

Winter 2016



Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association

Conservation Education Magazine



The Voice of
Conservation Education
in Alberta



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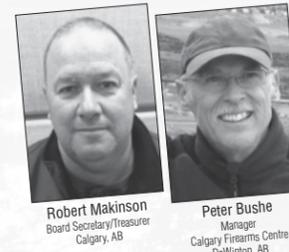


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Merry Christmas

and all the very best for a
happy and healthy New Year

from the

Staff & Directors of A.H.E.I.A.

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President's Message

“ There is no one unaffected by the issues of conservation, safety, and responsible resource use. ”

By Robert A. Gruszecki



Robert A. Gruszecki
President - AHEIA

2016 was, in many ways, a continuation of the turmoil Alberta experienced in 2015. Many Albertans have lost jobs, companies have cut back significantly or closed their doors, and we are all keeping our heads down against the oncoming storm. In view of this, AHEIA must work that

much harder to convey the messages of conservation education: Safety, Responsibility, Ethics, and Respect.

Program participation continues to increase; camps, seminars, classes, workshops, and events have been full all year, many with wait lists. The Calgary and Edmonton offices, the Calgary Firearms Centre, and the Alford Lake camp have been bursting at the seams with members and students, new and old.

The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) has been accurately described as the fastest growing element of our programming. Provincial and National tournaments show increasing attendance records, and over 50 new schools each year are having their teachers trained as archery instructors. With over 350 schools and 30,000 students to date, at this rate every child in Alberta will soon have access to this universal and highly popular sport.

AHEIA was honoured to graduate approximately 100,000 students in 2016 and we anticipate our 2,000,000th student in 2017! This is a telling tribute from Albertans regarding their faith in, and value of, conservation education. Despite some negative episodes in the media this past year, hunting is experiencing an auspicious resurgence here in North America, particularly in Alberta where it has always had a valued and relevant place in our culture. More and more, we are finding the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education class sizes are larger, demand for the online Hunter Education course is up, and the list of new hunters seeking a mentor has no

end in sight. Clearly, this is a cause close to the hearts of Albertans.

Our partners at Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) have been loyal supporters and defenders of the rights of hunters, anglers, and outdoors-users from all areas of interest, province-wide. With AEP's continued advocacy, the future of AHEIA's educational offerings is bright; with challenging times upon us, we are grateful for their continued note of confidence and support. I have met with Minister Shannon Phillips and found her to be interested and enthusiastic about our cause. It's my pleasure to pass on her accolades of our program delivery success to each of you. I am encouraged by the ongoing partnership with our government.

The Canadian Firearms Safety Course seems to be evading any setbacks associated with the current economic climate. As of November 1, there were well over 32,000 graduates of the program in Alberta alone. This further underscores the very real need for our curriculum; not only due to the overwhelming demand, but also the public safety aspect in all areas of outdoors use.

The Calgary Firearms Centre had another busy year hosting trap and skeet shoots, a thriving Women's League, Provincial Hunting Day activities, a burgeoning Youth League, and many other groups and events, both public and private. In 2015, the traps were replaced; in 2016, the three skeet houses received much needed updates and the skeet machines were replaced, making the skeet fields the envy of clubs far and wide. The CFC has built a reputation as a club open to every level of shooter; welcoming to champion shooters as well as to those who have never held a gun before. With its affordable pricing, the club is also becoming a popular location for Christmas and birthday parties, bachelor/bachelorette parties, team building events, and fundraisers like the Brian Burke's Targets for Kids in support of KidSport and the Flames' Even Strength Program which we hosted this past June. In 2017, the Calgary Firearms Centre welcomes back the Alberta Provincial Trapshooting Championships, July 19-23. We look forward to seeing you at "the club" in 2017.

The Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence enjoyed another industrious year hosting numerous groups in their pursuit of outdoor education. The annual Outdoor Women's Program, Outdoor Youth Seminar, and Youth Hunter Education Camps were full as usual; the cadets continue to join us for training, as do school groups, and many more. Expansion work is proceeding at Alford Lake, and — time and funding permitting — we look forward to unveiling the upgrades soon, which include, but are not limited to, additions of washroom facilities, a kitchen, and sleeping facilities on the range side of the camp. Over 10,000 students visited this past year, each benefiting from our experienced staff and volunteers. As always, we have the greatest gratitude and admiration for our volunteers, who give up their own time to share their experience and expertise with the lucky students. Thank you volunteers!

The most recent addition to the AHEIA curriculum is the Pleasure Craft Operator Training boating safety program. This is a mandatory certificate course for anyone piloting any motorized watercraft in Canada. At this time, AHEIA is recruiting classroom instructors as well as preparing an online course which should be ready to go in the new year. Stay tuned to our newsletter and social media for updates on this and other courses.

On February 11, 2017, the Conservation Education W.I.S.E. Foundation will celebrate its 15th annual Awards and Banquet at the BMO Centre, Stampede Park, Calgary. Your patronage of this special anniversary event, as well as the AHEIA AGM (held the same day at noon in the BMO Centre), is so important to the organization, and lends crucial support for the work of the W.I.S.E. Foundation and AHEIA. We look forward to seeing you there, enjoying yourselves and helping us to honour great Albertans who have dedicated their lives to Conservation Education.

Don't forget that your AHEIA membership gives you access to a wide variety of useful resources in the "Members Only" section of our website. And don't miss out on our Facebook, Twitter,

Continued ➤

Alberta Hunter Education
Instructors' Association
**Conservation
Education**
Magazine

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Front Cover Photo:

Hal Ziprick, H.A. Kostash School,
Smoky Lake, Alberta.

President's Message *cont.*

and Instagram posts, with up to date information on programs, events, and contests.

As the province's primary educator in all facets of conservation education, it is AHEIA's commitment to ensure these courses are available to the public and that Alberta's communities benefit from the teachings of safety, responsibility, ethics, and respect that we espouse. But we cannot do it alone; AHEIA needs your help. The reality is that difficult economic times have no bearing on the needs of nature, nor do they affect our responsibilities to wildlife and their environment. If an outdoorsman or woman misuses the resources we all share, this cannot be blamed on a challenged economy. By the same token, we

cannot allow conservation education to go by the wayside. There is no one unaffected by the issues of conservation, safety, and responsible resource use. We ask for your help in making this necessary undertaking, and together we can ensure a sustainable future of our natural heritage.

