

OFAH ZONE J NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2023

[Join us on Facebook OFAH Zone J](#)

www.ofahj.org/zonej

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Sunday Gun Hunting
- Membership Meeting Info
- Clean, Drain, & Dry
- Youth Pheasant Hunt
- Outstanding Achievement Award
- The Sikh Hunter
- Zone J's Quiz
- Safety First
- And more...

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE SUNDAY GUN HUNTING

This past November, a letter requesting a ban on Sunday gun hunting was sent to a municipal government, who have the authority to change/amend hunting regulations within the township. A trespass issue was the reason for the request, and the writer's solution was to ban Sunday gun hunting outright in the township. Mark Braet, OFAH Zone J 1st Vice Chair, received a phone call from a local hunter who was upset that the Township Council was considering the ban over the trespass issue. Mark Braet drove to the property in question and was unable to view any signs that prohibited trespassing. Mark took it upon himself to urge the caller and all local hunters that were in support of Sunday gun hunting to write to their Council representatives as a show of support for Sunday gun hunting and in a few hours, 65 letters were sent in. Mark also contacted OFAH head office and informed Mark Ryckman, Manager of Policy about the situation who wrote a strongly worded letter in support of Sunday gun hunting throughout the Province of Ontario. This was sent to the members of the Council and the motion to end the Sunday gun hunting was defeated!

Mark Braet urged local hunters to write their Council Representative in support of Sunday gun hunting and in a few short hours 65 letters were sent in!



This is an example of OFAH's Zone System at work. A local, who felt comfortable to contact a member of their Zone J Executive who is also a local which enabled us to solve an issue prior to a council making a decision that could affect all of us. Thanks go out to the person who initially contacted Zone J, Mark Braet himself and Mark Ryckman for informing council of the importance of Sunday gun hunting. Thanks also go out to all the letter writers who contacted the council in support of the issue and

Township who made a decision to continue with Sunday gun hunting.

Do you have a concern in your area? Bring it forward to your Zone J Executive. Keep us informed. We're here to help with anything related to hunting, fishing, and conservation.

Your Zone J Executive is here for you, one of the many benefits of your membership in The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. For more information got to <https://www.ofah.org/programs/sunday-gun-hunting/>

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS ZONE J- MEETING

Notice of OFAH Zone J Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 14, 2024 – 10:00 am
Dunnville Hunters and Anglers
237 McLaughlin Road, Dunnville, Ontario

Doors open at 9:30 am for coffee and refreshments.
10:00 am - meeting called to order.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Big Game Blood Trackers of Ontario – speaking on the ethical, humane, and quick recovery of big game animals in the province of Ontario with the use of trained tracking dogs.

Creekside Gun Shop – answering all questions gun related as well as talking about the difference between cleaners, solvents, and lubricants.

Door prizes

Morning coffee, snacks and childcare provided at no cost.
Lunch is available for a fee.

Child-care provided at no cost while you enjoy the meeting! To reserve your space, email: ddhamembership@hotmail.com

CLEAN DRAIN AND DRY

As proud members of The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters let's help keep the waterways of this beautiful province healthy and the envy of the world!

Please promote the installation of these signs at boat launches near you. Contact the Boat Launch directly or a member of your Zone J Executive and we will make arrangements to install these signs free of charge in time for the spring season!

Executive Member contact information can be found at the end of the Newsletter or on the Zone J website:

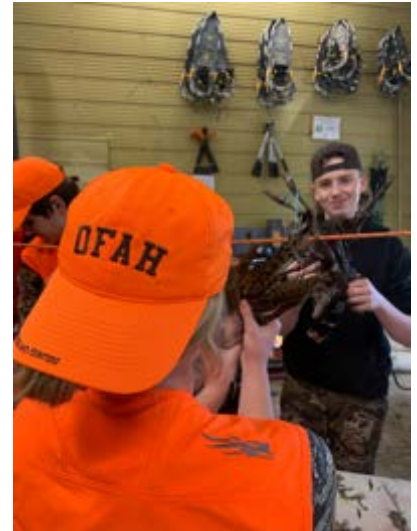
<https://www.ofah.org/zonej/executive/>



HURON PERTH YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT – HULLETT MARSH



The 2023 Huron Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt at the Hullett Marsh in Clinton, Ontario was a great success! Twenty youth hunters learned all about safety, conservation and harvesting good healthy food. OFAH not only supported this event with a grant from the Community Conservation Fund we were there to lend a hand as well. Many different groups stepped up to make this happen. Many thanks go out to all who volunteered! Proud to see these young new hunters receive their OFAH membership cards and start their journey pursuing this age-old tradition as proud members of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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

Nominations Due December 31, 2023

To Qualify:

- Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member to receive this award.
- 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 2024, Membership meeting with the winner being announced at the OFAH Zone J Annual General Meeting in April 2024.
- Send nominations to: secretaryzonej@gmail.com



THE SIKH HUNTER, RAVI-INDER SINGH DHALIWAL

After I received the colourful photograph my curiosity peaked, as a photographer, hunter and proud Canadian I was mesmerized but I didn't know why. Was it the bright orange color of their magnificent turbans, the enormous Moose, or the fact that I knew exactly from the look on their faces the feeling of pride they had standing in front of their precious harvest hanging from the outfitters pole. Their sense of accomplishment that inspires a deep love for this country that few truly understand. They were now part of an age-old tradition that not only put meat in their freezer but gave them a lifetime of memories that are best shared when sitting around a campfire.

The great benefit of social media is being able to reach out to strangers and ask them a question, gather information, perhaps even make a new friend. So that is exactly what I did. After tracking Ravi down on Facebook, I arranged a phone call and had my insatiable curiosity satisfied and then some. Ravi-Inder Singh Dhaliwal is a Canadian of Sikh heritage, he has been in Canada for 22 years, immigrating

from India in his early twenties. He hunted small game in India, with relatively no regulations or rules to follow and was quickly inspired upon reading magazines like *Ontario Out of Doors* when he emigrated here. Books and magazines are one thing, but it was not until he saw a large moose being transported on a trailer that his "addiction" as he calls it, started to grow. He gives credit to a generous group of Italian/Canadian hunters who invited him and his friends on their first moose hunt 13 years ago. Today he and his friends are captivated with not only moose hunting but bear, deer, and grouse as well. Fishing serves as a mere filler till the next hunting season begins. Make no mistake, he and his friends love Canada, Ontario, and all that is offered in this magnificent country's out of doors. My conversation with this stranger lasted longer than I had imagined. By the end, I realized we were no longer strangers. We were hunters, like the hunters who came before us for thousands of years. We shared stories of adventures and hunts past, as well as dreams of the future and finished with plans to get together.

Ravi told me that we are so fortunate to live in this great country with so much opportunity. He said, "Canada is truly the land of dreams." I couldn't agree more.

Paul Prowse
Treasurer/Secretary
Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J



FUN FACT: Did you know that Deer have incredible hearing. In fact, they have ears that are 10 times larger than ours with the ability to rotate independently to hear sound in different directions. Deer hear within a broader range of frequencies than we do. A deer's best hearing range is from 0.25 -30 kHz while we max out at about 20 kHz. This means deer can hear high frequency sounds that we cannot although their best hearing is between 4 -8 kHz which is the range they vocalize. So next time you are hunting deer, utilize those low grunts and low sounds to bring them into range.



Source: <https://deerassociation.com>

ZONE J'S QUIZ – TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

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



1. MNR is an acronym associated with fishing and hunting. What does it stand for?
 - a. Ministry of Natural Rifle Federation.
 - b. Ministry of Natural Resources Fishery.
 - c. Minister of the Natural Revitalization of the Environment and Fisheries Act.
 - d. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.
2. Why should you clean, drain, and dry your watercraft?
 - a. The process results in preserving one's vessel for many years of use.
 - b. The process can assist the operator in better maintenance, inspection, and preventing future problems on the water.
 - c. It is a regulatory process for preventing the transmission of invasive species from one body of water to the next.
 - d. The process is for posers who like to show off their vessels.
3. Approximately how many people hunt in Ontario?
 - a. More than 600,000 people bought licenses in Ontario.
 - b. More than 800,000 people bought license in Ontario.
 - c. More than 1,000,000 people bought licenses in Ontario.
 - d. There is no data recorded for the number of people who hunt in Ontario.
4. What is the minimum number of square inches of hunter orange one must wear for during open firearms big game season in Ontario?
 - a. A full hunter orange vest.
 - b. 400 square inches of hunter orange.
 - c. Something bright orange as long as it covers all sides of the body.
 - d. 500 square inches of hunter orange.
5. What are the exceptions to the hunter orange rule?
 - a. Hunting double-crested cormorants or migratory game birds (except woodcock)
 - b. Hunting Canadian geese, ptarmigan, and merganser (except woodcock)
 - c. All of the above
 - d. There are no exceptions to the hunter orange rule.
6. Snaring snowshoe hares is permitted north of the French and Mattawa Rivers. The copper or brass constructed wire loop can be no larger than what size in diameter?
 - a. 4 inches
 - b. 5 inches
 - c. 6 inches
 - d. There is no size limit.
7. Dimitri is hunting black bear in Hornepayne, Ontario. He sees one across the lake standing in 10" of water eating a fish. Is it legal to shoot the bear or does he need to wait for it to exit the water?
 - a. It is legal as long as the bear is finished eating.
 - b. It is illegal to shoot a bear in the water.
 - c. It is illegal to shoot any animal in the water.
 - d. It is legal to shoot the bear as long as it is not swimming.
8. Stephanie was black bear hunting north of Thunder Bay. When harvesting her bear, she made sure that this one organ was left behind. What was it?
 - a. The heart is not permitted to be removed and must be left behind with the entrails.
 - b. The liver is not permitted to be removed and must be left behind with the entrails.
 - c. The gallbladder is not permitted to be removed and must be left behind with the entrails.
 - d. The scrotum is not permitted to be removed and must be left with the entrails.

SAFETY FIRST, NOT JUST A CLICHÉ BUT A HABIT TO BE PROUD OF

As a person who enjoys the outdoors, we want to make sure we are doing it safely. One thing to remember is to always let someone know where you are going. We read too many articles about people losing their way and search parties not knowing where to look whether it is on land or on the water. There are other reminders for safe practices such as the acronyms we were taught, for some of us, many years ago.

ACTS; 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 and See that the firearm is unloaded-PROVE it safe; Point the firearm in the safest available direction, Remove all ammunition, Observe the chamber, Verify the feeding path and Examine the bore.

We also must remember when hunting in a group to know the location of your crew and what is behind your target before you discharge your firearm.

If we remind ourselves and our friends on a periodic basis about some of these fundamental rules about hunting safely, we stand a better chance of enjoying the outdoors for a very long time.

Another area for consideration is safety on the water. There are some basic rules for boater operation: know the area that you are boating in, obey no wake areas, have the required safety kit for the size of the boat you are operating and have an approved personal floatation device for everyone on the boat. Depending on the age of your family members or guests, wearing a life jacket may be mandatory. I ask you; would it be best for all who are on your boat to wear a life jacket. Life jackets have come a long way from the days of extra-large, cumbersome red, neck chokers that no one wanted to wear till absolutely the last moment or when Father told you too with that well known “tone”. They are now comfortable, cool looking, some with self-inflating features, whistles and even knives attached. It’s one thing that is not only a sound investment but says a lot about you as a proud OFAH member who takes your passion seriously and leads by example.



As an Executive Member for OFAH, I feel I am compelled to lead by example. As a member of OFAH you have a responsibility as well, to always portray this organization in the best light. There is an expectation of members that we will lead by example. So, whether it’s wearing the proper hunter orange clothing or wearing a PFD while I am fishing with my grandsons or demonstrating appropriate firearms safety techniques, I want to do what I can to ensure I can continue to share my love for the outdoors and I urge all of you to do the same!

Yours in Conservation,
Mark Braet 1st Vice, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J



IMPORTANT FACT: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a degenerative, fatal and untreatable disease of the central nervous system affecting members of the deer family. It has infected and killed thousands of deer in North America. It hasn’t been detected in Ontario, but it is important to be vigilant. The MNRF has been conducting annual surveillance monitoring since 2002 with the help of deer hunters by providing a sample of their harvested deer for testing. Visit ontario.ca/cwd or call your local MNRF for more information.

RECIPE CORNER VENISON CHILI



This venison chili recipe has been tested many times, and the thing people always say, it has the perfect balance of flavors and spice. It isn't too extreme in any direction, and anyone can enjoy it. After a cold morning of sitting in the blind or the tree stand, this will warm you right up. I like to garnish it for extra color and flavor.



Venison Chili Ingredients

- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 red onion, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped.
- 1½ pounds ground venison
- Salt
- Pepper
- ½ tsp garlic
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 (28 oz) can chopped tomatoes
- 1 (15 oz) can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (15 oz) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1½ cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp dried oregano



Venison Chili Instructions

In a large skillet, sauté onion and pepper in oil until beginning to soften. Add to slow cooker. Add ground venison to the pan and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned (it doesn't have to be fully cooked). Season with salt and pepper, then stir in garlic and tomato paste and cook until fragrant. Transfer mixture to the slow cooker. Add tomatoes, black beans, kidney beans, chicken broth, chili powder, cumin, and oregano to the slow cooker. Cook on high for 4 hours until chili has thickened. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with cheese, sour cream, cilantro, and lime if desired. Serve with bread. Serves 8.

Source: National Deer Association www.deerassociation.com

ZONE J QUIZ ANSWERS



1. d) Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
2. c) It is a regulatory process for preventing the transmission of invasive species from one body of water to the next.
3. a) More than 600,000 people bought licenses in Ontario in 2023.
4. b) 400 square inches of hunter orange
5. a) Hunting double-crested cormorants or migratory game birds (except woodcock)
6. a) 4 inches
7. d) It is legal is to shoot the bear as long as it is not swimming.
8. c) The gallbladder is not permitted to be removed and must be left behind with the entrails

OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Contact information for your Executive Committee:

Greg Balch Chair	London Area	gwbalchofah@rogers.com 519-852-1126
Mark Braet 1 st Vice	Sarnia Area	markbraetofah@gmail.com 519-328-2354
Dave Mendler 2 nd Vice	Kitchener Area	davemendlerofah@gmail.com 519-616-1733
Robert Gurney Director	Brantford Area	Trapperrob01@yahoo.ca 519-770-6866
Paul Prowse Secretary/Treasurer	South Perth Area	paulprowseofah@gmail.com 519-857-3255 Secretaryzonej@gmail.com
Brian Moore Past Chair	Watford Area	brianmoore@live.ca 519-919-1520
Tony Jackson 2 nd Past Chair	Stratford Area	Tonyj_ofah@gmail.com 519-274-1697



Did you know We've all done it, answered the phone with a whisper, had a quiet conversation with a buddy, and even told the squirrels to "get outta here" when they won't stop rustling, but according to the Wildlife Research Institute in Texas A&M-Kingsville found that human voices are the scariest sound of all when it comes to spooking deer.

Source: www.deerassociaion.com

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. Do you have a question for the quiz? Please contact the newsletter editor,



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



REMINDERS:

*Next Membership Meeting: Sunday, January 14th at the Dunnville Hunters and Anglers.
-Snack, coffee, and child-care provide with lunch for a small fee.

*Outstanding Achievement Award nominations to be submitted by December 31, 2023, to secretaryzonej@gmail.com
-Vote to take place at the January 14, 2024 Meeting with the award to take place April 2024.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

*Save
the
Date*

Saturday, April 13, 2024: German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club
(Hubertushaus) 1605 Bleams Road. Mannheim, ON.

Sunday, September 15, 2024:
Gosfield North Sportsmen
Association, Community Centre
124 Fox Street. Cottam, ON.

