

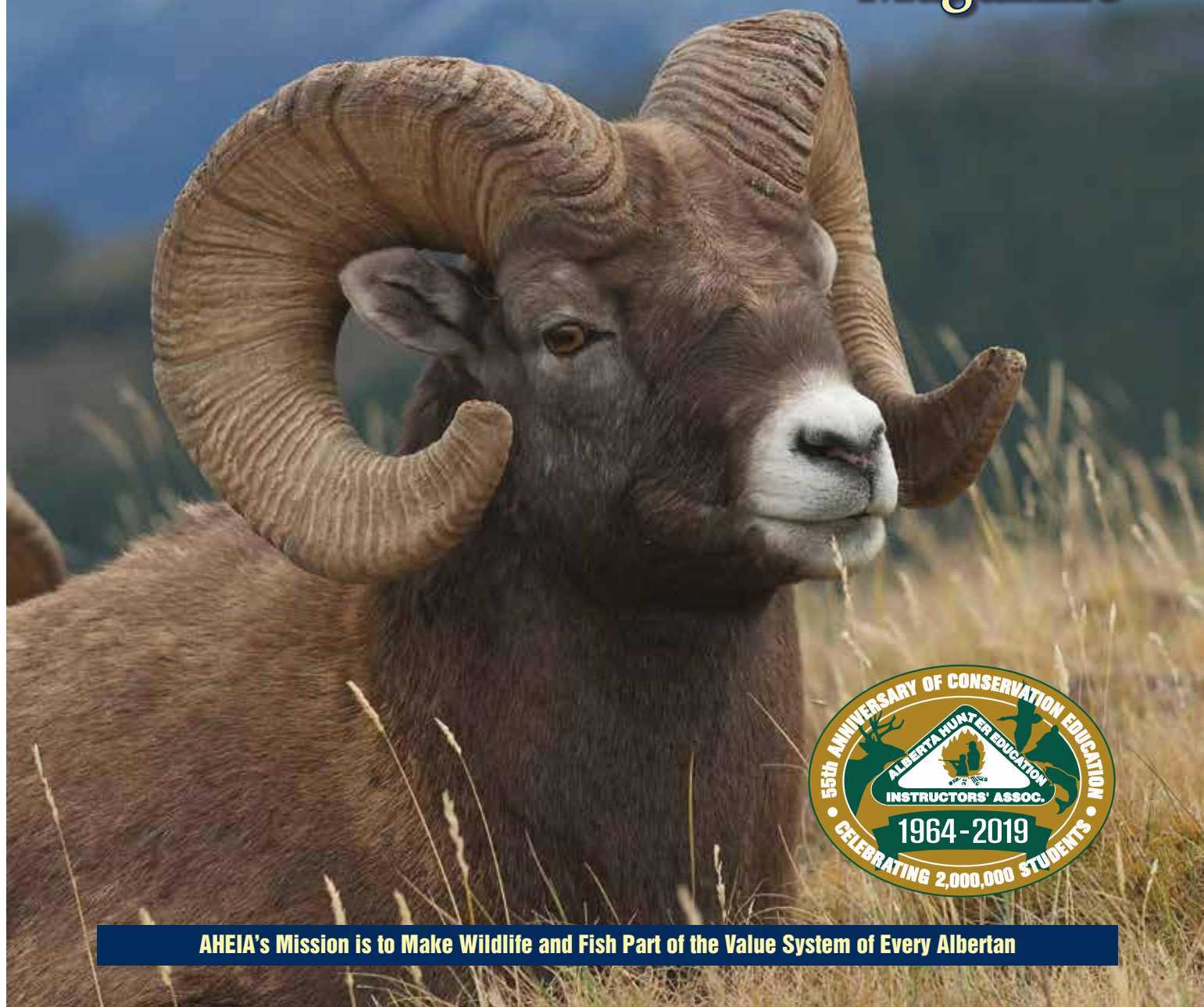
Summer 2019



Alberta Hunter Education  
Instructors' Association

# Conservation Education

The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta Magazine



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## President's Message

“ Working together with you, our volunteers, and all of our staff, we will continue our message of conservation education ... ”

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki  
President - AHEIA

Hello everyone! Summer is here and with it comes a busy training season. We are particularly excited about the newest additions to our training tools.

Our Pleasure Craft Operator Training (PCOT) is fully launched and is receiving huge uptake and rave reviews. We are proud of this boat safety training option that we now provide Canada wide. Our Fishing Education Program is about to launch after a total rewrite and it too is a tremendous tool in our training arsenal. Last, but not least, is our Sheep Essentials Program. This new program is the finest of its kind and introduces the learner to Bighorn Sheep, their habitat, their habits and lifestyle, physiology, species and class, tagging and registration, a review/comparison of Dall Sheep, Stone Sheep, Desert Bighorn Sheep, hunting preparations, equipment and more. You can take your course and exam online at the following link: <https://bit.ly/2NLh6Am>. Check out our newest programs and feel free to share this information with others!

I am also pleased to let you know of some new additions to our AHEIA team this spring, as well as a few positions still to be filled.

In the Calgary office we have two new Administrative Assistants, Laura Seymore and Darlene Klippenstein, working alongside Donna Hansen. In the short time they have been with us, Laura and Darlene have already become an important part of the Calgary office assisting with reception duties, instructor requirements and memberships.

At the Calgary Firearms Centre we welcomed Taryn Kerr. Taryn is an Administrative Assistant and works at the reception desk greeting new and returning shooters to the club and ensuring that everyone is signed in and ready for a fun and safe day. Please be sure to say hello to Taryn the next time you are in the clubhouse.

In the north we welcome Mike Mussolum, who is in the newly created role of Project Manager for the Conservation Education Environmental C.A.R.E. Campus in Strathcona County. Mike is helping finalize plans for our role in the development of this exciting project.

We are also pleased to announce that Al Bernhard has accepted the position of Camp Manager for the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence. Al will be managing and supervising activities at the camp and coordinating user groups. If you wish to visit the facility or book a group, Al will ensure your requirements are met for a fun and safe experience.

We still have two positions that need to be filled: An Administrative Assistant/Communications Coordinator for the Calgary office and an Assistant Conservation Education Program Co-ordinator working out of the Edmonton office.

The Administrative Assistant/Communications Co-ordinator position in Calgary requires someone with experience utilizing social media platforms,



website development and maintenance, and who will work with the Marketing Director on the promotion of AHEIA programs, special events and the message of conservation education. Job descriptions for all three positions are available on our website at the following link: <https://bit.ly/2l4uPQ0>. If you are interested or know of someone who might be a good fit with AHEIA, please have them apply in confidence as soon as possible.

