



**SHERWOOD PARK**  
FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

# **RANGE OF THOUGHTS** **WINTER 2021**





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# President's report



Our hunting season has gone for another year and hope you all were successful in your endeavors. At our house, the pheasant tastes great as do the ducks and geese. We will be having deer shortly. With the mild fall and winter, many should have been able to get out to enjoy the season without getting so cold that it was unpleasant. This year, even got to enjoy a very successful goose hunt in the snow with some good friends.

Each month, we have virtual board meetings using Teams which has proved to be a successful way of meeting during these trying times with the COVID virus. During our last such meeting, we were able to bring on the new Political Action Director, Sam Hofmeyer and Jennifer Hodge has accepted the position of 1st Vice President. Matt Meier stepped away from this position to take on the treasurer duties. With the changes, we are hoping to have a very productive year. I would like to thank those that left the board for their efforts and devotion to making the SPFGA what it is today.

With the addition of a full time employee, one can see the improvement in the facilities with the grass cut, there is wood in the woodshed at the campsite, the trails are clean of deadfall and the facility in general appears cleaner. For those using the ranges, you have probably noticed that some of the butts are now belting and not OSB boards. We are experimenting with the belting for a number of reasons. The belting we are using, has been donated, it appears to last longer than the plywood or OSB we have been using and the price of both plywood and OSB has skyrocketed. We will be continuing our experiment with this.

For those that are into archery, you were probably happy that we were finally able to get the culvert on the 3D course unplugged so you could use the course. It was nice that we were able to leave it up into the middle of October before having to take it down for the season. It is nice to see that there are still those hardy ones that are still using the target butts. It is nice to see the ladies out using this facility and hope we will be able to get many more.

We plan on continuing the free .22 ammunition for the youths participating in organized club events in 2021. For those that would like to try trap, rounds are Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons. If you are thinking about coming out, please don't let the thought missing a few targets deter you from coming. There are those there that

can help if you would like it. The other thing is that we all "DO" miss from time to time so don't let it bother you. I will use myself as an example. I went to the Tofield range to shoot trap and got a blistering 7 out of 25 on my first round there. I used excuse number 44 in that I was using factory shells verses my normal reloads.

If you have walked down to the fish pond, you will note the aeration equipment is working to keep the trout alive over the winter. Please do not go on the ice as with the aeration running, it is unsafe. We do plan on adding more trout this spring so for those enjoying fishing, get ready. One can also expect more fishing with catch limits to be allowed in our lakes this year. This is largely due to the efforts of some of our members and the Alberta Fish and Game (AFGA).

We still have the issue of the Liberal government and the order in council making a number of our firearms prohibited. The donation we made to the Canadian Coalition of Firearm Rights has helped with making the public aware of this issue and the initiated court challenge to get it removed.

For the ladies and youths selected for going to the Narrow Lake camp this past summer, your position for going to the camp has been carried over to this year. We are hoping the camp will be able to open this summer and are looking for ladies and youths that would like to go this year. See the article in this edition of *Range of Thoughts* for details on the camps and how to apply for this year's camps.

Two board members and some of our life members have volunteered to work on various committees to help the AFGA with its issues. I am sure the AFGA appreciates their assistance.

It is nice to see all returning members and those that are new. A lot of effort was put in to make the process as easy as possible and we have been able to get rid of the few glitches that did show up and for those of you that had difficulties, we apologize for any inconvenience.

With the cold weather we are having, it is hard to think about hunting however; maybe this may warm you up some and that is that snow goose hunting season starts in about a month.

I hope you all stay safe, healthy and look forward to seeing you at our facility or out enjoying the country air.

**Al Keeler**



# SPFGA Board

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## Executive

### President

president@spfga.ca  
Al Keeler

### Past President

past-president@spfga.ca  
Vacant

### Treasurer

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Matthew Meier

### 1st Vice President (Membership)

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Jennifer Hodge

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Chris Russell

### Secretary

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Davan Russell

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### Firearms (Handgun)

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### Firearms (Shotgun)

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Kelly Annesty

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### Political Action

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### Consumptive Conservation

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Bassem Salama

### Communications

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Roland Coppens

### Primitive Weapons

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Tom Opgenorth

### Environmental

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Roland Coppens

## Ketchamoot—exploration of a unique name

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### **Roland Coppens, Environmental Conservation Director**

As you know, our property in Beaver County where the hiking trails, campground, firearms ranges, and fishing pond are located is called the **Ketchamoot Creek Recreation and Conservation Area** (*'the Ketchamoot Creek facility'* for short). Now, Ketchamoot—unique word, right? Ever wonder what its origin is?

It's a Cree name. The name of a prominent Cree Chief, actually.

Throughout the 1860s, a wide zone of tension existed between the Blackfoot, Stoney, and Cree in the area between today's Ponoka and Wainwright. The Blackfoot were involved in conflict with Cree in the area around Beaverhill Lake where our facility is located. Ketchamoot, a Cree Chief, was entreated to come from the Fort Pitt area, just west of today's Paradise Hill, Saskatchewan, and become directly involved in the conflict. Ketchamoot arrived with a force of 400 and, joining with other Cree living in today's Beaverhills Biosphere,

met the Blackfoot in battle south of today's Wetaskiwin. While victory in this battle fell to the Cree, general turmoil continued in the area for several years afterward and did not ease until the signing of a peace treaty in the late 1860s. Ketchamoot remained in the Beaverhill Lake area, spending his remaining years here. Following his death, he was buried on the banks of the creek that would bear his name.

Ketchamoot Creek, which sometimes appearing on maps as 'Katchemut Creek', runs through the area near our facility. With its headwaters in Stove Lake just to the west of our facility, it passes through the Gambling Lake wetlands, running through Beaver County just north of Tofield and ultimately emptying into Beaverhill Lake.

And so it was that in 1974, when a then-young SPFGA purchased the quarter section the ranges would become built on, the decision was made to choose a name for the property that offered homage to the area's First Nations heritage and reflected its Beaver County location.





As part of a general drying trend of the entire Cooking Lake watershed since the 1920s, Ketchamoot Creek now only flows periodically, typically only during spring runoff or heavy rains. This may be due to a general drying trend related to climate change, but man-made changes to the Beaver Hills forest for agriculture no doubt accelerated the natural water regulatory system. Rather than percolating through the upper mossy duff

layers of forest floor, spring snow melt and summer rains now run across cleared terrain, becoming mainly lost through surface evaporation. The preservation of terrain in the Beaverhills Biosphere in its natural state, a focus of the SPFGA, the Beaver Hills Biosphere Initiative, and other conservation partners, is key in maintaining a healthy balance between the needs of man and nature.

**Taken with adaptation from (and are also great links to read):**

**[Beaver Hills Country: A History of Land and Life, Graham A. MacDonald, Athabasca University Press, 2009](#)**

**[Wikipedia: Fort Pitt](#)**

**[Hackett P. Historical Mourning Practices Observed among the Cree and Ojibway Indians of the Central Subarctic, Ethnohistory. 2005;52:503-32](#)**

**[Prairie Water: Wildlife at Beaverhills Lake, Alberta, Dick Dekker, University of Alberta Press, 1991](#)**

**[Angler's Atlas: Katchemut Creek](#)**



# Meet the Ketchamoot Creek facility

**Roland Coppens, Communications Director**

When most members think of the Ketchamoot Creek facility, what they're likely picturing is that part of the property where the ranges are and where the campground, fish pond and clubhouse are located. While it's true that that is part of the facility, the whole facility itself is *actually quite a bit larger* than that. In this article we take a look at the whole facility and its various parts.

First though, let's start with a bit of history.

The Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association formed in 1962 with 30 members. It amalgamated later that year with another club in the area, the Sherwood Park Pistol and Rifle Club. The Association's original range facilities were located on a property four miles (6.4 km) south of Sherwood Park. In 1972 however, encroaching development forced the closure of these facilities and a search for a permanent replacement began.

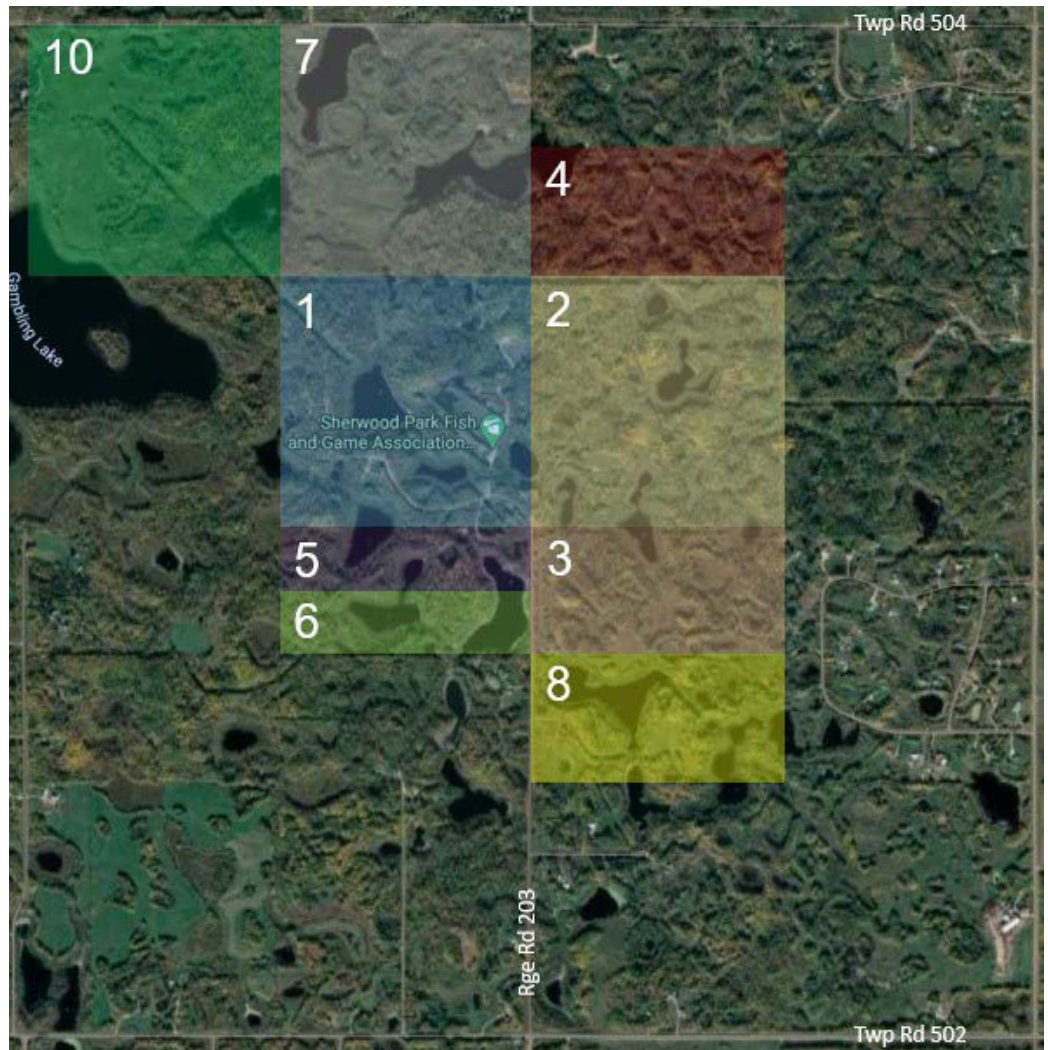
In 1974, the quarter section the club amenities like the campground, ranges and fish pond are currently located on, known as 'the Range Quarter', was purchased (**property number 1** on the map).

