



## NSFAH Journal



November 2012

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*To receive a copy of the NSFAH monthly E-Newsletter simply fill out the contact form at the Federation website, include your name and email address...it really is that simple!*

### NSFAH Press Release

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters appreciates the persistence of the Harper Government in ridding the county of the information stored in the former long gun registry.

The last and final step for most Canadian firearms owners is the destruction of individual firearms records held by the Canadian Firearms

Centre and with that we can finally put to rest this misstep in Canadian history. The announcement of the destruction of those records was made today in Saskatchewan.

"The hard work that Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Minister of Public Safety, Vic Toews and Candice Bergen, Mr. Toews parliamentary secretary have done will be remembered by the responsible

firearms owners of Canada," said Tony Rodgers executive director of the NSFAH.

We only hope that our fellow firearms owners in Quebec will receive a positive response from their courts on the destruction of records of Quebec gun owners, he said.

Maintaining the licensing of gun owners, which is different from the long gun registry, has not make all firearms owners happy but the majority realize that a system of checks on who can own firearms must be maintained and knowing that training in firearms safety for all firearms owners is mandatory is a positive thing.

For more information, contact Tony Rodgers at [tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca](mailto:tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca)

### Habitat Conservation Fund Applications - 2012

**The submission date for applications is December 15th.**

The Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund was established under the Nova Scotia Wildlife Act to assist the funding of programs for the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats. The \$3.15 Wildlife Habitat Stamp, purchased primarily by hunters and trappers, is the only funding mechanism for the fund. The Habitat Conservation Fund will partner in projects on a cost shared basis not to exceed 75% of total project cost.

The Fund is organized under four main objectives:

1. Enhancement
2. Acquisition
3. Research
4. Education

Since 2001, more than \$1.5 million has been invested in wildlife conservation through the sale of the stamp to hunters and trappers across the province.

[More information can be viewed here.](#)

## Executive Directors Voice

It has been a busy fall so far and continues to be with changes to the delivery of the Nova Scotia Hunter Education classroom and on line study courses.



The Federation has administered the classroom portion for over 12 years but the new changes has given headaches and heartaches to everyone involved. We hope that a debriefing at the end of the season will help settle out the problems and ensure a smoother time next year.

I have also been busy with two Federal events. The first was the first meeting of the Hunters and Anglers Advisory Panel to the Minister of Environment, Peter Kent. I was appointed, by the government, to that panel to represent Nova Scotia. The first meeting was held October 5th and I participated by video conference from Dartmouth.

The Panel was set up by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in May as a long term advisory body for ongoing issues related to conservation and how they blend with hunting and angling

In essence the first meeting was to have everyone meet each other set the terms of reference figure out the ground rules for discussion and plan for future discussions.

I also attended two meeting in Ottawa under the sponsorship of the Canadian Wildlife Federation, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and Department of Fisheries and Oceans on the changes to the Fisheries Act and how they will impact recreation fishing in Canada. I want to thank these organization for the financial help they were able to provide me and the Federation without I would not have been able to attend.

The first meeting was August 30 and brought together 20 organizations from across Canada to discuss the changes and steps to help soften the impact of the changes on the resource and its habitat. After that first discussion a letter was sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Keith Ash field with a request to allow DFO staff attend a second meeting to flesh out more detail about the changes and try to understand from their perspective what was trying to be accomplished. That second meeting was held October 11 with the same participants.

A key request coming from that meeting was to have the government time line of December 31 be pushed back for 6 month to allow for more consultation with the provinces and fisheries related NGO's.

**Tony Rodgers**  
Executive Director  
NSFAH

## Why Get Into Hunting

Our friends at the Quebec Federation of Anglers & Hunters have launched a publicity campaign aimed at improving the public awareness and acceptance of hunting and recruiting new hunters. Their messages are clear and concise and the video's they produced are well done professional products.

They have recently added English sub titles so those of us who don't speak French can read the messages. Although some of the information is specific to Quebec the themes are universal and I thought you might like to see them. It's only too bad we don't have the resources to produce our own. Click below.

[Why Hunt.](#)

## Fraser River Sockeye Salmon – Cohen Commission

The long awaited Cohen Commission into the Fraser River Sockeye has concluded that Open Pen Salmon Farms pose potential harm to the wild stock and recommends that unless DFO can confidently say the risk is minimal by 2020 they should close down the open pen farms in the Discovery Islands. In the interim DFO should impose a moratorium on any expansion.

