



Alberta Fish & Game Association

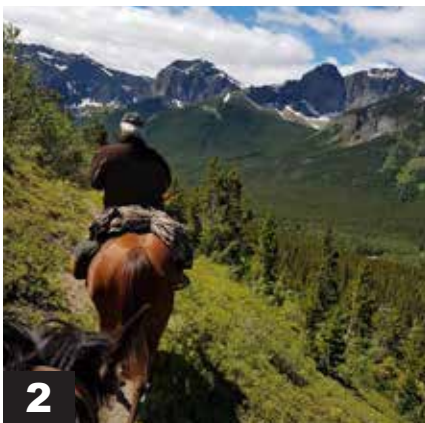
News from ALBERTA

THANK YOU FROM the Alberta Fish & Game Association to Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association, all Volunteers and those who generously supported the Alberta Fish and Game Association's 91st Annual Conference '50,000 acres of wildlife trust land, a legacy of our past and present members' held in Sherwood Park, AB - February 20 – 22, 2020.

Your contribution helped make the conference a huge success!
Thanks again for your wonderful support! 🐦

Inside:

- 2** **President's Report**
- 3** **Past President's Report**
- 4-5** **Executive Director's Report**
- 6** **1st Vice-President's Report**
- 7** **2nd Vice-President's Report**
- 8** **Fishing Chair Report**
- 9** **Hunting Chair Report**
- 10** **Environment Chair Report**
- 11** **Program Chair Report**
- 11** **Youth Chair Report**
- 11** **Zone 1 Report**
- 12** **Zone 2 Report**
- 13** **Zone 3 Report**
- 13** **Zone 4 Report**
- 14** **Zone 5 Report**



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Alberta Fish & Game Association

President's Report

BRIAN DINGREVILLE
PRESIDENT



A HUGE THANK you to the Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association for hosting this year's annual conference. The AFGA executive would also like to say thank you to all those who volunteered! Without your strong support none of this could have gone as well as it did. Thank you.

At present we do not have a host zone or club for the 2021 conference. I personally know it can be a very rewarding experience and with the help of head office, as well as number of individuals who I am sure would offer assistance, the task becomes very enjoyable.

This year's conference once again brought in a number of excellent speakers which I feel brought a wealth of information to those in attendance. Thank you to our AFGA executive chairs Victor, Mark, Darrell & Jim for all you did!

Our annual general meeting went over very well with a number of resolutions brought to the floor which brought out good discussion. Prior to the resolutions, we held our parade of donations which brought forth a large number of clubs & zones donating funds to the Wildlife Trust Fund, paying down the mortgage & contributing to youth programs. Thank you to all who came forward with your generous donations.

The Wildlife Trust Fund which is managed by Brad Fenson continues to grow year after year. Brad was recognized this year for 30 plus years of service to this wonderful program that has increased to 50 thousand plus acres. Brad along with TJ Schwanky has done an excellent job on this program and I know everyone throughout the association thanks you for all you do!

Congratulations to all clubs and individuals whom were presented with awards this year!

I would like to thank Delinda & the staff at head office for all they did throughout the conference and over the past several months. Your hard work with membership, website, stepping up to help with numerous items and helping out wherever you could at conference was and is wonderful. Thank you!

I am sure most will know at this time we have a new Programs Chair; Ingrid Horner stepped up this year to take on this position. Thank you Mark for all you did and we wish you all the best in the

future. Ingrid brings to the table a wealth of experience and I personally, as I am sure all the executive feel, she will do an excellent job!

Thank you to Ian, Matt, Doug, Wayne, Darryl, Jim, Victor & Carole for continuing on with the AFGA executive for the coming year. These people work very hard for you and I thank them for all they do!

2020 has started off to be very busy so far myself; Past President Doug Butler and our present Finance Chair Wayne Lowry have been involved with recreational land access. It is mostly made up of lease holders across the province expressing their views on what would be the best solutions to all being able to get the full benefit out of public land. There is another meeting which myself and Wayne and I will attend in March. I will provide a complete break down next time.

Over the past several months, I and a number of other stake holders have met regarding the Castle, Bob Creek, Livingstone-Porcupine Hills and Beaver Creek Management plans. Over the coming months we will continue to bring forth plans which hopefully will make all areas more accessible to each and every one of us.

Thank you for your continuous support for 2020. 🐦

B.O.W CAMP

Become an Outdoor Woman is a program designed for women. It is an opportunity for women 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits. For more information visit our website ww.afga.org/conservation-camps or contact: Robyn Karpinski: (780) 977-0725





Past President's Report

DOUG BUTLER

PAST PRESIDENT

AS I'M WRITING this shortly after our AGM in Sherwood Park, I thought I would dwell on it a bit. It was great to see over 300 registrants, and I've never before talked to so many first timers at our conference. They all expressed how amazed they were at the weekend, and all really enjoyed it. This tells me all our efforts to put on a great weekend was worth it and that we are doing something right. Many didn't realize how many ventures we are involved in and saluted our efforts. It's always a great feeling to know we are appreciated for our efforts!

The sessions were quite informative, and the amount of networking that went on was also very worthwhile. The evenings were also fun and many friendships either rekindled or started. Thank you to the many volunteers who gave up many hours to make it possible, hats off! Special thanks to Steve Witiuk who chaired the committee and this just followed his chairing of the new Alberta Wildlife Records book committee, he shows a lot of passion for a man in his 80's.

