



Alberta Fish & Game Association

# News from ALBERTA

**THE 91ST ANNUAL AFGA CONFERENCE** hosted by Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association will be held February 20-22, 2020 in Sherwood Park, at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre.

We have a great line-up of speakers and events planned for our delegates, and entertaining activities for our companion and youth programs. Don't miss out! Registrations will be accepted until February 10th.

All information regarding the AFGA 91st Annual Conference is up on the website: [www.afgaregister.com](http://www.afgaregister.com).

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact the AFGA office: (780) 437-2342 or [office@afga.org](mailto:office@afga.org).

See you there! 🐦

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### **MOVING?**

Please send your change of address to :  
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Email: [membership1@afga.org](mailto:membership1@afga.org)

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



Alberta Fish & Game Association

# President's Report



**AS YOU READ** this 2019 will be another year in the books! This past year has been an interesting one to say the least with firstly the leaving of Robert Lowen our finance chair, which past President Wayne Lowry agreed to take on, thank you Wayne! The notification of retirement of Executive VP Martin Sharren ushered in the process of hiring new AFGA Executive Director Delinda Ryerson. There is also the day to day flow of operations within the AFGA world!

It has been said and I have to fully agree that any president is only as good as those within the association under him or her. I have to say I have been blessed with the most wonderful executive, zone directors, office staff and Executive VP/Director anyone could ask for. This group of people work relentlessly for everything AFGA stands for. On top of all that I have to thank all AFGA club presidents and executive on their work they do for their clubs. Between organizing meetings, banquets, fishing derbies, family BBQs, outings or range events, the list goes on and on. All you people are incredible, and I thank you for all that you do! Lastly but not least I want to give a huge thank you to all spouses

**BRIAN DINGREVILLE**

**PRESIDENT**


of those I have just spoken of. Without your support none of this would be possible. Thank you!!

Over the past couple of months your AFGA senior executive has been very involved with a number of zone meetings. I attended Zone 1, 2, 3 & 5 meetings over the month of September & October. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Zone 4 because I was attending the Canadian Wildlife Federation board meeting in Ottawa. Your senior executive met with AEP in the month of September for the second time to go over a number of items, which I am sure Darryl and Jim will fill you in on. I, Wayne Lowry & Aubry Fletcher met with a number of individuals regarding recreational access on lease land back in September. A number of items were brought forward & discussed including recreational access, surface compensation on crown land dispositions as well as sale of crown land & paid hunting. We are planning another meeting possibly mid-December or early January.

Once the conversation has identified solid solutions, a joint meeting with the Alberta Environment and Parks Minister will be set up to bring these forward.

As you all know, we have once again been awarded the Ministers Special Licence raffle, which I feel is because of our hard work in selling tickets. Hopefully we will once again set records on selling more than ever before to show AEP we are well deserving of this very important raffle. AFGA has also started to sell raffle tickets for a Honda TRX500 valued at \$9611.00. Books of tickets are available for those wanting to buy or sell, contact the AFGA office.

Over the next several months most clubs within the AFGA family will be hosting their annual wildlife awards night which we all very much enjoy attending. These functions are always in need of donations as well as volunteers. Anything you can do to help out would be greatly appreciated; just a little goes a long way!

AFGA 2020 Conference will be upon us shortly, hopefully everyone has sent in their registrations. It's going to be another good one! Looking forward to seeing everyone at conference! 





# Past President's Report



**DOUG BUTLER**

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**AS 2019 COMES** to a close, it's time to look forward to another great year. This past year had been my first as a Past President, and although it should have gotten a bit quieter for me, it was anything but. It has been a trying year in some ways but things are looking great going into the future. Your executive has been very active recently and we're hoping great improvements will continue forth.

I have kept busy with some projects that started earlier and kept on top of membership growth and the membership incentive program has had some good reviews. The decor in our office building has also been on my list and the place is starting to look more like a Fish & Game home than ever before. Getting rid of our mortgage has also been a top priority and we've made great leaps and bounds here.

I've also put many hours into the new "Alberta Wildlife Record Book" and it is a really great book. I hope most of you have a copy or soon will have. I've also been helping out with the conference committee and Sherwood Park should host a great event. This annual event is fast approaching and I hope each club is well represented here. This is the time for us to get our

marching orders for the year and our chance to communicate with many members.

While I understand our new government takes a while to get its feet on the ground, I have been disappointed with our Ministry's lack of response to our requests for meetings with them. We have a good relationship with our Fish & Wildlife department and have met there several times over the year, but we desperately would like to meet with the Minister and I surely hope we have by now (as it's early November as I write this). We don't have many favorable reports from the outdoorspeople regarding hunting draws or fishing regulations and we like to pass this info on to the Minister when possible and not just with Fish & Wildlife. We remain optimistic that things will improve but budgets don't favor our priorities.

In house, our new Executive Director, Delinda has been a breath of fresh air, with her positive attitude and great enthusiasm, our future is looking great! The people that represent you as our executive all work hard and we are in good hands. Our AFGA office staff are super people and go overboard to help not only in the office but for the clubs and members too.