Finally, we are always in need of volunteers to help us deliver our programs, camps and special events. If you are interested in joining our dedicated crew of volunteers throughout the province, please let us know. Watch our online feeds for news of special events and an upcoming work bee at our Alford Lake site. We could really use a hand on some necessary tasks to ready ourselves for our busiest season! Working together with you, our volunteers, and all of our staff, we will continue our message of conservation education, safeguarding our natural resources and ensuring all Albertans have access to our abundant and wild outdoor spaces.

Cheers!

Robert A. Gruszecki, President, AHEIA



## Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association Conservation Education Magazine

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Courtesy Don Kesler Nature Photography

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For further details on any of these courses, contact:

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# CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS

*for Albertans*

AHEIA works in cooperation with several Alberta Government departments to deliver these quality programs to you and your family:

- ALBERTA CONSERVATION AND HUNTER EDUCATION
- CANADIAN FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE
- PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR TRAINING
- ALBERTA FISHING EDUCATION PROGRAM
- FIRST TIME HUNTER MENTOR PROGRAM
- HOME STUDY PROGRAM
- OUTDOOR CAMP PROGRAMS
- OUTDOOR WOMEN'S PROGRAM
- OUTDOOR YOUTH SEMINAR
- WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES SEMINARS
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- KIDWISE FIREARM SAFETY PROGRAM
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- BEAR ESSENTIALS ONLINE PROGRAM
- BIGHORN SHEEP ESSENTIALS ONLINE PROGRAM
- ARCHERY ESSENTIALS ONLINE PROGRAM
- FIELD TECHNIQUES APP



## Firearms Education Report

“ ... instructors need at least one course a year as a minimum requirement to remain certified. ”

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey  
Firearms Education  
Coordinator  
AHEIA

As we approach summer, the CFSC program continues to move along without any changes. During the first four months of 2019 just under 9,000 students completed training. This number is on par with the 2018 figures, so this year we should match 2018 numbers.

As far as instructors, please remember to review your course reports prior to mailing. Also, the yellow Course Report sheet is not a sign-in sheet. If you pass the yellow sheet to students to fill in, you are releasing not only students' names, but also dates of birth to other students. This could be viewed as a violation under the *Freedom of Information Act*.

Also remember, to be a CFSC/CRFSC instructor you must be active in delivering programs. When we met with the CFO in the summer of 2016 for the rollout of the new program, it was mentioned

that instructors need at least one course a year as a minimum requirement to remain certified. I know that was three years ago; however, for those who are not active, please don't be surprised if you receive a letter from the CFO reminding you of your commitment to the program.

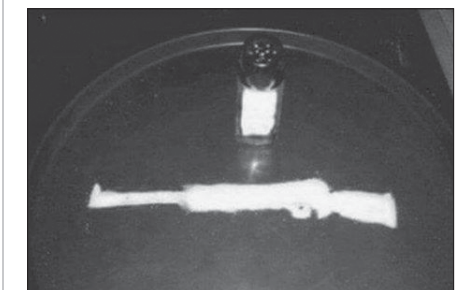
At the time of this writing, Bill C-71 still has not passed the Third Reading in Senate. Given that the summer recess for Parliament is nearing, we may have to wait until the fall seating for this to be concluded.

Minister Blaire's *Engagement Summary Report—Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault Style Weapons* has been completed. I'm sure it is no surprise to any of our members that the banning of certain types of firearms was a low priority for those interviewed. Respectfully, banning handguns was 6% and assault-style firearms was 13%. The higher priority issues were increased enforcement to target criminals and to ensure stricter consequences for illegal possession and use of firearms. A complete copy of this report may be found on the Government of Canada Public Safety web site.

On a side note, a big thanks to those members who completed the Range Officer workshop and Shotgun Coaching workshop April 27 and 28. The weekend was held at Alford Lake and, in typical Alberta spring fashion, it was a lovely winter weekend. I left my cabin Sunday morning to be greeted by sunshine and 30cm of fresh snow. Only in Alberta! Thank goodness for plow trucks and shovels.



### On the Lighter Side:



An A-salt rifle may lead to high blood pressure and/or excessive thirst.

**Assistant  
Conservation Education  
Program Coordinator  
(Edmonton)**

**Administrative Assistant/  
Communications Coordinator  
(Calgary)**



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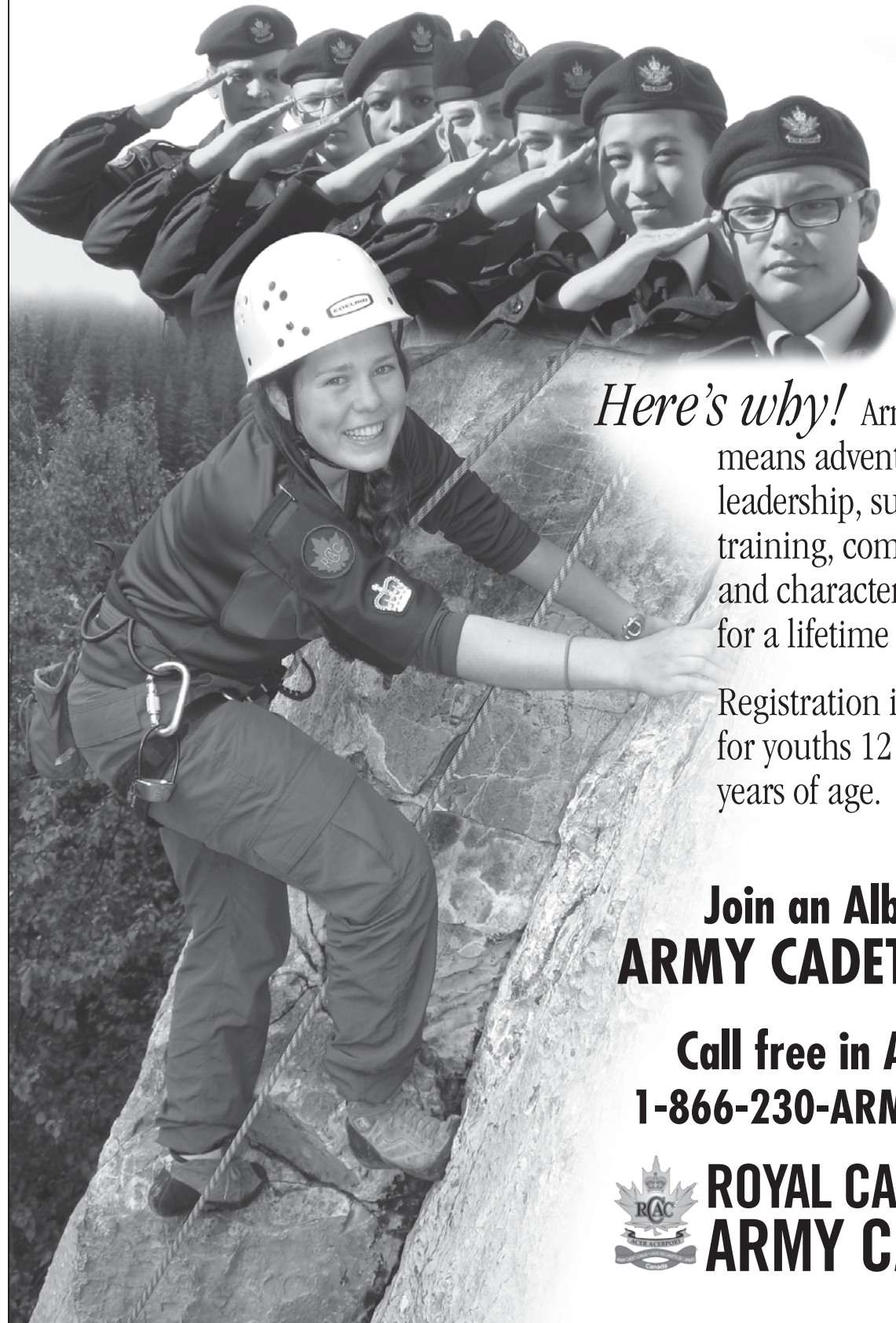
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## Edmonton Report