It was also great to visit with so many Past Presidents and Life Members. The awards evening was very special as some very deserving and dedicated people and clubs were showcased.

The Minister spoke very positively and seems very open to working with us. Many resolutions were carried for our mandate for the year and we'll make sure these get to the right places. I've got a really good feeling on the fishing side so we'll keep on that. The open house public consultation was a good improvement this year and all talks seem positive that our resolutions over many years are sinking in and we've got a government who listens. Looks



like more trout stocking, and a start on some long overdue walleye stocking, to go along with improvements to our hatcheries! We will soon get to eat a fish now and then, still lots of hunting issues but species management plans are slowly getting finalized.

Our membership increased this past year which is a positive sign. We must continue to work on this as numbers do speak volumes.

Our mortgage got a big boost at conference and it will soon be time for a "burning party". That, on its own, will be a great accomplishment.

The work of our committee chairs and the committee people out there has been awesome and dividends are starting to show. The Wildlife Trust Fund is looking forward to another great year as the number of properties continues to grow.

The number of youth programs around the provincial clubs is amazing and as long as we keep them involved in conservation, our future is looking good.

Our new website and membership program seems to be what we are after and slowly but steady improvements

are on the go. The many hours all our volunteers put in, from the club level to the provincial level show the great passion many of us have and this will win out in the long run; hats off to all.

We had a booth at the Red Deer Sportsman show the last weekend of February and it was great to chat with many outdoor people. All of these events I attend show me the passion we all have for conservation. Many ideas and suggestions are shared.

Next up for me (and over by the time you see this writing) is the Edmonton Sportsman show and the Alberta Wildlife Awards banquet. Looking forward to the next copies of the fishing and hunting regulations, as this government promises to follow up on some of its promises and the things we have been lobbying for since who knows when!

Hope you all got a walleye tag to fill and spend many an hour in the outdoors over the summer. Hunting draws are right around the corner so make sure you get yours in. That's it for now so:

Straight shooting and tight lines.

dougbutler@live.com
(780) 895-7799 

1ST Vice-President's Report

IAN STUART

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT



AS THIS IS written on March 1st, the successful 2020 annual conference and AGM are behind us and I look forward to another year as one of the two Vice Presidents of your Alberta Fish and Game Association, and a part of your AFGA executive team. I am pleased to welcome Ingrid Horner as Programs Chair, replacing Mark Anderson who chose to focus on more local Fish and Game activities. Mark's contributions while serving as your Programs Chair will be missed, but Ingrid's leadership in communicating the success of Onoway Fish and Game Association's Ladies League, and other programmes that get members involved, will serve your association well. Transferring ideas for the many success stories is a big part of the Programs Chair role that Ingrid already has a head start on.

I also look forward to continue working with all returning members of your executive, who all consistently advocate for *"the common interests of ethical hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts dedicated to the responsible stewardship of Alberta's environment"*. The dedication of these people to the cause is truly impressive and inspiring!

Involvement of our members at all levels is key to the success of our organization. While we are unlikely to ever agree

on the appropriate course of action on every issue that impacts outdoor enthusiasts, we can find common ground on many of them and focus effectively on those. Governments move very slowly and have many competing stakeholders to satisfy, but eventually our efforts have an effect, as we are now seeing with positive direction in Environment and Parks.

Speaking of member involvement, the exciting opportunities to become involved through Citizen Science that Executive Director Delinda Ryerson described in the March/April 2000 (Fishing Special) edition of Outdoor Canada West are but some of the many opportunities for members to become more engaged with stewardship of Alberta's environment. Our many Wildlife Trust Fund properties, some co-managed with the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) can always benefit from the involvement of more volunteer stewards. The Antelope Corridor Enhancement project is physical but very rewarding work that often provides both immediate benefit to our pronghorn populations and the opportunity to build understanding with individuals from the non-hunting community. Opportunities to participate in ACA lead projects are increasing, and activities such as fundraising and promoting your AFGA abound. AFGA needs volunteers to run youth camp opportunities; more camps could be run with more volunteers, (and some are in danger of not being offered as long serving volunteers are forced by time to step out). Kids

Can Catch events are less onerous than running camps, and very satisfying for both participants and volunteers. One thing we can all agree on is that youth are key to the future of common interests of all outdoor enthusiasts; youth focus in particular needs new volunteers.

Another involvement opportunity in which AFGA's participation level is somewhat limited by the availability of volunteers is staffing of trade show booths to showcase your AFGA. AFGA regularly participates in the major Calgary and Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's shows, the Red Deer Sports and outdoors show, (which is managed by the Red Deer Fish and Game Association) and a number of smaller events at which local clubs showcase their conservation activities, but there are other opportunities that we are missing. As well as thanking the stalwart volunteers who always show up for events, how about asking others to give a few hours of their time? In some cases, members feel left out because no one has ever asked them to participate. They can't say "yes" if not asked!

At the recent Red Deer Sports and Outdoors show, the AFGA booth (pictured) was staffed by volunteers from Lamont, Leduc, Rimbey, and Innisfail, as well as a number of AFGA members who stopped by to give others a break. We all had fun, and I am looking forward to more at the upcoming Edmonton show!





Until next report, yours in support of the wise use of the Earth's resources

d.ianstuart@outlook.com 

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2ND Vice-President's Report

MATT ZAZULA

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT



OUR BUSY WINTER and early spring events are behind us. The annual conference and AGM hosted by the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association was a big success last February as I'm sure you'll read elsewhere in these reports. By the time you read this, our Wildlife Awards Banquet will be a wrap. Congratulations to all those who were recognized.