The club continued purchasing land in the years following, with the dual purposes of preserving as much of the virgin aspen parkland forest in the surrounding areas as possible, and to ensure a buffer from encroaching development.

The quarter section to the east of the Range Quarter—the property where the hiking trails are located—was purchased in 1987 and became known as 'the Conservation Quarter' (**number 2**). The 80 acres immediately to the south of the Conservation Quarter were purchased in 1989 (**number 3**). When the owners of the quarter section to the north of the Conservation Quarter subdivided their land in 1990, the 80 acres directly adjoining the Conservation Quarter were

purchased (**number 4**). Later that same year, the owners of the 40 acres immediately to the south of the Range Quarter, who lived in BC, agreed to sell (**number 5**). And, in 1994, the 40 acres directly to the south of that were purchased (**number 6**).

Further attempts to purchase surrounding land were made in the following years without success until, in 2005, the quarter section to the north of the Range Quarter became available (**number 7**). Increases in land prices in the intervening years necessitated the involvement of the Wildlife Trust Fund, the Alberta Conservation Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and AFGA Zone 5 as partners in the purchase.



In 2019, two additional parcels were purchased. The south half of the quarter section to the south of the Conservation Quarter (number 8), as well as an additional 80 acres a couple of kilometers to the south and east, just inside Camrose County at W4-20-50-NE (53°17'25.7"N 112°50'12.3"W) (**number 9**).



Not part of the Ketchamoot Creek facility proper is the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) Gambling Lake property (number 10). This quarter section was purchased in 2013 by the NCC as part of a partnership bid to prevent future rezoning and subdivision of this key property which, given its downrange location, would threaten the continued existence of our range.

One of the Board's long-term goals is the continual purchase of surrounding properties, setting aside funds to facilitate this when opportunities arise. We hope to continue to expand our buffer, and add to the lands we hold for conservation.

**Taken with adaptation from (and are also great links to read):**

[SPFGA Website: About Us](#)

[Nature Conservancy of Canada – Gambling Lake](#)

[Beaver County Council Meeting, December 19, 2012](#)

[Beaver County Council Meeting, February 20, 2013](#)



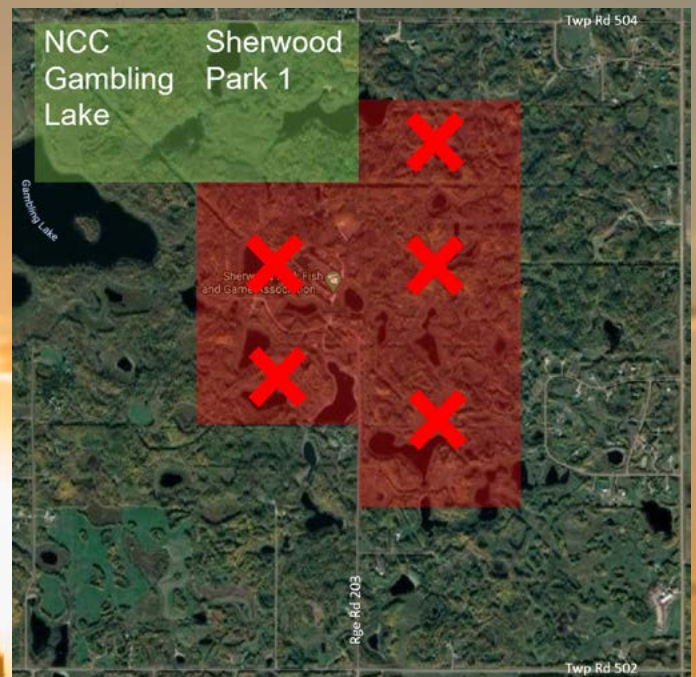
# Hunting on SPFGA properties?

***Bassem Salama, Consumptive Conservation Director***

***Roland Coppens, Environmental Conservation Director***

A common question we're asked by members is "Are there areas we're able to hunt on?" The answer to this is yes, but because these spaces directly adjoin other areas where hunting is not permitted, it's important to clearly understand where the boundaries are between 'hunting allowed' and 'hunting prohibited'.

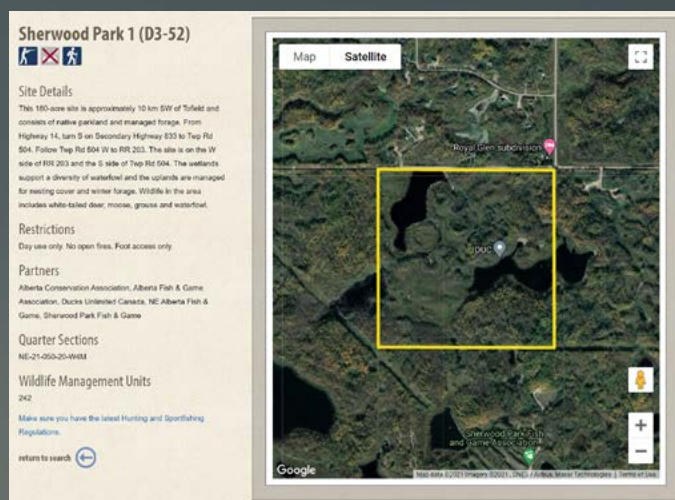
At present, the following three properties are accessible for hunting: Sherwood Park 1, NCC Gambling Lake, and the Camrose Property. The remainder of the Ketchamoot Creek facility properties are prohibited for hunting use because of the proximity of neighbors and/or use by other members for other purposes.



## Sherwood Park 1

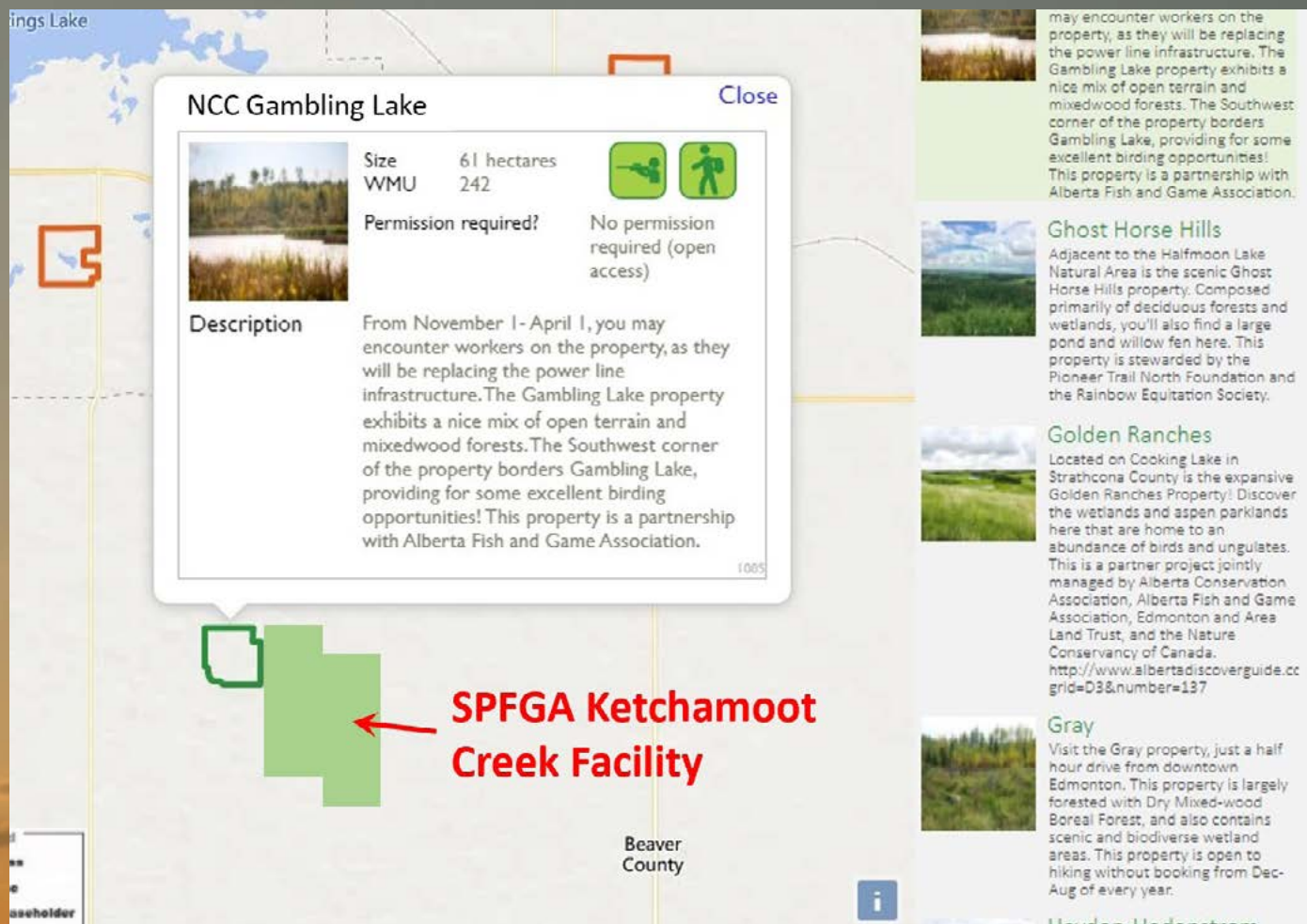
In the article *Meet the Ketchamoot Creek facility* in this issue of *Range of Thoughts*, the various properties making up the facility are explored. Of those, the north-most quarter section purchased in 2005 and held in joint title with the Alberta Fish and Game Association (**number 7** on the map in that article) is huntable.

