

Fall 2020

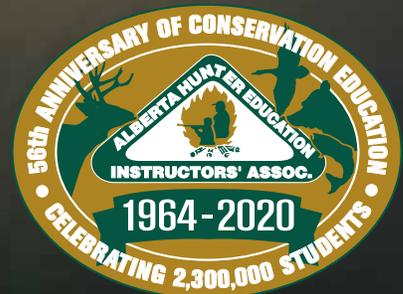


Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education

The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



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President's Message

Can We Find Encouragement in These Troubled Times?

By Robert A. Gruszecki



Robert Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

While we all face a global pandemic, and for many that are experiencing the darkest days of our downturn time in the economy or difficult times with our personal health, there must always be hope! Whatever the outcomes of the uncertainties we all face, we know we will survive and

eventually be ok. We know this because history has proven this time and time again! So, I submit to you there are things to be encouraged by. Let me explain...

Here in Conservation Education, we have experienced many times through our 56-year history about the need to prevail against great odds. When we are facing our darkest days, HOPE is what will get us through. HOPE in time of crisis is something we all need. While I wish I could place a simple icon here on this page that you could press for HOPE ... I can't!

But maybe I can help you see and discover HOPE for yourselves. Remember that HOPE isn't completely removing the risks we face, or removing anxiety and uncertainty. It is the choice to see beyond the circumstances we are in and to see something better ahead!

I am encouraged, thankful and am given the gift of HOPE from the following recent occurrences:

- The **Creative Generosity** of the donor who took a small percentage of sales on each over-the counter-product for a short period, then pooled that capital to send us a cheque with a note of appreciation and expression of gratefulness to our cause for giving their children HOPE! We should be thanking them for the opportunity to do what we do to make that difference!
- The **Inspirational Volunteerism** to the volunteer who participated in a recent shooting league, then created a You Tube video thanking us for changes we made for her at a time in her life when she needed HOPE. She thanked us for doing what fuels our fire – connecting her to wildlife and wild places because we knew it would make her life better! We should be thanking her!
- The **Selflessness of the Countless Thousands of Albertans**, many of them new to our cause, who reached out and responded to our call for help. We completed the most successful fundraiser in the history of our organization. Thanks to all of you who responded and assisted by supporting our fundraiser fueled by 100 separate generous donors. This gives me great HOPE at a time when our income necessary to support our delivery is down by nearly 70% year on year.
- The **Professional Extension of Services** from numerous people who find themselves out of work, but willing and interested in offering their expertise to assist with Legal Interpretations, Proofreading, Accounting advice

and even Construction. These people are out of work yet avail themselves to us knowing that we can use all of these important and valuable services. Their generosity of spirit gives me HOPE!

• **Leaders Who Lead** by what they do, not just say. At a time when our government officials are working long hours and devoting themselves to the very large matters at hand, Our Minister of AEP The Honourable Minister Nixon, our MLA the Honourable RJ Sigurdson, and our MP the Honourable John Barlow all attended our recent Provincial Hunting Day celebrations at the Calgary Firearms Centre. Due to Covid protocols we were forced to limit attendance and had to turn down over 250 attendees; however, everyone who attended not only experienced a safe, rewarding and memorable educational experience, but they each realized that their pursuit of wildlife and wild places holds an important place in our leaders belief systems. That gives me great HOPE!

• **Our Message is Being Sent and Received!** Alberta's resident hunting licence sales average has grown in the last 10 years. The per-capita growth rate on a 10-year average is entirely positive. Best of all, Alberta is the only governing body in all of North America to show any such increase and the numbers look even better for this year! We should be proud of our example and achievement. We should all get great reward from such a success story. That gives me HOPE!

Continued ➤

Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association
**Conservation
Education**
Magazine

This Issue's Feature Articles:

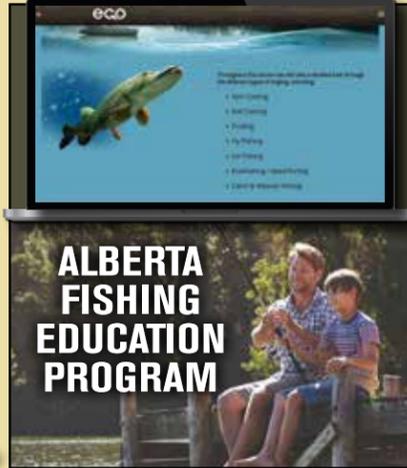
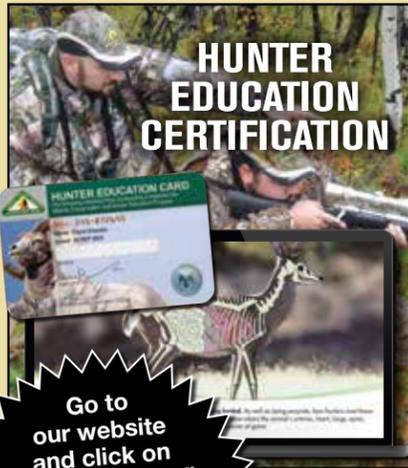
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Front Cover Photo:

Kyle Bottoms



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President's Message *cont.*

On a more national and even international stage, I am thankful and am given the gift of HOPE from:

- **The Sacrificial Bravery of our Medical Health Professionals.** I may be biased because my daughter is a registered nurse, but everyday these heroes do what they do to help us all and to give us peace during turmoil. They give us their very best every day! That gives me HOPE!
- **The Devotion to Learning and to Those Who Learn.** Again I may be biased because both my daughters-in-law are teachers, but everyday these heroes do what they do to mold the minds of our youth to give them and us a chance to change the world for the better with who we become and who we are. That gives me HOPE!
- **The Global Collaborations and Pooling of Science.** The might of the world is upon the pandemic and work is being done by the finest scientific minds available to solve the pandemic. The undeniable force of mankind towards a cure will endure and succeed. That gives me HOPE!

On a more local and close-to-home basis, our staff and volunteers give me great HOPE by working together to provide learning options and to create opportunities that are outside the norm to fit what the current realities are. Check

out all the options described on these pages. We have created numerous learning options that are being utilized at a rate unprecedented in the history of our organization. There are numerous programs, training sessions, workbooks, APPS and various certificate programs that can connect people to the outdoors easier and better informed than ever before. Let's encourage people to develop new skills using these new tools and the time-tested tools we provide. Let's encourage people to use our resources to expand their horizons and eliminate boredom. Let's encourage people to utilize this time to learn valuable life skills that may help them in their future. Let's encourage people to learn something new and exciting! Let's encourage HOPE!

So, as you can see, from this great turmoil springs the opportunity to be encouraged. I am encouraged that we have volunteers, instructors, mentors and staff that work their "magic" to touch the lives of the public and, most importantly, these efforts still hold tremendous sources of joy for others! Your efforts are demonstrating tremendous success and you are appreciated beyond what words here can describe.

So yes, even in these troubled times, I am ENCOURAGED and have HOPE! We must all try and eliminate the toxicity of hate, the environment of panic and the perpetuation of helplessness!!

HOPE is a powerful force and I hope that the force of HOPE be with you! I pray for those that are currently struggling with the virus, for those living in fear and anxiety, for those in isolation and for those who must make the incredibly difficult public decisions in this time of crisis.

I for one believe that the sun never really quits shining ... sometimes clouds get in the way and it's tough to see, but it does continue to shine. These clouds will part and the sun will come up again tomorrow ... have FAITH! Be HOPEFUL! In case you aren't sure what hope and faith are or if the tribulations of these trying times has made it hard for you to remember ... HOPE is praying for rain and FAITH is showing up with an umbrella!

Please stay positive, test negative and try and remember that this too shall pass! When we each focus on the good ... the good can only become better. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to all things Conservation Education.

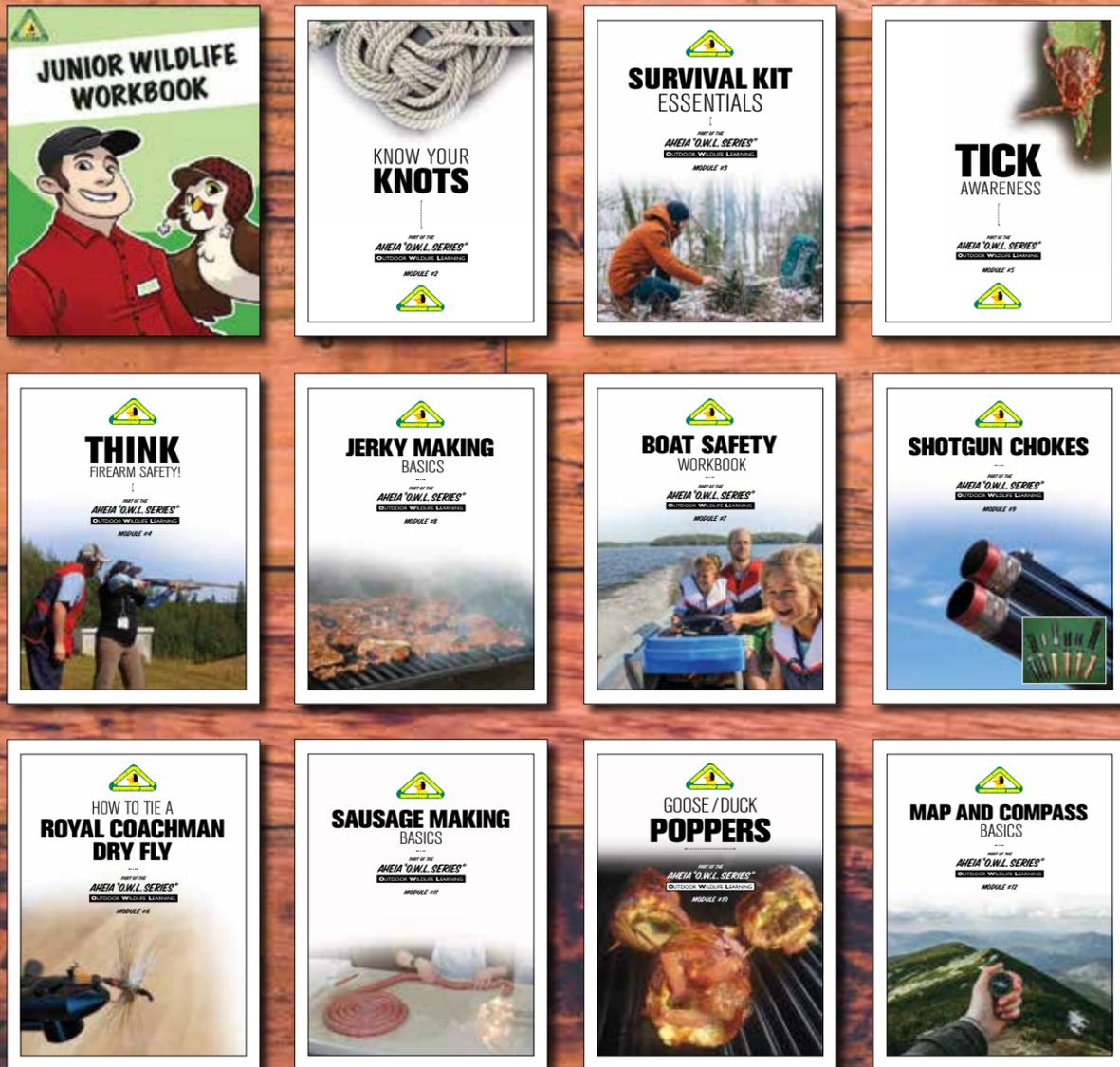
Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

