

**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA
Stu Paterson – March /April 2017**

“opinions expressed in this report are not necessarily those of BPSA, its members or directors”



This report includes coverage of the March 2017 - 89th annual OFAH meeting in Mississauga.

1. In his annual report to the conference OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee Chair, Director Dan Elliott, discussed what he called “the Cape Croker/Colpoys Bay Fishery Dispute”.

Elliott said “no MNRF or First Nation action was taken on complaints about illegal netting activity by native commercial fishermen”.

He also reported “a First Nation commercial fisherman claims he is exercising a traditional aboriginal right and was not a signatory to any commercial fishing agreement”.

On the Algonquin Land Claim Elliott reports Quebec natives are in court trying to be included in the claim. Also that 1800 landowners will be affected by the settlement of the claim. Also that land parcel identification will be made public in June. And that ten separate open houses on the Algonquin Claim are planned for North and East of Toronto.



2. COMMUNITY HATCHERIES PRAISED -

Ontario’s Natural Resources Minister had enthusiastic praise for volunteers who set aside their spare time to work on the Province’s Community Hatchery Program (CHP).



Minister Kathryn McGarry addressed the 89th annual meeting of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) in Mississauga. She said she was so enthusiastic about the success of the program, she approved its renewal last fall for an additional three years.

Minister McGarry noted the continuing CHP partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is “something to be proud of”. The program involves 41 Ontario community hatcheries, including several volunteer run hatcheries in the Grey Bruce region. The OFAH operates the Community Hatchery Program under the supervision of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Minister McGarry congratulated “the more than 900 volunteer workers” who put in nearly 60-thousand hours of their time a year at our community fish hatcheries across the province. She congratulated OFAH for promoting responsible hunting and fishing. And she noted her Ministry and OFAH continue as “good partners on many fronts”.

In our region the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen’s Association, the Sydenham Sportsmen, the Lake Huron Fishing Club, the Ontario Steelheaders and the Georgian Triangle Anglers are just some of the volunteer clubs involved with the CHP. Since the sixties our club has stocked more than 5-million rainbow and brown trout and salmon to support a thriving sports fishery.

Running a fish hatchery isn’t easy. Raising fish is not only time consuming, but the high costs of energy bills, feed and equipment can make hatcheries very expensive to operate. One of the highest costs in running a hatchery is the provincial environmental compliance that clubs have to pay for; such as water testing, effluent control, etc., not even taking into consideration the amount of time spent on documentation and licencing applications.



– and that’s where the Community Hatchery Program comes in.

“Some community hatcheries would find it challenging to remain operational without the support of the CHP funding partnership,” says Community Hatchery Program Coordinator Matt Burley. “The OFAH is a proud partner in this highly successful program and we look forward to working for several more years with Ontario’s community fish hatcheries.”

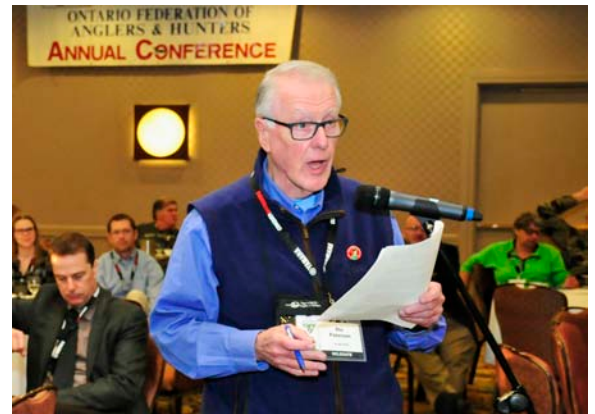


Whether volunteers are raising Salmon or Rainbow or Brown Trout, their commitment to raising and stocking fish is reinforced with funding and technical support through CHP. So when you are out on the water, think about the hard work and dedication of community hatchery volunteers who are helping to conserve sports fishing stocks, creating more fishing opportunities for all Ontarians.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is Ontario's largest, non-profit, fish and wildlife conservation-based organization, representing 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters and 735 member clubs.

