



**ONTARIO FEDERATION OF
ANGLERS & HUNTERS
ZONE J**



Fall Newsletter

OFAH ZONE J GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday September 19th

9am to 3pm

1170 Wellington Road South, London

Meeting will be held in the Hotel next door to Tony Roma's Restaurant

Sign on Hotel says "Super 8 Coming Soon"

On the east side of Wellington Road, north of Hwy 401

All OFAH members are Welcome!!

**Guest Speakers – Ministry of Natural Resources wildlife biologist
to discuss cougar and black bear in southern Ontario**

Dave Reid, Norfolk Land Stewardship Council Coordinator will update us on ALUS

Zone J Executive for 2010 – 2011

Chair:

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jgreenwood340@gmail.com

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Past Chair:

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OFAH Zone J is now on !

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2010 OFAH ZONE J ATTENDANCE PRIZE

Winner will be drawn at the September OFAH Zone J meeting in London!

Attend the OFAH Zone J meetings to qualify for your chance to win a
\$500 Gift Certificate to the sporting goods store/outfitter of your Choice

There are 3 ways to earn a ballot for the Draw:

- 1) Attend two (2) OFAH Zone J meetings in one calendar year. Meetings are held in January, April and September. (This has been the same way used to qualify for entry during the past 3 years)
- 2) Attend any OFAH Zone J meetings and bring a friend*. Both you and your friend* will receive one ballot each.
- 3) If the friend* you bring to the meeting is not a current OFAH member in good standing, have your friend join OFAH and you each earn an extra ballot. Contact OFAH Zone J Secretary with your friend new OFAH membership number to validate ballots.

* Friend is defined as an adult who has not attended an OFAH Zone J meeting during the past two years (2008 & 2009).

Have you signed the Petition yet?
Help stop the Long Gun Registry
Visit
www.scrapthelonggunregistry.com
And sign the petition today!!

Springbank Dam petition

I would like to send a HUGE "Thank You" to every one who is working so diligently on collecting signatures on these petitions. We have gathered hundreds of signatures. Please continue to pass these petitions around. Once you have exhausted your efforts, please mail the petitions to OFAH Zone J Secretary Kathy Moore. If you need more blank petitions, please let me know and I'll mail some out to you ASAP

Reporting a Violation is VERY Important

If you see or suspect someone of abusing a natural resource, please call
1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time to report a violation or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Be sure to include information on the exact location of the violation, date and time of the violation, and a description of the individuals and vehicles involved. Timely and accurate information will assist conservation officers in apprehending violators and **protect your natural resources**. The OFAH encourages you to report anything suspicious to the MNR Tips line. The information you have may just be the important piece needed to stop the abuse. Our MNR Conservation Officers cannot be everywhere all of the time. Please help them protect our natural resources.

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Report on Misner Dam/ Lynn River

Prepared by Jim Greenwood, 1st Vice Chair, Zone J, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

The Misner Dam is located in the east-central section of Port Dover, Norfolk County. The structure is located at the southern end of Silver Lake, spanning the Lynn River. Downstream from the dam, the Lynn River combines with Black Creek and empties into Lake Erie. The Lynn River is a coldwater stream above Silver Lake to the town of Simcoe supporting populations of rainbow and brown trout. The surrounding land uses are primarily residential, recreational and industrial/commercial. The waters of Silver Lake are now used primarily for recreation such as rowing, and fishing.

In November 2009, G. Douglas Vallee Ltd. were hired by the county to provide engineering inspection services for the Misner Dam. Their findings conclude that there are elements of the structure that are in critically poor condition. Alternative solutions presented for consideration by the engineers report include;

Do nothing is not considered a viable solution

Remove the Dam- this would remove Silver Lake- \$0.9 M

Repair the Dam- restore the dam to pre Dec 2009 conditions-\$1.1 M

Replace the Dam-\$3.0-\$3.1 M

Recommendations to the county are to repair the dam. A Public Information Centre was held in Port Dover with over 150 people signing in at the door. 7 comment sheets were submitted along with 3 email/written correspondences from other citizens.

