



NEWS FROM ALBERTA

President's Report

Brian Dingreville

President

As 2020 comes to an end and my position as President nears completion, I firstly want to wish each and every one a happy and prosperous New Year.

I have looked back over the past two years wondering how many others in their term as President have encountered as much turmoil as I have seen with AFGA! That being said, I have to say I have had the opportunity to work with an incredible Executive as well as Past Presidents who have been there for me with their wisdom from the get-go. Over the past two years we have seen the replacement of our Executive Director! The reduction of staff from five to two! The complete overhaul of the membership program and fees! A financial plan and budget which will take us forward for years to come! The creation of five committees which is compiled of you the membership, life members and Past Presidents as well as many of the Executive! Executive meetings have gone from lengthy travel to Zoom meetings which seem to be working very well!



Sadly, much of which brings us together was taken away because of the COVID pandemic! This past year, with the assistance of TJ and Dean, we were able to compile an excellent video promoting all winners and their sponsors involved in the Provincial Wildlife Awards as well as a special tribute to Jack Graham by a few of his many friends of AFGA!

There have been many frustrations over this past year by the membership because of the lack of the involvement by the Executive at zone and club meetings which could not be helped; hopefully in the coming year that will

slowly get back to normality and we can again be involved with you on a face-to-face basis!

Over the past several months there has been a tremendous amount of work done with the new management plans for the Castle, Livingstone Porcupine Hills, Beaver Creek and Bob Creek areas. I cannot begin to thank Bob Weir, Wade Aebli and John MacGarva for all the hard work they have contributed to submitting and the numerous proofing of our positions. By the time you read this, hopefully

we will have a clear direction on how things will look in the future for these areas!

As I look back over the past 35 plus years of my involvement with firstly the Lethbridge Fish and Game Club, it has been a journey I will cherish for the rest of my life. I have met many of you in person either through conferences, club or zone meetings, or special functions. I thank you and hopefully you will have felt this past six years of my involvement with the Senior Executive has provided AFGA with lasting memories.

Happy Trails. 

MOVING?

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

Ph: (780) 437-2342 Email: membership@afga.org

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



Past President's Report

Doug Butler

Past President

Old normal, now normal, new normal, who knows what this really is, but I do know that it is my time to go. Our AGM and conference should have just taken place, and with a new President due to take charge, my term on the Provincial Executive will end.

I joined the AFGA in 1976, became involved in provincial matters in the mid 90s, attended 25 consecutive AGMs and conferences and have now been on the Provincial Executive for almost 14 years. I have completely enjoyed (almost) every minute of it but realize it's time for fresh blood to take my place.

The new future is a reality, and we must be prepared to go there. We presently have several committees on different topics working on this now. Many great things for the outdoorspeople have occurred during my time, much too plentiful to list. The movement towards youth and family involvement has been one of the biggest gains.

Working with so many dedicated volunteers over the years has been very rewarding and inspiring. The friendships I've made due to this organization have been life changing. I've had the opportunity to attend so many functions, projects and events all over this great province, that I can't name them all, but I do thank you for the many invites I received. I can't name all the Past Presidents and Executive members that have helped me over the years (in fear of missing some) but I must thank Maurice Nadeau and Randy Collins for convincing me to give the Hunting Chair a try, way back in 2007.

I'm also very proud of many of the accomplishments I've been involved in. I've sat on several AGM commit-



tees, a couple of Alberta Record Book committees, numerous wildlife and fisheries committees, many work-bees, programs and projects, and I did like to sometimes make it a full-time job. I manned many hours in trade show booths in many locations. I am a big believer in promotion and communication and never shied away from the media or any requests to speak. I spoke at many Fish and Game events and banquets over the years as well as at other conservation organization events and got to know many of those involved personally. These associations include the Alberta Trappers, Alberta Bow Hunters, Wild Sheep, Alberta Conservation Association, Safari Club International, and more (we're all in this together).


Our youth camps and our outdoor women's camps are top notch and I always enjoyed volunteering at these. Narrow Lake facilities are a real gem and I have a soft spot here. I'm also certified for Hunter Education, Range Safety Officer and Boone & Crockett scoring and always enjoyed either teaching or scoring at these. Another thing I'm proud of is that I have not missed a single report in this magazine during my time and

only missed one Executive meeting and that was due to other commitments.

Our Wildlife Trust Fund is a very key focal point and I do hope to remain on this Board of Directors. We're conserving for our future here.

It's all been so very rewarding for me, and from attending trophy nights from Rocky Mountain House to Bonnyville, speaking at the Alberta Trappers Rendezvous in Westlock, to speaking at Innisfail's banquet, and many points in between, I've truly enjoyed it all. I thank you all for the support you've shown me over the years; it's been overwhelming. Please keep up all your outstanding conservation work.

Working with our ever-changing governments has been challenging, but well worth it over the years. In the Fish and Wildlife departments, I go back to the Ken Ambrock, Bruce Treichel and Ron Bjorge years, then Jim Allan and a long list, and the present department under Travis Ripley. These are all people who do care, and I can assure you they hear us all the time and listen most of the time. We had a great meeting with this Fish and Wildlife department just recently, but I'll let the other Senior Executive reports fill you in on these present happenings.