“ Remember that HOPE isn't completely removing the risks we face, or removing anxiety and uncertainty. It is the choice to see beyond the circumstances we are in and to see something better ahead! ”

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Edmonton Report



“ ... our office is still under lockdown and we have implemented procedures to keep instructors, clients and staff safe. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

The COVID-19 pandemic is still rearing its nasty head and affecting everyone either directly or indirectly. It is a challenging time trying to ensure safe working conditions, keeping everyone safe.

As I write this, our office is still under lockdown and we have implemented procedures to keep instructors, clients and staff safe. We appreciate your patience during these trying times.

Regrettably, we were forced to cancel our 2020 Youth Hunter Education Camps, Outdoor Youth Seminar and Outdoor Women's Program. This was a very sad time for participants, instructors and event organizers alike. We are all looking forward to the return of these events in 2021.

The 2021 Youth Hunter Education Camps are scheduled to run July 4-9, July 11-16, July 18-

23 and July 25-30. Our 2021 Outdoor Youth Seminar will run August 20-22. Of course, these events will be held at our remarkable Alford Lake facility west of Caroline. Registration forms for the 2021 Youth Hunter Education Camps and the Outdoor Youth Seminar will be ready shortly. They will be available at all of our facilities and for download from our new and improved website www.aheia.com. To get added to our notification list simply email your request to edmontoninfo@ahcia.com and we will look after the rest.

Our 2020 Provincial Hunting Day was held on September 26 at the Calgary Firearms Centre. Our Alford Lake facility will once again be back on track to host a 2021 Provincial Hunting Day event next year. A little Provincial Hunting Day history. The fourth Saturday of every September has become a special date within Alberta. The Alberta Government declared this day each year to be Provincial Hunting Day with the first annual event being held in 2007. Next year's event will take place on September 25. It will mark the 14th annual event, and is a reminder to all Albertans of our hunting heritage, and of the importance

of securing a future for wildlife and wild places, especially within our province. This event has become extremely popular as a family outing, so please plan on attending next year.

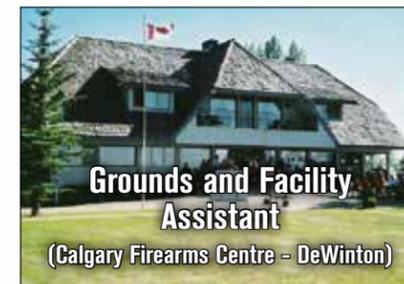
Our annual Spring Fling fundraising banquet had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We were able to re-book the event for Thursday, June 3, 2021. Tickets are available now and can be purchased by contacting our Edmonton office toll free at 1-866-282-4342 or by email at edmontoninfo@ahcia.com.

With the influence of COVID-19, we are in a situation where we are becoming desperate for volunteer assistance. With in-house courses set to return shortly we will really require more volunteer help. We continue to look for volunteer support for all of our courses, camps, events, etc. If you or any of your associates wish to become part of something greater please let me know.

Take care and enjoy the Great Outdoors!



Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator
(Edmonton)



Grounds and Facility Assistant
(Calgary Firearms Centre - DeWinton)



Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist
(Edmonton)

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Firearms Education Report

“A reminder to CFSC/CRFSC instructors that, despite the new “normal”, we continue to audit courses.”

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Firearms Education Coordinator
AHEIA

As we wind our way into fall the CFSC/CRFSC program continues to train students in ever increasing numbers. In conversations with our instructors, most have a waiting list and are running weekly courses, albeit with smaller groups, in order to accommodate COVID-19 protocols.

A reminder to CFSC/CRFSC instructors that, despite the new “normal”, we continue to audit courses. It appears some of the courses are not running the required number of hours. Failing to teach the required number of hours not only affects the instructor in terms of a suspension or revocation of instructor privileges; it may also disallow a student from receiving a PAL.

As per Canadian Firearms Safety Course and Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course Standards:

2. Instructional Standards

2.1. Instructors will take a minimum of 8 hours to teach the classroom portion of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC), not including breaks or the test. Instructors will not skip any portions of the course.

2.2. Instructors will take a minimum of 6 hours to teach the classroom portion of the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course (CRFSC), or 4 hours if delivered within 7 days of the CFSC. This does not include breaks or the tests. Instructors will not skip any portions of the course.

Remember, the student is signing in Section “A” and ensuring their information is true and accurate. You, as an instructor, in signing Section “B” confirm the CFSC/CRFSC was taught to the standards as outlined in your Instructor Agreement.

The Canadian Firearms Program and the Alberta/Northwest Territories CFO’s office began processing new applications for Possession and Acquisition Licences (PAL) in mid-June. It has been estimated that across Canada there are 45,000 new applications awaiting processing. With this significant backlog I suspect new applications will take at least six months to process. On the topic of the CFO, Jennifer Hart MacDonald has been appointed as the new CFO for Alberta/Northwest Territories. Jennifer’s position as Alberta/Northwest Territories CFO became effective August 10, 2020. Jennifer comes to the CFO’s position from Correctional Services Canada and will be a welcome addition to their office.

All instructors should now be aware of the implications of the May 1, 2020 Order in Council amendments to the Firearms Act, and how these prohibitions may effect firearms currently in lawful possession of Canadians. My advice when asked “What do I do with my now prohibited firearm?”, would be to keep the firearm stored securely, do not transport or use the firearm, and lastly, retain ownership of the firearm as the amnesty period is in effect until April of 2022. Given there has been a number of Court challenges filed against the validity of the Order and Council prohibitions, and rumours of a pending Federal election, we may see more changes in the near future. As instructors we may still use prohibited handguns in the CRFSC (with the 12.6 endorsement on your PAL), however, we cannot use prohibited rifles, shotguns, or other prohibited devices in our classes.

As most of you are aware, Alberta has established the “Alberta Advisory Firearms Committee” June 3 of this year. From the Alberta Government website:

“The Alberta Firearms Advisory Committee has been established to examine the impact of federal legislation on gun owners in Alberta and consider how provincial firearms policies can best meet the needs of Albertans.”

“The committee will represent groups that speak for a wide range of lawful gun owners, including farmers and ranchers, hunters, collectors and sport shooting enthusiasts.”

The committee consists of twelve members and, in reviewing their brief biographies, they are certainly a diverse group that can represent the firearms community in all aspects of firearms ownership, whether it be firearms collecting, retail sales, sport shooting or hunting. I suspect we will see town hall meetings in the fall, as part of their mandate is to hear concerns from stakeholders in Alberta.



“Failing to teach the required number of hours not only affects the instructor in terms of a suspension or revocation of instructor privileges; it may also disallow a student for receiving PAL.”

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Completed Careers

Recently two members of our organization completed their journey, and our thoughts and prayers are extended to their families and friends. They may be gone, but their energy, friendship and service will not be forgotten.



Don Loro
Passed away June 30, 2020

Don passed away on June 30, 2020, having turned 75 earlier in the month. He lived his entire life in the Rosedale-Cambria district of Drumheller and was married 53 years to his wife Wilma. They have one son Jay who lives in Calgary with his wife and two children. In 1974 Don and Jack Steenson restarted the Drumheller trap club on Dutton's farm where Don was the mainstay up until his passing this year. It is still an active club that has been improved upon as the years passed, with the high point being the turkey shoot every October. Don was also a Firearms Instructor for AHEIA and volunteered every year at Sportsmen Shows with Wilma in both Calgary and Red Deer. Under his tutelage, literally thousands of students learned the safe and practical use of firearms. He was an avid hunter and shooter, and in his lifetime contributed greatly to promoting hunting and the shooting sports. Our deepest sympathies go out to Wilma and family.

Palle Kjar
August 1, 1929 - September 22, 2020



Palle passed away on September 22, 2020 at the age of 91. Palle was an adventurous and kind-hearted individual whose travels took him throughout the world during his career as an explorationist in the oil industry. He was a Hunter Education Instructor for 16 years and assisted with Conservation Education events such as Provincial Hunting Day at the Calgary Firearms Centre in DeWinton. His passion for photography combined with his love of the outdoors resulted in beautiful images of both his home province and the people and cultures of the world. His stories will be missed by all and he improved the lives he touched through his teaching and coaching. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his family.



To register as a mentor or mentorship participant, please visit the Hunting for Tomorrow website at www.huntingfortomorrow.ca or www.aheia.com for more information.



