

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

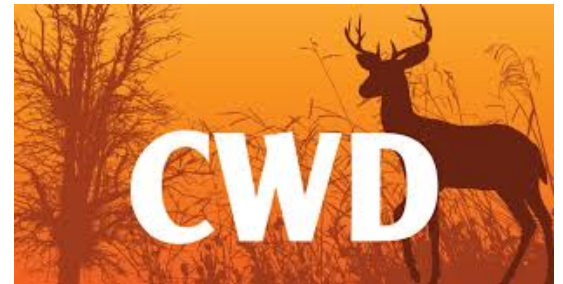
“opinions expressed in this report are not necessarily those of BPSA, its members or directors”



1. There is no CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) crisis in Ontario. But... we are surrounded by this dreaded condition that affects deer and elk. The latest news is that Ontario neighbours Quebec, Michigan and New York have CWD cases.

From OFAH head office:

The risk can no longer be ignored. OFAH will double our efforts to convince governments to take the action needed to keep Ontario CWD-free



The OFAH calls on the Ontario government to:

- Prohibit the movement of live captive cervids into and through Ontario.
- Phase out existing deer and elk farms with adequate compensation to the farmers. (farmed deer and elk are more likely to spread the disease which thrives in their urine and feces)

Here is the latest from our federation

<https://www.ofah.org/issues/cwd/>

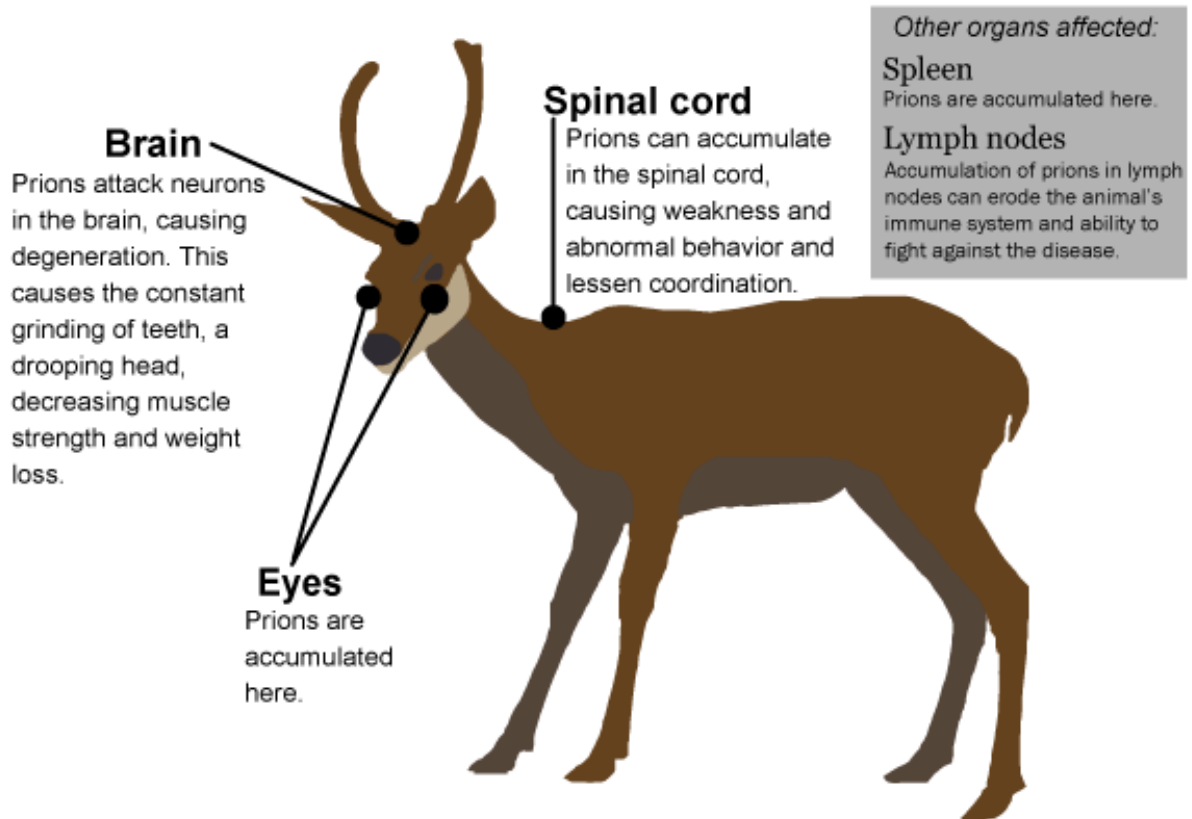


2. In the past Grey-Bruce has been one area where Ontario deer have been studied as part of an intensive CWD surveillance program. Our Federation has this update on that surveillance

