

**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA
Stu Paterson –September/October 2017**

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



This report includes coverage of the summer 2017 Zone H OFAH meeting.

1. At the summer Zone H OFAH meeting an OFAH director announced that he attended a meeting involving Ontario Conservative leader Patrick Brown.



He said Brown was asked if he was aware of issues of concern to OFAH members. The OFAH director quoted Brown as saying he “had no idea” about the concerns of OFAH members. This director said “Brown gave me a blank stare” when I asked him about OFAH issues. The latest is that Greg Ferrant OFAH government affairs director was planning to brief Brown on our concerns.

2. There were concerns expressed at the summer meeting about new rules coming soon regarding transportation of bait. The deadline for input on this issue has passed. If the MNR proposals stand, it will be illegal to transport bait from one Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) to another.



- 3.



The recreational activities and lifestyle choices we enjoy as hunters, anglers and trappers increases the odds of coming into contact with ticks that can carry

Lyme disease. We spend hours sitting in the bush, we enjoy shore lunches while fishing, we

cover miles walking and scouting, we have hunting dogs and we also handle harvested fish and wildlife. There is a risk of crossing paths with ticks each time we go out. As a public service OFAH has provided a number of links to information on Lyme disease to raise awareness among the hunting and outdoors community.

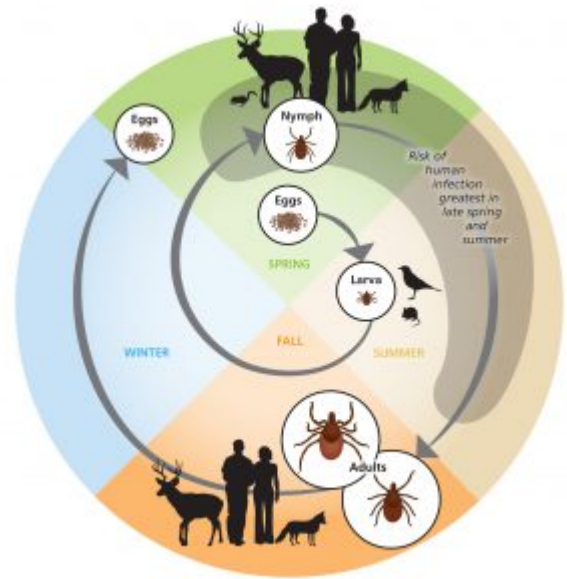
[Map of Lyme Disease Risk Areas – Ontario 2017](#)

[OFAH calls for better medical information on Lyme disease](#)

[Lyme Disease Fact Sheet \(Ontario\)](#)

[Lyme Disease Flyer \(Ontario\)](#)

[Lyme Disease Poster \(Ontario\)](#)



4. OFAH President Kerry Coleman urges more government attention to Lyme disease.

In a statement to members Coleman noted Canada is way behind the US when it comes to Lyme disease and treatment. In his words “there’s no time like the present to act. He says “it is time to put increased pressure on governments to advance changes in diagnosis and treatment of this debilitating disease. We need to move forward on this as quickly as possible”. Coleman notes OFAH has been leading the way on Lyme disease education and awareness in Ontario, but it is time for governments to make this a priority.



5. OFAH has passed this on from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry –

Two deer from the London, Ontario area have tested positive for Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), which marks the first detection of the disease in wild deer in Ontario. EHD and bluetongue are similar viruses that target white-tailed deer, (which are most susceptible) mule deer, pronghorn antelope, cattle, goats and



sheep. The virus is spread by blood-feeding biting midges (also known as “no-see-ums”), but can’t be transmitted from deer-to-deer. Once infected, deer may develop fever, have trouble breathing, and seek out water to cool themselves. Deer with EHD are often found dead or dying in and around water. EHD and bluetongue are not known to cause disease in humans and hunters should know that the venison (deer meat) is safe to consume.

If you see sick or dead deer, please report it to:

The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative
Phone: 866-673-4781
Email: on-nu@cwhc-rscf.ca

OR

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Phone: 1-800-667-1940
Email: mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca

6. OFAH land use committee members are following the West Road controversy in South Bruce Peninsula. There are fears if the 29 km section of road North of Oliphant is extended, the project could clear the way for major wind turbine developments on the Bruce Peninsula. There have been two public meetings on the plan. Here is the link to the county presentation on the project

http://www.southbrucepeninsula.com/en/townhall/resources/West-Road-EA-Presentation_NBP_August-14-17rs-1.pdf

West Road extension has become a contentious issue because Bruce County is thinking of widening it to 100 feet, but Mayor Janice Jackson says while that is a standard width for a county road, it also happens to be the width required to truck turbines up the peninsula.

West Road



Bruce County is doing an Environmental Assessment for the West Road to decide what needs to be done to rehabilitate, reconstruct, do spot work, or do nothing with the 29km stretch of road. One proposal is for construction a 300 turbine wind farm on the peninsula.

Jackson, who notes South Bruce Peninsula, has declared itself an 'unwilling host' in a resolution to the county and the province, claiming widening the road is too risky.

She notes the road winds around cottage areas now, and to reconstruct it would also mean straightening it out, which she believes carries with it the possible expropriation of land on about 13 properties.

Jackson says the West Road needs about \$5 million in rehabilitation work, but feels reconstruction brings with it the risk of it becoming a highway for a wind farm, "We just don't want to open up a can of worms," says Jackson.



