglers and hunters as Conservationists. Each year prior to the pandemic and again soon, I have travelled to fall fairs with my display. At these fairs and sometimes at other speaking engagements such as schools, plowing matches, Scout, and Guide groups I get challenged by people who claim that the only thing we want to conserve are the animals we pursue. They couldn't be more wrong! Conservation is the effort by conservationists to maintain the entire resource in a healthy state. David Wills stated in his paper, The



*Greg Balch, fall deer season.*

Politics of Advocacy, “that for an animal rightist, stopping all use of animals is an intellectual exercise, but for anglers, hunters and trappers, maintaining healthy populations of wildlife is our whole life”. We have cities that have large populations, and those people are far removed from a land-based lifestyle. They also have the habit of getting only one side of the story and don’t hear the entire debate. American Economist Dr Thomas Sowell states that “the most important knowledge is the knowledge of one’s own ignorance”. As an example, Dr Sowell points out an experiment designed by two comedians in which a woman walks around a state fair with a petition asking, “the government to ban Dihydrogen Monoxide which she said was in our urine, tears, sweat, lakes, rivers and streams”. She collected thousands of signatures from people who had no idea what Dihydrogen Monoxide was! They just signed the petition.



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*We need to be better educated and we need to address the public in an intelligent way that shows that we are the true stewards of the resource.*

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If you haven’t caught on yet, Dihydrogen Monoxide is just a fancy name for water, H<sub>2</sub>O. In the tropical areas of our planet water vapor can be as much as 50,000 parts per million, or 5% of our atmosphere and water vapor is the largest greenhouse gas we have, not CO<sub>2</sub>.

We need to be better educated and we need to address the public in an intelligent way that shows that we are the true stewards of the resource. I’m hoping we can start right here.

Yours in Conservation, Greg Balch.

## **Notice of General Meeting – Virtual via Zoom**

### **OFAH General Meeting**

**Thursday, August 25 – 7:00 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86285828982?pwd=b0hEWWtXOG5Cc0NCUmY2bkRHL3dtdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 8582 8982

Passcode: 182413

Dial-in Toll Free: 1-855-703-8985

Canada Toll-free



## Are you Interested in learning more about shooting? This is a Women's event!



This women's shooting event is held at the Brant Rod and Gun Club at 54 Henderson Rd in Brantford. You don't need your PAL, (Possession and Acquisition License), and all equipment in provided!

It is open to the public. There are food trucks and vendors. Pre-register at [clubhouse@brgc.ca](mailto:clubhouse@brgc.ca)  
No experience required!



## GRANT PRESENTATION TO LONG POINT WATERFOWLERS ASSOCIATION



### Long Point Waterfowlers Association receives a \$3000 Grant Cheque from OFAH Zone J.

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Zone J Executive presented a \$3000 grant to Long Point Waterfowlers Association. LPWA is a long-standing partner and affiliated club within OFAH Zone J. These funds will help with the Long Point Crown Marsh enhancements that support the sustainable activities associated with and including hunting opportunities.

Receiving the cheque are LPWA President, John Foster, and grandson, Kash Proper.

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*Then LPWA is active in promoting hunting opportunities for youth and new hunters of all ages.*

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One of the many benefits to being a Club Member of Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J is the ability to apply for grant funding from the OFAH. Please contact [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com) to request an application.

Every year the crown marsh requires some maintenance for many reasons, such as the preservation of the Hemi-Marsh, 50% water 50% vegetation, that creates the best environment for the vast amount of wildlife that calls the marsh home. Each year the LPWA contracts the appropriate equipment to clear the weeds from the channels and ponds allowing freshwater flow throughout the marsh. The channels are used by a diversified group of people from hunters and fishermen to education institutions such as universities, as well as providing access in an emergency to First Responders. The LPWA also maintains approximately 40 blinds and shooting points in the crown marsh and the DUC Sinclair property. The LPWA is a 100% volunteer organization and our ability to pay for the cost of the maintenance depends on the support of our partners such as The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

In addition to the marsh maintenance, the LPWA is active in promoting hunting opportunities for youth and new hunters of all ages. The waterfowl unit in long point is a great place for beginners to get their introduction to waterfowl hunting. It's a very well-organized and safe place to get your feet wet. Long point bay is a world-class waterfowl hunting destination. Much of the area is privately owned and managed by hunt clubs and their contribution and commitment to conservation keeps the entire area a wild natural place where members and the public can continue to

enjoy the bounty of the 1750 acres of Crown Land located in the heart of the bay. Along with the maintenance that allows the public access to the marsh the LPWA also maintains wheelchair-accessible blinds when water levels allow, these blinds can be reserved with our reservation system and assistance is available with some pre-planning. Throughout the year you will find different universities doing studies and research throughout the marsh under permits issued by the MNR all accessed by the channels maintained yearly by the LPWA.