This quarter section also appears in the **Alberta Conservation Association's Discovery Guide** as '**Sherwood Park 1**', and is accessible for hunting and hiking access with the limitations of: "**Day use only. No open fires. Foot access only.**"



## NCC Gambling Lake

While not actually a part of the Ketchamoot Creek facility per se, the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Gambling Lake property sits directly adjacent to it. This property is **number 10** on the map in the *Meet the Ketchamoot Creek facility* article in this issue and is huntable without requiring prior permission (many NCC properties on **their property finder** require the request of prior permission, but NCC Gambling Lake does not). Terms and conditions for access to this property can be found [here](#).



# Hunting on SPFGA properties? (continued)

## The Camrose Property

The most recently purchased of properties, this is number 9 on the map in the Meet the Ketchamoot Creek facility article in this issue and sits a few kilometers away from the Ketchamoot Creek facility. Conditions for access can be found on our website.

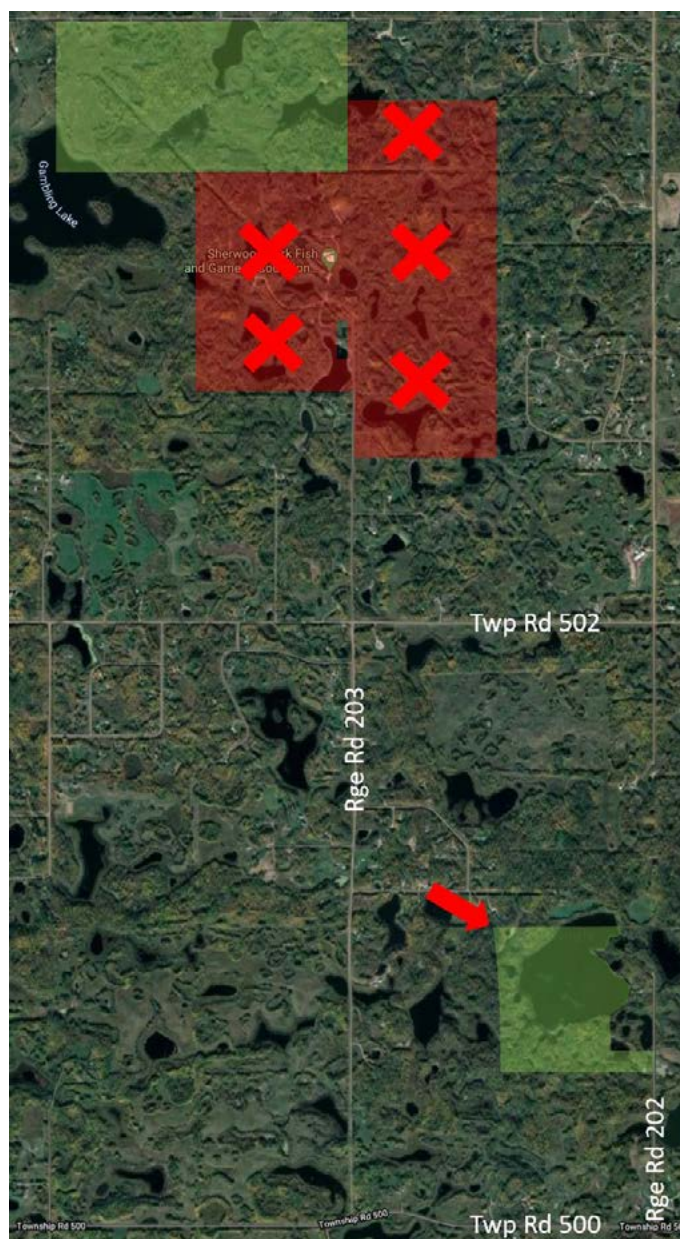


## Potential future directions

If there is sufficient member interest, we could hold information sessions about these properties to help orient your way in & out – where to park, where the entry points are, where the paths are, and go through the conditions for access of each, etc.

Then, even when the new hunter has a place to hunt, often the barrier to starting out revolves around the 'how', because let's be honest – there's a fair bit the new hunter needs to know and not always a lot of great ways to access quality information to build that knowledge. So, one idea we'd like to explore if there's sufficient interest is to launch a program that pairs beginning hunters with experienced mentors and use these properties as a beginning place to start that knowledge transfer.

We'll include a poll on each program in upcoming editions of **Bullet Points** (our semi-monthly news and information email, which includes a regularly running poll segment called **What's Your Thought**) to gauge your level of interest in these ideas.



**Looking for other places to hunt?** – join us in the **Spring 2021 Range of Thoughts** issue, where we'll look at properties held by other land trusts – Ducks Unlimited, Alberta Conservation Association, and Nature Conservancy of Canada – and go through using their property finders to locate hunting opportunities

# CCFR Injunction Hearing review

## **Sam Hofmeyer, Political Action Director**

A motion was passed at the May 12, 2020 meeting of the SPFGA Board, to make a \$20,000 financial donation to the legal challenge mounted by the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights (CCFR) to the May 1st Order In Council (OIC) – “Amending the Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited, Restricted or Non-Restricted” ([SOR/2020-96](#)). The main part of the case is a constitutional challenge to the OIC, stating it as being in contravention to the Canadian Constitution.

**Editor’s note:** Following the announcement of our \$20,000 donation in May, Fish and Game clubs across Canada followed suit, announcing club-level support of whatever they were able to field. That effect rippling across the fabric of clubs in Canada like ours is something we can all take moment of pride in.

On November 11, 2020, the CCFR, along with Rodney Giltaca, Laurence Knowles, Ryan Steacy, Maccabee Defense Inc., Wolverine Supplies Ltd., and Magnum Machine Ltd, filed for an interlocutory injunction (a court order to compel or prevent a party from doing certain acts pending the final determination of the case) to stay the effects of the OIC coming into force. These individuals and companies were specifically selected by the legal team to be representative because of the specific effects the OIC had on each of them.

The injunction hearing was heard via Zoom conference on January 18, 2021. At the request of the CCFR there were a limited number of “seats” available for the public to watch the preceding live, however it was made very clear that it was not to be recorded in any way. It was initially stated there were 800 “seats” however this was later increased to 1,000. I was fortunate to be one of those 1,000 public members, and was able to listen to the entire hearing.

The following overview is based on my recollection, as the proceedings were not recorded. However, Edmonton firearms lawyer, Ian Runkle did a play-by-play on Twitter feed if you’re interested in another perspective: <https://twitter.com/IanRunkle> (click on ‘Tweets’ and scroll to January 18).



# CCFR Injunction Hearing review (continued)

## The players:

- **Associate Chief Justice Jocelyne Gagne:**

A lawyer since 1990, appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada by Stephen Harper in 2012, and has been Associate Chief Justice since 2018.

## CCFR

- **Lead Counsel Laura Warner:** JSS Barristers – constitutional and judicial arguments.
- **Arkadi Bouchelev:** Bouchelev Law – technical arguments.
- **Christine Generoux:** self-represented – heritage and cultural arguments.

## Government of Canada (GoC)

- **Robert MacKinnon:** General Counsel, Justice Canada, Ottawa.
- **James Gorham:** Senior Counsel, Justice Canada, Toronto.
- **Jordan Milne:** Counsel, Justice Canada, Calgary.

The case opened with Justice Gagne giving a brief overview and summary of what was to follow. CCFR Lead Counsel Laura Warner's presentation followed. Warner's arguments and statements were quite and focused heavily on the application of the laws and standards around the granting of injunctions. Warner was clearly very well prepared and rarely looked at notes or a script and had a very clear and logical

delivery of her subject matter. It appeared to me that Justice Gagne was getting a very clear picture (even if this layman was not) of what Warner was putting forward and was engaged with her presentation and nodded along taking the odd note on paper in front of her. Some other, more legally attuned people on social media made comments to the effect of "*Laura was on-point*", "*laser focused*" and "*devastating to the government's defence*". I tend to agree based on the 80% I understood, I'm sure the other 20% was even better.

Arkadi Bouchelev followed Warner. His presentation was very technical, but anyone with a PAL should have been able to follow him easily. He focused a lot on the sections of the OiC dealing with the "20mm bore" and the "10,000 joule" restrictions and how these were impossible to pin to a specific firearm based on the detail and wording in the OiC. He pointed out the arbitrary nature of the entire OiC and how it was impossible for the regular PAL/RPAL holder to know if, how, or when they were in violation of the Criminal Code when there is no standard of application for how firearms are categorized in the Firearms Reference Table (FRT) maintained by the RCMP.

