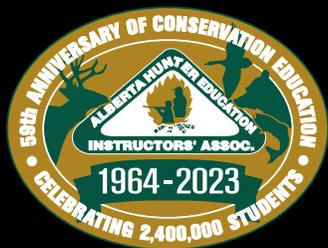


Summer 2023

Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association



Conservation Education



The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta

Magazine



2023 W.I.S.E. AWARDS

Honouring Outstanding Albertans



AHEIA's Mission is to Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan

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Knowing the difference can make a difference

Honouring Outstanding Albertans

19th Annual W.I.S.E. Awards

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

On February 11, 2023, the 19th Annual Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation Awards and Banquet was held at the BMO Centre in Calgary. It was a very special event, not only because we were able to host a banquet following two years of COVID postponements, but because we could honour another deserving inductee into the W.I.S.E. Awards Hall of Fame. The evening was all about reconnecting with old friends, enjoying the company of new friends, and having some fun. Our common connection with Conservation Education brought us together, and celebrate we did!

We were very pleased to have in attendance the Honourable Todd Loewen, Minister of Forestry, Parks & Tourism. Minister Loewen addressed the attendees about the importance of ethical wildlife management and sustainability, environmental stewardship, and the value of responsible recreational use of our wild spaces for the enjoyment of all Albertans now and for future generations. The Minister also acknowledged the significant relationship between the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA) and the Provincial Government, and recognized the work that we do, the success of our

multitude of programs graduating over 100,000 students last year, and the need for organizations such as ours to continue perpetuating our message of making fish and wildlife a part of the value system of every Albertan. Dr. Teri Bryant, Alberta Chief Firearms Officer, was also in attendance. In her written message to attendees, she recognized that AHEIA is "one of the most outstanding of our current gen-

"This year's recipient is a member of industry who has worked as a volunteer, mentor, and guardian of the philosophy of connecting people of all ages to Alberta's wilderness resources and the culture and heritage of the hunt."

eration of Albertans who have stepped forward to play a leading role in ensuring that the natural legacy we have inherited is preserved and enhanced." We are grateful to both of our distinguished guests for their attendance and support.

An exciting highlight of the evening was a performance by Alberta-born country superstar, Brett Kissel. Aside from performing one of his hit songs and a newly released song on his latest album, Brett performed a compilation of beloved country & western songs and unexpectedly offered a very exciting



prize to be auctioned off in support of our fundraising efforts that evening. He also took the time to have pictures taken with anyone who asked, much to the delight of his many fans in attendance.

The main highlight of the evening was continuing our tradition of presenting this year's W.I.S.E. Award, recognizing an outstanding Albertan dedicated to our cause. The following are excerpts of the presentation made to honour this individual.

W.I.S.E. Conservation Education Contributor's Award Terry Korth of the Korth Group

The Conservation Education Contributor's Award is designed to recognize outstanding contributions in the field of conservation education, their commitment to the delivery of programs, and their passion for the resource and passing this on to others. This year's recipient

Continued >





“ We are always encouraged by the number of people continuing to take the Hunter Education and Fishing Education Programs, indicating that these activities remain of interest and importance to Albertans. ”

is a member of industry who has worked as a volunteer, mentor, and guardian of the philosophy of connecting people of all ages to Alberta's wilderness resources and the culture and heritage of the hunt.

Since 1977, the Korth Group has been in the business of connecting outdoor enthusiasts with quality gear and equipment, through their vast network of global manufacturers and dealers across the country. But the Korth Group is not just a business, its about relationships, building traditions, community, and most importantly, family – principles that have guided Terry throughout his life and that he has ensured are at the foundation of the company.

Hunting and fishing have always been an important part of Terry's life. Growing up in Lethbridge, he spent considerable time exploring the coulees, the Oldman River, and the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Terry was introduced to outdoor experiences and adventures, where he learned respect for the outdoors and carrying on the time-honoured family tradition of being in and perpetuating nature.

Terry's shift structure at the fire station allowed him time off to assist his father, Jim, in a business representing U.S. firms, selling hunting and fishing products in Canada: Jim Korth Agencies Ltd. He travelled to trade shows, gaining knowledge

of manufacturers of fishing equipment, guns, archery, and ammunition products.

This knowledge grew to a point where it became necessary to warehouse product to supply the ever-burgeoning need of supplying merchandisers with fodder to enjoy the outdoor experience. It became so large that Terry left the fire department to take over this family business.

Terry quickly realized the potential to pre-purchase and warehouse merchandise directly in Canada, reducing long lead times required to order and ship from the United States. The company grew into a facility in Okotoks. He has expanded three times! The town would not allow another expansion, so he built a second building, but the logistics of two buildings was difficult. His dream of sharing the news of the out-of-doors was to have one large facility that could house offices, a warehouse, and a minimum 100-yard indoor shooting range and training rooms. The Korth Group, housed out of this new facility in Aldersyde, is now a major distributor across Canada of dozens of world-name brands, including Leupold, Fabarm, Hornady, and Ravin, to name a few.

Safety and training are very important to Terry, and thus for the Korth Group. Whether it's a first-time shooter, Hunter Education graduates who want to expand their experience to reloading or a myri-

ad of other skills, or a group of dealers who need to be trained on new equipment, everyone gets a first-class chance to learn and appreciate hunting and shooting. Korth employees are scattered across the country and provide customer service and the opportunity to test new product, ensuring that they can be as knowledgeable as possible when selling to the public or training outdoor users.

Terry also considers the employees of Korth Group his family. He surrounds himself with people he believes in and treats everyone of them with respect and kindness. He welcomes their ideas, makes them feel heard and, as one employee said, "you feel like you don't really work for him... you work for this thing that he is a part of, and he is just as excited to see your success as you are." Just as he gives back to his staff, the Korth Group gives back to the community. They are recognized for not only their support of hunting, fishing, and outdoor associations, but have continued in the footsteps of Jim Korth as a long-time supporter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The many plaques and awards that they have accumulated clearly tell a story of caring and generosity, both within the industry, and for the good of community.

AHEIA is proud to have had a long association with Terry and the Korth Group. He has been a great friend and supporter of our outdoor education programs and events. He believes that if one reaches out and asks for help, it will be offered, and that the shooting and hunting community is geared to help each other and will always step up to do so. Terry says that



this is what drew him to AHEIA and is a fan of the association being a one-stop-shop for education, training and programs being offered to Albertans.

Terry has said that with the plethora of training programs AHEIA has to offer, coupled with the patience and expertise offered by AHEIA staff and instructors, he is proud to direct people here. He believes that the greatest way to multiply the effort of getting people involved in the cause is to get behind AHEIA and help push!

Terry's association with AHEIA and the cause of conservation education goes back a long ways. Over the past nearly 3 decades of working together with Terry, our cause has gone from 10,000 graduate students annually to what is now at over 100,000. It's continued support from leaders like Terry that has made that possible.

Times have changed since his small shop to the large-scale distribution warehouse, and with Terry at the helm, the Korth Group has grown to be a very successful business, recognized for outstanding excellence in the industry. Terry's compassion, genuine interest, and love of his company, his team, his customers, and the manufacturers, is simply unparalleled. Terry can never be accused of following the path, rather he is the kind of leader who helps forge a trail for others to follow, often in silence, and always without need for accolades or recognition. His life's work at mentoring, encouraging, and demonstrating a true outdoor ethic makes Terry truly deserving of this award! Congratulations indeed.

Conservation Education A Look Ahead to 2023

Things are shaping up for another record-breaking year for AHEIA, and we anticipate well over 100,000 students will participate in all facets of our conservation education programming. News of the outreach component of the Report A Poacher (RAP) Program is now well spread and even

though we are only entering the second year of running this program, it is highly requested from schools across the province. Our specialty camps such as the Youth Hunter Education Camp, Outdoor Women's Program and Outdoor Youth Seminar will return to the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, and workshops including Range Officer Certification, Shotgun Coaching and Rifle Sight-in, to name a few, will

take place at Alford Lake as well. On the heels of hosting the Canadian Trapshooting Championships last summer, the Calgary Firearm Centre will be hosting many competitive trapshooting events this year, including the Provincial Trapshooting Championships. 2022 was the first full year of the Women's and Youth Archery Leagues at the Calgary Firearm Centre and similar to the shooting leagues, this year's leagues filled, and are filling, quickly. Many in-class Canadian Firearms Safety Courses have already taken place at both the Calgary and Edmonton offices and will continue this fall in at each location. Registration in our online programs is also on the rise. We are always encouraged by the number of people continuing to take the Hunter Education and Fishing Education Programs, indicating that these activities remain of interest and importance to Albertans. Information on all of our online and in-class courses, as well as special events, can be found on our website, aheia.com. You can also stay on top of upcoming events and fundraising raffles by subscribing to our monthly newsletter, The Bugle, and by following our Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter feeds.

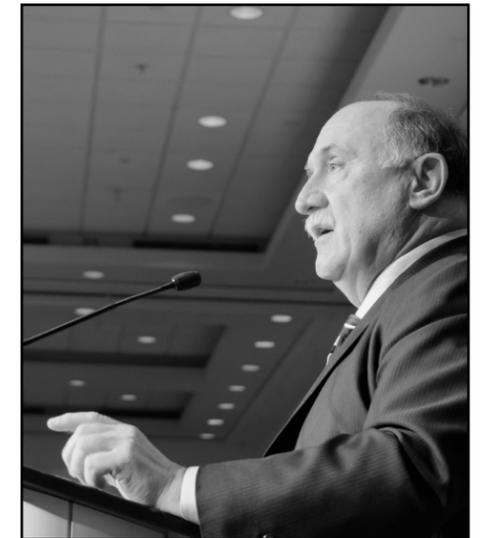
Along with our existing programs, AHEIA continues to add new learning opportunities, improve facilities to accommodate future program development, and increase accessibility to programs through our 2000+ volunteer instructors located throughout the province. It is due to this manpower that we are able to do so, and we are very thankful for these hard

working and dedicated volunteers. Of course, with such a large number and wide range of activities, financially we could not operate without the generosity of our industry partners as well as individuals, through grants, monetary donations and our fundraising efforts which include many raffles throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, in any shape or form, enabling us to be one of the highest regarded conservation associations in North America.