We are again administrating the

Minister's Special License raffle and I hope you all support the cause by purchasing your tickets. The Honda quad raffle is also underway and same goes for this. It's a beautiful machine and the draw is in April so don't miss out.

The weather has certainly been a challenge this past year and my first hunting trip up north was no different. As I'm just getting into November now, I'm still hoping for some results. Great times afield are the most important thing though and I sure love getting out there. Good harvest reports have been coming in though, and many trophy-quality success stories are happening. A good friend harvested her first moose this year, and as the picture shows, she might have a hard time topping this one!! It's great to see more women enjoying the sport. Getting your kids involved is very important as well and it's promising to see many youngsters getting back into fishing and hunting as well as other outdoor pursuits!

I hope 2020 (which is good vision) sees you all increase your outdoor time and also your involvement with conservation, it's so rewarding and healthy.

Until next time...Straight shooting and tight lines. 



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Alberta Fish & Game Association

# Executive Director's Report

**DELINDA RYERSON**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**I AM SO** pleased to be joining the Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) as your new Executive Director and share with you all a little of my vision and background. My hope is to work together to promote, educate and increase awareness of our association's role in the conservation of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources.

Growing up in south Edmonton, when Millwoods was mostly wetlands and aspen parkland, I spent much of my time camping, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, hiking, and playing outdoors. With a conservation ethic instilled in me by my mom's love of animals and my dad's love of nature, I fulfilled my childhood ambition to become a biologist, and a fervent advocate of sustainable land and

wildlife management.

I join the AFGA team from an Executive Director role with the Alberta Invasive Species Council, and prior to that was a Biologist and Environmental Project Manager with the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, evaluating the ecological recovery of reclaimed oil and gas well sites.

Preceding these roles, I was the Parks Canada Manager of the Resource Conservation Section at Elk Island National Park, responsible for all wildlife, vegetation, wetland, fire and invasive species management, ecological monitoring, contaminated site assessment and remediation, emergency response planning, and staff management. I was an active member of the Research and

Monitoring Working group in the Beaver Hills Initiative and was integral to the development of the Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve nomination.

Previous to my work with Parks Canada, I worked as a Fisheries Biologist for the provincial Fisheries Management Branch on several TransAlta projects, the oil spill on Lake Wabamun, and provincial-level fish harvest regulation changes.

I am a Project Management Professional (PMP) and I have formal training in public participation and facilitation. For more on my background check out page 36-37 in the Alberta Conservation Association's Fall/Winter 2019 Conservation magazine.

As Albertans, we are extremely fortunate to have such an incredibly



# Martin's Farewell

MARTIN SHARREN


biologically rich and diverse place to enjoy and call home. Without a connection to nature and the outdoors, we won't be able to recruit new hunters, anglers or conservationists. By building off of successful initiatives like our Wildlife Trust Fund Properties, the Pronghorn Corridor Enhancement Program, Becoming an Outdoor Woman or various club-level youth activities, I would like to develop new AFGA opportunities to get people out enjoying our 40,000 acres of Wildlife Trust Fund Properties or other natural environments, to learn about, and become more involved in environmental stewardship and conservation.

I look forward to motivating people to play their part in the monitoring and conservation of our precious fish and wildlife resources through new and existing citizen science programs. I hope to educate people about the importance of hunting and fishing as a conservation tool, ecological processes, natural ecosystem function, population dynamics and environmental stewardship through AFGA outdoor events, electronic newsletters, magazine articles, presentations, social media, and our conference.

I appreciate the importance of partnerships, and the synergy that results, so I will continue to foster existing AFGA partnerships and develop many new ones.

I am both honoured and excited to be leading the AFGA into the 2020s, and I look forward to working collaboratively with our numerous members, clubs and partners to conserve fish and wildlife populations and the habitats upon which they depend.

Our membership is important to me, so I want to hear from all of you about potential new conservation or citizen science program ideas, as well as what you think is currently working, and what could be improved.

[delinda@afga.org](mailto:delinda@afga.org) 


**IN THE IMMORTAL** words of Forrest Gump's mother, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get!"

And what a box of chocolates I walked into on that sunny May morning in 2001 as I entered the old AFGA office; which I say with deep affection for the Association! Amidst prognostications of the AFGA going broke within 8 months, to unpaid membership dues, to decreasing numbers of people joining, to the list of 3rd parties threatening lawsuits, and more, it really was quite interesting.

Nevertheless over the years we, meaning you the member, affiliated Clubs, volunteers, executive and staff, have overcome these and many other challenges to once again become a viable, financially solvent and listened-to by Government entity. Our membership has grown, the Wildlife Trust Fund has grown, and our programs such as Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Youth Camps, and the Antelope Corridor Enhancement Project have also all grown. As a matter of fact the United States Fish

and Wildlife Service has deemed Operation Grassland Community worthy of funding for a number of years now not to mention that we have also received U.S. funding on a few occasions for the Antelope Project. Add to all this the procurement of an office that is professionally appointed AND is getting ever so close to being paid off, it can only be concluded that AFGA is doing alright!

