




Alberta Fish & Game Association

News from ALBERTA



12 THINGS ABOUT THE 90TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conference is coming up fast (February 21-23, 2019) and the clubs in Zone 2 are anxiously awaiting your arrival. Below are a few reminders about what to bring, what to expect and what to enjoy.

- If you haven't already, register and book your hotel room ASAP.
- We encourage clubs/zones to send their allotted number of delegates and to bring along guests, youth delegates and companions.
- Suggested apparel for the Saturday night President's dinner is semiformal/formal wear.
- Clubs/Zones are encouraged to set up Thursday evening project displays, info about programs and/or items built. Need electrical, let us know in advance.
- Information table area available for interested organizations/businesses (limited availability, first come basis) contact the undersigned or the AFGA office office@afga.org
- Have your "Luau On" for the Thursday night Meet & Greet and wear your tropical best (sunglasses, shorts, flip flops, grass skirts, etc.) Be creative!
- As in the past, clubs/zones encouraged to bring "homemade" snacks for Thursday evening.
- There will be a variety of presenters with good information to provide to conference attendees.
- Donations of all types (financial, silent or live auction) are still being gratefully accepted. Please inform the AFGA office of what you are bringing.
- Conference bag "swag" and door prizes are still being accepted for delegates, companion and youth bags. (Information material as well.)
- Sponsorship of coffee breaks, meals and events will be gratefully accepted.
- Overall, expect to have a great time, become more aware of what's happening with regard to fish and wildlife, and to take home a fresh province-wide AFGA perspective. See you at conference! 

Deb Clarke

Zone 2 Director & 2019 Conference Chair

MOVING?

Please send your change of address to :
13045 156 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5V 0A2

Ph: (780) 437-2342
Fax: (780) 438-6872
Email: membership1@afga.org

*Please note that \$15 of your annual membership dues are allocated to *Outdoor Canada West Magazine*

Inside:

- 2 President's Report
- 4 Executive Vice-President's Report
- 6 1st Vice-President's Report
- 7 2nd Vice-President's Report
- 8 Fishing Chair Report
- 9 Hunting Chair Report
- 10 Environment Chair Report
- 10 Program Chair Report
- 11 Club Events
- 12 Youth Chair Report
- 13 Zone 1 Report
- 13 Zone 2 Report
- 14 Zone 3 Report
- 15 Zone 5 Report
- 16 Becoming an Outdoor Woman



Alberta Fish & Game Association

President's Report



DOUG BUTLER
PRESIDENT

ANOTHER YEAR APPROACHES

and I hope everyone has had a good 2018 and is looking forward to 2019. This past year had been a very busy one for outdoors people, and that means extremely busy for the Alberta Fish and Game Association.

We've spent a lot of time in house working on our membership. Improving communication is always important and we have expanded our contact list and tried to send out many updates. The new membership incentive program is up and running and clubs that reach their goals will be rewarded. The monthly mail-out process and billing seems to be well received. Sending full rosters is also valuable along with expired rosters as this is a great tool for renewing members. Membership renewals will continue to get better as we have a new website planned for the new year that will help with this. It's so very important to continue to grow and new members and renewals both help us continue to be the biggest and most respected conservation organization group in Alberta. I and the rest of our executive have attended as many club and zone meetings as we possibly can.

We put together a pamphlet that explains why all outdoors people should be AFGA members and also just what AFGA has done for you. This is available to clubs that want to use it, just contact head office for your copy.

We've just finished up a string of video clips with "Let's Go Outdoors" and I truly hope most of you have had a chance to view them. They really show the passion of AFGA and its clubs. They're all still available and we have also put together a short commercial on "WILD TV" that viewers should have seen by now. Of course, we'd still like to hear any suggestions or ideas from any of you on how we can continue to improve our communication and promote ourselves.

All your executive, chairs and zone directors have put many hours into conservation, and their reports here should better help you to know what they are doing. Our Youth President, Miyah has put in a great deal of effort into the cause and her reports are awesome. She also reports on club youth programs and this has helped out youth groups throughout all the clubs. It's so important to keep the kids involved.

The summer youth camps were again class acts as were the Outdoor Women's camps. The co-ordinators of these all deserve kudos as it's a lot of effort but so very rewarding. Our Wildlife Trust Fund again had a banner year and the properties and acres continue to grow. The fundraising raffle is underway now and you can get a ticket to win a side by side by going online; we appreciate all the support. The antelope fencing project went full bore again this year and again the many volunteers make this worthwhile conservation work possible. There is also a group starting a lake restoration plan. Zone 5 is behind this and although it's still in the early stages, it looks like a great project.

I've attended several fisheries management meetings including the 3rd party review, science-based plan, and although the jury's still out, at least some action is taking place to try and improve our fisheries. We attend all AGPAC meetings as well and slowly, slowly work is getting done on the big game allocations. I set up a meeting with Parks people in the south and our views on public access were heard. I also attended a meeting regarding our dwindling moose populations and hopefully some research work will proceed as to why this is happening. We met several times with our Fish and Wildlife Department. I had a very promising meeting with the managing director of the Alberta Professional Outfitters and will follow this up with more contact. I attended the "Rendezvous" of the Alberta Trappers Association and even spoke at their banquet. I've had many meetings and talks with the Alberta Conservation Association and I feel it's very important to keep good relationships with all the other conservation groups. We have to stick together on many issues as we are badly outnumbered by the "anti's" and a coalition voice goes a long way. I also attended the directors meeting and AGM of the Canadian Wildlife Federation both in Regina and Ottawa, our voice also gets heard na-

tionally. Many letters and press releases were sent out and messages were sent to both Provincial and Federal powers.

The discounted senior's hunting licenses are also a concern, not that I'm against a senior getting a break, but the way it was done went against all procedures. There's a better way to get a break than to take it out of conservation money!

The Bison in Banff project is also concerning, we told them so and I don't think it's rocket science to realize a bull bison is going to travel, and fences, rivers, or mountains won't stop him.