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The fourth Saturday of September has been known as Provincial Hunting Day in Alberta since 2007. This day is a reminder to all Albertans of our hunting heritage and the importance of wildlife management and conservation—especially in our province.

We celebrated Provincial Hunting Day 2020 on September 26 with a free day-long event at AHEIA's Calgary Firearms Centre. With limited capacity due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we were forced to turn away hundreds this year who wished to participate.

We were lucky enough to have the honourable Jason Nixon, Alberta's Minister of Environment, join in on the fun and offer some words on Conservation Education and Hunting in Alberta. We were also excited to see MLA R.J. Sigurdson and MP John Barlow also in attendance for the event.

This year there was an abundance of stations to choose from, showcasing a variety of different styles and types of shooting, as well as safety on and off the range.

The weather could not have been better, especially in comparison to Provincial Hunting Day 2019, which was on the same day as Alberta's heaviest snowfall in 2019.

Thank you to our sponsors, the Alberta Conservation Association and Pheasants Forever Calgary, and everyone who participated in the event for making it one of the greatest Provincial Hunting Day Events to date! Join us again next year, on September 25, for Provincial Hunting Day 2021!



The honourable Jason Nixon, Alberta's Minister of Environment, speaking at AHEIA's Alberta Provincial Hunting Day event.



The honourable Jason Nixon shooting with AHEIA President Bob Gruszecki.

2020 Alberta Provincial Hunting Day and 19th Annual Youth/Novice Fall Shoot



Trap

Trap Shooting is the most popular style of shooting at the Calgary Firearms Centre. A round for one person consists of 25 shots, five each from five different shooting stations, the object being to score the greatest number of broken targets.



Skeet

A round of skeet for one person also consists of 25 shots, the object being to score the greatest number of broken targets. One main difference from Trap is that the Skeet targets come out of two houses, a low house and high house, on either edge of the field and the shooting stations resemble a half-circle between the two houses.



5 Stand

5 Stand includes 10 different machines throwing targets from every angle, including a "Rabbit" which bowls a special type of clay target along the ground. This game can completely change as wind speeds and directions change, and often a great 5 Stand shooter is someone who is able to react and adjust quickly to different targets, unlike skeet and trap, which are more about perfecting a similar, repeating motion.



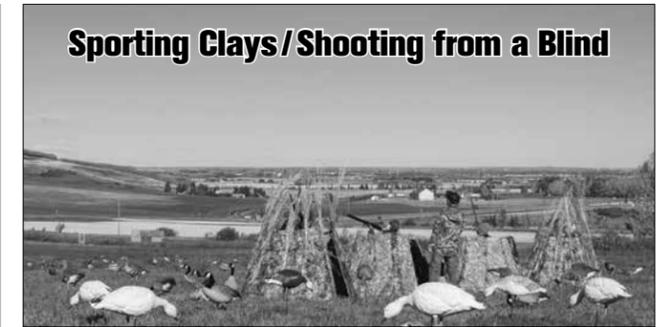
Biathlon

Thanks to the Alberta Biathlon Club for coming out and setting up their digital biathlon shooting simulator. Many attendees were coached on the proper techniques, including breathing exercises, to be successful in hitting the small, distant targets.



Proper Firearm Transport

The number one priority when handling a firearm is safety. Participants were taught proper techniques for crossing fences and how to properly store and transport a firearm.



Sporting Clays/ Shooting from a Blind

Thanks to Claude Boiteau, from Fowl Play Outfitters, participants were able to experience the thrill of shooting from blinds surrounded by decoys. A few of the Calgary Firearms Centre sporting clay machines were set to simulate birds coming in from all directions and heights.



Pheasant Release / Dog Demo

We were lucky enough to be joined by Kris Marthaller and his daughter Hannah, from Mosquito Creek Game Birds, who gave participants a close look at some of their pheasants and demonstrated the skill of their dogs. Seeing a trained dog walk carefully through the grass looking for a bird, and witnessing the dog freeze and drop its nose to point out exactly where the bird is hiding, was one of the most impressive moments of the day!



Archery

The Calgary Firearms Centre's Archery Range allowing participants to try their hand at one of the oldest sports in the world. It is believed archery has been around for over 25,000 years.



Hanging Targets

An easy station for some of the beginners and younger participants to hit a stationary target, at a shorter distance, before moving on to more challenging target shooting.

Staff Appointment



Blake Emery

It gives me great pleasure to announce that, effective June 1, 2020, Blake Emery has accepted a position at AHEIA working in marketing and social media.

Blake was born and raised in Calgary and is a graduate from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Business Administration, majoring in Marketing.

Blake has worked for AHEIA at the Calgary Firearms Centre since 2015 and became a valuable employee during the busy shooting season. When not working, Blake enjoys camping and fishing.

Blake can be reached through the Calgary office, by cell at 403-200-4440 and via email at blake@aheia.com.

Please join me as we welcome Blake to the administrative team.

Robert A. Gruszecki, President - AHEIA

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Designing the AHEIA Conservation Education Magazine

AHEIA's Annual Teacher Workshop Instructor Course

AHEIA's annual Teacher Workshop Instructor Course was held July 16-19, 2020 at our Alford Lake Conservation Centre for Excellence. Under COVID-19 protocols, 12 teachers from across Alberta took part in the three-day program which included the Hunter Education Instructor Certificate, Fishing Education Instructor Certificate, and a Pleasure Craft Operator Certificate. The Sunday is an optional fourth day and includes the International Bow-hunting Education Program to cap off the weekend.

One of the participating teachers, Tara Nissen, noticed a class picture hanging beneath a grizzly bear hide at Alford Lake. As a student in 2005, Tara's class had attended Alford Lake and donated the hide hanging above the photograph. Tara is pointing to herself in the photo. Tara is now back, 15 years later, as a teacher pursuing the certification needed to bring her own class to Alford Lake!

Thank you, Tara, for your permission to share this moment.

Next year's Teacher Workshop Instructor Course is tentatively scheduled for July 15-18, 2021

at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.

For additional information about the workshop, please contact AHEIA Edmonton at edmontoninfo@aheia.com or 1-866-282-4342.




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The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

2020 Christmas Open Houses

Due to COVID-19 protocols, AHEIA will unfortunately be unable to host our annual Christmas Open Houses this year.

We would like to take this opportunity, however, to wish all of you a safe and happy Holiday Season with your loved ones.



AHEIA Waterfowl/Upland Game Bird Mentorship/Coaching Workshop

On August 11, AHEIA hosted an amazing day with the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) at the Calgary Firearms Centre, certifying 30 new Waterfowl/Upland Game Bird Coaches and Mentors.

Mentors have a pivotal role to play in the education of the next generation of hunters, and AHEIA is thankful for experienced hunters like these who are willing to share their time and experience to help educate and mentor others. The take-away from the day's workshop was that while having a lot of fun, much learning and confidence building takes place.

Todd Zimmerling, President and CEO of the ACA, passed along the following comment:

"Thanks again for the day yesterday. It was a great time and everyone learned a lot. I think a lot of people came to realize that they don't have to be expert shooters to be a mentor; they just have to be able identify the risks, communicate the risks to their mentee, and be able and in a position to control the gun should the need arise. I know for sure that there are a number of people who feel a lot more confident about taking someone out for their first time."

Please pass my thanks along to your folks, as they were all very professional, friendly and made everyone feel at ease, no matter what their level of shooting."

Thank you to the ACA for attending the workshop and thank you to AHEIA's staff and volunteers for making the day such a success.



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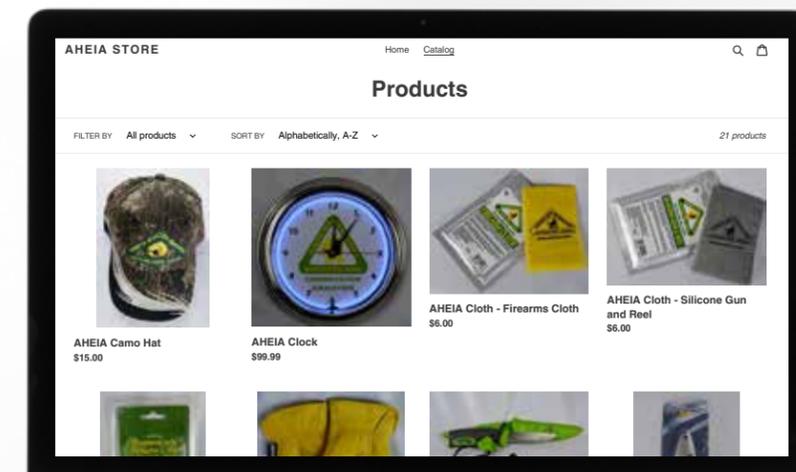
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Dabbling in the Magnificent World of Hunting



Intro by Len Gransch

Even after over 20 years of coordinating our Youth Hunter Education Camps, I still become excited when our students take what they have learned at camp and are able to turn it into a successful adventure. Better yet is when they stay in touch and keep me apprised of what they are up to with their outdoor ventures.

In 2019, Mike Li, along with two friends Blake and Jonathan, attended our Youth Hunter Education Camp. Mike's dad, Hong Wei Li, also attended as a camp volunteer. The three youngsters were totally committed to the camp and gave 100% effort. Hong really stepped up to the plate and assisted the boys with all aspects of the camp including studying. The boys all passed with flying colours.

I was delighted to receive an email from Hong informing me that Mike had successfully harvested a bear and included some photographs of the adventure. Mike agreed to write up his hunt to share in our Conservation Education magazine.



By Mike Li

I was introduced to hunting and fishing at a very young age. I was only six years old when my dad had taken me fishing for the first time, and over the years, fishing slowly evolved into hunting. Obviously, back then I was not able to actually hunt and I could only stay home and watch my dad and his friends go out all over Alberta and hunt game of all different shapes and sizes. When he came back from these trips I would marvel at the multitude of animals that he would bring back. As the years passed my dad would bring back more and more game, inciting the spark of hunting within me, and soon enough I had grown to the age of 12 and I was old enough to enroll in the AHEIA Youth Hunter Education program. This program was a five-day camp that would teach me about gun safety and hunting regulations and, provided I passed the exam for the youth firearms licence and the youth hunting licence, I would be all set. Thanks to the program's helpful instructors and easy-to-understand classes, I passed both tests and I was ready to go out hunting and, later that summer, I would get my first chance.

