

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

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



1. A couple of OFAH Directors sent me congrats to pass on to BPSA and our Handgun Club, for hosting an information session on the controversial Bill C-71.



OFAH says the bill, which is aimed at reducing gun violence, does nothing to tackle the issues that contribute to gun violence in our country.

For decades, the OFAH has been pushing the federal government to invest in programs and policy that target illegal firearms and actual criminal activity, rather than policy that has the effect of making criminals out of law-abiding firearms owners. Our Federation says “investments announced by the Government in 2017 to fight gangs and gun violence are a step in the right direction; however, this ‘complementary bill’ will do little to achieve the government’s stated goals”.

The meeting hosted by the BPSA Handgun Club and MP Larry Miller, was attended by 50 BPSA members and members of neighbouring sports shooting clubs.



Miller was accompanied by Calgary Nose-Hill MP Michelle Rempel, a sports shooting enthusiast. Rempel noted Bill C-71 nor other bills tabled recently, include measures that crack down on illegal firearms coming into Canada or to reduce gang violence. One firearms trainer told the meeting it is common knowledge in the sports



shooting community, that most illegal firearms enter Canada transported by first nations people South of Montreal and Cornwall. He suggested Canadian customs officers are reluctant to check first nations people entering Canada from the US. Many attendees suggested this bill will do nothing to prevent crime, assist in enforcement of firearms laws, or improve public safety

This is a link to the official OFAH position on Bill C-71:

<https://www.ofah.org/firearms/billc71/>

2. Two top OFAH officials have completed an appearance before a parliamentary committee studying Bill C-71. Here is a quote from their presentation
..... “ Our opposition to Bill C-71 is not partisan. It is not emotional. It was not pre-determined on principle. It was only after a thorough critical analysis that we arrived at the same conclusion for almost every proposal – it won’t enhance public safety. The evidence simply doesn’t support it”.....

Here is the content of their brief to the federal committee:

https://www.ofah.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BillC-71BriefSubmission_Final.pdf

3. OFAH was active on the Ontario Election front.

This is a partial list of federation priorities for all parties and candidates:

- Conduct a critical review of moose management. Research, population assessment, evaluation of habitat creation through forestry, direct engagement of Indigenous communities, and establishment of a Provincial Moose Technical Committee are a few areas in need of increased investment.