I really think the efforts of your AFGA executive are showing great results. Our good relationship with the Alberta Environment and Parks department continues. We've been consulted on so many fishing and hunting issues. It's nice to see our input being considered. We've lobbied strongly for a broader use of fish hatcheries, consideration of stocking a wider variety of fish species, re-opening more catch and keep opportunities, implementation of slot limits for fish, and most importantly giving the ideas of the recreational angler more consideration. It's really encouraging to see a lot of these recommendations getting implemented. Hopefully the annual Guide to Sportfishing Regulations will continue to have some good news for us for the next few years. And,

with the upcoming hunting season and the promise for more open houses and stakeholder consultation, we might likely see a lot of our input included there as well. As a member of the AFGA executive, I'm really proud of the work your executive continues to do on your behalf.

We saw some growth in our AFGA membership last year. Let's do our best as individual members to keep that growth going. Our strength lies in our membership, and a larger membership gives us an even larger voice. When you're talking with people about fishing, hunting or conservation, your conversation should always include "Do you belong to any fish and game clubs?". Explain the conservation and lobbying work the AFGA does. Highlight the work your local club does. Explain that the cost of membership is a bargain. As one prominent Calgary Fish and Game member and membership promoter has said many times, "For the cost of a 24 of beer, you can be a member and support the largest conservation organization in Alberta". I can't stress enough to promote your local club whenever you can. Too many times locally I've heard "I didn't even know Okotoks has a Fish and Game club", and I'm sure you've heard that about your local club too. It's time to change that and share what we do.

Many small clubs don't have a dedicated club house or a meeting place they own. Our Okotoks club is in that position. We have to rent a space for larger events like horn scoring, and of course that comes at a cost. Well, one of our members had what we thought was an innovative idea for our horn scoring this last February. Rather than paying for a facility for the horn scoring, we approached a local family-friendly brew pub. We asked if we could hold our horn scoring in their tap room, and after sorting out some details they agreed. It was a win-win for everyone. The pub

advertised the event on their social media, our club had a free venue for the evening and our members and families enjoyed the outing. The pub got some extra business from the people bringing in their racks and perhaps most importantly, the event took place in a location where the general public wandered through and saw what was going on, rather than just the people already interested in outdoor activities. We had lots of kids admiring the variety of antlers. Oh, and some of those people who "didn't know Okotoks had a Fish and Game club"? Now they know. Everyone had a great evening, especially some of those non-members who managed to try a sample of elk pepperoni.

The Calgary Fish and Game club is another who holds occasional pub nights, giving the members a chance to meet and visit in a relaxed surrounding while also openly advertising their club. The bottom line is, if we look for innovative ideas to display and share our activities, it can only help to enhance our membership. Pass along your ideas and activities through your Zones and share your results.

The month of May to me means the start of open water fishing. I can't wait to get the boat out, cleaned up from winter and ready to hit the water. We're fortunate in my area of the province to have some great stream fishing opportunities as well. It seems like forever since I put the casting rods away. Although I did manage to spend a day on a fishing boat in Cuba last winter. It was a nice change from ice fishing. It was fun, but to me freshwater fishing is where it's at.

I hope everyone has a great spring, that you were successful in getting some walleye draws, and that your plans for summer camping and fishing go well. Book those campsites well in advance; a lot of them fill up really fast!

And, as always, don't forget to give back to the resource whenever you can.

mattzazula.afga@gmail.com 



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Fishing Chair Report

DARRYL SMITH

FISHING CHAIR

Are we on the road to change? Fisheries Management in Alberta

THE ALBERTA FISH and Game Association's 91st Annual Conference was a great success. Thank you to the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association, Conference Chair Steve Witiuk, organizing committee, volunteers and delegates! Having a clarified policy on *Off Highway Vehicle Use* and receiving positive feedback on the direction that the Alberta Fish and Game Association has been advancing, related to fisheries management in the province, will serve us well in the coming year. Resolutions related to fisheries management passed at the conference support the direction that AFGA has been moving.

Disappointing to many delegates was that the Government of Alberta presentations only alluded to changes to the direction of fisheries management in Alberta that had already been communicated earlier. There were no formal announcements as to specific changes that we would see in the 2020 Guide to Sportfishing or the overall direction and priorities of fisheries management in the province. Several reasons for this, including the fact that the consultations only wrapped up several weeks earlier related to creating angling opportunity in the province is Alberta Environment and Parks is undergoing a major restructuring and protests related to resource development and climate change have preoccupied the government.

What we do know is that all the concepts explored within the engagement sessions were supported by anglers. There were some differences in the level of support between the online

engagement sessions and the open houses. The two concepts that had the most lukewarm reception were related to the concept of "liberal harvest" and "additional trout harvest in flowing water". Other topics were identified that will likely lead to further engagement sessions. Overall, anglers felt the engagement sessions were worthwhile and the online surveys were a major improvement over the past.

What will change in the coming year? We do know that the provincial hatchery system will be expanded and the announcement of the Raven River Facility modernization prior to conference is great news. The province will begin stocking Walleye again, likely with a focus on development of "put and take" fisheries. Multi-species trout stocking will become more commonplace with Tiger Trout probably being stocked in more locations. There likely will be some Yellow Perch transfers to establish new fisheries. Expect a few regulation changes around the province that will lead to more harvest opportunity for Walleye and Northern Pike. My guess is that changes will roll out over the next two regulation cycles. There remains concern as to the overall direction of fisheries management, particularly related to habitat, which can only be dealt with effectively by integration of policy that crosses other ministries and levels of government.