3. I gave Minister McGarry a list of concerns about sports and commercial fisheries that BPSA members have discussed at our meetings over the last three years. I also read this statement to her and her staff during the question and answer session at the conference:

"...We are pleased with the partnership and the good relationship our club has with MNRF. There are forces in society that want us to stop stocking as our fish, rainbow and brown trout and salmon are considered to be "invasives". We have been told by MNRF that there are no plans to stop our fish stocking which we have been doing since the sixties. We appreciate the continuing support shown by MNRF to our club and neighbouring clubs".....



4. Zone H chair Wayne Forgrave and OFAH fisheries biologist Matt Demille presented an important fisheries research grant at the conference.

The Toronto Sportsmen's Show/OFAH Zone H Fisheries 4-thousand dollar research grant went to Trent University PHD candidate Chantelle Penney. Chantelle is studying the effects of rising water temperatures on brook trout and lake trout. She told the conference "temperatures are rising too fast for fish to adjust. I am looking at thermal tolerances to see if these species can adapt to warming". The technical description of her research is

...."The epigenetic effects of elevated temperature on the upper thermal tolerance of *Salvelinus namaycush* and *Salvelinus fontinalis*".....



Our OFAH and partners offer four different grants every year worth \$4,000 each to university students researching fish and wildlife topics. These grants go to those who are helping to improve resource management. The OFAH uses a science-based approach to our advocacy in fish and wildlife management.

5. OFAH Executive Director Angelo Lombardo presented the Jack O'Dette Conservation Leadership Award to a member of our neighbouring club. Jack Osadzuk of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association won the award "for his decades of solid conservation work on behalf of fish and wildlife".

(ofah pic Wayne and Mike mary pickford)



6. Zone H Chair Wayne Forgrave (left) and Zone Fisheries Chair Mike Evers of the Barrie District Anglers and Hunters Conservation Club accepted the Mary Pickford Trophy. The award is for excellence in conservation. On the left COFAH Club Services Director Brian McRae and far right Kerry Coleman OFAH President.



7. In a presentation to the conference retired MNRF Conservation Officer Charlie Todesco blamed licensed hunters for most of the thousands of illegal moose kills a year that occur in Northern Ontario.

Todesco told us "the more licensed hunters there are in an area, the more illegal moose kills there are". He said in 18 years working with the MNRF. he concluded there was a net loss of 6-thousand moose illegally killed. Not once in his address did the former CO blame unregulated first nation moose harvest, as the cause of the massive moose shortage in Ontario.



8. The next Zone H OFAH meeting is at 10 am April 23, 2017 at the clubhouse of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association South of Owen Sound. Let's have a good turnout from BPSA. Please bring your views and concerns. Take part in the discussions of the issues that affect fishing, hunting, conservation and our enjoyment of outdoors recreation. If you want our zone to approve a policy or proposal, write out your motion in regular business form for your presentation at the meeting. Speak to the executive before-hand about it.

9. The summer zone H meeting is on August 13, 2017 at 10am at the Barrie District Hunters and Anglers clubhouse. It includes a free weekend campout and for lunch the day of the meeting, some of the best corn-on-the-cob you will ever eat. The fall meeting is on September 30, 2017 location tba.

10. OFAH sponsored Angler and Hunter Radio has resumed on CFOS 560 am with host Randy Jennings. Be entertained and informed by the show Saturdays at 8am. Angler & Hunter Radio is broadcast Saturdays and Sundays from Windsor to the Ottawa Valley, and to Thunder Bay in the north. The broadcast signal from the OFAH radio network covers all of Southern Ontario. The show can be heard worldwide via the internet through ALL participating station websites.

11. OFAH is heavily involved in social media. Our federation wants you to communicate with the folks at head office.

“Share with us your prize buck, your big catch and your first-time experiences by visiting us on Facebook ([ofah.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ofah.org)) and following us on Twitter (@ofah). Let us be your one-stop-shop for outdoors news and help us promote hunting, fishing, conservation and the great outdoors province-wide”

I will have more news from the 89th annual OFAH conference and other updates next month.

Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for the
BRUCE PENINSULA SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

