

# OFAH ZONE J NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2022

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## MESSAGE FROM THE 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIR

My name is Mark Braet, I enjoy fishing, boating, and hunting. I became a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters in 2014. I am a strong believer that volunteers make things happen. I was a volunteer Firefighter for 30 years, an amazing way to volunteer in your community. Seven days after retiring from the fire service I joined our community Rotary Club. I was involved with our kid's sports as an executive in the minor hockey system. A few years ago, I was asked to join our local Hospital Foundation, another volunteer job. Not long after that appointment, I joined Bluewater Health Foundation as a board member as well.

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*"I am a strong believer that volunteers make things happen".*

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Since 2014, I was able to attend a few of our OFAH Zone J meetings and then there was the election in 2022 and here I am, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.

They say we are the voice of anglers and hunters, and we need to promote, encourage, and strive to ensure the conservation of Ontario's fish and wildlife, their habitats and the ecosystems that support them to ensure sustainable benefits for all Ontario residents.

We need your help, our membership needs to grow, and our demographics must change as the average age of OFAH members is way too high, an issue facing many volunteer organizations.

We need your help to make sure the OFAH is working on the right things, addressing the important topics, providing us with the educational tools we need to help make us all better Conservationists. We need to get more people interested in what you and I are doing to reach and maintain these lofty goals.

Recently, I joined OFAH Zone J Chairman, Greg Balch at a local fall fair with his amazing display of wildlife mounts. He has a depth of knowledge about wildlife that I could never reach. I suggested to him we need to get a professional to video his work because there is no way to replace him. I believe we must find ways to share our passion for conservation with as

many audiences as possible. Education may be the key to our success. As a volunteer, I want to hear your voice, your thoughts, and maybe you have a solution to make things better. Let's not leave any stone unturned in our pursuit of practical conservation.

Yours in Conservation, Mark Braet.



## OFAH ZONE J OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2022



### OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award 2022

This award was created by OFAH Zone J in 2008 to recognize an individual's outstanding effort towards stewardship, conservation, volunteerism, and/or the promotion of angling or hunting in OFAH Zone J.

#### To Qualify:

- Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member to receive this award.
- **Nominees for the 2022 award must be submitted to the Zone J Secretary no later than December 31, 2022.**
- A description of the accomplishments of the nominee as well as photos, news articles, etc. would be beneficial if included.
- The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 08, 2023, Membership meeting hosted by the Wellington Street Sportsmens Club with the winner being announced at the OFAH Zone J Annual General Meeting on April 01, 2023, at the Brant Rod and Gun Club.
- Send nominations to: [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com)

### Notice of OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting

**Sunday, January 8, 2023 – 9:00 am**  
**Wellington Street Sportsmans Club**  
**2290 Slo-Pitch Road**  
**Dorchester, ON N0L 1G3**

Doors open at 8:30 am for coffee and refreshments.  
9:00 am - meeting called to order.

**Attend the meeting and get a chance win the door prize  
of an OFAH Special Edition Buck Knife Set!**



### New Annual Attendance Prize

There is a new annual meeting attendance prize to be drawn Sunday, August 20th Membership meeting at the Windsor Sportsmens Club, 1 ballot for attending the January meeting, 2 for the AGM at Brant Rod and Gun Club in April and 1 ballot for Membership meeting August 20, 2023, where the winner will be drawn!



## DELTA WATERFOWL ST MARYS CHAPTER, FUNDRAISING DINNER NOVEMBER 2022

In the 1930's James Ford Bell, sportsman and founder of General Mills, purchased 5000 acres of the Delta Marsh in Manitoba Canada. In 1938, Bell approached Aldo Leopold, who is considered the father of wildlife management in the United States, about establishing a research station dedicated to waterfowl research at the Manitoba Delta Marsh. Together with the help of others, including Hans Albert Hochbaum (University of Wisconsin-Madison) they pioneered the study of breeding duck ecology and laid the foundation for much of the habitat research still being used today.

Now, the Delta Waterfowl Foundation supports Duck Production, Habitat Conservation, Research and HunterR3 (recruitment, retention, reactivate waterfowl hunters) throughout North America.