CWD is a big problem but now that it's been found in Quebec, maybe the Federal Government will start to listen to Saskatchewan and Alberta?

I hope you all filled out the survey we sent you on firearms. I know I did, and we also sent a letter to the Minister of Border Security letting our thoughts known. More restrictive legislation will only affect law abiding citizens and enforcing laws already in place will be more than adequate. Bill C-71 won't help us at all. With an election approaching we sent a letter to all the political parties in Alberta and asked for a meeting and to get their views on several of our main concerns. We hope to wrap this all up in January and we'll give you the views to consider prior to your vote. December should have been a busy month with our executive meetings taking place as well as a couple meetings with Fish & Wildlife staff. We'll update you later on these as well.

Our MSL raffle and auctions have been a good success and we will be running these again this upcoming year so make sure and get your chance. Tickets will be available online when they come out. Congratulations to the past year's winners and I hope they harvested what they were after, but mostly I'd like to thank them and all others for their support in this program.

We have another edition of our Alberta Wildlife Records book planned for this year. Anybody with good pictures or stories can contact us or send them to head office. We'll use what we can and hopefully have it going to print by the summer.

It's only a couple months to our big annual conference and AGM in Calgary.

I strongly encourage all clubs to send delegates to this meeting. We get all our direction from the delegates attending and much great discussion and sessions occur here. Our resolution process is our lifeblood and I know many are in the works already and much debate will happen here. I hope many clubs can help out with donations or sponsorship. It's also a great time to contribute to our building fund and it would be great to put this mortgage behind us, it's a top priority and all donors will be recognized for their donation. It would also be a great time to step up and join the team. We will have several openings and being a democratic organization, all positions are up for grabs. Volunteering for conservation can be very rewarding and great friendships develop here.

New blood is always welcome. If I don't see you in Calgary, please stop in at one of the sportsman shows and I'll try to be in the booth as much as possible. I always want to hear your views and ideas to make us better and stronger.

I got out on a few goose hunts this fall and can only show you a picture of me and my grandson after harvesting a few nice white fronted geese. However, it's only late October as I write this, so I still have a full month of November planned and should have deer, elk or moose pictures to show you later.

I've filled out enough print now, so until next time... tight lines and straight shooting. 🦅

Doug Butler
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(780) 895-7799



THE ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION
90th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 21-23, 2019

The AFGA is excited to have Zone 2 host the
2019 conference in Calgary.
Conference registration packages are now available

REMEMBER to REGISTER EARLY
and receive the earlybird discounted rates!



Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre
1000 Glenmore Court SE, Calgary, AB
Ph: (403) 279-8611

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HOW TO REGISTER
CALL THE AFGA OFFICE (780) 437-2342 or
REGISTER ONLINE: www.afgaregister.com



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Executive Vice-President's Report



MARTIN SHARREN
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

TO ADDRESS YOU, the member's concerns re: timely registration of names and quicker receipt of the Outdoor Canada West your AFGA has implemented a new Membership System effective January 01, 2019 that is a part of AFGA's new website. This switch will provide many new benefits and once learned will make the work of the Club much easier.

1) CLUBS WILL have direct access to their members as it will be the Club that enters members' names directly into rosters thus reducing the need for multiple handling and potential increased errors.

Other changes and benefits are briefly mentioned below due to space limitations; however, every Club will have or shortly will receive further information. The office is also prepared to assist

with any and all queries.

2) DIRECT ONLINE registration will allow Clubs to purchase all that they need such as insurances, event registrations, roster memberships as well as the ability to check who has and hasn't been registered. All purchase orders and membership tallies will be relayed back to the Clubs as information is entered. No more need to mail, fax, email spreadsheets, etc. to the office. Information is entered at the Club by the Club and uploaded to the AFGA website.

3) MEMBERSHIPS WILL expire 1 year from the date of purchase in order that individual members can enjoy 365 days of benefits which will in turn make sales of memberships much more attractive thus promoting growth. Currently there are a number of Clubs using this method as does the AFGA with the Direct Memberships. No ill side effects have been noticed at the office from following this procedure.


4) MEMBERSHIP CARDS for those who wish to have them will now be able to be printed by the Club directly and provided to members. Additionally there is an option to include your picture on the card for improved identification, such as access to ranges and will eliminate the lending of membership cards to

unregistered members

5) THERE WILL also be a fund-raising platform based on social media that Clubs can use immediately through the Outdoor Adventurist. (More on this in the next issue of OCW)

6) ADDITIONALLY, FOR Clubs that want a website or have one that needs upgrading and managing, Central Alberta Website Development, Inc is available to assist clubs. There is a cost to this last piece; for a better understanding contact Nancy at Central Alberta Web Development Inc. (CAWD) at 403-357-7530

or email her at njpollreis@gmail.com.

It is a reality that the AFGA cannot escape from the age of computers and online interactions and if the Association desires to maintain its relevancy and have an impact on conservation this is the route it must take. Today's world expects to do most if not all transactions online and if AFGA wishes to recruit a younger crowd then it must meet their needs. There will be some pain initially however with a strong commitment by Clubs this will be overcome. I look forward to working with you to achieve this new and exciting journey upon which we are embarking. 