<https://www.ofah.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Ontario-Chronic-Wasting-Disease-Surveillance-Program-2017-Update.pdf>

3. **CWD FACTS:** As part of our coverage of the CWD threat, we have an OFAH report explaining CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

ORGANS AFFECTED BY CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE



CWD is highly infectious, incurable, and 100% fatal to members of the cervid family, which includes Ontario's native white-tailed deer, moose, elk and caribou as well as exotic species such as red and fallow deer. It has been detected in three Canadian provinces, 25 states in the U.S., Finland, Norway and South Korea. CWD is caused by a misfolded protein known as a prion ("pree-on") and is one of a group of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies which also includes mad cow disease. CWD-infected animals continuously shed prions which can pass to other animals through direct contact or accumulate in the soil, vegetation, or on hard surfaces and from there infect other animals. Prions are resistant to chemicals, radiation, freezing and even incineration at more than 600°C. The visible symptoms of CWD include weight loss, excessive salivation, disorientation, tremors, stumbling, a lack of coordination, and paralysis. However, not all infectious animals display these symptoms and there is no effective live test for CWD. All these factors make CWD incredibly dangerous to Ontario's native cervids and incredibly hard to eradicate if it becomes established.

4. TRIBUTES FOR JACK DOHERTY:

Two former OFAH Presidents, a dozen OFAH directors and several hundred friends and relatives, gathered October 21st in Owen Sound, to celebrate the life of Jack Doherty. Jack, a member of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association and former OFAH Director, died at age 83 on September 30th after a two year battle with cancer.

After a working career as a teacher Jack spent the last half of his life being active in the conservation movement and enjoying lots of hunting and fishing. At the event at the Owen Sound Legion, Federation Director Jack Osadzuk called Doherty "the guy who was always among the first to volunteer" when it

came to fish stocking and fund raising for conservation. Osadzuk noted that Doherty had won two major OFAH awards including one as "Provincial Conservationist of The Year" an honour he received in 2007.

Others noted Jack's positive attitude and that he "was an easy man to make friends with".

One of Jack's former students told me he joined the hundreds of others at this tribute "because Jack was such a special guy".

Another ex-student said it isn't often that you respect a teacher, while at the same time you LIKE that person as well.

Jack Doherty visited BPSA not long ago reminding us of the benefits of full affiliation with OFAH. He visited the folks at Cape Croker offering them full OFAH funding if their school adopted the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). NASP involves thousands of youth in Canada and is popular in 14 countries. Jack was disappointed when the elders refused the offer "because OFAH was involved". Now we are pleased to learn that OFAH recently did come up with funding for NASP archery equipment at the Cape, and we are told the youngsters are enjoying the NASP program.

Four years ago at the OFAH annual conference, Jack Doherty and I had a two-hour lunch meeting with the then Ontario Conservative Party MNRF critic. Jeff Yurek has since become the MNRF Minister. At the end of the meeting Jack and I fumbled with our wallets about to offer to pay. Jeff interrupted the fumbling, grabbing the cheque and told us he personally would cover the cost. We had a good laugh.

In 2016 Jack Doherty wrote a multi-page article about his outdoors adventures which was published in the Salmon Spectacular magazine. Its title was "WHAT A LIFE". Jack you certainly had a GREAT LIFE, and you will be missed by all those who crossed paths with you.



5. The OFAH Zone H Chair feels it is important to point to the location of a recent development in Simcoe County as a poor choice.

Wayne Forgrave made the statement at a recent Zone H meeting in Collingwood. County authorities have approved the construction of a new recycling plant on 200-acres of Simcoe County Forest north of Horseshoe Valley. Opponents of that location for the plant fear odor issues and the destruction of pristine forest and prime animal habitat.