With 2016 behind us, AHEIA is again grateful to our membership and supporters for standing up for conservation education during these difficult times. It is through your efforts and loyalty that we have been able to further our mission this year of making wildlife and fish part of the value system of every Albertan.

On behalf of AHEIA, I wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2017. We look

forward to seeing you at the W.I.S.E. Foundation Awards and Banquet, or one of the many other programs offered through your organization.

On behalf of us all here at AHEIA, I wish you all the best in your endeavours in 2017.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Gruszecki
President



Edmonton Report

“ All of the Canadian Firearms Program instructors should now be well aware that there was a program change ... ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

This year, the Edmonton Boat and Sportsmen's Show will run March 16-19, 2017. The venue remains the Edmonton Expo Centre at Northlands. There have been many renovations since the last time we were there. I look forward to seeing the changes.

As always, we require a vast number of volunteers to make this event run smoothly. We will require assistance selling numerous raffle tickets as well as manning the archery trailer, shooting simulators, fishing simulator and disseminating AHEIA literature to spread the conservation education word.

This is a fun event, so if you are available to give us a hand, please email me at len@aheia.com and I will keep you apprised of the details.

On the topic of good things coming in 2107, please keep in mind our 4th Annual Spring Fling fundraising event. Over the years, volunteers and instructors in the northern portion of the AHEIA territory (Red Deer North) had been requesting a fundraiser for this area. In response, the Spring Fling was born. This fundraiser will take place

on Thursday, June 1, 2017 in Edmonton at the Taliani Palace located at 3223 Parsons Road. This event is a perfect opportunity to get together for an evening of great food and camaraderie with like-minded individuals while helping to raise much needed funds for Conservation Education. For more information or to reserve your tickets, please contact me directly.

All of the Canadian Firearms Program instructors should now be well aware that there was a program change on July 1, 2016. A new manual, testing materials, instructor guide and Power-Point presentation were all revealed.

Many of you expressed an interest in seeing how the new course materials actually play out in a classroom setting. If this is you, we can help. All you need to do is volunteer to assist with teaching one of our in-house classes in either of our offices. This volunteer opportunity may also be of interest to those of you who are having difficulty fulfilling your required number of courses per year to maintain your CFP accreditation. If you are interested, please contact Glenn McKay at bgm@aheia.com, Chuck Strong at chuck@aheia.com or myself, len@aheia.com to get the ball rolling.

Dates for the 2017 Youth Hunter Education Camps have been finalized. They will be held

at our Alford Lake facility and will run July 2-7, July 9-14, July 16-21 and July 23-28. All the camps offer the same features. All you need to do is choose the week that works best for your schedule. Registration forms will be available early in 2017. Instead of waiting, you can contact our Edmonton office and request to be placed on our advance notification list. This will give you an approximate 2-3 week jump prior to registration being offered to the general public.

We still continue to try and recruit more volunteer assistance for all of our courses, camps, events, etc. If you or any of your friends or family members would like to become part of the AHEIA universe please let me know. Paying it forward has great personal benefits and rewards.

Until next time.

*Take Care and
Enjoy the Great Outdoors!*



Raffle Winners



ATV II Raffle

Drawn September 24, 2016. License #425757.

Won by:

Brian Jerebic, Edmonton, Alberta

Wildlife Art Raffle

Drawn September 30, 2016.
License #425802.

Won by:

**Nick Durocher,
Edmonton, Alberta**



Clarification

Re: "Tigers in Alberta!" (Fall 2016)

I would like to address a few things from my previous article "Tigers in Alberta!":

Although heat shocking is a method responsible for creating triploids, here in Alberta at the Allison Brood Trout Station, where Tiger Trout are bred, a pressure shocking technique is used to triploid the Tiger Trout eggs.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is not directly responsible for fish stocking here in Alberta. Our fish stocking is completed provincially through four government owned and operated fish hatcheries: Sam Livingstone Fish Hatchery in Calgary, Cold Lake Fish Hatchery on Cold Lake, Allison Creek Brood Trout Station near Chinook Lake in the Crowsnest Pass, and the Raven Brood Trout Station on Raven Springs near Caroline.

I would like to say "Thank you!" to Brian Charles, a Senior Fisheries Technician from The Raven Brood Trout Station, for his passion and knowledge in this industry. Your guidance in this was greatly appreciated, Brian! Thank you and I apologize for any misinformation that was given.

Sarah Long
Assistant Conservation Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association
invites you to our

2016 Christmas Open Houses

Thursday, December 8, 2016

2:30 pm to 5:00 pm

Calgary Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

911 Sylvester Crescent SW, Calgary, AB

Phone 403.252.8474

Toll Free 1.866.852.4342

Email info@aheia.com

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

Edmonton Conservation Education Centre for Excellence

#88, 4003 - 98 Street, Edmonton, AB

Phone 780.466.6682

Toll Free 1.866.282.4342

Email edmontoninfo@aheia.com

Please kindly RSVP.

We hope to see you there!



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



15th Anniversary W.I.S.E. Awards and Banquet



**Saturday
February 11, 2017**

**BMO Centre
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta**

**Tickets \$115.00 each,
\$870.00 for a table of 8
or \$1100 for a table of 10.**

**Silent Auction &
Cocktails 4:30 pm**

Dinner 6:00 pm

**Awards Program &
Live Auction to follow**

Contact info@aeia.com
or telephone

1.866.852.4342



**A.H.E.I.A.'s Mission:
To make Wildlife and Fish
part of the Value System
of Every Albertan.**

Photo courtesy of Don Kesler Nature Photography



W.I.S.E. Award Nominations Recognize Conservation Excellence

Nominations for the 2017 W.I.S.E. Awards are now being accepted.

Initiated 14 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 A.H.E.I.A. banquet and fundraising auction held February 11, 2017, 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 A.H.E.I.A. website at www.aeia.com or call 1-866-852-4342.

Conservation Awards Nomination Form

- Public Service Conservation Award Industry Conservation Award
 Volunteer Instructor Conservation Award 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.