“ These camps are a fun learning experience that will be treasured and remembered for many years to come. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch  
Program Coordinator  
AHEIA  
Red Deer - North

I typically get pretty excited about perusing black bears in the spring. If you want to get some firsthand knowledge on black bear behaviour just go and sit at a bait site for a couple of evenings and observe. This year, the weather in the Edmonton area was “trying” to say the least, with everything being at least three weeks late. Apparently recovery was good and bear activity for the most part improved nicely, with some quality bears being harvested. If you were not successful for the spring hunt, don't despair, as you can get after those bruins again this fall. Any tag you did not use in the spring can be used for the fall hunt in the same calendar year. If you would like to increase your bear knowledge, I would highly recommend that you take our on-line Bear Essentials course. You will not be disappointed. Best of luck with your hunts.

Our ever-popular Youth Hunter Education Camps are once again sold out. If you have youngsters who you would like to have attend our 2020 camps simply email us at [edmontoninfo@aheia.com](mailto:edmontoninfo@aheia.com).

com and we will add you to our notification list. Registration packages are typically available for download on our website [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com) in December. Participants will receive training on the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education course, as well as the Canadian Firearms Safety course. These camps are a fun learning experience that will be treasured and remembered for many years to come.

Our 2019 Outdoor Youth Seminar will run August 23-25, 2019 and will once again be held at our Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, west of Caroline. What a beautiful and remarkable facility we have. Registration forms are available from any of our facilities or can be downloaded from our website [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com). From the opening page, click on “Programs and Events” then click on the OYS tab to access the registration form. This event is the perfect opportunity for you to spend some quality time with your kids or grandchildren. Included is also the very popular whole pig roast to look forward to for supper on the Saturday night. Come on, you know you want seconds.

We continue to look for volunteer assistance at our camps. If you would like to lend a hand it is a very simple process. Simply give me a call and we can discuss the details. We also never cease to

need help at our numerous other events such as sports shows and other in-store promotions. Help is also needed at the office with our regular daily routines. If you, or any of your friends, have some spare time and wish to become part of something bigger, please let us know. Paying it forward has great personal rewards. Give me a call if you are able to assist and I will get you going.

By the time you read this our 6th Annual Spring Fling Banquet will be in the books. If you have never attended one you should really consider doing so. Keep an eye open for a report on this event in our Fall issue.

Mark your calendars for September 21. We will once again be holding a Provincial Hunting Day event at our Alford Lake facility. We typically fill up quickly, so don't delay. Be placed on our notification list by emailing us at [edmontoninfo@aheia.com](mailto:edmontoninfo@aheia.com).

Thanks to everyone who continues to help out by volunteering. Your continued commitment is very much appreciated. Volunteers continue to be the life-blood of everything we do.

Until next time.

Take care and enjoy the Great Outdoors.



A Call For Your  
*Membership*



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# WOMEN'S SHOTGUN LEAGUES

**ALL ABILITIES WELCOME**

INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER  
HELD A GUN BEFORE!

## SPRING 2019 SESSION

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5

## SUMMER 2019 SESSION

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7

## FALL 2019 SESSION

September 4, 11, 18, 25

**Cost is \$60.00 per session  
(\$40.00 for Fall session)**

Firearms rental, eye and ear protection included.  
AHEIA membership is required and can be purchased onsite.  
No firearms licence required.  
Coaching provided by certified shotgun instructors.  
Targets and ammunition will be sold at member pricing.

Shooting starts at 6:00 pm.

Sessions held at the

**CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE**

242 Avenue and 32 Street SW, DeWinton, AB

[www.AHEIA.com/calgaryfirearmscentre](http://www.AHEIA.com/calgaryfirearmscentre)

To register or for more information  
contact Allan Orr at

**403.252.8474**

EMAIL [ALLAN@AHEIA.COM](mailto:ALLAN@AHEIA.COM)



## Completed Careers

Recently two members of our organization completed their journey, and our thoughts and prayers are extended to their families and friends. They may be gone, but their energy, friendship and service will not be forgotten.



### Greg Sutley

June 30, 1973 - April 22, 2019

Greg passed away suddenly on April 22, 2019 at the age of 45. Greg was born in Valleyview, Alberta. We extend our condolences to his wife Tara and his children Mikayla and Reed, along with the balance of his family and friends. Greg shared his passion for the outdoors and spent countless hours volunteering for numerous causes including Conservation Education and the pursuit of life in the great outdoors. He had a tremendous wit and his constant humor and never-sit-still attitude will be missed.

### Terry James

Passed away May 21, 2019

Terry passed away surrounded by loved ones after a lengthy illness. Terry was President of the Leduc Fish and Game Association and an active volunteer in all things AHEIA. He was a tremendous help and mentor at our camps and also in training in our course delivery in the Edmonton area. Terry received the 2018 Volunteer of the Year recognition from AHEIA for his dedicated service and good cheer. An avid outdoorsman, hunter and angler, his contributions to the cause of Conservation Education are numerous. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to his wife Joyce and family.



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[lethbridgecollege.ca/rrm](http://lethbridgecollege.ca/rrm)



An events publication of Conservation Education

**The AHEIA BUGLE**

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## AHEIA's Calgary and Edmonton offices are selling National Park Annual and Daily Fishing Permits

Beginning April 1, 2019.

**\$34<sup>30</sup>**  
Annual

Valid April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020

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Permits will be valid in  
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Mount Revelstoke, Glacier or  
Waterton Lakes.