Here are two extracts from the commission report:

*“Salmon farms along the sockeye migration route in the Discovery Islands have the potential to introduce exotic diseases and to exacerbate endemic diseases which can have a negative impact on Fraser River sockeye. Disease can cause significant population declines, and, in some situations – for example, if a disease were to wipe out a vulnerable stock of Fraser River sockeye – such effects could be irreversible. I therefore conclude that the potential harm posed by salmon farms to Fraser River sockeye salmon is serious or irreversible.”*

*“Mitigation measures should not be delayed in the absence of scientific certainty. Precautionary measures should focus on filling the knowledge gaps and enabling DFO to adapt mitigation measures to new scientific information. It is appropriate to take measures to prevent any risk of serious harm from increasing. For that reason,*

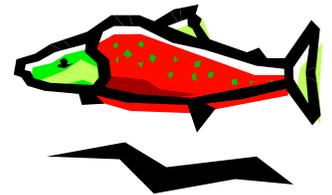
*I recommend that there should be no increase to net-pen salmon farm production in the Discovery Islands until September 30, 2020.*

*I have chosen that date because DFO should by then be able to adequately assess the likelihood of net-pen salmon farms causing serious harm to Fraser River sockeye.*

*If, by that date, DFO cannot confidently say the risk of serious harm is minimal, it should then prohibit all net-pen salmon farms from operating in the Discovery Islands.*

*If DFO is satisfied before September 30, 2020, that the risk is more than minimal, it should order a stop to net pen salmon farming at that earlier date.”*

[Read the full report here.](#)



## Hunters Helping The Hungry

On average, hunters in Nova Scotia provide roughly 775 kilograms of deer and moose meat for hungry people in Nova Scotia each year.

That's a significant donation since it translates into 7,500 servings of protein—a much needed food group. And it was made possible through Hunters Helping the Hungry, a joint initiative of **FEED NOVA SCOTIA** and the hunting community where hunters can donate deer and moose meat to food banks and meal programs across the province.

**FEED NOVA SCOTIA's** food distributors make regular deliveries to food banks and meal programs in the province and will pick up donated moose/deer meat on scheduled runs.

Hunters wishing to contribute meat should contact a participating licensed meat cutter.

To see a list of meat cutters involved in Hunters Helping the Hungry across the province, please go to page 51 of the [2012 Hunting Regulations Summary Guidelines found here.](#)



## Copper Bullets Gain Support in Minnesota

*A growing number of hunters across North America are choosing to switch to copper bullets and they are switching for a number of reasons including the ballistic performance of copper. The Federation is asking hunters to consider all the information before making a choice, but fully supports the fact that it is your choice!*

*Have a look at this story out of Minnesota.*



*It holds up better, it drops less over 200 yards and gives me a better pattern.*

Next weekend, as she has for more than 40 years, Betty Wilkens will be out in the woods near her home near Mora in east-central Minnesota with one of her rifles on her shoulder and deer in her sights. But no lead in the chamber.

Wilkens is among a small but apparently growing group of deer hunters in the Midwest who will be shooting solid copper rounds from their rifles and shotguns this year. Their motivations vary, but topping the list is that copper kills -- often better than lead.

Copper bullets and slugs also are becoming more affordable and more widely available, although searching through the ammo aisle at retailers can be frustrating. And then there's the fact that copper, when compared with lead, is nontoxic for the environment, human consumption and bald eagles. But be careful with that last bit. It's a touchy subject.

"It's not a lead issue or an eagle issue; it's a ballistics issue," said Mark Johnson, executive director of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, at a recent round table on the issue. Johnson will be packing all-copper rounds he and a friend loaded themselves.

### DEER DROP QUICKLY

Solid copper bullets have been around for years, but their ballistic qualities were generally inferior to tried-and-true lead bullets. That has changed.

"Technology is catching up," said Ryan Bronson, conservation specialist for Anoka-based Federal Premium Ammunition, who also was at the recent round table. "We've added a second copper round (to Federal's selection), so people can draw their own conclusions."

In many calibers, Federal's copper rounds rank second-from-the-top in a number of ballistic characteristics.

Some copper rounds hold their shapes and lines better from muzzle to target than lead bullets.