In the past and at conference, I have outlined the priorities of the Alberta Fish and Game Association.

These have not changed:

- Sustainable fish populations
- Habitat protection


- Angling opportunity
- Distribution of angling pressure
- Understandable angling regulations including objectives

The focus this year for AFGA with the Government of Alberta involves resetting our relationship and meaningful discussion related to the following:

- 1) Stakeholder input into benchmarks, criteria and plans
- 2) Management of Coldwater Fish Species (Native and Naturalized Trout, Arctic Grayling, and Mountain Whitefish)
- 3) Management of Coolwater Fish Species (Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Goldeye, Mooneye, Sauger, Burbot, Lake Sturgeon, and Yellow Perch)

The key words related to these topics:

- Coldwater - Critical - Habitat - Education - Catch and Release - Regulation Simplification - Landscape Level Actions - Multi-Stakeholder
- Coolwater - Sustainable - Habitat - Education - Harvest - Regulation Simplification - Focused Actions - Innovation

In closing, we have a Minister who sees the importance of sportfishing in our economic, social and environmental future. Combined with the renewed positive spirit of those tasked with managing the resource in the now combined "Fish and Wildlife Division" we are in a much better place and hopefully travelling together. The biggest challenge going forward is keeping recreational angling relevant! Put time into your agenda to take youth, new Canadians, or those who may have left the pastime, out on the water this year. 

Hunting Chair Report

JIM CLARKE

HUNTING CHAIR



THANK YOU. I'M writing this just after the wrap up of our 91st Annual Conference held in Sherwood Park in late February. The event has now passed and I'm thanking you for supporting me to continue to represent you as your Hunting Chair for the Alberta Fish and Game Association. I hope everyone had a good time, learned a thing or two and had a chance to meet up with friends from previous events and make some new contacts at this year's event.

One thing Darryl and I have already agreed on for next year is to plan our AEP guest speakers to present after lunch. I wanted just as much as all of you to listen to Matt Besko's talk as well as Minister Nixon's, especially the last couple of slides from Matt but his full presentation will be posted to the AFGA website. We also want them to present after the Minister's speech to better follow protocol and allow the Minister to be the first one to the microphone to announce any special initiatives first.

Some takeaways that I have from Matt's presentation on items that are being currently worked on include: an improved sheep registration system and proper training of individuals to do so, the Allocation Policy and a Cougar

Management Study. In addition, many management plans are under way to be being updated. These include: Upland Birds & Geese (close to completion), Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (draft is being updated), Elk & Mule Deer (expect in fall - updating to include CWD plans), Moose (for 2021), Pronghorn (2021 - 2022), White-tailed Deer (2021 - 2022) and Cougar (it is current but will be updated pending results of on-going Cougar study). The Wild Turkey and Black Bear plans are complete and just waiting to be posted online for public review.

As for the presentations themselves, and as stated during them, please discuss amongst your clubs and pass on any requests to your Zone Hunting Chairs for guest speakers that you would like to hear from or think all the clubs in Alberta would benefit from. We will, as a team of hunting chairs, try to get informative speakers for next year's event.

The biggest issue in AEP right now is the Wildlife Regulations. The whole package as they exist is set to expire June 30, 2020 and as such, a lot of work is being done to ensure a smooth transition to a modern updated version. At the most recent AGPAC meeting in February, a slate of new proposals was presented to all the representatives in the group. A general consensus was determined through discussion and we may see some of them move forward into the regulations this year. Several of the proposals are a result of our passed resolutions and position statements. At this time due to AEP needing more consultation on them and advice from many different departments, we will have to wait to report on them until further notice.

AGPAC will also have just met in early April. As you can see, the frequency of the meetings are picking up. I see that as a good sign AEP and government officials are more open and receptive to dialogue and direct feed back to them.

It is also a chance for all of us to present major initiatives by all the groups in Alberta, discuss them and try to move forward on them. I look forward to representing you at the meetings using our resolutions, position statements and policies to guide my votes.

The first part of April, I will be attending a CWD symposium hosted by Alberta Professional Outfitters (APOS) in Alberta. As well, in later April we will have had our next 2 major events... the full executive all day meeting on April 25 and the Annual AFGA Wildlife Awards banquet on the same night. I hope many of you were successful and have your catch or harvest recognized. We are the record keepers of all categories of animals, birds and fish in the province. For the provincial competition, and being the official record keepers, you do not have to belong to any fish and game club to submit your entries. We are recognizing the largest fish, bird or animal...regardless of memberships!

May is now upon us and as I have said before...this is the time of year we wait to get our applications in for draws! Only opening days create more anxiety for me. A lot of planning and scheduling takes place at this time and I truly wish you or your group are successful in getting the tags you have waited for. Just a reminder that for the 2020 year, all of us will have to purchase our Wildlife Certificate BEFORE we apply in the draws. This is another effort to further reduce wait times in the draws as a full 25% of people applying in the draw do not hunt in the same year. We'll be watching to see if this works and see if tweaks are needed. Also taking place at this time is Spring Bear season, Goose season and Turkey season...good luck to all!