Now a bit about me, my original plans were to stay until the end of February and attend my last Conference, however that will not be the case...think "box of chocolates". Instead I will be leaving sooner than planned to focus on some other things that require my immediate attention.

In the meantime I can only share with you that my time with AFGA has been a humbling experience for me to have played at least a very minor role in this continued evolution of what can only be described as a fantastic organization and I thank you all from the depths of my heart for the opportunity to have been of service to you. Farewell 



## The Alberta Fish and Game Association 57th Annual Wildlife Awards Banquet

Saturday April 25, 2020

Cocktails 6:00pm -- Dinner 7:00pm

Polish Hall 10960 - 104 Street - Edmonton, AB

For more information contact the AFGA office @ (780) 437-2342 or email: [office@afga.org](mailto:office@afga.org)  
or visit our website: [www.afga.org](http://www.afga.org)





Alberta Fish & Game Association

# 1ST Vice-President's Report



**IAN STUART**  
**1ST VICE-PRESIDENT**

**THE 2020 CONFERENCE** will be imminent when this reaches you. Hopefully your club is able to send a full slate, or at least a few delegates to the conference; it promises to be interesting.

I have been very busy organizing, clarifying, and where applicable cross-referencing resolutions to previous submissions and Government of Alberta responses. These will be reviewed by the full Executive in December, consolidated where possible, then distributed to the clubs for review prior to the conference. There has been a lot of back and forth with resolution drafters, Zone Resolution Chairs, Zone Directors and a couple of Past Presidents to try and make sure the intent of the resolutions is unambiguous and consistent with previous resolutions if it is a re-submission. This is very time consuming now, but hopefully it will

allow more time for proper debate of the resolutions both at the club level prior to the conference, and when they come to the conference floor. It is important that resolutions are discussed at the club level before the conference so that your attending delegates can properly represent your clubs when they vote! Often it is advantageous for a delegate to listen to the debate before casting a vote, but delegates do need to have a sense of how the club feels about a given issue.

While going through the briefs, lack of supporting facts and reference is often evident. Whatever action is requested by a resolution or recommendation is a lot more likely to receive action if supported by fact rather than opinion! Also keep in mind that recommendations can go forward at any time, and resolutions can be submitted to your Zone any time of the year. Get them in early to avoid the

last-minute rush and provide more time for supporting research.

I was able to attend Zone 2, 3, and 4 meetings this fall, and while the Zone 3 meeting was not well attended, partly due to it being a rare good harvest day in the cold, wet fall we have just come through, there was still a lot of good information. Attendance at Zone 2 and 4 meetings was good and it's always great to hear the club reports firsthand. There are many wonderful programs going and ideas to share; we need to do more to highlight the positive contributions that every club makes to their community.

Things have been relatively quiet on the Alberta Government side as the new government sets direction, but we are cautiously encouraged by recognition of hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, fish stocking capacity, and responsible access in the Environment and Parks Business Plan released with the recent Provincial Budget, only time will tell!

I did manage to break away for a few days of non-trophy sheep hunting in September. Some camp time with friends out of cell phone range was certainly welcome, and just getting up into sheep country to enjoy the wonderful fall colours would have been enough reward by itself. The delicious free-range organic protein thus obtained is an added bonus that makes the pain of the pack outs (which were tough on this old guy) worthwhile!

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

**D.IanStuart@outlook.com** 





Alberta Fish & Game Association

## 2ND Vice-President's Report



**MATT ZAZULA**

**2ND VICE-PRESIDENT**

**IT'S WINTER, AND** I've got a slow cooker of venison stew on the go, and I'm wondering where 2019 went. Winter seemed to come really quickly, mostly due to the surprise 40+ cm snowstorm we got in late September here in Okotoks, with some areas of the south getting much more, we didn't have a nice long fall at all.

I did have a great trip to Prince Edward Island last September. While there I got to spend an afternoon on a commercial Cod/Mackerel fishing boat. In addition to bringing home some fresh fish for supper that night, I really enjoyed spending time with the boat captain. I love how like-minded people are so passionate about the outdoors. I listened as he talked about reduced catch limits, his own interaction with government about fishing-related topics, and the need for action on everyone's part to ensure future generations are enjoying what we enjoy today, sound familiar? His cod fishing issues sounded a lot like our own freshwater fishing issues here in Alberta. We compared notes about the challenges and successes we'd seen, many of which sounded very much the same. It reinforced how we can literally be across the country from each other and still work toward similar goals. It makes me think of the importance


of something like our new National Fishing and Hunting Collaborative, made up of 12 fishing and hunting organizations from across Canada. This Coalition will have a huge voice to government to bring our concerns and ideas to the fore-front it's great for the AFGA to play a part.

Conference 2020 is right around the corner, have you registered to attend? Your clubs will soon be seeing the list of resolutions which will be presented this year. I attended the Zone 2 and Zone 5 fall meetings, and if the resolutions discussed there are any indication, we should have some good ones. Take the time to review them at the club level so your attending delegates can come prepared to take part in the discussions. As previously reported, this conference will have some new AFGA policy updates, some interesting guest speakers and a lot more news for members. The AFGA, the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association along with the organizing committee have done a lot of work putting it together. It will be a good time had by all.