A meeting with the Kevin Lichach, General Manager, Community Services Department was held in June of this year with Bruce Bowyer, president of the Simcoe and Area Fish and Game Club, and myself. Information was provided to Lichach detailing the option of removing the dam, and returning the Lynn River to its natural state.

We were led to believe at this meeting that we would be included at the next meeting when Council reconvened in August to present our case. Unfortunately we were not, and council at that time approved the engineers report and recommendations.

8 deputations will be heard August 24th, from supporters who want to see the dam removed. There will be speakers from a variety of backgrounds speaking to cost, water quality, fishery concerns, sedimentation, recreational opportunities and the overall condition of the Lynn River and its watershed.

Our hopes are obviously to get Council to investigate the option of removing the dam, and reverting back to the coldwater stream it once was. An Environmental Assessment is also critical to ensure more participation is received before tax dollars are spent on an obsolete dam. Supporting letters from such groups as Trout Unlimited will also be read at the time the deputation are heard.

A comment received from Larry Halyk, Stewardship Coordinator with MNR Guelph made by Dave Davies, Ohio DNR when they were on a Lake Erie habitat tour further provides testament to the state of this Dam.

“ These two dams (Dunnville and Misner) are the two biggest insults to both physical and biological processes that I have ever seen anywhere in the Lake Erie basin. A dam on a river is bad enough but a dam in the lake zone multiplies the problems many-fold. “

The local radio station is polling the public. It doesn't matter where you live, if you're in favour of rehabilitating and protecting the environment, then please help with this important cause.

Go to and vote to remove the dam!!

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Long Gun Registry battle continues

MP Candice Hoepfner's Bill C-391 that will eliminate the long gun registry continues on its slow journey. Your Members of Parliament are voting September 22 on an opposition-led motion that is poised to kill Bill C-391 even before it gets to the 3rd reading stage. If this motion to kill the bill does not go thru, the Third Reading of Bill C-391 will take place late in September.

Please continue to contact the Opposition members who voted in favour of Bill C-391 at the second reading. The Liberal Party has stated its intention to whip its members into voting the party line. The NDP is saying that they will not whip its members – allowing the NDP to vote as determined by their constituents. Please be polite and informative when contacting these folks but assure them that a YES vote to BILL C-391 is what their constituents want. Encourage them to keep supporting this Bill. Let them know how important their YES to Bill C391 vote is to you!

Opposition Members	Constituency	Office Fax numbers
IND Andre Arthur	(Portneuf-Jacques-Cartier)	613-995-1637
Lib Anthony Rota	(Nipissing-Timiskaming)	613-996-7993
Lib Jean-Claude D'Amours	(Madawaska-Restigouche)	613-996-9736
Lib Keith Martin	(Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca)	613-996-9779
Lib Larry Bagnell	(Yukon)	613-995-0945
Lib Scott Andrews	(Avalon)	613-992-7277
Lib Scott Simms	(Bonavista-Gander-Grand Falls-Windsor)	613-996-7622
Lib Todd Russel	(Labrador)	613-996-7132
Lib Wayne Easter	(Malpeque)	613-995-7408
NDP Bruce Hyer	(Thunder Bay-Superior North)	613-996-9785
NDP Carol Hughes	(Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing)	613 995-6661
NDP Charlie Angus	(Timmons-James Bay)	613-995-0747
NDP Claude Gravelle	(Nickel Belt)	613-995-9109
NDP Dennis Bevington	(Western Arctic)	613-992-7411
NDP Glen Thibeault	(Sudbury)	613-995-2569
NDP John Rafferty	(Thunder Bay-Rainy River)	613-995-3515
NDP Malcom Allen	(Welland)	613-995-5245
NDP Mark Maloway	(Elmwood-Transcona)	613-995-6688
NDP Nathan Cullen	(Skeena-Bulkley Valley)	613-993-9007
NDP Niki Ashton	(Churchill)	613-996-5817
NDP Peter Stoffer	(Sackville-Eastern Shore)	613-996-9655

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Zone J Executive wish each and every one of you a safe, bountiful hunting season. Please mentor an apprentice hunter. It's a rewarding experience!

