



NSFAH Journal

October 2011

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...and a whole lot more.

Congratulations to Donald van Nostrand for winning our "Name the Newsletter" contest. Donald suggested NSFAH Journal. Enjoy your new Grohmann knife!

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!

Notes From The President

On the 26th of September Tony Rodgers and I attended an information meeting, organized by Kevin Laybolt and a core group of supporters, concerning the closure of the West Jeddore rifle range. The Oyster Pond fire hall was standing room only as users and supporters of the range showed up to ask Government officials why the range had been closed and to voice their displeasure at the loss.

DNR was represented by Bill Smith, acting Executive Director, Regional Services Branch and Allan Eddy, Regional Director, Central Region. Department of Justice was represented by acting Provincial Firearms Officer Judy Spears and Bruce MacDonald. DNR provided an overview of recent closures of the range starting in 2008, following noise complaints and safety concerns. A shooting bunker was built to restrict shooting direction and contain noise and the range was reopened.

Late in the season of 2009 DNR staff inspecting the range, found evidence that people were shooting outside the bunker and were concerned that this was unsafe as they claim there is a dwelling house within 402 meters of the firing point. They eventually reported this to the Chief Firearms Officer and the permit to operate the range was withdrawn for safety reasons based on DNR's regulation that a firearm cannot be legally discharged within 402 meters of a dwelling house. The Federal Regulations relating to ranges do not set out any specific distances required for the safe operation of a range.

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/archives/p2/1998/1998-04-15/html/sor-dors212-eng.html>

The acting Provincial Firearms Officer stated several times that this range was safe if used as intended.

One of the supporters of the range challenged the accuracy of the stated distance between firing point and the house, producing a site map he had obtained from the land registry office which showed that the property line was 417 meters from the firing point and the house several meters further away. When asked who had measured the distance DNR referred to the DOJ representative and she said they hadn't, at this point Bill Smith said they had surveyors on staff and he would get an accurate distance measured. HRM Councillor Steve Streach then took the mike and pointed out the injustice of closing the range based on a distance that was never firmly established and suggested the range should be immediately reopened.

Regarding the allegation of people shooting outside the bunker and therefore creating a safety violation it should be pointed out that as operator of the range, DNR collects information from users and explains the safety rules required for range use, prior to their actual use of the range. If there were violations of the rules DNR should be able to track the violators and punish the guilty parties not the rest of the law abiding users of the range.



NO SHOOTING

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Executive Directors Voice



"get back to a healthy diet to ensure we are ready to pull that big buck out of the woods"

The crisp fall air, the slow dropping of leaves and Halloween decorations in the stores are all the signs pointing to toward hunting season. Fall is here.

Some of us bowhunters have already been in the woods and some may have been successful and that's great but I just want to put out a reminder to all hunters before they go into the woods again this year.

Many of us don't have a physical job that demands body movement and many like me are confined to a chair in front of computer most of the day. That doesn't do much for our physical health.

It's important to exercise all year long but if you haven't it's time to get off the coach and start a bit of walking before

the general deer season starts. Those walks will help strengthen your legs, get your lungs used to deep breathing and hopefully will get you ready for the rigors we face while hunting in Nova Scotia woods.

It doesn't take much but we should try and do a few simple stretching exercises, lift a few weights and get back to a healthy diet to ensure we are ready to pull that big buck out of the woods. Oh sure there is the ATV but not all the lifting is done by the machines, if you have one available or can get it to the deer.

If you're not sure about your health get your doctor to check you out and OK you for the woods. Have a safe and healthy hunting season.

Tony Rodgers
Executive Director
Nova Scotia Federation of
Anglers & Hunters

Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia

The Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia will be holding their Annual General Meeting on October 16, 2011, out at the DNR training room at the Shubenacadie depot.

The meeting gets under way at 11:00AM sharp so don't be late. There will be lots to discuss and as usual, volunteers are needed to carry out and promote BANS throughout the year, around the province. The meeting is open to all who wish to attend, but only current BANS members may vote.

For more information, contact John W. at john@bans.ca

See you at the meeting!

DNR Range Issue

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This issue has not been resolved and the Federation has written to the Minister's of DNR and DOJ requesting the immediate reopening of the range.

This is not the first range that has fallen victim to community expansion as houses spring up and new residents complain about the noise and potential danger of the range.

We suggest that you have a look at your local range and identify any potential threats to its continued operation.

Wilf Woods (Woody)
President
Nova Scotia Federation of
Anglers & Hunters



A Hunting Supply Store in an Unexpected Location

I'd like to share a little story with my fellow hunting enthusiasts about a new hunting supply location recently opened in the South Western part of Nova Scotia. It's one of only five such stores in Canada and the only one east of Ontario. Do I have your interest yet?