Speaking of my slow cooker of venison stew, how was your hunting season? I hope everyone had some success. Have you got enough to share? I think a big part of promoting what we do as hunters and anglers is in sharing our harvest with those who haven't experienced game or can no longer participate. There are so many ways to do this. On a small scale you can invite people over for a meal which features an item from your harvest. You can send small care packages of wild game to friends or family who don't hunt. A pound or two of burger can easily be made into a chili, meat sauce or taco filling, even by someone who has never cooked game before. And there's nothing like a few strips of venison jerky shared around the office to bring the discussion around

to why hunting is so enjoyable. Of course, on a larger scale there are a number of wild game banquets being held around the province. Consider contributing to these if you can. The Lethbridge Fish and Game Association had a well-deserved reputation for a wide variety of first-class dishes at their annual banquet. I really enjoyed going with our non-hunting friends. It was an annual chance to hear them "ooh and ahh" about just how good venison, bear, pheasant and even cougar could taste when professionally prepared. I now enjoy the same at the Sarcee, Calgary and other events. Even our local Okotoks club has some great 'potluck home chefs'. Of course, these events need donations, so give if you can.

I don't know about you, but I think the year 2020 has a nice ring to it. Maybe it's that 20/20 vision we hear so much about? Anyway, let's do what we can to make it a great year. Let's keep the membership progress going. Continue to support the provincial and local fundraising and raffles as much as you can. This organization does a lot of great work, and we need the resources to make that happen. Promote your local club and help it to grow. Attend your meetings to learn about issues and events and share your ideas. Look for ways to bring new anglers and hunters into the fold. Most of all, be proud of your enjoyment of the outdoors. Whether it's your role in sustainable harvest or your participation in and contribution to habitat conservation, let others know what you do. Be like that cod fisherman in PEI. Stay passionate and involved.

I wish you all the best in the New Year. I'll see many of you at Conference. And, don't forget to give back to the resource whenever you can. 

**Matt Zazula,**  
**2nd Vice President**  
**[mattzazula.afga@gmail.com](mailto:mattzazula.afga@gmail.com)**



# Fishing Chair Report



**DARRYL SMITH**  
**FISHING CHAIR**

AFGA Fish Measuring Board aids in taking photographs.

## WAITING FOR CHANGE TO OCCUR!

Nothing concrete to report related to visible signs of change, so I decided to bring up a number of topics and updates.

The Alberta budget was released in late October. Depending on which side of the political fence one sits, I expect there will be varying opinions. Personally, I would rather talk about the overall direction where I see several themes the AFGA has brought to government identified in Environment and Parks Business Plan 2019-23. <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/503f5c97-1fc9-4d72-b1ab-f32eafd9dd7f/resource/63048e20-49bb-4b36-affb-c69d86de3f86/download/environment-and-parks.pdf>.

In the coming months, we will see exactly how these commitments roll out. The following are some of the highlights but urge everyone to read the business plan in its entirety:

1. Collaborative and integrated regional and sub-regional land use planning and implementation effectively balances environmental, economic and social concerns.
2. In 2019-20, \$1.3 million is allocated to Cows and Fish (Alberta Riparian

Habitat Management Society), a nonprofit society striving to foster a better understanding of how improvements in grazing and other management of riparian areas can enhance landscape health and productivity for the benefit of landowners, agricultural producers, communities and others who use and value riparian areas.

3. Provincial policy encourages and increases the use of development credits and conservation offsets.
  4. In 2019-20, \$4.0 million is allocated to the Wetland Restoration Program to enable the Government of Alberta to collect wetland replacement fees and expend them on wetland restoration projects in priority areas.
  5. Improve recreational access management through effective public lands management, introducing an Alberta Trails Act and establishing a trail fee to restore and create trails.
  6. Engagement and consultations with stakeholders and the public maintains or improves operations and visitor enjoyment of Alberta Parks and public lands.
  7. In 2019-20, \$13.9 million is allocated to the Fish Culture Program. This program raises fish in hatcheries to support Alberta's sports fishing industry and to meet numerous conservation goals including:
    - a. re-establishing fish where populations have collapsed;
    - b. establishing new populations in suitable lakes;
    - c. providing trout fishing in areas where few other angling opportunities exist;
    - d. providing diversity in angling experiences.
    - f. The budget allocation includes infrastructure improvements to the Allison Creek Fish Hatchery and Raven Brood Station.
- What is interesting are the performance measures that have been identified. For example, the business plan indicates that currently

14.7 percent (2018-19) of Alberta is recognized as protected and conserved. The target for 2020-21 moves to 17 percent which means significant additional land will need to be added to the protected classifications. There is a performance measure related to sportfishing licence sales in Alberta. The last actual performance measure was 6.18 per cent (2018-19) based on Alberta's population. 2019-20 sales are expected to be lower again; this was the indication from Fish and Wildlife as conveyed during meetings this fall with the AFGA, the target going forward is 7 percent. Considering Alberta continues to show real growth in population, this is not a stagnant number. This means there must be immediate major increases in angler numbers and ongoing recruitment. This highlights the need for Fish and Wildlife to change its priorities and direction as such a performance measure is not realizable under the current paradigm!