Now that the warm summer months are here, it is no wonder we all have a sense of excitement that comes with this time of year. Enjoy the therapy of the warm summer sun, try an activity that you have always wanted to try, and enjoy the beauty of the season. Have a wonderful summer and we hope to see you soon.

Cheers!

Robert A. Gruszecki
President, AHEIA



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**Fishing Regulations Summary -
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following National Parks:
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Note: Does not include National Parks
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**AHEIA's Mission:
To Make Wildlife and Fish Part
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Albertan.**

The Conservation Education
W.I.S.E. Foundation and Alberta
Hunter Education Instructors'
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present the

**20th Annual
W.I.S.E. Awards
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**Mark your calendar! Next
year's banquet will take
place on Saturday February
10, 2024 at the BMO Centre,
Stampede Park, Calgary AB.**

Tickets available this fall at
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Edmonton Report



“ The fourth Saturday of every September has become a special date within Alberta. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Edmonton

The world of COVID appears to be sputtering out these days and our lives seem to be getting back to normal. Whatever normal means in these new days.

It was great to see the number of mask-less people who actually decided to venture out and join us at the most recent Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show. Let's hope that trend continues as we move forward.

Check our website for new online registration capabilities and more coming event information.

The following events are being held at our Alford Lake facility west of Caroline.

Our 2023 Youth Hunter Education Camps are scheduled for July 2-7, July 9-14, July 16-21 and July 23-28. Limited spaces are still available and information packages and registration forms are available at our website www.aheia.com.

The 2023 Youth Hunter Education Camp is a five-day event of fun-filled learning activities. Financial support has been provided by Wildlife Habitat Canada. Experts will be sharing their knowledge and providing instruction in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program,

the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and much more.

Students will be certified in the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Program and the Canadian Firearms Program. They will then qualify to apply for their Wildlife Identification Number (WIN Card) through any private license issuer and be able to apply for their Minor's Possession License for firearms.

If you are interested in volunteering as a camp volunteer/chaperone for one of these camps your help would be much appreciated. We are always looking for help and this is a perfect time to give back and would be much valued by everyone. If you are interested in helping with the Youth Hunter Education Camps, the Outdoor Youth Seminar or Provincial Hunting Day please contact me directly at len@aheia.com.

The 2023 Outdoor Youth Seminar that runs August 18-20 is already sold out. If you missed out you can get added to our 2024 notification list. Simply contact our Edmonton office at edmontoninfo@aheia.com and we will add you to the list.

2023 Provincial Hunting Day will be held on September 23 at Alford Lake and at the Calgary Firearms Center.

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; the first annual event was held in

2007. This year's event marks the fourteenth 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.

All sessions are hands on and provide the opportunity to learn by doing. This event is completely free and is fun for the whole family!

This is a partial listing of the sessions we are working on; Crossbow basics, Shotgun for beginners, Centerfire rifle shooting, Rimfire rifle shooting, Archery basics, Predator awareness, Black powder shooting, plus more sessions will be added (subject to change). Choose your sessions on site the day of the event (as space permits).

Events will also be offered at the Calgary Firearms Center at DeWinton. Please contact our Calgary office at 403-252-8474 or toll free at 1-866-852-4342 for this specific event at this location.

Online registrations will be available soon. We still continue to look for volunteer help for all of our courses, sports shows, camps, events, etc. as well as with our day-to-day office workings. If you or any of your friends wish to become part of something rewarding please let me know.

Take Care and
Enjoy the Great Outdoors!



Would You Like to be Published in
Conservation Education?

If you, or someone you know, has an article of outdoors educational content or subject matter related to Conservation Education in Alberta that you would like us to publish in a future edition of our magazine, we would be happy to hear from you. Articles of approximately 1,000 words with accompanying pictures are ideal. We also encourage readers to alert us to news for possible publication.

Contact AHEIA at info@aheia.com for additional information.

Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association
Conservation Education
Magazine

This Issue's Feature Articles:

- 10 First Time Hunting?
- 16 Let's Talk About Your P.A.L.
- 20 AHEIA NASP Provincial Archery Tournament
- 27 Executors & Heirs: What You Should Know & Do
- 30 To Reload or not to Reload?
- 33 Diaries from Around Alberta with Report-A-Poacher
- 34 Why Bighorn Sheep & Domestic Sheep or Goats Should Never Mix
- 38 Boat Safety Checklist

Our Regulars:

- 3 W.I.S.E. Awards
- 8 Edmonton Report
- 12 Colour the Wild Contest
- 41 Great Meals from the Harvest
- 45 AHEIA Raffle Winners
- 46 Completed Careers

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The purpose of the Bugle is to inform you of our upcoming events, courses, and programs so you never miss out on what's going on here at AHEIA! Delivered monthly right to your inbox! Subscribe today!

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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- ▶ International Bowhunter Education Program
- ▶ Bighorn Sheep Essentials Online Training
- ▶ Archery Essentials Online Training
- ▶ Identification of Alberta's Game Fish Quiz
- ▶ Outdoor Women's Program
- ▶ Outdoor Youth Seminar
- ▶ Wildlife Seminars
- ▶ Fishing Seminars

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For more information on any of our programs, contact us at:

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First Time Hunting?

Here's Everything You Need To Know

By Aislinn Chapotelle



Aislinn Chapotelle
Assistant Program
Coordinator
AHEIA Calgary

This section is for information purposes only. Once you have completed and passed your Hunter Education course, you may be wondering "What do I do next?". The information provided below is courtesy of Hunting for Tomorrow, an Alberta organization with the goal to foster and increase public understanding, involvement and support of hunting. (www.huntingfortomorrow.ca)

Why Hunt?

To those who do not hunt, it may be surprising that hunters are some of the greatest conservationists. Due to initiatives put in place by the hunting community, North America has not only been spared the extinction of many animals such as deer, elk, brown and black bears and many bird species, but has also experienced valuable increases in the populations these, and many more animals.

Hunters are aware of, and very serious about, their responsibilities to nature and their fellow outdoors people. Through careful wildlife management, hunters have contributed to conservation efforts in a significantly more positive and lasting way than many non-hunters and have been key in the preservation of critical wildlife habitat. With the ever-expanding reach of man encroaching on wildlife territory, it is more important than ever that we hunt. We are traditional hunters and gatherers by nature and hunting helps us

to reconnect with our heritage; by keeping the connection with the outdoors we are ensuring a strong tradition for future generations to enjoy.

There are close to \$1 billion per year in hunting revenues in Alberta alone. Many small towns rely on hunting to maintain economic strength through the fall. Outfitters alone claim \$100 million in revenue annually.

Hunting helps reduce depredation on feedstock by waterfowl and ungulates and contributes to the reduction of livestock deaths due to predators. Hunters also provide much information to scientists about diseases among wildlife such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Social Impacts

In this age of technology, we need to reconnect with nature and what so than to spend time with family and friends outside. Hunting is an excellent sport that encourages exercise, focus, teamwork and offers much quiet time. Spend time establishing ties that are renewed every year. Outside of your spouse and family, your hunting partner(s) will likely be some of your closest friends!

Health Impacts

Spending time in the outdoors in any pursuit offers you fresh air, exercise, and stress reduction. Hunting is the only sport that provides both physical and nutritional benefits; it takes a lot of hard work to harvest an animal and wild game meat is

a naturally low-fat source of protein. The emotional benefits of spending time in the outdoors - prevention or reduction of stress, improved self-esteem, confidence and creativity, spiritual growth, and an increased ability to tackle challenges - cannot be overstated.

What do I need to do in order to hunt?

Hunting Qualifications

The minimum age for hunting big game in Alberta with a firearm or bow and arrow is 12 years of age. The minimum age for hunting game birds is 10.

- If you are 10 to 17 years of age, before obtaining any license, you MUST: Successfully complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Course and, have the written permission of your parent or guardian to purchase a recreational hunting license.

- If you are 18 of age or older, before obtaining any license, you MUST: Successfully complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Course OR have previously held a license authorizing recreational hunting in Alberta or another jurisdiction.

Licensing

- Upon successful completion of the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education Course one must either apply for a WIN (Wildlife Identification Card) or update their existing WIN card (which was

obtained for fishing). A WIN card is obtainable through any licensed vendor or online at www.albertarelm.com.

- Opportunities exist for youth (ages 12-17) to hunt white-tailed and mule deer. They must also purchase a Resident Youth Wildlife Certificate. These licenses are valid during the seasons that do not require one of the Special Licenses obtained through a draw.

Regulations

- Obtain a copy of the current Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations (free publication) available from license vendors, online at the My Wild Alberta website (www.mywildalberta.com) or at Alberta Fish and Wildlife offices, to determine what, where and when to hunt. Be aware that some licenses are only available through a special draw. To locate a license vendor near you, contact the Active Network Call Centre or visit www.albertarelm.com

- Publication guides to Outdoor Adventures are a great resource to locate new places to hunt. Alberta Discover Guide, the Alberta Conservation Association's free publication, will assist you in finding many opportunities to discover Alberta's wild side, including hundreds of properties that you may hunt on.

- If you are between the ages of 10 and 17 and you have received your Hunter Education Certification, simply fill out the information on the WIN Card Reimbursement certificate form and return it to the Alberta Conservation Association. Keep in

mind that this is a reimbursement for the purchase of your WIN card, so you must purchase your WIN card first before applying for the reimbursement.

- If you hunt with a firearm, certain Federal legislation may apply. For more information, contact the Canadian Firearms Centre.

- Land access is an important issue to all hunters – ensure that you have proper legal access and permission prior to hunting. For more information, visit the My Wild Alberta website, www.mywildalberta.com.