In closing, I have to thank my wife Robyn for all the support she's given me during this career. It's been a team effort and she's put a lot into it as well. Once this pandemic quiets down, I hope to remain actively involved with my local club, possibly remain on a few committees provincially, but will leave most provincial matters to the Executive and the upcoming volunteers of the Alberta Fish and Game Association. Thanks again to you all, and remember always, Straight Shooting & Tight Lines. - 



Top 10 reasons everyone should be a Fish and Game Member

Have you renewed your membership with Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) yet? If not, what are you waiting for?

Delinda Ryerson

Executive Director

#1

As a member of the AFGA, you are part of a proud, 112-year history of conservation in Alberta. The organization was created in 1908, with the first conference being held in 1929, and the AFGA was incorporated as a registered society in Alberta in 1946. It has been 42 years since the AFGA commissioned Margaret Lewis to write *To Conserve a Heritage*. As Margaret stated it in the introduction of this pivotal book, "It is sad but true that many people cannot rationalize hunting with the conservation ethic. Maybe it's because the majority of the population has been away from nature too long and has forgotten the ancestral laws of balance, predation and the sacrifice of the few for the benefit of all. But the sportsmen haven't forgotten and, in Alberta, were the province's first conservationists". The AFGA's membership has grown to 25,000. There is no other conservation organization in Alberta that can even come close to our history or membership.

#2

In addition to being one of the first organizations to do something beneficial about the dramatic declines in big game, waterfowl and fish populations, the AFGA had the foresight to recognize that the habitat of these game species was rapidly disappearing and responded by creating the province's first land trust. Today, almost 40 years later, the AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund Program has conserved



50,000 acres of critical habitat for game and non-game species.

#3

As an AFGA member you are a part of the voice of hunters and anglers in Alberta, as we advocate for conservation and appropriate stewardship and management of our precious fish and wildlife resources, and the habitats upon which they depend.

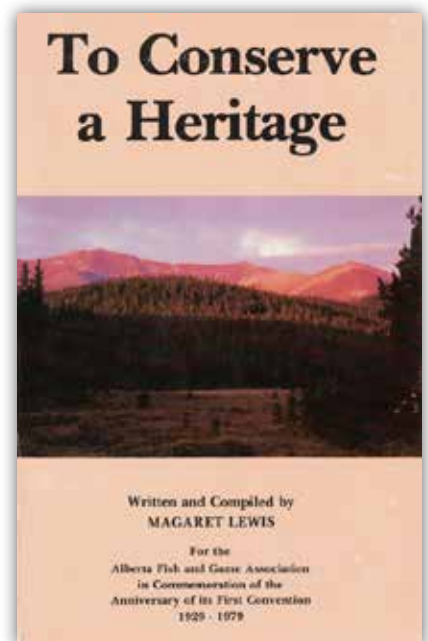
#4

You are part of an organization that not only advocates for conservation, but that actually gets boots on the ground and makes conservation happen on the landscape. Our Pronghorn Corridor Enhancement Program is a great example of this, as an eager team of volunteers work very hard in the southern Alberta, summer heat every year, to replace traditional barbed wire fencing with pronghorn-friendly fencing to get the hazardous, pronghorn barriers off of their habitat. Additionally, our volunteer Land Stewards survey and report back on

many of our Wildlife Trust Fund Properties to ensure that any habitat restoration work that should be undertaken is documented and planned.

#5

In addition to assisting with our on the ground conservation work, as an AFGA member, you can leave your mark in conservation by serving as a Director on our Board/Provincial Executive, on one of our newly struck committees or by developing a resolution, that can go through our resolution process. For more information on how you can run for a seat on our Board of Directors/Provincial Executive, join a committee or submit a resolution, please contact office@afga.org.



#6

You are an integral part of a community of conservationists, ethical hunters, anglers, responsible firearm owners, and other outdoor enthusiasts from across the province. The AFGA continues to be a group of people that relish in being advocates for conservation, swapping fish tales, hunting adventure stories, and wild caught game recipes. We miss being able to enjoy each other's company in person at fundraising events, trophy competitions and habitat restoration initiatives, but we are an adaptable and resilient lot, and refuse to let the pandemic stop us from meeting; so now we enjoy each other's company virtually, and look forward to meeting in person again, as soon as that becomes possible!

#7

The AFGA is the official keeper of big game, fish and bird records in the province and four Alberta Wildlife Records books have been produced over the years. Order your fourth edition (1963-2018) book today from our website at: <https://www.afga.org/alberta-fish-game-association-wildlife-records-book/or> contacting us at office@afga.org.

#8

Some of our members have told us that every outdoor enthusiast should be an AFGA member for our comprehensive and inexpensive insurance coverage alone! As part of your AFGA affiliated club membership, each member 11 years of age and over, is automatically covered for Personal Excess Liability insurance to \$5,000,000 during nature/outdoors or club related activities in Canada, which include hunting, fishing, hik-



ing, bow hunting, bird watching, non-commercial trapping, habitat conservation and target shooting, and \$500,000 in the United States. Additionally, each member is automatically

covered for Accidental Death and Dismemberment as well as Search and Rescue expenses to \$25,000 for a nationally or provincially recognized search and rescue effort organized to find the insured.

