

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

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



1. There's lots of talk at OFAH head office about the 19.6 million dollar funding chop to the budget of our Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Federation Executive Director Angelo Lombardo worries “if the cut will impact fish and wildlife management...it remains to be seen whether the Ford government’s words will be supported with real action to protect what matters most to anglers and hunters.”

The budget said about fishing and hunting “it is the province’s duty to promote these activities and the economic opportunities they offer.” It also promised to “focus on service delivery and customer service while rationalizing its organizational structure and operations to be more efficient and cost effective.”



Lombardo expressed concern that the province slashed Ontario’s Invading Species Awareness Program by 43% with no plan to minimize the effects of that decision.

The Ontario budget also:

- chopped MNRF assistance with egg collection for some community hatcheries
- moved some MNRF staff to the Ministry of Environment without replacing them
- restricted local stakeholder participation in ministry management planning

You may recall our MPP Bill Walker, before the provincial election last year, spoke about the future of the MNRF budget when his party was elected. In a speech to BPSA members he promised INCREASED funding for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry under a future Conservative government.



## 2. WILD PIGS IN ONTARIO

OFAH President Rob Hare recently took part in a WILD PIG Symposium webinar. The symposium was hosted by Doctor Ryan Brook, PhD, Associate Professor, Indigenous Land Management Institute and Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences College of Agriculture and Biosciences, University of Saskatchewan.

Our President says:

“I learned that WILD PIGS can begin breeding at 4 months and can have two litters a year. These litters range in size from 5 to 14 piglets. WILD PIGS damage crops and spread infectious diseases which could impact domestic animals. This could pose a significant economic loss to the agricultural community. There is a possibility that wild pigs can transmit CWD in their droppings. Wild pigs have been seen on the landscape here in Ontario. It quickly became very apparent we need to eradicate wild pigs before they establish a viable population



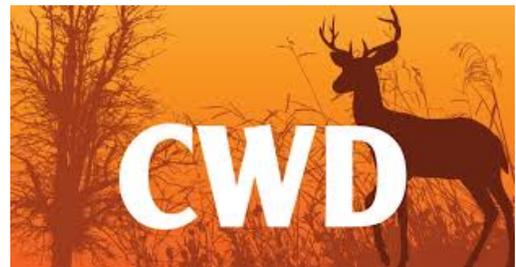
Hunting is not really an option to control pig numbers as they quickly learn to avoid hunters and will go nocturnal.”

”I am deeply concerned that some hunters view wild pigs as another game animal they can hunt. Some may have released pigs so they can be hunted. The problem is that wild pigs are very destructive to crops. In addition wild pigs harbour a number of diseases which could impact farm raised animals. Countries like China are looking for any reason to ban Canadian meat. People releasing wild pigs could provide that reason. We are alarmed that Wild pigs “could” be a vector to transmit chronic wasting disease in their faecal matter. MNRF must develop a rapid response to eradicating any known wild pig populations when identified.”

There have been sightings of wild pigs in Grey Bruce region in recent years as well as in southern and eastern Ontario. A year ago we heard a taxidermist tell an OFAH zone meeting in Durham that wild pigs had been stocked north of Barrie in hopes of creating a wild pig hunt. MNRF denied the report.

## 3. CWD INFORMATION CAMPAIGN:

Recently our federation brought together fifty agencies and 14 expert speakers to discuss the issue of CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE and its threat to Ontario wildlife. It happened at the annual OFAH conference in Mississauga. Much of the conference was dedicated to this devastating disease that affects deer, elk, moose



and caribou. The aim was to raise awareness and build a coalition a co-operative effort, to pressure governments to take the necessary action to protect us from CWD.

OFAH Manager of Fish and Wildlife Matt DeMille promised a major campaign in which federation will spread a warning to hunters, outdoors people and the general public, that this disease poses a grave danger to wildlife, our economy and public health.