Just a few weeks after I completed the program my dad got the chance to take me duck hunting. At first it was extremely difficult. Despite doing well on the tests there were many real-world factors I had not accounted for, but over the

course of the day, I encountered more and more chances, and eventually, by the end of the day I had hunted quite a few ducks. This first hunting trip gave me some insight into what hunting was truly like and gave me an introduction to the world of hunting. However, this was only the tip of the iceberg and I was hungry for more, so almost a year later, my dad decided to take me bear hunting.

It was the beginning of May this year and I was only 13. My dad and I woke up early and prepared ourselves for the six-hour ride to the hunting site. When we arrived, we set up our firearms and prepared for an epic adventure. As we entered the hunting site, my excitement grew as I realized this was it, the moment I had been waiting for! My excitement quickly died down since, for the first two days, we saw absolutely no signs of life, not a single bear, nor any animals whatsoever, not even any other hunters. The only sign that we hadn't been transported to a desolate wasteland absent of life were the sounds of birds that chirped in the morning. Thankfully for us though, on the third day, our luck turned around and just as we woke up and started making our rounds on the gravel road, there it was, a black bear. My dad hurried and rushed out of the truck, set up the rifle and fired a shot, the bear ran into the woods and, after a short search, we found it dead on the ground. This was my first time fully experiencing the hunting of a bear and I was one step closer to hunting and getting one myself. All I had to do was shoot one.

Later that day, as we were driving around, I got my chance as there was a bear feeding on the side of the road completely unaware of our presence. However, it was way too far away to even think about shooting at, so I got out of the truck and walked slowly through the surrounding woods and towards the bear. Sadly though, the bear saw me walking towards it, and it turned tail and ran away. I never got the chance to shoot, but still I had pursued an animal and therefore I was again one step closer to hunting a bear myself.

The next day, around noon, I received my second chance. As we turned a bend, we saw a bear crouching in a ditch by the road not even 200 yards from us. I jumped out of the truck, set up the tripod and took aim. However, just before I pulled the trigger, the bear moved and, unfortunately, I missed. Despite that fact, I still fired a shot, which meant I was once again one step closer to hunting a bear myself.

That night I went to bed excited and nervous for the next day.

The following day, which would be the last day we had on this hunting trip, was my last chance to hunt a bear. That morning we had driven past a stretch of land that we had yet to explore and as our truck rumbled along the gravel road, there it stood, a very large black bear. Since it was in the morning and we weren't prepared, it heard our car approaching and ran away. Many times that day we saw that exact same bear, in the exact same location, so that afternoon my dad decided

to stake out that location and stay there for a bit, just in case the bear showed up again. We positioned ourselves on the side of a hill looking down the hill and we both had our firearms ready and tripods set. We waited there for half an hour and there was no sign of a bear. That was when my dad realized that the bear might have appeared over the hill and out of sight, so we decided to carry our rifles over the hill and be ready for the bear to be there. When we walked over the hill, low and behold, there it was, the bear feeding on the plants by the road. It didn't notice us, and it was, at most, 150 yards from us. A perfect opportunity. So I set up the tripod and placed the gun on top, and I shot. The bear dashed into the woods and. It wasn't clear if it was actually hit or not. But we acted as if it was, and therefore we wandered further and further into the woods to find the bear. Three hours of searching later we had no luck and the bear was nowhere to be found. Defeated and disappointed, we walked back to the truck, and since it was 7:00pm already, we decided it was time to go home. That night as I was lying in bed, I felt greatly disappointed at my own performance, and my dad also felt uneasy because the purpose of that trip was for me to shoot a bear, and we had failed. So two days later, we decided to give it a second try.

When we set out for the second time, we were not feeling too optimistic. We were thinking that if I shoot a bear that's great! But if I don't, so be it, there's always next year, and we were only planning on going hunting for three days, so we had to work hard if we wanted any chance at all. On the first day, however, things didn't look up for us, as it began raining which made the gravel paths near impossible to navigate and we didn't see a single bear. Thankfully though, on the second day, we finally got lucky.

“ I knew then and there that these two weeks of hard work had finally paid off, and not only was this my first bear, but it was also a big bear measuring six feet long! ”



It was about 1:00pm, and we were driving past the stretch of land on which we saw the bear on the final day of the last trip, and we were feeling optimistic. We had driven past this stretch of land many times before with no luck, but something felt different this time, and just as we went over the crest of the hill, there it was, the exact same bear. It was standing right beside the trees and it had not seen us yet, so I immediately sprang into action. Everything seemed to be moving in slow motion. I got out of the car, set up the tripod, aimed, and fired. The bear jerked back like it had the time before, but this time, instead of dashing into the woods, it merely walked in. This was a clear sign that the bear had been badly injured, and when we walk up to the site where the bear had been shot we saw a splatter of blood on the nearby leaves. Excited, we walked into the woods and just a few metres in, there it lay. When I saw it, I was ecstatic! I knew then and there that these two weeks of hard work had finally paid off, and not only was this my first bear, but it was also a big bear measuring six feet long!

This was an incredible experience, one that was undeniably one of a kind, therefore I would like to express a massive thank you to AHEIA's wonderful Youth Hunter Education Camp, the brilliant team that works there and to Len, my instructor, for allowing me to have this remarkable opportunity. It was their dedication to every student's education, as well as their commitment and expertise in their field, that allowed all this to happen. If you are an aspiring young hunter and need a licence I strongly suggest giving this camp a try. It is a truly unforgettable experience.





AHEIA Fundraising Raffle Winners

Clay Target Shotgun

Drawn Sunday, July 18, 2020, at the Calgary Firearms Centre. Licence #550079. 3000 tickets printed.

Ticket #0955

is the winner of a Browning Classic Trap 12ga. Unsingle Combo Break Action Shotgun.



Specialty Shotgun

Drawn Friday, August 14, 2020 at the Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence. Licence #549766. 3000 tickets printed.

Ticket #1325

is the winner of a Benelli 828U 12ga. Over/Under Shotgun.



Vortex Optics Package

Drawn Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the Alford Lake Conservation Centre for Excellence. Licence #55094. 6000 tickets printed.

Ticket #1120

is the winner of Vortex Razor HD 10x42 binoculars, a Vortex Ranger 1800 rangefinder, fog free lens cleaning kit, and Bino Buddy carrying system.



Varmint/Target Rifle

Drawn Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the Alford Lake Conservation Centre for Excellence. Licence #550255. 5000 tickets printed.

Prize 1:

Ticket #2126

is the winner of a Tikka T3 Compact Lite .22-250 Rifle.

Prize 2:

Ticket #2248

is the winner of a Browning .22 Lever Action Rifle.



Upland/Waterfowler/Sporting Firearm

Drawn Sunday, September 13, 2020, at the Calgary Firearms Centre. Licence #549819. 1000 tickets printed.

Ticket #0548

is the winner of a Browning Cynergy Wicked Wing 12ga. Over/Under Shotgun, and a Benelli M2 12ga. Semi Automatic Shotgun.



Accessing Agricultural Crown Land

Before entering onto agricultural leased crown land, you must contact the leaseholder.

Detailed maps, leaseholder contact information and access conditions for leased land are found on the Recreational Access Mapping Tool through the Environment and Parks website.

Leaseholders may limit or deny access if:

- You are not on foot
- Livestock are present in the field
- A crop has not yet been harvested
- You wish to discharge a firearm or use explosives near livestock
- A fire ban is in effect
- You wish to camp
- You wish to hunt unreasonably close to livestock in a fenced pasture

When on agricultural crown land, be courteous and remember to:

- Pack out litter and do not damage land or property
- Park vehicles so they do not block lease access
- Leave gates as they were found
- Ask leaseholder permission before lighting a fire

Failing to follow these regulations can be costly, with a penalty of up to \$500.

For more information, please visit alberta.ca and search 'recreation on agricultural crown land' or call 310-3773.



“... there are steps that you need to follow in order to properly access it.”

Know Before You Go: Accessing Agricultural Crown Land for Hunting

Submitted by Alberta Environment and Parks

Hunting heritage runs deep in Alberta and is a tradition family and friends have taken part in for many years. Whether you are hunting on private land or on Crown land, hunters play an important role in wildlife management. However, figuring out where to go and how to access the land isn't always easy. Every year Alberta Environment and Parks receive many variations of the same question: how to access agricultural Crown land for hunting purposes. Agricultural Crown land is land that is leased out for cattle or cultivation, and it may seem like private property when it's surrounded by fences and gates. This land is available for recreation; however, there are steps that you need to follow in order to properly access it.

Once you've determined that the land you wish to hunt on is agricultural Crown land, you need

to contact the leaseholder prior to accessing the land. Contact information can be found online in the Recreational Access Internet Mapping Tool. Fall is a busy time for both hunters and leaseholders, so make sure you contact them early on to plan your hunt. This conversation is a great time to build a relationship with the leaseholder, learn about hazards or sensitive areas on the land, and where to park when you arrive. You need to be prepared to provide them with your contact information, when you would like to access the lease, how many people are in your hunting party and the license plates of your vehicles.

Every lease is different and may have special conditions put on by the leaseholder or government to help facilitate access. There are times when the leaseholder will deny you access under the Recreational Access Regulation. These include if livestock are present, their crop has not been harvested, you wish to discharge a firearm or hunt unreasonably close to livestock in a fenced pasture. You may also be denied access if you are not on foot, you want to camp or there is a fire ban in effect. Some leases in southern Alberta also have user limits, which only allow a certain number of hunters on the land each day. These limits are put in place to ensure public safety, animal health and proper land management.