6. At the latest Zone H quarterly meeting we learned that OFAH ZONE H bursaries are still available to any Ontario student attending college or university in the fields of FLORA & FAUNA. We approve two bursaries per year. The amount per paid out per person is 500-dollars per semester to a maximum of one-thousand dollars. Each bursary lasts two years. Applications are to be made in writing to the Zone H secretary-treasurer. The new secretary-treasurer for our zone is Dennis Wiseman who can be reached at taxman2001@rogers.com. Candidates must have been a member of OFAH for the 12 months prior to the application.

7. The new name for the OFAH Native Affairs Advisory Committee is "OFAH Indigenous Relations Liaison Committee". The committee will build relationships and establish partnerships towards further future conservation initiatives with First Nations communities. One member of this group will attend every other OFAH advisory committee to help bring to those committees perspectives and knowledge related to First Nations.

OFAH director Dan Elliott will continue to chair this group. One aspect of interest is that this committee will provide advice to clubs and members on how to engage indigenous communities. Respected Federation staffers Brian McRae and Matt DeMille are members of this Liaison Committee. It will deal with indigenous harvesting, land claims, relevant court decisions and relationship building.



8. OFAH MEMBER INSURANCE COVERAGE:

There are several enhancements to our member insurance program automatically included with your yearly membership. These include LYME DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, MEDICAL TRAVEL EXPENSES, and USA MEDICAL COVERAGE. "Legal Defence and Advice" is an added optional coverage. This comprehensive coverage costs \$88.56 a year including tax. For more info please contact Brian McCrae – director OFAH member and club liaison at brian_mccrae@ofah.orgB

9. President Martell and Stu Paterson have invited OFAH club liaison director Brian McCrea and one other federation rep to a future BPSA meeting. The idea is the federation folks will outline information on the advantages of our group becoming a fully affiliated club of the federation. Federation chief Biologist Matt DeMille told me he is “working on it”. OFAH is known as being among the most effective lobby groups in Canada.

10. At every OFAH Zone meeting all zone hatcheries report on their fish stocking activities. The new Zone H Fisheries Chair says he is disappointed that only one of the four clubs that stock fish in our region responded to his request for hatchery information before the September meeting. He may have had the wrong email info for BPSA. I told Dennis Wiseman that I will continue to be his contact for our hatchery information. Dennis reports the Sydenham Sportsmen have stopped stocking brown trout. But they do have 55-thousand rainbow trout to be stocked next spring as yearlings and 59-thousand Chinook salmon to be stocked in July. He pointed out most Zone H hatcheries stock fish as yearlings as their survival rate greatly improves compared to stocking fingerlings. I delivered our BPSA hatchery report at this meeting and updated the zone on other BPSA developments.

Crystal Bell of Wiarton weighed in the first fish, reeling in an 18.65 pound salmon.

Wiseman reported that 43-hundred anglers took part in the 2018 Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular, weighing in 2,053 salmon, 114 rainbow trout, 678 lakera and 1 brown trout. The Salmon Spectacular is the largest event of the year in Grey-Bruce attracting more than 50-thousand people to its various events.



11. In wake of the zone annual meeting in Collingwood your OFAH Zone H Directors for 2019 are:
 - Wayne Forgrave – Zone H Chair - hillview27@gmail.com
 - Mike Evers – 1st vice-chair - wildlife and forestry - d_evers@rogers.com
 - Glen Meads – 2nd vice-chair - land use - gmeads@hotmail.ca
 - Dennis Wiseman – secretary-treasurer - fisheries
 - Rob Little – 2nd alternate director - rlittle@rogers.com

12.

There was an emotional moment at the annual Zone H OFAH meeting in Collingwood. We said good-by and thanks to Wally Motz. For 24 years Wally served as the zone secretary and treasurer. It was Wally who dealt with the hundreds of requests for grants from clubs like ours in our large region which takes in zone H. Zone Chair Wayne Forgrave praised him and presented Wally with a plaque for



“outstanding service “. Wayne noted Wally kept on staying on in the post to help the new zone chairs when they took office.

I first met Wally at the OFAH annual meeting in Hamilton in the early 2-thousands. He has been an enthusiastic hunter and had tons of great stories to tell about his hunting adventures. We wish Wally good health and all the good things in life he deserves, in his retirement from his zone post. Dennis Wiseman of the Sydenham Sportsmen’s Association takes over for Wally in the treasurer/secretary position. Dennis will represent Zone H at the OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee.

