



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



Spring Newsletter

O.F.A.H. Zone J Annual General Meeting and Election
will be held on Saturday April 10, 2010 hosted by the
Caledonia Hunters and Anglers Association
Please Plan on Attending!!

Zone J Executive for 2009 – 2010

Chair:

Tony Jackson, Stratford area

tjsfinsfeathers@sympatico.ca

Tel: (519) 273-4193

1st Vice:

Len McPhail, Caledonia area

lmcpfail@mountaincable.net

Tel: (905) 765-1326

2nd Vice:

Bruno Vanden Berghe, Windsor area

Fax: (519) 252-3968

Tel: (519) 253-0448

Secretary/Treasurer:

Kathy Moore, Brantford area

kfm00@rogers.com

Tel: (519) 756-9386

Alternate Director:

Brian Moore, Caledonia area

brianmoore@live.ca

Tel: (519) 919-1520

Past Chair:

Felix Barbetti, Niagara area

fbarbetti@cogeco.ca

Tel: (905) 892-4381

Past Chair:

Alf Marinelli, Port Colborne area

alfred.marinelli@sympatico.ca

Tel: (905) 834-6142



Would you like the Zone J Newsletter emailed to you?

If so email teamofah@live.ca saying that you would like the newsletter emailed to you. You will have it faster than you would through the mail. Newsletters are published in March, May, August and December.

OFAH Zone J is now on  !

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

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2010 OFAH ZONE J ATTENDANCE PRIZE

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).

OFAH Zone J Executive Elections

- o Are you interested in volunteering a few hours each month to assist the Federation in **continuing to be The Voice of Anglers and Hunters?**
- o Do you have skills and experience that would assist your Zone in representing almost **23,000 members?**
- o **Contact Felix Barbetti or Alf Marinelli** before April 3rd, 2010 if you would like to be a part of our team. They would be **happy to describe our duties** to you and help you with finding the right fit

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

Many **THANKS** to **Wellington Street Sportsman Club** for hosting the OFAH Zone J Quarterly meeting in January. We had a fantastic meeting with excellent guest speakers.

Many new faces in the crowd too!
Proceeds from the Raffle draw (\$180) were donated to OFAH Zone J.

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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.

Asian Carp - Serious Threat to our Great Lakes



Asian Carp when they begin to populate our Great Lakes will seriously impact our lakes and rivers in Zone J.

These carp were initially imported from Asia to control algae in catfish ponds in the southern states. Severe flooding of the Mississippi a decade ago allowed these imports to invade the largest American watersheds spreading all the way up to the Chicago sanitary and barge canal. Electric barriers were erected to prevent the carp from advancing into this canal, which is also connected, to Lake Michigan. Concerns persist from DNA sampling that some Asian carp may have already entered the Great Lakes. Our OFAH Invading Species specialist Francine Mac Donald was involved

in the latest attempt to prevent these carp from accessing Lake Michigan

Simply put the two most worrisome varieties "Big Head," which grow to 100 lbs and look like their eyes are too low in the head and the "Silver" that are startled by motors and jump out of the water. These carp have already overwhelmed parts the Mississippi and Ohio Basins. They out produce local species of fish and while growing feed on the same micro-organisms that local fish rely on. This seriously changes the food chain in their favour and reduces the biodiversity in watersheds that they invade.

While we've already experienced changes from invading and introduced species where impacts on our most desirable game fish has been felt by anglers these larger invaders are especially worrisome so it's important for all of us to not exacerbate this problem by importing bait from the States or generally not releasing live bait in any locations.

Reporting any sale of live carp species to MNR or adding your name to the Michigan petition that's trying to stop further passage through that Chicago Illinois canal system.

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A true example of sportsman helping sportsman

On Feb 26, 2010 the Outdoors community banded together to help one of their own. On Dec 28, 2010, Kevin Brown, a Sebringville man and hunting enthusiast, was severely injured when a skate blade sliced his neck while officiating an OHL hockey game in Woodstock, Ont. The story made national headlines and was featured on Hockey night in Canada's "Coaches Corner" during Stratford's Hockey day in Canada Celebrations and broadcast.