Name of Nominee: _____

P.O. or Street Address: _____

Town or City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominated By: _____ Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Please submit completed nomination form to:
Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.)
911 Sylvester Crescent S.W., Calgary, AB T2W 0R8
(403) 252-8474 or 1-866-852-4342
Email: info@aeia.com

Submissions may be forwarded by mail or email, or you may access this form electronically by visiting our website. Be sure to include all supporting materials.

Recognizing Conservation Excellence



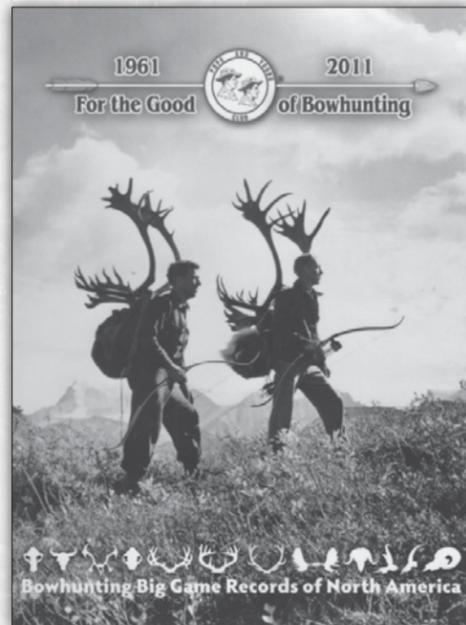
The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

Our Mission:

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

Working Principles & Elements of A.H.E.I.A.'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.



Hunting For Tomorrow partners with the Pope and Young Club as the Canadian distributor for the 7th Edition of the **Bowhunting Big Game Records of North America**

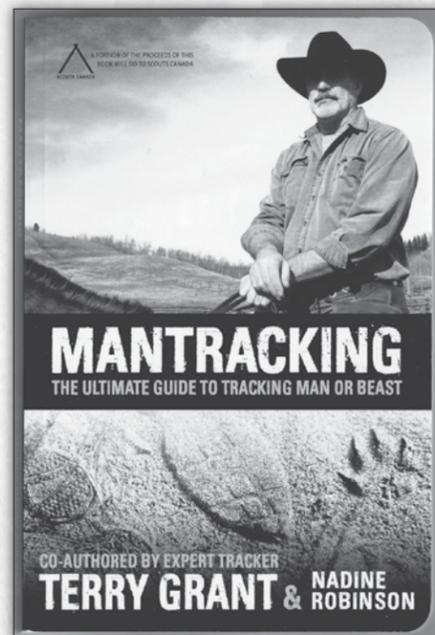
This edition contains records from the inception of the Pope and Young Club in 1961 to December of 2010. The statistics within this edition reference bowhunters, wildlife professionals and others seriously interested in the native big game populations in North America.

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Firearms Education Report

“ As much as we talked, we also listened to what was going on in each of the areas within the province. ”

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

On July 1st, 2016, the Canadian Firearms Programs started a “new - old life”. Starting on June 6th in Calgary, a very large group of instructors met to go over new contracts and the new method of delivering the programs. A number of questions were asked and answered, topics relating to delivery were discussed and the new agreements were signed. This meeting was followed with similar meetings in Peace River, Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer, and finishing in Lethbridge. The idea of these meet-

ings was to not only go over the materials, but to meet up face to face with those who have been delivering the program for years. As much as we talked, we also listened to what was going on in each of the areas within the province.

For those who could not attend these meetings, a number of smaller meetings were held in both Edmonton and Calgary. It was hoped that by August 1st the majority of the instructors would have made contact with the CFO office or our AHEIA offices. Based on that assumption, those instructors who did not contact us were sent a letter that decertified them from the program. That is not to say they are done, it simply means ... get a hold of us!

Due to the new method of conducting the courses, there have been a number of instructors who have decided to leave the program. It

is understood why they are leaving, and I wish to thank each one of them for their efforts over the years. I wish them well, but do hope they keep sharing their knowledge with those who ask them.

For those still remaining, use the program and give it your best efforts to make it work. As always, if you have questions or concerns, drop me a line or give me a shout.

Contact Glenn at the Calgary office,
403-319-2282 (direct line) or
via email at bgm@iheia.com.



**Want to get involved with AHEIA?
Want to teach potentially lifesaving skills?
Want to talk about boats and boating?**

AHEIA is currently canvassing for instructors for our
**Pleasure Craft
Operator Training (PCOT) Course**

We have recently been approved by Transport Canada to provide training which would allow people to obtain their Pleasure Craft Operator Licence. We are taking names of anyone interested in teaching this course and will co-ordinate application sessions.

For teachers, this course will satisfy the requirement for WLD1090 in the NAT cluster in CTS.

Instructor training will be provided by AHEIA at no charge to those interested.

**Pleasure Craft
Operator Training**

BOATING SAFETY INSTRUCTION PRESENTED BY



Please contact Allan Orr at allan@iheia.com or 403-319-2281 for more information, or to express your interest.

Provincial Hunting Day

"... a reminder to all Albertans of our hunting heritage and of the importance of securing a future for wildlife and wild places ..."

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA
Red Deer - North

The fourth Saturday of every September has become a special date in Alberta. The Alberta government declared this day each year to be Provincial Hunting Day; the first annual event was held in 2007. This year's event took place on September 24, 2016. It marks the ninth annual event, and is a reminder to all Albertans of our hunting heritage and of the importance of securing a future for wildlife and wild places, especially within our province.

This year the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association offered day-long events for those who wanted to explore the outdoors and expand their shooting and hunting knowledge on Provincial Hunting Day.

One of the AHEIA events was held at our Alford Lake facility. All sessions were hands on and provided the opportunity to learn by doing. This event is completely free and fun for the whole family!

Just over 100 participants and 20 volunteers turned up to enjoy the day. The weather co-operated and everyone young and old had a wonderful day learning new skills and spinning the odd yarn.



Some of the sessions available were crossbow basics, muzzle loading fundamentals, shotgun for beginners, centre-fire rifle shooting, rimfire rifle shooting, archery basics, making moose calls, learning how to put together your own survival kit, making paracord bracelets, and more.