13. The Ontario Ministry of Natural resources and Forestry has a new on-line newsletter. One of the stories featured in is about the revamping/streamlining of our fishing and hunting licensing system. If you are an angler or hunter please read this:



Plan Ahead!

From November 19 to 25, 2018, no fishing or hunting licence purchases will be available, as the ministry transitions to the new licensing service.

Learn more at: ontario.ca/outdoorscare

Have you heard the news? We're launching a new and improved fish and wildlife licensing service on **November 26, 2018**. Here are some of the changes it will bring.

Licence summary

We're introducing a new easy-to-carry licence summary. Available November 26, this convenient summary will list all of your valid fishing and hunting licences in one place, eliminating the need to carry multiple licences.

You'll be able to print your licence summary, either at home or by visiting a participating ServiceOntario or licence issuer location. Or you have the option to go paperless and carry a digital copy on your mobile device.

Tags instead of game seals

A new term comes with the new service. The game seals hunters use will be known as "tags" starting in 2019. You can print your tag at home or go to a participating ServiceOntario location

or licence issuer to have it printed. Just remember, it's your responsibility to keep your licence summary and tags intact and readable at all times. A resealable plastic bag will protect them from the elements.

Plan ahead! Buy your 2018 game seal products before November 19, 2018

As we transition to the new service there will be a short shut-down period, from **November 19 to 25**. But don't wait to buy 2018 hunting licences that require a game seal. They will not be available from **November 19 to December 31, 2018**.

The new service rolls out November 26, 2018. At that time you'll be able to buy Outdoors Cards, fishing licences and small game licences, as well as selected 2019 products. Wolf/coyote hunters will want to note that while 2019 tags will be available when the new service launches these tags will not be valid until January 1.

Starting January 1, 2019, all fishing and hunting licence products will be available according to their regular timeframes.

Here is the link to this new MNRF newsletter thanks to OFAH Director and former Conservation Officer Mike Evers:

<http://app.dialoginsight.com/T/OFSYS/SM2/1116/2/S/F/7567/852772/4oR9nCMY/17.html>

14. Last winter I reported on the increase in the number of WILD BOAR in Ontario. These fast reproducing, dangerous animals have been seen in Grey-Bruce. Now the MNRF has issued an advisory on the situation. I will report on this issue in my December OFAH report for BPSA. TVO has reported on the Ontario WILD BOAR THREAT.



This from our taxpayer funder TVO by reporter Tim Alamenciak:

....."Failure to stop them could be disastrous for the province's agriculture.

The female boar can have a litter after just four months, with an average of six piglets being born. The female piglets could then begin breeding in some cases as young as six months old. They're omnivorous and root like rototillers. With no natural predators and abundant food sources, the wild boar population could quickly grow out of control.

"If you have a vineyard, for instance ... a herd of wild boar can decimate your vineyard pretty quickly. That goes with any crops. They're omnivorous and they are incredibly difficult to contain," said Bob Friendship, a professor with the University of Guelph and an expert in pigs. "They move fast — they're very difficult to hunt and they can be dangerous."

In addition to not having natural predators, it's difficult to build fences to keep them out. They're large enough to smash through all but specially-constructed enclosures.

Wild boars are a threat other provinces know well. University of Saskatchewan researcher Ryan Brook estimated that wild pigs could soon outnumber people in Saskatchewan. In Alberta, a set of ears from a wild boar can be turned in for a \$50 bounty. The problem has become intractable in the United States, where wild pigs cause more than \$1.5-billion in damage to agriculture each year”.....

15. The next OFAH Zone H quarterly meeting will be in Georgian Bluffs on January 13, 2019 at 10 am at the headquarters of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association. I will represent your interests at this meeting. You may want to attend as it not a long drive from South Bruce Peninsula.

Other 2019 zone meetings are on April 21st in Orangeville, and July 7th in Barrie. The September 28th 2019 meeting location is TBA.

That's all for nowStu Paterson reporting on OFAH for BPSA. As we have said so many times – ***“The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad”***. ~A.K. Best

Photo credits OFAH, MNRF, Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, Paterson Media and Terry Kreeger – Wyoming CWD Alliance.



BPSA - now celebrating 56 years of conservation