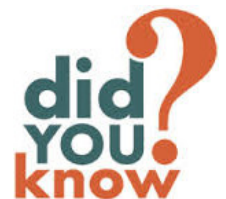
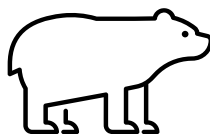
Again, I think it's important to note that the LPWA is a 100% volunteer organization and our ability to continue to contribute depends on the support of our partners so thank you to OFAH, DUC, DELTA, NCC, and all our other supporters, public, private, past, present, and future. Thank you all and happy hunting!!!!

John Foster  
President, Long Point Waterfowlers Association



#### FUN FACT:

On January 15, 1999, the Ontario Government cancelled the spring bear hunt. Due in a large part to the relentless effort of the OFAH it was fully re-established in 2021.





## ZONE J'S QUIZ – TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answers to the questions can be found on the last page of this newsletter.



1. There are many invasive species living in the Great Lakes basin. They can spread between bodies of water by hitchhiking on boats and other equipment moving between bodies of water. What are you now required to do to stop the spread when transporting your boat overland?
2. There are many areas invasive species may be hiding on a boat and trailer. Can you name all 12 common areas?
3. Tackle Share is a great program brought to you by the Ontario Federation of Angler and Hunters and the Ontario Power Generation with over 140 locations across Ontario. What is this program about and who can access it?
4. This disease was first confirmed in Ontario in 2020 and can cause large scale death among fish with symptoms of bulging eyes, bloated bellies, surface swimming, weakness and redness along the base of the fins. What is it?
5. The Splake, is a hatchery hybrid fish of what two species?
6. On June 24, 2022, Premier Doug Ford named this Parry Sound-Muskoka MP as the new Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, who is it?
7. What does this acronym ACTS & PROVE stand for?
8. What three colours should you avoid wearing while hunting turkeys?
9. While hunting, a shotgun must be “plugged” so that it cannot hold more than a total of how many shells in the chamber and magazine combined.
10. In Ontario a licence is required to fish except for Family Fishing Weekend, which is during Family Day, Mother’s Day Weekend, Father’s Day Weekend and Family Fishing Week. When does Family Fishing Week occur?

## PRESENTATION FOR APPRECIATION AND YEARS OF SERVICE

**Kathy Moore receives a plaque and letter of appreciation for her years of service to OFAH Zone J from Greg Balch, OFAH Zone J Chair**



The late Wilf Cassidy, OFAH Zone J Past Chair and OFAH Life Member brought me into the Zone J fold back in 2005.

I was Secretary at the Brant Rod & Gun Club (BRGC) at that time and Wilf was Past President of BRGC. Wilf felt I would be a good fit into the Zone J Executive and recommended me to then Chair Alfred Marinelli.

I think my fondest memory was my grandson Landyn attending his first OFAH Zone J membership meeting when he was 5 days old. That was a proud moment for me closely followed by my son Brian receiving his OFAH Life Membership just a few weeks ago. Serving beside Brian has been amazing. Travelling together, sharing rooms, making memories has been fantastic. When I invited him to his first OFAH meeting in Leamington so many years ago, I was concerned at whether he would like the organization, but he absolutely loved everything OFAH was about, and he embraced it.

For now, I have slowed down and am relaxing more. I still work a little but have devoted more time to just do what I want to do. I spent about

20 years volunteering hundreds of hours each month and I loved it but now it's time for the younger folks to take over the helm and lead us into the future.

The people are what makes the OFAH so grand. To sit at the Annual OFAH Wildlife Conference with hundreds of like-minded people was such a breath of fresh air. I always left the Conference re-energized, refreshed, re-inspired. My time spent with OFAH was stressful at times, but it was so worthwhile. The role of Secretary/Treasurer and OFAH Director was tough at times, but I would do it all over again. I am proud to see such a talented, driven OFAH Zone J Executive move the Zone into the next generation.

## PRESENTATION FOR APPRECIATION AND YEARS OF SERVICE

**Brian Moore receives a plaque and letter of appreciation for his years of service to OFAH Zone J from Greg Balch, OFAH Zone J Chair.**

As a youngster & new hunter, I was desperately looking for other new hunters to make friends with. Where does one find new friends, new hunters, new places to hunt...??? (I didn't know either!) In 2007, I attended my first Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Zone J meeting, followed by a couple of more meetings and an OFAH AGM/Fish & Wildlife Conference in Mississauga... THIS was definitely the organization that a new hunter (or Angler) needed to make new friends!!

It didn't take very long and I received a call at home... Was it another new hunter that I had met at a meeting and wanted to partner up to take on a crazy Spring Turkey Hunt...?? NOPE! It wasn't anything that I expected. On the other end of the line was a man, that I had met many times, it was no other than Mr. Tony Jackson!! (Insert mic-drop!). I vividly remember this early conversation with Tony. He said, "I've seen you at the last few OFAH Zone J meetings, OFAH Conference and a Municipal meeting... Would you consider putting your name forward for a position with our Zone?"...

Within moments, I agreed to "run for an Executive position"(what did I just commit to???) To keep the story short, I was elected to "Alternate Director" in 2008! From there, I was gratefully mentored "up the ladder"... In 2013, I became the Chair of the largest OFAH Zone.