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or

**AHEIA Edmonton**  
**#88, 4003 - 98 Street**



**FIREARMLEGALDEFENCE**  
LEGAL EXPENSE INSURANCE FOR GUN OWNERS

## Affordable Access to Justice for Firearm Owners

By Brian Lovig



Brian Lovig

I joke that I've always been unemployable. That's proven to be a good thing, as I have enjoyed considerable success in the fast-paced business world of an entrepreneur.

A licensed auctioneer, I pioneered real estate auctions in Canada. The list of private and publicly traded companies I founded is long. The broad range of my business ventures is even longer. Looking back, there have been plenty of ups and downs over my lengthy career, but I have become quite adept at landing on my feet.

Growing up on John Wayne movies and Louis L'Amour western novels, I have long been an enthusiastic gun owner and recreational marksman. I've built up quite the collection of firearms over the years, from derringer pistols to a Civil War cannon. I am an active supporter of the Canadian Shooting Sports Association and regularly attend gun shows around North America. I am well known within the shooting community as an outspoken advocate for firearm owner rights via my daily webcasts on [rightedition.com](http://rightedition.com).

Start-up ventures have accounted for a big part of my brother Grant Lovig's business career. He's best known for running Canada's most successful cookbook publishing company, Company's Coming Publishing Limited. Co-founded with his (and my) mother, Jean Paré, sales of the family-owned company topped 30 million cookbooks over 30 years. That's equivalent to more than two cookbooks for every home in Canada! The mother and son team hung up their aprons in 2010 with the sale of the company.

In a 2012 telephone conversation, Grant listened while I commented about gun owners not having the same sort of legal protection as directors and officers of a company. Specifically, no form of legal expense insurance existed for gun owners to protect them if they felt they were unjustly charged with a firearm offence.

Sensing an opportunity, the two of us quickly resolved to start an insurance service specifically for the purpose of helping gun owners protect their rights.

We became the driving force behind Firearm Legal Defence, an online specialty insurance service that provides legal expense insurance for firearm owners. The first of its kind in North America, Firearm Legal Defence covers legal expenses for licensed firearm owners facing charges under Canada's Firearms Act, typically relating to the storage, transportation and handling of firearms.

Both successful in our own right, this marks the first time Grant and I have partnered on a business venture.

According to Grant, Firearm Legal Defence is all about rights:

"As law-abiding Canadian citizens, we can choose to own a firearm, or not," said Grant. "The reason we created Firearm Legal Defence is to provide affordable access to justice for licensed firearm owners who find themselves facing charges relating to a firearm. Without insurance, the reality is that people sometimes can't afford to defend themselves, so they effectively forfeit their right to justice."

Gun owners across Canada have been able to protect their rights in court with Firearm Legal Defence at their side. Many more have benefitted from free legal advice through our toll-free Legal Advice Helpline. I'm frequently approached by policyholders who thank us for protecting them from unwarranted prosecution.

Firearm Legal Defence insurance is available only in Canada, and only to holders of a valid Canadian firearm license. To learn more, visit [firearmlegaldefence.com](http://firearmlegaldefence.com).

What is the price  
for peace of mind?  
**Just \$95**  
per year!

### How Firearm Legal Defence Works

We pay legal fees, court costs and time off work to attend court; up to \$250,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 total per policy year. Plus get unlimited legal advice through our toll-free Legal Advice Helpline.

### AHEIA members save \$10 on the first year.

Visit [firearmlegaldefence.com](http://firearmlegaldefence.com), click on "Buy Now" and enter the exclusive club code AHEIA101 to access your savings.

**You are not required to disclose any information about firearms in your possession.**

### New Options:

Firearm Legal Defence has introduced some new options that can be added to new policies or when you renew. Many of our clients have been asking for these and we've heard you!

### Firearm Legal Defence Plus (\$195/year total)

Increase your per-claim limit to \$1,000,000.

### Family Coverage (+\$40/year)

Extend your coverage to your spouse and all dependent children living at home under the age of 25 (all participating family members must have their PAL). This is not a per-person amount! \$40 covers everyone.

### New Coverages:

#### Personal Injury

If you're injured by someone else using a firearm or bow, we'll provide you access to a lawyer and cover legal costs.

#### Extension to Bows

Your coverage now extends to bows, including crossbows, recurve, compound and longbows.

### Firearm Legal Defence insurance covers:

- Defence from prosecution should you be charged with an offence arising out of the use, storage, display, transportation or handling of a firearm;
- Cases where a firearm is used in self defence, the defence of a person under your protection or the defence of your property;
- Appealing an event where a licensing, regulatory or judicial authority refuses to renew, suspends, revokes, cancels or alters the terms of your firearms license. Note that this provision does not apply to new license applications.

### Firearm Legal Defence pays for:

- The cost of retaining a lawyer or other appointed representative, including court fees, experts' fees, police reports, medical reports;
- Costs awarded by the court to opponents in civil cases if the insured person has been ordered to pay them, or pays them with the agreement of the insurance company;
- Lost salary or wages for the time the insured is off work to attend court or any other hearing at the request of the appointed representative, up to a maximum of \$500 per day and \$10,000 in total.

**Before you pull the trigger, protect yourself.**  
**Visit [firearmlegaldefence.com](http://firearmlegaldefence.com).**



CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE

# YOUTH SHOTGUN LEAGUES

**ALL ABILITIES WELCOME**

**INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER  
HELD A GUN BEFORE!**

## SPRING 2019 SESSION

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5

## SUMMER 2019 SESSION

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7

## FALL 2019 SESSION

September 4, 11, 18, 25

**No target or rental charges.**

Firearms rental, eye and ear protection included.

No firearms licence required.

Coaching provided by certified shotgun instructors.

Ammunition will be sold at member pricing.

**Shooting starts at 6:00 pm.**

**Sessions held at the**

**CALGARY FIREARMS CENTRE**

242 Avenue and 32 Street SW, DeWinton, AB

[www.AHEIA.com/calgaryfirearmscentre](http://www.AHEIA.com/calgaryfirearmscentre)

To register or for more information  
contact Allan Orr at

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EMAIL [ALLAN@AHEIA.COM](mailto:ALLAN@AHEIA.COM)



**“I explained that not every day of hunting ended in success,  
and she was more than welcome to come with me anytime.”**

## Mentoring Your Child as a Hunter

By Jim Gratix



Jim Gratix  
Assistant Conservation  
Education Coordinator  
AHEIA Red Deer - South

*A*s a man, I always assumed that some day I would have a son(s). That was not to be. That said, I feel that I am blessed to have had two healthy daughters.

I never hid that I am a hunter and my daughters were exposed to deer carcasses hanging in the garage in the fall at an early age. I trained them on 22LR. When they

were 7-8 years old, I was surprised that they asked my wife if she thought that I would take them hunting. There had been no previous overt interest on their part.