Mentorship

- As a new hunter, you can benefit by asking an experienced hunter for their assistance. There are various Youth and First Time Hunter Mentorship Programs available. Contact us at www.aheia.com.

Final Thoughts

Welcome to the hunting fraternity! You are now part of a culture, a heritage, and a long-standing tradition, of making wildlife and wild places part of people's value systems. You have taken a large step towards becoming an important part of conservation and environmental stewardship.

You now have a responsibility, not only to yourself and others, but to the wildlife that you pursue and to the lands they live on. You owe it to yourself and to the hunting fraternity to be careful and, at the



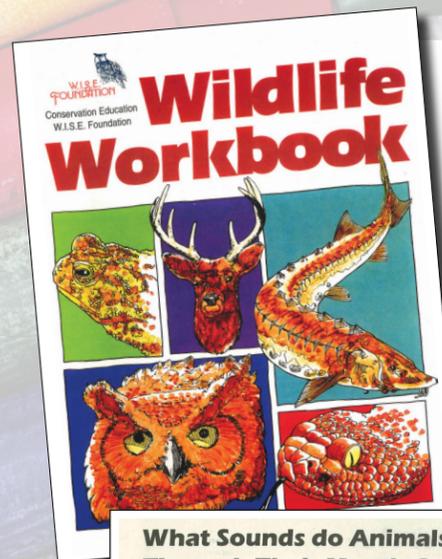
same time, to be respectful of others who enjoy this tremendous resource. We owe it to the wildlife that we pursue to make every effort to harvest as quickly and as humanely as possible. We owe it to the environment to ensure that the natural treasures that we all enjoy are protected and preserved for the next generation. The culture of the hunt, the tradition, and the heritage of the pursuit of wildlife in these wild places can provide you a lifetime of pleasure and reward.

Your new Responsibilities are:

- To each other
- To your mentor
- To preserving opportunity
- To future hunters
- To the wildlife and waterfowl



Colour the Wild Contest



AHEIA has been handing out the Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation's Wildlife Workbook to children for years. There is now a new contest we are calling Colour The Wild in which youngsters can submit their coloured masterpieces to us and we will choose one submission to be featured in each of our future Conservation Education magazines.

Entry is easy. Simply submit your young artist's work to us via mail or a scanned copy via email. Please include the child's first name, age and a contact number we can reach you at if your child's submission is chosen.

Mail or email submission to:

Colour The Wild Contest
AHEIA, 911 Sylvester Crescent SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 0R8
info@aheia.com

What Sounds do Animals Make Through Their Mouths?

Animals make many different sounds. Most animals can be identified by the sound they make through their mouths.

Directions:
 • Colour this picture of a wolf howling.
 • This picture has been drawn with one continuous line. Trace the line carefully to find its end.
 • In the blank space next to the list of animals print the name of the sound the animal makes.



Concept: Animals make a variety of sounds through their mouths which are generally distinctive to the species.

Good Luck!

Navigating Alberta's Hunting License System

By Aislinn Chapotelle

The Facts

Alberta's automated licensing system is one of the best in North America. Hunting and fishing licenses are offered 365 days a year on a 24-hour basis and in 2008 Alberta's license system became available online. Ongoing development of the web licensing system is underway, with Alberta Sustainable Resources Development launching hunting licenses in a series of releases. The first release of hunting products will include non-tag items such as Wildlife Certificates and Game Bird licenses. For hunting licenses with harvest tags there is ongoing work required to develop a solution that will meet Enforcement requirements. Over 283 license issuers in 202 communities across Alberta sell hunting and fishing licenses.

The system is designed to serve multiple users:

- The hunter who wants speed, accuracy and availability to purchase licenses.
- The license issuer who wants to sell licenses accurately and efficiently.
- The Fish & Wildlife Officer who needs to ensure compliance with laws and regulations.
- The Wildlife Manager who wants more effective management information.

Over 100 hunting and fishing licenses are available for purchase online or at all license issuers. Alberta has one of the most diverse numbers of game species in Canada.

In 2016, over 410,000 Draw applications were processed in the June hunting draw compared to 373,000 applications in 2015, an increase of over 37,000 applications or 9.9%. Applications were distributed between the web, issuer point-of sale (POS) locations and the 1-900 phone service. The automated paper-licensing system is more accurate and provides more information to the hunter, license issuer, Fish and Wildlife Officer, Conservation Officers and wildlife managers than the manual system. The paper hunting tags are less costly to produce than the old metal tags.

Tips For Success

1. Be Prepared: Information is available to help you. Read and understand the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations and the Alberta Hunting Draws booklet. Obtain further information from your local Alberta Fish and Wildlife office or visit the My Wild Alberta Website, www.mywildalberta.com.
2. Bring your WIN card with you when purchasing licenses. The WIN card allows the license issuer to enter as much of your application information from the card. Over 10% of hunters and anglers do not bring their WIN cards when they purchase licenses. This creates delays for the license issuer and for other customers who are waiting to purchase their licenses. The new licence system requires the purchaser to verify with their Date of Birth.
3. Know the specific license products you want to purchase. You may need to refer to the Alberta Hunting Draws booklet or the Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations when purchasing special licenses.
4. Purchase your products from knowledgeable license issuers or online, and be knowledgeable about what specific products you want.
5. Review your license and tags carefully before you exit the Internet licensing system or before you leave the license issuer to ensure that the information is correct. The license and tags specifically identify the WIN number, the species, the WMU and special conditions associated with the license.

Continued >



6. Remember to carry your hunting licenses and tags when hunting.
7. A website is available to WIN card holders. Visit the My Wild Alberta Website — www.mywildalberta.com, then click the Alberta RELM site — www.albertarelm.com. Login to view your licenses for the last 5 years, special draw priorities, special draw applications, and confirm that your address and phone number are correct. You may also access My Wild Alberta via their app.

The Draw System

Why do we have it?

Hunters in Alberta experience a diversity in quality hunting opportunities unequalled anywhere else in North America. Looking at big game hunting alone, we have ten species that can be hunted from the treeless prairies through the parkland and mountains to the boreal forest.

To effectively manage this diversity, the Fish and Wildlife Division issues a limited number of special licenses for certain species in areas where the species cannot withstand the hunting pressure of an open general season. The benefit to hunters of these limited entry hunts include: improved hunter success, and reduced hunter density.

These special licenses are distributed through a draw system. The Alberta Hunting Draw system is convenient, economical and efficient. The System is a modified-random process that rewards persistence through a priority system. Each year that you apply and are unsuccessful for a particular license, your priority level for that license increases. As the demand for special licenses increases, it is important for hunters to understand how

the Draw system works.

1. The draws for special licenses are held in June of each year for licenses valid in the fall hunting season. In 2016, over 410,00 draw applications were made, using either Internet at www.albertarelm.com or at the licensing issuer Point of Sale (POS).
2. Information about the draws is available each year in the booklet, Alberta Hunting Draws. This booklet can be picked up at any license issuer or Fish and Wildlife office, starting the first week of June. It is also available online at www.albertarelm.com.
3. You must be eligible to hunt and possess a Wildlife Identification Number (WIN) in order to participate in the Draw application system.
4. Depending on the season code and WMU, there are over 700 potential choices. Approximately 30% of those people making their first application are successful.
5. It is important for all hunters to understand how the draw works. Read the Alberta Hunting Draw booklet, published annually in June, which is full of valuable information including:
 - a) Tips on making a successful application
 - b) Draw Priority System
 - c) Draw Strategy
 - d) Commonly Asked Questions
 - e) Draw Rules
 - f) Hunters should keep their Draw booklets for reference purposes. Draw results can be accessed from the web site www.albertarelm.com.

Tips For Success

Select the best method for an error free application, using the following options to apply:

- a) A website is available to WIN card holders — www.albertarelm.com. Login to make your draw applications and print a copy of those applications. You can also view your licenses for the last 5 years, special draw priorities, and confirm that your address and phone number are correct. OR
- b) Purchase from License Issuers: The Point of Sale (POS) method offers the feature of a paper copy for your records. OR with either application method, before you apply, it is important to complete the Draw Application Worksheet, which is found at the back of the Alberta Hunting Draws booklet.

Prepare your draw strategy

There are different strategies for success. Your goal may be to:

- Focus on a specific species with a specific season code or it may be a general objective to hunt every year in a variety of areas.
- Apply alone with your priority level or apply with a group. If you apply as a group (up to 4 applicants), keep in mind that the groups' priority is that of the individual in the group with the lowest priority level.

To learn more about the historical trends and your opportunities for being drawn, visit the My Wild Alberta web-site at www.mywildalberta.com and view a copy of the Hunting Draws Summary report or visit your local Alberta Fish and Wildlife Office and ask to look at a copy of the report. The report shows the number of applications, the percentage of applicants drawn and the priority levels of the successful applicants.

If you do not want to be drawn but you want to increase your draw priority, use 999 as your first and only draw choice. By using 999 you are indicating that you do not want to be drawn that year.

Apply early. Avoid the last minute rush

Statistics show applications made in the last 3 days of the Draw have a higher error rate. If you apply early, there is more opportunity to correct errors and less likelihood to forget to apply.

Purchase and Use Your Special License

Close to 14% of the people that are successful in the draw do not actually purchase their special license. If you are successful in the Draw and do not purchase and use your special license you lose your priority for that license.

Additional Opportunities

Undersubscribed special licenses are those licenses that were not issued in the draws because of a lack of applicants. These licenses are available only through the 1-900 Telephone IVR system or the Internet, in early September. Approximately 3500 licenses are purchased through this system, which is less than half of the total undersubscribed special licenses available. More information about this process is detailed in the Alberta Hunting Draws booklet.



SPRING 2023 SESSION

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
June 7

SUMMER 2023 SESSION

July 5, 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9

FALL 2023 SESSION

September 6, 13, 20, 27

LEAGUES WIND-UP SEPTEMBER 27 BBQ & PRIZES!

