

# OFAH ZONE "H"

## report for BPSA

Stu Paterson - May 2022

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



### 1. BIRD FLU OUTBREAK - Grey Bruce

This Public Health Agency of Canada map shows some of the southern Ontario locations where highly contagious BIRD FLU (technical name HPAI - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) has been confirmed. There are two outbreaks of Bird Flu in our region, three others are south of Grey-Bruce.

One infection zone is in a small settlement north of Wiarton. The federal agency reported:

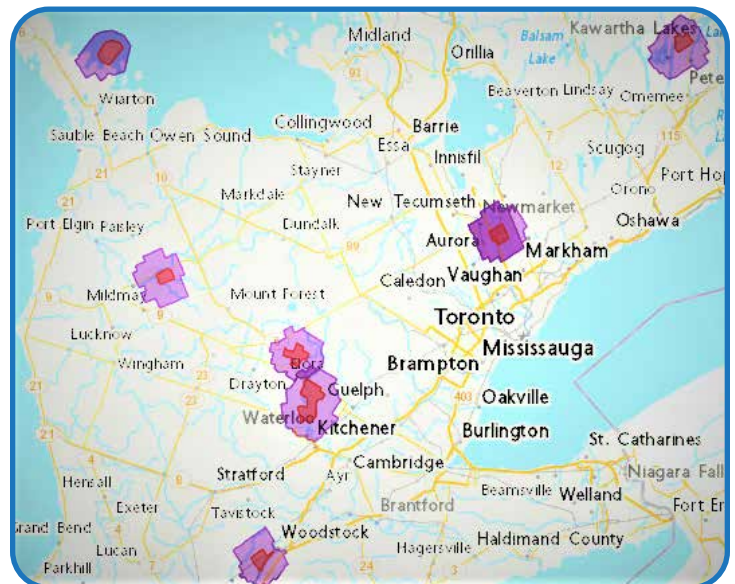
- March 31, 2022 - Township of Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (small flock chickens)
- April 9, 2022 - Township of West Grey (poultry flock)

Infected locations were placed under quarantine. Canada's Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) established movement control measures and recommended enhanced biosecurity for other farms in each contaminated area.

OFAH suggests the map and the Food Inspection Agency website will help "inform hunters' decisions around where to hunt."

<https://www.ofah.org/insider/2022/04/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-in-ontarios-wild-birds/>

Avian Flu has affected geese, duck, owls, raptors in the wild, as well as domestic chickens, turkeys, ducks and upland game birds. As of this writing Ontario has 4 confirmed cases in wild birds. OFAH suggests "it is not hard to imagine added outbreaks in your area over the coming weeks."



OFAH wildlife biologist Dr. Keith Munro reports "this is the highest level of wild bird mortality and range of species" caused by Bird Flu in Ontario history. This outbreak is the largest geographic spread of the disease since it was first detected in Canada in 2004.

Public Health recommends "hunters avoid hunting game birds and waterfowl in areas where an outbreak....has been reported." However OFAH suggests it remains unclear if the agency refers to the entire province or refers to those zones marked on the above map.

One more thing: Avian influenza viruses, such as the highly pathogenic H5N1 virus present in Asia, may, on rare occasions, cause disease in humans. Transmission to humans has occurred through close contact with infected birds or heavily contaminated environments.

OFAH concludes: The most important thing that hunters and members of the public can do is report sick, strange-acting, or dead birds to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative

[http://www.cwhc-rccsf.ca/report\\_and\\_submit.php](http://www.cwhc-rccsf.ca/report_and_submit.php)



## 2. GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN HUNTING/FISHING

In a special presentation to several Ontario Ministries OFAH has called on the government to pay more attention to hunting and fishing.

The federation presentation outlined the need for:

- immediate investment in municipal infrastructure such as boat launches, accessible fishing areas and docks
- more promotion of fishing and hunting to increase participation and improve tourism
- greater government investment in fish and wildlife management paid for out of government coffers matching our license fee contributions
- increased investment in Forest Access Roads to help create and maintain our access to Crown Land for recreational use including fishing and hunting

OFAH Executive Director Angelo Lombardo reports these federation priorities have been stressed to all political parties as part of the OFAH “pre-election advocacy campaign.”

Lombardo says our federation continues to outline the importance of fishing and hunting to our economy, the environment and our social well-being. He calls these three the federations “triple bottom line” in the quest for improving hunting, fishing and conservation in Ontario. He added “several influential politicians heard our message directly...a message made more important by the challenges of the Pandemic.”



## 3. Many Ontario hunters have moose on their minds.

So in mid April OFAH hosted a virtual moose event. It was well attended by moose hunters and others interested in studying moose populations.