A deer/coyote hunt was planned. I had shot the deer the day before they arrived, but the evening was spent enjoying the waterslide at the Three Hills Super 8. The next morning we were out bright and early. The day was spent walking about and enjoying nature. It is amazing how interesting a coyote turd is to a child.

We tried calling coyotes, but had no success. Back to Three Hills for lunch. One daughter said she was tired and she went home with my wife. The other girl said she wanted to stay out all day.

I think that is important: Always tailor the day to the child, not to your wants. They are not used to the long and often cold days. Break the days up into smaller pieces and be prepared to go home early if they are worn out. The experience should always be as pleasant as possible.

The day had turned very windy and we had no success calling coyotes. My daughter was distraught and shed a few tears. She was concerned that because we had had no success, I would never take her again. A teachable moment! I explained that not every day of hunting ended in success, and she was more than welcome to come with me anytime.

As the years passed, preparations were made for them to go hunting deer when they turned 12. They each took their Hunter Education through AHEIA's online course. Time was spent at the shooting range. I never had them shoot at a "target" or for group size. I had gopher cutouts

and a life-sized deer target. The goal was for them to feel good about themselves and know that they were capable of humanely harvesting a deer. The life-sized targets helped them visualize where the vitals were, without the pressure of hitting the "bullseye".

Through a good friend, each girl had access to an excellent whitetail deer field. With this kindness, each girl was able to harvest a nice white-tail buck on their first day hunting.

Ten years have passed, and many more deer have ended up in the freezer. To say that I am more than pleased that I have a couple of young hunting companions to share the hunting experiences with, is an understatement.

Never try to force your kids to hunt, but if they are interested, feed that interest! Boy or girl doesn't matter. Play your cards right and you may have a lifetime hunting partner!



**“ To say that I am more than pleased that I have a couple of young hunting companions  
to share the hunting experiences with, is an understatement. ”**





Retail Value:  
\$5,830.00



Tickets  
**\$5**  
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## SPECIALTY SHOTGUN RAFFLE

One (1) Browning Classic Trap Unsingl Combo  
12ga. Shotgun

Adjustable comb, double and unsingl barrel sets included, 4 extended choke tubes,  
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Draw Date: Friday, July 19, 2019  
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License #519824 • 2000 Tickets Printed

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Draw Date: Sunday, August 10, 2019  
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*1st Prize*

One (1) Winchester XPR Muddy Girl  
Compact 6.5 Creedmore Rifle

20" barrel, synthetic camo stock, bolt action, detachable box magazine.

Retail Value: \$600.00



*2nd Prize*

One (1) Winchester SXP Muddy Girl  
12ga. Shotgun

Pump action, 3" chamber, composite Muddy Girl camo stock and forearm,  
Investor Plus choke tubes, TRUGLO fibre optic sight.

Tickets  
**\$2**  
each



Retail Value:  
\$1,840.00



Tickets  
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each

## LIMITED EDITION COLLECTOR'S RAFFLE

One (1) Remington 870 Wingmaster Shotgun

Pump action, 12ga., 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or 3", full, MOD and IMP cyl. chokes,  
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Draw Date: Friday, August 30, 2019  
at the Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

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“With a little practice and set up  
anyone can be proficient with the system.”

# Downriggers and Divers

By Len Gransch



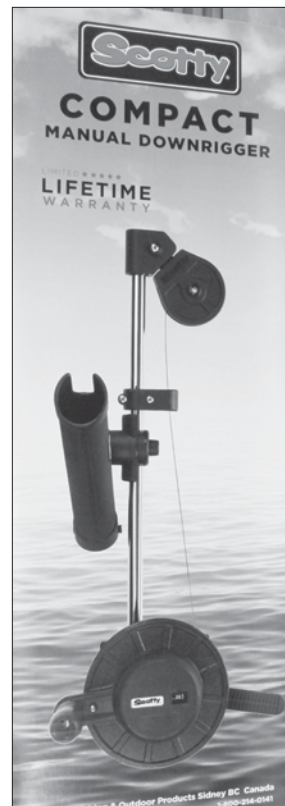
Len Gransch  
Program Coordinator  
AHEIA  
Red Deer - North

Years ago, when I was quite a bit younger and living in Manitoba, I had a favourite lake trout spot. Getting in was an adventure involving boat ferries, portages and lots of sweat. But it was all worth it when the stars, along with our effort and experience, aligned and everything came together.

In those days there was a lot of trial and error and some cursing. Back then there were no sonar units to help locate the fish. We had a chart that told us the preferred temperature range of the intended species. We would lower a thermometer until we found the temperature we were looking for. The cord was graduated in feet so we could now tell the target depth.

Getting down to the proper “guesstimated” depth was accomplished by “long-lining”. I had a large Penn level wind reel mounted on a very stiff trolling rod spooled with braided steel line or, sometimes, lead-core line. We would add 2-6 ounces of lead weights to take the lure down, then troll around until we hooked a fish, the lake bottom or each other. There were a few times we put in to shore to untangle our lines. On occasion you would catch a fish and not realize it because of the heavy weights and gear. I recall many times finding a drowned fish on the end of my line when I finally pulled it in to check things out. Yes, they can drown.

Now jump forward to modern times and some modern equipment. Whenever I have to go deep for lake trout or any other species I tend to use downriggers. The downrigger is basically a spool of cable with a weight called a “cannonball” attached to the end of it. The cannonball allows you to efficiently lower your lure to the proper depth. Cannonballs can be lowered manually or electronically depending on what your budget allows for. The lure or bait is attached to the cable by a release clip. These clips cost \$10-\$15 or so depending on features and leader length. One end of the release clip is attached to the cable and



then the fishing line from your rod and reel is clipped into the release. Use of a rod holder is highly recommended. Release tension is set up so that when you get a strike the line will be pulled from the clip and you are now playing the fish directly without any encumbrances. The ideal location for downriggers is towards the rear of the boat.