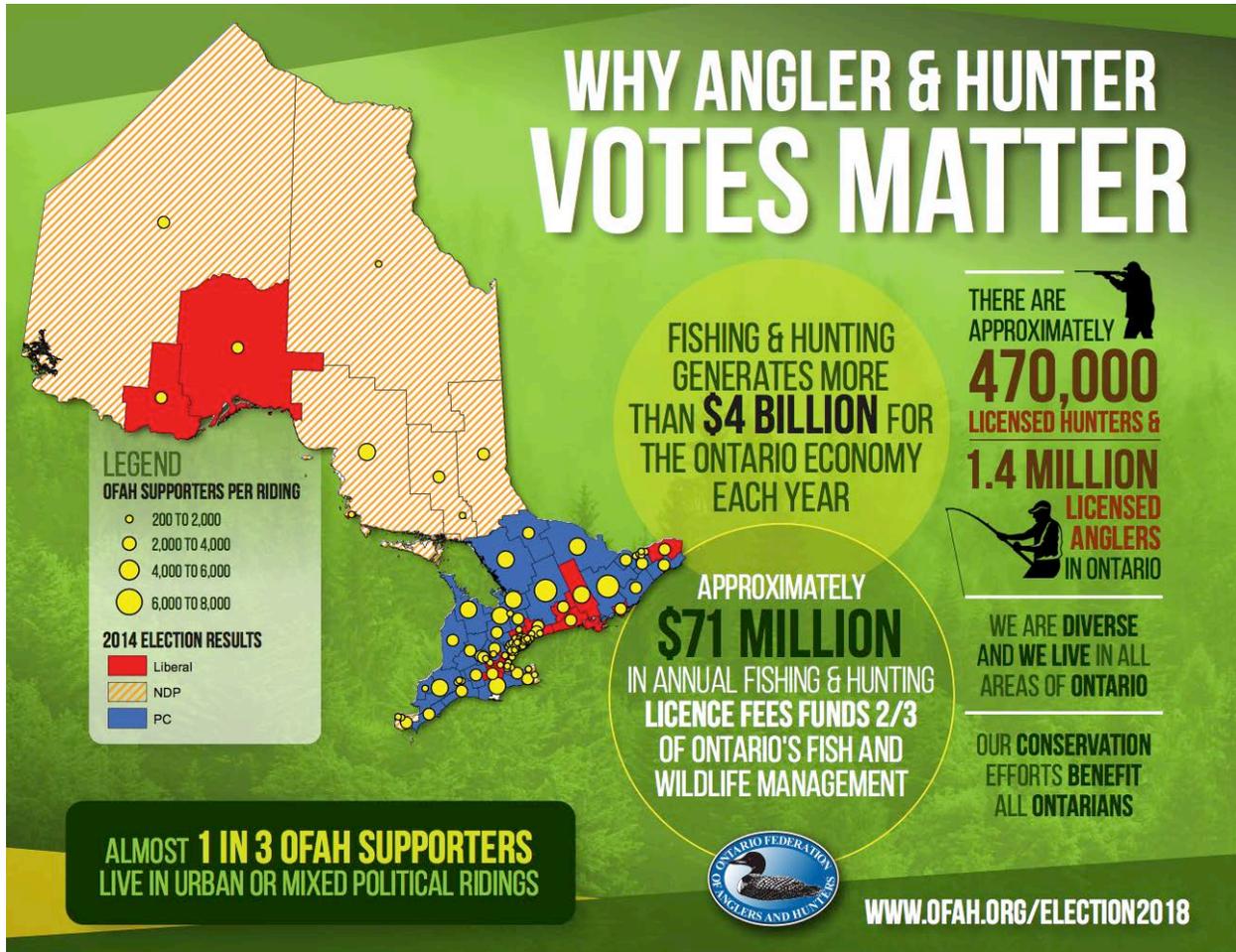
- Expand black bear hunting opportunities. Remove the pilot status of the spring hunt and restore it as a permanent component of sustainable bear management. In addition, remove unnecessary baiting policies and assess the potential to expand hunting to Wildlife Management Units in bear range currently without a season.

- Increase efforts to work with Indigenous communities to achieve conservation priorities. Cooperative approaches between Indigenous communities, government and non-government organizations will be essential in ensuring the sustainable management of Ontario’s fish and wildlife for future generations.

- Rescind illogical proposed baitfish policies. Certain components of the MNR’s proposed Strategic Policy for Bait Management in Ontario simply don’t make sense, such as the elimination of angler use of bait in waterway class parks.

- Do not expand wolf/coyote hunting bans. Increasing protection for wolves and coyotes is not necessary.

Why do the votes of Ontario's anglers, hunters and trappers matter?



For more on why we need to be involved in Ontario politics please check this page <https://www.ofah.org/issues/election2018/>

4. Here is an update re. 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

(Kevin Vardy has resigned from the OFAH and Zone H boards. He was 2nd alt director of our zone).

We now need someone to monitor the OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee, a function Kevin performed.

Mike Evers 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.

You may contact any of these folks on issues of concern to you. Please copy me to keep me in the loop.

5. 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. At the OFAH annual meeting federation Corporate Messaging Manager Robert Pye told us, retaining existing members and attracting new ones, is our federation's most important task with the aim to keep us strong. Overall membership is down about 5-thousand and we are working hard on streamlining our marketing and our use of social media to attract new and younger members. Paperless memberships and three year renewals are helping. I have said many times if BPSA did not closely monitor OFAH and the issues it deals with, the situation would be the same as Canada not belonging to the United Nations.

6. Through treasurer Wally Motz, our zone has again supported our annual BPSA Kids Fishing event to a tune of \$400.00. In his note accompanying the cheque Wally said "it would be very beneficial if BPSA could find a way to become members of OFAH. We are supporting your club for the sake of the KIDS". A review of our position on full OFAH membership/affiliation, is overdue. If members are willing to listen, I will arrange to have Brian McRae federation Club Member Services Director attend a future BPSA meeting. Brian would review the advantages of full OFAH affiliation for BPSA. Brian reports OFAH advocated for hunters, trappers and fishers in 22 Ontario municipalities in 2017. He is one of many OFAH experts who lobby on behalf of conservation groups like ours.