The AFGA also has exceedingly good rates for clubs on Management and Corporation Liability insurance (formerly known as Directors and Officers coverage) to \$2,000,000, which involves, "any person, or persons who were, now are, or shall be directors, officers, trustees, volunteers, employees or members of any duly constituted committee. The Tenants Legal Liability (\$5,000,000), Non-Owned Automobile Liability (\$5,000,000), Prairie and/or For-

est Fire Fighting Expense Coverage (\$2,000,000) are all part of the Club's Management and Corporation Liability coverage. An AFGA affiliated club can also purchase competitively priced Range Liability insurance (\$5,000,000) for their shooting and archery ranges.

#9

Members receive six issues of Outdoor Canada West magazines, with 16 pages of 'News from Alberta' annually. The regular newsstand price for this magazine, without the Alberta information in it is \$7.99, so you basically get your membership's worth in Outdoor Canada West magazines alone!

#10

AFGA members receive a 10% discount at Mark's, and we continue to approach other retailers, restaurants and hotels for a partnership arrangement and discounts for our members.

Renew your club or direct membership today! 🐦



Alberta Fish and Game Association

Your voice in conservation since 1908

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Knowledge that you are supporting the largest conservation organization in Alberta

Being part of the acquisition and protection of over 50,000 acres of our Wildlife Trust Fund properties; available for hunting, angling and outdoor pursuits

Opportunity to participate in youth and women's camps in Alberta

Opportunity to participate on numerous conservation projects, such as Volunteer Land Stewardship or Pronghorn Corridor Enhancement

\$5,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment benefit while participating in hunting, fishing, trapping or authorized AFGA club activities

\$5,000,000 personal excess liability insurance

Discounts on the purchase of personal insurance through BrokerLink (1-888-826-9427)

Yearly subscription to *Outdoor Canada West* magazine (regular newsstand price \$7.99 per issue, 6 issues per year)

10% discount on Marks merchandise





1st Vice-President's Report

Ian Stuart

1st Vice-President



2020 is certainly a year we will all remember for the losses, disruption and challenges we were all faced with individually and as an organization. With all that has occurred in the last several months, the situation AFGA was in one year ago, before the pandemic struck in earnest, is almost easy to forget. The year started out chaotically due to disrupted plans for a smooth turnover to our new Executive Director, and all the financial and other inadequacies that were subsequently revealed. The pandemic continues to affect everyone and every organization to various degrees, but in spite of that, there are still many positives in the AFGA community to reflect back on and look to the future with cautious optimism. We now have a path forward, thanks to the hard work of the Financial Planning Committee, our remaining staff, and the support of our membership.

The value of having a significantly large and respected organization such as AFGA, consistently advocating for

fish and wildlife and the habitat they depend on, was affirmed by a significant amount of improved opportunity in both fisheries and wildlife regulations this year, and investments in fish hatcheries by the Government of Alberta are encouraging. While individual and club influence will always remain important, collectively we have more influence than is possible for any of us individually or as a club, and where AFGA has common ground with other conservation organizations, the impact is even greater.

As others reported in the January/February issue of *Outdoor Canada West*, participation in outdoor activities appears to have been increased by the pandemic. Obviously, that is dreadful from the perspective of anyone who found themselves with time on their hands due to loss of vocation, but positive from the perspective that many opportunities to participate still exist. As AFGA members, we can be proud of our past and ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance such opportunities. This will never be easy with ever growing human populations and

the demand that places on ecosystems, so retaining current members, re-engaging lapsed members, and attracting diverse new members will remain critical. There is strength in numbers, and we cannot sit back and rest on past accomplishments.

The five committees now tasked with moving the AFGA forward have started to meet as of this writing, and I am pleased to serve on the Governance Committee chaired by Victor Benz, whose capability and dedication is well evident from his work as our Environment Chair. There will be a lot of overlap between these committees, opportunity to advance member input on all of them, and a lot of hard work ahead, but with the support our membership has shown, we have the opportunity to re-focus the AFGA to be more effective in meeting the challenges discussed earlier for the common good of the outdoor community.

Being forced to make more use of online communications has some positives, as it has enabled shorter, more frequent, and in some cases more focused Executive meetings, and certainly has reduced travel time, risk, and cost. Some Club and Zone level business is being conducted that way, with more likely to follow, which brings with it the opportunity to engage more people. Physical events will have to adapt or wait, but some clubs are already finding ways to adapt positively.

I hope everyone found a way to enjoy a modified holiday season this year. With no gatherings planned, I found myself with a bit more time than usual to prepare some treats of wild harvested protein to share when it is possible to meet with people again, or hand over from a distance. Maple moose jerky ready for the smoker is pictured - the end product disappears quickly when a package is opened!

Yours in support of the wise use of the earth's resources. 🐦



2nd Vice-President's Report

Matt Zazula

2nd Vice-president

As I write this report in early January, we're just coming out of the Covid restrictions that forced us all to stay at home, no visitors, and most of the things we all love to do with family and friends were put on hold. It's really been a tough time for everyone. I hope the roll-out of vaccines will have resulted in a big loosening of restrictions by the time you are reading this.