What first caught my eye was the sign hanging above the display area which simply read upon the oval plaque, "Hunting a Canadian Heritage".

Well I'll just say this caught my eye and my interest so, being the type of guy I am, I had to investigate a little further. I found a wide assortment of hunting supplies, clothes, decoys, ammunition, hand loading supplies, tree stands, blinds and the list goes on but what really caught my eye were the firearms. Names like Savage, Remington, Mossberg, and Weatherby in a wide variety of calibers and styles. I even found about a dozen or so compounds and crossbows hanging on the back wall.

A young salesman took some time to show me around, taking me into another section of the store to show me where they had set up a range for customers to try out the bows and crossbows.

I later spoke with Mr. Mike Denomme, the General Manager, who was very helpful and took the time to answer a few questions. He said that this location had in fact started the process two years ago because of a need in their area. He told me they sent four employees for the proper training so that they could legally handle the firearms and show them to the customers.

Their Grand Opening was a great success, with many customers lining up for the opening specials and promotional draws. Staff says they are busy and this has been a greater success than anticipated.

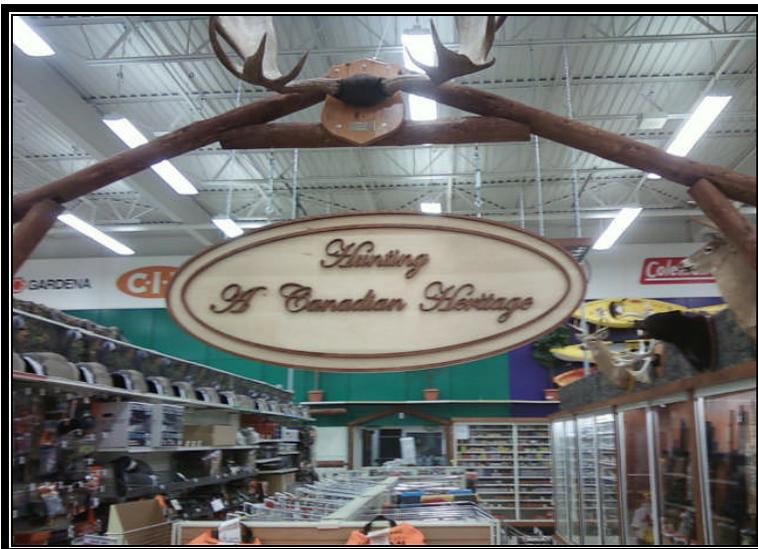
Now I hope you have read this article and thought to yourself where the heck is this place?

Well, you'll have to head to Yarmouth and you'll find this spot located at 120 Starrs Road right on the main drag you'll see the big red triangle of the local **Canadian Tire Store**. Let's hope that their success will spread across the entire chain, giving all of us greater access to the things we need to enjoy our great outdoors and our tradition of Hunting, Angling and Trapping.

Sheldon Ryan
1st Vice President
 Nova Scotia Federation of
 Anglers & Hunters



I even found about a dozen or so compounds and crossbows hanging on the back wall."



Preparing Resolutions for the Federation AGM

This is the time of year that affiliate clubs should be considering what resolutions they would like to see the Federation consider for policy at the 2012 AGM. Using the following guidelines when preparing your resolution will greatly improve the chances of acceptance.

Guidelines for preparation of resolutions for presentation to the NSFAH AGM:

- * Review existing Federation Policy to ensure your suggestion is not already included in our policy manual. The Policy manuals are available on our web site, in the members' area.
- * Limit the Resolution to a single topic or idea. Resolutions that try to encompass more than one topic or idea are very confusing and generally quite difficult to deal with.
- * Fully explain the problem, or reason for the resolution in the "Whereas" sections. Use as many of these sections as necessary to explain the problem, but try not to overuse them.
- * When preparing the Resolution, ensure that you have fairly evaluated other related interests in the topic. Ensure that you feel the Resolution has a reasonable chance of acceptance. "Pie-in-the-sky" resolutions while usually supported by very noble ideals, only serve to waste time and do little to promote the club or the Federation as responsible organizations.
- * Ensure you have investigated the problem behind the Resolution fully. On occasion, Resolutions have been presented regarding a supposed problem which later turned out not to exist.

"Resolutions are to be returned to the Federation no later than December 15, 2011."

A loss to the Hunting and Shooting Community

On September 16th Tony Rodgers and I attended a celebration of the life of Lawrence "Laurie" Saulnier at the Windsor Funeral Home. Laurie was 79 when he passed away peacefully on Sept 13, 2011, in the Victoria General Hospital.