If you are denied access, make sure to first politely ask the leaseholder under which condition of the Recreational Access Regulation they are denying access. If it is outside of the regulation, you can contact a local agrologist to facilitate a discussion around access. There is a formal dispute process if this discussion doesn't result in a conclusion; however, this process will take at least seven days. It is in your best interest to try to settle access disputes with the leaseholder.

While agricultural Crown land provides over five million acres of hunting opportunity, there is 100 million acres of Crown land that provides unique

hunting opportunities. Not all Crown land is managed in the same way, so make sure to check the restrictions for wherever you are going. It is your responsibility as a hunter to know the laws and regulations, and do your part to maintain the integrity of reputation of hunters and hunting in general. For more information on accessing agricultural Crown land, please visit alberta.ca and search "Recreation on agricultural Crown land".

Be respectful of landowners, leaseholders, the public and other hunters. Enjoy your season!



ALERT: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Oriental Weather Loach

(*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)

Other names: Golden Dojo Loach, Dojo Loach, Oriental Weatherfish, Weather Loach, Pond Loach, Japanese Loach, Amur Weatherfish



Matt Ashton, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

What's the threat?

Oriental Weather Loach:

- Are extremely hardy and adaptable, and can tolerate extreme conditions – including breathing air if necessary and surviving water temperatures as low as 2°C
- Live up to 13 years and a single female can lay up to 100,000 eggs in a lifetime
- Can outcompete native fish populations by reducing habitat and food, as well as by preying on the offspring of other species
- Have been shown to reduce aquatic insect diversity
- Are capable of carrying pathogens and parasites that are harmful to humans, native fish and wildlife

How are they spread and where are they?

- Native to East Asia – often found in shallow, slow rivers and streams as well as swamps, canals and backwaters that are heavily vegetated with mud or silt bottoms
- Introductions are attributed to the live aquarium trade, commercial food industry and live bait where they escape or are purposely released
- Populations can be found in parts of Europe, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, the United States and British Columbia
- As of 2019, there have been no reports of this fish in Alberta waters

If you have seen an Oriental Weather Loach for sale or purchased one, report it immediately to the Aquatic Invasive Species hotline

1-855-336-BOAT (2628)

REASON FOR ALERT:

Oriental Weather Loach was discovered “for sale” at a major aquarium retailer, that has numerous locations in Alberta. Since 2015, Oriental Weather Loach has been listed under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act* as a prohibited species. It is illegal to possess, release, sell or transport this species within the province.

Description

- Yellow to brown in colour with greenish grey-brown markings on backside and a silver underside
- Slender eel-like body, commonly 15 cm long but can reach up to 28 cm
- Small, narrow mouth lined with up to 10 barbels
- Dark spot on upper caudal fin

How can you help?

- Learn how to identify Oriental Weather Loach and other aquatic invasive species
- Report all sightings to the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline at 1-855-336-BOAT (2628)
- Raise awareness to prevent the introduction of this species into Alberta waters
- Never import, own, sell or transport this species in Alberta

Alberta

The Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

would like to thank

Wildlife Habitat Canada



The *Outdoor Youth Camps & Seminar*
The *Outdoor Bound Mentorship Program*
The *Outdoor Women's Program*

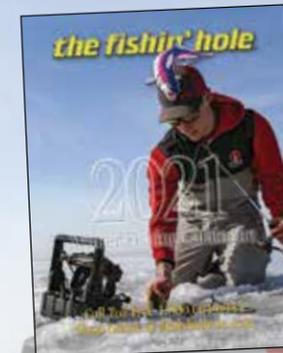
These projects are undertaken with the financial support of Wildlife Habitat Canada.

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a non-profit, conservation organization that conserves habitat, primarily by investing the funds from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print program contributed by waterfowl hunters. Since 1985, we have provided over \$50 million in grants to more than 1,500 habitat conservation projects across Canada, which have helped safeguard important ecosystems and countless wild species. To learn more, please visit www.whc.org.

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Mark Your Calendar!

Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
Annual General Meeting

Sunday, January 24, 2021 • 3:00 pm
Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence
911 Sylvester Crescent SW

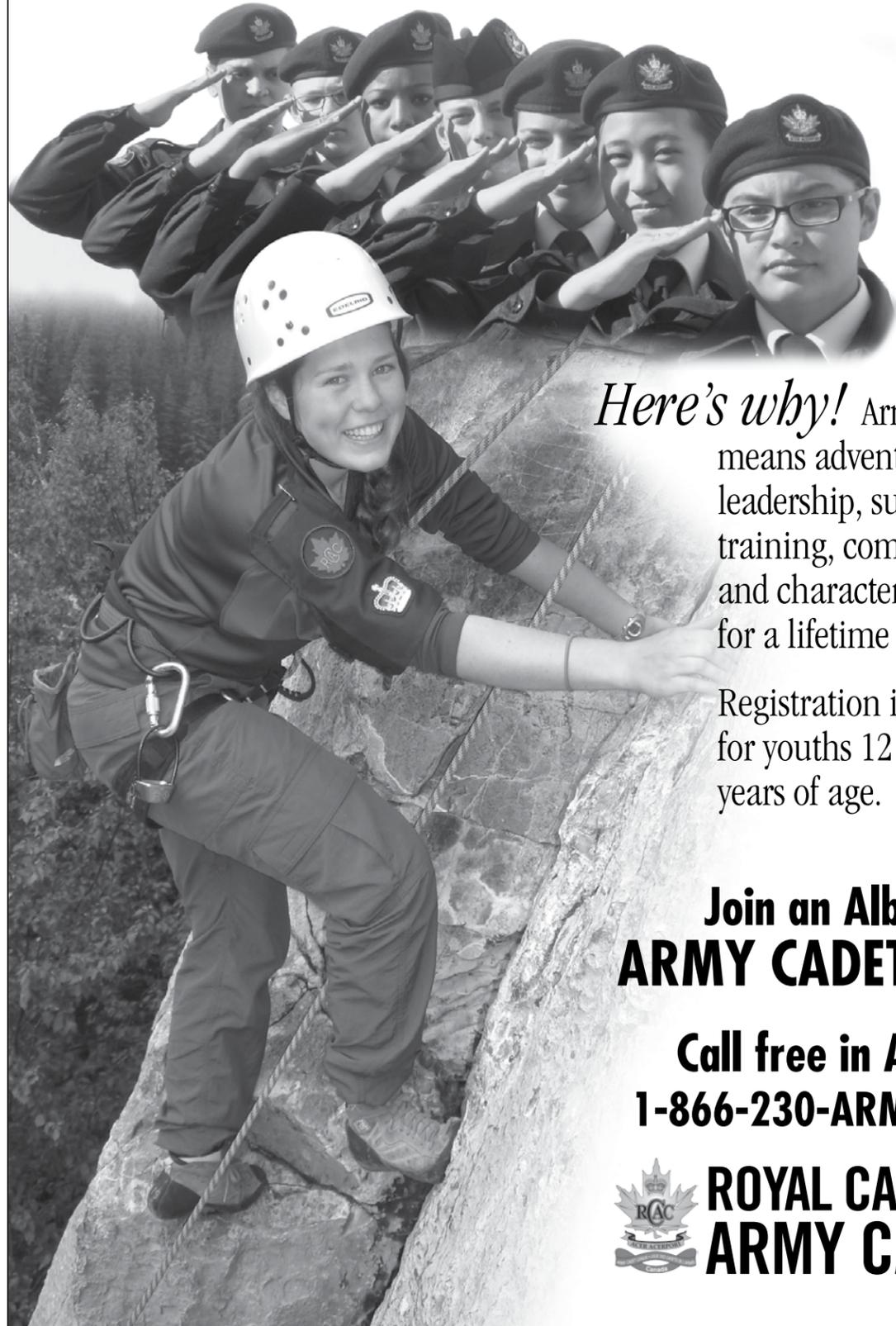
Beverages and light snacks will be available.

We hope to see you there!

Attendance restrictions may be in place due to COVID-19 protocols.
Additional information will be posted on our website closer to the date.



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First Time Hunter Education Certification Requirements

By Donna Hansen



Donna Hansen
Administrative Assistant
AHEIA Calgary

As a first-time hunter, you are required by law to have passed the Conservation and Hunter Education program first. The age limit for hunting is 10 years old (to hunt birds only) and 12 and older for big game and entering the draw system.

AHEIA offers the Conservation and Hunter Education course at our centres in Calgary and in Edmonton. If you live outside these centres, you can access a list of Hunter Education Instructors who teach in your area under "Instructor Lists and Resources". The available Instructors are listed either alphabetically by the city or town they teach out of or by their last name.

Another alternative is to take the program online from your own home. Our Online Conservation and Hunter Education program can be accessed via our website www.aheia.com. Click on "Programs and Courses", then "Online Training". The online course may be completed from a computer, laptop, cell phone or tablet. The program can be purchased with the manual (which is shipped via Canada Post) or without a manual. Before you start, however, you will need to create a username and password. Once you have registered you can begin the online program. The final exam is done online as well. This course is a Provincial require-

How to Purchase a WIN Card

Purchasing a WIN (Wildlife Identification Number) Card and updating your eligibility to hunt is simple. Just visit <http://www.albertarelm.com/>. You will need the number from your Conservation and Hunter Education completion certificate on hand to set up this account. You will also need a piece of government issued ID.

Once you set up your Alberta RELM account, you can manage all of your licences and draws online. If you encounter any problems while using the website, call the RELM Support Line at 1-888-944-5494.

If you do not have computer access at home, WIN, draw and licence purchases can be made at most outdoor sporting goods store such as Canadian Tire, Bass Pro Shop, Cabella's, etc. The Calgary or Edmonton Conservation Education Centres for Excellence are also available to process RELM transactions for you during regular daytime hours (8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday-Friday). To purchase your WIN in store, you will need to have the number from your Conservation and Hunter Education completion certificate and a piece of government issued ID with you.

ment for first-time hunters in Alberta and, as such, complete certification is required with an 80% pass mark on the timed (90 minutes) final exam.

