



FORT FRANCES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

P.O. Box 272, Fort Frances, Ontario, P9A 3M6

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 19, 2018 at the Fort Frances Library

Executive: Brad Houghton; Chris Bonner-Vickers; Crystal Gray; Rob Dokuchie; Jesse Adair; Zac Manty; Kerri Harper; Martin Kellar; Marc-Andre Michon; Richard Boileau; Bill James; Willie Anderson; Mike Veniot; and Marc Sabourin

The 2017 year has been a busy year for the Fort Frances Sportsmen's Club with many changes taking place. At the past AGM, Henry Miller and Ben Wiersema stepped down as Directors after more than 2 decades on the Board. At the first Executive meeting, Mike Veniot was voted in as Club President; Brad Houghton as Vice-President; Jesse Adair as Secretary; and Bill James as Treasurer. The remaining Directors and Alternate Directors filled various roles within the Executive's operations. During the year, Mike Veniot stepped back as Club President, Brad Houghton moved up to Club President, and Chris Bonner-Vickers was voted in as Vice President; Bill James stepped back as Treasurer, Crystal Gray was voted in as new Treasurer.

Six Directors took the Range Officer course through the Canadian Firearms Institute to qualify to be Range Officers and to conduct training on behalf of the Fort Frances Sportsmen's Club. The Directors that were trained to be the new Range Officers for FFSC are Brad Houghton, Marc Andre Michon, Jesse Adair, Chris Bonner-Vickers, Crystal Gray, and Rob Dokuchie. A new Club Level Safety Course was developed. The first course was held by Marc Andre Michon and Jesse Adair on March 10, 2018 for a cost of \$25/participant. An Iterim Club Constitution was been created by the Directors, as a requirement of the CFO to keep the ranges open. The CFO approved the new Club Constitution.

A new set of By-laws for the FFSC need to be created this upcoming year.

The Executive did a search of corporation status for the club. It was determined that the FFSC had corporation status. The last time it had been updated was in 2008. The CFO required an updated corporation report. This was also updated with the current Directors information.

Marc Andre Michon was appointed as the Primary Contact/Range Officer for the CFO and OPP.

Jesse Adair has been selected by the Firearms Safety Education Service Ontario Region 1 to be a part of their organization's board.

There was a discussion about changing the clubs affiliation from OFAH to CFI. It was decided to remain with the OFAH. The club has always been about all outdoor activities; shooting, hunting, fishing, trapping, land-claims, forestry, etc. It was felt that membership with the OFAH encompassed this.

The FFSC had a meeting with OFAH representative Brian McRae, to discuss all the different aspects that OFAH had to offer the club and educate new Directors as to what the OFAH was all about.

Fish - Richard B. No Report

OFAH Lottery – Richard B. For the 2017 OFAH Lottery year, 63 books of tickets were sold for a profit of \$507.00. There was 10 books of tickets were unsold. The money raised from the sale of the tickets was used for the Rainy River Elk Restoration Project.

Property and Ranges – Willie Anderson and Volunteers have ensured that signage has been updated at the Ranges. CFO visited for the annual inspection this year with improvements that were needed. Sign in books were needed at each range. Members need to sign in with their OFAH membership number, the time that they arrive and the time that they leave. If you have a family membership, the OFAH membership number is the same for each family member. In this situation, add your initials after your membership number to further identify which family member was using the range. Further signage was needed on the property; along with a sign to honk three times to head back to the handgun and rifle range, if the skeet range is in use.

Archery - Zac Manty has groomed trails for members to use. Zac is looking to get the Archery Club active again for the 2018 season.

Junior Conservation and Youth – Henry Miller

This February 2017, 49 birdhouses were built. The grade 3/4 class at Sturgeon Creek School constructed 13 birdhouses, with the help from the grade 8's. The Grade 7/8 class also made 26 boxes. The teacher, Rob Kinsmen, had cut out enough birdhouses for half the class, with the Sportsmen's Club contribution, 26 birdhouses were constructed.

Two grade 3 classes from Robert Moore School (with teachers Alexis Norris and Becky Booth), learned snowshoeing at Rocky Inlet. Mrs. Beckett's grade 6 class from Robert Moore learned about diversity of plants and animals by studying signs of birds and mammals. Also, observing plants such as trees, fungi, lichens, and ground plants.

The grade 8 class from Fort Frances High School found examples of relationships in the forest such as predators/prey or rotting log/fungus/mold. Two other topics were fire building in the snow, and searching for lost items, i.e. a cell phone that had fall from a student's pocket.

Henry Miller worked with the OPP to introduce a conservation component to Project Sunset. The Nordic Ski Club invited Henry to help with snowshoeing and to show the adults and kids some features along the trail.

In May 2017, more birdhouses were built by school classes:

- 27 birdhouses from students in grades K-8 from McCrossen-Tovel Elementary School (located in Bergland)
- 24 birdhouses from students in grade 5 at J.W. Walker Elementary School (located in Fort Frances)
- 16 birdhouses from students in grade 8 at Fort Frances High School

Seeding – Payment of 2015 Seeding Invoice was received on July 19, 2017.

Publicity – Henry Miller has provided updates to the Fort Frances Times for the Junior Conservation and Education activities that he takes to the district schools.

Big Game - Chris B. – No Report

Skeet – Two new skeet throwers were purchased this fall. The club was faced with major repairs on the existing skeet machines that dated back to the 1960's. After getting a quote on repairs and shipping of the skeet machines, the costs were comparable to purchasing new skeet throwers. A donation from Ted Brockie of \$2,200.00 covered the cost of one skeet thrower. Brad Houghton donated the power supplies for the machines. Thank Ted & Brad!

Zone A – reported at the Zone A AGM which took place in Fort Frances that there will be a new vendor providing the Hunting and Fishing Outdoors Cards through its Licensing Automated System. The new vendor has a 10 year contract to provide these services, and they are located in the U.S.A. The contract with the current provider expires November 23, 2018. The contract with the new company does not take effect until January 1, 2019. During this time hunters and fishers will not be able to renew their cards, or get hunting or fishing licenses. The new company will provide the option of purchase your licenses online, where you would print off a copy of your license/tag. There will be a scan code on the license for Conservation Officers to scan and get your information from it. You will be able to reprint your document once. It is

unknown yet if retailers will be able to charge an extra fee to provide the service of printing of the license.

It will be mandatory for hunter activity reporting for all big game hunting tags, whether the hunter has harvested an animal or not. There will be a penalty if the hunter does not comply with this mandatory reporting. It is unknown at the moment if the penalty will be a monetary fine or the loss of privilege to hunt for a year.

The Spring Bear Hunt will be ending in 2020. At the present moment, there is no incentive for the Ministry to continue it past this point.

The Zone A Elections took place. The new Zone A Executive is:

Chair & Director – Roy DeCorte

Zone 1st Vice Chair & Director – Jeremy Funk

Zone 2nd Vice Chair & 1st Alternate Director – Lorne Ferguson

Zone Secretary/Treasurer & Director – Rick Moore

Zone 2nd Alternate Director – presently vacant

Membership Report – We currently have 267 Active Member, down from around 300 members in 2016.

Monies for 2017: Membership \$16,470; postage \$202.10; Donations \$680; Paid to OFAH \$11,801.

Bursaries were awarded in 2017 to Chase McGuire and Mackenzie Wright. Each was awarded \$1,000.00 each to go towards their studies.

Handgun Range Rentals – CBSC – 2017 \$ 3,500.00

- MNRF – 2017 \$ 500.00

There are still issues with the Boat Launch. At the present moment they are in the hands of the FFSC legal representation and the MNRF.