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MNR's latest attempt at preventing the introduction and spread of Chronic Wasting Disease

Mid August, Minister of Natural Resources Linda Jeffrey signed an order banning the possession and use of natural products containing body parts or fluids from members of the deer family for the purposes of hunting in Ontario. The move, along with two other regulatory changes relating to the movement of animals and animal parts, was supposedly designed to prevent the introduction and spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Ontario. Unfortunately, these half measures fall far short of what actions should have been taken, and not only fail to address the problem, they leave outdoors retailers on the cusp of hunting season with inventories of natural deer attractants that can be sold, but no longer be used by hunters, at least in Ontario.

CWD is a fatal degenerative brain disease that affects members of the deer family, including moose, elk and potentially caribou. The disease has established a significant foothold in Alberta and Saskatchewan and fifteen U.S. states, but has yet to be discovered in Ontario. The main source for the spread of the disease is game farms for deer and elk, the same source of the products now banned. Attend the OFAH Zone J General Membership meeting in September to get the latest, up to the minute news on this MNR move.

Offshore Wind Farms in Lake Huron

Ontario's Natural Resources Ministry is considering constraints on offshore wind farms but it's not clear the limits will appease a wave of protest from those living along Lake Huron. The ministry published a draft policy that, if adopted, might exclude from development areas in the lake where there are:

- boating lanes
- important recreational uses
- core commercial fishing
- cultural heritage
- sensitive ecology
- natural-gas activity

Those who want to make comments must do so by Oct. 4 by phoning the ministry at (705) 755-1499 or by going online to www.ebr.gov.on.ca, typing in the registration number of 011-0907 and clicking on the submit button.

2010 Italian Handicapable Fishing Derby

OFAH Zone J's very own Bruno Vanden Berghe, Brian Moore and Emily Levidis represented OFAH with the Invasive Species booth at this awesome event on the banks of the Detroit River.



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Comments regarding industrial wind turbines

By Felix Barbetti, Past Chair, Zone J, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

As the controversy about on and off shore industrial wind turbines (IWT) continues to build, aside from the natural habitat and visual impacts we need to be mindful of the formal conditions that could conceivably remove more hunting (and fishing) areas from access.

Hundreds of these wind farms are planned. Ontario Government is way ahead on granting private (driven by subsidized profit) companies rights to build these wind-powered generators along the shores of Lakes Erie and St Clair in OFAH Zone J. Of course our tax dollars and rising energy fees subsidize them.

Their main explanation is “clean green energy to reduce global warming,” by closing more efficient coal plants like Nanticoke. The Siemens Plant closing in Hamilton (laying off 550 employees) combined with the announcement of a new Plant (wind vanes) est. 300 jobs is an example of the economics at hand.

To see these IWTs take a road trip along the lake shore between Long Point, Port Burwell and Port Bruce. Also note the transmission wires that link all these. Also search “Wind Concerns Ontario” online to get some of the rest of the story. Many more are planned – there was an Open house recently in Wainfleet. There is also a comment opportunity on the EBR #011-0907.

Farmers are enticed to grant rights of way by a payment (something like an est. \$5 K per tower but don't quote this since it's case by case) between the farmer/landowner and the company (these company names have not been released citing business privacy) so it's difficult to assess what farmers and the rest of us are in for aside from higher taxes (to pay before and after these things go up). With small farming going down the drain, these cash infusions are welcomed until they are experienced.

