

**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA
Stu Paterson -March 2018**

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



This report includes coverage of the 2018 zone H winter meeting.

1.
OFAH Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife Services Matt DeMille will address the renewed SON Commercial Fisheries Agreement for our region at the upcoming OFAH annual meeting. Based on his conversations with BPSA club members, it appears he will focus on the apparent lack of understanding by the MNRF of the term “conservation”. He has said there is little conservation when you allow unlimited net lengths in our bays. For years OFAH has talked about “fair sharing” of our fish and wildlife resources. Matt is expected to discuss that issue in relation to the renewed SON fishing agreement. Speaking personally this agreement and those before it, are proof the Ontario Government has betrayed the thousands of people who moved to Grey Bruce for the “good fishing”.



This is a link to media coverage of the issue as of this writing:

<http://www.kincardinnews.com/2018/02/22/native-commercial-fishing-agreement-renewed>

2.
There has been much reaction to our story last month suggesting the MNRF has been stocking wild boar in an area north of Magnetawan.



This is the original story:

It is suggested that the Province is stocking wild boar in at least one region, hoping to create a wild boar hunt, making up for the growing shortage of moose. This information comes from taxidermist John Manser, who was a guest speaker at the most recent OFAH zone meeting. Manser has connections to the hunting community and the MNR. He claims he confronted a rep with the Ministry who “put on a big grin” when asked about wild boar stocking in the Magnetawan area North of Burke’s Falls off highway. Manser claims the wild pig stocking is going on in Wildlife Management Unit 49.

In a new development Manser told an OFAH Director on February 16th:

“ a couple more hogs were shot recently ” in that area.

The province has entered the discussion

MNR7048MC-2018-198

Dear Mr. Paterson:

I am writing in response to your recent e-mails to Minister Nathalie Des-Rosiers and Deputy Minister Bill Thornton, regarding allegations of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry releasing wild boar in Ontario. I am pleased to respond.

I would like to assure you that the ministry has never undertaken, nor contemplated, any release program for wild boar. Wild boar is not native to North America, and are known to negatively impact native wildlife populations and ecosystems through predation, competition, grazing and rooting. They can also transmit disease to both wildlife and domestic swine, as well as pose a threat to human safety through aggressive behaviour.

While captive boar may be raised as livestock in Ontario, any release into the wild is a violation under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, which requires the owner to notify the ministry of the escape/release, as well as take actions to immediately capture or kill the animals. In cases where the owner is unable to do so, or can't be identified, the ministry may take action including capture or dispatch of the animals.

If a member of the public sees a boar in the wild, they are advised to notify their local MNRF office. If you are aware of any individuals intentionally releasing captive boar into the wild, you are encouraged to report to the MNRF's TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667. The public should avoid contact with these animals, and the local police department should be contacted if public safety becomes a concern.

I hope this information is helpful in allaying your concerns about wild boar stocking by MNRF. Your assistance in sharing this information with members of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association and the broader hunting community would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chloe Stuart, Special Conservation Policy Branch

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

cc- Dan Duggan Dist. Mgr. MNRF Parry Sound District

Now this from a person who lives in that WMU in question He says he believes a private individual released these wild pigs:

....."To the best of my knowledge, a hunt camp south of Orange Valley had released 16 of them because the ministry was not making moose tags available and this would give them "something to hunt". I know the hunt camp that shot 7 animals and I know this individual hunted with them and shot none".....

2. Michele Vardy of the Barrie District Anglers & Hunters has offered to create a much improved Zone H OFAH web page. Clubs in our zone are urged to contribute pictures and articles about club activities that will be of interest to the 12-thousand members in Zone H. Michele says "the more information we get the more enjoyable this page will be for all of us". Please send pix and info to Michele Vardy at belleinthebush@gmail.com

3. Zone H is now booking locations for all 2019 Zone H quarterly meetings. Zone secretary Wally Motz says he needs confirmation from all clubs interested by June 15th as the dates and locations are printed in Ontario Out Of Doors. The 2019 dates are January 13, 2019, April 21 2019, July 7, 2019, September 29, 2019 the OFAH Zone H Annual Meeting. Financial help is available to help participating clubs. In Wally's words "no club is too small to help". We would need two people to do the food, usually soup and sandwiches for 45-50 people. Coffee, tea,

water and pop and a dessert. Another two to set up chairs and tables. And someone to get the fireplace going in advance of the meeting if required.

Clubs often post a small sign saying “lunch \$5.00”.

We will also need a prize convener to buy or get donated at least 45 prizes for a prize draw which takes place at the start of each meeting. If interested in heading the BPSA hosting of this meeting please contact Wally at 519-395-0320 or at byffy@tnt21.com.

We hosted the winter meeting in 2006 and it was well attended. We had many compliments from participants on how well it was organized. Steve Meder did a stupendous job on the food. FYI all Zone Directors who are members of the OFAH board hold a one hour executive meeting at the quarterly meeting location before each zone meeting.



4. From OFAH head office - Effective this year all hunters who buy a license for moose, elk, deer, wolf/coyote, wild turkey and black bear, are required to report the results of their hunt whether they kill an animal or not. The MNRF will communicate with licensed hunters to remind them of deadlines and the new mandatory reporting. If you don't report you may not be able to hunt the next year.

5. In wake of reports one or two people have been living this winter on one of the First Nations fishing boats at the Colpoy's dock and that one of the boats has been breaking the rules of the SON Commercial Fishing Agreement, there is OFAH reaction.