To close for this report...a quote from Fred Bear: "Go afield with a good attitude, with respect for the wildlife you hunt and for the forest and fields in which you walk. Immerse yourself in the outdoor experience. It will cleanse your soul and make you a better person." Pretty much sums it up doesn't it... good luck in all your endeavours. 🐦



Environment Chair Report

TCTCTC

ENVIRONMENT CHAIR



MY LAST ARTICLE dealt with how the deck is stacked against everyday Albertans wishing to be heard by the Alberta government about specific projects applying for approval in our province. Several readers gave me feedback. One stood out, saying I had significantly understated the overriding control of the approval process by our Alberta government in some situations. Although that critic was correct, in my defense, I was trying to present an overview of the problem without getting case-specific.

The general public tends to look upon the Alberta Court of Appeal as an impartial review of decisions made by government bodies. However, the Alberta Responsible Energy Development Act, stewarded by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), clearly states that any appeal to the Alberta Court of Appeal can only deal with issues of jurisdiction or of points of law. The actual decision made by the AER is not reviewable!

So how did we get here?

The Alberta government would have you believe that opportunities for public participation have improved in recent years as compared to 50 years ago. By comparing only the wording of legislation then and now, you might agree.

You would be wrong.

In 1971 Alberta elected its first Progressive Conservative government led by Peter Lougheed. The main government player was the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB). The ERCB was generally quite open to public input on specific projects. When Shell Canada applied to drill the first sour gas well in the Castle River area in 1986, the ERCB held a public hearing with submissions from Parks Canada, the Alberta Wilderness Association, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and several foreign environmental groups. There are many other examples.

Everything seemed to change in 1990, under the Getty Progressive Conservative government. You may remember the Alberta-Pacific (Alpac) pulp mill story.

When the Alpac application was received in 1989, the Alberta government appointed a review panel to assess the socio-ecological impact of the proposed mill. In March 1990 that panel recommended construction be delayed to allow further studies and input. Instead, ignoring the panel's request, Alberta abruptly approved the project in December 1990.

A number of local groups then appealed the design and location of the water facility associated with the Alpac mill. In its 1993 ruling the Public Health Advisory and Appeal Board of Alberta (PHAAB) denied standing to all the appellants on the grounds that these Albertans were not "*directly affected*" by the development because they could not demonstrate an effect upon themselves "*more direct than a general effect on the population at large.*"

The rules for public engagement had fundamentally changed. Ever since then, Alberta public input has been increasingly directed towards general policy and away from specific projects.

Each regulatory body developed its

own increasingly restrictive definition of "*directly affected*". Countless submitted "*statements of concern*" were deemed invalid because the authors were not directly affected. In most cases the author's residence was not within the "*directly affected*" distance to the project to be considered.

Under Ed Stelmach's Progressive Conservative government, a Regulatory Enhancement Project was initiated in March 2010. The stated objective was "*to ensur(e) our province has a modern, efficient, outcomes-based system that maintains our strong commitment to the environment.*" Instead, by the end of the project in 2013 (under Alison Redford), the AER had been created, and the government focus had shifted to an open-for-business mentality primarily concerned with the competitiveness of Alberta businesses in a global economy.

I can hear some of the comments now.

What's wrong with that? I don't want some _____ (fill in the blank - lefty, liberal, greenie) holding up our _____ (fill in the blank - pipeline, pulp mill, gravel pit).

Be careful what you wish for. If we want arbitrary rules in place to prevent the above, then we must accept and support their use to reduce ATV access to the Castle, create Bighorn Provincial Park, or permit a wet-gravel extraction pit to destroy a world-class trout fishery. We simply can't have it both ways.

Here is a wider perspective. Today, there is no legal right for public participation in project approval decision-making in Alberta. Across Canada, general public participation in environmental matters is more accepted in most other jurisdictions. Internationally, the right to full public participation in resource and environmental decision-making is enshrined in international law. The UN 1998 Aarhus Convention specifically extends the right to participate to anyone with an interest in the decision. Canada is not a signatory party to this most significant interna-

tional law on public participation.

If you are interested in reading more, please see:

Way, Nikki/Driedzic, Adam/Kenyon, Duncan, "Standing at Energy Regulators in Alberta", (January 2017) The Pembina Institute

Low, Cecilia, "The Public Interest in Section 3 of Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Act: Where Do We Stand and Where Do We Go From Here?" (September 2011) Occasional Paper #36, Canadian Institute of Resources Law

Richardson, Mary/Joan Sherman, Joan/Gismondi, Michael "Not directly affected: Using the law to close the door on environmentalists" (1996) 31 Journal of Canadian Studies 102

Program Chair Report

INGRID HORNER
PROGRAM CHAIR

CONFERENCE WAS A great success! It always amazes me how much we learn and to see so many smiling faces again.

I'm Ingrid Horner, your new AFGA Programs Chair. My husband and I have been involved in the Fish and Game community for many years, and he is my greatest supporter. I have been a director at Onoway Fish and Game for 6 years, Programs Chair for Zone 4 for 4 years and Programs Chair at Narrow Lake Conservation Centre for 4 years. I volunteered as an instructor with Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Camp for 13 years and in 2014, I co-founded Onoway Ladies League with Bob Rogers. Presently, we have a team of 7 women organizing our events and have grown our numbers to 120 women. We are now seeing the Ladies League grow province wide, with new clubs coming on board often!

As one person, the position of Programs Chair is a big job, as every club runs programs of some sort. I am grateful to those who have already volunteered their assistance in helping reach

my vision of what I would like to see this exciting area of AFGA develop into.