The argument for both sides regularly cited the written testimony and subsequent cross-examination by Warner of the former head of the RCMP's Specialised Firearms Support Service (the RCMP division responsible for firearms classification and maintaining the FRT) Murray Smith. Mr. Smith's testimony,



expert witness, background, and accountability were severely undermined by very targeted arguments from the entire CCFR legal team, but especially Bouchelev.

Last up was Christine Generoux. ....wow, was she impressive, poignant, logical, heartfelt and professional. I assumed from her delivery that she was a lawyer just like Warner and Bouchelev, I did not have any idea that she wasn't until sometime later and then found out this is not even the first time she has self-represented in court. Generoux focused on the cultural and heritage effects of the OiC. Her over-arching statement that echoed with me was the idea that Canada has had a gun culture since before it was Canada. It is intrinsically linked to First Nations traditions, sports, hunting, and trapping and many other aspects of Canadian heritage and identity that we deem as sacred. As such, firearms cannot and should not be separated from our culture. I think that sentiment resonates with a broad swath of the SPFGA membership, and I thank Ms. Generoux for articulating that key message so well in court.

I'm going to sum up my opinion for all three members counsel for Justice Canada in the same terms I summed up Christine: Wow. Wow here being an equal measure of surprise and joy...because they simply were not on the ball. There was stumbling over words, problems with their computers and technology, losing parts of the scripts they relied so heavily on to make their arguments with Justice Gagne that they were unable to respond in some instances. I actually went from joy at how well it was going for us to sadness that this is the type of representation our tax dollars brings us. Justice Gagne engaged them on several occasions to ask for clarity, not for reasons of language barrier or technical understanding, but because the GoC legal team was literally contradicting themselves or counterpointing their own arguments. When asked for clarity, the GoC counsel would repeat the same information. When Justice Gagne would point out their contradiction, they were unable to respond.

As positive as all this has been, the burden of proof on the CCRF legal team to prove the injunction should be granted is substantially higher than the "beyond reasonable doubt" required in the actual court challenge. However, if any team managed to present this proof to the degree required, in my opinion, this team did.

As was expected, to give the matter proper deliberation, Justice Gagne has reserved her decision for a later date. So...stay tuned for another update when the decision is handed down.

Meanwhile, if you have comments or questions, I invite you to head on over to ***The Ketchamoot Discourse***, our Facebook discussion group. Alternatively, you can also reach me by email at [political.action@spfga.ca](mailto:political.action@spfga.ca).

**February 9 Update:** Justice Gagne rendered ***her decision*** today. In it, she dismissed the request for an interlocutory injunction to stay the effects of the OiC coming into force, she rejected arguments opposing Murray Smith's affidavit as admissible evidence, and she ordered the applicants to pay the respondent's legal fees. So, not positive. But, not unexpected either—it's quite rare for an application for injunction against legislation to be successful, as the burden of proof for the injunction is higher than for the main application. A bit disappointing, but this wasn't the main event, just an application to provide a stay until the main event. The main hearing on the case won't come until later in the year, the date for which hasn't been set yet. This is just the beginning of a long fight that will likely end up before the Supreme Court of Canada.

#### **Additional reading:**

**CCFR write-up:** <https://firearmrights.ca/en/ccfr-injunction-history-in-the-books/>

**Notice of Motion:** <https://firearmrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/CCFR-v-Canada.-Notice-of-Motion-Injunction-00047724xD5450-1.pdf>

**Objection to Mr Smith testimony:**  
<https://firearmrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/Notice-of-Objection-to-Proposed-Expert-Witness-Murray-Smith-00048988xD5450.pdf>

**OiC filing:** <http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2020/2020-05-01-x3/html/sor-dors96-eng.html>

**Questioning of Murray Smith (400+ pages so buckle in):** <https://firearmrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/Questioning-Transcript-of-Murray-Smith-Part1.pdf>

**Murray Smith matter continued:** <https://firearmrights.ca/wp-content/uploads/Transcript-of-Murray-Smith-continued.pdf>

**TheGunBlog.ca – Federal Court Dismisses Injunction Motions to Stop Liberal+RCMP Attacks (February 9,2021):** <https://thegunblog.ca/2021/02/09/federal-court-dismisses-injunction-motions-to-stop-liberalrcmp-attacks/>



# Club Communications and Ketchamoot Creek access

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## **Roland Coppens, Communications Director**

As laid out in our [Membership Terms and Conditions](#), the SPFGA uses email as the primary method of communicating with you. Using email keeps costs down, while also providing a quick, reliable, and traceable form of communication.

To ensure you stay regularly informed, we maintain three streams of communications:

- **Range of Thoughts:** quarterly club newsletter (you're reading it right now!)
- **Bullet Points:** semi-monthly news and information
- **Safe and Sound:** occasional facility safety and system messages

We encourage you to obtain your own personal email address if you don't have one and ensure that this address is included in their member record. You can then use that email address to subscribe to all three streams of communication and stay current and informed on club matters.

Of the three communication streams, receiving **Safe and Sound** by email is a **compulsory condition** to maintaining

an active gate access card, due to the facility safety messaging that these emails provide.

It's your legal right to unsubscribe from any of these streams of communication, or to not use email at all. However, the gate access card of members who do not receive **Safe and Sound** by email will be deactivated. You will still be able to access the property, you simply need to contact the office by telephone at 780-467-0085 during office hours in advance, each time you wish to access the property. This is necessary so you can be informed of any closures, or whether there are any specific conditions, concerns, or hazards you should be aware of. Once this is done, your gate access card will then be activated for a 72-hour period.

Electronic transmission via email of these three communications streams is included in your membership fee. But, if you'd prefer to receive club communications in print via Canada Post instead, you can do so for an additional charge of **\$75 per year**. If this is something you would prefer, you can arrange this by contacting the office at **780-467-0085** during office hours.

# SPFGA-branded apparel now available!

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**Free shipping on all orders of \$75 or more**  
**Orders shipped within 4-7 business days**  
**No minimum quantities**

## **Roland Coppens, Communications Director**

In the [May 24 issue of Bullet Points](#), we polled your interest in SPFGA-branded merchandise. Your response, which we reported in the [June 20 issue of Bullet Points](#), was quite clear with 85.2% of the 277 respondents saying that they would be interested in this.

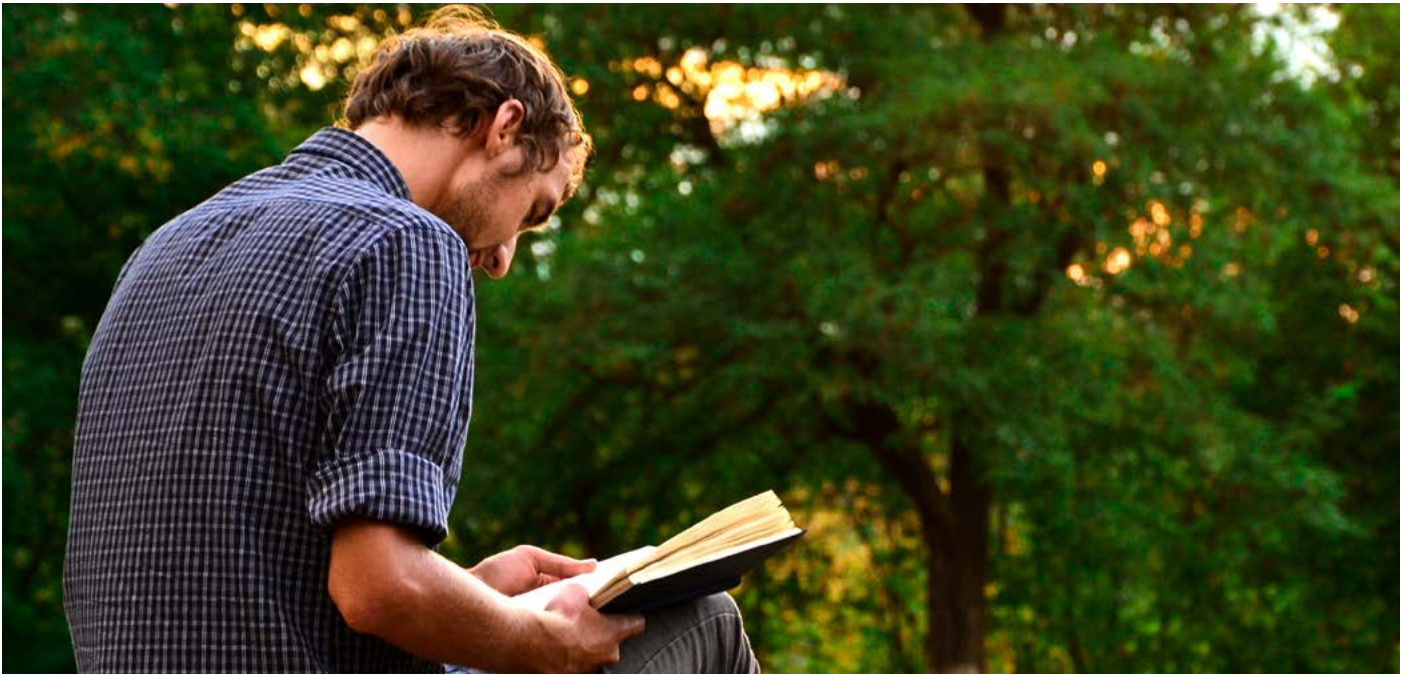
So, we set out to find a partner with which to do this in a way that didn't require us to hold merchandise, set up a store front, or handle returns. Our search led us to Entripy, a Canadian retailer of custom-made apparel, whose storefront works exactly this way. Our thanks go out to Charlie Hutchings, SPFGA member and our past Treasurer, for doing the groundwork and SPFGA member Vance Yung for guidance on design decisions.

Our SPFGA store front with them is now open: <https://spfga.entripyshops.com/>. They have a broad range of offerings—click on the link and go have a look around!

We look forward to seeing you out at the facility in them!