7. One more issue in praise of our working with OFAH.

Our club's participation on the Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP) operated by OFAH, has been very helpful to us. We recently received a welcome increase in the annual grant we get through the program, to help cover hatchery costs.



This link explains the CHP:

<http://www.communityhatcheries.com/>

This link explains the variety of fish species stocked by 40 Community Hatchery Program Members across Ontario:

<http://www.communityhatcheries.com/fish-species/>

8. In recent days I rec'd an email from an OFAH director about another controversial bill called C-55-

..." Stu, Thanks for keeping me in the loop.

You and I need to have a conversation regarding Bill C-55 and the future potential impact it may have on recreational anglers.

If Canada lives up to its commitment to the UN Biodiversity Agreement to create a rather large percentage of its ocean coastal waters and fresh water areas (Great Lakes) into reserve areas (meaning no harvest areas) by 2020 we may have more than aboriginal commercial fishermen to worry about "....

I will have more on this in future OFAH reports. Meantime this is what we know about Bill C – 55

<https://openparliament.ca/bills/42-1/C-55/?tab=mentions&page=2>

9. At the next zone H meeting federation directors will be interested in hearing that commercial fishers were recently going door-to-door in South Bruce Peninsula selling rainbow trout caught in Grey-Bruce waters. This happens in Wiarton, Georgian Bluffs, Mallory Beach and Colpoy's Village several times a year. It is our belief that we stock fish for the SPORTS FISHERY not the commercial fishery. This selling of rainbow trout by commercial anglers is legal as they are first nations and can fish hunt and trap anywhere in Canada at any time and do what they want with these fish stocked as part of our "put and take" recreational fishery.



10. MOOSE HUNTING:

Once again FEWER Ontario Hunter Moose Tags are being issued. We get the story from the official magazine of OFAH, Ontario Out Of Doors:



<https://www.oodmag.com/news/moose-validation-numbers-2018/>

11. On your behalf I will attend the OFAH zone H quarterly meeting at 10am on July 15, 2018 hosted by the Barrie District Anglers & Hunters.

The annual zone H meeting is set for 10 am Saturday September 29, 2018 hosted by the Georgian Triangle Anglers at the leisure Club 100 Minnesota Street Collingwood. If you want to attend the festivities (hospitality suite) Friday the 28th and the annual general meeting and dinner on the Saturday night, a block of rooms have been booked for OFAH delegates at the Mariner Motor Hotel with the rate \$110.00 a night. Meals and registration for the Saturday evening dinner will set you back \$80.00 a couple. Your correspondent chooses to attend only the annual meeting on the Saturday in hopes of saving money for BPSA. In thirteen years as BPSA-OFAH rep, I have never attended the dinner associated with this annual meeting.

12. Zone H is looking for a club to host the 2019 Zone H ANNUAL MEETING. The date is set for September 28, 2019. 40-50 people usually attend these annual meetings. The club hosting the ANNUAL will receive \$1,000.00 for starting expenses, as well as a \$500.00 bonus for the club's own use. Clubs usually make money on these meetings asking for a \$10.00 donation to cover the costs of providing a lunch of soup, sandwiches, coffee/tea/water and dessert. The zone meetings usually run from 10am -3:30 pm. Clubs are expected to provide 50 prizes (enough so each delegate gets one) for a draw held at the start of each zone meeting. In Wally's words "no club is too small to help out". During my 13 years as OFAH rep BPSA has hosted one zone H meeting and we made money on it. But hosting does take some organizing which tends to not be my strong point.

If interested in heading the BPSA hosting of this ANNUAL MEETING please contact Wally at 519-395-0320 or at byffy@tnt21.com.

Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for BPSA
..." the charm of sports fishing is that it is ...a perpetual series of occasions for hope "...
John Buchan, Governor General of Canada 1935-1940

Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for BPSA

BPSA - now celebrating 56 years of conservation.

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