

Fur, Fins and Feathers



June 2020

The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Warton.
Due to COVID-19 all activities are cancelled until further notice.
For inquiries e-mail bpsportsmen@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 548, Warton, Ontario N0H 2T0

FISH STOCKING DURING A PANDEMIC

Georgian Bluffs, Gleason Brook

It was masks all around as a small team of conservationists stocked 15-thousand chinook salmon near Warton Friday June 26, 2020.

The fish were raised by the Owen Sound based Sydenham Sportsmen's Association (SSA). They were trucked by tanker to the Gleason Brook mouth near Warton and stocked by members of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA).

Observing safe social distancing and wearing masks, BPSA members formed a short bucket brigade, emptying the yearling salmon at a creek spot that featured a suitable water temperature for the hatchery raised fish.

They quickly scattered into nearby Colpoy's Bay which is part of Georgian Bay. So far in 2020 BPSA volunteers have stocked over 21-thousand rainbow trout. Another 8-thousand bows remain in our hatchery held for future stocking, along with over 25-thousand brown trout which will be stocked later.

This was yet another co-operative effort between the two conservations groups Warton Based BPSA and Owen Sound's Sydenham Sportsmen. They often work together to enhance our Grey-Bruce sports fishery. For example the Warton based BPSA members help raise the giant tent at the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular derby and also volunteer during the 10-day fishing festival which is on hold until 2021.

Both clubs are members of the 40-hatchery Ontario Community Hatchery Program (CHP) which is funded by the province and operated by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). The province and federation are working on a deal to extend the CHP for another three years until 2023.

In making the announcement during PANDEMIC 2020, OFAH reported hatchery program members "continue to show perseverance, ingenuity and dedication to getting the job done under difficult circumstances." The federation



Stan McNeil stocking Gleason Brook.

"promises to look for ways to keep all community hatcheries strong during these challenging times, so they can continue to make important contributions to Ontario's fisheries."

The clubs normally practice hand and boot sanitation on entering their hatcheries. During the COVID-19 PANDEMIC BPSA volunteers are being extra careful. Surfaces are sanitized daily to prevent disease spread. Modified stocking, feeding and sanitation practices have allowed hatcheries to continue to house and release fish into public waters for



Smaller than usual bucket brigade (left to right) Stan McNeil, Dean Lobban & Ray Marklevitz

the recreational fishery. It is estimated each fish stocked is worth 30-dollars to the community where it is stocked. Since the sixties BPSA has stocked more than 4-million fish in Grey-Bruce waters. The 300 member BPSA was established in the sixties to “preserve and enhance fish and wildlife.” BPSA operates the longest running volunteer-run fish hatchery in Ontario. Most BPSA activities including youth and adult firearms training, youth and adult archery as well as our annual Kids Fishing Derby and annual Fund Raising Barbecue are on hold.

by Stu Paterson



Donation to BPSA Youth Programs

Jane and Charlie Thibideau, members, made a very generous apportioned donation to help support the BPSA Youth Archery and Firearm Safety Programs with a portion also going to the BPSA Handgun Club. The donation was made in memory of their son Steven.



The 2019 Memorial plaque was put up in memory of lost members



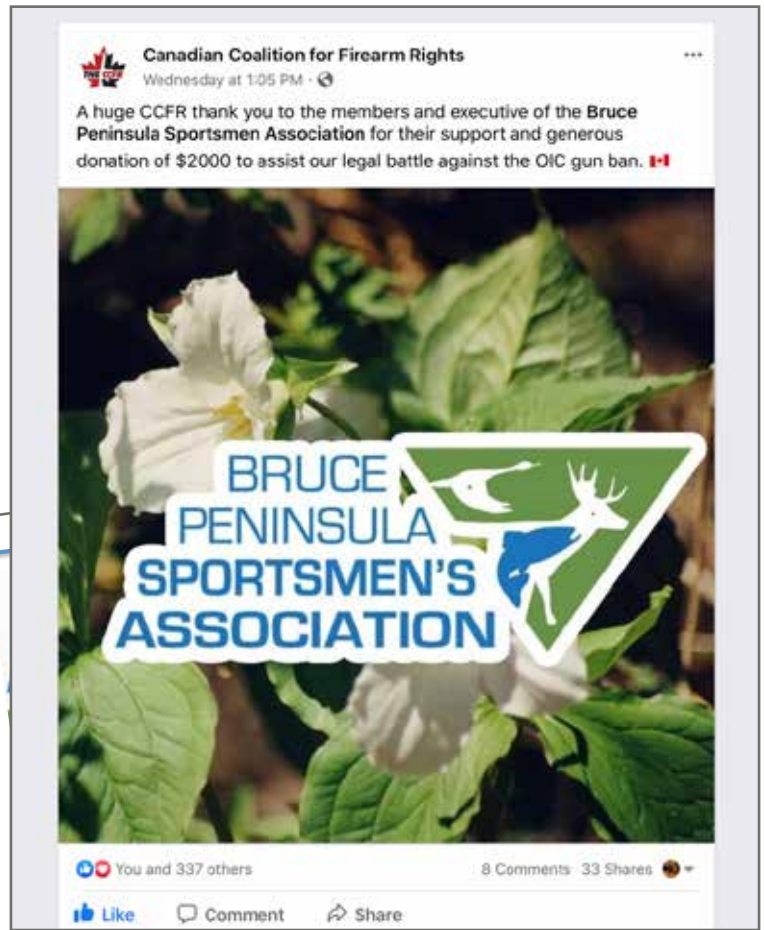
Handgun Club

Summer shooting continues on a limited basis beginning at 12:00 Noon on Wednesdays and also most Mondays and Fridays (check before you come). The range has been reduced to three shooting ports from seven in order to comply with the provincial social distancing requirement. Handgun Members only at this time, no guest.