Overall it appears that actual spending by Fish and Wildlife will decrease by about 4 million dollars or 10.4 percent from its 2018-19 reported level. However, estimated spending for this year (2019-20) shows that current expenditures will remain level or increase slightly though 2023. I tried to get an answer for the difference between 2018-19 and this fiscal year but was unable to before the deadline for this publication. This does not include capital investment which shows that spending will range from 7 to 16 million dollars depending on the year.

As reported in the Canada Gazette, [http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-08-21/pdf/g2-15317.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3euxr7aaf1GWRq\\_GapM8CjqAT6bfLMzMXJj4\\_SPI6-GegPP72en3VjqzI](http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2019/2019-08-21/pdf/g2-15317.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3euxr7aaf1GWRq_GapM8CjqAT6bfLMzMXJj4_SPI6-GegPP72en3VjqzI) Bull Trout (Saskatchewan/Nelson Rivers population) have now been listed as threatened. Bull Trout (Western Arctic) as special concern and Rainbow trout (Athabasca River population) as endangered under SARA. The



implications of these listings will be widespread. SARA criteria, process, and management actions do not necessarily recognize reality and balance. Like woodland caribou, there are no simple fixes to a problem that is tied to a wide range of cumulative effects occurring across the landscape. Fisheries managers must become innovative and not rely on the elimination of the angler as the “default” management action. While the DFO website is up to date <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/identify-eng.html>, Environment Canada does not show the changes <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html>.


I want to thank Mike Duszynski, AFGA Zone 2 Fish Chair who has been our lead on Bow Basin Water Management and fisheries issues related to the Bow River. The first online consultations and public information

sessions are now over but I expect this will be a hot topic in the years to come. At this stage the discussion has focused on dams upstream of Calgary <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/bow-basin>.

Have you caught a large fish recently? Remember that the AFGA is the official record keeper of fish, bird and big game records in Alberta. Find out how to enter by going to <https://www.afga.org/wildlife-awards-score-sheets/>. Many AFGA clubs have associated measuring days and programs. Thanks to Jim Clarke, there is a new product available on the AFGA website store that helps to obtain the pictures necessary to verify and enter your catch. Remember that fish records are now based on overall length of a fish, not weight. This is a common practice with other record keeping organizations as the reality is catch and release is regulated or an ethical choice for anglers of large fish. Getting the required pictures can

be difficult. I experimented with the AFGA measuring board this fall using an iPhone on a variety of fish species. Its design as a shallow trough appears to calm the fish making it easier to get the required photograph. This greatly reduces handling time which is critical for successful live release. You can even customize the board with a permanent marker to help visualize lengths <https://www.afga.org/product-category/measuring-supplies/>.

I hope that over the coming months my initial optimism will come to fruition, that the United Conservative (UCP) government will address issues and themes identified by AFGA.

In the next Outdoor Canada West and at the AFGA 91st Annual Conference from February 20-22, 2020, it would be a welcome change if a new direction that begins to use all the tools available can be highlighted for fisheries management in Alberta. 

## Hunting Chair Report

**I'M SITTING HERE** putting this article submission together as all the trick or treaters keep coming to the door and getting their treats and I'm realizing that we are nearing the end of this year's hunting seasons. Sheep seasons are closing Wainwright will be ramping up soon as well as most of the 100 & 200 series WMU seasons. We then have the select special licences happening in December and into January. I have heard of and seen many photos of some great animals so far and I'm sure there will be many more. With the early snows we had, many animals moved early and became more accessible and as such, harvest is up. Good luck to those who are still waiting for your season to get going.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone again to keep track of your effort - the days you went out hunting, zones you were in, species you were pursuing etc. and remember to report all the applicable information at the end of the season. Remember, it's just as important to report that you

spent x number of days in the field even if no harvest was the result. If this information is not sent in, you will be paying more for your hunting opportunities in 2020.


As reported in the last issue, licencing is under review and just recently the Alberta Relm App has been launched. Check it out and see if it works for you. You will need a version 11.0 or better to run the program as a heads up but you will now be able to “store” your licenses on your mobile devices on this format.

In the last issue, I reported that the last public forum for public review into plans from Alberta Environment and Parks will be on “AE&P Talks”. That should have been stated as “Talk AEP”... Check it out on a frequent basis and submit your input before programs are set in stone and enacted.

So far this fall, I attended Zones 1, 5 and 2 fall meetings. It was great to catch up with many of you there and hopefully all in attendance appreciated the updates that I provided. While I was not able to attend Zones 3 & 4, I

did pass on reports to be presented at each of them and hopefully there was some value in that. Meetings yet to come (hopefully after hunting season) include the annual post-hunt meeting with AEP and the executive as well as the Zone Hunting chairs; AGPAC meeting is scheduled for later this year and the Alberta Fish and Game executive December meeting, just to name a few. Also, as per direction coming out of AEP, there should be a multitude of post-hunting meetings happening with your regional big game biologists. If not, ask for one as they have been given a directive to start them up again. Let me know if you're having issues to that end and I'll see if I can get some support for it to happen.