With a history like this I was very excited and a bit curious to attend the Delta Waterfowl, St Mary's Chapter fundraising dinner. After chatting with Ryan Sleeper, St Marys Chapter Chairman, I learned that his chapter is rapidly growing as well as the organization itself and they are about a lot more than just shooting ducks. They do it all and they need the help of all of us to continue to provide youth education, duck production programs and more. Ryan said as a child his father got him into hunting, and he has fond memories of reading the Ontario Out of Doors Magazine and still does today. He was quick to compliment the OFAH with his remark that many times hunting permission was gained when landowners were informed, he was insured simply by being a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



The Delta Waterfowl, St Mary's Chapter fundraising dinner was a huge success with over 100 in attendance. There were several firearms that could be won and numerous other prizes around the room. Tickets were sold for the prizes and a lot of debate occurred about where to wager your bet for chance of winning. After the meal there was a lot of excitement as the prizes were drawn.

At the end of the evening as I walked into the parking lot after a fine meal, great conversation and coming very close (but not close enough) to winning a few auction items, a smile crossed my face; Was it for the brisk September air which precedes the greatest of all the seasons? Or perhaps the thought that over 100 like-minded people had just gathered into a banquet room with the express purpose of supporting duck hunting and conservation? Perhaps I was enjoying how similar the OFAH and Delta Waterfowl are. Either way, I felt at home among the many like-minded I had just spent the evening with who were now friends. Yes, I certainly hope to cross paths with Delta Waterfowl members and supporters again.

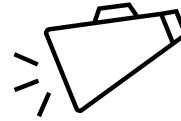


Yours in Conservation,  
Paul Prowse

## THE SOUTHWEST OUTDOORS CLUB LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIPS AT FLEMING COLLEGE



### Press Release



WHEATLEY, November 2022 — The Southwest Outdoors Club (SWOC) announces the launch of two \$1,000 awards for the next two years. The awards will support Fleming students who have a passion for the environment and conservation and who believe in protecting and improving the natural environment and our outdoor heritage through conservation and education.



The **SWOC Memorial Bursary** was established to honour the memory of past members and to recognize and financially support students in their second year of the Fish & Wildlife program who are from the geographic area of the Municipality of Chatham Kent or Windsor-Essex County. The recipient of the first Memorial Bursary has just been awarded to a student from Chatham, Ontario.

The **SWOC Academic Award** was established to recognize a student who shares SWOC's values and who will actively work to protect and improve the environment for our fish and wildlife. The award will be presented to a graduating student of the Conservation & Environmental Law Enforcement Program who has achieved a high academic standing and who is from the same geographic area previously mentioned.

**About The Southwest Outdoors Club:** SWOC, a not-for-profit organization was established in 2002 and currently consists of 150+ members. In addition to hosting educational events for our members, we sponsor the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) at several local schools and The Forest Nature in School Program operated by Tilbury Elementary School.

SWOC also organizes the Big Buck Sportsmen Show held annually in Tilbury, a free Kids' Fishing Derby that is attended by 450+ youth and their families and a 5- day Big Boyz Fishing Tournament that awards trophies and \$8,500 prize money.

**WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR OUTDOORS**  
[www.swoc.ca](http://www.swoc.ca) / [facebook.com/SouthwestOutdoorsClub](https://facebook.com/SouthwestOutdoorsClub)

## GOSFIELD NORTH SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION

94E county road 14, Cottam, ON N0R 1B0 [www.gnsportsmen.com](http://www.gnsportsmen.com) [gnsa@hotmail.com](mailto:gnsa@hotmail.com) 1-519-839-5665

### Pheasant Hunts

on our fully licensed game preserve

Call Tom Ferguson 519-613-9974 to reserve a hunt



## GOSFIELD NORTH SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION



Photo by [Michael Hoyt](#) on [Unsplash](#)  
Photo by [Max van den Oetelaar](#) on [Unsplash](#)

### Pheasants for Sale

Live birds (2- 4 lbs) or Oven-Ready  
(Government Inspected)

To Order: call Tom Ferguson 519-613-9974

Or call Stan Gevaert 519-995-1512



## *Working to Preserve our Hunting Heritage*

### ZONE J'S QUIZ – TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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



1. The OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award is voted on every January and awarded in April 2023 of this year. When do the nominations for this award need to be in to the OFAH Zone J Secretary?
2. What are the proposed changes for Lake Trout in Fisheries Management Zone 10?
3. How many different species of migratory birds visit Canada every year?
4. Wild turkeys disappeared from Ontario, around 1900 or shortly after, because of habitat destruction and over hunting. We now have a robust turkey population. What changed resulting in an abundance of turkeys in Ontario?
5. What is a kisser button?
6. These symptoms can be the result of a serious situation and if untreated and could impair a person's judgement, leading to mistakes, poor decisions and possibly death.

