



## FORT FRANCES SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

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

### **2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**March 25, 2019 at the Fort Frances Volunteer Bureau**

Executive: Brad Houghton; Chris Bonner-Vickers; Crystal Gray; Rob Dokuchie; Jesse Adair; Zac Manty; Kerri Harper; Martin Kellar; Marc-André Michon; Richard Boileau; Chris Pollard; and Blair Beadow.

The 2018 year has been a quiet year for the Fort Frances Sportsmen's Club. Many behind the scenes activities were taking place with the Executive, working at maintaining and improving the Club.

The following overview of department activities have been reported on:

Fish – Changes have been made in how license can be purchased. Licenses can be purchased online and printed off.

OFAH Lottery – Richard B. For the 2018 OFAH Lottery year, 69 books of tickets were sold for a profit of \$621.00. The money raised from the sale of the tickets was used for the Rainy River Elk Restoration Project.

Property and Ranges – The range roads had worked completed on them including new culverts installed, where needed. Daryl's Custom Landscaping was contracted to complete this work. During the fall, the overgrown brush along the roadway was started to be cut back.

The Restricted Firearm Range has received approval to raise the backstop so that the FFSC can develop a PPC Shooting Club (Police Pistol Combat/Competition). Currently the closest Club is located in Dryden. The goal for the work to be completed on the Restricted Firearm Range is this spring.

Archery – Blair Beadow

In July we started work on the archery range:

1. We cut the grass on the ranges and on the outside of the field.
2. We identified the 3D shooting lanes and cut them out.
3. Other work involved cleaning out the archery shed, cleaning out the 3D animal storage and building a storage rack for the 3D targets.

4. Inventory of 3D target was taken and some targets culled.

We have approximately 33 usable targets, but we require replacement of large 3D targets. This will be achieved by the money raised by our 3D events.

We held a 3D event on Aug. 26, 2018 with modest turnout. In 2019 we will hold 2 - 3D events, one in May and the other in late Aug. We finished the season with what bag targets we had left.

During the fall we discussed replacement of the range targets and decided to look at purchasing 5 Bulldog range targets. In mid Dec. we purchased 5 targets and received them late Jan. 2019.

The plan is to permanently mount them at the range in May 2019. To pay for these targets we have been soliciting sponsors for these targets and have raised over \$900 so far.

I would like to thank Leo Korosec, Kim Basaraba, Colin Wilcott and Ben Wiersema for the help getting the archery range 3D target lanes and storage areas back in condition. Also thanks to Zac Manty for his work in the organization and soliciting of sponsors for the targets.

We are hoping to have an archery club meeting in April to get the 2019 season going. Election of officers will be held at this time.

Our goal is to provide an archery range that can hold tournaments up to the World Archery Program (WA) or formally FITA standards and to encourage National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) to use our facility. This would ultimately help us grow the sport of Archery.

#### Youth Education and Conservation – Henry Miller

Mine Centre School has an outdoor program for their primary classes. Henry Miller, Sportsmen's Club member, was invited to take part in one of their excursions into the bush. The lessons are appropriate for those grades and very well organized. Basically, the adults wanted to know a bit more about the plants in the area and to be able to identify some unknown to them.

The school needed some guidance in setting up a program for the older pupils. I made several suggestions and then took grades 4, 5, and 6 out to show some of the techniques which could be used.

Several of the teachers stayed after school to walk the trails and learn more about the environment.

Building birdhouses in classrooms is part of the club's initiative to help increase the bluebird population. Last summer many of these boxes were used by the bluebirds.

This February, two grade 6 classes and a grad 4 class at Robert Moore constructed 59 birdhouses. In addition to making the boxes, the pupils also learned to identify bluebirds, tree swallows, and wrens.

## Bluebird Report – Henry Miller

The winter of 2017-18 was extremely cold and lingered until the second week in April. The night of our nocturnal owl survey on April 11, the snow coverage was 95%. Temperatures rose quickly with the first bluebirds appearing on May 19. Not long after that, there were more bluebirds than I had ever seen. Residents in the district whose children had built bird houses through the Sportsmen's Club's school programs wondered why there were so many bluebirds nesting in the boxes which had never been used before.

It was a great year for these birds. They thrived in the hot, dry conditions.

I monitored 6 trails (73 boxes). 18 pairs of bluebirds fledged 86 young with mortality in only one nest.

All ground nesting birds, such as bobolinks, meadow larks, and grouse, thrived. In fact, bobolinks, which were in every hayfield in our area, fledged their young before the hay was cut.

Tree swallow populations remain low. In the 22 years before 2015, these birds nested in about 80% of the 437 bird houses being monitored. In 2015, very few returned from the south, and their numbers have remained low.

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. – Changes have been made to the licensing process. Licenses can be purchased online, and then printed off. There are new regulations on how to deal with the paper licenses. Reporting on reporting each year is required for each game license purchased, even if the tag was not filled. There are fines in place for non-reporting of the survey cards.

Skeet – It was a quiet year on the skeet range. Weekly shoots took place, but there was a small number of participants taking part this year. Due to the reduced number of active skeet members, there was no year end competition shoot.

Zone A – Thank you to Henry Miller and Bruce Hamilton taking part in several of the Zone A meetings, and to represent the FFSC in them.

## Membership Report – Rob D.

As of March 25, 2019, we have 216 active members and 5 lapsed.

2018 Monies since last report; July - \$1,160.00 no donations; August- \$ 670.00 - \$30 donations; September - \$ 1,640.00 - \$20 donations; October - \$ 2,770.00 - \$ 50 donations; November - \$ 1,460.00 no donations; December - \$ 1,180.00 no donations

2019 Monies.

January- \$ 300.00 no donations; February- \$ 140.00 no donations; March- \$ 960.00 (so far).

I will be stepping down from the membership rep position very soon and Marc-André Michon will be taking over.

Boat Launch - There are still issues with the Boat Launch. The FFSC has been advised by the MNRFF that other clubs have lost court cases trying to gain access into waterways over private land. These clubs had paid \$80,000+ in legal fees in their unsuccessful attempts. There is Case Law that will provide past precedence to the Courts in favour of the private land owner that legally owns and is paying property taxes on the riverbeds. This past precedence has shown that the Courts will rule in favour to the private landowner's legal right to their property.

The FFSC Executive is still looking into alternatives to solve this problem. We have talked to neighbouring land owners to lease land where FFSC can relocate the boat launch to. These attempts have been unsuccessful to date.

Miscellaneous Reports - Bursary was awarded in 2018 to Alana Gerula. She was awarded \$1,000.00 to go towards her studies.

Restricted Range Rentals – CBSC – 2018 \$ 3,250.00

Restricted Range Safety Training for new members - \$ 450.00