No target or firearm rental charges.
Use of CFC shotguns free of charge during league hours.
Ammunition will be sold at member pricing.

Please bring eye and ear protection.

No firearms licence required.
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Edmonton, AB T6E 6M8
Phone: 780-466-6882
1-866-282-4342
Fax: 780-431-2871
edmontoninfo@aheia.com

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Caroline, AB T0M 0M0
Phone: 403-722-2423
Fax: 403-722-2445
alfordlake@xplomet.com

A.H.E.I.A. Calgary Firearms Centre
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Phone: 403-256-0665

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Fishing Seminars
Pleasure Craft Operator Training
Identification of Alberta's Game Fish Quiz

“ You should start the process at least one year before your renewal... ”

Let's Talk About Your P.A.L.

By Richard Brink



Richard Brink
Assistant Program
Coordinator
AHEIA Calgary

For those of you who are seasoned firearms owners you will remember the old Firearms Acquisition Certificate (F.A.C.). If you renewed sometime over the year, you would have automatically transferred from the F.A.C to the Possession and Acquisition License (P.A.L.), but if you let your F.A.C. lapse like I did then you needed to retake the Canadian Firearms Safety Course in order to renew your license to a P.A.L.

Going from the F.A.C, which was a paper license, you would have renewed to P.A.L. which is a hard plastic card with a picture on it for added security. Starting January 2023, firearms P.A.L. cards will have a different look and contain enhanced security features.



Three versions of the valid P.A.L. cards will be in circulation over the next five years as the Canadian Firearms Program transitions to the new P.A.L. card:

- standard cards issued from December 1998 to May 2022
- interim cards issued between May and December 2022 that do not contain a magnetic strip on the back of the card.
- new cards issued starting in January 2023

The previously issued P.A.L. cards will remain valid until they expire. All three P.A.L. cards contain the required identification and licensing information. By December 2027, the previously issued P.A.L. cards should all be expired and only the new cards will be in circulation.

If you already have a valid card, no action is required on your part at this time; your existing card will remain valid until it expires. New cards will be issued on renewal.

The last update on processing times from the Alberta Chief Firearms office are as follows:

- New P.A.L. 12 to 18 months**
- Renewal P.A.L. 8 to 12 months**
- Minors 6 to 8 months**

As you can see if you are renewing your P.A.L. You should start the process at least one year before your renewal to ensure your P.A.L. will not expire and that you will have your new one in hand before the expiry date.

For those of you that like to take selfies for your picture you can still do that but there are some things you need to remember when doing this:

1. No sunglasses
2. No hat
3. No bandanas
4. No shadow can be seen
5. White wall background, no brick walls



If any of the above are seen in your picture this will delay the processing of your licence. You should probably just go get a passport picture done. But the choice is yours.

CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE WOMEN'S SHOTGUN LEAGUES

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER
HELD A GUN BEFORE!



**SPRING 2023
SESSION**
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
June 7

**SUMMER 2023
SESSION**
July 5, 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9

**FALL 2023
SESSION**
September 6, 13, 20, 27

**LEAGUES WIND-UP
SEPTEMBER 27
BBQ & PRIZES!**

Cost is \$80.00 per session
(\$40.00 for Fall session)
Use of CFC shotguns free of charge during league hours.
Targets and ammunition will be sold at member pricing.

Please bring eye and ear protection.

AHEIA membership is required and can be purchased on our website, aheia.com.
No firearms licence required.
Coaching provided by certified shotgun instructors.

Starts anytime after 4:30pm, rain or shine,
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Sessions held at the
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AHEIA-NASP Provincial Archery Tournament

By Dave Paplawski



Dave Paplawski
Vice President & Provincial
Program Coordinator
AHEIA

In 2022-23 AHEIA's NASP program had a banner year for the student archers and coaches that participated in their school's archery program. The tournament season in 2023 was extremely busy and competitive!

Sixteen schools had regional NASP tournaments scheduled throughout all four quadrants of Alberta. Those tournaments had 2971 archers from over 150 schools participating in their two-day events.

March 16-18, 2023, was the Edmonton Boat & Sportsmen's Show held at the Edmonton Expo Centre, wherein 78 schools attended the AHEIA-NASP Provincial Archery Championship with a total of 2170 student archers from grades 3-12 competing in a Target and 3D Event. Records were set by many individual archers and teams.

The following archers were Provincial Champions in their divisions in the Target Event:

- Elementary School Division - Female: Madelyn Woodward, Mt. View School
- Elementary School Division - Male: Jaxen Gattey, Consort School
- Middle School Division - Female: Alyssa Vandenburg, Greystone School, Spruce Grove
- Middle School Division - Male: Darren Lang - St. Anthony's School, Drayton Valley
- High School Division - Female: Elle Seitz, H. A. Kostash School, Smoky Lake
- High School Division - Male: Sam Mahon, H. A. Kostash School, Smoky Lake
- Provincial Champions in 3D Event:
- Elementary School Division - Female: Laila Shymko, Millgrove School, Spruce Grove
- Elementary School Division - Male: Jaxen Gattey - Consort School
- Middle School Division - Female: Rylie Brake, Greystone School, Spruce Grove
- Middle School Division - Male: Trygg Olsen, Mt. View School
- High School Division - Female: Emma Berg, Spruce Grove Composite High School
- High School Division - Male: Sean Murphy, Altario School

The following schools were Provincial Team Champions in the Target Event:

- Elementary School Division - Millgrove School, Spruce Grove
- Middle School Division - Cardston Jr. High School
- High School Division - H. A. Kostash School, Smoky Lake
- Provincial Team Champions in 3D Event:
- Elementary School Division - H. A. Kostash School, Smoky Lake
- Middle School Division - H. A. Kostash School, Smoky Lake
- High School Division - H. A. Kostash School, Smoky Lake

Thanks to Master Promotions Ltd. and the Sportsmen's Show management for all their help and assistance! A big thanks to all the dozens of volunteers and AHEIA staff who helped with set-up, range days and keeping everything safe for all! A big shout-out is in order to AHEIA and Jim-Bows Archery Shops in Edmonton and Calgary for sponsoring all the awards and prizes! Lastly, a very special thanks to all the wonderful teachers and school volunteers that teach the AHEIA NASP programs in their schools!



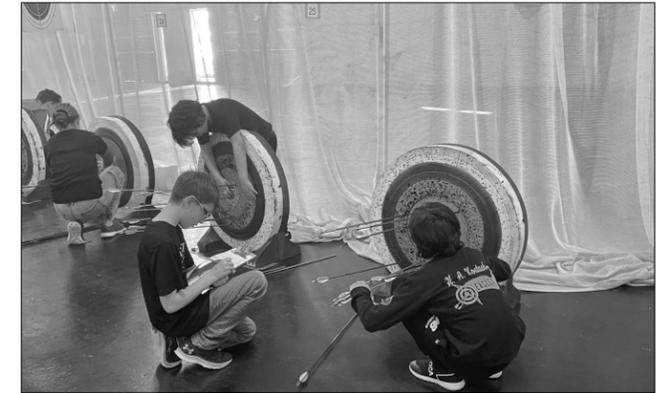
AA- designates Academic Archer

2023 Target All Stars

Samuel Mahon- AA	HA Kostash School, AB - 291- Grade 10
Vance Laughlin- AA	Youngstown School, AB -290- Grade 11
Sebastian Lauinger-	Unity School, SK - 288- Grade 9
Ellee Seitz- AA	HA Kostash School, AB - 287- Grade 11
Gena McClung	WE Hay Comp HS, AB - 285- Grade 11
Faith Christensen	Shaunavon HS, SK - 285- Grade 11
Ryan Skjonsberg	Wetaskiwin Comp HS, AB - 284- Grade 10
Paige Bechtold	Boyle School, AB - 284- Grade 11
Jewel Cherniwchan- AA	HA Kostash School, AB - 283- Grade 11
Madison Huber- AA	Lipton School, SK - 283- Grade 12
Sean Murphy- AA	Altario School, AB - 283, Grade 12
Emma Berg- AA	Spruce Grove Comp HS, AB -282, Grade 12

2023 3D All Stars

Trygg Olsen	Mt. View School, AB 279- Grade 8
Emma Berg- AA	Spruce Grove Comp. HS, AB 278- Grade 12
Sean Murphy- AA	Altario School, AB 278- Grade 12
Vance Laughlin- AA	Youngstown School, AB 276- Grade 11
Seth Rynning- AA	Ardrossan Jr.-Sr. HS, AB 274- Grade 12
Talli Karvonen	HA Kostash School, AB 273- Grade 9
Haley Sales	WE Hay Comp HS, AB 273- Grade 11
Brayden Karvonen	HA Kostash School, AB 273- Grade 11
Brody Pybus	HA Kostash School, AB 272- Grade 10
Grayson LaRose	WE Hay Comp HS, AB 271- Grade 7
Samuel Mahon- AA	HA Kostash School, AB 271- Grade 11
Leland Benko	Cupar School, SK 271- Grade 10





“ Sixteen schools had regional NASP tournaments scheduled throughout all four quadrants of Alberta. Those tournaments had 2971 archers from over 150 schools participating... ”



CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE YOUTH ARCHERY LEAGUES

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHERY LEAGUES
APRIL 26, 2023 • 4:30pm

Curious about the Archery Leagues?
Come see what they are all about on this introductory evening, and give it a try!

SPRING 2023 SESSION
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7

SUMMER 2023 SESSION
July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9

FALL 2023 SESSION
September 6, 13, 20, 27

**LEAGUES WIND-UP SEPTEMBER 27.
BBQ & PRIZES!**

Sessions are **FREE!**
Instruction, bows, arrows and targets are provided.
AHEIA membership is required and, if necessary,
can be purchased onsite, online, or at an AHEIA office.
Coaching provided by certified archery instructors.

Starts anytime after 4:30pm, rain or shine,
and you can join in until 7:00pm.

