

**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA  
Stu Paterson – June 2019**

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



**1. OFAH MEETS HEALTH MINISTER ON LYME DISEASE:**

Provincial Health Minister Christin Elliott met recently with OFAH senior wildlife biologist Mark Ryckman (left) and Matt Demille manager OFAH Fish and Wildlife Services. At the Queen’s Park meeting they discussed how Ontario can improve the way it handles the diagnosis and treatment of this disease.



It is reassuring that the FORD GOVERNMENT is listening to the concerns of anglers and hunters over LYME DISEASE. We are outdoors people. We are often in the woods or fields or in our gardens where the disease carrying ticks live. It is good to know the province is hearing to our thoughts about this disease which is spread by deer ticks.



Rob Hare of Keswick, the OFAH President applauded the meeting. “As someone who has had lyme disease, I am thrilled to hear that the OFAH staff were able to meet with the Minister. I was diagnosed with this disease in the fall of 2014. I was fortunate that my doctor fishes and hunts and was aware of lyme disease symptoms. Many others have not been so lucky. We need faster methods of detecting the disease in people and better access to drugs to treat this disease. OFAH will continue to create awareness and push for better prevention, diagnosis and treatment. As your new President, I look forward to being a champion for you in the fight against Lyme disease and many other important OFAH priorities.”



Here is what other OFAH members are saying about this issue:

- **Judy Bennett:** *“We definitely need better and faster methods of detecting the disease and getting the proper treatment immediately. Too many people are suffering and are misdiagnosed. Thank you for bringing awareness to this disease.”*

- **Chad Lippert:** *“If you need any info give me a shout I’m a survivor.”*

- **Dave Hedley:** *“I’ve had it also, was misdiagnosed the first time. The second time it took four stitches to get the tick out of my leg. The doctor said wait until the symptoms appear. I was insistent they start the protocol right then. They called me the day of my last pill and told me the tick was infected so it was a good thing I was on the antibiotics. The doctors are still not up to date with this disease. Please be insistent.”*

In early June our federation decided to make this subject the main issue at next year’s OFAH annual meeting.

[#LymeDisease](#) is the focus of the OFAH Annual Conference in 2020

Lyme Disease can affect anyone that enjoys activities outdoors. Whether you are fishing, hunting, trapping, walking your dog, camping, hiking or playing at a school playground, ticks that carry Lyme Disease may be present. It is a very important topic to anyone who spends time outdoors, and the reason OFAH is devoting our entire conference to Lyme disease in 2020.

[#LymeAwareness](#) [#LymeDiseaseMonth](#) [#OFAHtalksLyme2020](#)

**Lyme disease:** Learn how to avoid bites from blacklegged ticks, which may carry Lyme disease.

Lyme disease is a potentially serious infection that you can get if you’re bitten by an infected blacklegged tick (also called a deer tick).

Not all blacklegged ticks carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. Not everyone who is bitten by an infected tick will develop signs and symptoms of Lyme disease.

### What blacklegged ticks look like

Blacklegged ticks are small and hard to see. They attach themselves to humans and animals and feed on their blood. They can range in size depending on how long they have been feeding.

Adult female blacklegged tick at various stages of feeding.

Photo: Government of Canada

Learn more here

<https://www.lymedisease.org/>



2. The Ford government's provincial budget, released April 11, has reduced the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) budget by \$161.7 million. The bulk of that coming from Emergency Forest Firefighting.

A summary of MNRF budgets on page 294 of the *2019 Ontario Budget* shows that the base MNRF budget planned for 2019-2020 is \$602.4 million, which is \$19.6 million less than the interim budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and \$61.6 million less than the actual budget of 2017-2018.

The Emergency Forest Firefighting budget planned for 2019-2020 is now \$69.8 million, which is \$142.2 million less than the interim budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and \$47.2 million less than the actual budget of 2017-2018.

We still don't know how the budget reductions are going to affect MNRF programs, services and staff. We have no word yet on the renewal of the Ontario Community Hatchery Program which helps us big time with hatchery costs. *Ontario Out of Doors* did submit questions asking how the cuts would be applied within the ministry. Magazine reps were told to find the information in the 2019 Budget. However specifics of how individual ministries will apply their funding changes are not detailed in the budget document.

### 3. HATS FOR HIDES:

The Ontario Government will invest \$100,000 in the "Hats for Hides" program.

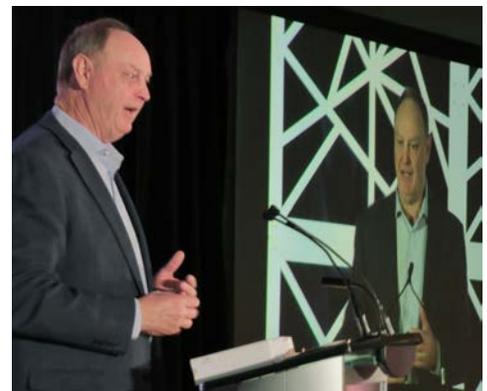
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry John Yakabuski said "Our government supports Ontario's hunters and recognizes that they are good stewards of our resources," The program is returning after [the MNRF cut its funding in 2013](#). "Hats for Hides" long-time partner, BRT Provisioners then took over buying the hats and crests for distribution and kept the program alive.