Kevin has a long road ahead of him and was unable to attend the function as is still recovering from injuries at hospital in London, Ont. Members of the Flensburg Hunt Club (whom Kevin hunts with) decided to organize a fund raiser to help Kevin

(nickname "downtown") with help from the long standing OFAH affiliated host club, The Gadshill Sportsman Club. The all day BBQ and trap shoot saw people from all over the area coming to shoot and making donations, many whom have never met Kevin. Local businesses saw to it that the prize table was full along with their generous cash donations. When the day was finished, 26 rounds of trap had been shot (3250 shells). This all day event was the largest shoot the Gadshill club has ever hosted noted Gord Player from Gadshill Sportsman, "It was great to see so much support". **\$4502.00** was raised to help Kevin and his family with some of the costs during his recovery. Donations continue to be accepted by Randy DeBlock, R R#1, Bornholm, ON N0K 1A0 – Phone 519-347-2513 randy.deblock@sympatico.ca

Another "successful" hunting story...

By Tony Jackson

Up at 5:am for the last day of the archery season. Had to drive 17 miles and past one Timmys. Just about had enough by this time (10;15) been there since before daylight. Had to walk about 1.25 miles back into the bowels of the Ellice Swamp! One of my old haunts that I haven't been to for a few years. Beautiful spot as no one ever gets this far back in.....

So.... not so bright Tony decided to arrow a big doe at 10:45.....dang near killed me...Thank God for cell phones..

A friend drove out and walked back in to meet me. We're no longer friends.

Remember I said I was a long way back into this swamp. I was about 1/2 way out when he met me dragging the deer.

My belt is screwed but it worked good for dragging the deer. Finally, 1.45 made it to my truck. Meat hanging and I will process tomorrow.

There's a few lessons to be learned here

1. Have strong, stupid friends
2. Never be in a hurry to fill your tag when you can take advantage of the "full" hunting season

3. Wash your clothes in Apple Juice the night before a hunt. I was sitting on the ground and three nearly walked right over to me
4. Tracking is easier in the snow
5. When you're frozen stiff and can't feel your toes, stay an extra hour - you might as well remember the experience for a long time.
6. When you're hungry and cranky after sitting in a snowbank for a few hours and seeing nothing you are a deadly shot.

OFAH Zone J continues to work at educating and cooperating with municipal and regional governments on various important issues such as:

- **Sunday gun Hunting**
- **Firearms discharge by-laws**
- **Nuisance wildlife and Livestock predation**
- **Hunter Trespassing**
- **Springbank Dam**
- **Invasive species**
- **Land Access**

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Mark Your 2010 Calendars

OFAH Zone J Annual Meeting and Election – Saturday April 10 & Sunday April 11, 2010

- Caledonia Hunters and Anglers, 1407 River Road (Hwy 54) near Caledonia
- Meeting starts at 9am sharp – Election to be held Saturday
- Sunday breakfast at Caledonia Hunters and Anglers 9am to 11am
- Sunday field trip to Hamilton Hunt Club – visit www.hamiltonhunt.ca for a sneak preview. This is going to be one of the BEST all-time field trips – did you know the sport of foxhunting happens in Ontario?? It has for over 150 years!! Come with us on this field trip and you'll experience it first hand. **Please RSVP Kathy Moore for Sunday field trip.**
- **ACCOMODATIONS:** Super 8 Motel – 2975 Homestead Road, Mount Hope
Near Hamilton Int'l Airport 905 - 679 – 3355
Sherwood Motel – 797 Colbourne Street, Brantford 519-756-5261
Either motel is approximately a 20 minute drive to the Club
- **DIRECTIONS** from Hwy 403: exit at Highway 6 south – signs point to Airport
Continue south on Highway 6 (Upper James) towards Caledonia
Just before entering the Town of Caledonia turn right on to the Highway 6 by-pass (this takes you around the west side of Caledonia and is marked Hwy 6 Port Dover). This is also known as Green's Road
Follow Green's Road to the dead end
Turn left onto Mines Road
Turn right onto Caithness Street – also called Hwy 54 or River Road. This runs along the east bank of the Grand River.
Caledonia Hunters and Anglers Club is located at 1407 River Road (Hwy 54) on your left – between the road and the river, south of Brant County Rd 22
Watch for OFAH logo signs pointing you to the driveway