The Alberta Fish & Game Association 56th Annual Wildlife Awards Banquet

Saturday April 27, 2019 * Cocktails 6:00pm * Dinner 7:00pm
Polish Hall, 10960 - 104 Street, Edmonton, AB



For more information contact the AFGA office at 780-437-2342
or email: office@afga.org or visit our website: www.afga.org

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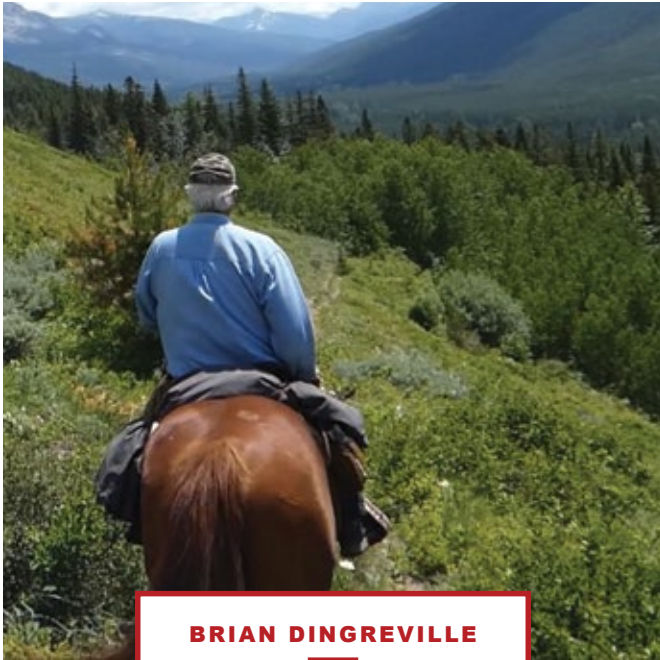


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Alberta Fish & Game Association

1st Vice-President's Report



BRIAN DINGREVILLE
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

IT'S BEEN A busy fall with zone meetings, resolutions and attending the Canadian Wildlife Federation Meeting in Ottawa along with making time for a little hunting.


I hope everyone has had a successful hunting season. September did seem to come in with a bit of a vengeance with large amounts of snow and rain in the south; which from what I have been told, has been a common occurrence throughout the province. This past couple of weeks has provided some good warm weather for the local farmers to be able to conclude their 2018 fall harvest.

I attended the Zone 1 meeting in September with a reasonable turnout from the clubs in the south. Hopefully there will be a larger group with the spring meeting. Zone 1 is doing well financially because of casino funding, which they are more than willing to pass on to their clubs for projects if they want assistance. Zone 1 brought forth a number of resolutions for this year's conference.

I also attended the Zone 2 meeting in mid-October at Bass Pro just outside of Calgary. For those of you who have never been to any of the major sporting goods stores in Alberta, it is a treat in itself. Zone 2

had a very good turnout with a number of their clubs which also brought forth a number of resolutions to be forwarded on to this year's conference.

This past week Andrea and I attended the Canadian Wildlife Federation meeting. What a wonderful experience! Firstly, one gets to rub shoulders with club members from each of the provinces delegates. All new delegates are given an orientation which consists of a tour of their facility, background on what they stand for and what their vision for the future is. They introduce you to many of their on the ground working people who give reports on programs they are working on. Then one has the opportunity to spend time exploring the wonderful city of Ottawa. I have to say if you ever get the opportunity to view Ottawa - go! It was incredible! You will not be disappointed!

Looking forward to seeing each of you this coming year at conference in Calgary which Zone 2 will be hosting, and from what I have heard they are putting on a good one. 

Brian Dingreville
1st Vice-President,
AFGA
403-315-5887
brianad@shaw.ca

MINISTER'S SPECIAL LICENCE
NEW RAFFLE COMING SOON!



ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION
... conserving wildlife since 1908.
www.afga.org



Alberta Fish & Game Association

2ND Vice-President's Report



IAN STUART
2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

THE 2019 AFGA conference will be near when this report reaches you, and it will be busy! In the interim, I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable fall hunting season. The snow and nasty weather through much of the Province negatively affected our farmers and ranchers. Anyone looking for permission to access farm land needed to be very mindful to respect vehicle access restrictions which were in place to protect unharvested crop, and this remains the case on grazing land, as the summer drought left grazing land with poor reserves of grass. Fortunately, a late return to harvest weather helped immensely with field crop harvest, but grazing land has not had time and growing conditions to recover.

The unseasonable weather certainly dampened the enthusiasm of some hunters and fishers to spend time in the field, but those that did venture out enjoyed less crowding and as always, variable success. Personally, I was privileged to be invited along on a couple of goose hunts, which were learning experiences for me, and was subsequently able to take advantage of local goose hunting opportunities, with reasonable success for a beginner. Canada goose numbers are in great shape throughout the Province and it is satisfying to be a small part of that, as goose nesting projects were the first AFGA habitat projects I worked


on many years ago. Ungulate numbers are variable; areas with some recovery from previous winter kill have been observed, and even some recovery of elk population in portions of the eastern slopes that have been nearly devoid of elk in recent years. Moose populations in much of the Boreal forest continue to be less than carrying capacity, as is the case Canada wide. (Doug, Jim and I attended a presentation in September on moose mortality research taking place in BC which provided some insights into the causes of moose mortality. Results thus far indicate that predation is significant, regulated hunting a tiny fraction, unregulated hunting higher than regulated hunting, but much less than predation, and a surprisingly high amount due to a broad category of often puzzling "health issues" such as cases of starvation in spite of abundant moose food. (A secondary effect of predators perhaps?) We have a copy of the presentation available if anyone wishes to peruse it.

During October, Hunting Chair Jim Clarke and I carpooled to Zone 3, (also attended by Doug) and Zone 4 fall zone meetings, and Fishing Chair Darryl Smith and I carpooled to Zone 6; other members of your AFGA Executive attended Zones 1, 2, and 5. It was hard for many clubs to be represented at many of the fall zone meetings, as they were scheduled in what turned out to be a narrow window of decent harvest weather, and understandably harvest took priority for some folks that would otherwise have attended. The zone meetings provide a forum for affiliated AFGA clubs to exchange information, which I always find both enlightening and encouraging. The fall zone meetings also serve as a forum to screen resolutions submitted by the clubs. Many resolutions have been forwarded from the zones that will come to the floor at the 2019 AGM; by the time this report is in your hands they should have been forwarded to every club for discussion and direction by the club to the delegates your club is sending to the 2019 confer-

ence to represent you.

