

# OFAH ZONE "H" report for BPSA Stu Paterson – November 2022

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

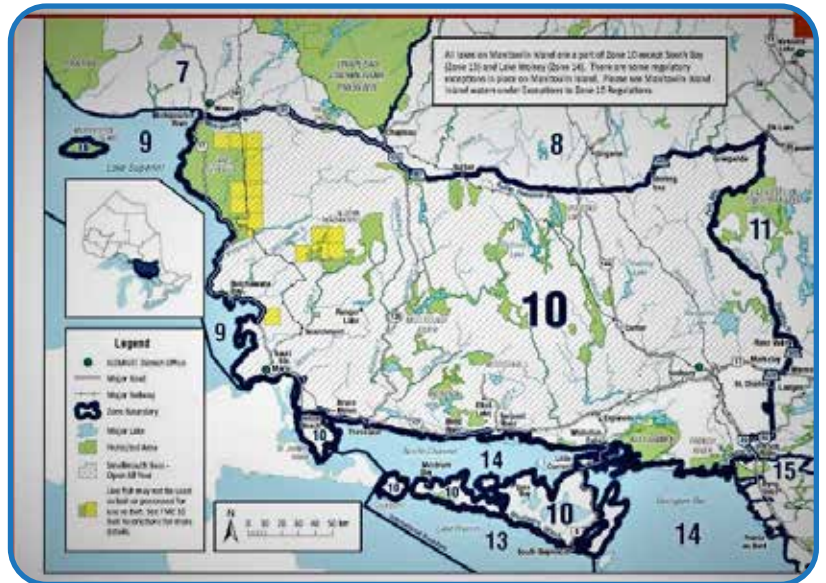


**1. Many BPSA members fish in Ontario's Fisheries Management Zone 10 (FMZ 10).** For many years Grey-Bruce anglers have travelled to this huge region north and east of us for what is often excellent fishing. FMZ 10 is bordered by Wawa and Sault Ste. Marie in the west and Lady Evelyn Lake and the French River to the east. Some parts of the zone include the Timmins, Kirkland Lake, and Chapleau Districts.

A proposal that may change fishing regs. in FMZ 10 is now available for comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) until 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 12. As reported in the OFAH magazine Ontario Out of

Doors, the document was developed with input from First Nations' and Metis' communities, anglers, business reps, cottage owners, and the public. The 200-page Fisheries Management Plan posted by the MNRF outlines the status of the zone's fisheries, sets fish population objectives, and suggests rule changes to better manage the fishery.

One proposal involves walleye in the French River region. Others focus on musky, pike and bass. To comment on the ERO Posting or to see the full draft of the FMZ10 Management Plan visit: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6024>

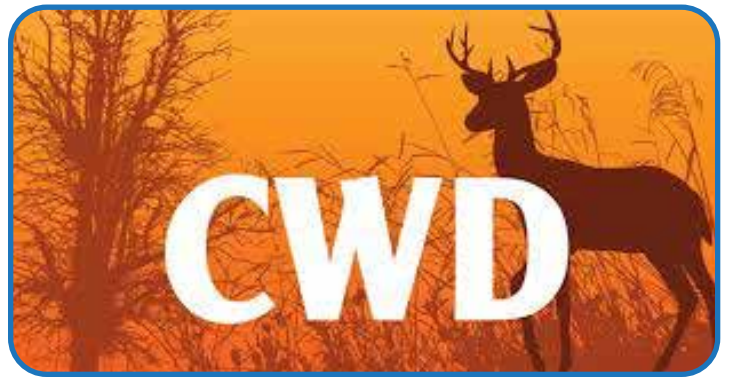




## 2. CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE - you can help

The province wants hunters to submit deer samples as part of continuing chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance and testing. The fatal, untreatable brain disease that affects white-tailed deer, elk, moose, and caribou, has not been found in Ontario. It has been detected in all five US states bordering the province, as well as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Québec.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is targeting three regions until the end of December as part of monitoring efforts. They include parts of eastern Ontario and in southern Ontario in WMUs 72A, 72B, 73, 77A, 77B, 77C, 78A, 78B, 78C, 78D, and 78E, and Southwestern Ontario in WMUs 90B, 91A, 91B, 92A, 92B, 92C, 92D, 93A, 93B, and 93C.



During the fall hunt, wildlife research technicians will canvass these areas and ask hunters' permission to remove a small amount of tissue from the deer head. Sampling will not prevent hunters from consuming the meat or having the head mounted.

If you see a deer, elk or moose showing signs of CWD, such as severe body weight loss, tremors, stumbling, or lack of co-ordination, OFAH suggests reporting it to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781 or Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Natural Resources Information and Support Centre at 1-800-667-1940.

## 3. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has banned supplemental feeding of waterfowl this year due to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Flu outbreak.

Ninety five birds in Owen Sound's Harrison Park bird sanctuary had to be euthanized.



Earlier a Cape Croker bird flu outbreak forced a cull and quarantine.

Supplemental feeding, regulated under strict conditions, is used by private hunt clubs and public waterfowl areas. The decision reflects concerns that BIRD FLU will spread further.