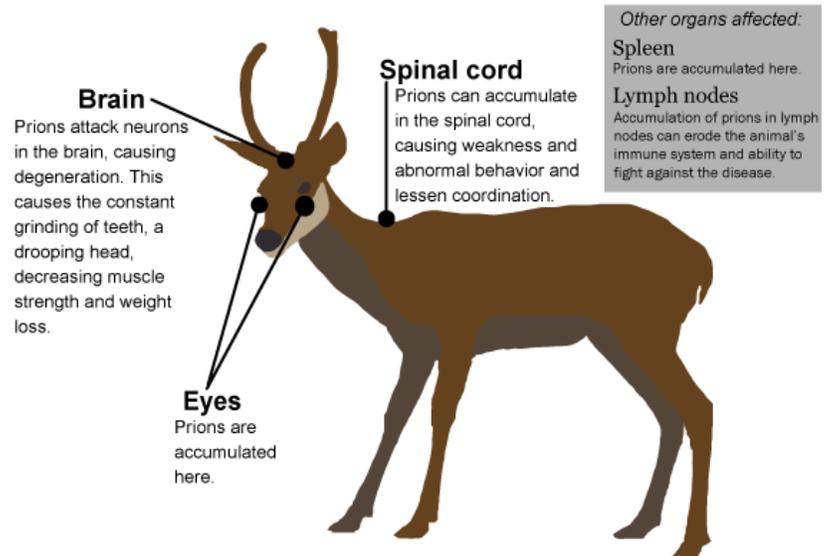


DeMille pledged “at OFAH headquarters staff will summarize key conference findings, crafting recommendations to governments and working with like-minded organizations to influence action on CWD.” The OFAH CWD information campaign is being launched province wide.

For three decades OFAH has been asking governments for action to keep the disease out of Ontario with only minor measures taken. As DeMille states in a commentary in Ontario Out-of-Doors Magazine “Ontario has failed to take the precautions needed to keep CWD outside its borders.”

The threat of CWD coming to Ontario increased dramatically last year. On September 10, 2018, chronic wasting disease (CWD) was detected on a red deer farm in the Laurentides region of Quebec, almost directly across the Ottawa River from eastern Ontario. So far there have been no CWD cases confirmed in our province.

#### ORGANS AFFECTED BY CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE



FROM OFAH HEAD OFFICE: The spread of CWD is closely linked to deer farms and the movement of live captive cervids. For this and other reasons, the OFAH has been pushing for the elimination of deer and elk farms in Ontario since 1991. During this time the OFAH has lobbied successive governments at the provincial and federal level to take meaningful action. Despite our efforts and the clear risk these farms present; deer farming still takes place in the province. Worse still, the MNRF and the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs still grants permits for the transport of live captive cervids into and through Ontario.

The OFAH supports increased Ontario research into chronic wasting disease and other diseases affecting our native wildlife.

The OFAH supports the MNRF CWD surveillance program and communicates the program's annual sampling plans through our media outlets.

Now we learn OFAH has helped create a new coalition called "CANDIANS CONCERNED ABOUT CWD"

"CWD is bad for the economy, bad for people...we are dedicated to spreading the word to facilitate opportunities for collaboration on public awareness and advocacy campaigns." The link below connects you to all the info you will need to update yourself on CWD. Please pass it on to as many people as possible. <https://www.ofah.org/ccac/>

4. Still with the CWD controversy - One of Canada's respected news organizations has done a follow up to this CWD drama. Its focus is the fact meat from a CWD infected deer herd, has been released for HUMAN CONSUMPTION:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/cwd-deer-science-canada-quebec-disease-1.5185173>

"The more CWD there is, the more likely humans are exposed to it through consumption of meat." - Michael Coulthart, Public Health Agency of Canada

5. Now another disease that threatens outdoors folks. It is so potentially serious OFAH has decided to devote much of its 2020 Annual Conference to the subject of 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).

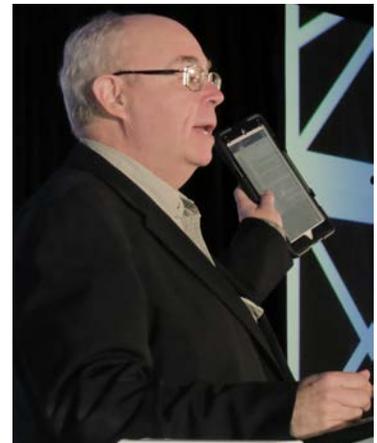


In 2014 OFAH President Rob Hare was diagnosed with this disease.

He says "I was fortunate to have been diagnosed by a doctor who fishes and hunts who happened to be one of the few who was aware of LYME DISEASE symptoms." Hare promises "to be a champion in the fight against LYME DISEASE ...I know first-hand the importance of our ongoing leadership to create awareness and push for better prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

#### LYME DISEASE FACTS:

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 do 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

If you plan to be out in the bush you need to wear pants, tuck in your shirt, wear socks, using bug spray with DEET and most important do a regular tick check.

If you discover a tick latched on and it appears to be engorged or you believe it's been on for 24 hours, seek medical attention.