Of course, Covid has resulted in new ways of doing business, as we all know. Few of us had heard of things like Zoom meetings, Google classroom or any other kind of 'virtual meeting' this time last year. Today these are a big part of our life. They have also been a big part of the AFGA Executive life as well. Your Executive has continued meetings with Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) on many issues, including our semi-annual hunting and fishing meetings as well as meetings on sustainable public land use, back country access and many others. Clubs have held their annual general meetings via computer, with success. We've managed to make do and keep some things rolling. One thing that jumps to mind was the Wildlife Awards for 2019. We weren't able to hold the Awards Banquet in April 2020 but thanks to the hard work of AFGA staff and volunteers and the generous donations from Life Members, a video was created and posted. The video not only recognizes the achievements of hunters and anglers from the 2019 season, it also contains a nice tribute to Jack Graham. The video is about 45 minutes long, and the time goes by very quickly. I think it's a great piece of work, and want to thank Dean Brom-



berger and T.J. Schwanky for their efforts. If you haven't seen it yet, go the AFGA web page, click the Events link, and click on Wildlife Awards. It's worth the watch.

Speaking of AEP, we were advised some time ago about some restructuring within that Ministry. A lot of the familiar names like Travis Ripley, Matt Besko, David Park and others are still around, although their roles may have changed. It's all part of the Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Branch, headed up by Travis. There are also three Regional Directors addressing regional issues. Formerly Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch, I understand the restructuring brings together elements of policy and operations. I like the idea of stewardship versus policy. I look forward to continuing our work and meetings with AEP.


Ice fishing season seemed to start earlier than usual this past winter. Reports I've seen are that some lakes were quite busy, and I have to agree. Was I the only one that found it hard

to find bait over the winter? A lot of the stores selling minnows, maggots and worms seemed consistently sold out. A by-product of Covid seemed to be more people getting into fishing. At one point earlier this year the sale of fishing licences was up by almost a third over previous years. I'm sure this trend continued. My wife and I introduced a non-fishing couple to ice fishing this winter. They really enjoyed the experience of getting outdoors and trying something new. They're already talking about continuing the fishing when open water season starts.

I'm looking forward to the new fishing regulations for 2021. Hopefully they will build on some of the positive changes we saw last year.

Another highlight of my winter was to present the AFGA Conservation Scholarship to the lucky recipient. Daniel Gagne of Okotoks is a student in the Conservation Biology program at the University of Alberta. This AFGA member is an avid outdoorsman who has worked forestry jobs during the summer. He hunts and fishes. In fact, the day I called him to advise him of the award, he was fishing and had to call me back when he got a better cell signal. I congratulate Dan on his achievement (see attached photo).

Members are the lifeline of the AFGA. Please be sure to renew your membership if you haven't already done so. Talk your fishing, hunting, shooting and outdoorsy friends and family into joining. Support your local clubs any way you can. Promote the great work that the AFGA does, as well as the growing legacy called the Wildlife Trust Fund.

And remember to give back to the resource whenever you can. 



Fishing Chair Report

Darryl Smith

Fishing Chair

Gaming Or Science?

While I have spent a lot of time in the outdoors since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I must be honest to have also received a few notifications on my iPhone about screen time increases. Not all bad possibly as the areas that have increased the most are related to information, reading, and productivity. One of the bonuses rediscovered was that I could use the phone, not email, to connect with some of my contacts in the science and health arenas. One topic that was broached related to modelling and the current role it plays across all science disciplines. The message that was received is while the digital age has enabled the use of models, there are caveats and boundaries to their use that must be understood.

One of my academic friends cautioned that like “gaming”, as a researcher you are prone to enter a virtual world in the pursuit to develop the model that explains everything. Another friend who is closer to my age questioned a lot of the “science” behind fish population modelling that appears loaded with hypothetical data and theory which might be of academic interest but is of questionable value for management purposes. Yet another acquaintance who is at the start of her career as a biologist said she had not expected to spend most of her time behind a computer screen loading another data set waiting for the model to kick out a conclusion. She was yearning for the opportunity to be in the field doing “real research”. One colleague described the current

paradigm as the age of the “modeler”, which ultimately will pass when the science and health communities realize the path forward is through collaboration, communication, education, observation, and critical thinking with the appropriate application of technology. As the buzz words around the COVID-19 pandemic have made clear “we



are in this together”.

In that vane, the reluctance of incorporating “citizen science” into fisheries management and monitoring is confusing. Decades ago, “traditional knowledge” was found to not only be valuable but essential in making management decisions. Citizen science is no different and opposition to incorporating this critical information in the decision-making matrix needs to change.

Contributions can be made by the

angling community in monitoring fish populations as part of their trips to favourite waterbodies. Apps already exist such as those from *Angler's Atlas* that have demonstrated they provide reliable information <https://www.anglersatlas.com/mycatch>. The challenge however is for the current generation of Alberta fisheries managers to realize that the time is now, to incorporate citizen science in their monitoring and management programs. The current methodology are not only costly but serious concerns related to efficacy, mores, and the need for the broadest possible monitoring capabilities continue to not be addressed.

On the bright side, Alberta recently introduced the *Alberta Watercourse Crossing Inventory App* that is available on both Android and IOS devices. It will allow anglers and others in the outdoors to identify and catalogue watercourse crossing problems. The information collected will be used to manage for cumulative effects of stream crossings and help to prioritize and coordinate remediation efforts across watersheds. This will help improve threatened fish populations by allowing fish access to more habitat, improve water quality and fish habitat by keeping sediment out of streams and rivers, and help keep motorists and recreationalists safe. This is citizen science in action – the more eyes on the ground the better! I would urge all anglers to download the app as together we can make a difference in both stream water quality and reduction in habitat fragmentation. Further information can be found



by going to <https://www.alberta.ca/watercourse-crossing-program.aspx>.