Well, you are now out on the boat and your sonar says the fish are suspended between 45'-50'. You now lower the cannonball to just below the surface and attach your release clip. Your fishing rod

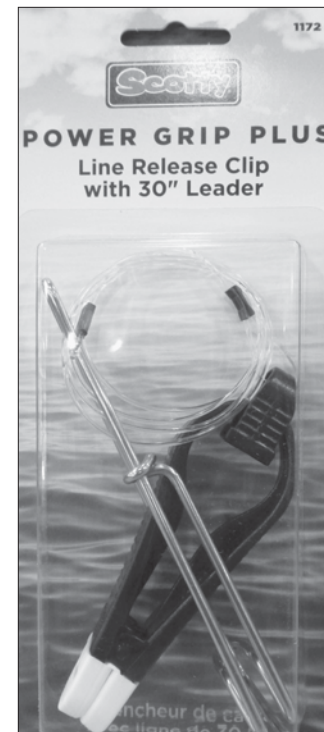
is in the rod holder with your favourite lure attached and now you will strip 12'-20' of line off the reel and attach it to the release clip. The reel's drag should be set a bit light so when you start lowering the cannonball you do not get a premature release of your line popping off the clip. The downrigger weight is then lowered to the proper depth by using the depth counter on the downrigger. I have always found that cannonballs with fins work best as they stop the weight from spinning. This style of cannonball will set you back \$35 to \$100 depending on the weight of the ball. Once you are the proper depth you increase the drag and take up any slack line so that your rod has a nice bend in it from the tension. This will assist in setting the hook when a fish strikes and your line releases from the clip. With a little practice



Electric Downrigger



Cannonball



Release Clip



and set up anyone can be proficient with the system. The angler is then free to play the fish on the rod and reel alone. When a fish is on it is recommended that the downrigger weigh be cranked back up to avoid tangles. On one occasion I cranked up the ball only to find that a lake trout had actually bit the ball. Since the ball had a rubberized finish the fish's teeth gripped tight. Once at the surface he/she let go.

There are times when the fish are stacked at different levels. I occasionally use something called a mid line to up the ante. You will attach this once you have the downrigger set up and running. A mid line is simply a 6' length of monofilament line with a lock snap attached to each end. You now hook a different lure (non-diving) to one end and then snap the other end onto the cable and throw it behind the boat. With this system you have the one lure running low and the other slides down the cable to about 1/2 the depth of the bottom one. This is due to the tension and curve in the cable from water resistance while trolling, hence the term mid line. If you get a strike on this line it simply slides down to the release where the clip releases and you are now playing the fish directly.

There are a couple of companies manufacturing downriggers and one can purchase basic ones from Scotty or Cannon for around \$110 to \$130. Models with more features and less cranking run \$210 to \$250, with electric models available from \$550 to \$1,000 or more.

Alright, so you will only be going out once or twice and do not want to make this investment. If this is the case, fear not, for Luhr Jensen makes a Deep Six, Dipsy Diver, Jet Diver and a Pink Lady. All of these devices work in a similar way. They run at an acute angle which takes your lure down. The units come with a chart that tells you how deep they will run by the line weight, size of the unit, trolling speed and how much line you let out. Once you get a strike the unit trips and the angle is changed so it is easier to fight the fish. I have used the Pink Lady and the Deep Six with good results. These units are available from \$20 to \$30, so they will not break the bank.

I suggest that you head to an Alberta lake that hold Lakers and give it a try this summer. Downriggers can be used on many species of fish when you need to get down to a specific depth. Don't be afraid of them. They are your friend.



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**“Vessel safety is a high priority mainly because boaters do not have an easy escape if something goes wrong.”**

# Vessel Safety Equipment

By Allan Orr



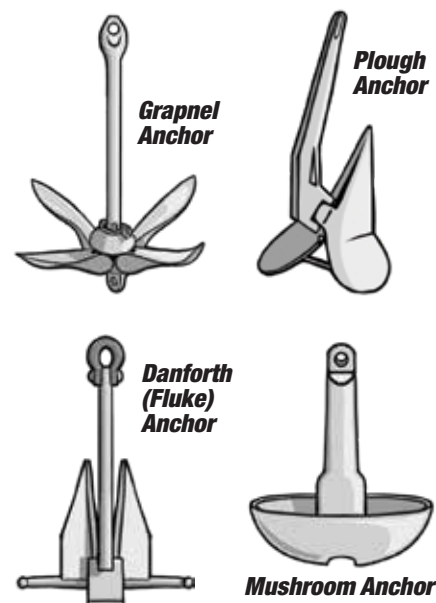
Allan Orr  
Assistant Conservation  
Education Coordinator  
AHEIA Red Deer - South

My last article discussed the personal safety equipment required while onboard a boat in Canada. This time we will look at safety equipment required by law to be on your vessel, but not on your person. Different lengths of boats require different numbers and kinds of safety equipment, so be sure you know what is required for your boat.

## Anchors

There are several kinds of anchors, but the most common are grapnel, plough, Danforth (fluke), mushroom and deadweight anchors. Each are designed for different purposes and are best deployed on lake bottoms that are suited to the individual anchor. For example, a mushroom anchor will sink into a mucky bottom and is held in place by the suction needed to pull the anchor from the mire. This type of anchor will not work nearly as well on a rocky or gravelly bottom. For this type of bottom, you might want to use a grapnel or a Danforth anchor.

Of course, an anchor is no good if it isn't connected to the boat. For this we use some sort of cable or rope. The line must be strong enough to



hold against the pull of the boat and the anchor, and must be long enough to be effective. Typically, an anchor line should be five to seven times the depth of the water, depending on the size of the vessel. It should also have a two to three metre length of chain at the end, fastened to the anchor. The chain will allow the anchor to lay on its side and provide maximum holding power.

## Taking On Water/Losing Power

Taking on water or losing power on the water can become a dangerous situation. In these situations, the following equipment will come in handy to get you moving again or keep your vessel from going under.

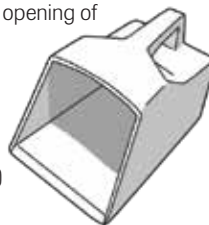
### Manual Pump

Manual pumps are designed to remove water quickly and efficiently, and are easily stowed when not required. A hose may be required to pump the water from the bottom of the boat over the side. An advantage that manual pumps have over bilge pumps is that they will still work in the event of electrical failure.



### Bailer

If your vessel is under nine metres in length a bailer can be substituted for a manual pump. The bailer can be home-made, but must be made of metal or plastic, have an opening of at least 65 sq.cm. (10 sq. in.) and hold at least 750 ml (0.2 gal) of water. A two litre milk jug with the bottom cut off (leave the cap on!) is more than sufficient.



### Bilge Pump

Some vessels have a built-in bilge pump which, along with a water detection system, can remove water automatically from the vessel. There will also be a manual override switch which allows the operator to test the system regularly.



### Loss of Power

If your vessel loses power (runs out of fuel or has a mechanical breakdown), a manual propelling device may be the only way to get the vessel and its passengers to safety. Oars or paddles are

the most common types of manual propelling devices because they are inexpensive, easy to stow and are robust.

Another useful tool is your anchor. It can be used to hold the vessel in place while minor repairs are being made. Be sure that the anchor is the correct type and length for your needs.

## Fire

Fires onboard a vessel can be especially frightening because there is little or no way of escaping them. The following equipment is required on most vessels.

### Bucket

A simple bucket can be used in most circumstances to extinguish or control an on-board fire. Although not legal requirements, the bucket should be easily seen (painted a bright colour), made of metal, and hold at least 10 litres of water. However, to satisfy legal requirements, any kind of bucket is sufficient on a small vessel. Check your bucket regularly for cracks, rust or signs of damage. The bucket should be attached to the boat with a lanyard long enough to reach the water from where it is stowed. Keep it empty and easily accessible.