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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. OFAH Zone J members have voted and the Winner of this Award will be announced at the OFAH Zone J Annual Meeting April 10, 2010

Mark Your 2010 Calendars

OFAH 82nd Annual General Meeting and Wildlife Conference – March 18 – 20

Delta Meadowvale, Mississauga

Visit www.ofah.org for more information

OFAH Conservation Lottery 2nd Early Bird draw – April 16th

Ontario Hunter Education Instructors Annual Conference – April 23 & 24, 2010

- Four Point Sheraton, London, ON
- For more info contact Lyle Smith (519) 317-3858 or Emad Hazboun (519) 317-4132

OFAH WOW Weekend - May 7 to 9th

visit www.ofah.org/wow for more info

OFAH Conservation Lottery Main Draw – May 28, 2010

OFAH Zone J Annual Youth Campout – June 18 – 20, 2010

- Tavistock Rod & Gun Club – see enclosed flyer

OFAH WOW Weekend - September 10 to 12th

visit www.ofah.org/wow for more info

OFAH Annual Youth Campout

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

This is a FREE event for youth ages 8 to 17 yrs.

This year's host is the Tavistock and District Rod and Gun Club

June 18 to 20th

For more information contact: Brian Moore 519-919-1520 or

Dave Featherstone 519-271-6077

Preregistration is required

Hope to see you there!!

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Club Activities in OFAH Zone J

Saturday March 20 and Sunday March 21 10am to 4pm Hatchery Open House – Everyone is Welcome!

Bluewater Anglers Fish Culture Station, under the Bluewater Bridge in Point Edward They are raising 10,000 Chinook salmon, 50,000 brown trout, 50,000 rainbow trout

Saturday March 27 10am to 4pm Brodhagen Bear, Bull and Buck Day Brodhagen Community Centre, 6708 Perth Line 44 For more info: j_hbeuermann@tcc.on.ca

Sunday March 28th 8am to noon Gun Show Tavistock Memorial Hall For more info call: 519-275-1867

Saturday April 10 11am to 6pm Southwest Outdoors Club Big Buck and Bull Day Tilbury Arena, 49 Bond Ave., Tilbury For more info call Ian 519-733-4453

++ NOTE: Ontario Out of Doors magazine ran an article on two big bucks that Jack Miner harvested many years ago. One of these bucks will be on display at this event.

Saturday April 17 9am to 11am Shoreline Clean-Up – bring gloves Bluewater Anglers Hatchery under the Bluewater Bridge in Point Edward For more info call Ross Bishop 519-541-9673

Sunday April 18 starting at 10am Archery shoot - Traditional only Tavistock Rod and Gun Club For more info call: 519-275-1867

Saturday April 24 weigh-in 2pm to 3pm Club Spring Derby – non-members \$10 Bluewater Anglers Hatchery under the Bluewater Bridge in Point Edward For more info www.bluewateranglers.com

Saturday May 29 10am to 2pm Teach a Kid to Fish Day Bluewater Anglers Hatchery under the Bluewater Bridge in Point Edward Preregistration required – Registration begins May 3rd. For more info: Jo-Anne or Ralph Eves 519-383-0873 after May 3rd.

This Newsletter is designed by OFAH member Emily Levidis of Sarnia and approved for publication by the OFAH Zone J Executive

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