We will be sending out letters to each club in order to get a list of existing programs offered, programs that clubs may wish to start, or what help clubs may be able to offer to others in strengthening existing programs or getting started with a new program.

AFGA is 25,000 members strong and I know we can enhance and grow the programs that exist plus open doors to new programming throughout this great province. I look forward to working with you all! My email is programs.afga@gmail.com.

Youth Chair Report

TERI-LYNN NICE
YOUTH CHAIR

THIS YEAR'S 91ST Annual AFGA Conference was very educational and fun at the same time. There were 15 youth in attendance and 3 Youth Coordinators who worked very hard to put this program together and make it great for us.

Dana Brand, a Fish and Wildlife officer came in and spoke to us about career opportunities and as well, birds of prey workers brought 2 of their birds. These presentations were very educational and informative as some of the youth are interested in getting into fields like these.

We also went to the Telus World of Science and watched an IMAX film on climate, as well as going to an escape room to use our team knowledge to solve the puzzles and escape.

We are very excited for next year's conference, but before that comes around we are discussing how we can all continue to stay connected throughout the year by planning a few youth events.

If you are in a Fish and Game club and want to be a part of these events, please text me at 780-996-0313 or email me terilynnnice@icloud.com.

Zone 1 Report

GLENN HEATHER
ZONE 1 DIRECTOR

AS I AM writing this, the excitement of AFGA's 91st Conference continues to flash through my mind. This year's conference was well attended with exceptional information sharing.

Alberta Environment and Parks Minister Nixon's presence and speech sent a very positive atmosphere of change related to how our current government values our input and wants our opinions, in managing our resources.

Fisheries were very open and receptive to stocking and reviewing how we manage our fisheries. Darryl Smith, AFGA Fishing Chair has developed an excellent guidance and philosophy document named 'The Road to Change' which will be discussed with the government senior fisheries management team.

A few presentations which were very thought provoking were:

- "What does the future hold for Alberta's wild spaces?" Data and projected land reduction models were presented, indicating what our Alberta's landscape will look like in years to come, relating to population growth and loss of prime agricultural and habitat land.
- Evolving focus and structure within Alberta Environment and Parks- all very positive for AFGA and Albertans
- Banff Bison reintroduction program, looking hopeful that the bison will stay within the Banff Park and bring back a native species that was very prevalent in the past.
- Updates on Alberta species management plans and proposed regulation changes
- Social media, protocol and the power and influence in today's society
- CWD presentation – CWD continues to grow both in numbers of animals as well in locations within the province.

And let's not forget the Wildlife Trust



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Fund properties that we have obtained over the years, over 45,000 acres!

Congratulations to Zone 1 clubs! We had numerous clubs that had an increase in membership and received AFGA recognition.

I encourage all members of any clubs to attend as a delegate at one of our conferences. I believe that once one has attended an AFGA Conference, it will make an everlasting impression and increase one's awareness of the value of AFGA.

On another note, the Fisheries Open Houses held in January/February that were held in Lethbridge, Brooks and Medicine Hat were extremely well attended. It was rewarding to have these open discussions with numerous biologists and fisheries personnel. Thank you all for attending and giving your opinions.

The Zone 1 meeting will have been held April 5th and AFGA Wildlife Awards are occurring on April 25, 2020; these will be reported on next issue.

Let's celebrate and communicate to our friends and acquaintances what AFGA does for conservation.

Promote what we have done and will be doing in the years to come and sell more memberships.

Zone 2 Report

DEB CLARKE
ZONE 2 DIRECTOR

AGAIN, CONGRATULATIONS to the Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association, the volunteers, AFGA staff, Executive and Chair, Steve Witiuk, on a successful 91st Annual AFGA Conference.

Invited conference presenters were well versed in the topics of choice and a lot of good information was shared. Presentations are available on the AFGA website. It was really nice to see some new and repeat younger members in attendance. Their enthusiasm is infectious and hope is that they will stay

involved, be committed fish and gamers and become future life members.

Welcome back to Brian Dingreville, Ian Stuart, Matt Zazula, Darryl Smith, Jim Clarke and Victor Benz who let their names stand and were re-elected to the Executive, and to Wayne Lowry who will continue as Finance Chair. Welcome Ingrid Horner our new AFGA Programs Chair and a thank you to Mark Anderson, the former Chair, for bringing new ideas to the table and starting the process of a Programs information guidebook!

It was amazing to watch so many clubs/delegates participate in the parade of donations. All donations to the association are appreciated of course. I have a soft spot for the Wildlife Trust Fund and would like to thank all the individuals, clubs and organizations for their donations with that focus! The Zone 2 clubs with contributions were: Calgary F&G \$15,000.00; Drumheller & District F&G \$2,500.00; High River F&G \$2,000.00 and Sarcee F&G \$10,000.00. In a very touching tribute, Sarcee's donation was made in memory of Bob Rivard, a long-time hard-working member of the club. Bob had also served as the Zone 2 Treasurer.

Here is the link to the Trust Fund year and decade in review video: <https://www.afga.org/wildlife-trust-fund-properties/>. We appreciate Brad and TJ's continued work and efforts in creating this professional and worthwhile video for our membership and the public!