Habitat remains a critical issue for AFGA. You need to look no further than the work undertaken by AFGA Environment Chair Victor Benz and a team of dedicated volunteers who are trying to ensure the Raven River aquifers are not damaged through gravel extraction below the water table. Go to <https://www.afga.org/north-raven-river-project/> for the most recent updates. There are other issues AFGA would like to tackle on the habitat front but while hearing concerns from many, the reality is that there are only a few volunteers that step up and do the heavy lifting on our behalf. Complicating this is that we are not just a habitat organization. Our broad focus means volunteers are tackling issues coming from multiple perspectives. We do not have sufficient staff that can support these initiatives, except related to our Wildlife Trust Fund properties. This flagship program is only made possible by the fundraising and volunteer efforts of our members <https://www.afga.org/wildlife-trust-fund-properties/>.

Our Wildlife Trust Fund properties are hidden jewels and there is no better time to explore them than now! Take an Alberta break to see them in their winter splendour. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in person consultations for the 2021 Sportfishing Regulations will not be possible. We were told that there will be online consultations during January related to proposed changes. Hopefully by my next report in Outdoor Canada West I will have more good news to report of the sportfishing regulation front where the current indication from Minister Nixon is to build on the positive changes introduced in 2020. 🐦



Hunting Chair Report

Jim Clarke

Hunting Chair

We are just wrapping up the late season hunts in areas of Alberta as we move into 2021! Cougar, elk and even some upland game birds are still open in select areas. Now is also the time to dust off your predator management items and get them ready to go! There have already been some very good cougar harvest photos sent to me so that season is probably near the end, as quotas are reached. Then we'll be right into shed hunting and spring scouting and spring turkey hunting! A REMINDER! make sure you complete your 2020 / 2021 Hunter Harvest and Effort reports! It will save you money next time on licences and get you a chance at winning a special harvest tag!

I sure hope clubs are able to hold some sort of measuring days for successful hunters to get their harvest scored. Remember to get your club's biggest entries, and any that would make Alberta book minimums, sent into the office. The deadline is usu-

ally the end of February but we'll see about that due to COVID. Hopefully, clubs will still be able to hold some sort of club fundraising dinners at some point in the future.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has continued to spread with even more new zones showing up in a report by Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) in December. Check out the details here: <https://www.alberta.ca/chronic-wasting-disease-updates.aspx>.

Meetings are still continuing in the online format for the sheep and mule deer groups. We have seen some very preliminary proposals and should be getting into the "meat" of proposed management for mule deer going forward. The Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) along with some input from the AFGA should have some news soon, concerning their effort on the wild turkey project and possible funding for a major project. This will be a group effort and may present an opportunity for clubs to spend some of their wildlife dedicated funds to get this project completed! 🐦



Environment Chair Report

Victor Benz

Environment Chair



On behalf of the AFGA, Dr. Jon Fennell and I appeared before Clearwater County Council via ZOOM on December 8th, speaking to our proposed land use bylaw amendment. Jon is a Registered Professional Geologist with extensive work experience here in Western Canada and abroad in countries such as Australia, Belize, Columbia, Ecuador, Mexico, the United States, and Yemen where he has worked for industry, government, world organizations such as the United Nations, academia, and the general public helping them to understand and manage the risk to surface water and groundwater supplies.

Following introductions, the Clearwater County Planning and development department made their presentation in this matter, proposing that: "... planning staff is unable to properly

evaluate this application. As a result, it recommends that Council refuse the application or defeat first reading of Bylaw 1103/20...".

We responded.

"After over 50 years and spending over \$10 million in rehabilitation, the North Raven River, Alberta's largest white zone spring-fed river, is now renowned the world over as a blue-ribbon trout fishing destination, bringing a \$750,000 annual injection into the local and Alberta economies.

The AFGA is neither anti-industry nor anti-gravel. However, there are special places in our province that are worthy of extra protection, in the best interest of all Albertans, including future generations. This is one such place.

We take issue with the Planning and Development characterization of our submission presented to Council on four major points.

1) Over the ten months we have worked

on this proposal, the target set by Planning & Development for landowner consent has continually changed. It began with "significant proportion", then a majority. After our initial submission in late September showing 73% consent, it became 80%. In the document before you, it now stands as "unanimous consent".

2) We have repeatedly asked for the formal documents that specify both the requirement for, and required level of formal consent. They have yet to be provided.

As explained in our formal response of 06 November, most of the supportive landowners were uncomfortable with giving formal public consent, raising concerns that ranged from affecting relationships with neighbours that do not share their perspective through to potential misuse of that data when it is made public. We will continue to honour their concerns.

We have referenced and submitted 6 primary source science-based research reports to build the case for the 1.8 km buffer. Primary source documents are peer-reviewed, published papers reflecting current science. Several of our references do provide site specific data, documenting aquifer flowrate and chemical water analyses.

The direct data for the 1.8 km buffer comes from other reports assessing the impact of existing below-water-table gravel pit operations on water quality. To provide the same level of definitive data for our Area of Concern would require the construction, operation, and close monitoring of a commercial gravel pit within 1.8 km of the very springs we are trying to protect. This is exactly what we oppose.