In order to promote our Mentorship / First Time Hunter Program, we offered a special hunting experience to one of our participants. Participants had to be a minimum of 12 years of age, and those 12-17 years of age had to be accompanied by a non-hunting adult. Matt Shaw hosted the winner on a white-tailed deer hunt in WMU326. The hunt took place from a ground blind in an area that Matt had pre-scouted. They departed for the hunt immediately following the Provincial Hunting Day event. The winner was Alex Goa, who was accompanied by his father Gary. Alex did not harvest a deer, but had a great time and actually saw some wild horses.



"This event is completely free and fun for the whole family."

Mark September 23, 2017 on your calendars for next year's event.

"A special thanks to Rocky Mountain Meats and Coal Trail Catering for supplying the lunch and snacks for the event. As always, events like this would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. Thanks to all of you for making this event a huge success."



Passed down from generation to generation,
it begins with a process and a desire to be in the outdoors.

The Tradition of Hunting



Glen Pickering
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

The process begins with completing the mandatory Hunter Education Course for first time hunters, learning how to shoot your firearm or bow, purchasing the specific licence and tags, getting permission for access to hunting land, scouting your area, harvesting your game, and learning how to field dress your game, in order to have quality food for your family and friends to enjoy. Here is the process the Pentelichuk family has gone through to keep the tradition alive.

Glen Pickering

By Matthew Pentelichuk

We started off our hunting experience at a young age. Our father would take us out early in the morning as the sun was rising to start a full day of scouting for deer and other animals. This raised the bar for our future of hunting and fueled our interest for years to come. Throughout the years we had an urge to hunt, but being eight years old, we were not allowed to. My dad bought my brother and me pellet guns so we could practice our shooting. As we got older, our grandfather gave us two single-shot .22 calibre rifles that he had used when he was our age.

I had to wait four more years to finally hunt. I had been interested for years and I was ready to go. When I was 10, my dad was hunting deer and I helped to field dress his kill. I had gained a great amount of experience while I was with my father and I knew many of the rules before taking the test. I studied for hours on end making sure I knew the book cold, and after going through some painful days, I was finally ready to take the test. My heart was racing. I was scared. I didn't want to be embarrassed with a low mark, but I didn't need to worry, my studying paid off. I had studied hard, and I passed the test and was now able to go hunting.

We went out bird hunting that fall and it was the first time I had shot a 12 gauge shotgun. The first day, I went hunting pheasant. I didn't get a pheasant, but got my first mallard. The following weekend we went out again and I ended up getting a snipe. I was able to get a mule deer doe tag under the AHEIA mentor program for WMU 156. The first weekend of November we went deer hunting. We did a lot of hiking and driving and saw several deer that were too far away to shoot. Late in the day there was a group of does. I shot at one with my grandfather's old 30-06 but missed and they disappeared after my shot. On the second weekend we hunted hard all day and were unsuccessful by late afternoon. We received a call from our friend that there were loads of deer in a field just a few kilometres away. When we got there, they were bedded down in a dry slough. We walked as close as we could, then I rested my rifle on my shooting stick and pointed it towards the deer. I aimed and waited, heart pounding, my chest rising and falling. I took one final breath, closed one eye and slowly squeezed the trigger. My rifle shot back and pounded my shoulder, leaving an aching pain in my shoulder and ears. I looked up and saw the mule doe moving slowly towards another field. My guts jolted and I felt a sickening feeling in my stomach. I ejected the 150 grain shell and reloaded. I took aim at the deer and pulled the trigger. With a loud crack, the deer fell and hit the ground, my father telling me, "Nice shot." Within minutes my dad was able to fill his tag as well.

That day was my first deer and I was proud of it. Then, when I went out hunting this year, using my experience from last time, I was able to get another deer. Thanks to the AHEIA program, I am likely to go hunting for the rest of my life. I recommend this program, as hunting is a great experience that will help you to bond with anyone who comes with you.



By Ryan Pentelichuk

I first wanted to shoot a gun when I was six years old. I had been out hunting with my dad many times and really wanted to have a gun of my own, so he bought a pellet gun and let me try it out at our grandparents' farm in Saskatchewan. When I was shooting that day, I saw a gopher. My dad said to shoot it and I did. I got my first kill that day. From then on, I wanted to shoot guns with bigger recoil and more power, but most importantly, I wanted to be able to hunt. Obviously I couldn't do it without a proper licence, so I had to wait.

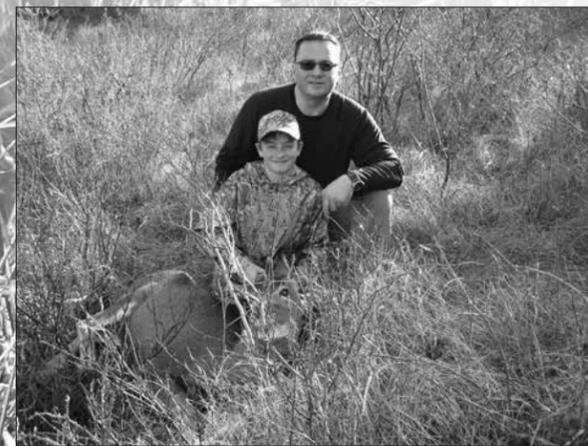
Five years later I was 11 and ready to take my hunter's education course. Even though you needed to be 12 to hunt, I wanted to get the big test over with, so I studied and studied and passed the test on the first try. If you want to pass on the first try, study as much as possible.

This fall, after I turned 12, I finally went on my first bird hunting trip, where I shot a blue-winged teal and a partridge. I was very happy, but I wanted to do more. Through AHEIA and the mentor program, I was able to get a tag for a mule doe in WMU 304. My dad and I went out and I sighted-in his 270 rifle, as well as practiced my shooting. We went out scouting and asked ranchers for permission on several weekends before the season opened.