The next number of years, I was faced with so many tasks... Urgent meetings, calls, emails, conference's, etc..... Some days, I felt like I was holding my breath - just hoping for the best. BUT! I found that I was supported by the absolute best around! Firstly, my wife. Emily. If it wasn't for her support, I could not have ever taken on this task! Working as a team, I always knew that my folks had my back!! I can't thank Kathy, TJ, Felix, Ray, Wilf, and every other Executive that we have worked with!

It has been an absolute honor to work with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters for the past 14 years!! I look forward to the next 14++ year

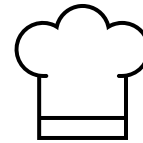


### FUN FACT:



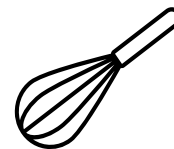
Canadian firearms owners are some of the most highly trained in terms of safety and storage in the entire world. The following method is used to reinforce safe gun handling. **ACTS & PROVE**, is an acronym used by all licensed gun users to ensure their firearm is safe and prove it is unloaded. **ACTS & PROVE** stands for: (Assume every firearm is loaded. Control the muzzle direction at all times. Trigger finger must be kept off the trigger and out of the trigger guard. See that the forearm is unloaded-Prove it safe. **PROVE-** Point the firearm in the safest direction. Remove all the cartridges. Observe the chamber. Verify the feeding path. Examine the bore.)

## RECIPE CORNER: EASY WALLEYE/PICKEREL FISH CAKES



Are you looking for an alternative way to enjoy your catch this summer?  
Here is a delicious walleye recipe!

1. Shred 3 – 4 potatoes
2. After shredding, use a clean cloth to squeeze the liquid out of the potatoes as much as you can.
3. You will need 4 – 6 walleye fillets
4. Rinse the fillets
5. Heat oil in the skillet under medium heat
6. Place the clean fillets into the skillet
7. Add about 1/3 cup of water into the skillet, this will help cook the fish thoroughly
8. Cover and cook for about 5 – 6 minutes
9. If it is white, it is cooked.
10. Drain the water
11. Let it cool down before putting it into the shredded potatoes
12. Chop the fish up, the shredded the better.
13. Mix together with the potatoes
14. Add 1/4 cup of flour
15. Add pepper and salt (to taste)
16. Add chopped onions (to taste)
17. Add one egg and mix everything together
18. In a clean frying pan, add oil to a medium heated frying pan
19. Shape the mixture into small balls about the size of a golf ball, then flatten and place into the hot oil carefully.
20. When both sides are golden and done, place on a paper towel to drain and cool.



Enjoy with your favourite condiment!

## OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Contact information for your Executive Committee:

Greg Balch Chair	London Area	<a href="mailto:gwbalchofah@rogers.com">gwbalchofah@rogers.com</a> 519-852 1126
Ray Boilard 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	Niagra Area	<a href="mailto:rayboilard.ofah@gmail.com">rayboilard.ofah@gmail.com</a> 905-736-2076
Mark Braet 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Sarnia Area	<a href="mailto:markbraetofah@gmail.com">markbraetofah@gmail.com</a> 519-328-2354
Martin (Randy MacPherson) Director	Kitchener Area	<a href="mailto:Mrmac1954@gmail.com">Mrmac1954@gmail.com</a> 519-835-5442
Paul Prowse Secretary/Treasurer	St Marys Area	<a href="mailto:paulprowseofah@gmail.com">paulprowseofah@gmail.com</a> 519-857-3252
Brian Moore Past Chair	Watford Area	<a href="mailto:brianmoore@live.ca">brianmoore@live.ca</a> 519-919-152
Tony Jackson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Past Chair	Stratford Area	<a href="mailto:Tonyj_ofah@gmail.com">Tonyj_ofah@gmail.com</a> 519-2734193

## KEEP IN TOUCH THROUGH ZONE J'S FACEBOOK'S PAGE



Did you know Zone J has their own Facebook page? Join the Facebook page to get the latest news, events, pictures and stories. Get to know what is happening in your zone! Search OFAH Zone J on Facebook to join or [Click here to join the Zone J Facebook page!](#)

## WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Are you interested in submitting something for the newsletter. Please contact the newsletter editor, Paul Prowse at [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com).



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Treasurer/Secretary Zone J  
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Email: [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com)



## ZONE J QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Clean and drain the boat before transporting overland
2.
  1. Anchor
  2. Propeller
  3. Dock line
  3. Live wells
  4. Trailer
  5. Hull
  6. Rollers
  7. Bunks
  8. Axle
  9. Propeller
  10. Motor
  11. Bilge
3. Tackle lending program with over 59 in the Provincial Parks among numerous other locations.
4. Lactococcosis
5. Brook trout and Lake trout
6. Graydon Smith
7. Assume every firearm is loaded. Control the muzzle direction at all times. Ttrigger finger must be kept off the trigger and out of the trigger guard. See that the forearm is unloaded-Prove it safe. **PROVE-** Point the firearm in the safest direction. Remove all the cartridges. Observe the chamber. Verify the feeding path. Examine the bore.
8. Red, white, and blue
9. Three – One in the chamber, two in the magazine.
10. The first week of July including the first two weekends, this year: July 02 -10, 2022