# Library donations

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## ***Roland Coppens, Communications Director***

An important aspect of our activity as an organization to foster the normalization of hunting, angling, trapping, and the shooting sports. One expression of this, consistent with our role as a corporate citizen, is to ensure that book titles on those topics are available in the collections of libraries in the communities our membership calls home.

To that end, the SPFGA budgets an annual \$500 donation to libraries in Strathcona County, Tofield, and Edmonton to foster the addition of titles to their collection that reflect our mission statement:

*To promote through education, lobbying, and programs the conservation and utilization of fish and wildlife resources, the protection and enhancement of habitat, and the safe and responsible practice of the shooting sports.*

For 2020, these funds were donated to the Strathcona County Library (SCL). Following a good deal of research, I supplied a substantial list of suggested titles for SCL librarians to consider. I am happy to report that the following titles will be added to their collection (Amazon links are used here for simple ease of linking to each book's details):

## **Knowledge and Information**

[Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Western North America, Fifth Edition](#)

[Bats: A World of Science and Mystery, Fenton & Simmons](#)

[Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting](#)

## **Consumptive Conservation**

[The Complete Guide to Hunting, Butchering, and Cooking Wild Game: Volume 1: Big Game](#)

[The Complete Guide to Hunting, Butchering, and Cooking Wild Game: Volume 2: Big Game](#)

[The Pocket Guide to Field Dressing, Butchering, and Cooking Deer: A Hunter's Quick Reference Book](#)

## **Shooting Sports**

[The ABCs of Reloading: The Definitive Guide for Novice to Expert](#)

These books are on order with the SCL and will be placed in their collection when received. Some additional titles from my suggested list will be added closer to the fall hunting season when their newer editions become available. We will update you in a future issue of *Range of Thoughts* when that happens.

A similar donation will be made in 2021 to the Edmonton Public Library, and in 2022 to the Tofield Library.



# A big deal about birdhouses – Part II

**Roland Coppens, Environmental Conservation Director**

*This is a continuation of an article which began on page 15 of the [Fall 2020 issue of Range of Thoughts](#), detailing the nesting box update project at our Ketchamoot Creek facility.*

In Part I of this article, we presented the current state of the tree swallow nesting boxes on our property, a sizeable proportion of which had reached the end of their service life. The plans for the project to build their replacements were presented in detail in that article, including the assembling of the build kits. Here in Part II, we look at the building and installation of the new nesting boxes.

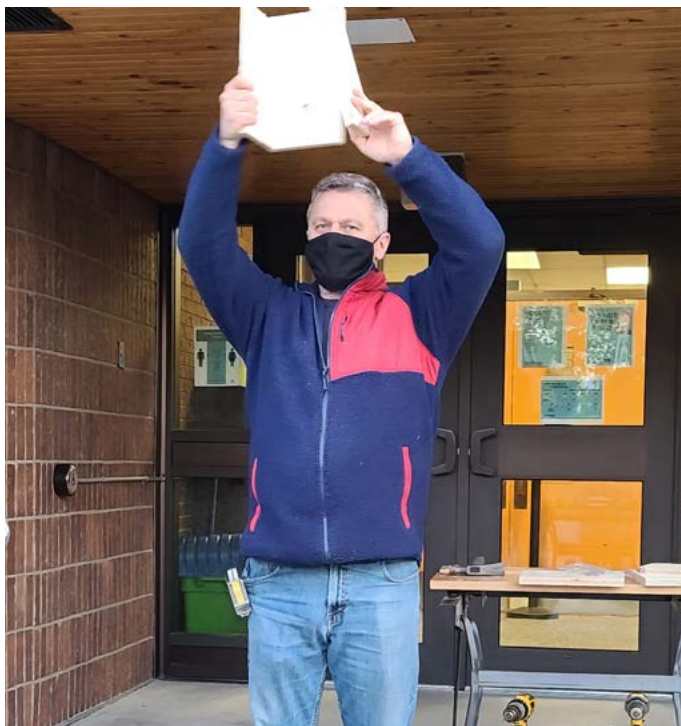
With the kit assembly process complete, 75 of the Golondrinas design and 75 of the Beaverhill design were distributed to the 203 Sherwood Park Scout Group to be assembled. Kelly Annesty, our Programs Director, undertook the monumental task of organizing the distribution of the kits with the assistance of her husband, Nick.



Appropriately physically distanced and masked build sessions were held to help get the process going.

A further 10 kits (5 of each design) were distributed to Chris Russell, 2nd Vice President (Operations) for construction by our local Junior Forest Warden Group for assembly.

Each box was individually numbered and the name of child who built it was recorded (more on this in a moment).



The 160 completed boxes, 80 of each design, were collected and brought to the Ketchamoot Creek facility for installation. To put into perspective what 160 nesting boxes looks like, my 5'x10' utility trailer in the photo on the facing page has slightly less than a third of that amount on it.

Over two sessions, on October 24 and 31, three and a half Gator -and- trailer loads like that pictured on the facing page were involved in the installation of these nesting boxes.

On October 24, my son Bennett and I met with Nick Annesty, Nick's son Ethan, and Roland Carignan to begin the installation process. Practicing physical distancing, we worked in two teams – my son and I in the Gator, travelling ahead to assess the suitability of existing boxes and placing new boxes for installation—and Nick, Roland, and Ethan following behind to do the installation process.

As we went along, because one aspect of this process is scientific study to determine if one nesting box design is superior to the other, the two designs were installed in alternation. And, because another aspect of the process will

be an orienteering project for the youth who built the boxes for us, the GPS coordinates for each nesting box was recorded as it was installed. Later in the year after the spring thaw, scouters from the 203 Sherwood Park Scout Group will be given the coordinates for the nesting box they built and will use a map and compass to find it on the property.



## A big deal about birdhouses – Part II (continued)

*Tree Swallows prefer some space between from their neighbors. You can see that in this photo – as you sight down the fence line, you can see the to-be-installed nesting boxes sitting atop their fenceposts with the required ~25 m spacing.*

Nesting boxes which were found to be unserviceable during the installation project were removed and placed in the incinerator for destruction.



The map below shows the installation locations for new and existing nesting boxes (red lines), as well as the planned locations for the remaining 100 nesting boxes we will build this year to complete the project (blue lines).



### Reactions to Part I of this article

#### Making build kits available for purchase

Following the release of the Fall 2020 issue of Range of Thoughts, a fair number of members reached out to inquire whether these nesting box kits would be available for purchase.

I hadn't anticipated that there would be this level of interest, so this came as a bit of a surprise. But, in the November 28 issue of Bullet Points we included a poll to get a better sense of what the interest might be in purchasing nesting box kits. 61.9% of respondents to that survey indicated they would be interested in one or more kits.

So, as we prepare to prepare for the final phase of this project, we will put out a call for interest in March and members can purchase kits to build boxes for their own properties.

### Interest from other conservation organizations

I was contacted by a gentleman from Saskatchewan named Alfred Hovdestad who had read Part I of this article and mentioned his interest in running a similar program at the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. We shared our modified designs with him so that he could have his materials ready for their youth camps this summer.

Alfred said he was looking forward to this issue to see Part II of the article. So, we pass a hello to you Alfred and look forward to word back from you about your project—we'd be very happy to host a write up here with photos!

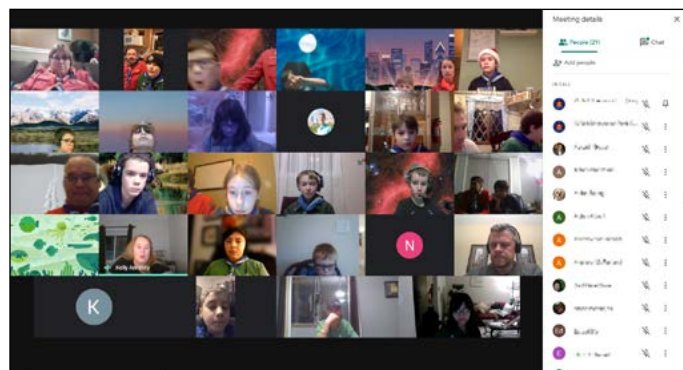
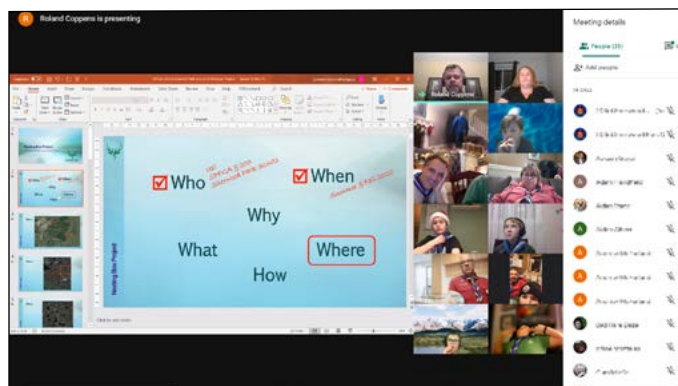
### Connecting generations

I received emails and photos telling stories how these nesting boxes created connections across generations, with grandparents helping grandchildren build homes for birds and helping understand why this is an important thing to do.

### Presentation to youth

I was invited to give a presentation on November 30 to the 203 Sherwood Park Scout Group to build their understanding of the overall purpose of the project. Below is that presentation and a couple of screenshots of the scouters in attendance. They're a high-energy group, but this really seemed to hold their attention.

*(Prior permission of the 203 Sherwood Park Scout Group was obtained to post these photos.)* [\(Click here to open\)](#)



### Next Steps

Beginning mid-summer 2021, we will collect occupancy and nestling count data from each box. The plan is to pool that with data collected by ornithologists from the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. Collectively, these data will be used to determine whether there is a superior design for Tree Swallows nesting in the Beaverhills Biosphere. I intend on submitting this as a paper for publication in a wildlife biology journal, listing these youth groups as co-investigators in what truly is a grassroots citizen science project.