3) Planning & Development suggest that our proposal, if approved, would sterilize a large area of the county for gravel extraction. First, our submission does not affect current or future above-water-table aggregate extraction within our Area of Concern. Sec-




only, our analysis of the Alberta Geological Survey assessment of Clearwater County's gravel resource indicates approximately 268 square miles of available gravel area (3.7% of the total area of the county). Our Area of Concern, at 33 quarter-sections, is only 3% of the total area of available gravel in the county.

- 4) Finally, Planning & Development states that "planning staff is unable to properly evaluate this application". We agree. Without the input and assistance of a competent hydrogeologist, proper evaluation of our submission is not possible. The involvement of such a professional is the responsibility of the county. The failure to do so leads directly to the uninformed recommendation to either refuse the application or defeat it at first reading."

After a question and answer period, we were asked for any final comments. We elaborated on a number of points, and ended with suggesting that council request the Planning & Development group approach AEP and ask for their professional opinion on the work we have done and whether it is sufficient to justify the bylaw amendment we are seeking.

Councilor Hoven then turned this into a formal motion that was passed unanimously by County Council.

That concluded our portion of the meeting. I wish to thank Reeve Cammie Laird and Clearwater County Council for their time, attention and understanding in this matter, and for moving this process to the next step.

AFGA also looks forward to working with Alberta Environment and Parks in that next step of this process. 

ZONE REPORTS

ZONE 1 REPORT

Glenn Heather

IT'S SPRING!!! Time to start planning your summer and fall activities.

Sadly as I am writing this, I have no idea what COVID restrictions we are currently dealing with. However, what I do know, is that each club will be planning what they can, to increase membership and plan events which highlight the principles of being a club member and a part of the AFGA.

Zone 1 was to have their casino in January. At the time of this report, I have not yet received the new dates. However, once the dates are known, they will be shared.

The AFGA Committees have been organized and everyone is working diligently to evaluate and propose opportunities to make AFGA even better. I thank all that have volunteered for these committees; we need your knowledge, ideas, and input.

As one of the people within the Membership Committee, I have been doing research and trying to determine what we could do to attract our younger generations. As we all know, our future success is determined by our members and our members of the future will be the young of today. Throughout the generations, Silent Generation 1928-1945; Baby Boomers 1946-1964; Generation X 1965-1980; Millennials 1981-1996; Post Millennials/Generation Z 1997-2010; each gen-

eration has different traits and value systems.

As a good percentage of our membership are Baby Boomers and Generation X, we need to understand what is important to the Millennials and Post Millennials. Really, we need to make AFGA and what we stand for, and what we do, recognizable and known to these generations. The Membership Committee is tasked with trying to increase our membership and make AFGA even more of an influence to our government and the people of Alberta.

Although these times are challenged by this crazy pandemic, they are exciting for the AFGA and each of you as members. We will weather the pandemic storm and become even stronger and unified in our vision within our clubs and AFGA.

Stay tuned, reports and updates will be generated and shared.

ZONE 3 REPORT

Arnold Winkler

AS I PUT pen to paper, we are about to turn the calendar to 2021. Christmas and New Year's gatherings and activities were significantly reduced by the health and safety issues that the COVID pandemic had placed on us all. Hopefully, we here in Alberta can follow steps to alleviate the spread and move forward to normalcy. ▶

I hope everyone's hunting season was successful and enjoyable. I heard many were, and noticed a lot of new faces, first timers and a few junior hunters; nice to see the increased interest. Ice fishing has also seen an increase in numbers with many lakes close to major urban centres seeing large crowds on favourable weather days. With that, some safety issues may arise, mainly speed when traveling across the lake, and cluster parking of vehicles.

Related to ice fishing, in the 2020 Sportfishing Regulations, it states that if your ice shack is on the lake it must have your WIN and/or your name, address and phone number displayed. As a safety tip, they may also be more noticeable in darker hours if reflective material is utilized to mark your structure. Tight lines everyone.

With a new year, also comes the time to renew your Alberta Fish and Game membership, be it with your local club or as a Direct Member of AFGA. Talk to your friends, be they hunters, anglers, or just outdoor enthusiasts, to join up as the benefits are great. Lots of information can be obtained on the AFGA at afga.org or by emailing office@afga.org. Check it out!

Thanks to those that put their names forward to sit on the five new committees for the AFGA restructuring process. Much appreciated, let's make it work.

ZONE 4 REPORT

Faran Schaber

AS I WRITE this, it is the start of the new year. We are still in the midst of a

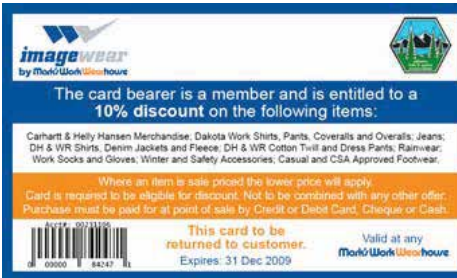
pandemic. We can only hope that 2021 will be better for everyone.

I trust that everyone had a successful harvest this past hunting season and are enjoying the hard water season. I still have a late season cow elk draw to try and fill.

The AFGA committees are now moving forward. Thank you to all of the volunteers who submitted applications to assist on these committees.

I have not heard anything in regard to TEK Coal. I will send an email to my contact and see if I can provide an update for the next issue.

On a personal note. I was drying grain until mid-November when I went hunting for two weeks. I did harvest a buck. When I got home, my yard looked like a feed lot with all the deer tracks coming in to feed on grain around the dryer, but they are only nocturnal!