There were a couple Zone 2 clubs that received AFGA Service Awards at the President's banquet. The Calgary Fish & Game Association – Outdoor Canada West Communication Awards (development of a new website making it easier for all users to peruse their site and keep up to date) and the Darwin Cronkite Memorial Award (for their continued pheasant raise and release program). The Sarcee Fish & Game Association – George E. Watt Memorial Award (for continuing to raise funds and making the highest financial contribution to the Wildlife Trust Fund). Congrats to my husband and long-time fish and gamer,

Jim Clarke! He was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition for his many years of service and contributions to the organization. Lastly I'm so proud of my dad, Heinz Plontke, who was surprised with a special appreciation certificate for his 25+ years of service to the Wildlife Trust Fund Board. Saving habitat for fish and wildlife has always been very important to him.

Zone clubs were busy for the first four months this year hosting big game measuring, banquet and award nights. Fortunately, my family and I were able to attend a number of the events. A lot of planning and coordination is involved so, a big high five and thank you to all the hard-working dedicated volunteers who helped make those functions a success! Thanks too to the Drumheller club for their generous \$500.00 donation to Zone 2! Glen Dundas, Zone 2 Hunting Chair, accepted the cheque from their President, Stephanie Briggs, at the club banquet (see inset photo).

The Zone 2 spring meeting will be hosted by the Sarcee Fish & Game Association on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at Cabela's Calgary beginning 10:00 am. For additional information contact me.

DID U KNOW: "In order improve services to Albertans, the Government of Alberta has recently updated the Alberta Wildlife Regulation to allow the carrying of licences electronically. To support this, the AlbertaReLM app has been developed and released to act as an electronic wallet, allowing customers to save licences to their devices to carry with them in the field. Please remember that **the only acceptable form of electronic licence is through the AlbertaReLM app** and that hunters/anglers must be able to produce the electronic app or paper licence when requested by an Officer during field compliance checks. For licences that require tags please remember that the associated tag forms part of the licence and must be physically produced." (*My Wild Alberta* <https://mywildalberta.ca/hunting/albertarelm-mobile-app.aspx>)

deb.clarke@telus.net 



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Zone 3 Report

**ARNOLD WINKLER
& KEVIN WINGERT**

ZONE 3 DIRECTOR

WHAT A WINTER we had; like a yoyo with temperature fluctuations that created hazardous driving and didn't favor my fishing calendar. A couple of days back heard the first goose honking and the starlings are back.

The 2020 AFGA conference and annual general meeting was hosted by the Sherwood Park Club; it was very informative with a variety of topics and issues presented. Some related to issues that involve zone 3; such as CWD, North Raven River, and possible fisheries and hunting changes.

By now all zones and clubs have held their annual spring meetings and hopefully filled their slate of officers required, now to secure more memberships and progress with club projects.

At present the Covid 29 virus and the oil war are creating fear (my opinion). People and businesses will need to review their past expenditures and set stricter budgets to cope going forward. Hopefully this will pass quickly with less worry so we can relax and enjoy our vast outdoors with family, friends and especially our youth as they are AFGA future leaders.

Arnold Winkler
Zone 3 Interim Director

THIS IS MY 1st report in some time as I had to undergo treatments throughout most of 2019. Thanks to all who gave me words of encouragement. While I am on the mend, I lack the needed energy to do a good job.


I have been your zone 3 director for almost 6 years, and attended every conference, I had many good times. I was able to attend the Sherwood Park Conference this February in place of Red Deer Fish & Game delegate who was unable to attend. So on short notice and after rescheduling several physio treat-

ments I was able to attend. Congratulations to Sherwood Park for an excellent event and really good meals.

With a month to go until our April 5th AGM in Red Deer, Arnold called for an emergency Zone 3 CAFGA meeting, which we held during the conference to discuss our executive vacancies. Thanks to all who put up their hand to be an interim candidate to fill all the positions, 1st time in six years that we got a chance to do this. Norm Bota and I will not be running for positions; but will help assist any new candidates to get comfortable.

This past hunting season was not a good one, but I did get an invite to the Taber Pheasant Festival and managed to bag a few birds with much walking. My deer and moose tags nearly went unfilled but I tagged a white-tailed deer two days before my surgery. Bob Scammel, a long-time member of Red Deer Fish & Game; adapted by going back to his roots of angling as he got older, I also intend to get out and do more fishing; maybe a trip to a northern lodge. I do seem to have a talent to catch fish, as the boys tell me I am a walleye whisperer.

Support and become a member of your local fish and game association. Signing out.

Thank-you
Kevin Wingert 

Zone 4 Report

FARAN SCHABER
ZONE 4 DIRECTOR

I AM JUST back from the 2020 AFGA Conference as I write this report. I found that there was a lot of information presented in the days leading up to the AGM. There were a wide variety of topics presented that kept the delegates and guests informed and entertained in the sessions leading up to the AGM. The first sessions on programs and environment were as well attended as the hunting and fishing sessions that followed the next day. It was good to see such a good turn-out for all the sessions leading up to the AGM. On Friday afternoon I met with the youth, with President Brian Dingreville, to discuss their involvement in the resolution process. I discussed with them the need to decide on 2 resolutions and discuss both for and against at the AGM. I was concerned that meeting with them so late would not give them the time that they needed to present at the meeting. I would like to congratulate them. They showed up to the meeting well prepared and gave an excellent discussion on each of their ▶



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resolutions. I also met with some old friends and made some new contacts.