I also attended a meeting of Ponoka Fish and Game and between Zone 3 Director Kevin Wingert, Vice Director Ernie Long, and myself we spoke with members of many of the clubs in Zone 3 to help ensure that all were informed of the upcoming meeting, as your AFGA executive is trying very hard to improve communication with our membership (timely and up to date contact information submission buy clubs will help!) and there are currently many vacancies on the Zone 3 Executive. Hopefully they will be filled at the spring meeting! And as I mentioned in my last report, your AFGA relies on volunteers at all levels; both club and zone executive functions provide both the opportunity to support conservation, and experiences that help prepare for Provincial Executive/Board functions. There will be some turnover in the provincial AFGA executive at our next conference, as dictated by our by-laws, and possibly some current members needing a break. Please consider standing for election at club, zone, or provincial levels. Responsibilities of the provincial executive can be found in The Operations Manual of the Alberta Fish and Game Association.

Heretofore, hard copies of the operations manual have been provided to clubs however those hard copies were sometimes not passed on, out of date, or not readily accessible to much of our membership. The operations manual can now be found on our web site from the "Clubs and Zones" tab, near the bottom of the page under "Quick Links to Forms" or, paste <http://www.afga.org/pdf/club-info/OPERATIONS%20MANUAL%20Aug%202018.pdf> into a web browser. While the operations manual needs some updating, it is currently the easiest way to access information about the organization, including responsibilities of Provincial Executive, Bylaws, Resolution Process, et cetera.

Yours in support of the wise use of the Earth's resources. 

Ian Stuart, 2nd Vice President



Fishing Chair Report

WHAT DIRECTION WILL WE FOLLOW IN 2019?



DARRYL SMITH
FISHING CHAIR

UP HERE IN the Peace River region, fall and winter appeared to have merged this year. Heavy snowfalls in September and October plus -10 degrees Celsius at night made it hard to differentiate the seasons. Now that it is November, lakes have glassed over with ice which means the hard-water angling season is upon us. Ice fishing provides a great deal of outdoor recreation and can be an inexpensive pastime as only a hand auger, pail, a few hooks and simple rods are required. This makes for a great family outing as it can be combined with a wienner roast and perhaps tobogganing.

Some anglers in the trout fishing world view ice fishing as detrimental to achieving a fisheries management objective of a "Quality Stocked Trout Fishery (QSTF)". They believe that winter closures and catch and release only regulations for stocked trout ponds leads to an enhanced angling experience during the open water period. It is not a case that the concept of QSTF does not have merit. It is about how and when we should be creating them.

With Alberta's restrictive angling regulations in terms of retention, season and length limits, stocked ponds now support much of the angling opportunity in the province. This is most pronounced in urban centres and parts of the province where few self-sustaining fisheries exist. Ensuring overall angling opportunity that allows for the broadest participation from Albertan's means

that identifying ponds and small lakes that currently do not support fish or developing new ponds as part of industrial and domestic activities (offsets) become a priority. Rather than putting up barriers, Alberta Environment and Parks must begin facilitating the process in an expedited fashion as they are just one player in a collaborative process that largely sees the responsibility for development and maintenance lying with communities, industry and the Alberta Conservation Association (your angling dollars at work). There has been recent success in the Peace River and Lakeland areas with projects such as West Dollar Lake and the recent stockings of Chawin Lake, so perhaps we are turning a corner. On the other hand, Hasse Lake near Edmonton seems no closer to being stocked than a decade ago.

My biggest fear in this debate around stocked trout ponds in terms of their fisheries management objective lies in separating anglers into various camps, whether they be ice-fisherman, fly-fishing purists or the kid with a bobber and worm peering under a dock. When individual perspective (wants) drives the agenda, we lose the big picture which must be about expanding angling opportunity across the province, ensuring responsible development that protects and enhances habitat, and having appropriate angling regulations that maintain sustainable fisheries.

What will 2019 bring? The Deputy Minister of Operations for Alberta Environment and Parks, John Conrod has indicated that it is largely business as usual for fisheries managers despite some overarching issues. 2019 is an election year and as a rule government slows down ahead of the event. Impacting fisheries management direction should be recommendations from both the Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee and the third-party science review recommendations. The process is reviewing the North Central Native

Trout Recovery Plan and the Northern Pike and Walleye Management Frameworks. The group has met four times since June with a fifth meeting scheduled for November 26, 2018. The first deliverable will be a draft third-party science review of the North Central Native Alberta Trout Recovery Plan in November. To this point, stakeholders have had the ability to ask questions, but this was related largely to the rationale and reasoning behind the various plans from the perspective of fisheries managers.

There are several big unknowns. How will Alberta Environment and Parks incorporate stakeholder input when the review is presented so that the outcome can be seen as broader than a peer review process? The second issue will be is the angling community willing to accept the recommendations from the third-party reviewers and stakeholder advisory committee? The final one is whether Alberta Environment and Parks be willing to adjust direction should the recommendations indicate a different path?

Information related to the processes is currently available at <https://mywildalberta.ca/fishing/fisheries-management/default.aspx>. The plan is to transition to <https://talkaep.alberta.ca> but as to when this will occur is unknown. I urge all anglers to go to the sites which hopefully will include an opportunity for engagement beyond the Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee process.

Key messages from the October 26, 2018 meeting of the Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee are as follows:

- *The second phase of the third-party science review was initiated. The committee had the first opportunity to influence the focal areas of enquiry for the Northern Pike and Walleye Recreational Management Frameworks.*
- *The Committee received an update on the scope of habitat work underway and the role of multiple regulators. One example of that work includes the Roadway Wa-*



Hunting Chair Report

tercourse Crossing Program (RWCP)... a program to remediate fish passage issues at a watershed level in cooperation with regulators with overlapping mandates. An overview of the program and its successes was provided.