The vanes on these generators are highly engineered (like aircraft props but much larger and costlier) so I'm guessing that the investment of millions in one of these behemoths will likely necessitate some firearms discharge perimeter considerations or contract conditions as well. And we've already seen how amalgamated municipalities are quick to extend these into the countryside.

While everyone needs to make informed decisions about these things – something that our Government agencies are clearly not helping with since they've made up their minds and only expressed the positives – we really need to ask some tough questions supported by thorough science or we and our future generations will be paying for these in many ways.

Hunting and fishing will suffer when these things are completed. Even on calm days when they don't earn a dime. Also a footnote regarding lost hunting access: Solar panel Farms (Photovoltaic Arrays) currently also being constructed are either fenced off or posted to prohibit access. If everything proceeds as planned significant lands will be lost to wildlife movement and certainly hunting in SW Ontario.

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www.ofah.org

22nd Annual OFAH Zone J Youth Campout

Story By Brian Moore, 2nd Vice Chair, Zone J, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

The weather was perfect during the Annual OFAH Zone J Youth Campout held June 18-20 in partnership with the Tavistock and District Rod & Gun Club (T&DR&GC).

Registration opened Friday at 4pm and we were greeted with a line-up of youngsters that were ready for a weekend full of fun and new activities. After all of the youth had arrived and registered for this totally free weekend of conservation related activities, we were very eager to announce that we had set a new record of 94 Youth in attendance.

We kicked off the weekend Friday evening with Greg Balch, a trapper and conservationist from the London area delivered a presentation on the wildlife of Ontario. Greg has well over 200 wildlife mounts, furs, skulls, traps and even an original beaver pelt top hat in his display that he intergrades into his presentation that has every one in the room sitting on the edge of their seats, even the adults! All of the youth were given a chance at testing their skill and knowledge of our heritage with identifying some of the many items, answering some of the questions asked by Greg and asking a wide range of their own questions. It was indeed a pleasure to have Conservation Officer Gary Caron on hand from the area MNR office in Aylmer. Officer Caron was able to answer all Fish and Wildlife Act related questions.



Saturday morning all of the youth and their mentors gathered at the club house for welcoming remarks from OFAH 2nd Vice Chair, Brian Moore and T&DR&GC president Dave Featherstone. The youth were split into smaller groups that they would remain with for the duration of the day. The activities for the 2010 Youth Campout were, Archery, Pellet Guns, Bird House building, Lure making, Canoeing and Hiking.

When the Youth arrived at both the Archery and Pellet Guns ranges, they were instructed on safety and the roles that Archery and Firearms have played in our heritage. The youth were then instructed on safe handling and shooting. Each Youth was mentored one on one and given ample time to fully understand and use the provided equipment.

The Lure making that was put on by the very dedicated members from Tri-County BASSmasters was a huge hit. The youth were fired-up by the lead instructor and President of Tri-County Bass, Deryck Thompson. Deryck and his crew engaged the youth in a skit while they made Buzz Baits from not much more than a small pile of loose

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parts. The youth were able to choose the colour of paint and the skirts they wanted and were guided under close supervision while the baits took shape. Each youth went home with the very bait they had made.

Bird House building was very entertaining as the youth started with a brief history lesson on the Eastern Blue Bird and how it was only with the dedication of conservation and the construction of Blue Bird nesting boxes that the bird is now seen more in the Province. The youth spent some time assembling the “pre-fab” kits that the members of T&DR&GC had cut and prepared for assembly. The birdhouses went home with each youth.

Canoeing was a great first time addition for the OFAH Zone J Youth Campout. The Youth met over at a local shallow pond in the town of Harrington, which was just a short drive down the road. The Youth were given a very in-depth talk on canoeing safety which included how to get in a canoe, how to chose a proper paddle, the mandatory safety equipment; including a PFD, letting some one know where you will be and what time you should return. The youth were then given time to board their vessel and take to the waters. With the warm weather we were gifted with, some of the new skippers took this opportunity to see just how “tipsy” the canoe was and ended up taking a refreshing swim.