Laurie was a long time member of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters and served on the executive as treasurer. He was a founding member and past president of the Hants West Wildlife Association and celebrated his 35th year as a Hunter Safety Instructor in 2011. Some of Laurie's happiest moments were spent teaching children how to fish and stay safe in the woods.

He was an expert marksman who started his shooting career with the Halifax Gun Club at the age of 14. Over a period of 11 years won 24 individual Nova Scotia and Maritime Skeet & Trap shooting championships.

Laurie will be fondly remembered by his many friends in the Hunting & Angling community.

Wilf Woods
President
 Nova Scotia Federation of
 Anglers & Hunters



Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association

WELCOME ABOARD

On September 11th, 2011, The Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association joined the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters.

Formed in June, 2010, The Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association is a non-profit association dedicated to the conservation and management of Nova Scotia's black bear population, promoting public education and the protection of our bear hunting heritage.

NSBHA Goals:

1. Wildlife conservation by promoting the use of sound wildlife management principals to ensure a healthy bear population as a viable and sustainable renewable resource.

2. Ethical hunting by continually encouraging and educating bear hunters to respect the environment in which we hunt as well as maintaining the highest standards for our sport.

3. Working together to maintain and build alliances with other hunting groups and organizations, encourage liaisons with private landowners and pursue a healthy working relationship with government departments.

For more information, please email contact.nsbha@gmail.com

or visit: www.nsbha.webs.com/



Hunters Helping The Hungry

As we head into the 2011 hunting seasons let's not forget those less fortunate than we are.

Thanks to this great initiative, hunters can donate deer and moose meat to food banks and meal programs throughout the province.

Hunters, on average provide 750 kilograms of deer and moose meat each year for hungry people in Nova Scotia. That's a significant donation since it translates into 6,500 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.

How does the program work?

When hunters bring their deer/moose meat to a participating licensed meat cutter, they simply tell the meat cutter they want to donate and then specify the amount. They will then prepare it as ground or stew meat and package it in pre-labelled bags that have been provided by **FEED NOVA SCOTIA**.

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. It will then be distributed to food banks and meal programs who have expressed interest in receiving the meat and are capable to handle and store it safely at their facility. From there it is given out to clients who require food assistance.

Click the link below for more information:

http://www.feednovascotia.ca/howtohelp_donatefood.html



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 25th of each month to ensure your information is inserted.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.nsfah.ca

NSFAH Board of Directors Meeting

The Board meets 4 times a year;

1. During the AGM
2. The second Saturday in June.
3. The second Saturday in Sept.
4. The second Saturday in Dec.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on December 10, 2011.

Directors are notified of the agenda and location individually.

Report Fires, Poaching or Emergency Wildlife Situations 1-800-565-2224

Department of Natural Resources

Sara Spencer of the Wildlife Division of DNR recently passed along the following information regarding hunter reports. Our knowledge and experience in the field is an important component to the planning process so let's do a better job reporting this year. See the reports at:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/harvests/>

From Sara:

1) For the 2011 harvest season we (DNR) are adding a Mandatory Deer Report online. This report will be part of the online deer registration system and **hunters are required to complete it whether they harvest a deer or not.** This report will ask hunters to record their effort and observations during the Deer Hunting Seasons as well as the usual harvest information for those who harvest a deer.

2) Last year the deer harvest was over 10,000 animals but I only had 790 jaw bones turned in. That just over a 7% return rate. It would be great to get a higher return rate on both the Antler circumference and the jaw bones. These things help us to determine the health of the population.

3) Bear license sales have risen over the last few years, however, the number of bear reports and teeth turned into our offices has declined. It would be great if we could remind hunters to turn in these items.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact your local DNR office.

Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters Affiliate Club Listing

1. All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia
2. Archery Association of Nova Scotia
3. Bowhunters Association of Nova Scotia
4. Bowhunters Instructors Association of Nova Scotia
5. Bras D'or Wildlife Association
6. Cape Breton Wildlife Association
7. Conservation Enforcement Officers Association of Nova Scotia
8. Delta Waterfowl Association
9. Digby East Fish & Game Association
10. Halifax Wildlife Association
11. Hants West Wildlife Association
12. Kings County Fish & Game Association
13. Lunenburg County Wildlife Association
14. Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters
15. Nova Scotia Guides Association
16. Nova Scotia Houndsmen Association
17. Port Morien Wildlife Association
18. Queens County Fish and Game Association
19. Shelburne County Fish & Game Association
20. South Shore Wildlife Association
21. The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia
22. Traditional Archers Association of Nova Scotia
23. Trappers Association of Nova Scotia
24. West Pictou Wildlife Association
25. Nova Scotia Bear Hunters Association