- The Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee's Communications Task Team has formed and begun work to strengthen communication both internal and external to the Committee. The committee agreed that enhanced communications with the public remains a priority. The Committee is currently reviewing the TalkAEP site (<https://talkaep.alberta.ca>) and preparing it to be a platform to support communications with the public.
- The Committee received a tutorial of the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA)'s online Angler Education and Certification course that is in currently in the testing phase. This course is complimentary to AHEIA's current delivery of the Hunter Education and Certification as well as other conservation and safety courses.
- The results of the Phase 1 third party science review that focuses on East Slopes Fisheries Management are anticipated to be available for the Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee for their feedback and review in mid-November.

There are other issues that are impacting angling and our fisheries resource that need to share in coming columns. They include whirling disease update (invasive species), Species At Risk Act consideration (arctic grayling, pygmy whitefish), lakeshore development in the absence of appropriate land use policies (Wabamun Lake and others), fisheries management objective setting, AEP Region/Operation/Policy and Justice and Solicitor General (Enforcement) disconnects, and the ongoing habitat concerns brought about by our ever increasing human footprint and the impact of legacy development.

Hope to see many of you at the Alberta Fish and Game Association 90th Annual Conference in Calgary on from February 21 to 23, 2019 in Calgary. 🐾

Darryl Smith, Fishing Chair



JIM CLARKE
HUNTING COMMITTEE CHAIR

AS I WRITE this, I'm busy packing for the opener of the late moose season. By the time you read this, most of the hunting seasons will have come to an end and I hope each of you were successful in your outdoor pursuits!

I was able to attend a meeting at the ACA head office with Doug Butler and Ian Stewart on behalf of the fish & game that was presented about moose population findings in BC. They have been studying several key areas for 5 years now and are about to start the next 5-year cycle. What they have found in regard to cow moose populations is that they are in trouble. While the expected mortality from predators (43%) was substantial, it is not the only cause of mortality. They also did identify some mortality from licenced and un-licenced (combined 18%) hunting, but it was stated many times that hunting was not harming the population, and in fact as a percentage of cause of mortality; it was on the lower end. What they basically did was to establish a rapid response team to GPS collared moose that showed no movement. They then did an analysis of the dead moose and the surrounding area. While the results are not conclusive, what appeared as healthy younger cow moose collared only mere months before; the necropsies showed starving or 'health related death' (to the tune of around 20%) moose in what appeared as very healthy and vibrant moose habitat! They agreed something else is definitely

happening and will delve deeper in the true causes of these deaths in the next part of their study. This does not bode well for moose populations not only in BC and Alberta but across Canada as reports are coming in about declining moose populations across the country. It was noted that here in Alberta, while the moose population is healthy and growing in the prairie areas the same cannot be said for the traditional mountainous and boreal populations and in fact overall; our Alberta population is down from previous levels.

I was also able to attend a couple of zone fall meetings recently that were both well attended and quite informing. For the fall meetings, most of the focus is on getting resolutions wrapped up and ready for annual conference in February. There were some that sparked a bit of discussion and some that were "no brainers"! It should be interesting at the next conference!

Darryl Smith and I have been tasked recently with coming up with a list of "positions" of the association. These are from resolutions that have been passed at least 3 times in a 5-year period and as such will be presented going forward to AEP with our current year's resolutions. This should ultimately make the process of resolutions a bit quicker by not having them appear over and over again.

We of late have endeavored to get the "Fish and Game" message out to more Albertans and others. I hope a lot of you have seen the productions that have been around on Let's Go Outdoors! I think they are a great tool to let non-members know a little more about us! Check them out online if you have not already! You can view them via the AFGA main page and while you're at it, why not share them on your club's social media site! Just recently, we also had a 30 second commercial made for us to air as a commercial free of charge on WILD TV. That too should help!

Hoping you all have a great wrap up to your season...and looking forward to the winter meetings! 🐾

Jim Clarke, Hunting Chair



Environment Chair Report



Chelsea's children, Lily and Ryker, with Al Pederson, learning how to process a goose.

CHELSEA JAEGER
ENVIRONMENT CHAIR

IT'S BEEN AWHILE since I have managed to get an article in, and for that I apologize. As with many people, we got quite busy this past year and unfortunately this article got put on the back burner.

There was a lot of environmental issues that came up in 2018. The Native Trout recovery plan, Alberta Ecotrust conference, bison updates, caribou meetings, meetings with AEP, attending Endangered Species Committee meetings, and various other side projects have filled much of the year. It's very difficult to pin down one issue as being more important than others. I highly encourage people to get out and attend some of the public engagement meetings, not only to express your voice as hunters and anglers in the province, but also to understand where other people may be coming from.

I have noticed on social media that there is a large

amount of disrespectful comments coming from people within the hunting and angling community. Engaging in online arguments with people that may not fully understand the issues or circumstances around an issue does nothing to help improve the public perception of the hunting/angling community. It is unfortunate, but every time you engage with someone negatively online, it will come back on the entire community and be used against the work many people do to promote what we love. So please, think twice before engaging online and ask if this will actually help our community in the long run or just add fuel. Please remember to be respectful of others' opinions and values.

I look forward to seeing everyone at conference in February! 🐦

Chelsea Jaeger
Environment Chair

Program Chair Report



PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT
BY MARK ANDERSON

THE BIG GAME hunting season is almost wrapped up. Hopefully everyone had a successful year with some great outdoor experiences. I'd encourage people to get their 2018 harvests measured at their local AFGA horn scoring events and submit their official score sheets to office@afga.org for the wildlife awards. All submissions must be received before February 28th. For more information, score sheets, and past award winners check out the AFGA Wildlife Awards webpage here: <http://www.afga.org/wildlife-awards.html>.