Lastly, as we wrap up many different types of hunting seasons - bow, crossbow, muzzleloader, shotgun and rifle seasons...

Let me pass on a quote from Fred Bear: “If you are not working to protect hunting, then you are working to destroy it”. 

**JIM CLARKE**

**HUNTING CHAIR**



# Environment Chair Report

**VICTOR BENZ**

**ENVIRONMENT CHAIR**



## CLIMATE CHANGE

The over-the-top rhetoric and hyperbole, containing half-truths and many myths, of our recent election campaign, the US election campaign and worldwide protests has made it very difficult to understand this complex issue. I propose to restrict this article to the facts of this topic as I have researched and know them, without taking that next step and interpreting them for you.

The world is warming. Starting about 1940, global temperature change began to deviate from the 1850-1900 average beyond what could be predicted by natural factors alone. Today we are an average of 0.75 °C above that 1850-1900 average. Parts of the world are much warmer. The Arctic is some 2.5 °C above the 1951-1980 average. When this trend was first reported in 1965, many possible factors and combinations of those factors were viewed as responsible. Today, the greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the

only explanation left standing. All models in use today clearly show that the effect of increased emissions is not immediate. There is a significant time lag between an increase in emissions and an increase in global temperature.

CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere is increasing. Atmospheric gases that permit the passage of white light but absorb infrared radiation were discovered in the 19th century. CO<sub>2</sub> is the most prevalent. Over the last 400,000 years up until recently, CO<sub>2</sub> concentration has ranged between 50-300 parts per million (ppm), determined through ice core analysis. Although commonly attributed to the start of the Industrial Revolution in the mid-18th century, only since 1950 has the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration risen beyond historical maximum to over 400 ppm. Through to the 1980s, the contribution of industry to this increase was unclear. Now world industry is accepted as the primary source. This is not to say that there are not other factors; those factors are just not as significant.

In 2017, total world CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were 36.1 gigatonnes (Gt). Over 66% of these CO<sub>2</sub> emissions came from, in order, China (9.8 Gt), United States (5.3 Gt), European Union states (3.5 Gt), India (2.5 Gt), Russian Federation (1.7 Gt) and Japan (1.2 Gt).

In 2017, Canada contributed 0.6 Gt, or 1.6% of the world carbon dioxide emissions. Even if Canada magically reduced these emissions to zero, the impact would be negligible without

significant action taken by the majority of other emitter states.

Climate change does not mean the end of the world. Climate has been changing since the beginning and will continue to do so. What is different now is that this current trend can only be fully explained through the activities of mankind. Unchecked, climate change will disrupt life the world over.


Finally, it is important to note only a few of the other elements of human progress that mirror that CO<sub>2</sub> concentration curve.

World life expectancy has increased from about 30 in 1750 to 72 in 2017. This improvement is even greater in industrialized areas. Most of this improvement is from the benefits delivered by the Industrial Revolution.

World population has increased from about 790 million in 1750 to over 7 billion today. This increase reflects the benefits of industrialization and our ability to feed more people.

Education of the world's citizens has increased as demand for educated workers has risen.

What these measures show is that there have been very significant, concrete benefits to industrialization. The science that brought us the industrial revolution is the same science that identified its contribution to climate change. It is the same science that can lead the way forward.

It is time to set our differences to the side, and globally pull together and address the harm being created by that industrialization. 



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# Zone 1 Report

# Youth Chair Report



**GLENN HEATHER**  
**ZONE 1 DIRECTOR**

**ANTICIPATION AND PLANNING** for the 2020 Conference is a major topic. Zone 1 clubs have been choosing their delegates and I hope all have met the early registration deadline. The September Zone 1 meeting held September 22 in Lethbridge had good attendance with 7 out of the 18, Zone 1 clubs in attendance. Thank you all for attending and sharing your clubs efforts.

A big thank you for Brian and Jim to be in attendance as well, sharing their knowledge of the major happenings within AFGA and our new government.

CWD within Zone 1 is the topic that our hunters are concerned about. I am anticipating a management plan, which is to be implemented. Details of this management plan have not been shared to this point, however, I am told there will be one. Deer populations again are high, anticipating good harvestings from our fall hunting season.

The submission of deer heads for CWD is imperative for statistic trending combined with the new mandatory hunter harvest, will hopefully set the direction for the future harvests to minimize the spread of CWD.

On December 7 the AFGA Executive and Zone Directors will be holding their annual December meeting. This meeting is to discuss AFGA focus items and review the AFGA club resolutions in preparation for Conference.


Hope your hunting season was successful.

See you at Conference. 