...” I appreciate your bringing to our attention the article about the Commercial Fishing boat the Andarlin. First it doesn't appear to meet the several requirements of the Fishing Agreement and secondly using the fishing tug as a temporary residence? I trust someone from your committee has brought the fishing issues to MNR's Lake Huron Fisheries Unit attention in addition to the tips line. This issue should also be



brought to the attention of MNR's Aboriginal Policy Section. Secondly, the Zone should follow up with the MNR's Lands section about using that boat as a temporary residence on Colpoy's Bay to determine if any regulations apply. MOE may have guidelines or legislation on vessel waste disposal as well. I have a few contacts that may shed some light on application of the Public Lands Act requirements and the Commercial fishing Agreement. I will pass on what I find out to Kevin Vardy. (Zone H Native Affairs Dir)

In respects to the botulism issue I suggest a Zone representative contact Matt De Mille at OFAH who may intern contact both MNR Fisheries Science Section and the University of Guelph in an attempt to get some answers about eating fish and birds feeding on gobies and possible toxic effects.

I would be interested in hearing the results of your Zone's enquiry from Kevin at our next Native Affairs Committee meeting in May.

Thanks again for bringing this to my attention.

Keep up the great work!

Dan Elliott

Native Affairs Committee Chair



6. Our federation is publicly acknowledging attempts by Algonquin First nation's bands to gather and publicize elk and moose harvest information. The info is on a website developed by the Algonquin's of Ontario (AOO). The info dates from 2013 to the present. Harvest stats are shown for 11 Wildlife Management Units that fall within the Algonquin's of Ontario territory. The info includes tables that show harvest stats of bulks, cows, and calves by WMU as well as sustainable harvest targets that are set in consultation with the MNRF. The Algonquin's have organized a draw based tag system that is coordinated by the 10 Algonquin communities.





(Official Site)

Algonquin Woodland Aboriginal Peoples' Tribal Council



(Bear Clan)



The OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee members suggest this First Nations group is taking positive steps to kindle and improve relations between all stakeholders including our federation. Another example of this is the Nipissing First Nations steps taken to control commercial walleye fishing on Lake Nipissing.

7. The OFAH native affairs committee reports Ontario Parks has closed Pinery Provincial Park near Grand Bend for safety reasons. The move comes after a roadblock was set up by a handful of First Nations people. At last report Ontario Parks was continuing talks with these demonstrators in hopes of resolving the matter. The Chippawas of Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation do not endorse the actions of the demonstrators and have no land claim at the Pinery. Pinery Park is near Camp Ipperwash, where the federal government settled a land claim with the Kettle Stoney Point First Nation in 1995.



8. This is your 2018 Zone H OFAH executive:

Zone H Chair – Wayne Forgrave email hillview27@gmail.com

Zone H Vice Chair – Mike Evers email d_evers@rogers.com

2nd Vice Glen Meads email gmeads@hotmail.ca

Sec/Treas Wally Motz email buffy1@tnt21.com

2nd alt Kevin Vardy email trophyhunter2384@gmail.com

Zone H OFAH website co-ordinator Michele Vardy email

belleinthebush@gmail.com

Kevin Vardy monitors the OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee; Mike is our Fisheries Advisory Committee rep on the OFAH Board.

Glen watches over land use such as new quarry proposals and fishing/hunting access disputes.

9. ANNUAL ZONE H CONSERVATION AWARDS were presented at the winter Zone H OFAH meeting in Durham:



Left to right John Ford, Jason Forgrave OFAH Zone H Awards Chair, Dennis Wiseman of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association accept the trophy as Zone H Conservation Club of the Year

Mike Evers (left) Acting OFAH Zone H Chair accepts the Derlyn Valley memorial trophy award from Zone H OFAH awards chair Jason Forgrave. The trophy goes to the Barrie District Anglers and Hunters Association for the group's attendance record at zone quarterly meetings. This group was First Runner Up as Zone H Conservation Group of The Year.



Dave Field of the Georgian Triangle Anglers accepted the award as Zone H OFAH "Conservationist of the Year" for his and his club's conservation work over the last year.

Daniel Hutt of the Barrie District Anglers and Hunters won the Gord Mahar jr conservation award.



10. Using drones to find wounded animals:

OF AH head office passed this along. The MNRF Provincial Enforcement specialist reminds hunters drones are not allowed to help you in your hunt. But drones can legally be used to find dead animals (animals wounded in a hunt that have died) as long as all hunting gear is put away. If you wanted to kill a wounded animal to put it out of its misery, the drone must be put away before any firearms are introduced to the scene.



11. There are 12,260 OFAH members in Zone H. That's up 4 per cent over last year. Total OFAH membership is nearly 80-thousand.

12. Ontario's new Natural Resources Minister is Nathalie Des Rosiers the MPP for Ottawa-Vanier. She is a well-known professor and constitutional lawyer. A lawyers magazine named her one of the 25 most influential lawyers in Canada.



13. I will attend the OFAH annual meeting in Mississauga in March and the next Zone H quarterly meeting in Midland on April 22, 2018 at 10am. I will also spread as many 2018 BPSA Prize Appeal documents as possible at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show at the International Centre near Pearson Airport in March.

Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for BPSA

..." the charm of fishing is that it is ...a perpetual series of occasions for hope "...

John Buchan Governor General of Canada
1935-1940