The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) and Minister Special License (MSL) grants are open and accepting applications until the end of January. These grants are in place to fund projects and education programs that benefit wildlife, fish, and habitat conservation across Alberta. Projects that directly benefit elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep are encouraged to apply for the respective MSL grant (<http://www.afga.org/>

[pdf/2019-MSL-GRANT-APPLICATION.docx](https://www.ab-conservation.com/grants/aca-grant-programs/)). ACA grants are more general and can be applied to a variety of Alberta conservation and education programs; more information can be found here: <https://www.ab-conservation.com/grants/aca-grant-programs/>. Grants like these are a great way to fund programs at your local club or school, or for larger scale projects like regional hunting, fishing, and conservation events.

We're still looking for volunteers to help with starting up a youth camp at the McGillivray camp in the Crowsnest pass. If you have expertise in survival skills, hunting, fishing, firearms, archery, boating, or cooking and a week of spare time in July to volunteer, I'd love to hear from you.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year at the 2019 AFGA Conference in Calgary. 🐦

Mark Anderson
Program Chair
Mark.T.Anderson
@hotmail.com



Club Events

Alberta Black Powder:	January 19, 2019	11:00am	AGM – Quality Inn North Hill, Red Deer – bp.quilter@shaw.ca
Athabasca Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Provincial Building – Sept to June
Barrhead Fish & Game:	Last Wednesday	7:30pm	Barrhead Legion – Sept to April
Beaver River Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Except July & August
Breton Fish & Game:	4th Wednesday	7:30pm	Breton Golden Age Centre – 50th Avenue – except July/Aug/Dec
Busby & District Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	7:30pm	Lone Goose Club House
Camrose Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:00pm	Superstore meeting room
Cardston Fish & Game:	2nd Thursday	7:00pm	Civic Center
Clandonald & District Fish & Game:	3rd Thursday	7:30pm	Clandonald Coffee shop
Claresholm Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	N/A	Claresholm indoor range
Coaldale & District Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	The Range
Dickson Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	8:00pm	Dickson Fish & Game Hall: Contact Ike: 403-588-2646 or 403-728-3818
Devon Fish & Game:	4th Thursday	7:30pm	Pioneer 73 Centre: #29 St. Lawrence Avenue
Dunvegan Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:30pm	Except July/Aug – FCSS Room – Audits and Safety building
Drumheller Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Except July/Aug
Edmonton Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:30pm	no info
Edmonton Old Timers:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Spruce Avenue Hall – 10240 115 Avenue
Edmonton Trout Fishing:	1st & 3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Queen Mary Park Community League – 109 Ave & 117 Street
Ft. MacLeod Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	NWMP Library –back door
Ft. Saskatchewan Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	Old Train Station – Sept to June
High Level Sporting Association:	3rd Wednesday	N/A	no info
High Prairie Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Summer @ Range – Winter @ Amiro's
High River Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:45pm	For more info: www.hrfishandgame.wordpress.com
Hillcrest Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Hillcrest Fish & Game Hall – 22802 8th Avenue (October to June)
Innisfail Fish & Game:	1st Monday	7:00pm	Innisfail Royal Canadian Legion – except July and August
Iron Creek Fish & Game:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	Lougheed Lions Den - Mainstreet
Lacombe Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	Lacombe Legion (except July & August)
Lamont Fish & Game:	Last Monday	7:00pm	Lamont Lions Den – Contact Robyn Butler: 780-895-7799
Leduc Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:30pm	Leduc Clubhouse – for more info – (780) 986-1807 - Sept to June
Lethbridge Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	LFGA Clubhouse – 9th Avenue & 10th Street South (except – July/Aug)
Lloydminster Fish & Game:	Last Tuesday	7:30pm	Except July & December – Grace United Church
Magrath Rod & Gun Club:	3rd Thursday	7:00pm	Magrath Library
Medicine Hat Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	8:00pm	Ricky's Rest. private dining room (see Facebook page) - Sept to June
Millet Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Millet Fish & Game Hall
Morinville Fish & Game:	2nd & 4th Thursday	7:30pm	Morinville F&G Clubhouse – except July/Aug
Mundare Fish & Game:	Last Monday	6:30pm	Mundare Gun Range – May - August
Okotoks Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	For more info visit our website: www.okotoksfishandgame.com
Onoway & District Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Education Centre @ gun range – (780) 924-0005 - Sept to June
Peace Wapiti Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Better than Fred's – 9903 101 St. Gr. Prairie - Sept to June
Picture Butte Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:00pm	Archery Range – 464 Crescent Ave. (except Jul/Aug)
Ponoka Fish & Game:	1st Thursday	7:30pm	Clubhouse
Provost Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	8:00pm	Indoor Gun Range – 2km East of Provost (except July/August)
Red Deer Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	Red Deer Legion (use Molly B door) – Tues if stat --except July/Aug
Red Earth Creek Rod & Gun Club:	3rd Tuesday	7:30pm	No other info
Rimby Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Canalta Hotel: 5702 43rd Street – Sept to June
Rocky Mtn House Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:00pm	Rocky Museum Basement meeting room
Sarcee Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	Mtn View Funeral Home Auditorium – September to June
Sherwood Park Fish & Game:	Last Thursday	7:30pm	50 Spruce Avenue
St. Albert Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	St. Albert community Hall on Perron St. – September to June
St. Paul Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:30pm	Town Hall - Downstairs
Southern AB Outdoorsmen:	2nd Tuesday	N/A	Kings Home – 108 – 5th Avenue NE – Milk River
Spedden Fish & Game:	2nd Sunday	7:30pm	Ashmont
Spruce Grove Fish & Game:	1st Thursday	7:00pm	Pioneer Centre – 301 Jespesen Ave. – Sp. Grove – (Except Jul/Aug & Nov)
Stony Plain Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	7:30pm	Stony Plain Community Centre, 51 Ave. – Jimmy: (780) 405-0015
Sundre Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Sundre Community Center
Sylvan Lake & District:	1st Monday	7:00pm	Community Partner Hall
Taber Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	N/A	First Wendy's at Heritage Hotel
Thorsby Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	Sunnybrook Hall
Vegreville Wildlife Federation:	1st Thursday	7:00pm	Centennial Hall
Vermillion Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	N/A	Vermillion Provincial Building – Conference room
Viking Sports & Wildlife Society:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Clubhouse located near Viking
Vilna Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	Cultural Centre in Vilna
Wheatland Conservation & Wildlife:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	254073 RR 252 (north of Strathmore)
Whitecourt Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Forestry Training Centre
Wildwood & District Rod & Gun Club:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	Range in the clubhouse
Willingdon & District Fish & Game:	Last Tuesday	7:30pm	Willingdon Arena – upstairs clubroom – Sept to June
Wimborne & District Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	N/A	Wimborne Hall