Our next Zone meeting is April 19, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the Morinville Fish and Game clubhouse. If your club can't send a representative to the meeting, could you please email me a report on your club activities so that I can share this information with the other clubs in the zone? It would be great to see as many clubs represented as possible, as I fully expect AFGA President, Brian Dingreville to be present; I offer this same request to the clubs in Zone 6. It would be great to see your club at the zone meeting, but I realize that it is a large distance to go for a meeting. Sharing information at Zone meetings is a great way to come up with new ideas to try and boost membership.

TECK Resources will be shutting down operations of the Cardinal River Operations in late summer or early fall. They will still be doing reclamation on the mineral surface leases (MSL) over the next 4 or 5 years. If you happen to be successful in a draw for a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, and you want to hunt in the Cadomin area, contact TECK Resources Cardinal River Operations and they will do their best to get you through the MSL to the area you wish to go.

The new Alberta Wildlife Records Book is out and available from the office. This past year's fish and wildlife harvested will be celebrated at the annual AFGA Wildlife Awards banquet, April 25, 2020. It would be great to fill the hall for this event. 🐦

Zone 5 Report

ROBYN BUTLER
ZONE 4 DIRECTOR

SPRING IS HERE and everyone is very busy, and glad to see winter over with. Congratulations to all the clubs

and individuals who received awards at the conference. It was a great conference in Sherwood Park and our zone was well represented! It was nice to see the good turnout of youth this year. This was a great opportunity for your youth to become more involved, so please consider sending the youth from your club next year. It is great to see so many clubs getting their youth involved, whether it's attending conference, youth camp, archery, trapshooting or various other activities, as all of these things are a stepping stone for our future.

The Alberta Conservation Association would like you to join in their Kids-Can-Catch program. Please feel free to contact them for more information or a date available for your club.

The Zone 5 meeting was held on April 18 in Innisfree and I expect it was very well attended.

The club reports are always very in-

formative and it appears that every club is busy with many events from banquets, archery shoots, youth sessions and various other activities, so keep up the good work. Thank you Innisfree Fish and Game for hosting the meeting and providing a lunch.

As usual there was a great turnout of clubs at the Edmonton Sportsman Show March 12-15, 2020. This venue is a great chance for everyone to promote their club. Thank you to Jim and Ruth Shewfelt and the Edmonton Fish and Game for organizing the booths, a job well done.

I hope all your club banquets were a success, a lot of time and effort goes into fundraising especially this year with so many cutbacks, but from what I hear the clubs did quite well. Kudos!

If you have any events you would like forwarded to other clubs in the zone, please contact me and I will get the word out. 🐦

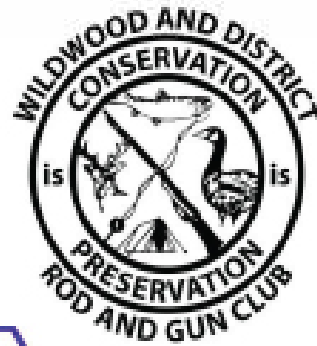
AFGA 2020 Executive

Back Row: Jim Clarke – *Hunting Chair*; Glenn Heather – *Zone 1 Director*; Doug Butler – *Past President*; Matt Zazula – *2nd Vice President*; Wayne Lowry – *Finance Chair*; Faran Schaber – *Zone 4 Director*; Ian Stuart – *1st Vice President*

Front Row: Deb Clarke – *Zone 2 Director*; Delinda Ryerson – *Executive Director*; Robyn Butler – *Zone 5 Director*; Brian Dingreville – *President*; Carole Romaniuk – *Past President/Life Member Rep*; Ingrid Horner – *Program Chair*; Darryl Smith – *Fishing Chair*; Victor Benz – *Environment Chair*



Thank you to the gold and silver-level sponsors of our 91st annual conference!



Southern AB Fish & Game Association

Thank you to the bronze-level sponsors of our 91st annual conference!



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Thank you to the live and silent auction donors of our 91st Annual Conference!



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Matt & Dulcie Zazula
NA Hunting Supplies
NAPA Auto Parts - Southtown Auto Industrial Supply Ltd.
Nature Conservancy Canada
Nootka Island
Noramco Wire and Cable
North Saskatchewan River Guide

Presenters

Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of AEP
Jordan Walker, MLA Sherwood Park
Ingrid Horner
Smantha Wulff
Dr. Brad Stelliox
Travis Ripley
Peter Aku
Karsten Heuer
Dave Park
Matt Besko
Natasha Pentyliuk
Rod Oryck
Todd Zimmerling
Aleksandra Bugajski
Glen Lawrence

Volunteers

Al Keeler
Andrea Blize
Brim Tatarin
Dale Fournier
Dave Tarkowski
Kristan Tarkowski
Debra Russell
Dominique Pichota
Doug Burton
Effie Walker
Frank Lee
Gaetan Richard
Garnet Anthony
George Belter
Cheryl Wylie
Gordon & Rita Poirier
Gordon Blize
Jim Romaniuk
Lyl Kortman
Ray Makowecki
Richard Rotinwell
Rita Poirier
Ron Durstling
Ron Swan
Steve Witniuk
Rob Witniuk
Stewart Kuzik
Vern McIntosh

Display tables

Alberta Invasive Species
Nick Parayko Images
BrokerLink
Honda Canada
Cabela
AFGA
Nature Alberta

Alberta Conservation Association
Beaver Hills Biosphere Reserve
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Becoming an Outdoor Woman/
Narrow Lake Youth Camp /
Ladies League
Nick Parayko