The symptoms are:

- Uncontrollable shivering
- Drowsiness
- Fumbling hands, stumbling walk
- Exhaustion
- Slurred speech
- Memory laps

What is it?

7. How thick does the ice on a lake need to be to drive a snowmobile or ATV on it safely?
8. What does a red painted circle mean when displayed on a fence post or property line?
9. What is the safest way to carry a firearm in the field?
10. What does acronym OFAH stand for?



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN THE ZONE J EXECUTIVE?

Elections will be held at the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, General Membership Meeting.

As OFAH Zone J Executives we are looking for members in good standing (at least one full year) to get involved with the OFAH Zone J Executive. Your role will be to advocate for hunting and fishing interests across Zone J and greater Ontario in general. Your contributions to improving and growing Zone J regarding increased opportunities and standing up for our collective interests are welcomed and appreciated.

To stand for one of the Zone J's executive positions, after determining your personal time and travel availability, you simply need to declare that you intend to stand by advising, (Tony Jackson nominating committee) by e-mail or phone, [Tonyj\\_ofah@mail.com](mailto:Tonyj_ofah@mail.com) or 519-273-4193



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### *Are you interested in joining the OFAH Zone J Executive Team?*

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#### **Time & Travel Commitments:**

There are 3 general meetings, at which delegated reports and updates are presented to the membership at large. Between these meetings are zoom meetings scheduled as required. Other discussions and commitments should also be expected commensurate with your dedication and interests to our core directions. This may include attending events and shows to represent Zone J.

Travel and costs incurred while conducting Zone business are reimbursed.

It's good for the health and progress of Zone J to refresh the team and network by encouraging new energetic and dedicated members to stand for election for **Chair, 1st vice, Secretary/Treasurer**, (these positions are also full OFAH Board participants with additional commitments), **2nd Vice Chair** (alternate to the OFAH BOD) meaning they step up if/when one of the afore-mentioned three can't complete their obligations) and **Alternate**.

After the elections a new year commences with the newly elected team announced. The chair then assigns or confirms the areas of interest that each member is expected to be attentive to and or report on. The Zone J and OFAH policies are also discussed early in each year.

Our past 2 chairs are also members of the current executive for Zone continuity and their proven expertise.

New Executive Members will be expected to complete an eight-hour online training module for OFAH as part of your initiation and training to OFAH.

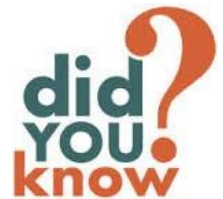


So please join us and continue to make your Zone a great place to hunt and fish.  
Please contact Tony Jackson to express your interest.

[Tonyj\\_ofah@mail.com](mailto:Tonyj_ofah@mail.com) or 519-273-4193

#### **FUN FACT:**

Did you know that remote locations become more accessible in the winter when lakes freeze over, and ice roads are created? The ice roads are maintained by remote communities putting stingers along the surface giving better grip for the vehicles.



## YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT FOR APPRENTICE HUNTER - HULLETT MARSH, DEC 3, 2022

The Youth Pheasant Hunt Committee of Huron-Perth hosted a youth pheasant hunt for apprentice hunters on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, with approximately 18 hunters, plus their mentors and 23 volunteers at the Hullett Marsh.



This is a safe, quality hunting experience open to youth aged 12 – 15 years who have successfully completed their Ontario Hunter Education and are part of the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program. The agenda for the day included:

- Trap shoot and range safety at the Hullett Marsh
- Orientation to the day,
- A firearm safety refresher
- A trap shoot on the day of the event
- A high-quality pheasant hunt with expertly trained dogs
- A field dressing, transporting, and cooking tutorials,
- A lunch and dog demonstration.