Once they reach the target, bullets made of copper, which is lighter and harder than lead, outperform lower-priced lead bullets, according to numerous reports and marketing materials from the ammo industry, as well as information on DNR websites from several states. Lead bullets fragment, while copper holds together, flowering to create a larger wound channel but holding together with 95 percent to 100 percent weight retention.

Wilkens said she didn't need science to tell her that when she started using copper about five years ago, when off-the-shelf rounds entered the Minnesota market.

"It holds up better, it drops less over 200 yards and it gives me a better pattern," said Wilkens, who also shoots copper during the muzzleloader season. "In four of my rifles, copper outperformed lead. And the deer that I hit, a lot of them, they go right down. It's a good wound channel, a lot of blood, easy-to-follow trail and they drop quickly."

Unlike Johnson, though, Wilkens' decision to shoot lead isn't just about ballistics.

"My background is in chemistry, and lead is toxic, period," said Wilkens, a prominent environmentalist and conservationist in the outdoors community who has been a key figure in the venison donation program. "We've known that for 100 years. But I don't dwell on that because it raises hackles."

### NO LEAD BAN

No one proposed banning lead for deer hunting in Minnesota during last year's legislative session, and such a plan would seem unlikely to pass any time soon.

But the notion of a lead ban is still the 800-pound buck in the room.

Some anti-hunting groups, environmentalists and advocates for bald eagles do support a ban, while many others might not push openly for a ban but would prefer a world without lead.

*....continued on page 5*

*Copper Bullets continued.....*

Lead-bullet fragmentation in deer carcasses has threatened to derail Minnesota's venison-donation program, which provides locally harvested, healthy meat to food shelves. Because of health concerns over lead in food, all venison killed with lead bullets is X-rayed in Minnesota.

Meanwhile, scavenging raptors, such as bald eagles and condors in California, have died from lead poisoning after consuming lead from gut piles of deer killed by hunters.

In 2008, California banned all lead in condor territory. Lead has been banned in waterfowl hunting in Minnesota since 1987 and nationwide since 1991. In 2006, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Nontoxic Shot Advisory Committee concluded, "It is inevitable that lead shot will have to be restricted for all shotgun hunting at some future time."

The National Sports Shooting Foundation, the firearms and ammo industries' lobbying group, opposes a lead ban. Start talking about copper rounds with folks in the outdoors industry, and you'll likely elicit a somewhat defensive response.

"Cabela's is not there to take a position," said Steve Lonn, retail marketing manager for the Cabela's in Rogers. "We're about giving you choices, and we do offer alternative deer bullets, if that's your choice."

Lonn, who took care not to even mention lead in his comments, found himself choosing his words to a reporter carefully on a recent Saturday when a promotional event hit a little too close for comfort.

The Minnesota DNR, which asks hunters only to "consider the information" on lead and nontoxic bullets, promoted the event like this:

"The DNR, the Raptor Center and Cabela's have teamed up to promote a variety of new copper rifle and shotgun ammunition for deer hunting.

This is the first eagle-safe event to promote copper ammunition for deer hunting by a major outdoor retailer in the nation."

Word got out, phones started ringing and the event turned into an eagle appreciation event, with hundreds viewing the Raptor Center's live eagle. But the event was moved away from the ammunition part of the store, and there was no mention of lead, copper or ammunition in general.

St. Paul-based Gander Mountain declined an interview request for this story. At one Gander Mountain, staff at the gun counter appeared unsure when asked where solid-copper deer rounds could be found, although the retailer does sell such rounds on its website.

**TRICKY TO FIND**

In fact, many major retailers carry copper rounds in several calibers, as well as sabot slugs for shotguns with rifled barrels.

But the rounds are not always prominently labeled. One Federal line does say "lead-free slug," but packaging on some boxes of Winchester, Federal and other ammunition makers is ambiguous as to how much copper is in the round or whether they contain lead.

Still, the conversation is happening.

The recent round table with Johnson and Bronson also included a DNR conservation officer, Raptor Center representatives and Carrol Henderson, supervisor of the DNR's nongame wildlife program. Members of the outdoors media were invited.

Henderson and Johnson had co-bylined a story for *Whitetails* magazine espousing copper's ballistic attributes. That such cooperation was even taking place was remarkable, even if the common ground was limited.

"We can promote copper as a superior deer hunting load," Henderson said. "I'm hoping that some of the controversy around this can be softened."