We went out hunting on the second week after the season opened. It was also my first day of hunting that I could finally shoot a deer myself. We met another hunter who showed us a deep coulee that he had hunted before with cliffs eight to 12 metres high. A few hundred metres in, we stopped and a doe ran out of the bushes as fast as possible and I didn't want to risk scaring other deer in the area, so I let it be. We continued to walk along the coulee ridge and my Dad stopped. We saw a deer laying down in the bush. I immediately got my gun ready as four does slowly walked out of the bushes and stopped in their tracks. I aimed and pulled the trigger, but nothing happened. Then, as quiet as possible, I turned my safety off, aimed at the chest of the deer and pulled the trigger. Suddenly, through the scope of the rifle, I saw the deer just stand there for a few seconds and then fall to the ground and not even twitch. Through my ringing ears I heard my dad say, "Nice shot!" We walked around the cliffs and to the deer. It hadn't moved from where I shot it. The shot had gone straight through the lungs. We dragged it out of the bushes and gutted it at the top of the hill. I ended up dragging it to our truck with a plastic sled. We got home and skinned the deer and took it to the butcher. That is my hunting story.



I learned how to identify animals and where to shoot to make the cleanest and safest kill. I learned a lot from books, but even more from watching game in the wild. I also learned how to shoot at a moving bird and how to skin/clean it. Also, I have learned how to clean firearms, sight them in and maintain them. The most important thing I have learned is that hunting is hard work and to never give up. Studying for the exam was hard work as well, but it was worth it.



SURVIVAL IS IN OUR CROSSHAIRS



CONSERVATION EDUCATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

DID YOU KNOW:

- that it takes an annual operating budget of approximately \$4.3 million to deliver all facets of Conservation Education to approximately 100,000 Albertans annually?
- that every cent of every dollar that is donated goes into Conservation Education program delivery?
- that the annual printing budget of AHEIA for all program areas, including manuals, tests, certificates, etc. represents in excess of \$400,000?
- the annual premiums to secure liability insurance of \$5,000,000 and all other necessary insurance for equipment, facilities and vehicles for AHEIA and every instructor and participant exceeds \$150,000.
- the annual cost of correspondence to members of AHEIA is approximately \$150,000.
- the annual cost for the purchase and repair of training aids and equipment is approximately \$400,000.
- the cost of the one week long Outdoor Women's Program, including three meals and one snack per day, is approximately \$130,000 or \$550 per participant.
- the cost of running one of our Youth Seminars for 150 youths exceeds \$70,000.
- the cost of running one of our Youth Camps for 50 youths for five days, including three meals and one snack per day, is approximately \$1000 per participant or \$50,000.
- the cost of running a one day Outdoor Wildlife Learning (O.W.L. Days) program for 150 youths is approximately \$120 per child or \$18,000.
- the cost of one instructional techniques workshop for 20 instructors for 20 hours is approximately \$1,500 per participant or \$30,000.
- AHEIA does not charge fees on a cost recovery basis for their programs, and survives by donations!

FACT:

Our programs survive by donation.

FACT:

Economic woes affect us all, especially the charities.

FACT:

Incomes are down nearly 50% and operating costs are increasing.

FACT:

Our goal is to continue excellent program delivery, not to cut services or courses.

FACT:

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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Great Meals from the Harvest

with *Len Gransch*



Len Gransch
Program Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

Venison and Wild Rice Casserole

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1/2 pound venison (cubed) | 1/2 cup green peppers (diced) |
| 1/2 cup celery (diced) | 2 cloves garlic (minced) |
| 3 teaspoons butter | 1/2 teaspoon chili powder |
| 1/4 teaspoon curry powder | 1 cup uncooked wild rice (washed well) |
| 1/2 cup onion (diced) | 2 cups canned tomatoes |
| 2 tablespoons flour | 1 1/4 cups water |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons seasoning salt | 1/2 cup parsley (chopped) |

Dredge the venison cubes in flour. Brown in butter over medium/low heat in a large skillet.

Add onion and garlic and cook for about 5 minutes, stirring often.

Add remaining ingredients except for the rice. Bring to a boil. Make sure the wild rice is well washed before adding it to the skillet.

Stir and pour into a 2 quart casserole dish. Cover and bake at 350°F for about one hour, stirring every 20 minutes.

Add some hearty bread and a good bottle of Merlot and you are good to go. Enjoy!

Ground Elk Casserole

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 pound ground elk (or other wild game) | 1 cup onions (diced) |
| 1/2 cup green peppers (diced) | 2 cloves garlic (minced) |
| 1 1/2 cups elbow macaroni (cooked al dente) | 1 quart diced tomatoes |
| 1 - 14 ounce can kernel corn (drained) | 1 - 14 ounce can black beans (drained) |
| 2 teaspoons chili powder | 1 1/2 cups cheddar cheese (shredded) |
| 1 tablespoon olive oil | Salt and pepper to taste |

Preheat oven to 350° F.

In a large Dutch oven add olive oil and brown the ground elk. Add onion, garlic and green peppers, stir and cook until translucent.

Season with salt and pepper. Add tomatoes, corn, beans, cooked pasta and chili powder. Mix well. Top with shredded cheese.

Bake uncovered for 35 minutes until the cheese is melted and the ingredients are hot.

Enjoy!



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By Ron Dimler

I can do this, I said to myself. I hardly had slept the previous night, being excited about finally having the opportunity to experience a hunt.

I had shot my first shotgun shells at this year's provincial hunting day and I had started to connect with the clay pigeons toward the end of that session.

All I knew about duck hunting I had learned during the hunter education course.

There are two kinds of ducks — divers and puddles — as well there are various ways to aim at flying waterfowl, various ways to lead the shotgun.

The shooting did not go well for me at first: load, wait, aim, trigger pull, miss, repeat.

A number of weeks before, I had received the email that I could participate in a mentored hunt, and that my mentor was to be Jack Hole. My initial questions were addressed by phone and text, well in advance of the big day out. The original scheduled day was cancelled due to this year's early wet snow and my not wanting to be stressed out on the highway early in the morning. The duck hunt day finally arrived and I was surprised how happy I was heading out of town in the dark, driving against the headlamps stringing their way into the distance. Having arrived at our rendezvous point early, I had already fulfilled a significant part of my responsibility. I checked my bag and confirmed that I had not forgotten the sandwiches, my other major responsibility.