Once the final exam is passed, students should wait one business day and contact AHEIA's Edmonton office (1-866-282-4342) and they will be issued a five-digit code that the student can enter into their AlbertaRELM.com WIN card account to update their Hunter Education Certification. Be sure to fill in section D-1 and D-2 (Eligibility to Hunt), initializing that you have successfully completed the Conservation Hunter Education course. If students do not have a WIN card, or their WIN card has expired, they will need to purchase one. Hard copy certificates, with the same

corresponding five-digit code, will be issued by AHEIA via mail upon successful completion of the program (approximately two weeks).

Blank numbered tags/wires are available from vendors for hunters to enter the tag numbers when purchasing a select species of animal online. The number you enter for the species MUST match the tag number. The tag numbers entered are only valid for the current hunting season purchased and cannot be used the following year.

Consult the current Alberta Hunting Regulations for planning your hunt, reviewing the current regulation changes and licence costs. Regulations are available at no charge from the licence vendor or visit mywildalberta.com and click on hunting regulations.

Online Hunter Education Certification

This comprehensive, easy-to-use online hunter education program covers the following important hunting topics:

- Module 1.....Role of the Hunter
- Module 2.....Hunting Ethics
- Module 3.....Wildlife Management and Conservation
- Module 4.....Wildlife Identification
- Module 5.....Clothing and Equipment
- Module 6.....Firearms
- Module 7.....Bow Hunting
- Module 8.....Survival
- Module 9.....Field Techniques
- Module 10.....First Aid
- Module 11.....Hypothermia
- Module 12.....Legal Responsibilities
- Module 13.....Physical Fitness
- Final Exam



What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

CWD is a fatal neurological disease that occurs in Mule Deer, White-Tailed Deer, and some Elk and Moose in certain areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Hunters and outfitters play a vital role in CWD surveillance and monitoring. The more deer removed from CWD high risk areas, the less opportunity there is for disease transmission.

In mid-late October, the AHEIA Calgary Office will have a 24/7 freezer for hunters to drop off their heads for testing. The freezer will be located in the AHEIA parking lot behind our building at 911 Sylvester Crescent SW.

The ongoing Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance program for 2020 targets the following wildlife management units (WMUs):

It is **MANDATORY** to submit **DEER** heads from WMUs 150, 151, 156, 158, 163, 200, 206, 208, 226, 228, 234, 236, 242, 244, 250, 252, 258, 260, 500, 501, 506, 728, and 730.

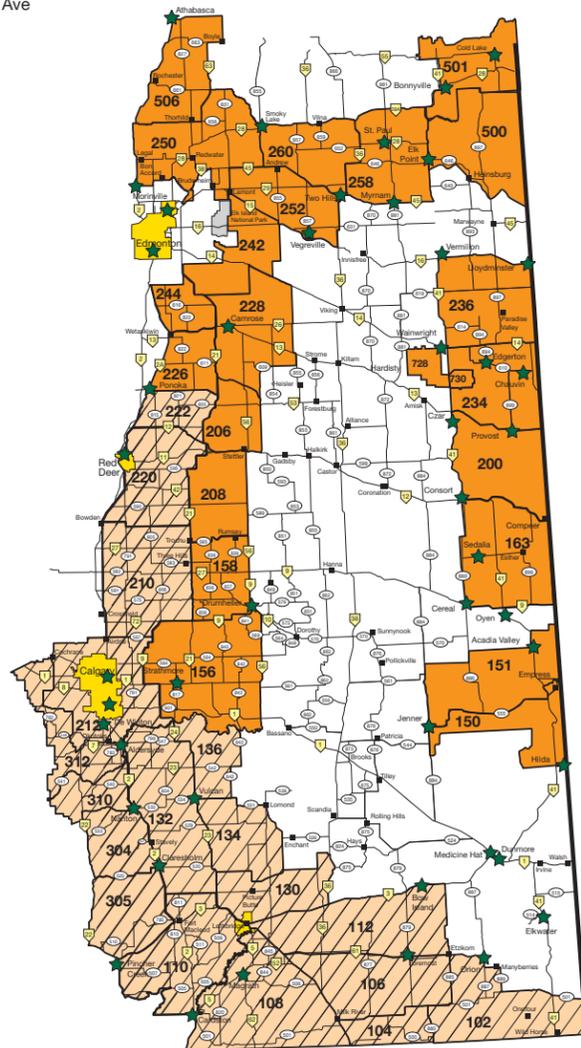
Mandatory **MULE DEER ONLY** – WMUs 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 130, 132, 134, 136, 210, 212, 220, 222, 304, 305, 310, and 312.

Precise location of each kill is required, either GPS or Sec/Twp/Rng, in addition to the WMU.

- Acadia Valley** - Skappak's Farm Supply, 201 Railway Ave. West,
- Aldersyde*** - MD Foothills, Public Works & Ag Services Shop, South Gate, Alberta Ave
- Athabasca** - Fish & Wildlife Office, 4901-50 St.
- Bonnyville** - Beaver River Fish and Game, 4402-54 Ave.
- Bow Island** - Silver Spray Car Wash, 137-7th Ave. W. (adj. Hwy #3)
- Calgary** - Cabela's Calgary, 851-64 Ave. NE
- Calgary** - Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, 911 Sylvester Cres. SW
- Camrose** - Fish and Wildlife Warehouse, 4513-41st Street
- Cardston** - Fish and Wildlife Office, 576 Main St.
- Cereal** - Cereal UFA, Hwy #9
- Chauvin** - Goodall Motors, Main Street
- Claresholm** - Provincial Building, 109-46th Ave. W.
- Claresholm** - Ranchlands MD Office, 273129 Sec Hwy 520
- Cold Lake** - Star Auto & Industrial (NAPA store), 3814-50th St.
- Consort** - UFA Petroleum, Hwy 12 West
- Czar** - Racetrac Gas, 4916-45th St.
- De Winton*** - MD Foothills, County Grader Shed, 250017 16 St. W.
- Drumheller** - Fish and Wildlife Warehouse, 1050 Premier Close
- Dunmore** - Dunmore Co-op, Eagle Butte Rd & Hwy 1
- Edgerton** - Home Hardware, Main Street
- Edmonton** - Cabela's Windermere, 6170 Currents Dr.
- Edmonton** - Cabela's North, 15320-37 St. NW
- Elk Point** - King's Husky Truckstop, Hwys 646 & 41
- Elkwater** - Café 12-34, 301-6 Ave.
- Foremost** - Fish and Wildlife Office, rear parking lot
- Hilda** - Volker Stevin, Hwy 41 & Twp Rd 180
- Jenner** - Esso Station, Hwy 884
- Lloydminster** - Wildside Outdoors, 5716-44th St.
- Magrath** - Jenex Contracting, 425 West 2 Ave.
- Medicine Hat** - PetroCan, Hwy 1 & 8th Street SW
- Morinville** - Shell Gas Station, 10609-100th Ave.
- Myrnam** - Village Office/Fire Hall (behind), 5007-50 St. (Hwy 881)
- Nanton*** - AB Parks-Chain Lakes PP-Maintenance Bldg., 2308-AB22
- Orion** - Orion Co-op Store, Herd St.
- Oyen** - Oyen Co-op, Hwys 9 & 41
- Pincher Creek** - Shell Gas Station, 1330 Wentworth Ave.
- Ponoka** - Ponoka Co-op Oils, 4700 Highway 2A
- Provost** - Esso Station, Hwys 13 & 899
- Red Deer** - Sportsmen's Den, Bay 6, 7667-50th Ave.
- Sedalia** - Sedalia Co-op, Main Street
- Smoky Lake** - Esso Gas Station, 5504-44th Ave.
- St. Paul** - UFA Farm & Ranch, 3938-50 Ave.
- Strathmore** - Fish and Wildlife Office, 280 A Ridge Road
- Two Hills** - UFA, 5102-53 Ave.
- Vegreville** - Prairie Fuels, Petro Canada, 4755-50 Ave.
- Vermilion** - Vermilion Packers Ltd., 4825-47 Ave.
- Vulcan** - Fish & Wildlife Office, 1009-2nd Ave North
- Wainwright** - Petrocan, Hwy 14

Our **CWD-labelling system** provides a unique identification number for each head submitted. Heads should be kept frozen and dropped off at any Fish and Wildlife office or, during rifle seasons, at any of the 24-hr freezers identified in the following list. Check page 13 of the 2020 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations for office phone numbers. Call ahead to check office hours. Green CWD labels and instructions are available when you submit the deer head.

RESULTS: When your results are available, a message will be sent to the email address in your AlbertaRELM account. For more information visit alberta.ca/cwd or contact your local Fish and Wildlife office or Dr. Margo Pybus 780-427-3462 – for toll-free, dial 310-0000 first.



Mandatory Deer Head Submission
 Mandatory Mule Deer Only
 Location of 24-hour freezers (2020)



* Look for CWD signs

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

What hunters should know

If you hunt, handle or eat deer, elk, caribou or moose, you should know about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

CWD is a progressive, fatal nervous system disease that affects these animals, which are all part of the deer family known as cervids. It is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, or prion disease. It is contagious amongst cervids, like scrapie in sheep. There has been no known transmission of CWD to humans, however, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (also known as mad cow disease) in cattle has been known to cause Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

There has been no known transmission of CWD to humans. However, as a precaution, the Government of Canada recommends that people not consume any part of an animal that has tested positive for CWD.

In Canada, CWD has been predominantly found in wild and farmed deer and elk populations in Saskatchewan and Alberta. There have been 3 confirmed cases in wild moose. The disease has also been found in farmed red deer in Quebec. It has not been detected in wild cervids in other provinces or territories in Canada, and has not been detected in wild caribou anywhere in North America.

There are a number of actions people can take when hunting to reduce their potential risk of exposure to CWD when handling animals in the deer family.