**TERI-LYNN NICE**  
**YOUTH CHAIR**

### ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!

It is almost time for the AFGA conference again! I want to encourage as many of you as I can to register. We are having many activities for the youth for that weekend, such as Strathcona Wilderness Centre, Geocaching, Telus World of Science, Taekwondo Self-defense class, Archery or Shooting at the range, Sun Ridge Ski Hill/Tubing, as well as your participation in the resolutions and much more...

Just a note for next year: Fort Saskatchewan, Lamont and Mundare Fish & Game clubs joined in on the Andrew Young 48th Annual Trap Shoot at Mundare range on September 7th with 15 youth in attendance. Come out next year and participate, it is a very exciting shoot and it's an awesome opportunity to learn. 



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Alberta Fish & Game Association

# Zone 2 Report

**DEB CLARKE**

**ZONE 2 DIRECTOR**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** One of your 2020 resolutions should be to spend more time enjoying the outdoors.

Our fall Zone 2 meeting was held October 20, 2019 at the Wheatland Conservation & Wildlife Association club house. Thank you to the club for hosting and providing lunch. We were very fortunate to have the following provincial executive in attendance: AFGA President, AFGA EVP, new AFGA Executive Director, AFGA 1st Vice, AFGA 2nd Vice, AFGA Hunting Chair, AFGA Environment Chair, and the AFGA Programs Chair. I would be remiss if I did not say "Thank You" again to everyone for taking time out from their busy schedules and attending. Association status updates, questions and concerns were discussed and club activities presented. A few club resolutions were brought forward and submitted to the AFGA for the annual conference. We are still in desperate need of a Zone Secretary!

It was good to hear that a few fish and game club members participated on the Pronghorn Fencing projects this past summer and that some clubs also accepted the building fund challenge and donated \$4-\$5 per member to the AFGA to help pay off the mortgage.

Need some additional project funding? Visit the ACA site and download the appropriate ACA Conservation, Community and Education Grants application form at <http://www.ab-conservation.com/grants/aca-conservation-community-and-education-grants/>. Applications are only accepted between January 1-24, 2020. Please ensure that all sections of the application are fully completed.

If you have a good conservation project apply for funding from the Minister's Special Licence Grants which are administered by the AFGA and a program advisory committee. 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. The grant application is available on the AFGA website and the deadline is the end of January 2020.

Cabela's Canada Outdoor Fund - Grants are processed in March and September each year and there could be opportunities for zones and clubs to obtain project funding for a variety of requirements. Information is available at <https://www.cabelas.ca/pages/outdoorfund>. If you need assistance or have questions do not hesitate to contact Cabela's for clarifications.

Deadline for fish and wildlife entry form (and photos) submission to the AFGA for the annual provincial awards is February 28th each year. You can obtain the forms by visiting the AFGA website or contacting Head Office. All areas on the forms must be filled in and completed correctly (i.e., where taken, full name, address and phone number of entrant, contact info of the official measurer, etc.) or the entry will be disqualified.

The most current AFGA Year in Review & Wildlife Trust Fund Video for showing at club meetings/ events, sending to family/friends, using for fundraising, etc. can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OQz5B6aQLc>. Head office can provide a USB flash drive copy, if required.


CWD information summarizing the results from 2018 and 2019 info can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-updates.aspx>. On this site you will also find a link related to Information for Hunters.

If you haven't already registered for the 91st Annual AFGA Conference or booked your hotel room, don't delay any longer. The registration package can be found on [www.afga.org](http://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 please refer to the registration package for more details or contact the AFGA head office at [office@afga.org](mailto:office@afga.org).

Support and attend upcoming 2020 fish and game club measuring nights and banquets. Remember your club and/or others may need meat and/or fish donations for upcoming banquets. Search club websites and Facebook pages to find details regarding dates/times or contact me for info.

The next Zone 2 meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 10:00 am. A location was not secured yet when writing this report.

Wishing you all the best in 2020! See you at the 91st annual AFGA conference. [deb.clarke@telus.net](mailto:deb.clarke@telus.net) 

**DID U KNOW:** *The Sarcee Fish & Game Association was formed in 1956 by members of the Canadian Army serving at the Sarcee military base in Calgary. Early club membership numbered about 125. However, in the early 1970s, the club opened its membership to include civilians, and numbers increased considerably. (Conservation Pride and Passion, AFGA 1908-2008 History Book)*



Alberta Fish & Game Association

# Zone 4 Report

**FARAN SCHABER**  
**ZONE 4 DIRECTOR**

**HERE IT IS,** November 4th already as I write this. It seems like the harvest has gone on forever. I started at the end of August and I am still not done, global warming would have been great for all of Alberta this year. The outlook...Maybe it will be better next year.

I have not had any correspondence with regards to TEK Coal, since the trails committee meeting was cancelled in June. There was correspondence with the office after a letter was sent to them about the closure of trails however, they did reply saying that there would be

access for hunting.


At our zone meeting in October, we had a good representation of the clubs in the zone. There were only 3 clubs absent, and we would like to thank Ian Stuart – 1st Vice President, Martin Sharren – Executive Vice President, Victor Benz – Environment Chair and Delinda Ryerson – NEW Executive Director for the AFGA, for the great representation at the Zone 3 meeting.