Within a few minutes a truck drove in pulling something. That can't be Jack. Why would he have a boat? Clearly I was in need of mentoring. Jack and Coral, the trophy retriever, were quick to greet me, and very soon we were on the way to the boat dock. Jack busied himself with prepping the boat, and after putting our life jackets on, we were skimming along the water heading towards an island.

The first part of the setup was to lay out decoys on the water. There were lots of decoys, including one where the wings rapidly rotated like a wind mill. Quite some adjustment was needed until Jack was content with our set up. Not long after that we disembarked and Jack showed me where my location was, inclusive of seat, box of shells and a fine looking Berretta semi-auto shotgun. He really had thought about everything.

Not only did I have a mentor that took great care, I was fortunate to be out on a day when there were what seemed to be thousands of waterfowl, all around the lake. Sometimes I would look across the lake astonished at the size of the flocks in the sky. This alone made the day unforgettable.

For a good two hours there was a steady stream of waterfowl giving me opportunity to load, aim, trigger pull, adjust my aim and repeat. Jack continued to keep an eye on me, "coming from the left", or once in a while "coming from the right". One time Jack said, "Hawk, don't shoot", as it flew right over my head! I guess I was lucky a couple of

times, connecting with a couple of ducks. Mostly I was aiming behind the birds. I started to realize that the shotgun barrel was not lined up where I thought I was aiming and that I really could aim further in front. By the time the birds thinned out, I had shot three waterfowl, two small and one medium. Jack graciously donated a large mallard to my small pile. This was the bird my wife Christine and I choose to prepare and roast the next day. It will be a long time before I forget that magical duck and this mentored hunt. Thank you Jack, and Chuck too, for helping to set this up.



I Can Do This

**"The shooting did not go well for me at first:
load, wait, aim, trigger pull, miss, repeat."**



Background photo courtesy Steve Hillebrand, US Fish and Wildlife Service.



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"Pure and simple, it was a clean miss. It has happened before and will happen again, but it did not keep the smile off of the face of this new hunter."

Your Measure of Success

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay
Firearms Education
Coordinator
AHEIA

I am not sure about you, but this has to be one of the best times of the year. Hunting stories start to trickle in, and pictures of successful trips end up being circulated over the internet and emails. Questions about where to go and what to take seem to be posed daily to those who "know" about hunting.

I was asked, and quickly agreed, to mentor a new hunter this fall. The experience is one that is not to be taken lightly, as it puts your individual skills to the test. There is no ducking behind a "group" of hunters; it is one-on-one and you are put to the test. After confirming all of the details and planning a day, the new hunter and I met at the office and started out. A two-hour drive to a new location neither one of us had hunted before only added to the excitement. During the

drive, we had a great conversation about what was going to take place. The how's, why's and what about's were discussed in detail, so it became a great way to pass the time.

On arrival at the hunting location, we found deer running all over the place, which led us to think that we had a good chance of filling a tag. On the initial set up, it was simply a matter of waiting for legal light to see what we could see. Sure enough, there was a deer broadside at about 60 yards, and shortly thereafter a shot was taken.

"What began as a chance for an animal, ended with a great conversation about the success of the day."

The anticipated result was that we would soon be taking pictures of hunter and animal, but this was not to be. Pure and simple, it was a clean miss. It has happened before and will happen again, but it did not keep the smile off of the face of this new hunter. Over the next few hours, we tried still hunting, spot and stalk, and eventually finding a spot and watching the deer move about around us. Although there were a few more shots, the results were the same — track soup!

At last light we headed back to the vehicle for the drive home. What began as a chance for an animal, ended with a great conversation about the success of the day. I was now in the position of listening to the hunter describe the success of her day! I learned from the hunter that still hunting, followed by spot and stalk, were going to be her preferred methods to hunt. Stand or ground blind hunting will be a distant choice. So, on reflection, if the first shot had connected, the other parts of the day would have been lost. As the mentor, I was hoping that she would fill her tag, learn about field dressing and take the carcass for processing. The best part of the day (in her view) was that we got to stay for the entire day!

So, in the overall scheme of things, this was a very successful hunt for the new hunter, and resulted in a better appreciation of what "success" means for the mentor!



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Background photo courtesy Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Videoing Your Hunt ... Give It a Go!

“Don't be intimidated by the amount of equipment available. Do some research, pick a camera and get out into the field and give it a try.”

By Matt Shaw



Matt Shaw
Camp Manager
Alford Lake

Creating memories, and being able to remember and share your experiences with your friends and family, is one of the great things about hunting. Most of us are pretty good at taking pictures in the field after we have been successful and harvested an animal, but that is only a small part of the experience.

What about that moose that you called in just for fun, or that huge flock of geese that flew over into that amazing sunrise, or that time your hunting partner missed that giant buck? All of these memories are just as important to the total experience and might get forgotten if all you have is a trophy picture at the end of the hunt. Capturing these events on video will allow you to relive those moments and share them with anyone and it is much easier than it has ever been; the range of user friendly and relatively cost effective gear has never been greater.



The first thing that you will need to decide if you are going to give videoing a try is what type of camera will you be using, as there are a ton of options out there.

Using your cell phone is always an option. Most phones have the ability to shoot good video, and with the



addition of a phone scope attachment, you can get quality video at long distances by using any spotting scope. The downside to a cell phone is that they do not generally have an optical zoom, which means that unless you are very close to an animal, it will be difficult to make out much detail.

Action cams are also a very popular option, with the most well known being the GoPro series. However, there are lots of other options out there. I personally am using the Drift Ghost S. Garmin and Spypoint also make affordable options, and if you keep a close eye on websites like Camofire.com, you can find good deals on action cam kits. A couple of big advantages to action cams are their size and their ability to be mounted in almost any position. Action cams can be worn on your head, your shoulder, mounted on your bow or gun, or positioned away from you in a blind or by a bait barrel (in the case of bear hunting), as most have either a remote or the ability to be controlled by your cell phone. However, most action cameras use a fish eye lens to



be able to capture a wide angle, and because of this they do not offer any amount of optical zoom, which again means they are great for capturing close up action, but not great for zooming in on an animal a couple hundred yards away.