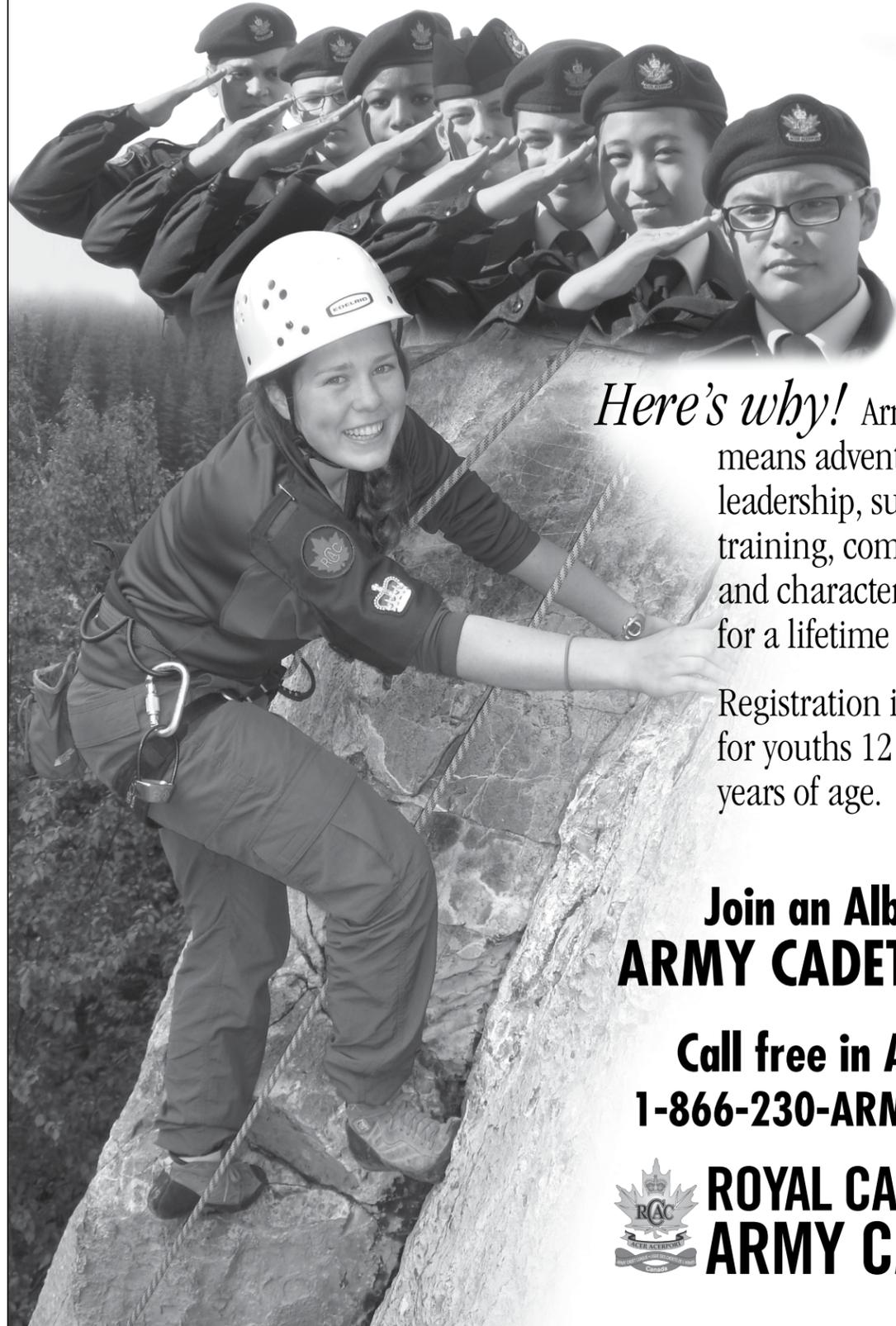
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CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE

WOMEN'S ARCHERY LEAGUES

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHERY LEAGUES
APRIL 26, 2023 • 4:30pm
Curious about the Archery Leagues?
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Executors and Heirs: What you should know and do

By Shane Vaughan



Shane Vaughan
Assistant Program
Coordinator
AHEIA Calgary

As firearms owners, we should plan for our passing. We plan the transfer of our estate and sometimes we forget about our firearms. Making a plan for your firearms is easy and should only take a little time to complete. Follow these steps.

1. You will need to appoint somebody as the Executor for your firearms. This may be the individual that is looking after your estate already or a separate person. Whether it's your spouse, estate lawyer, family member or friend. The person must be 18yrs or older. You'll need to let them know and have them named in your will. Note: This individual doesn't need to have a Firearms License to act as an Executor of Firearms.

2. Write down where and who the firearms should go to. i.e. Family Members, Friends, Museums or Business etc. If you are keeping certain firearms for individuals have a list attached to your will as an appendix. Other than specific firearms a general list of who and where will help the executor execute your wishes.

3. Leave a list of things the executor is going to need.

- a) PAL information
- b) RCMP Form 6016, Declaration of Authority to Act on Behalf of an Estate. (Available on CFP Web Site).
- c) Copy of Death Certificate, or Letter of Probate, or a document (on letterhead) from a police department or coroner

Once the Canadian Firearms Center has received and processed the information, which can take up to two weeks, you may transfer the firearm in accordance with the new legislation. As stated above, the executor doesn't need to possess a PAL or RPAL to be an executor. However if they don't or if they have been prohibited by the courts they cannot take possession of the firearm and they must be left and secured at the estate. **This should be done in a reasonable length of time.** When it comes to restricted and prohibited firearms they can be sold or transferred to exempted individual or business.

Heirs

In order to inherit a firearm you must be 18 years of age, hold a valid Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) with the correct privileges.

Unwanted Firearms

If there are no eligible heirs, if the firearms are unable to be transferred or unwanted, the estate may:

- Use the phone transfer or licence verification process to sell or give the firearms to any person, museum, or business with a licence to have that particular type or class of firearm
- Export it to a country that allows it; call Global Affairs Canada at 1-800-267-8376 for information
- Call the Canadian Firearms Program to get an approved gunsmith to deactivate it; this means it no longer meets the definition of a firearm, and is exempt from the requirements of the Firearms Act.
- Turn the firearm in to the police or firearms officer for disposal; call ahead and make arrangements beforehand

At the time of writing the article the Firearms Act has changed and may change again. It's up to you, the owner, executors and heirs to ensure you are following the current legislation. If you need assistance you can contact the Alberta Chief Firearms Office by email at albertacfo@gov.ab.ca



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"Will I stop reloading and start buying ammunition? Not a chance..."

To Reload or Not to Reload?



By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Over the years hunters and target shooters have always strived to improve their proficiency and accuracy with their chosen firearms and recreational pastimes.

This could be accomplished in a number of ways. First you could purchase a very good quality firearm that had the capability of being very accurate. Next you would purchase a top end optic mounting system and the best quality telescopic sight you could afford. Many would then take their newly acquired "treasure" to a qualified gunsmith for fine tuning. After this was accomplished you would purchase a box of ammunition and head to the range. Once you had fired a number of rounds at the shooting range one usually found that there was more to this process than simply buying all the right equipment. There was no guarantee this would give you the accuracy you were seeking.

In the early days ammunition manufacturers for the most part were offering adequate quality in their products. When I started hand loading in the mid 1960's there really was not a lot of ammunition to choose from so I decided to start loading my own rifle cartridges. Supplies for hand

loaders were very limited and there were only a few manufacturers of equipment available and fewer sources of components to be had.

I purchased a Lee Reloading Guide and begin studying the ins and outs of reloading. Next I purchased a Lee reloading kit for the 30-30 Winchester. Lee manufactured these very basic reloading kits that were designed for the beginner and were very affordable. Instead of relying on the actual weight of the powder being used their system relied on a dipper that measured the powder by predetermined volume rather than weight. The system worked fairly well for me but I was looking for more accuracy. I then purchased an Ohaus balance beam scale (which I still have to this day) and soon learned that the volume method of measuring powder was not nearly as accurate as using a quality scale. Within a short period of time as savings allowed I upgraded to other more advanced equipment manufactured by Lyman and RCBS.

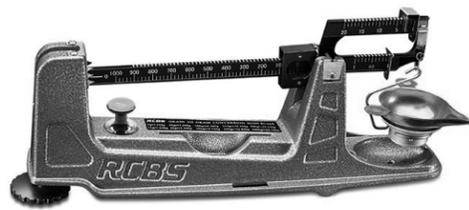
The components for reloading such as bullets, primers, powder and cases also have come a long way since the early days. I recall purchasing bullets that would vary as much as 10% or more from the advertised weight. If you are striving for accuracy and built your load assuming the bullet weighs in at 180 grains and they could actually range from 160-195 grains it makes a gigantic difference in your end result. A number of pioneers in the field such as John Nosler (1948), Joyce Hornady (1949), Vernon Speer (1944) and others saw the need for better quality. Thanks to these gentlemen developing technologies in their garages much higher quality projectiles were born giving new hope to being able to attain greater accuracy and performance. I remember buying old military surplus powder that had been stored in powder magazines for a long period of time. Powder manufacturer Hodgdon would inspect and repackage it under their H4831 designation. I recall purchasing this for as little as \$1.80 per pound. A lesson to learn

that properly stored smokeless powder can last a very long time. Bruce Hodgdon was also instrumental in manufacturing new and improved powders for the hand loader.

Once I started using superior quality equipment and components I quickly realized this was the direction I wanted to go in. My accuracy improved dramatically. I was now able to shrink the size of groups to a level I was content with. Well I guess I was never really content as I always fine tuned the loads to even further reduce group size.

So getting back to the original question. "To Reload or Not to Reload?"