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ZONE 5 REPORT

Robyn Butler

WE ALL KNOW that 2020 was a very challenging year, let's hope 2021 is much better. Although we were on many restrictions, there were many more hunters and anglers out this past year. Many figured out that there is much more to life than work and indoor entertainment. We need to get the message out to all the new outdoorsmen and inform them about AFGA and the great things our organization does for conservation. Tell them about the youth and women's camps, the Wildlife Trust Fund program, and our involvement of working with the government on their behalf. There are so many clubs throughout the province to get these people involved in, so let's make the effort to let them know about us and the great things we do and have done in this province.

Hopefully, Zone 5 can hold their meeting again soon. Some Zone 5 clubs have been engaging in some programs as per Alberta Health Services, so let me know what you have been doing and I'll let the rest know. Hopefully, you can get your big game, fish and bird entries submitted and your awards completed. The Zone was to have a casino in 2020 which was cancelled, but hopefully we will be rescheduled in the mid part of 2021.

We all need to do our part in protecting our fellow man in this pandemic so wear a mask, stay home and be safe, while continuing to enjoy the outdoors. 🐦

History of the Alberta Fish and Game Association

Brad Fenson and Jack Graham

From the Alberta Wildlife Records Book, 4th Edition

The Alberta Fish and Game Association was originally formed in 1908, by a group of grassroots individuals who called the organization the Northern Alberta Game & Fish Protective League (NAGFPL). The NAGFPL eventually became the Edmonton Fish and Game Association. In 1920, The Southern Alberta Fish & Game Protective Association was formed, and in 1928 became the Calgary Fish and Game Association.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) was incorporated in 1946. Today, the AFGA is recognized as the oldest conservation organization in the province. It continues to work on behalf of the fish and wildlife species and the habitat that they depend on.

The AFGA is made up of members with a wide variety of interests in conservation of our fish and wildlife resources. One of the well-documented activities of Fish and Game Clubs from across Alberta is the annual trophy competition to determine the largest fish and game species harvested by local hunters and anglers. With clubs in close to 100 communities, there are a number of local competitions that highlight the incredible antlers, horns, skulls, birds, and fish that Alberta continues to produce.

The friendly competition of finding the biggest or best trophies started in 1962 when a group of dedicated sportsmen from the Edmonton Fish and Game Association embarked on a club project to organize an Alberta Trophy Competition, which would try to find, and recognize, the largest specimens of big game, birds and fish legally taken in Alberta. They formulated a scoring system based on the Boone & Crockett Club and standardized minimum scores for species hunted in Alberta.

Records have been tabulated since 1963, in order to recognize the outstanding fish and wildlife that our province has always produced. In 1975, the AFGA took over the record keeping tasks of this project. It continues to compile records that come in from affiliate clubs across the province that hold annual trophy competitions at a local level.

The Alberta Trophy Competition records date back to 1963, and animals meeting the minimum score requirements, were compiled to form this Alberta Wildlife Records book. The first hard-covered record book was produced in 1985. It provided a snapshot of Alberta's diversity and superior genetics for all species of fish, birds, and big game. The record books offer exciting stories about the largest fish and ▶



big game animals taken by sportsmen. These listings provide insight into regions that produce trophy-calibre fish, birds, and big game. The records prove that Alberta is home to incredible trophies in all categories, offering

sportsmen and women some of the best hunting and angling in North America.

In addition to the previous competition records, this publication contains all Alberta big game species ranked

by size in accordance with the criteria set out in the Big Game Awards of Boone & Crockett. This information was obtained from previous AFGA record books, AFGA affiliated clubs, the Boone & Crockett Club, and Pope & Young records.


The objectives of the trophy competition are:

- To obtain a greater recognition of the wildlife found in the province of Alberta.
- To foster a stronger tie between affiliated Fish and Game Clubs throughout the province.
- To have all hunters and fishermen become members of a Fish and Game Club in their communities.

To have qualified people recognize and score trophies, a course was developed to certify Official Alberta Measurers. The course has evolved to a level that covers the scoring procedures for each species to the understanding of all pupils. There are now certified measurers in almost all communities in Alberta. Courses are still offered on a regular basis to increase the number of qualified measurers in our province.

Trophy records have been an important part of the AFGA for over a half century. New records are continually coming out of our province in all classifications. This book is a testament to the trophy quality, diversity and positive game management that continues to offer Alberta sportsmen and women the unique opportunity to harvest a record-class animal, fish, or bird.

We are extending our Wildlife Awards submission deadline to **April 30, 2021**.