Learn more here

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

6. New rules for hunters are now in effect in Ontario. All licensed hunters who seek moose, elk, deer, wolf, coyote, caribou, wild turkey and black bear are required to provide information to the province on their results, whether they harvest an animal or not. If you don't follow this rule you may be banned from hunting the following year.



7. How about a number of new Ontario CARP Fishing Derbies? It could happen if the province approves a policy allowing two lines for carp fishing from shore. In past years international carp derby sponsors have tried to launch such derbies where participants typically use two lines. But the Ontario rules forbid two line carp fishing. Jason Bain in Ontario Out Of Doors writes....

.....A proposal to allow multiple lines for carp fishing on Ontario shorelines could boost angler's success rates and have a significant economic impact on communities that host the thriving fishery.

The provincial government is eyeing allowing the rule change for resident recreational anglers and those visiting the province, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry announced.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) has been advocating for more multiple line opportunities for years and considers the proposal "a good first step," Fisheries Biologist Adam Weir wrote in an email.



Allowing multiple lines to fish for carp is common elsewhere, said year-round multi-species angler, writer and OOD contributor Ashley Rae, who owns a social media fishing marketing business and authors the blog [www.SheLovesToFish.com](http://www.SheLovesToFish.com) .



“I think it would help put Ontario on par with other regions and even provide opportunities for high-level carp events to take place here,” the Ottawa resident wrote via email.

Ontario has also been unable to host the World Carp Classic – the largest carp fishing competition – because of its one-rod rule.

The event has a direct economic impact of more than \$1 million, said Paul Almanza, a carp aficionado of nearly 30 years who has travelled across North America in search of his next giant.

Two rods are allowed for carp fishing on the Great Lakes while in a boat and that doesn’t seem to have caused any damage, he noted. “Extending this to include (inland) carp fishing doesn’t seem like too much of a stretch.”.....

The province wants feedback on the proposal through an Environmental Registry posting that will expire July 29. Comments can also be sent to [fishpolicy@ontario.ca](mailto:fishpolicy@ontario.ca) or you can call Dan Taillon at 705-755-1804.

As part of the proposal, the MNRF also seeks to clarify the rules associated with baiting, or “chumming.” The regs would apply to anglers targeting any species, regardless of how many lines they are using.



8. OFAH continues to operate an online thread that allows you to comment further on the proposed Ontario Cormorant Hunt. If you think the threat from these birds is over, have a look at the end of the break-wall at Warton Marina. The official deadline passed some time ago for comments on the original MNRF proposal outlining the terms of a possible

hunt. The MNRF decided that we needed more time to comment. Most outdoorsy folks I've talked with say "considering the damage these birds do to our fishery, bring on the cormorant hunt ASAP!!"

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



9. 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 Wally Motz is organizing this event. The zone continues to seek clubs to host 2020 meetings in January, April, July and September of next year.



10. I felt proud at a recent outdoors event to discover that a BPSA hatchery session was represented on an Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP) poster. A photo of one of our club's fin clipping work sessions is part of the display being seen province wide promoting the CHP which represents 40 Ontario volunteer run hatcheries.

11. At the recent zone H OFAH session, zone secretary Dennis Wiseman discussed the regional Community Hatchery Program meetings, saying they are of great value to clubs like ours. The latest session in March hosted by the Sydenham Sportsmen included an informative tour of the MNRF Chatsworth Hatchery.



Ray Marklevitz of BPSA was one of the speakers at the March CHP meeting. Nearly a dozen members of BPSA attended the meeting in Georgian Bluffs along with CHP members from as far away as Sarnia and Thunder Bay. Discussion covered stocking limits, hatchery permits, increasing fish survival rates, and ministry paperwork overload. Attendees asked many questions relating to their fish raising operations and gained new insights on fish rearing by exchanging information and success stories, with other hatchery members.

12. A reminder from Matt Burley of the Community Hatchery Program (CHP).

He suggests “make sure your hatchery takes every opportunity to promote the efforts of the CHP where operational and capital improvement funding is being used. Visibility across all forms of media is the best tool we have to ensure that the great work hatcheries are doing for Ontario’s fisheries is being seen.”

So far there’s no word on the possible renewal by the Ford government for 2020 of the Ontario Community Hatchery Program. BPSA is one of 40 volunteer clubs that are members of the province-wide CHP. The CHP is funded by the province and operated by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.



*This is my last report until the fall. We hope you have a safe, fun, healthy and relaxing summer. To wrap it up something to think about as we move into what could be those hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer.*

*” It’s not about the number of fish, it’s about the smiles “  
Paterson 2019*

Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen’s Association



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.