One nesting box has been reserved for mounting near the garage on the facility. A wireless webcam will be installed in this nesting box, with the plan of streaming still images and live footage to our web page. We can all watch the hatching and growth of a Tree Swallow brood over the summer!



# Sighting in your optics

## Tom Opgenorth, Firearms Director (Rifle)

Recently, a member contacted me for guidance on how to go about zeroing his scope, calibrated in Minutes of Angle, on our ranges which are in meters. This is a reasonably common question, so I thought I would spend some time coming to an improved understanding of this.

When it comes to zeroing an optic, such as a scope, red dot, or even iron sights the process is:

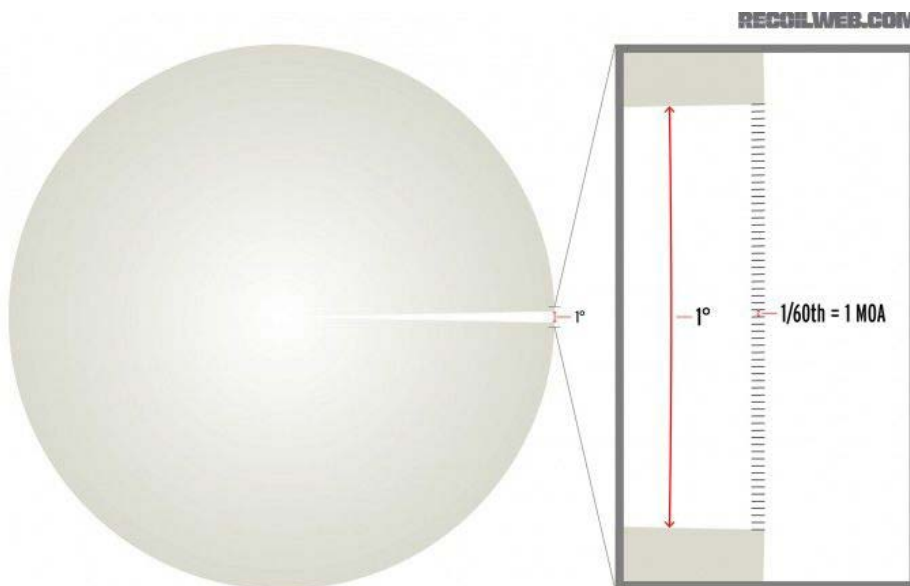
1. Set a target up the distance you want to zero your optics at. For a centrefire rifle, 100 yards or meters is a common choice, though 200 yards or meters is often used for hunting purposes. For a rimfire rifle, 50 yards or meters a common distance
2. Set up on stable platform such as a bench. Then, selecting an aiming point on the target, fire at least one shot.
3. Go up to your target and measure how far your projectile's impact is from the point you were aiming. Important: leave the target, do not disturb it.
4. Translate linear measurement into an angular measurement that are used by your aiming system. (The content of this article is focused on this step.)
5. Use the angular measurement make adjustments to the aiming system on your firearm. The manual for your firearm or aiming system will tell you how to make adjustments.
6. Verify your adjustment by returning to step 2 and work forward. When you're happy with the results (i.e. your projectiles are impacting at or near your aiming point), your optics are sighted in.

The distance between your point of aim and the projectile's point of impact in Step 3 is a simple linear measurement. That is, you use a ruler and simply measure the distance between them. Optics however are instruments for angular measurement, so some understanding is needed to translate measurements from our target paper to our scope.

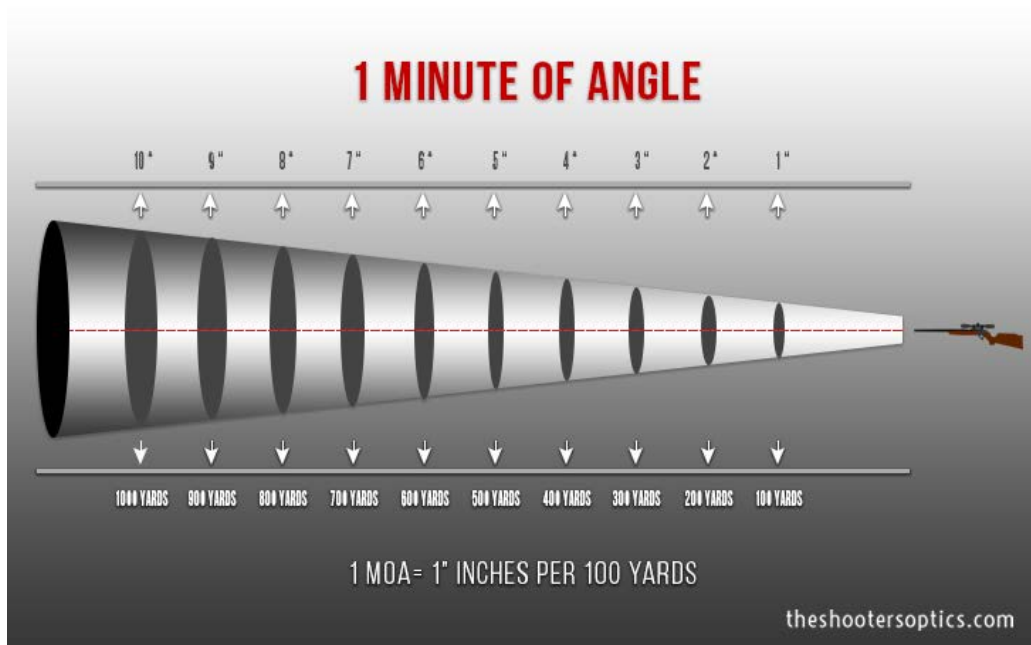
Optics are typically calibrated in one of two different units of angular measurement:

### MOA (minutes of angle)

A circle is divided into 360 degrees. Degrees, however, are far too coarse a measurement. If you were to hold a view that is 1 degree wide, at 100 yards that view would be about 5 feet wide. Clearly, a smaller unit is needed. The subunit in the Imperial system for subdividing angles is the 'minute' – one sixtieth (1/60th) of a degree. So, a 'minute of angle' is an angle that is 1/60th of a degree.



In application to a firearm on a range, that angle forms a cone 1/60th of a degree in shape. The base of that cone, the further you move from the tip of the cone, gets wider. The dimensions of the cone's base is expressed using Imperial units. For example: at 100 yards the diameter of a circle that subtends (covers) the base of the cone at that distance is 1.047". In common parlance, this is phrased as "one MOA at 100 yards is 1.047". At 200 yards, one MOA is 2.094", 3.141" at 300 yards, and so on. Often, for ease of use, these fractional inch measures are rounded to whole inches, making it "one MOA at 100 yards is 1", 2" at 200 yards, 3" at 300 yards, etc. This rounding simplification, called a "Shooter's MOA" is accurate enough for most people and simplifies the math involved.



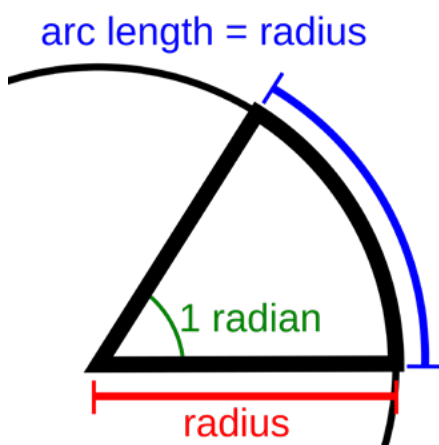
## MRAD (milliradians)

MRAD is a parallel idea to this, with measurements based on the Metric system. One 'radian' is the angle formed when the length of a circular arc equals the radius of the circle. One 'milliradian' is an angle one thousandth (1/1000th) of that.

Just as with MOA, the further the distance the bigger the circle that covers the base of the cone at that distance. One MRAD is 10 cm at 100 m, 20 cm at 200 m, 30 cm at 300 m, and so on.

## How to use this information

Now here's where some people feel caught. Because their scope is in MOA and our ranges are in meters, the worry is that they're incompatible. That's not the case though. Yes, it's slightly handier if the system of measurement for your scope matches the system of measurement for your range, but it's not necessary.



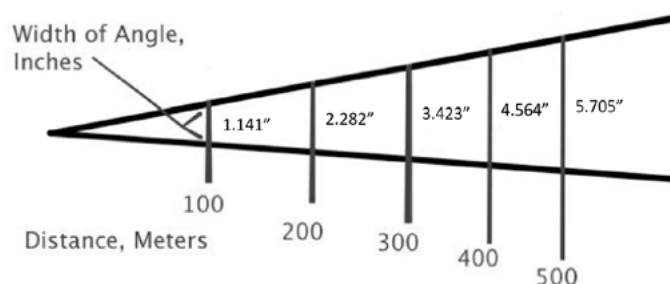
The truth here is that you can use any distance expressed in either yards or meters to zero optics of either type. The only necessary ingredients are: knowing the distance you're shooting at, in yards or meters, and the width of the circle that covers the base of the cone at that distance. It's that second part—the width of the circle at a given distance—that makes it easier to operate at distances that are multiples of 100, as the values for that for each system are commonly available for distances expressed in multiples of either 100 m or 100 yards.