For me it was very simple. I wanted to produce a cartridge that was more accurate and performed better than any factory loaded ammunition on the market. Almost from the very beginning I was able to do this and have continued to this day. There have been a couple of other side effects to reloading. I find it very therapeutic. When I am reloading the rest of the world turns off and I am not distracted by TV, radio, phones or other people. The reward I receive from doing the research, building the load and planning the trip or shoot is immense. Then when I get into the field and attain that 1/2" group or a one shot kill on my hunting trip a get that feeling of satisfaction you can not get from using factory ammunition.



I am often asked if you can save money by reloading. In the early days prior to the advent of all the new equipment I would have to say most definitely. Today I am always looking for new and improved ways to attain my goals. The way I look at it now is that I can shoot about 2 1/2 -3 times as much ammunition for the same price I might pay for quality factory manufactured loads.

Manufacturers are pretty shrewd and tend to follow trends quite well. They realized that shooters and hunters were looking for higher quality and specialized ammunition to meet their varied demands. When you look at an older catalog and compare what was available for loaded ammunition then to today the differences are immense indeed. Manufacturers are offering anything from basic economy loads all the way up to specialized loads with extreme quality bullets manufactured by third party companies. In the past it was unheard of for one manufacturer to utilize another's components.



Consumer demand for quality has definitely changed the way manufacturers look at markets.

Will I stop reloading and start buying ammunition? Not a chance as I am having way too much fun.

If you would like to learn more about reloading I suggest you purchase a couple of reloading manuals as it is always a good habit to do cross references. There are a number of good publications available from companies like Nosler, Hornady, Lyman, Speer, Sierra and others. Powder manufacturers often have free manuals that you can request or pick up at your local Sporting Goods Store. Equipment manufacturers like RCBS, Lyman, Hornady, Dillon, Lee and others have step by step instructions with all their presses and equipment. You can also go online and check out their websites. They are loaded with good and interesting information and tidbits. There are a number of instructional videos on the market as well. Current AHEIA members can also borrow these tapes from our Video Library in Edmonton. There are also a few very good Facebook and internet offerings from Ultimate Reloader and of course from the reloading bible Handloader magazine.

Are you ready to get started? Make sure you follow all the safety precautions and you will have many years of enjoyment and satisfaction manufacturing your own ammunition.

If you wish you can check out our website (www.aheia.com) regularly for upcoming Reloading Workshops.

See you at the loading bench.



STEEL SHOT AMMUNITION THERE IS NO SHOTGUN SAFER THAN A FABARM



Capable of shooting steel shot ammunition with all choke tube sizes including IMP, MOD, and FULL.

The only barrel to have a test protocol of 1630 BAR pressure rating with the National C.I.P Proof House.

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Their INNER HP and EXIS HP choke tubes have a hyperbolic profile allowing for unequalled shot distribution.

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29th Annual

Outdoor Women's Program

August 9-13, 2023



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- Alford Lake Olympics
- Evening Camp Fire
- Fishing and Canoeing
- Game Calling 101
- Hunting Draws
- Hunting Regulations
- Mentored Hunts
- Nature Power Walk
- Rope Making
- Tick Awareness
- Week-long Raffles

Potential Sessions Available:

- Canoeing Basics
- Fly Fishing
- Fly Tying
- Hunting Basics
- Let's Go Bowhunting
- Muzzleloading
- Predator Awareness
- Sausage Making
- The Science of Fishing
- Trailering
- Waterfowl Hunting
- Wilderness Cuisine
- Wilderness First Aid
- Wilderness Survival - Basic
- Wildlife Identification
- Archery Basics
- Building Your Own Survival Bracelet
- Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC)
- Chainsaw Basics
- Crossbow Basics
- Firearms - Shotguns
- Firearms - Rifles
- Firearms - Handguns
- Gun Cleaning and Maintenance
- Hunting Alberta Big Game Animals
- Orienteering: Compass and Map Reading

And possibly more!



To be placed on our notification list for registration, email info@ahwia.com

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Diaries From Around Alberta With Report-A-Poacher

The Report-A-Poacher (RAP) trailer had an early start this year introducing our Ice Fishing Module to two different elementary schools. Staff, volunteers and the local Fish and Wildlife Officer provided a fun day of instruction and mentorship to the kids. This module is designed to introduce and teach new and young anglers to the winter pastime of ice fishing. It is presented by AHEIA through the Report-A-Poacher program. Preparation, ice safety, equipment, angling strategies, fish identification, and rules to follow when fishing on a frozen pond or reservoir were presented in this teaching module.

The Report-A-Poacher trailer was in Northern Alberta early spring and spent a week touring schools in the Lac La Biche area and has more recently been making its way down to Southern Alberta visiting schools presenting the various modules created for the RAP program. Students spend 20 min sessions learning about Report-A-Poacher, what is a poacher, what to do if you suspect someone is doing illegal activity, and why it is important to monitor and protect our wildlife and wild places.

If you would like to book the Report-A-Poacher trailer for your school or an event, please call the Calgary AHEIA office at 1-866-852-4342 and ask to be put in contact with a staff member for booking.



“Bighorn sheep may come into close proximity with domestic sheep or goat herds at various times during the year.”

Why Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep or Goats Should Never Mix

By Dr. Anne Hubs
Senior Wildlife Biologist, Environment and Protected Areas, AB Government

Not So Harmless Bacteria

Wild sheep share many obvious similarities with domestic sheep (and goats) in appearance and habits. They can even successfully produce young together. However, there is one particularly important difference between wild sheep and domestic sheep and goats - their susceptibility to some disease agents.

A prime example of this is a bacterium, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (commonly referred to as *M. ovi*), that is especially concerning to governments across North America. Domestic sheep and goats are known carriers of *M. ovi*. Most infections in these species go undetected, with individuals often showing little to no signs of infection (though weight loss and poor fibre quality have been reported). In contrast, *M. ovi* can lead to fatal pneumonia

in wild sheep. In fact, *M. ovi* has been associated with most pneumonia die-offs in wild sheep in North America.

Alberta's wild sheep, the bighorn sheep, is an icon mountain animal and the designated Provincial mammal. Records of pneumonia outbreaks in provincial bighorn sheep start as far back as the 1930s, with seven known die-offs having occurred since that time. The most recent outbreak took place just this past March 2023 in Sheep River Provincial Park. Each outbreak in the province led to losses of 10-75% of the herd (totaling more than 6500 bighorns) and herd recovery in some cases took 5-years or more. In other provinces or States, whole herds have succumbed to the disease and recovery times have been much longer. Several factors may influence the severity and duration of a pneumonia outbreak. These include the strain of *M. ovi* present, over-



Bighorn lamb showing nasal discharge, 1 of the signs of pneumonia in wild sheep. Other signs or symptoms include coughing, weakness, diarrhea and labored breathing. (Photo credit Darryn Epp).

all herd health before infection, environmental stressors (e.g. extreme weather), and the presence of sinus tumors. The number of animals that survive the initial disease outbreak and continue to infect others within the herd will affect how long an outbreak persists.

Why the Concern about Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep and Goats Mixing?

Domestic sheep and goats can transmit *M. ovi* to other animals, including bighorn sheep, through nose-to-nose contact or airborne droplets.

There is no evidence that other livestock transmit *M. ovi* to wild sheep, or vice-versa (research is ongoing with respect to llamas and alpacas).

Strong scientific evidence indicates increased risk of pneumonia in bighorn sheep following contact with domestic sheep or goats, including a single encounter with an infected domestic sheep or goat. Most, but certainly not all, pneumonia die-offs in wild sheep, including

those in Alberta, occurred after confirmed or probable contact with domestic sheep or goats.

Bighorn sheep may come into close proximity with domestic sheep or goat herds at various times during the year. For example, bighorns undergo long distance migrations from low to high elevations between winter and summer in some parts of Alberta. Male and female bighorns may also undertake exploratory movements at other times of the year. The largest movements (e.g. 80 km or more), and perhaps the most likely time for contact with domestics, is just before and during the fall rut when male bighorns are in search of breeding females (wild or domestic). A large-scale collaring project is presently underway in south-western Alberta to enhance our understanding of bighorn movements and ways to minimize risk of disease transmission. This is a collaborative endeavor between the University of Alberta, Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas and National Parks

What about Vaccines or Treatments?

There are no vaccines or treatment for pneumonia in bighorn sheep. With at least 15 strains of *M. ovi* in wild sheep, finding an effective vaccine is very challenging. Once infected with *M. ovi*, the only options to reduce spread to other wild animals are to either cull the entire bighorn sheep herd, or to repeatedly test and then remove chronically-infected individuals over several years.

M. ovi cannot easily be eliminated with antibiotics in domestic sheep or goats. Preliminary research trials on treatments to clear the bacterium are promising and ongoing. If you suspect your flock or herd has *M. ovi*, we recommend contacting your veterinarian to discuss testing and treatment.

M. ovi cannot survive in the environment outside a host (unlike the prions that cause chronic wasting disease in members of the deer family).

How Can you Help?

Maintaining physical separation between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats is key.