At mid-day, all of the youth, mentors and volunteers gathered at the clubhouse for lunch which was prepared by the T&DR&GC. During lunch, OFAH Zone J handed out goodie bags that were full of things from our many great sponsors. As every one finished lunch we all gathered on the hill for a group photo and the participation draw.

As the day came to an end, we all gathered for a campfire and were surprisingly entertained by the Scout groups that spent the weekend with us. The Scout groups came together and performed some of their skits and sing a long song’s. They were very good at involving other campers and club members in every thing they did.

Sunday morning we split into 3 groups and started a hike down the Avon trail. During the hike, the youth were engaged with identifying the many trees, plants and small creatures that they had come across.

A HUGE thank you to all supporters, sponsors, volunteers, donors and campers. This was one of the largest and most successful camps we’ve held in recent years. Couldn’t have done it without each and every one of you!!! For more pictures visit the Tavistock and District Rod & Gun Club at www.tdrgc.com.

Asian Carp Update

Mid July, the Michigan Attorney General’s office filed a new lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to force the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Chicago water authorities to take emergency action to block Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan.

The states of Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have all joined Michigan in this new legal effort to fight Asian carp and accelerate efforts to develop a permanent solution to protect the Great Lakes. While you know the U.S. Supreme Court declined to take the case, they did not dismiss the merits of it.

So now, Michigan is suing the Obama administration and the Army Corps of Engineers, who are charged with protecting public resources and overseeing the management of the Chicago Area Waterway System in partnership with local water authorities in the Illinois federal court.

Visit StopAsianCarp.com and sign the petition

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Attend the OFAH Zone J General Membership Meeting in London on Sunday September 19th to get up-to-the-minute information on the events discussed in this newsletter and many more important issues!

Mark Your 2010/2011 Calendars

www.outdoorfarmshow.com

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock Ontario
September 14, 15 and 16, 2010

Visit the OFAH merchandise booth – buy yourself an OFAH T-shirt, a Hat and renew your membership

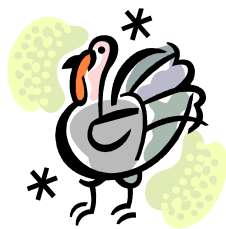
OFAH Zone J Quarterly Membership Meeting – Sunday September 19, 2010 at 1170 Wellington Road South, London. This is a hotel next door to Tony Roma's Restaurant. Sign says "Super 8 coming soon". Meeting starts at 9am and will conclude by 3pm. Featured Guest speaker is a Ministry of Natural Resources wildlife technician who will discuss black bear and cougar in Southern Ontario.

www.ipm2010.com

International Plowing Match near Elgin/St Thomas, Ontario
September 21 to 25, 2010

Visit the OFAH merchandise booth – buy yourself an OFAH T-shirt, a Hat and renew your membership

OFAH Zone J Quarterly Membership Meeting – Sunday January 9, 2011 at the Tavistock and District Rod & Gun Club. Map and directions will be included in the December newsletter or visit www.tdrgc.com for more info.



Fall Wild Turkey Seminars

There is still time to register for a fall course.
Call OFAH 705-748-OFAH to find a course near you!

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OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award

This award is to recognize an individual's outstanding effort towards Stewardship, Conservation, and/or the promotion of angling or hunting in Southwestern Ontario as selected by the OFAH Zone J membership.

Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member, for this award.

Nominees for the 2010 award may be submitted to the Zone J Secretary/Treasurer no later than December 31, 2010. Please include a description of the work the nominee has done as well as photos, news articles, etc. The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 2011 Quarterly meeting in Tavistock with the winner being announced at the Zone J Annual meeting on April 10, 2011.

Please remember to submit your nominations for the 2010 OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award.

We know there are many deserving volunteers who quietly devote their time, energy and money to conservation, hunting and angling within our Zone.

Please help us recognize them by submitting a story about their dedication and passion.

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