This leads us into the area of camcorders. As with any type of camera, you can spend as much money as you like, but most of the affordable small camcorders will record to an SD card and allow you to record in HD. The camera that I am using is a Canon Vixia 600RF and it cost me about \$350. Canon, Sony, Fuji — it doesn't matter what brand you choose, but a couple of things that you want to look for are: Does the camera have the ability to record in low light, as you will potentially be filming at first or last light? Can you add in an external microphone? This is a nice option because if you are filming outdoors you will at some point have to deal with wind noise and you can control the audio levels with an external mic. Does the camera have the ability to attach to a tripod or window mount? You will want to be able to attach the camera to a variety of mounts depending on whether you are hunting on foot, in a blind or out of a tree. The last thing you want to look at is the optical zoom level. You would like to have a higher optical zoom without using the digital zoom feature, as once you start zooming in digitally, the picture will turn grainy.

If I was looking at just getting into videoing now, I would look at amazon.ca as they have some amazing packages that come with everything you

will need to get started. You can get into packages that come with a camera, tripod, extra batteries, microphone, camera light, action mounts, etc. for around \$650. There are also websites such as Campbell cameras that will sell you a hunting package that comes with things like camera tree arms and camo covers for your gear.

Once you have the gear and can spend some time getting footage in the field, it's time to turn it into something watchable. UH OH ... this means editing. This was the most intimidating thing for me to learn, but it is easier than you would think. Unless you plan on putting out a show for WildTV, you already have a great program on the computer you already own. If you use a PC, you can do everything you need on Windows Movie Maker and if you have a Mac you can use the iMovie program. I use PC and Movie Maker and it allows me to add videos and link them together,

er, trim my videos, add titles and captions, speed up or slow down my footage, add different transitions and even add music. All it takes is a few videos and a little bit of time experimenting with the program.

Videoing your time in the outdoors can be a very rewarding experience, as it will allow you to share your experiences with anyone you choose. You will be able to show your friends all of those big bucks you see, but can never shoot or that cool snowy owl sleeping in a tree. Don't be intimidated by the amount of equipment available. Do some research, pick a camera and get out into the field and give it a try.

I hope that everyone has had a successful season and I look forward to sharing stories with you all in the New Year.



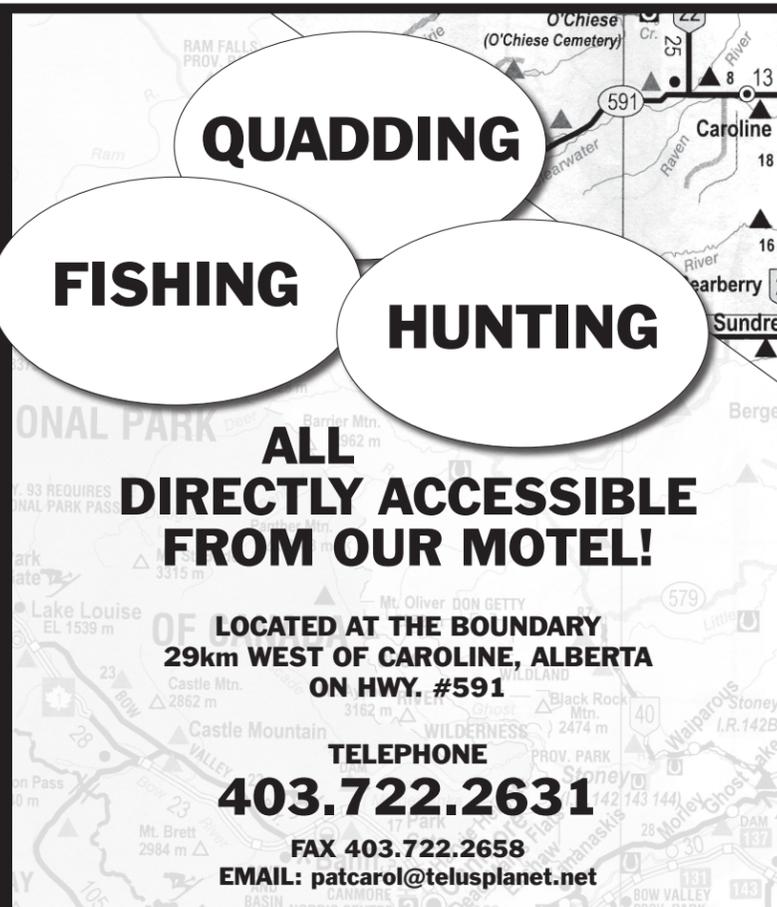
“Creating memories, and being able to remember and share your experiences with your friends and family, is one of the great things about hunting. ... and it is much easier than it has ever been; the range of user friendly and relatively cost effective gear has never been greater.”



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**"Four and a half years ago a Springer Spaniel puppy came into my life.
She was my empty-nest, mid-life crisis."**

It Started With a Dog

By Sheila Bonin

The wind in the trees sounded like a 747 jet flying over my head as the three of us sat still on the log looking into a menagerie of grey and white trees and bush. It was nearly nine o'clock in the morning. The forecast yesterday had said it was going to be twelve degrees above zero today. Yeah, right. That was for the city, not for 49.888897, -114.255753 at the end of October, and I was officially freezing. My most worthy host, guide and teacher, Val, had had the foresight to bring me wind-proof/water-proof pants and jacket, but when we got out of his warm truck an hour ago, the wind felt pretty good against my cheek, so I had changed out of my thick camo jeans and donned the thinner pants provided. Above the waist, I wore a long-sleeved T shirt, hoodie and his kid's jacket.

This was my virgin foray into deer hunting. Later that afternoon, while sitting on my own, waiting for the ever-elusive deer to venture in front of me so I could shoot it, I reflected on how I got to this place. Me. A city girl.

Four and a half years ago a Springer Spaniel puppy came into my life. She was my empty-nest, mid-life crisis. A very experienced dog-person asked me at the time, "Why did you get a Springer?! She'll need mental stimulation!"

Mental stimulation, I thought ... she's a dog! What kind of mental stimulation could she need? Well. Too right. She sure did.

That first year I took her to puppy classes, agility, taught her to help with recycling at home, and found she could find four different objects hid-



den in the garage in the dark. I ran with her five to 20 kilometres daily and still she drove me nuts.