For our ranges, which are in meters, simply use these values:

**MRAD:** one MRAD is 1 cm at 100 m, 2 cm at 200 m, 3 cm at 300 m.

**MOA:** one MOA is 1.141" at 100 m, 2.282" at 200 m, 3.423" at 300 m.

## 1 Minute of Angle

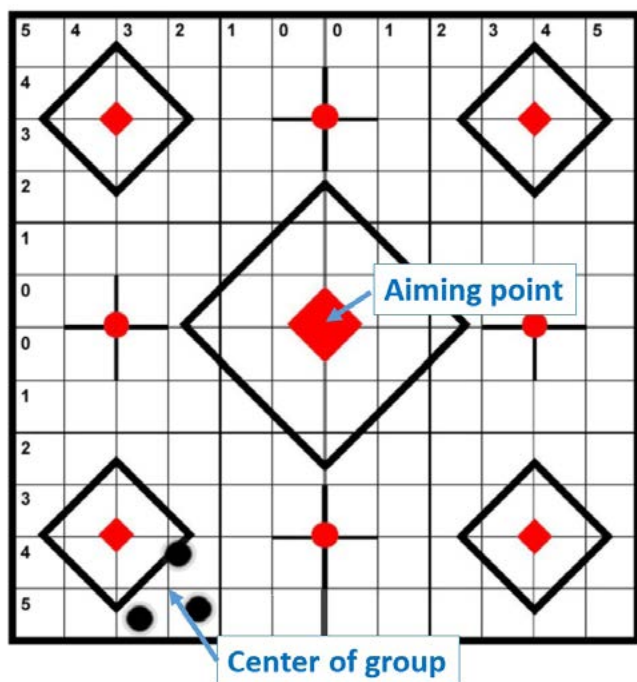


# Sighting in your optics (continued)

## A real world example

I have a rifle chambered in 6.5x55 Mauser with a Bushnell Elite 3200 10x calibrated in MOA. The dials on my scope tell me that each “click” on my adjustment turrets is  $\frac{1}{4}$ ” at 100 yards, or 0.25 MOA.

If I wanted to put a 100 m zero on this rifle (that is to say, have it so that the bullet impacts the target paper at the point that I had my crosshairs on when shooting at 100 m), I would go to one of the 100 m lanes and fire a three-round group. I would estimate the center of that group, then measure the horizontal offset and the vertical offset from that center point to the point at which I was aiming.



From the target, my group was 5” low and 3” to the left of my aiming point at 100 m (each square on this target is 1”).

To make my elevation (up/down) adjustment, I divided the 5” I was low by 1.141” (the width of one MOA at 100 m) to get 4.38 MOA—which I rounded to 4.5 MOA. Then, because the

turrets on my scope are in 0.25 MOA per click, I turned my elevation turret 18 clicks up (i.e. I multiplied 4.5 by 4).

To make my windage (side-to-side) adjustment, I divided the 3” I was to the left by 1.141” to get 2.63 MOA—which I rounded to 2.5 MOA. I turned my windage turret 10 clicks to the right.

The effect of these elevation and windage adjustments had was to shift the internal apparatus of my scope such that the place I was looking at with my eye (my point of aim) and the place the barrel was directing the projectiles I’m firing to land at (the point of impact) would coincide (i.e. be the same point).

Then, keeping the same aiming point as before, I fired another 3 rounds at that same distance. The center of my 3 round group fell close enough to my aiming point that I called it good, and I just zeroed an MOA scope on a range measured in meters using a target with measurements in inches.

## Learning more

If you’re interested in learning more about how to use your optics and improve your marksmanship skills, SPFGA provides several opportunities:

1. Show up at one of our shoot leagues such as Rimfire Silhouettes or Outlaw Rimfire Precision Series. For the pistol shooters in the crowd, there is also the Bullseye Pistol league. These leagues are run by members for members. As such, it’s a friendly and welcoming place to get advice and have some fun.
2. Attend one of the Project Mapleseed events that SPFGA will host in 2021. Project Mapleseed is an apolitical rifle marksmanship training program that focuses on teaching traditional rifle marksmanship from standing, sitting/ kneeling, and prone positions in a one day shooting clinic termed a “Mapleseed”. It doesn’t matter if you just got your PAL or if you’ve been shooting for decades; everyone who attends a Mapleseed learns something and has a lot of fun in doing so.
3. Ask me questions at [rifle@spfga.ca](mailto:rifle@spfga.ca).

# Printing membership cards



## **Roland Coppens, Communications Director**

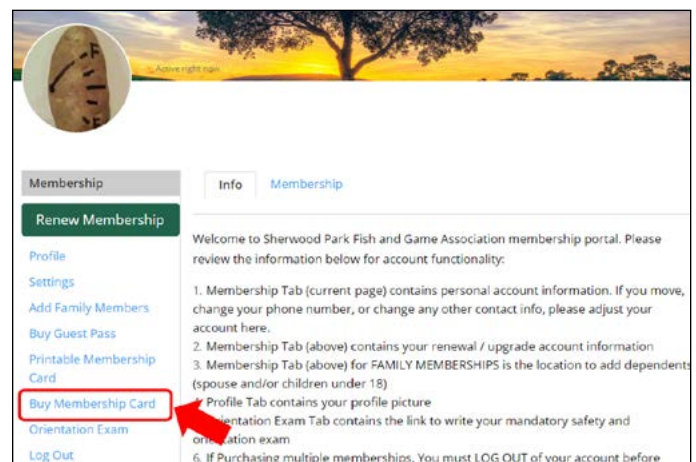
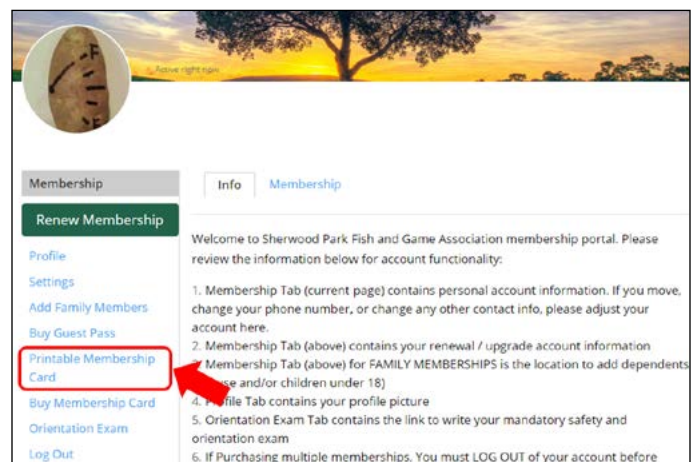
Being able to print your own membership cards has been a common member request. We've heard your feedback on this and worked with our website developer to make this possible. **So, new for 2021, you now have the capability to print your own cards.**

In addition to not having to wait for your cards to show up in the mail, this new feature substantially reduces our use of single-use plastics and the environmental costs of transporting them. As a conservation organization, this is important to us. This also represents a significant cost savings: the hard and soft costs of sending out cards exceeds \$12,000 each year and takes several weeks to complete.

Now that this capability is available to you, **we will no longer be automatically sending out plastic membership cards.** Instead, you now simply print your own card yourself. To do this, log into your member portal on the website and click on 'Printable Membership Card' in the menu on the left side.

Even with self-printed cards though, from a conservation point of view we recommend against printing a paper copy. Instead, print them to a PDF or an image and save them on your phone. This way, you'll always have them readily available to provide proof of membership as needed.

You can still obtain a plastic club-printed card like always if you prefer. To order them, log into your member portal on the website and click on 'Buy Membership Card' in the menu to the left side. They are available for \$5 for an individual card or \$10 for the cards for a family membership. (Please make sure you have registered all of your family members prior to ordering.)



# Narrow Lake Conservation Center



## ***Roland Coppens, Communications Director***

The **Narrow Lake Conservation Center (NLCC)** is an outdoor education center located on the eastern shore of Narrow Lake, approximately 35 km southwest of Athabasca. NLCC is managed by a partnership between AFGA Zones 4 and 5 through a volunteer board of directors.

The 300-acre NLCC facility includes many amenities including cabins, a bunkhouse, kitchen, wash house, and two classrooms along with other buildings. The property also hosts a 100 m large bore rifle range, a small bore/handgun range, a trap range, and an archery range. There are two docks, one for swimming and one for boats, allowing for easy and direct access to the lake for activities such as canoeing, kayaking, and fishing. The facility has a small flotilla of canoes and kayaks available for use by facility users.

Narrow Lake and the neighboring Long Lake have very limited development in their respective watersheds and are a great location to access dark skies, clean water, and the peacefulness of the wilderness.

The NLCC facility is available for rental by groups for conservation or outdoor education purposes. Users have access to the entire site along with equipment such as canoes, kayaks, firearms, and archery equipment. Those interested in renting the facility are encouraged to contact **Robyn Karpinski** at [secretary.narrowlacc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.narrowlacc@gmail.com).

The SPFGA donated \$6,000 in 2019 for upgrades to the NLCC's facilities and, since then, has budgeted an annual donation of \$5,000 to support the important work the NLCC does to promote conservation-related educational activities.

## **Camps at Narrow Lake**

Each summer, the NLCC hosts the Narrow Lake Youth Conservation Camp (NLYCC) during the 1st and 3rd weeks of July and the AFGA Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Camp during the 2nd and 4th weeks of July. These camps were cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the hope is to safely resume them in 2021 with the institution of the appropriate measures.

The NLYCC offers attendees Hunter Education, the Canadian Firearms Safety course and the Boat Safety Course. In addition, campers enjoy activities like canoeing, archery, rifle, pistol, shotgun, and black powder shooting, wilderness overnight camping, outdoor survival skills, swimming, and fishing.

The Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) program is designed for ladies interested in taking part in a myriad of outdoor activities they have never tried but would like to, or beginners wanting to improve upon their skills. Activities include archery, rifle/pistol/shotgun/muzzleloader shooting, canoeing, GPS locating, outdoor cooking, and survival skills. Attendees of the five-day course also complete the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

For information on registering at these camps, contact:

**Youth Conservation Camp: Samantha Wulff** at (780) 720-0912 or [narrowlakeyouthcamp@outlook.com](mailto:narrowlakeyouthcamp@outlook.com)

**BOW Camp: Robin Karpinski** at [secretary.narrowlacc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.narrowlacc@gmail.com)

## SPFGA Sponsored Members

The SPFGA typically sponsors 4 youth members to attend the NLYCC each year, and 4 female members to attend the BOW camp. The NLCC is planning to proceed with their camps this summer subject to relaxed rules from the province. Final confirmation of this is not expected until at least May 1. We will however begin our preparations with the assumption that they will be proceeding.