To help protect our bighorns, please:

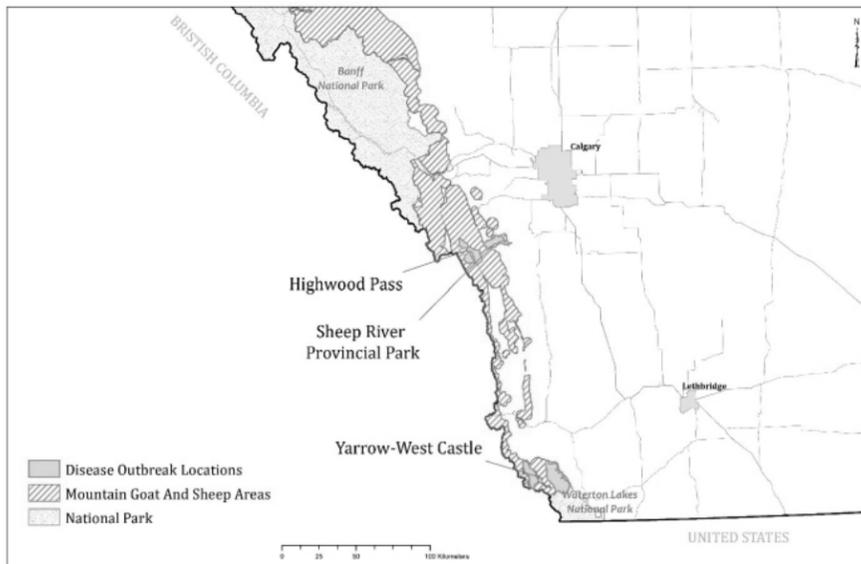
- Do not take domestic sheep or goats on public lands in or near bighorn sheep range,
- Report sightings of bighorn sheep near domestic sheep or goats, or sick bighorn sheep, to a Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) biologist (call 310-0000),
- Bighorn sheep hunters participate in AEPA programs to test wild sheep for *M. ovi*, and lastly
- Have domestic sheep and goats in the Disease Surveillance Zones (see link below) tested for *M. ovi* and consider measures to prevent close contact with bighorn sheep (e.g. double fencing)
- Funding is available to cover these costs thanks to a Minister's Special

License (MSL) grant and support of the Wild Sheep Foundation Alberta (WSFA). For more information, please see <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/mycoplasma-ovipneumoniae-in-domestic-sheep-and-goats-significance-to-and-roll-of-alberta-producers>

Thank you for your support. Only together can we protect our bighorn sheep.



Collecting nasal samples to test for *M. ovi* in a domestic sheep (photo credit Darryn Epp)



Locations of past pneumonia outbreaks in bighorn sheep in Alberta (1930s-2023)



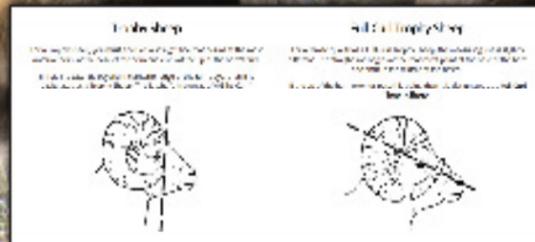
Bighorn ram in search of females during the breeding season (Mid-Oct to January) (photo credit Gord Court).

BIGHORN SHEEP ESSENTIALS

A comprehensive, easy-to-use online training program:

- Bighorn Sheep
- Dall's Sheep
- Stone Sheep
- Desert Sheep
- Habits and Lifestyle
- Harvest Strategy
- Shoot or Don't Shoot?
- Legal Requirements
- Tagging and Registration
- Bighorn Sheep Physiology (Head)
- Bighorn Sheep Physiology (Body)
- Evidence of Sex, Species and Class
- Physical Fitness for Sheep Hunting
- Preparations for Sheep Hunting
- Equipment
- Exam

Visit us at www.ahelia.com



Contact us today for more information:

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Photo courtesy Don Keeler Nature Photography.

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Bear Essentials

Utilizing interactive audio, pictures, narrations, simulations, videos, quizzes and a final exam, the Bear Essentials will equip individuals with the knowledge of the types of bears in Alberta, their habits and habitat, and how you can keep safe when venturing into bear country.

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- BEAR FARE
- BEAR BIOLOGY
- BEAR ECOLOGY
- ESSENTIALS OF BEAR ENCOUNTERS
- BEAR ENCOUNTERS: COMING FACE TO FACE
- FINAL EXAM

For further details contact:

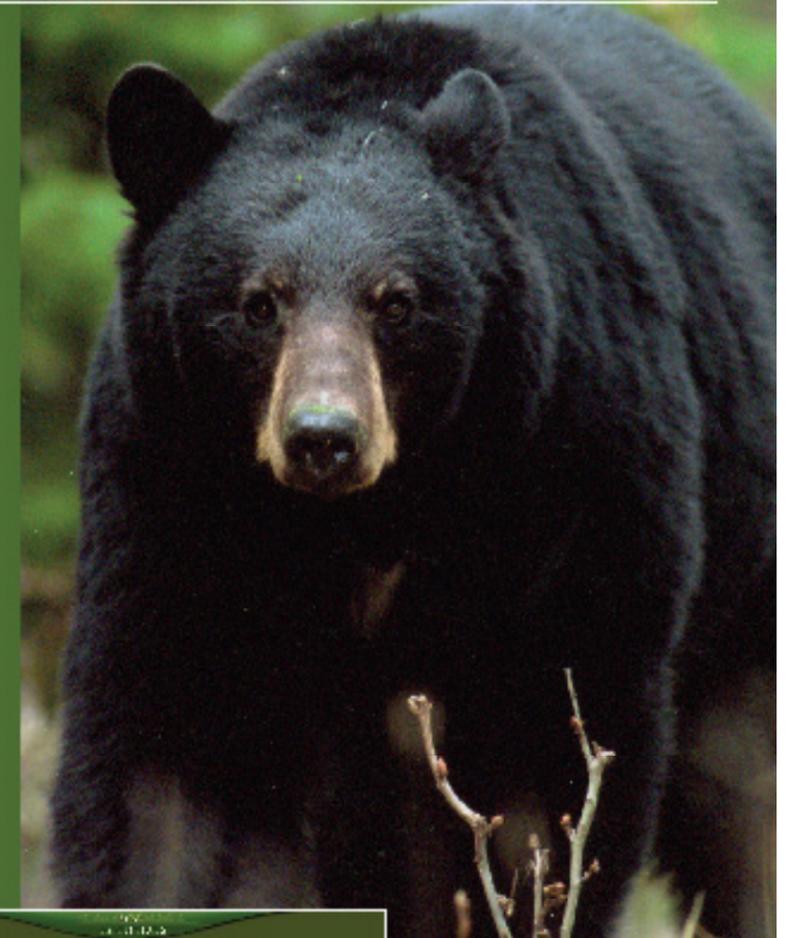
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www.ahelia.com



Background Photo: Don Keeler Nature Photography

CLIP AND KEEP ON BOARD YOUR BOAT

Heading out on the water this summer? Here's a pre-departure checklist you can use to ensure you are *safe and legal*.

Boat Safety Checklist

Lifejackets – wear them!

- Carry a Canadian-approved lifejacket for everyone on board.
- Make sure they are in good condition (check the zippers, buckles, fabric, seams, etc).
- Check that they are properly sized to fit each person on board.

Operator Competency – Are you ready to head out on the water?

- Take a boating safety course.
- Keep your Pleasure Craft Operator Card or other proof of competency on board.

Weather – Check and monitor the Marine Weather Forecast.

Sail Plan – File your plan before heading out.

Tell a person you trust where you are going and when you will be back.

Safety Equipment – Required by law and essential for safety.

- Make sure all equipment is on board, in good working order, and is easy to reach.
- Carry a First-Aid Kit, basic tools, and spare parts.

Charts, Compass, and Local Hazards.

- Make sure you are aware of all local hazards, water levels and tides.

Fuel – Check your fuel supply.

- Remember – 1/3 to go out, 1/3 to return, and 1/3 in reserve.

Boat Condition – Should your boat leave the dock?

- Check the hull for cracks or other damage.
- Check the electrical, fuel, propulsion, and cooling systems.
- Make sure the throttle and steering work well.
- Check the engine and hydraulic oil.
- Check all hoses and lines for leaks and cracks and replace if necessary.
- Make sure all clamps and belts are secure and in place.
- Inspect spark plugs. Clean and replace if necessary.
- Check oil and water filters. Change if necessary.
- Check the battery's charge.
- Make sure the drainage plug is in place.
- Carry spare plugs for all through-hull fittings.
- Make sure the load (gear and occupants) on your boat is well distributed.
- Run the blowers for four minutes before starting the engine(s) where applicable. Check for airflow.

Safety Briefing

- Show everyone where the safety equipment is located and how to use it
- Make sure the communication equipment works and everyone knows how to use it.

Remember: Canadian Federal Law states that anyone operating a motorized (gas or electric) pleasure craft in Canada must carry proof of competency. If you do not have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card, go to

www.albertaboatsafety.com

to obtain one. If you have lost your card call AHEIA at 1-866-852-4342 to obtain a replacement.

Certain age restrictions apply to pleasure craft operators under the age of 18. Be sure you are familiar with these restrictions.



Pleasure Craft Operator Training

BOATING SAFETY INSTRUCTION PRESENTED BY



Are you interested in obtaining your Pleasure Craft Operator Licence?

AHEIA is proud to announce that it is now accredited by Transport Canada to provide this licence's required instruction.

Introduction • Responsibilities • Equipment Requirements
Canadian Water Laws & Regulations • Safety Flags & Signals
General Boat Operations Tips

Contact us today for more information.

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wildlife | fish | habitat

It's an Alberta thing.



Great Meals

from the

Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Chili Bean Casserole

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 3/4 pound wild game burger | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 clove garlic (crushed) | 1 tablespoon olive oil |
| 1/4 teaspoon poultry seasoning | 2 onions (chopped) |
| 2 teaspoon chili powder | 1 cup tomato juice |
| 1 15 ounce can red kidney beans | 3 tablespoons bread crumbs |
| 3 tablespoons bread crumbs | sprinkle of hot sauce |
| 1 15 ounce can baked beans in tomato sauce | |
| 3 tablespoons Parmesan cheese (more if you like) | |

Heat olive oil in a large skillet to medium-high. Add burger and garlic and cook until it is no longer pink.

Stir in the poultry seasoning, onions, chili powder, salt, hot sauce and pepper and cook until the onions are soft. Stir in the flour then add the tomato juice. Double check for seasoning and adjust as required. Stir in both cans of beans.

Spread into a greased 8 cup casserole. Sprinkle the top with bread crumbs and Parmesan cheese.

Bake at 375 degrees for 25 minutes.

Serve with a good rustic bread and a beer of your choice.