How to protect yourself

- ➔ Before you hunt, check with your provincial or territorial wildlife management office to see whether CWD has been found in the area, and whether testing is available or required for CWD
- ➔ People in the area of Alberta, Saskatchewan or Quebec where CWD has been found, should have their animal tested for CWD before eating the meat, preparing trophies or harvesting hides
- ➔ Pay attention to the appearance and behaviour of the animals you are hunting
- ➔ Do not harvest an animal that appears to be sick and report sick or dead animals to your provincial or territorial wildlife authority
- ➔ Avoid handling or eating an animal or parts of an animal that has died from unknown causes or has tested positive for CWD
- ➔ When handling carcasses, wear latex or rubber gloves and avoid handling or eating the animal's brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils or lymph nodes. If you use parts of the carcass to tan the hide, minimize handling of the animal's head and brain
- ➔ Wash hands and tools thoroughly with soap and water after field dressing is completed. Tools should then be disinfected with bleach, as this substance can decontaminate surfaces contaminated with CWD prions
- ➔ Appropriate disposal is also important to reduce the risk of spread of CWD. Contact your provincial wildlife management office for information
- ➔ If you have the animal commercially processed, ask that your animal be processed individually, without meat from other cervids being added

Material from known CWD-infected cervids is not permissible for use in natural health products (NHPs). Consumers are encouraged to use all the available label information when selecting health products to meet their needs. Canadians may wish to avoid consuming NHPs that contain materials from cervids, since the existence of a potential risk cannot be definitively excluded. To date, Health Canada is not aware of any documented cases of CWD infection in humans.

How is CWD diagnosed and what are the limitations of testing?

Although animals infected with CWD sometimes show symptoms, CWD can only be confirmed by testing specific tissues from an affected animal after it is dead. While a negative test result does not guarantee that an individual animal is not infected with CWD, it is considerably less likely and may reduce your potential risk of exposure to CWD.

Currently, CWD tests officially approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are designed for surveillance purposes and are not reliable enough to detect the disease in animals under 12 months of age. CFIA's surveillance testing aims to identify farmed animals over 12 months of age (who are more likely to be infected with CWD), in order to prevent contaminated meat or other consumable products from entering the market. There is currently no test available to certify that food or other consumable products are free from the CWD prion.

What we know about CWD and human health

There has been no known transmission of CWD to humans. Extensive surveillance of human prion diseases in Canada and elsewhere has not provided any direct evidence that CWD has infected humans. However, experts continue to study CWD and whether it has the potential to infect other animals and humans. As a precaution, measures are in place to prevent known infected animals from entering the food chain, including:

- ➔ mandatory testing of all cervids sent for slaughter (over the age of 12 months) at all abattoirs in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Yukon and Quebec
- ➔ not allowing animals known to be positive for CWD to enter the commercial food chain
- ➔ reporting immediately to the CFIA all suspected cases, as CWD is a reportable disease under the *Health of Animals Act*

CFIA P1031E-20 Catalogue No.: A104-203/1-2020E-PDF ISBN: 978-0-660-36127-7 Also available in English

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments





Great Meals

from the

Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Korean Venison and Rice

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 pound ground venison | 3 cloves garlic, minced |
| 1/4 cup soy sauce | 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed |
| 1/4 tablespoon fresh ginger, ground | 2 teaspoons sesame oil |
| 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes | 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper |
| 2 2/3 cups hot cooked Jasmin rice | 3 green onions, thinly sliced |
| 1/2 teaspoon sesame seeds | 1/4 cup parsley |

In a large skillet, cook venison and garlic over medium heat for 6-8 minutes until cooked through. Break up into crumbles.

In a separate bowl combine brown sugar, soy sauce, sesame oil and seasonings. Stir mixture well and add to skillet.

Heat thoroughly and serve with the hot rice. Sprinkle with green onions, parsley and sesame seeds. Serve with kimchee and a cold beer.

Wild Duck Gumbo

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 ducks, cut up | 1/2 cup canola oil |
| 2/3 cup flour | 1 1/2 cups green pepper, chopped |
| 2 cups onion, chopped | 1 pound smoked sausage, sliced |
| 1 1/2 cups celery, sliced | 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, minced |
| 1 tablespoon garlic, minced | 1 - 14 1/2 ounce can stewed tomatoes |
| 2 bay leaves | 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce |
| Salt and pepper to taste | 1 teaspoon dried thyme |
| 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper | Long grain rice |
| 2 quarts water | |

In a Dutch oven over medium heat, brown duck in batches in oil and set aside.

Safely discard all but 2/3 cup of oil and drippings. Return retained oil/dripping mixture to Dutch oven. Add flour to drippings. Make roux by stirring and cooking the flour over medium heat for 12-14 minutes or until brown. Be careful not to burn the roux.

When ready add sausage, onion, green pepper, celery, parsley and garlic. Cook for 10 minutes stirring occasionally. Add tomatoes, bay leaves, Worcestershire, salt, pepper, thyme, cayenne pepper and water. Stir until well incorporated. Add duck. Bring to a boil, then cover and reduce to a slow simmer for 60-75 minutes or until the duck is tender.

Remove duck, cool, debone and cut into bite-size pieces and return to Dutch oven. Simmer for 5-10 minutes or until heated through. Remove bay leaves.

Serve over the prepared rice. The only other things you need are a great red wine and some rustic bread.

Enjoy!



Conservation Education Points of Contact

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Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
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1-866-852-4342
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Box 369
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A.H.E.I.A.
Calgary Firearms Centre
242 Avenue & 32 Street SW
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Publisher's Note:

Alberta has several fish species in population decline: Arctic Grayling, Athabasca Rainbow Trout, Bull Trout and Westslope Cutthroat Trout. These fish are particularly sensitive to habitat fragmentation caused by poorly constructed watercourse crossings. The Government of Alberta has developed a Watercourse Crossing Program with an associated Inventory App that will help identify locations that are in need of remediation and restore fragmented fish habitat.

Watercourse Crossing Program



The goal of the Watercourse Crossing Program (WCP) is to address threats to fish survival stemming from poorly constructed and maintained watercourse crossings that cause habitat fragmentation, erosion and sedimentation. The magnitude of the fish habitat restoration challenge is

considerable, with thousands of crossings across the province, spanning multiple industrial sectors and regulatory authorities. The regulators work with crossing owners to identify and prioritize remedial needs while providing crossing owners the flexibility needed to focus remediation efforts on priority crossings.

Participate in the Watercourse Crossing Program by:

- Downloading the app and submitting information
- Develop your own program using the manual to collect and submit information

Inspect

Inspections assess sedimentation to determine if erosion is occurring at the site and whether the crossing is impairing or completely blocking the passage of fish. The crossing owner has a duty to report the issues to the regulator and take proactive measures to stop it from continuing. Sedimentation is a threat to fish health and a key indicator of the function of the crossing.

Report

Reporting non-compliance is a regulatory obligation under the acts. The legislated requirement requires the crossing owner to submit a report to the regulator. The submission of both compliant and non-compliant crossing inspections is required to ensure that remediation activities are planned at a watershed scale.

Compliance

Compliant watercourse crossings support the survival of species at risk in the eastern slopes. Non-compliant watercourse crossings are dealt with on a case basis. There are a number of potential regulatory responses to non-compliance. Regulators prefer voluntary compliance and will pursue those options first and escalate should the party responsible be non-responsive to taking corrective actions.

Remediate

There are a number of best practices and guidelines in a variety of sources that will lead to a well-built crossing structure that will allow fish passage. The watercourse crossing code of practice outlines the regulatory requirements for crossing structure.

Fish require passage to migrate back to spawning grounds, find food and seek cover from predators. Many fish species go back to the same area to spawn each year. Erosion and sedimentation affect fish spawning success and the quality of habitat for wildlife. The programs priority is to focus on the known species at risk which are located mostly in the eastern slopes.

At risk fish species in Alberta:

- Athabasca Rainbow Trout
- Arctic Grayling
- Bull Trout
- Westslope Cutthroat Trout

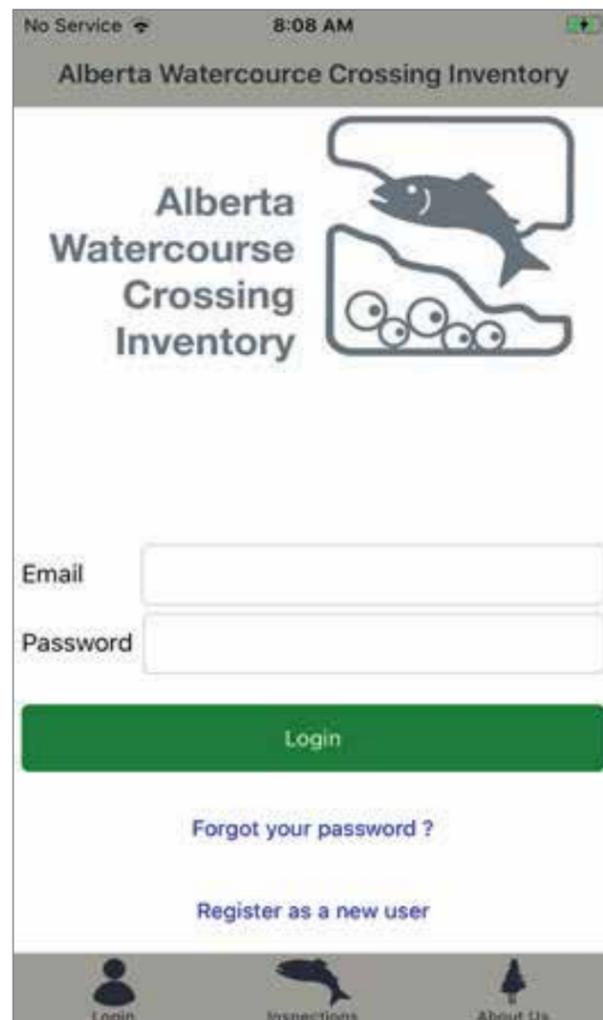
alberta.ca/watercourse-crossing-program.aspx

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The Alberta Watercourse Crossing Inventory App

Old and Poorly maintained watercourse crossings can fragment fish habitats and impact water quality. The Alberta Watercourse Crossing Inventory (ABWCI) App is a tool to help document stream crossings and support the prioritization and remediation of habitat for Alberta's fish species.