There were a lot of topics up for discussion during the meeting and the discussion on CWD was lively, with some

good information coming forward. There were six resolutions brought forward as well, five of which passed and one that was defeated. However there was one that was withdrawn after the meeting.

It was decided at the AFGA Executive meeting in August that Zone 4 would take over representation of the clubs in Zone 6 until a replacement can be found, as Peter Blake has decided to step down as Zone Director.

I hope everyone had a good and successful hunting season!

See you all at Conference. 



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Alberta Fish & Game Association

# Zone 5 Report

**ROBYN BUTLER**

**ZONE 5 DIRECTOR**



all these registrations as each and every club should be encouraging women to attend this camp as it is also a great experience.

Conference is fast approaching and I urge each club to be represented by sending delegates. I always look forward to conference, I find it very informative, educational and a great time to meet up again with all the clubs and re-acquaint with friends. Thank you to the AFGA, the Sherwood Park club, and all the volunteers for hosting this conference. It is a very busy and demanding event, so take the time to let them know you appreciate what they have done for you. There will be many resolutions passed or defeated at the AGM, this is our voice, so don't be discouraged if one doesn't go your way, just keep your head up and keep fighting for our rights. Let's also continue writing resolutions, it is our voice that counts in the end.

By standing united we have built an organization you can all be proud of, this Association has a bright future for you, your grandchildren and their children to come. Renew your membership and persuade some of your friends to join; getting involved with your club is also a good idea. Many hands make the work load much lighter and it can be very enjoyable.

I hope you had a great fall and your experiences in the outdoors were enjoyable and safe. I also hope you helped get some youth involved in conservation in some manner.

We have installed some new docks on our Lamont trout pond (with much help from the Alberta Conservation Association) and as you can see from the picture, our youth are definitely getting out there!

I hope your festive season is heart-warming and 2020 is another banner year. 🐦

**ANOTHER YEAR HAS** flown by and we are embarking on a new year of challenges, commitments and adventures to ensure what you, the membership of AFGA hope to achieve in the future.

I know the AFGA executive and staff are always busy working to ensure a better future for tomorrow, so a huge thank-you to them for their efforts.

The time, commitment and passion the Zone 5 Executive display is unbelievable. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the drive and desire you have shown. Mundare and Willingdon Clubs hosted our 2019 meetings and thank-you to them for doing so. Both were well attended, many topics were discussed and we brought forward many resolutions.

A special thanks to the AFGA executive that attended and it was especially great to see our new Executive Director, Delinda Ryerson introduced to our zone. The Alberta Fish and Game executive gave great updates and

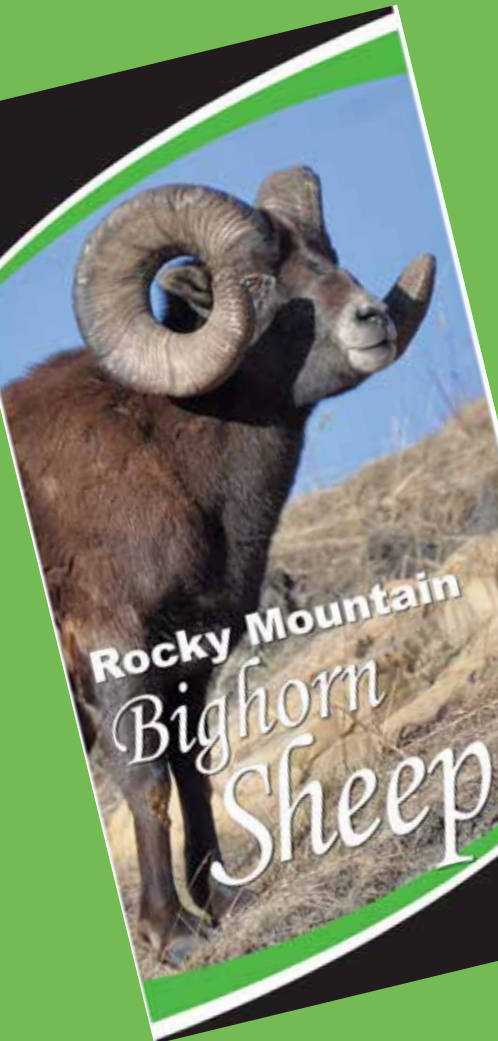
provided much appreciated information. Open communication was stressed, so please clubs, keep us and the head office informed of any issues. Our next Zone meeting will be in April and hosted by the Innisfree Fish and Game club.

Thank you to all the Zone 5 clubs that sold Narrow Lake Conservation Centre raffle tickets, you came through and we sure did our part in the fundraising for the centre.

A special thanks to all for your continued support for me as your Zone 5 Director. I will continue to work hard to meet your expectations. It's also great to see some new faces on board and special thanks to those who have served their terms.

Be ready to register for the 2020 summer youth camps, spots will fill up quickly and all who attended previously rave about the great camp experiences they had. The "BOW" camp registrations will also be opening soon and it would be great to see more women attend. Keep an eye on the AFGA website for

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