Environment and Climate Change Canada reports:

"The ongoing 2021-2022 wave of HPAI H5N1 is unprecedented in its rapid spread and high frequency of outbreaks in both domestic and wild birds."





So far this year avian flu was detected in 100 wild birds, representing 21 species of waterfowl, water birds, and raptors. Twelve mammals, all mink and red fox, also tested positive. Exposure to bird flu can occur when handling infected wild birds, especially when field dressing, plucking and cleaning game.

When handling wild birds and other susceptible wildlife OFAH recommends:

- Don't handle or eat sick birds or birds that have died from unknown causes.
- Avoid direct contact with blood, feces, and respiratory secretions of all wild birds.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game.
- Work outside whenever possible.
- Wear a medical mask, preferably an N-95 or KN-95, when cleaning game.
- Wear dish gloves or latex gloves when handling or cleaning game. Wash gloves, hands, and clothing with soap and warm water immediately after you have finished.
- Thoroughly clean contaminated work surfaces and tools with hot, soapy water
- then disinfect the area using a household disinfectant.



For more info, click here <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/flu-influenza/fact-sheet-guidance-on-precautions-handling-wild-birds.html#a3>

#### 4. OFAH Zone Chair a hit at BPSA BIRTHDAY PARTY:



Greg Balch is the OFAH Zone J Chair. He is also a past winner of the Canadian Outdoor Heritage Alliance Outdoor Heritage Award "For educational initiatives that benefit all Canadians."

Greg, the information he brought and his animal mounts, were star attractions at the BPSA 60th Birthday celebration in mid October..

His workshops and conversations with visitors were informative and served to remind the public of the positive work being done by our Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

As he has done on previous visits Greg set up dozens of animal mounts representing most of the wildlife we have in Ontario. It was "two thumbs up" for all who visited his display at the BPSA hatchery.





## 5. DEER TICKS IN FALL:

As you hunt deer and other wildlife this fall, a reminder from OFAH. Ticks are still active. The weather is cooler but ticks have not gone away. We cover miles walking and scouting. We have hunting dogs and we also handle harvested fish and wildlife. Each time we go out, there is a risk of crossing paths with ticks. Your federation has provided a number of links to information on Lyme disease to raise awareness among the hunting and outdoors community. more on ticks here <https://www.ofah.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Lyme-Disease-Fact-Sheet-5-6-164.pdf>



## 6. OFAH & THE NEW MNRF MINISTER



This summer ex. Bracebridge Mayor Graydon Smith was named Minister of Ontario Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). Shortly after that appointment, OFAH was communicating with him on behalf of anglers and hunters.

Federation president Dan Elliott, in a report to members noted, “Smith’s political experience should help him understand and appreciate the value of stakeholders like OFAH.” And the fact that the new Minister is from a rural area would also suggest he would understand issues important to anglers and hunter.



Elliott said he and head office staff provided Minister Smith with a comprehensive list of OFAH priorities “across a broad range of natural resources topics” on behalf of our angler and hunter community. Said Elliott “we hope to build on the longstanding and strong working relationship between our Federation and MNRF and take advantage of a re-focused ministry mandate to achieve fishing and hunting priorities.”

OFAH also welcomed the Ford government decision to bring back a stand alone MNRF. The move reversed the 2012 creation of a mega ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. Elliott says this move is “a good sign that the government recognizes the importance of natural resources and the need for more focus at the political level.”

## 7. Congratulations to Ontario Out of Doors #PhotoFriday winner Dale Warring of New Liskeard.

During his annual moose hunt he used a Tikka T3 with a Vortex scope and 300 Winchester Magnum after paddling and portaging with his father. It took planning, teamwork, and willpower to get the 61 1/8-inch moose back to camp. It will not only feed their families for the year, but also provide memories to last a lifetime. When you have hunting and fishing memories to share enter your photos for consideration in #MemoryBank, and a chance to win an Ontario OUT of DOORS mug! <https://oodmag.com/mbentry/>



### 8. There's an old saying "the early bird gets the worm."

Well I am not an early morning person. But when it comes to the desire to catch a fish, I am up at 5 and on the water by 6. That was the case during the 3rd week of October when a buddy and I ventured on Colpoy's Bay where we managed to land 6 salmon with the colourful cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment as our only witness.



We have lots of be thankful for in Grey-Bruce. It was one of those mornings to be thankful for. I didn't get the worm, but I had some nice salmon on the line thanks to luck and, oh yes those Silver Fox Lures played a big role.

My last OFAH report for BPSA for 2022 should be ready by early December.

Thanks again to BPSA Public Relations director Kat McCulloch for her skillful editing efforts of my reports.

Stu Paterson OFAH liaison for BPSA, OFAH member since 2004, Chair BPSA Community Affairs, freelance outdoors writer living in Georgian Bluffs

*Photo credits: OFAH, City of Owen Sound, OMNRF, Paterson Media, Kat McCulloch, Nathan Robinson photography, My Wisconsin Woods Organization, Muskoka Region, National Wildlife Federation, moose Photo: Glen Lockheart, Dale Warring.*