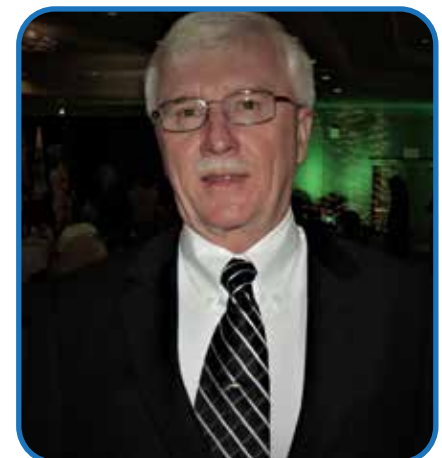


It focused on the issue of moose tag allocations and the points used to secure what are referred to as “high demand tags.” The session also gave hunters advice on how to use tag allocation statistics when they apply for tags for their 2022 hunting season.

The province has released its much anticipated 2022 moose tag quota information and the 2022 Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary. Our federation suggests closely studying these publications before applying for tags. For more info check [www.ofah.org/moose/action](http://www.ofah.org/moose/action)

OFAH President Dan Elliott reminds us that our federation is continuously working behind the scenes on a broad range of fishing, hunting and conservation issues all on behalf of anglers and hunters.

For example he points to work being done by the federation’s Big Game Advisory Committee.

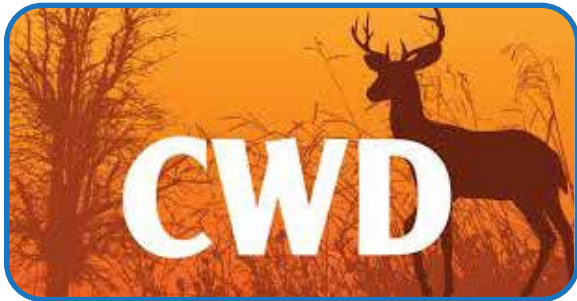




It is drafting a response to the provinces request for input on strengthening hunting guide requirements for non-resident deer hunters in northern Ontario. Dan says “decades-old concerns exist about non-resident deer hunting, so we are pleased to see some progress on this issue.”

In a message to members he also pointed to the prohibition “on the discharge of firearms, including bows, within the town borders of Grimsby.” The OFAH President said the decision was based on “opinions on hunting, an unfounded sense of public safety gains and simply wrong impressions.” OFAH has stressed for decades that all decisions affecting anglers and hunters should be science based. Elliott promises a better outcome for that region’s hunters and sport shooters.

#### 4. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE:



So far CWD has not been detected in Ontario. But it does exist in deer in Quebec, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In the most recent case in Manitoba, the province launched special control measures within a 10-kilometer radius of the initial CWD finding. More than 600 deer were “removed.”

OFAH reminds us our hunters can play a critical role in protecting our native deer, elk, moose and caribou from CWD, by taking part in our province’s CWD Surveillance Program.

For more on what you can do check [www.ofah.org/cwd](http://www.ofah.org/cwd)



#### 5. FISHING GUIDES:

I have never hired a fishing guide. I admit I have often needed one. I do ask a lot of questions when I’m about to fish a new waterbody. I’m afraid the Scottish “very careful with my money” syndrome prevails most of the time. Well I’m in the minority. A new Ontario Out of Doors Poll asked readers “have you ever hired a fishing guide”?

31 per cent replied NO. 69 % said YES.

The following are busy Grey Bruce fishing guides :

<https://www.dwindlesdream.com/>

<https://www.fishingaction.com/>

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



## 6. WILD TURKEY ANNIVERSARY:

BPSA and OFAH were among the active players in the re-introduction of wild turkeys to southern Ontario. Now with more than 80-thousand birds we celebrate the 35th anniversary of that re-introduction campaign.

Our federation says “if numbers, range expansion, and participation are any indication, the endeavour ranks amongst the most successful wildlife re-introductions North America has ever seen.”

These days OFAH plays a key role by studying and offering comment on wild turkey management. Our federation ensures that the province is made aware of Wildlife Management Areas eligible for new wild turkey hunting seasons. Yet another reason to be very proud of the work we continue to do.



## 7. CONGRATS FROM OFAH



Mike Smith and daughter Jadin stocking brown trout

BPSA volunteers recently stocked the largest ever brown trout in the history of our hatchery. And again for the first time, the stocking was done through the ice of Colpoy's Bay as the water temperature was suitable for stocking. This is a great accomplishment and a solid tribute to the BPSA volunteers, the men and women who toil year round doing all the work necessary, cleaning, feeding and raising our hatchery fish.

OFAH President Dan Elliott was very impressed “great for you guys browns are tough to raise.”

And former federation President Rob hare said “great job, keep up this fantastic work.”

My aim with these reports is to keep BPSA members up to date on OFAH related news that affects our fishing and hunting community. We welcome any feedback. We will have one more report in June before the summer break, to coincide with the June BPSA meeting. Please enjoy safe fishing and hunting!

**And a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to BPSA now celebrating 60 years of conservation!**

*Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for BPSA*

*Editor: Kat McCulloch, Director - BPSA Web and Media*

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