**Submitted by Dave Orrick**



# 2012 LICENSE OF A LIFETIME LOTTERY

**Bigger Than Ever!**



The new super license includes  
Fishing and Small Game Hunting

You could spend the rest of your life fishing and hunting  
all over Nova Scotia -- FREE!

**One Entry -- \$2.00   3 Entries -- \$5.00   6 Entries -- \$10.00   12 Entries -- \$20.00**

The 19<sup>th</sup> License of a Lifetime Lottery from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters will be awarding two (2) lifetime licenses to two (2) lucky applicants. That's right, you could hunt and fish from Sydney to Yarmouth, from Amherst to Canso – all over the province, every year for the rest of your life! And best of all, you will never have to purchase another Fishing License\*, Small Game License\*\* or a Deer Hunting License\*\*\* again!

It's easy to enter: just fill in your information below, cut and send to the address noted, along with your entry fee. We will fill out your tickets and send along your stubs. Enter as often as you like, and good luck!

**One Entry -- \$2.00   3 Entries -- \$5.00   6 Entries -- \$10.00   12 Entries -- \$20.00**

### License of a Lifetime Contest Rules

- Applicants must be 16 years of age, or older to enter.
- Open to Nova Scotia residents only.
- Entry forms are to be filled out completely in ink or typed.
- The license is subject to the laws respecting hunting and fishing in the same manner as with any hunting or fishing license.
- Licenses are not transferrable and may be cancelled, suspended or forfeited in accordance with the law.
- Incomplete, illegible or improperly filled out forms will not be accepted and entrants will not be notified or have fees returned.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2012.
- Entries postmarked after November 30, 2012 will be included in next years' draw.
- All entry fees are non-refundable and please do not send cash.

### **Make all cheques payable to Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters.**

- Mail to Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, P.O. Box 654, Halifax, NS, B3J 2T3.
- Draw will be held on December 14, 2012. Winners will be notified immediately after the draw.

\*Not including Salmon – Sponsored by Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture.

\*\*Not including migratory birds.

\*\*\*The Deer and Small Game Licenses are sponsored by Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources.

Cut along dotted line

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Entries: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Cel: \_\_\_\_\_

You may pay by using your – M/C  VISA  Cheque Enclosed

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ expiry \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Mail to:  
Nova Scotia Federation of  
Anglers & Hunters  
P.O. Box 654  
Halifax, NS  
B3J 2T3

**Do Not Send Cash.**

## **Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters**

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The NSFah Journal is published monthly, except during hunting season. If you or your club has an article to submit, send along before the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to ensure your information is inserted.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.nsfah.ca](http://www.nsfah.ca)

## **The Great Canadian Turtle Race**

Here's a fun activity for youth, and the young at heart: The Canadian Wildlife Federation in cooperation with the Canadian Sea Turtle Network, captured 10 female leatherback turtles off the coast of Nova Scotia, attached satellite transmitters and released them. They are now tracking their journey to the islands of the South Atlantic where they will nest and lay their eggs.

In addition to following their progress you can sign up and pick the turtle you think will win, and have a chance to win a fabulous trip.

For details click the web-link below:

[The Great Canadian Turtle Race.](#)

## **The Trading Post**

[Trading Post Terms of Use.](#)

## **Bluenose Longbeards Chapter - NWTF**

Bluenose Long Beards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is holding a meeting November 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm Better Buy Sports In Dartmouth. For any information contact Terry Smith 497-1611.

## **Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing**

*All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia  
Archery Association of Nova Scotia  
Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia  
Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia  
Bras D'or Wildlife Association*

*Cape Breton Wildlife Association  
Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia  
Delta Waterfowl Association  
Digby East Fish & Game Association  
Halifax Wildlife Association*

*Hants West Wildlife Association  
Kings County Fish & Game Association  
Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers  
Lansdowne Outdoor Recreation Development Association*

*Lunenburg County Wildlife Association  
Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters  
Nova Scotia Guides Association  
Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association  
Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association*

*Mic Mac Rod & Gun Club  
Port Morien Wildlife Association  
Queens County Fish and Game Association  
Bluenose Longbeards Chapter, NWTF  
Shelburne County Fish & Game Association*

*South Shore Wildlife Association  
The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia  
Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia  
Trappers Association of Nova Scotia  
West Pictou Wildlife Association*