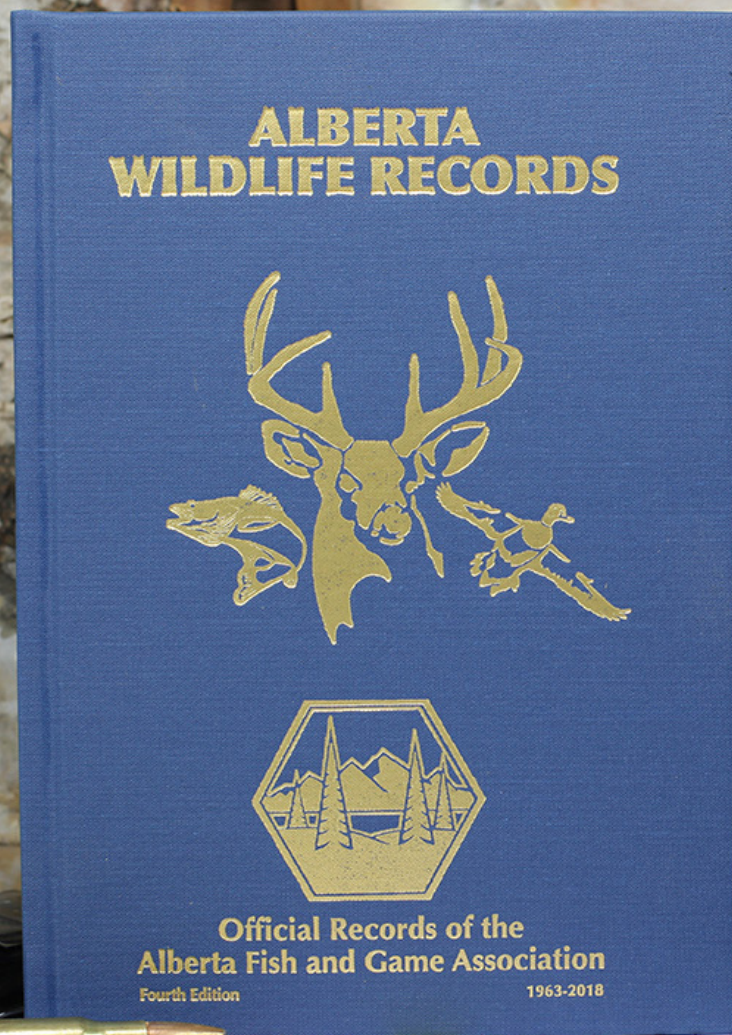
Visit our website at: <https://www.afga.org/wildlife-awards/>, download the scoresheet for the species you require and submit your completed scoresheet(s) to office@afga.org by April 30, 2021. 



Gerry Foster and Jack Graham

How does **YOUR** hunt stack up against the **ALBERTA WILDLIFE RECORDS?**

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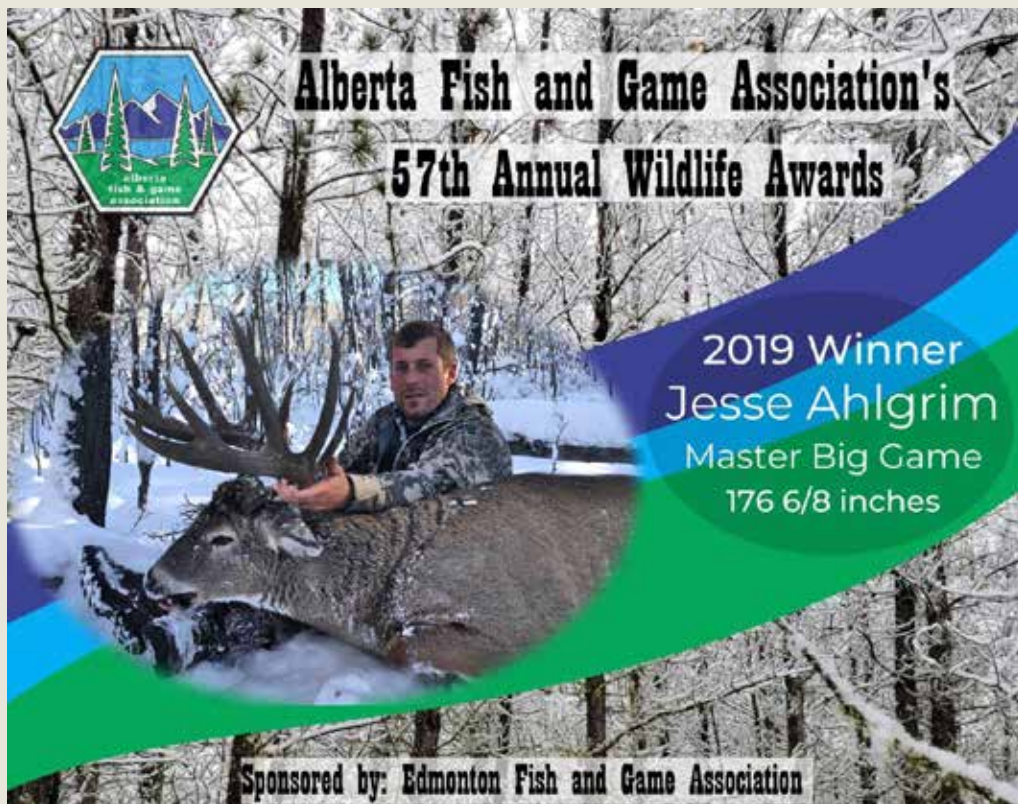


\$40
Plus GST & shipping

ANNUAL WILDLIFE AWARDS SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED

We know it's been difficult getting your impressive hunting and angling specimens submitted for entry into our AFGA Annual Wildlife Awards, so we've extended the deadline for submissions to

APRIL 30, 2021



For AFGA scoresheets, see our website here: afga.org/wildlife-awards and email your completed forms to office@afga.org or mail to AFGA, 13045 156 St NW, Edmonton, AB, T5V 0A2

As always, we will also accept completed scoresheets from Boone and Crockett or Pope and Young certified measurers.

We look forward to celebrating our amazing Alberta species of big game, fish and birds from 2020!



www.afga.org