OTHER EVENTS

	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Zone 1	April 7, 2019	TBA	Zone 1 AGM – Lethbridge F&G Hut
Zone 1	September 22, 2019	TBA	Zone 1 Fall Meeting – Lethbridge F&G Hut
Beaver River Fish & Game:	Every Wednesday	6:00 – 8:00pm	Youth / Adult Archery

Edmonton Old Timers Fishing Club is looking for you! Calling all fishermen over 50! You'll find lots of people to go fishing with both summer & ice fishing in the winter. We have meetings once a month with a guest speaker. For more info: Randy Collins 780-868-3944

*IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR EVENT/MEETING PLACED IN THE OUTDOOR EDGE OR ON OUR WEBSITE...PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX INFORMATION TO OUR OFFICE: info@afga.org or fax: (780) 438-6872 (CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION or EVENTS NOT LISTED HERE: www.afga.org)



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Youth Report




MIYAH CLARKE
AFGA YOUTH PRESIDENT

I WAS INVITED by the Red Deer Fish & Game Association to attend one of their youth pheasant program mentor hunts which I did on November 3, 2018. I took with me a youth member (Rory) from the Calgary Fish and Game as he had previously expressed an interest in getting more involved in the outdoors and fish and game in general. There were 10 youth in total on the day I went. The

first part of the morning was spent learning firearm safety and practice shooting shotguns at clay targets. After lunch we then went out hunting released pheasants. At the end of the day everyone was given instruction and took part in the cleaning of the birds. We were all able to take pheasant meat home to cook and enjoy. Overall, this is a great experience for any first-time hunter.

Coming up this winter for anyone of any age are fish and game club big game measuring days. Your local club will most likely have a measuring day in January or February, so look for details on club websites, Facebook or Instagram. This is an opportunity to see some animals taken in your area and across the province. It's a great place too to meet other outdoor enthusiasts and to learn about how fish

and game are measured. Most clubs will have a banquet sometime in the new year. This is a good way to support a club, enjoy a great meal and hear about all they have done over the past year. It's also a good event to volunteer at. Just a reminder, send a youth delegate or two to the 2019 conference this February. 
Miyah Clarke
AFGA Youth President

Zone 1 Report


GLENN HEATHER
ZONE 1 DIRECTOR

AS ALWAYS, THE fall months are jam packed with hunting and events. An event had been staged at the Medicine Hat Arts and Heritage Centre entitled "The Hunt". This display was held between June 9 - November 3 and was widely visited by the outdoor enthusiast crowd and the general public of the Medicine Hat surrounding

districts. It was rewarding to see a tasteful display of our Alberta's history of hunting and wildlife conservation. It was additionally rewarding to see the general public's interest as well as the well-received education and awareness that was generated. There was no public outcry or negative public publicity. Good to see. In many ways we within the AFGA have to continually discuss and educate what purpose hunting and fishing play within our culture. Additionally, the Le-

thbridge Senior Fisheries biologist held an open to public meeting within Medicine Hat to discuss fish management within the Southern Alberta region. Fall stocking of tiger trout was introduced into a local lake as well as brown trout. Discussions did occur on ways forward to develop a Southern Alberta fisheries plan. Initially irrigation districts will be surveyed as to their water management, then based on this information, fish stocking and fisheries management will be developed.

Within the Zone 1 region, CWD is a major discus-

sion topic, efforts are being made by issuing 2 antlerless draw mule deer tags in some WMU's, to reduce population densities. Once stats are issued as to the number of CWD positive heads are submitted. Hopefully with the proposed mandatory hunter harvest survey, we will get a better understanding of the actual hunter success and if additional tags actually are effective to reduce CWD populations. 

Glenn Heather
Zone 1 Director

Zone 2 Report

DEB CLARKE
ZONE 2 DIRECTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

If you haven't already registered for the 90th Annual AFGA Conference (February 21-23/19 in Calgary) or booked your hotel room at the Glenmore Inn & Convention Centre don't delay. The registration package can be found on www.afga.org.

Donations towards conference (door prizes, kit bag swag, silent or live auction items and/or financial donations for coffee breaks, the companion and youth programs, the meet and greet event or meals) are still being accepted. If you, any organization or business would like to sponsor or contribute to this "wild" affair please refer to the registration package for more details or you can contact me and/or the AFGA head office at office@afga.org.

For more Conference information refer to the conference related article within these AFGA pages. Don't for-

get that Zones and clubs are invited to bring displays or projects to share with all attendees. Should electrical or additional tables be needed, let us know in advance.

The deadline to submit ACA Conservation, Community and Education Grants application forms is January 24, 2019. The forms can be found at <http://www.ab-conservation.com/grants/aca-conservation-community-and-education-grants/>. Should you need assistance or advice in completing the applications please contact me or Randy Collins (our AFGA ACA representative).

January 31, 2019 is the deadline to submit applications for the 2019 Minister's Special Licence Grant (administered by the AFGA and a program advisory committee). Our EVP, Martin Sharren, will assist any club in writing up a submission. A 60% portion of funds raised through the special licence sales is

designated for management, habitat enhancement, etc. for each of sheep, mule deer and elk.

To find current CWD information and related pertinent web links see <http://www.afga.org/news-10-01-18.html>.

When you have a few minutes take a look at some Let's Go Outdoors video shorts on AFGA programs and projects: Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Program <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tmFidr7KoA>; Alberta to Celebrate Provincial Hunting Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHhyVVyXr7c>; Milk River Ridge Water Conservation Project in Alberta <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qimb87OF3hI>; Alberta Fish and Game Association is Developing the Next Generation of Outdoor Enthusiasts https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7sF_O3SZ5Y; and Kids in Alberta Spend a Day Learning About Pheasant Hunting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1VCOpd2FD0>.


Thank you for your continued support of the AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund. Tickets are available for a chance to

win a 2018 Polaris Ranger 570 Side by Side. Buy a ticket on-line at <http://www.afga.org/quad-raffle.php> or contact the AFGA directly to purchase one or more. Ticket books to sell can also be obtained from the office.

Looking to spend time out on the town? Support and attend upcoming 2019 fish and game club measuring nights and banquets. Search club websites or Facebook pages to find more information regarding dates/times or contact me and I can put you in touch with the right volunteers.

The next Zone 2 meeting will be held January 20th at Cabela's Calgary, 10:00 am.

Hope to see you in February at the 90th Annual AFGA Conference.

DID U KNOW: Prior to 1973 the annual AFGA conference was referred to as "convention". The first annual AFGA convention was held in Calgary in 1929. (Conservation Pride and Passion, AFGA 1908-2008 History Book) 

Deb Clarke,
Zone 2 Director
deb.clarke@telus.net



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Zone 3 Report



KEVIN WINGERT
ZONE 3 DIRECTOR

THE FALL ZONE 3 meeting, hosted by Harold Drok and the Red Deer Fish and Game Association at the Habitat Land picnic shelter, on October 21st, 2018 was attended by 15 lucky participants. Most won an ACA ball cap or a jar of honey. It was a beautiful fall day, with the blue sky, light winds, and just a touch of chill in the air. We had just enough Clubs participation for the 9 Resolutions to all be vetted through the Zone. One was not passed and will need to be rewritten. Doug Butler, AFGA President, Ian Stuart, AFGA 2nd Vice President, and Jim Clarke, AFGA Hunting Chair, were able to come and help answer questions from the member Clubs.

NOTE: To all members that have a boat that is more than 10 years since you registered it you need to re-register again after 10 years. It is a free website application method. Crazy, I had no idea this was the case. Feds changed the rules under Harper Government. I hope the Fisheries Habitat regulations are not rolled out the same way.

I want to say that I am very impressed with the job that the Alberta Conser-

vation Association does in many of the programs they get involved in, such as the Fisheries Access Site Management, These sites are well laid out and are maintained beautifully. Red Deer Fish and Game Association and Innisfail have initiated a program to have volunteers install fishing line disposal stations, to recycle the discarded fishing line back to the fishing line companies that manufacture it, such as Berkley. The first season kept way more line out of the environment than I thought would be possible. Great job to all

those volunteers!

To all of you out there that go to the Sportsman's Shows in Red Deer, the RAP trailer will not be at these shows as the program is saving fees for the booth rental space. That was one of my favorite displays to see at the Show. I hope the smaller booth space is going to get the RAP message out to the public. Remember to support your local Fish and Game club and get involved. It can be a fun time. 🐾

Kevin Wingert,
Zone 3 Director



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Alberta Fish & Game Association

Zone 5 Report

ROBYN BUTLER
ZONE 5 DIRECTOR

ANOTHER YEAR PASSES and a new one approaches. Time seems to fly as we get older. I hope 2018 was productive for you and 2019 is even better. Hope your holiday season was great and you spend it with family and friends.

Conference is just around the corner now, and the AFGA Executive will be forwarding and working hard on all the resolutions that get passed on the floor by you. It is these resolutions that speak loud and clear to the Government that we care about our conservation. "We will stand up and be counted!"

Thanks to all the clubs and zones who submitted their resolutions. Always remember you can put resolutions forth to your zone all year around. The voting delegates, companion and youth attendance at the conference is always great, but it would be nice to see even more in attendance. Please continue to educate your members through this event as there is so much to learn.

The Taber Pheasant Festival was again a great success. Please try and send your members young and old to this great event.

The 2019 Wildlife Awards will be held at the Polish Hall in Edmonton on April 27.

Clubs will be holding trap-shoots within the next couple of months or so, take time to be aware of the proper hearing protection for your members. We are all very aware how important our hearing protection is, but when it comes to putting it into practice we tend to slack off. "What did you say?"

B.O.W. (Becoming an Outdoor Woman) will run 2 camps (July 9-13 & July 23-27) again this year. These camps fill fast and may already be full but register and if there is room they will definitely get you in. You can find the registration form on the afga.org website. Call Robyn Butler for more

info 780-895-7799. Youth camps will be June 30 – July 7 & July 14 – 21 for more info check the AFGA website.


Put your club booth in at the Sportsman Show Mar. 14-17 great exposure for you.

Please try and attend the Zone 5 spring meeting which will be held in Mundare on April 13. The attendance at these meetings has been great with more and more new faces, and all are welcome and I hope you go back to your clubs with plenty of info. I personally would like to thank Ray Makoweki for the years of dedication to the zone as Fish chair. It's good to see Gaetan Richard as his replacement. Welcome to our new Environment Chair Dave Doonaco and Programs &

Fundraising Chair Cy Hallett.

Getting the word out about your club events is important, so e-mail me and/or list your events in this magazine or on the AFGA website events calendar, Sandie at head office will be happy to get them posted for you.

Please feel free to contact me on any matter of concern, and I will do my best to help you out.

Whether hunting game bird or big game, please remember hunting ethics are just as important as taking that record-breaking animal. So, as you are mentoring a youth or new hunter, please ensure their safety in every aspect. 

Robyn Butler
Zone 5 Director



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B.O.W CAMP

Become an Outdoor Woman is a program designed for women. It is an opportunity for women 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robyn Butler: 780-895-7799

Jane Willisko: 780-986-3431

Ingrid Horner: 780-271-9794

Robyn Karpinski: 780-977-0725