"Hats for Hides" collects hides from hunters at specific collection depots. The hides are then prepared for selling. The hunter, in turn, receives a combination of hats and crests.

[According to the Hats for Hides website](#), hides collected at Indigenous depots go towards the creation of leather sold at Pow Wows or turned into artesian goods. Hides gathered at the other collection depots "are salted, graded, and saved to be sold into the market at the end of the season."

Yakabuski said "We want to work with hunters to ensure no part of their harvest is wasted while supporting a local business and local jobs."

The government's renewed financial support for the program comes on the heels of the April announcement of [budget cuts to the MNRF](#).



4. OFAH has set up a thread that allows you to comment further on the proposed Ontario Cormorant Hunt. The official deadline has passed for comments on the original MNRF study proposing the hunt. The MNRF felt we needed more time to comment:



Go to <https://bit.ly/2QwUR4X> to join the discussion.

5. Wild turkey diseases in Ontario – what to look for when harvesting:



These birds are exposed to a number of diseases. For example “Avian Pox.” Avian Pox is a viral infection transmitted by mosquitos and through direct contact with an infected subject.

Ontario Out-of-Doors magazine takes a look at this issue that affects all Grey-Bruce turkey hunters:

<https://oodmag.com/news/turkey-diseases/>

6. Reports continue of wild boar sightings in some parts of Ontario including Grey-Bruce. Kemptville, Aurora and Parry Sound districts have also had confirmed wild boar sightings. Our federation has set up a special email address ([wildboars@ofah.org](mailto:wildboars@ofah.org)) to receive your reports which will be passed on so MNRF can try to track them and shoot them.



OFAH says it wants MNRF to provide consistent messaging and action in regards to wild boar. Wild boar remain a threat to Ontario’s biodiversity. OFAH staff have repeatedly said wild boars represent a significant risk to Ontario’s natural flora and fauna including game species as well as being a high threat to our farm industry. OFAH is working on a new anti-boar policy.

7. The province has launched a major study in how the MNRF allocates moose tags. Moose hunters are asked to complete an online survey on the subject. OFAH welcomes this survey.

#### MNRF MOOSE STUDY:

.....*"We would like to hear from you on how tag quotas for moose hunters are developed and allocated through the moose draw. Your input will help inform Ontario's Big Game Management Advisory Committee (BGMAC) recommendations for the future".....*

Send us your feedback [through our online survey](#).

The survey will remain open until June 7, 2019.

Next steps in the review



The [Big Game Management Advisory Committee](#), formerly the Ontario Moose/Bear Allocation Advisory Committee, has been renamed to reflect its new mandate focused on all big game species, as well as the interests of resident hunters, non-resident hunters and tourist outfitters.

The committee's first task will be to participate in the moose management review and develop recommendations on how to:

- develop moose tag quotas
- allocate tags to hunters through the draw

We will continue to listen and engage hunters and stakeholders to develop future decisions on how tag quotas are distributed.

After the review, the committee will provide advice as requested, including on:

- big game management issues
- big game quota reviews

8. OFAH has had several requests to hold more coyote workshops.

A federation sponsored coyote information meeting was held south of us at Elmwood about 9 years ago. The problem is, funding for these sessions is no longer available. If you know of a club or farm organization that is willing to host and sponsor such a day-long meeting, please contact OFAH head office. OFAH asks you to make sure your small pets are on leash and protected.



## 9. ERRORS IN FISHING REGS:

Use the 2019 Fishing Ontario Recreational Fishing Regs. Summary, with caution. A number of errors have been found in the document. The summary was completely redesigned for 2019 as part of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), with larger text and more subheadings. Bold red text highlights new regulations and information.



Some errors have been found in this transition to a new format. There a couple of errors OFAH is aware of.

One of the confirmed errors is in the FMZ 19 section, on page 135. Under general information, Atlantic salmon is listed as not present and closed all year. However in seasons and limits section on the same page, it is listed as open all year with a sport limit of 1.

Another area of concern is on page 129, in the FMZ 17 section, under Fish Sanctuaries. The “no fishing” dates of most of the sanctuaries do not match the 2018 summary and yet are not marked as new or changed.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is aware of the issue and is working on correcting the online version of the regulations. The MNRF is also promises to post an online summary of known errors.

10. Upcoming OFAH meetings include the July 14 zone H quarterly session hosted by the Barrie District Hunters and Anglers Conservation Club. The Kincardine Legion hall is the location of the Zone H annual meeting September 28, 2019. The club hosting this annual meeting receives one thousand dollars for expenses and a 500 dollar donation from OFAH. Former zone H director Walloy Motz is organizing this event. The zone continues to seek clubs to host 2020 meetings in January, April, July and September of next year.

11. Thanks to BPSA members Kevin Harders and Ray Marklevitz for attending the latest Orangeville Zone H OFAH meeting. Your effort is much appreciated.

To wrap it up something to think about as we try to move into what we hope will be a super summer.



***“a trout is a moment of beauty known only to those who seek it”***

***Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Associations***



Photo credits – OFAH, Paterson Media. With more than 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 740 member clubs, the OFAH is the province's largest fish and wildlife conservation-based organization — and the VOICE of anglers and hunters. For more information visit us online at [www.ofah.org](http://www.ofah.org), follow us on Twitter @ofah and find us on Facebook or Instagram @theofah.