Court Challenge, Bill C-71 and Order in Council

The BPSA Handgun Club has donated \$ 2,000. to the legal fund of the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights (CCFR) to pursue a court challenge of Bill C-71 and the OIC (Order in Council) gun grab of over 1,500 (and counting) models of firearms that were previously vetted by the RCMP. The legal fund is now over \$ 300,000. and growing. The CCFR has also launched Public Information infomercials to advise the public of the misinformation spread by the Federal Government regarding the firearms legislation. Our correspondence was copied to Alex Ruff MP and also Bill Walker MPP and both have responded.



Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association
611 Northacres Road, P.O. Box 548
Wiarton, On N0H 2T0
bpsportsmen.com

June 6, 2020

Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights
P.O. Box 91572
Mer Bleu PO
Ottawa, On
K1W 0A6

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Legal Trust Donation

Please find enclosed a cheque in the amount of \$ 2,000.00 to assist with the Legal Challenge (s) incurred by the CCFR. The unprecedented actions taken by the Liberal Government by way of an Order in Council are an undemocratic affront to all Canadians. The threat of seizure of the personal property of Canadians that has already been vetted by the RCMP along with the owners that have been and continue to be vetted by the RCMP on a daily basis is unconscionable.

Adding insult to injury, the Liberal Government has chosen to implement these draconian measures during a period of a shuttered parliament, worldwide pandemic and closely on the heels of the tragic loss of twenty-two souls through the actions of a mad man using unlawful firearms in Nova Scotia.

We wish you well in these challenges.

Sincerely,

Allan Hunter

Allan Hunter
President, BPSA Handgun Club

cc Alex Ruff MP and Bill Walker MPP

Freshwater jellyfish spotted in several Muskoka lakes

The MNRF is tracking reports of the invasive species

MUSKOKA — An unexpected creature is lurking below the surface of Muskoka’s waterways.

“They likely entered Ontario on a contaminated boat, other contaminated recreational equipment, or possibly as a contaminant in a shipment of imported aquatic plants,” said Jeff Brinsmead, senior invasive species biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), of freshwater jellyfish, on which the province is collecting data.

According to the MNRF, freshwater jellyfish have been reported in Lake Muskoka and Kahshe Lake (Kilworthy), as well as confirmed sightings in Prospect Lake (Uffington/Vankoughnet), Bala Bay, Otter Lake (Dorset), Pickerel Lake (Burk’s Falls), Restoule Lake, and Doe Lake (Sprucedale).

Brinsmead explained freshwater jellyfish are native to the Yangtze River basin in China. He said they were discovered in Regents Park in London, England, in the late 1800s, “likely introduced as a hitchhiker with imported aquatic plants” and they were found about the same time in Philadelphia, Pa., “presumed to have been released from ballast water.”

According to Brinsmead, it’s not known yet what the impact of the invasive species will be.

“Impacts have not been documented,” he said. “The freshwater jellyfish feeds on microorganisms in the water column. So, they are competing with other organisms, which feed on the same sources. This may impact fish populations in a body of water, especially if there is a large, established population of jellies; however, freshwater jellyfish are also eaten by native species in Ontario, so it is unlikely that they will have a noticeable impact on ecosystems.”

Brinsmead said freshwater jellyfish survive on zooplankton, which are organisms that have animal-like traits and float, drift or weakly swim in the water. The biggest forms of zooplankton are only five-millimetres long and the smallest are just one thousandth of this size.

Using a very fine-meshed net, a scoop through the water then dumped into a jar and held up to the light, could reveal some of the larger species of freshwater zooplankton.

On the opposite end, the jellyfish themselves make a welcome snack for area predators including crayfish, turtles, and possibly geese and larger fish, said Brinsmead.

Even though these jellyfish have stinging cells, called cnidocytes, which are used to paralyze their prey, Brinsmead said they aren’t likely to sting people.

“It is highly unlikely that the microscopic stinging barbs can penetrate the human skin,” said Brinsmead. “Some individuals have reported that they encountered the jellyfish and felt an itching or irritation. Whether they were actually stung — involving a penetration of their skin — or whether the stinging barbs were released due to contact with the person and the effect was due to brushing against the released stinging barbs is unknown.”

Anyone who sees a freshwater jellyfish in Ontario can report the suspected sighting through EDDMapS Ontario at eddmeps.org/ontario/report/, by downloading the EDDMapS app on your iPhone or Android device, or by calling the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

If possible, reporters are asked to take a digital image to help verify the identity of the species they are reporting.