For 2021, we will be selecting an additional 4 members for each camp—in addition to the four selected last year—so if you are interested in attending, please contact **Ashleigh Emerson** at [youth@spfga.ca](mailto:youth@spfga.ca) before February 28, 2021. In your email, please introduce yourself and tell us why you would like to go to camp.

Members selected for sponsorship to each camp will be asked to provide photos and a letter telling us about their experiences for publication in *Range of Thoughts*



## From The Ketchamoot Discourse

*The Ketchamoot Discourse* is our club's private Facebook discussion group. It was created as a members-only social media space where we can gather and speak with one another or where members can talk with the Board. (Not part of The Ketchamoot Discourse yet? [Join here!](#))



SPFGA member Marvin Recchi posted a question in The Ketchamoot Discourse recently, inquiring whether a deer mount he had inherited, but had inadequate room for, could legally be sold.

An interesting discussion followed, during the course of which Marvin ended up looking into the answer to his own question. Marvin determined that to be legally sold, a mount must:

- have been harvested in Alberta
- have been harvested three or more years prior
- be registered at an **Alberta Fish and Wildlife** office prior to sale.

The registration process itself sounded simple and straightforward, with a registration number being affixed to the back of the mount and the particulars of the mount being recorded by Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

If the mount was harvested in another province, it will be necessary to contact the Fish and Wildlife office in the province it was harvested in order to register it with them. The details of each province's registration rules may differ slightly.

Marvin also relayed an important advice he had received: it is illegal to sell or even advertise to sell an unregistered mount or hide; registration is an absolute legal requirement prior to sale.



# Did you know?

These **Did You Know?** articles, suggested by you as a source of quick reminders, highlight specific facility rules & briefly explaining their reasoning.

This **Did You Know?** deals with displaying membership cards.

Did you know that you are no longer required display your membership card?

The **Facility Rules** were updated in 2020 to remove the requirement that membership cards be displayed while on the property. You still do need to have your membership card with you—either as an image on your phone or as a printed card so that you can show them if requested by anyone—you just don't have to have it *displayed* on a lanyard.

We did this for a few reasons:

1. This requirement was a holdover of our past use of Rule Enforcement Officers. This was intended to filter against non-member range use, which was against our rules at the time. We now follow a different process for member discipline which no longer employs Rule Enforcement Officers, and since mid-2019 have had a supervised range guest process (this is currently suspended due to pandemic-related restrictions).
2. In the winter and/or on windy days (plenty of both of these at the range) it can be a nuisance that borders on a safety hazard to have your membership card on a lanyard around your neck.
3. It was a common member request. We listened to your feedback about this.



## Range hours

Shooting hours begin at **9:00 a.m.** daily and end according to the table to the right:

All firing must cease at the posted hours. These times are posted at the gate, on the website and in the newsletter. In the case of disagreement in times posted, the information on the website is to be taken as correct.

<b>2nd Sunday in March – April 14</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>April 15 – September 21</b>	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>September 22 – 1st Saturday in November</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>1st Sunday in November – 2nd Saturday in March</b>	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>

# Wildlife issues—who to call?

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Fairly regularly, we receive questions in the office regarding who to contact regarding issues with wildlife. To the right is a contact list based on animal type:

**For issues with migratory birds** (e.g. ducks, geese), contact **Canadian Wildlife Services** at **1-800-668-6767**

- **For issues with large wildlife** (e.g. bears, cougars, moose, etc.) contact **Report a Poacher** at **1-800-642-3800**
- For issues with smaller animals such as squirrels or skunks—these are dealt with on your own, or a third party animal removal company can be help with the issue.



## You're always invited!

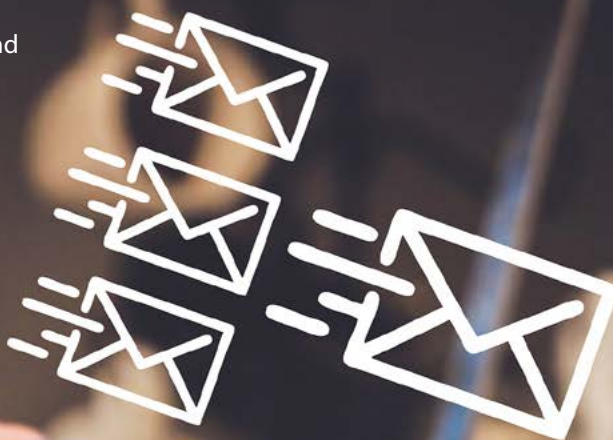
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You're of course invited to General meetings—they're the times when we gather as members.

But it's not just General meetings—you're always free to attend & observe Board meetings as well. Board meetings are held remotely on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

If you have a topic you'd like to speak about at a Board meeting, send an email 24 hours in advance to the **President** at [president@spfga.ca](mailto:president@spfga.ca) and the **Secretary** at [secretary@spfga.ca](mailto:secretary@spfga.ca) to have it included in the agenda.

We'd love to see you,  
so please come on out!

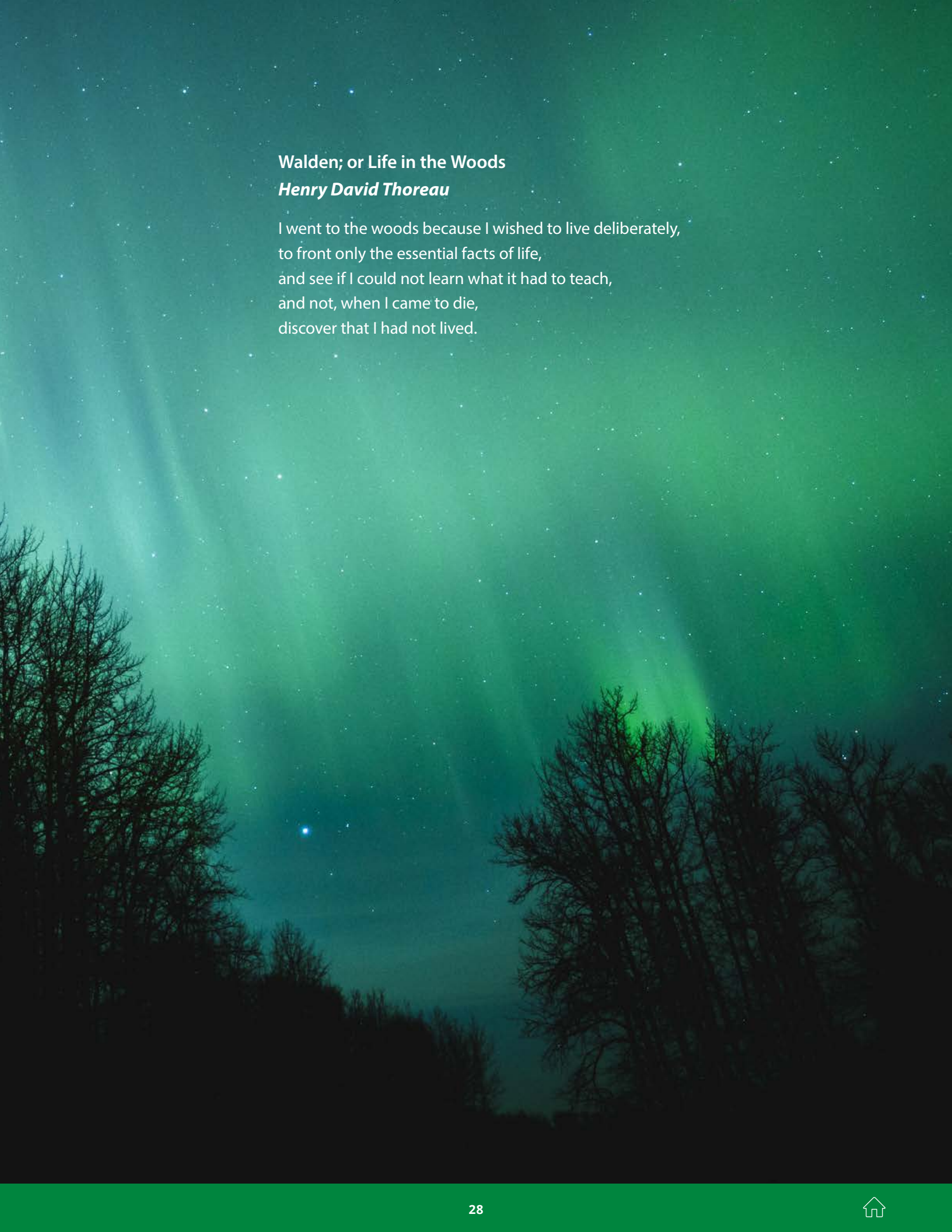


## Check the Events Calendar

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We have many amenities at our facility that our members use. It's fairly common for us to have received bookings for them, so to avoid frustration or surprises, **make sure you've checked the Events Calendar on the website before leaving to come out:** <https://www.spfga.ca/events>.





## Walden; or Life in the Woods

**Henry David Thoreau**

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately,  
to front only the essential facts of life,  
and see if I could not learn what it had to teach,  
and not, when I came to die,  
discover that I had not lived.



### Join us on social media!

SPFGA is active on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram —we'd love to see you come and join in with us! Click the links below to connect to us.

**Please like & follow us** to receive news, updates & information about upcoming events. Invite family, friends and other association members to do the same!

If you have social media-related stories or photos, or material we can use on the club website, send the details in an email to the **Communications Director: [communications@spfga.ca](mailto:communications@spfga.ca)**.

### Feel proud:

#### You make this possible!

As SPFGA members, we have collectively contributed to making the following conservation projects possible:

<https://www.facebook.com/letsgooutdoorsca/videos/723164378084733/>



[@spfga](https://www.facebook.com/spfga)



[@shpkfga](https://www.instagram.com/shpkfga)



[@spfga](https://twitter.com/spfga)

**Editor:** Roland Coppens

**Design:** Vance Yung



**SHERWOOD PARK**  
FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION