

MARCH 2024

# OFAH ZONE J NEWSLETTER



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

## Big Game Blood Trackers Ontario

BY JIM BAKER

BGBTO was started in 2011 by a small number of 12 dedicated individuals who saw a need for an organization to advocate for the use of dogs for blood tracking to help hunters and advance conservation and humane treatment of wounded game. We are now about 28 members. There was a need to have the regulations changed to allow tracking with leashed dogs. The club was instrumental in getting MNRF to allow use of leashed dogs to recover big game in 2013. Through BGBTO efforts, MNRF changed the regulations again in 2019 to allow handlers with leashed dogs to track deer, moose, and elk but not bear without a license as long as they were accompanied by the licensed hunter and in 2022 leashed dogs were also allowed to track bear without a license.



## This issue:

Big Game Blood  
Trackers Ontario

PAGE 01/02

Annual General Meeting

PAGE 02

Sunday Gun Hunting

PAGE 03

New Logo and Ask a Gun Shop

PAGE 04

Zone J's Quiz

PAGE 05

Get Involved

PAGE 06

Recipe and Quiz Answers

PAGE 07

Contact Us

PAGE 08



# Annual General Meeting - Saturday, April 13

**GERMAN CANADIAN HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB**  
HUBERTUSHAUS, 1605 BLEAMS ROAD, MANNHEIM, ON, N0B 2H0

Great presentations planned including Cat Bodden from Ontario Women's Anglers, Emad Hazboun, Dove Hunting and the Outstanding Achievement Award!



**THE ONTARIO  
FEDERATION OF  
ANGLERS AND  
HUNTERS ZONE J  
AGM**

Join us for our Annual General Membership Meeting and Zone J Executive Election. Fabulous guest speakers as well as our 2023 Outstanding Achievement Award Winner to be announced.

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

- Doors open 9:30 am, meeting starts 10:00 am
- Morning coffee and snacks
- Lunch available for a fee
- Many Door prizes

**Wow!** Free activity based **CHILD-CARE** while you enjoy the meeting. Provided by the fine folks at Hubertushaus. To reserve your space email: [hubertushaus1954@gmail.com](mailto:hubertushaus1954@gmail.com)

## Annual General Meeting Zone J

Join your friends, make new friends or just hang out with like-minded hunters, anglers and conservationists at the Annual General Meeting at the German Canadian Hunting & Fishing Club Saturday, April 13 starting at 10:00 am

Doors open at 9:30 am

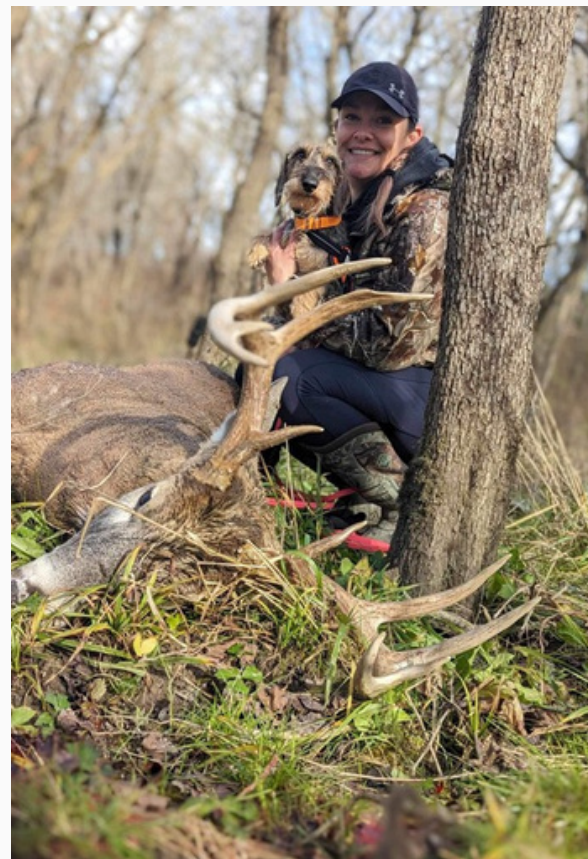
## Big Game Blood Trackers of Ontario cont'd

The club is working on a new submission to the OMNRF with the support of OFAH to allow tracking after legal shooting hours. This is based on regulations used in other jurisdictions in North America.

Our club is most proud of influencing changes to the hunting regulations to allow more handlers and trackers to help humanly recover wounded animals. Being an affiliate club of the OFAH has provided legitimacy and support for the various regulation changes we have championed.

There is increased demand from hunters to help to find wounded animals. Anyone who has an interest in tracking with their dog and a desire to find wounded animals should consider joining our club. Our club runs one or two training clinics each year with an opportunity to meet like-minded trackers and learn how to improve your dog's skills in tracking.

For more information contact President, Jayce Broda, [jaycebro@gmail.com](mailto:jaycebro@gmail.com) or our Secretary, Claire Trickey, [clairetrickey@icloud.com](mailto:clairetrickey@icloud.com) or see our Facebook page where events are posted. Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/BGBTQ> There will be a training clinic in late April or early May.



# Sunday Gun Hunting approved by Minto Town Council

## Sunday Gun Hunting approved by Minto Town Council

The OFAH has been the driving force behind the expansion of Sunday gun hunting opportunities since 2005, when we, along with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, successfully convinced the provincial government to liberalize regulations in southern Ontario. At that time, 67 municipalities across southern Ontario immediately passed resolutions in support of Sunday gun hunting. In the years since, we have increased that number to 191, with Scugog township having passed a resolution earlier this month. Most of the municipalities bordering Haldimand already permit Sunday gun hunting, with West Lincoln the most recent addition in the area.

Hunting is associated with the rare triple bottom line of social, economic, and ecological benefits. Specifically, hunting can help with controlling crop and

livestock predation, reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions, and generate revenue for fish and wildlife management. In fact, the original proposal to expand Sunday gun hunting in 2005 also included an amendment to expand deer seasons where guns can be used to include Sundays. The proposal specifically highlighted the benefits of hunting, saying “the extended seasons are intended to assist in the control of agricultural damage caused by deer and reduce the number of deer/vehicle collisions as well as enhance hunting opportunities.” Hunting is also recognized as a heritage activity in provincial and federal legislation. Public safety is often raised as a reason to oppose hunting, but hunting is one of the few recreational activities that requires proof of competency before engaging in the activity through both hunter safety and firearms safety courses. The OFAH has been administering the Ontario Hunter Education Program on behalf of the government for 25 years, and since the advent of these mandatory training courses, the injury rate for hunting accidents has dropped to virtually nil. Prior to 1968 when hunter education first became mandatory, over 100 incidents occurred every year. In 2018, only six incidents were investigated. According to Statistics Canada, hunting in Canada is responsible for only 0.001 percent of accidents, far less than injuries from car accidents, insect bites, and even lightning strikes. And there is no logical reason to think that hunting is any less safe on a Sunday than it is on other days.

Many Ontarians no longer live in a Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 world. Between work, school, and extracurricular activities, the weekend is often the only opportunity to hunt. Permitting Sunday gun hunting will greatly expand hunting opportunities for many.

As OFAH has been a vocal supporter of Sunday gun hunting for decades. Given OFAH's extensive experience on this issue, Mark Ryckman appeared before Minto Town Council to support the initiative lead by Jill from Minto.

On Tuesday March 05, 2024, OFAH Zone J Chair, Mark Braet was at the second Town Council meeting to show support for Jill and her campaign to allow Sunday gun hunting in Minto. Jill started a petition which gathered 138 signatures as well as many emails. She was so impressed with the OFAH that she and her family are now our newest members! “The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and in particular, Mark Ryckman, Manager of Policy, were so supportive, I don't know if I could have done it without them”. Minto passed the resolution to approve Sunday Gun Hunting.







In 1988 the loon was first introduced as the logo of The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Now, the OFAH is excited to introduce the evolution of our logo, the iconic loon. Logos like art, are a subjective item, how you interpret them can be different from others. Rising with confidence ready to accept the challenges that lie ahead of it, facing forward with pride, over clean blue water, encased by an “O” for Ontario. Or is it a “Thunderbird esque” theme that pays homage to our first nations, the first stewards of the land. It is in your eye to see all this, and more.

The call of the loon causes all to stop and listen, savouring every moment of its memorable song, after comes the quiet contemplation. What it means to me, is different from what it means to you. Rest assured the Loon is the symbol that will be guiding us into the future as we continue to be the VOICE of Anglers and Hunters since 1928!

Paul Prowse



## Ask a Gun Shop - Questions answered by Scott Patience from Bullseye North, London, Ontario

This is a new feature in our newsletter, “Ask a Gun Shop”. These questions have been answered by Scott Patience from Bullseye North. If you have a question for a Gun Shop, submit to [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com)



1. When sighting in a new rifle, do you recommend cleaning between each shot? Answer: No, I recommend putting 3-5 rounds down range and then sighting in. I've learned to never sight in a firearm until it has had a bit of fouling. It's definitely the better way to go.
2. When storing a rifle or shotgun for an extended period, should I release the firing pin? Answer: Yes, releasing the pin is the way to go. Rimfire, should never be dry fired, use a snap cap. Centre fire firearms don't really need anything.
3. What is the best oil/ cloth combination for cleaning the various stock materials on my guns? Answer: I have kept the same nice fuzzy rag for years and use it to do a final wipe on all my firearms. Once my gun is all clean, I spray a fine coat of oil directly on it and then use my cloth everywhere. Nothing quite like it and it has a mix of all the oils I have used over the years. I wipe the entire gun with it as a finishing ritual.
4. Can ammunition be stored “long” term? If so, what is the best method? Answer: I don't recommend storing ammunition for a long time, go out and have fun shooting it. However, if you get a good ammo can with a proper fitting rubber gasket, that is the best solution other than vacuum packing it.
5. There are a lot of opinions out there regarding the shortage of ammunition, what is your take on the ammo shortage? Answer: I have spoken with the ammunition manufacturer's reps at Shot Shows and they are hearing there will be a shortage this year. I am a little hesitant to believe it as ammo has been in plentiful supply relatively speaking, however, those reps were all correct in the past when forecasting. Lake City and a few other ammo plants are now committed to military production so my take is there will be a shortage but not as bad as we have seen in the past. Sadly prices look like they will keep crawling up.



# ZONE J'S QUIZ - TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. The Beaver has only one opening used for reproduction, scent-marking, defecation, and urination. What is it called?
  - a. sphincter
  - b. cloaca
  - c. hoo hoo
  - d. anus
2. How many boreal caribou does the province estimate are in Ontario?
  - a. 500
  - b. 1500
  - c. 5000
  - d. 15,000
3. What was the first Provincial Park, established in Ontario in 1893?
  - a. Voyageur
  - b. Bon Echo
  - c. Sand Banks
  - d. Algonquin Park
4. Currently known as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, what was it known as from 1920 until 1972?
  - a. Department of Lands and Forests
  - b. Ontario Provincial Police
  - c. Protectors of Environments, Trees, and Air, (PETA)
  - d. Woods, Waters and Wetlands
5. When is National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day?
  - a. 1st Saturday in August
  - b. December 25th
  - c. 3rd Saturday in September
  - d. Every day is, cause it's so awesome.
6. National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day, is an official day set in law to respect and recognize hunting, trapping, and fishing as part of Canada's national heritage. To promote awareness of this day, the Friday before all Canadians are encouraged to wear this to work or school to promote awareness of this national day. What is it?
  - a. Bathing suite
  - b. Camouflage
  - c. Orange hat
  - d. Fur
7. The Ministry of Transportation states, there is a motor vehicle collision with wildlife every 38 minutes in this province. These collisions result in death, hundreds of serious injuries, and tens of millions of dollars in damage claims. What percent of wildlife collisions involve white tailed deer?
  - a. 10%
  - b. 20%
  - c. 50%
  - d. 90%
8. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has been the driving force behind the expansion of Sunday gun hunting opportunities since 2005. In the years since their strong advocacy, 191 municipalities have passed resolutions to support Sunday gun hunting. What is the latest Town Council to agree to Sunday gun hunting with the support of OFAH, in particular, Mark Ryckman, Manager of Policy and Zone J?
  - a. Metro Toronto
  - b. Minto
  - c. Metro
  - d. Mento



ANSWERS can be found on page 07

# AGM Zone J Elections

Attend the AGM to vote in your next Zone J Executive

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

Elections will be held Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club, Hubertushaus, for the Annual General Membership Meeting. 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, fishing and conservation 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 the nominating committee, Mark Braet, Chair at [markbraetofah@gmail.com](mailto:markbraetofah@gmail.com) 519-328-2354 or Tony Jackson at [tonyj\\_ofah@gmail.com](mailto:tonyj_ofah@gmail.com) 519-273-4193

## GET INVOLVED

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



### FUN FACT:

Volunteers are often the glue that holds a community together. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and like-minded people and make it a better place. It provides opportunities to develop new skills, gain new experiences, meet new people, and positively impact society. Individuals can gain a sense of purpose and fulfillment that improves their overall well-being. Not only does volunteering makes us happier — it can also improve our mental health over time. One benefit to volunteering is the sense of social connection it provides.



## Fun Fact



## Recipe Corner: Beaver Burgers on the Grill

Beaver is a delicious dark meat that is high in protein and rich in flavour. Why beaver? In many areas, beaver populations have increased causing land erosion, flooded roadways, and farmer's fields and damaged trees. One female will produce up to 6 kits per year sometimes more. Beavers are in abundance and require management. There is no open season for beaver in Ontario. Best way to enjoy a beaver burger is with your friendly, local licensed trapper.

### Best Beaver Burger Recipe:

- 1 pound ground beaver meat
- 1/4 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Burger buns
- Toppings of your choice (lettuce, tomato, onion, cheese, bacon)
- Condiments of your choice (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, etc.)

### Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, combine the ground beaver meat, breadcrumbs, Parmesan cheese, chopped onion, minced garlic, beaten egg, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper. Mix well until all ingredients are evenly combined.
2. Divide the mixture into equal portions and shape them into burger patties of your desired size and thickness.
3. Preheat your grill over medium-high heat. When using a grill, lightly oil the grates to prevent sticking. (a frying pan can be used)
4. Cook the beaver burgers for about 5-7 minutes per side, or until they reach an internal temperature of 160°F (71°C) and are cooked through. Flip the burgers halfway through the cooking time to ensure even cooking.
5. Once the burgers are cooked, remove them from the grill and let them rest for a few minutes.
6. Toast the burger buns lightly on the grill or in a toaster.
7. Assemble your burgers by placing a cooked beaver patty on each bun, then adding your desired toppings and condiments.
8. Serve the beaver burgers hot and enjoy!

Note: Be sure to cook beaver meat thoroughly to ensure food safety. You can adjust the seasoning and add additional ingredients according to your taste preferences. Enjoy your unique and flavorful Beaver Burgers!



## Beaver Burgers



## ZONE J QUIZ ANSWERS

1. b. cloaca
2. c. 5000
3. d. Algonquin
4. a. Department of Lands and Forests
5. c. 3rd Saturday in September
6. b. Camouflage
7. d. 90%
8. b. Minto



## OFAH ZONE J EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

### KEEP IN TOUCH THROUGH ZONE J'S FACEBOOK 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)  
Email: [secretaryzonej@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryzonej@gmail.com) or c: 519-857-3255