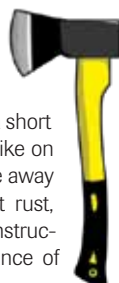
### Fire Extinguisher

A portable fire extinguisher is required on most powered vessels. It must be easily accessible and stowed on permanently affixed brackets in the helm or cockpit. It must also have a label showing that it's certified for marine use. Depending on the size of the boat, it must be either 5lb or 10lb ABC type.



### Axe

An axe can give faster access to a fire under the deck. It can also be used to cut tow lines if necessary. The best type of axe to use is a fireman's axe which has a short handle (easier storage) and a spike on one side. Be sure to store the axe away from the elements so it doesn't rust, and follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe use and maintenance of your model.



## Visual Distress Signals

In times of distress or emergency, the best way to signal for help from other boaters is to use a visual distress signal. These are typically a flashlight or flares.

In order for a flashlight to be effective, it must be water-tight and it must have batteries that are in good working condition—replace them regularly. A flashlight can be used to light your way or to signal other nearby boaters using the universal SOS signal which is three short flashes followed by three long flashes followed by three short flashes.

Flares are another way to signal other boaters that you are in distress. There are four different types of flares that will produce a bright light high above your location (parachute or multi-star), a bright light right at your location (hand-held), or a dense orange coloured smoke on the water at your location (smoke flare). Flares are certi-



fied for use for only four years from the date of manufacture. Be sure to check the expiry dates on your flares and replace when necessary.

Vessel safety is a high priority mainly because boaters do not have an easy escape if something goes wrong. Regular maintenance of the boat and the safety equipment (including life jackets/

PFDs as discussed in the last issue) is critical to a safe, enjoyable boating experience.

Be sure to know the number and type of emergency equipment required for your vessel.

**For more information on safe boating, visit [www.albertaboatsafety.com](http://www.albertaboatsafety.com) and take AHEIA's Transport Canada accredited Pleasure Craft Operator Training course.**



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# Great Meals

from the

# Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch  
Program Coordinator  
AHEIA Red Deer - North

## Brown Sugar Moose Meatloaf

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 1/2 pounds ground moose                        | 1/2 cup E.D. Smith ketchup             |
| 3/4 cup milk                                     | 1/2 cup packed brown sugar             |
| 2 large eggs, beaten                             | 1/4 teaspoon fresh ginger, ground      |
| 1 small onion, chopped                           | 1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons salt                             | Dash of Maggi liquid seasoning         |
| 1/4 teaspoon Cayenne pepper                      | 1/3 cup raw carrots, shredded          |
| 3/4 cup finely crushed unsalted saltine crackers |  |

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 5"x9" loaf pan.

Press the brown sugar in an even layer on the bottom of the prepared pan. Next, evenly spread the ketchup on top of the sugar.

Enjoy some wine!

In a mixing bowl, mix thoroughly all remaining ingredients and shape into a loaf. Place on top of the sugar/ketchup layer and press to fill-in voids.

Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour or until the juices run clear.

Serve with mashed potatoes, gravy and the vegetable of your choice. Give turnip a try.

Enjoy!

## Hamburger Vegetable Soup

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 pound ground moose, elk or deer | 2 envelopes of Lipton dry onion soup mix     |
| 4 cups chicken broth              | 4 cups water                                 |
| 1 - 15 ounce can tomato sauce     | 2 teaspoons fresh garlic, chopped            |
| 1 medium onion, chopped           | 2 stalks celery, chopped                     |
| Hot sauce to taste                | 1 - 500 gram package frozen mixed vegetables |
| 3/4 cup elbow macaroni            | Salt and pepper to taste                     |
| 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped    | 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce            |

In a sauté pan, brown ground meat over medium heat.

In a large stock pot combine broth, water, onion soup mix, tomato sauce, celery, onion, frozen vegetables, garlic and macaroni. Bring to a boil, then simmer until the macaroni is done to your likeness. Stir frequently.

Add ground beef, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, hot sauce, salt and pepper. Stir until heated through. Adjust seasoning to your taste. Serve.

This soup recipe is very simple to make and just the answer for those cooler days. Wouldn't a great loaf of rustic bread complete the meal?

Enjoy!



## Conservation Education Points of Contact

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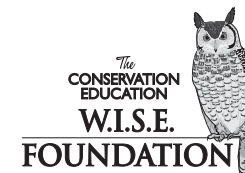
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# W.I.S.E. Award Nominations

## Recognize Conservation Excellence

Nominations for the 2020 W.I.S.E. Awards are now being accepted.

Initiated 17 years ago, the W.I.S.E. Awards recognize outstanding achievement and commitment in the area of Conservation Education and Resource Management.

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association and the Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation created the W.I.S.E. Awards. Both of these charitable foundations exist solely for the purpose of helping Albertans learn about Alberta's wildlife and the contribution that wildlife makes to the quality of our lives in Alberta. The goal is to make wildlife and fish part of the value system of all Albertans.

W.I.S.E. Award recipients can be chosen from one of the following four categories:

- W.I.S.E. Public Service Conservation Award
- W.I.S.E. Industry Conservation Award
- W.I.S.E. Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award
- W.I.S.E. Alva Bair Memorial Award

The awards will be presented at the AHEIA banquet and fundraising auction held February 8, 2020, in the BMO Centre, Palomino Room, Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta.

Please have your W.I.S.E. Award Nominations in as soon as possible for consideration.

For more W.I.S.E. Conservation Awards information and nomination forms visit the AHEIA website at [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com) or call 1-866-852-4342.

## Conservation Awards Nomination Form

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service Conservation Award       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry Conservation Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Alva Bair Memorial Award    |

*Include with your nomination, details as to why your nominee should be selected, based on the general criteria listed for each award description.*

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Please submit completed nomination form to:  
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## Recognizing Conservation Excellence



The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

# Our Mission:

*To Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan.*

### Working Principles & Elements of AHEIA's Conservation Education Programs:

- Wildlife is part of the value system of every Albertan.
- Wildlife contributes to the quality of the lives of Albertans.
- Human activity impacts wildlife.
- The behaviour of each person is important to the future of wildlife.
- Conservation Education is people helping other people to understand the needs and value of wildlife.
- Conservation Education is people enjoying wildlife and introducing other people to wildlife related activities.
- Conservation Education is people involved in wildlife education programs in formal and non-formal settings.
- Conservation Education is people advocating wildlife values to their communities.
- Conservation Education is people developing and sharing wildlife related skills.
- Conservation Education is people watching wildlife.





# AHEIA Staff Appointments



Mike Mussolum

I am pleased to announce, effective May 1, 2019, Mike Mussolum has accepted a position with AHEIA as the Project Manager for the Conservation Education Environmental C.A.R.E. Campus in Strathcona County.