ABWCI Functions

The App allows anyone to collect data in a constant format using a phone or tablet without a cellular connection. The App collects information on:

- The type and condition of the crossing
- Road erosion or sediment problems
- Allows you to take pictures and write notes

There are 2 different types of survey depending on your access permissions/user type.

1. Long form – for use by practitioners, industry, stewardship groups, trained professionals
2. Short form – for use by citizen scientists and recreational user groups

To request access permission changes to your account please e-mail AEP.WCCrossing@gov.ab.ca with your username and affiliation.

Open to All Albertans

If you have a smartphone or tablet you can help! This App is built for industry, government and public use. By engaging with people who work and play on the land we can get more done together.

Get the App

You can download the ABWCI app from the Google play store for Android or App store for Apple/iOS devices or use the QR code below.



Android



iOS/Apple

What is the data used for?

The data is helping the Government of Alberta to create a database of watercourse crossings across the province. This information will be used to manage for the cumulative effects of stream crossings and help to prioritize and coordinate remediation efforts across watersheds.

Remediated crossings 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
- Help keep motorists and recreationalists safe

Before you go checklist

Safety First!

- Ensure you are equipped for a day in the great outdoors (water, food, first aid supplies, bear spray).
- Plan where you are going, know how to get back and make sure you bring a map if required.
- Ensure you have a check in protocol with someone in case you are delayed!
- NEVER put yourself at risk to complete a survey! If you are unsure or don't feel safe don't do it!

Before you go

- Download the ABWCI App from the play store or App store.
- While in cellular service, register as a new user, login to the AbWCI app using your email and password and test a survey to ensure the app is working correctly.
- Download the PDF manual from the 'About Us' tab in the app. Save this on your device for an offline reference.
- Review all the available training materials provided <https://www.alberta.ca/watercourse-crossing-program.aspx>
- You don't need any tools to complete the citizen science form but a battery charger might come in handy for your device.
- Make sure you are logged into the app with your account before you head out.

More information can be found at www.alberta.ca/watercourse-crossing-program.aspx

Please note this app is not a compliance complaint tool. Any spill, release or emergency that may cause, is causing or has caused an adverse effect to the environment must be immediately reported to Alberta Environmental Hotline by phoning 1-800-222-6514. Please consult the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and the Release Reporting Regulation for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law.

Survey Tips

- If you encounter an area with multiple crossings please complete one assessment for each crossing.
- If you don't complete multiple assessments, please select the crossing that looks the worst from a fish passage or sediment issue.
- If you are unsure how to answer any of the survey fields please refer to the user manual or the blue "information" icons imbedded in the survey.

After you get back

- Make sure to submit your surveys once you are back in cellular service or connected to Wi-Fi. You will manually have to submit surveys onto the dashboard from your device (using the play button the inspections tab).
- Log onto the dashboard <http://abwci.azurewebsites.net> to ensure your surveys were uploaded and view your data.



Following the Rules of the Water

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

So, you have your boat all loaded up and ready to go. Pleasure Craft Operator Card in hand, trip plan filed, and life jackets/PFDs for everyone. You launch your boat as quickly and efficiently as possible, making sure you do not hold up anyone trying to launch, or more importantly, to land their boats.

Now you need to be aware of the “Rules of the Road” as they relate to boating, and travel on the water.

There are three separate areas to keep in mind. They are:

- Maintaining a safe speed;
- Maintaining a lookout;
- Follow the rules of the road.

Let’s look at them in some detail.

Maintaining a Safe Speed

It is always the operator’s responsibility to maintain a safe speed so you can take action to avoid a collision. What is a safe operating speed? Well, for example, Alberta has a speed limit of 10km/h within 30 metres of shore except for:

- A boat towing a water skier straight out from shore;
- Any boat on a river less than 100 metres in width;
- Canals and buoyed channels;
- Anywhere that speeds are otherwise posted.

Outside of the legal requirements, operators must adjust their speed to maintain safety, taking in the following considerations as well:

- Wind;
- Water conditions;
- Surface obstructions;
- Current;
- Weather conditions;
- Restricted visibility;
- Draft in relation to available depth of water;
- Boat capabilities;
- Invisible hazards (rocks, shallow water, weeds).

Maintaining a Lookout

There are a lot of things to look for when you are boating—bridges, floats, swimmers, buoys, to name a few—so always be aware of what is happening around you. This means looking around, listening, and even checking behind you to see if any boats are going to overtake you.

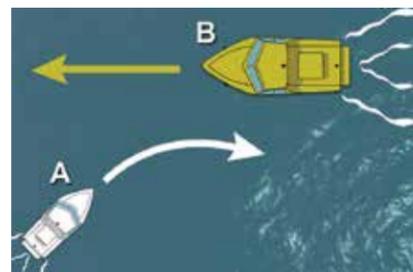
It is a good idea to give one of your passengers the job of lookout. That way you can focus on driving and the lookout can keep watch. However, as the operator, you are ultimately responsible for providing and maintaining a lookout. Remember, it’s a Federal offence to tow someone behind your vessel without a lookout.

Follow the Rules of the Road

When you think of “Rules of the Road” you probably imagine city or highway driving. But there are rules of the road on the water too. They have to do with how boats interact with each other, like who has the right-of-way and who must move out of the way. Let us look at the right-of-way rules.

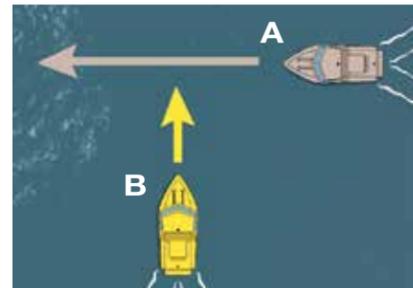
Give-way Vessels

A give-way vessel means a vessel that must keep out of the way of another vessel. The operator of the give-way vessel (A) must act as soon as possible to keep clear of the other vessel (B).



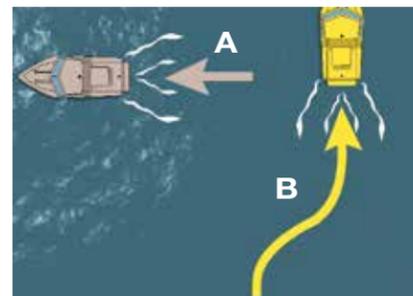
Stand-on Vessel

A boat that has the right-of-way is the stand-on vessel. The operator of the stand-on vessel must hold its speed and course. However, if the give-way vessel (B) is not taking action to comply with the rules, the operator of the stand-on vessel (A) must do their best to avoid a collision.



Right of Way – Crossing Other Vessels

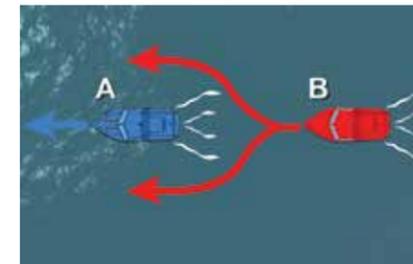
If two vessels are at risk of crossing in front of each other, the operator of the vessel that has the other vessel on their starboard (right) side should adjust their speed and/or course to cross behind the other vessel. In other words, just like driving your car through an uncontrolled intersection in the city, the person on the right has the right-of way. Another way to remember this



is by looking at the navigation lights. If the boat to the right has functioning navigation lights, the boat on the left will see a red (port) light which will tell them to adjust course. The boat on the left will see the approaching boat’s green (starboard) light and will know they are good to go, under normal circumstances.

Right of Way – Overtaking Vessels

If you are approaching another vessel from astern (behind), you are the give-way vessel. You must therefore stay clear of the vessel in front of you which has the right-of-way. The give-way vessel can overtake on either side, but if safety is a concern, should pick the safest side.



Head-on Situation – Altering Course

When two boats meet head-on, they should both alter their course to starboard (right) to pass on the port side.

If you need to alter course because you are about to collide with another boat, do so as soon as possible. Make your movement large enough so it is clear to the other boat operator that you are altering course.



Hierarchy of Responsibility Between Vessels

You have learned how to respond when you encounter a boat like yours. But what if you are at risk of colliding with a boat of a different type? Generally, boats that can more easily move out of the way are required to give-way to boats that cannot move as easily. The following list shows which boats have right-of-way over the others listed below it, in normal circumstances:

- Vessel Not Under Command
 - A vessel that is damaged or abandoned or drifting, and may or may not have people aboard.
- Vessel Restricted in its Ability to Manoeuvre
 - A boat engaged in some sort of work that makes it difficult or impossible to move out of the way of other boats. Examples – setting out swimming buoys, dredging, laying underwater cable.
- Vessel Engaged in Fishing
 - This means a vessel towing a commercial trawling or trolling net. This does not mean a boat being used for recreational angling.
- Sailing Vessel
 - While under power of sail only. If the motor is being used, it is considered a power vessel.
- Paddle Craft (kayak, canoe, etc.)
 - Again, if the canoe is using a motor, it is considered a power vessel, as are jet-powered kayaks.
- Power Vessel
 - Any powered vessel which requires the operator to hold a Pleasure Craft Operator Card and which is in working order.



For more information, check out AHEIA's Pleasure Craft Operator Training.

Pleasure Craft Operator Training

BOATING SAFETY INSTRUCTION PRESENTED BY

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“ When you think of “Rules of the Road”
you probably imagine city or highway driving.
But there are rules of the road on the water too.
They have to do with how boats interact with each other. ”

AHEIA's Summer Shoots

After a spring of cancelled and postponed events, AHEIA was able to go forward with both the Stampede Grand and the Western Zone 5-Day Trap Shoot events in July! The Rose Bowl Trap Shoot, National Trap Day Shoot, Women and Youth Shotgun Leagues and Customer Appreciation Day were also held. COVID-19 protocols were implemented with guidance from Alberta Health officials to keep all participants safe. Here are photos from some of these events!



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