Barbecued Steak

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 2 pounds moose or elk round steak (2 1/2" thick) | 1 tablespoon paprika |
| 2 tablespoons canola oil | 1 teaspoon dry mustard |
| 1 clove garlic (crushed) | 1/2 teaspoon chili powder |
| 1/2 cup white vinegar | Salt and pepper to taste |
| 1 tablespoon brown sugar | 1/2 cup tomato juice |
| 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce | |
| 1/2 cup ketchup 1/4 cup water | |
| 1/4 cup parsley (chopped) | |

Cut the steak into 1/2" slices, across the grain.

Heat oil in a large heavy skillet and cook the slices over medium-low heat until browned.

Combine all the other ingredients in a large bowl and mix until well combined and pour over the meat. Bring to a boil then turn down to a low simmer. Cover and cook for 1 1/2 hours or until tender. Stir occasionally to prevent burning and add water as needed.

Serve with rice or your favorite noodles.

Oh yeah, and compliment it with a good craft beer or two.

Enjoy!



Conservation Education Points of Contact

Calgary
**Conservation Education
Centre For Excellence**
911 Sylvester Cr. SW
Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
Phone: 403-252-8474
1-866-852-4342
Fax: 403-252-3770
info@aheia.com

Edmonton
**Conservation Education
Centre For Excellence**
#88, 4003 - 98 Street
Edmonton, AB T6E 6M8
Phone: 780-466-6682
1-866-282-4342
Fax: 780-431-2871
edmontoninfo@aheia.com

Alford Lake
**Conservation Education
Centre For Excellence**
Box 369
Caroline, AB T0M 0M0
Phone: 403-722-2423
Fax: 403-722-2445
alfordlake@xplornet.com

A.H.E.I.A.
Calgary Firearms Centre
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Phone: 403-256-0665

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Pleasure Craft Operator Training
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ALBERTA FISHING EDUCATION PROGRAM

This program offers a comprehensive educational experience. Divided into eight modules plus a final exam, the course may be taken online or in a classroom format taught by AHEIA certified instructors.

Course modules include:

- ALBERTA FISHING REGULATIONS AND MANAGEMENT
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- PREPARING AND COOKING YOUR CATCH
- SAFETY WHILE FISHING • ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR
- LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION:

AHEIA Calgary AHEIA Edmonton
1-866-852-4342 1-866-282-4342
www.aheia.com



Staff Appointments

It is my pleasure to announce that the following people have been appointed full-time positions at AHEIA:



Aislinn Chapotelle
 Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator – Calgary



Paige Dehmel
 Events Coordinator – Calgary



Richard Brink
 Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator – Calgary



Steve Coles
 Assistant Camp Manager – Alford Lake



Shane Vaughan
 Assistant Conservation Education Program Coordinator – Calgary



Josie Randall
 Communications & Marketing Coordinator – Calgary

Please join me in welcoming everyone to the AHEIA family.



Robert A. Gruszecki
 President, AHEIA

Would You Like to be Published in *Conservation Education?*

If you, or someone you know, has an article of outdoors educational content or subject matter related to Conservation Education in Alberta that you would like us to publish in a future edition of our magazine, we would be happy to hear from you. Articles of approximately 1,000 words with accompanying pictures are ideal. We also encourage readers to alert us to news for possible publication.

Contact AHEIA at info@heia.com for additional information.



ALBERTA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION

ALFORD LAKE

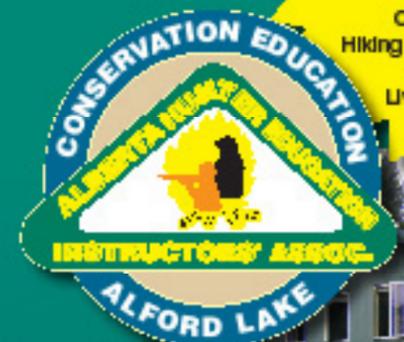
CONSERVATION EDUCATION CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Established in 1974, the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence is designed to provide Conservation Education Programming to Albertans, giving an opportunity for hands-on experience in the outdoors and developing skills in Alberta's natural habitat.

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2023 FALL FUNDRAISING RAFFLE BACKPACK & RIFLE

MOUNTAIN HUNTER'S DELIGHT



ONE WINNER RECEIVES BOTH PRIZES

Winchester XPR Rifle

Chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor, 22" BBL, 42" overall, 6lb 12oz, MOBU camo synthetic stock, R.H., bolt action, detachable box magazine.

RETAIL: \$880.00

Eberlestock J107 Dragonfly Camo Backpack

Full frame with 2 internal aluminum stays to allow stability & strength for heavy loads. Transforms from daypack to large meat hauler to multiday backpack with 7875 ci. capacity. Built in rifle scabbard. Loaded with survival gear, cook tin, bivy sack, freeze dried food rations, medical kit, paracord & 2 aluminum water bottles.

RETAIL: \$740.00

DRAW DATE: Friday, October 20, 2023
Calgary Conservation Centre for Excellence: 911 Sylvester Cres. S.W. Calgary, AB

* You are not required to be present to be eligible to win.
Raffle Tickets shall not be sold to anyone under 18 years of age*

CALL TO PURCHASE!

**Tickets
\$5 Each!**

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FOR DETAILS VISIT: AHEIA.COM/MEMBER-



AHEIA Fundraising Raffle Winners

Specialty Shotgun Raffle

Drawn Friday, March 24, 2023
at the Calgary Firearms Centre.
Licence #618990. 750 tickets printed.

Ticket #417

is the winner of a Benelli Ethos Super Sport Shotgun

Electric Bike Raffle

Drawn Friday, March 24, 2023
at the Calgary Firearms Centre.
Licence #618495. 4,000 tickets printed.

Ticket #1549

is the winner of a Rambo Roamer E-Bike Raffle.

3 Gun Raffle

Drawn Friday, March 24, 2023
at the Calgary Firearms Centre.
Licence #618491. 5,000 tickets printed.

First Winning Ticket #4748

is the winner of a Browning A Bolt III Stalker Rifle.

Second Winning Ticket #0625

is the winner of a Stoeger M3500 Shotgun.

Third Winning Ticket #1636

is the winner of a Winchester Wildcat .22 LR Rifle.

*Thank you to all
who entered!*

Completed Careers



James "Jim" Allen

Long time friend of Conservation Education and friend and mentor to many in our organization, Jim, Passed away on June 13 2023.

During his time as a wildlife biologist and wildlife manager for the Alberta Government he touched many of our lives and was always intentional in doing anything he could for wildlife conservation and the wilderness. He was no stranger to our programs, our staff, our volunteers and especially our youth camps and seminars.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim's family and our 43 year relationship with Jim will be fondly remembered.



Desmond Brummund

This completed career differs from others, but we wanted to recognize someone who was very fond of the outdoors and attended the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.

It is with sadness that we announce that Desmond Brummund passed away on Friday May 12, 2023 at the age of 16 years old.

Desmond attended the AHEIA Outdoor Youth Seminar in 2017, 2018 and 2019. His mother told us that he absolutely loved the camps, and they were some of his fondest memories.

At this year's Outdoor Youth Seminar we will be commemorating Desmond with a plaque that will be permanently displayed at the Alford Lake Facility. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his family.



AHEIA FUNDRAISING RAFFLES

CALL OUR OFFICES TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

You are not required to be present to be eligible to win. Tickets cannot be sold to persons under 18 years of age.

3 GUN RAFFLE

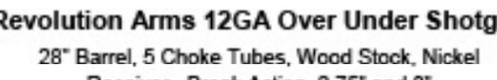


1st Prize

 Retail Value: \$1,134.00
Winchester 30/06 SPRG XPR Rifle
 Bolt Action, 24" Barrel, Strata Camo, c/w Vortex Crossfire II 3-9x40 Scope With Rings and Bases

2nd Prize

 Retail Value: \$787.50
Revolution Arms 12GA Over Under Shotgun
 28" Barrel, 5 Choke Tubes, Wood Stock, Nickel Receiver, Break Action, 2.75" and 3"

3rd Prize

 Retail Value: \$370.00
Winchester Wildcat .22 LR Rifle
 Semi Auto, Composite Stock, 10 Round Mag

Draw Date: Monday, September 25, 2023
 Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence
 Licence #635399 • 5,000 Tickets Printed

UPLAND HUNTING RAFFLE

One lucky winner receives all 3 shotguns!
 Total Prize Package Value is \$6,194.00



Franchi LX 12GA Break Action Shotgun
 Retail Value: \$2,310.00
 28" Barrels, 2.75" or 3" Shells, 3 Extended Choke Tubes, Engraved Gold Birds on Receiver, Oil Finished Stock w/Schnabel Forend, Color Case Hardened Receiver

Franchi Instinct L 20GA Break Action Shotgun
 Retail Value: \$1,942.00
 28" Barrels, 3 Internal Choke Tubes, "A" Grade Satin Walnut Stock, Color Case Hardened Receiver

Franchi Instinct L .410GA Break Action Shotgun
 Retail Value: \$1,942.00
 28" Barrels, 2.75" or 3" Shells, 3 Internal Choke Tubes, "A" Grade Satin Walnut Stock, Color Case Hardened Receiver

Draw Date: Monday, September 25, 2023
 Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence
 Licence #635516 • 4,000 Tickets Printed

WATERFOWLERS DREAM SHOTGUN RAFFLE

1st Prize

 Retail Value: \$2,623.95
Benelli Super Black Eagle 3
 12ga Semi-Auto Shotgun 2.75" - 3.5", 28" Barrel, Max 7 Camo, 4 Adj. Crlo Chokes, Benelli Case, Inertia Driven System, Comfort Tech 3 Stock with Combtech Cheek Pad



2nd Prize

 Retail Value: \$2,514.75
Benelli Super Black Eagle 3
 20ga Semi-Auto Shotgun 2.75" - 3", 28" Barrel, Marsh Camo, 4 Adj. Crlo Chokes, Benelli Case, Inertia Driven System, Comfort Tech 3 Stock with Combtech Cheek Pad

Draw Date: Monday, September 25, 2023
 Licence #640146 • 2,000 Tickets Printed
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