Bayshore Broadcasting covered one of the public meetings

http://560cfos.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=95656

Many OFAH directors are opposed to wind turbines.

7. Former OFAH President John Ford discussed the increase in the number of Ontario schools adopting the NASP Archery Program organized by OFAH. Warton's high school Peninsula Shore District School, takes part in this program under the supervision of Tim Watts of OFAH. Schools in Port Elgin, Chesley and Owen Sound also take part. Ford says the key to getting more schools involved is to get one teacher at each school enthused about archery. One teacher has to take an 8 hour course to qualify as the NASP rep for each school. Delegates to the meeting agreed it makes more sense to donate half of the 59-hundred dollars which is the cost of the program per school. That way the school will be less likely to take the OFAH money for granted and would result in the students having better ownership in their own archery program.



8. At the summer meeting Zone H secretary Wally Motz reported he received the thank-you letter from BPSA for the 400 dollar grant we used to support our annual kids fishing day. Wally said he really appreciates it when clubs respond like we did when the federation donates to help fund conservation related events. I reported we had 120 youngsters take part in our kids fishing event and the OFAH grant helped pay for prizes.



9. The province seeks your input on changes to rules governing goose hunting. OFAH urges you give input -

<http://www.manitoulin.ca/2017/09/08/goose-hunters-farmers-input-sought/>

Goose hunters, farmers and other members of the public concerned about Canada geese having caused agricultural damage, are asked by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) to give their opinion on possible changes to the opening season date for Canada goose hunting in the Central Hunting District (including Grey-Bruce and Manitoulin Island).

10. At past OFAH meetings we have had speakers report that lake trout in some Ontario lakes have been wiped out due to warming related to climate change.

Now we hear our Great Lakes are at above average temps for this time of the year.

The late September heat wave had water temperatures in the Great Lakes

running at their warmest levels of 2017, and warmer than what is typical for July and August. During early September each of the Great Lakes were cooler than normal, but as of September 26th each of the lakes had caught up to or even surpassed where they were this time last year when lakes were exceptionally warm after a hot summer.

The recent temperature trend is especially remarkable on Lake Huron, where the average surface temperature rose by over 3.5°C during the past few weeks. As of September 26, the average surface water temperature on Lake Huron was 21.2°C, which is a degree warmer than both the peak temperature during the summer and the typical lake temperature for July and August.



11. Zone Chair Wayne Forgrave says he is encouraged by the dramatic increase in the number of women and teenagers taking part in firearms training, shooting sports, and hunting. Hunter education is “booming” he said.

12. There are 12-thousand members in Zone H OFAH. Total federation membership is 81-thousand. We remain the leading advocacy group for Ontario’s anglers, hunters and trappers.

13. Zone secretary Wally Motz expressed concern that Ontario fishing and hunting licenses are printed in Tennessee.

That means US Homeland Security gets to see all our fishing, hunting and trapping licensing information. He also expects new rules for hunters that would require all hunters to report their kills. If you don’t report your kills, you could lose your



license. There were 37 thousand fewer hunting licenses issued in Ontario last year including 20 thousand fewer moose tags issued.

14. Zone H chair Wayne Forgrave announced that John Ford of our neighbouring club the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, has been elected as the President of the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). Here is how the Federation describes Ford -



....."A retired elementary school teacher and administrator, John Ford is active in many conservation projects including stream rehabilitation and hatchery stocking for Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout. He is involved in youth initiatives such as tree planting, tree identification and water conservation and has four children and two grandchildren. He lives in Owen Sound, with his wife Valda".....

Since 1962, CWF has advocated for the protection of Canada's wild species and spaces. Representing over 300,000 members and supporters, the federation is one of Canada's largest non-profit, non-governmental conservation organizations.

This is a link that will give you a glimpse of the valuable work done by the CWF:

<http://cwf-fcf.org/en/news-features/news-media/releases-1/2017/the-canadian-wildlife.html>

15. Two young men won top honours in the inaugural Shimano Canada Cup Carp Championship held in Eastern Ontario.



Jarryd Monohon and Andrew Walker of Quebec caught more than 18-hundred pounds of carp in the contest on the St Lawrence River near Cornwall. They hauled in 105 giant carp.

They won over 12-thousand dollars and an entry into the World Carp Classic next year in France. Organizers hope to mount a number of carp derbies in the future in Ontario. Are there any carp hot spots in Grey-Bruce? Perhaps as a new project, BPSA could launch a carp tournament if there are some spots in our region suitable for catching big ones. Shimano can give us lots of advice on how to set up a Grey-Bruce Carp Derby.

16. The 2017 OFAH Zone H Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, was hosted by The Orillia Fish and Game Conservation Club (OFGCC), on Saturday, September 30, 2017.

Following the meeting, an optional dinner took place at the Highwayman Inn which I chose not to attend.

Guest Speakers:

<p>Dorthea Hangaard Project Manager Couchiching Conservancy</p>	<p>The Benefits of Water Testing Ontario's Streams and Rivers</p>
<p>Brook Schryer Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Liason OFAH</p>	<p>Aquatic Invasive Species</p>

Brook was aware of our venture into boot scrubbers. He sends his congratulations to our club for our work on the Grey-Bruce invasive species front.

17. The next OFAH Zone H meeting is set for the Legion Hall in Durham in January 2018.

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