He will be predominantly working remotely from a number of locations as we finalize plans for our role in the development of this exciting project!

Mike joins us upon his retirement from the Canadian Firearms Program after 19 years of service. He was the National Coordinator for Range Safety and Use of Force. He was also the Chief Firearms Officer for Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Prior to his work with the RCMP, Mike completed 38 years of service in the Canadian Army (25 years in the Regular Force and 13 years as a Reservist). He held positions as a Unit Commanding Officer, a Deputy Brigade Commander, Chief Instructor at the Canadian Army Command and Staff College, an Instructor-In-Gunnery at the Combat Training Centre and is a graduate of two Military Colleges. He is an enthusiastic hunter, competitive shooter, PADI certified SCUBA Diver and is developing his archery skills.

Mike can be reached directly on his cell at 780-984-6589 or via email at [mike@aheia.com](mailto:mike@aheia.com).



Darlene Klippenstein

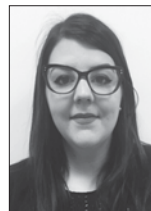
It is my pleasure to announce that, effective April 29, 2019, Darlene Klippenstein has accepted a permanent, full-time position with AHEIA as an Administrative Assistant in the Calgary office.

Darlene was born in West Germany to military parents and moved to Canada just before her first birthday. The family travelled across Canada and eventually settled in Calgary in 1980. She graduated from Mount Royal College in Supply Chain Management and spent many years in the oil and gas sector. Darlene spent six years

at the Bow Habitat Station until last fall when many staff were laid off due to a delay in renovations.

Darlene enjoys outdoor activities such as camping and fly fishing, and volunteers at the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society.

Darlene can be reached directly at 403-319-2283 and via email at [darlene@aheia.com](mailto:darlene@aheia.com).



Laura Seymour

I am very happy to announce that, effective April 29, 2019, Laura Seymour has accepted a permanent full-time position with AHEIA as an Administrative Assistant in the Calgary office.

From the age of two, Laura has resided in Alberta. She attended Bishop Grandin High School and has spent 12 years in Administration, including construction and IT, most recently with Ricoh.

Laura is also a bone artist, creating custom pieces from animal skulls. She has spent many hours researching

the laws about collecting and selling this type of art and volunteers with The Skull Store and the Toronto Museum, educating people on the logistics and international laws of selling their art.

Laura can be reached at 403-319-2278 and via email at [laura@aheia.com](mailto:laura@aheia.com).



Al Bernhard

I am very pleased to announce that, effective June 12, 2019, Al Bernhard has accepted a permanent, full-time position with AHEIA as Camp Manager for the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence.

Al was born in Calgary and has lived and worked most of his life in the area. He was introduced to Conservation Education 40 years ago when he attended the Alford Lake Camp with his grade seven class. Al credits his experiences at the camp as life changing. Taking the Hunter Education and FAC courses and learning

about hunting and fishing directed his energy from being a troublemaker to enjoying outdoor activities. Al became an avid fisherman, with fly-fishing his favourite, and camped and hunted. These days, other than fishing, his recreational activities include playing with his two grandchildren, motorcycle daytrips and spending time with his spouse, Deanna.

Al believes in the concept of Conservation Education and is very excited to be able to work at the Alford Lake camp. He brings many years of building skills and customer service to his position and is looking forward to being in such a beautiful part of the province.

Al can be reached directly at 403-619-4469 or [alfordlake@xplornet.com](mailto:alfordlake@xplornet.com).



Taryn Kerr

It is my pleasure to announce that, effective Wednesday April 17, 2019, Taryn Kerr has accepted a position with AHEIA as an Administrative Assistant at the Calgary Firearms Centre.

Taryn was raised in Brooks, Alberta. Following high school, she worked in accounting in the oil patch. She then moved on to JBS Canada, one of the country's largest beef companies, also in accounting at their Calgary head office.

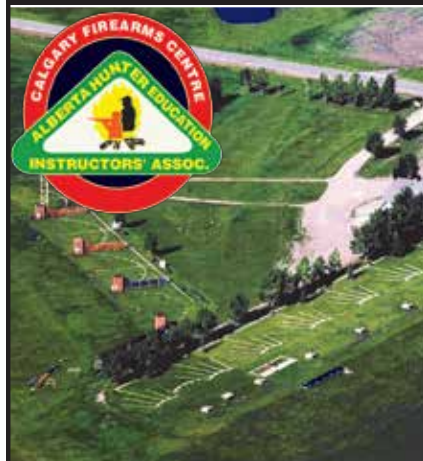
Following the birth of her son, Easton, she took a year maternity leave. Taryn lives outside of Okotoks with her husband and son, horses and cattle. She is a hunter, enjoys fishing and the outdoors.

Taryn can be reached at the Calgary Firearms Centre, (403) 256-0665, and via email at [taryn@aheia.com](mailto:taryn@aheia.com).

**Please join me in welcoming  
Mike, Al, Darlene, Laura and Taryn  
to the AHEIA family!**

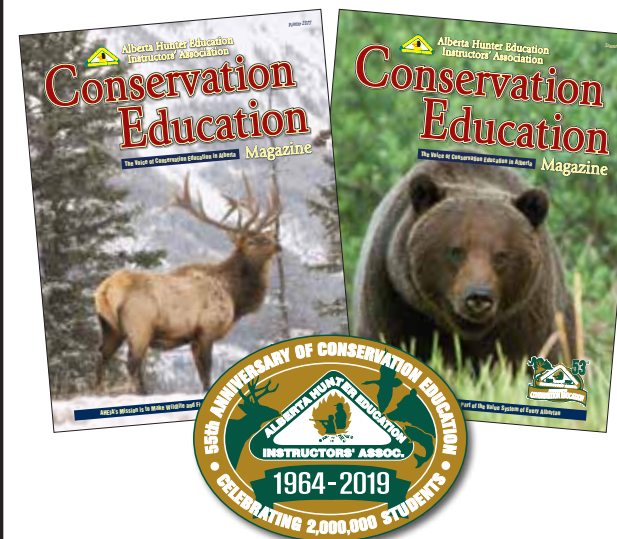
Robert A. Gruszecki, President, AHEIA

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To advertise in our magazine contact David Dolph at

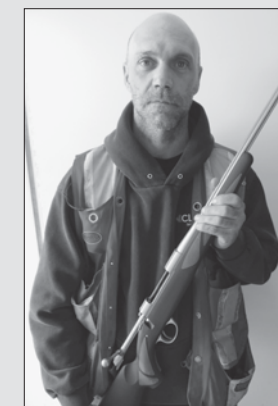
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**2nd Prize:**  
**Jim McKnight**  
is the winner of a  
**Winchester SXP Hybrid Hunter  
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