*Many volunteers and supporters contributed to the Youth Pheasant Hunt to make the event a success!*



The Youth Pheasant Hunt was initially cancelled in November due to one of the first snowstorms of the year. The December 3<sup>rd</sup> hunt started out with driving rain and wind but that didn't stop the hunters and volunteers. Pheasants were placed in the field ready for the apprentice hunters. 5 hunting dogs were used to assist in flushing and retrieving the pheasants. This added to the excitement of the hunting experience. As the day continued the weather improved and so did the hunting skills. Success was measured by the smiles on the faces of everyone involved! It is believed that keeping the hunting tradition going is strongly routed in mentoring young hunters.

For more information about the Youth Pheasant Hunt go to: [www.loop-perhuron.ca](http://www.loop-perhuron.ca)





## RECIPE CORNER: VENISON IRISH STEW

Nothing beats a warm bowl of hearty stew after a long day of hunting or fishing in the fall. This recipe works great with the deer, moose or even bear.

By Andrew Rochon, October 13, 2022



### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 lb venison, cubed
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 medium white onions, diced
- 1/4 cup flour
- 4 cups beef broth
- 1/2 tall can of Guinness beer, or any other stout
- 1/3 cup of tomato paste
- 4 cups of baby red potatoes, halved
- 2 large carrots, peeled and diced
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, chopped



### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large pot or Dutch oven, add oil and set on medium high heat. Sear meat for 3 – 4 minutes until browned
2. Add onions and garlic to the pot and sauté with the meat for 2 minutes
3. Add flour and stir often to keep from burning.
4. Add beer and beef broth.
5. Add tomato paste, potatoes, carrots, and thyme.
6. Lower heat to medium and simmer for one hour.
7. Add green peas and season with salt and pepper.
8. Simmer for another half hour.
9. Garnish with fresh parsley and serve.



Originally published in the Fall 2021 issue of Ontario OUT of DOORS magazine. Andrew Rochon is OOD's Food Editor. You can follow more of his culinary adventure on Instagram: @wilderness\_chef



## 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	Windsor 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> 519-857-3255
Brian Moore Past Chair	Watford Area	<a href="mailto:brianmoore@live.ca">brianmoore@live.ca</a> 519-919-1520
Tony Jackson 2 <sup>nd</sup> Past Chair	Stratford Area	<a href="mailto:Tonyj_ofah@gmail.com">Tonyj_ofah@gmail.com</a> 519-273-4193

## 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 or Facebook.  
Please contact the newsletter editor,  
Paul Prowse at [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com).

Paul Prowse  
Treasurer/Secretary Zone J  
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H)  
Cell: 519-857-3255  
Email: [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com)



## ZONE J QUIZ ANSWERS

1. The nominations for the OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award 2022 need to be submitted to the Zone J secretary by December 31, 2022.
2. There are no changes proposed to Lake Trout in Fisheries Management Zone 10.
3. 393 different species of migratory birds visit Canada every year
4. Between 1984 and 1987, the Ministry of Natural Resources live trapped two hundred and seventy-four wild turkeys then released them in Ontario. The program has been extremely successful, and wild turkey populations are now established across southern Ontario.
5. The kiss button is a small button-shaped device usually made of plastic or nylon, that is placed just above the nock locator on the bowstring. When the bow is drawn back to full draw, the button just touches the shooter's lips.
6. Hypothermia occurs when a person's core body temperature drops below normal.
7. The ice needs to be 5" – 6" thick to drive a snowmobile or ATV over the ice safely. This guideline is for clear ice.
8. Landowners give notice that there is no trespassing in a number of ways including a red painted circle on trees or fence posts.
9. The safest way to carry a firearm in the field is the two-hand, or ready carry. This carry give you good control of the muzzle and allows you to raise your firearm quickly for a shot.
10. The acronym OFAH stands for Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



**FUN FACT:** Is it safe to eat bear meat? Yes! Although, bear meat is known to carry a certain parasitic disease, called Trichinella, when cooking bear meat ensure it reaches an internal temperature of 165°F for a least 3 minutes in the thickest area.

The main rule is to do it slowly; whether you're stewing the meat or grilling it, taking your time will ensure your meal tastes good and is safe to eat.