One cold, winter day I was at the dog park and there was just one other person. He had Springer Spaniels as well. Of course, why not?! The only people braving minus thirty degrees with the wind blowing were Springer owners because these dogs are crazy without exercise. I ran up to him and struck up a conversation.

Enter Boyd.

Turned out Boyd was the Secretary for a local club, Eastern Slopes Spaniel Association (ESSA). "I just want to learn!" I said, so he sent me the names of a couple of breed specific books which I promptly ordered and devoured. Later that year I agreed to take a puppy from a litter of his over winter because at that time nobody wanted it. The deal was that the club would let me train with them the following season in return.

The day I went to pick up the puppy was the first time my dog, Pepper, had been exposed to a bird. She was two years old. When the old guy on the farm waved the dead pigeon in front of her, her pupils dilated! From that point on, I had a different dog who wanted to please. I knew I had to find a way to use her for the purpose she was bred: hunting.

The next day I began to undo bad training I'd started in ignorance and instill good habits in Pepper and the puppy, Gunny. That was the year of training the trainer. I did everything Boyd told me to, worked with the dog(s) daily, did my Hunters' Education course, got my WIN card, and updated my firearms card. By the end of the summer, I felt pretty confident about taking her hunting, so I bought a shot gun and off we went.

There's nothing like hunting upland birds with your best friend, whom you've trained to be useful and who absolutely loves what they do. Pepper and I and my new dog, Bandit, have spent many hours since traipsing field and forest looking for upland birds, and when I bring pheasant for supper to work, my co-workers are always duly impressed.

"Where did you get the Pheasant?" they always ask. "I shot it," usually gets at least a startled look.

It was because of the dog, I also went to the AHEIA Outdoor Women's Program, was invited to the Stavely Pheasant Fest as a dog handler, have been to the Taber Pheasant Fest, and have even been out hunting deer this year (Val has a Springer and trains with us at ESSA). For people looking for a challenging, rewarding hobby with a dog, this is it. In my opinion, it outstrips other dog sports because it also contributes to environmental conservation and the values close to my heart of harvesting your own protein and looking after the land. Alberta has a few Springer Spaniel Clubs and we are always happy to have newcomers to the sport. Give it a try. It opened up a whole new world to me where I have gained a much greater appreciation for conservation — not that I needed convincing though. I love the outdoors.

... All because of a dog.



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The National Archery in the Schools Program

"It has been in Alberta since 2009 and is now in over 400 schools across the province, with that number continuing to rise."

By Sarah Long



Sarah Long
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - North

The NASP program was started in Kentucky in 2001 through the collaborative efforts of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Department of Education and Mathews Archery. It was designed to help improve kids' attendance, focus, motivation, and even increase self-esteem in the schools. It was also created in hopes that it would encourage kids to go outside and engage in the wilderness around them.

The program was launched in 2002, and once interest took off in neighbouring states, the Kentucky Archery in the Schools Program became the National Archery in the Schools Program. The United States wasn't the only place that took an interest in this, and now NASP has spread to 10 countries worldwide including Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, five countries in southern Africa and even Mongolia in Asia.

Looking a little closer to home, NASP is now in seven provinces here in Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick). It has been in Alberta since 2009 and is now in over 400 schools across the province, with that number continuing to rise.

I was introduced to NASP this past spring when the Provincials were being held in Drayton Valley, and for me it was eye opening in that here is a sport that practically has no limitations on who can participate. I would look down the shooting line and see an elementary girl competing alongside a high school boy. Everyone could compete and be on the same level. There are no restrictions in this program in regards to size, gender, or even in regards to having a disability.

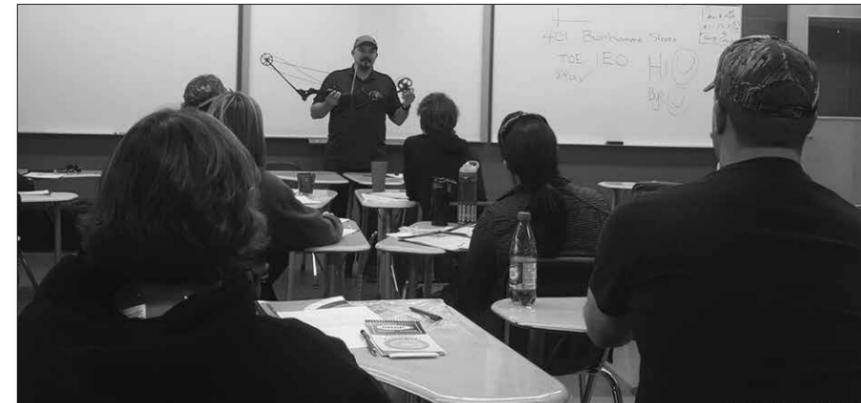
Something else I find remarkable about the NASP program is the equipment that is used. It's all been highly standardized. The same type of bow that is found in one school will be found in another and the same goes with the arrows, targets, range set-up, and even how the range is run. It's all the same across the board. There is no change in quality; no one person can have an upper hand because they have better equipment, because all equipment is the same.

It's exciting to be a part of this program and to help it grow. It's great working with the teachers and coaches in the NASP Basic Archery Instructor workshops AHEIA organizes. It makes me proud to know that I am part of an organization that offers training to teachers who want to give their students something new.

I see how excited the parents get about having archery in their schools and know that their kids are going to be even more excited to be involved with NASP. What's great is knowing that this program has the potential to build kids up. I truly think that this doesn't just teach kids a new skill, but can give them a solid, positive platform for them to stand on and grow from.

If there are any teachers Red Deer and North that are interested in bringing this into their schools and need training, please feel free to contact me: sarah@iheia.com or 780-466-6682.

If it's South of Red Deer, then my colleague Allan Orr would be the one to contact: allan@iheia.com or 403-252-8474.



"The NASP Program ... was designed to help improve kids' attendance, focus, motivation, and even increase self-esteem in the schools. It was also created in hopes that it would encourage kids to go outside and engage in the wilderness around them."



“In a previous life, I was the head driving instructor for the Saskatchewan Conservation Officer Service. We taught our new recruits AND our seasoned veterans how to drive in the safest, most efficient manner.”

Tips for Safer Driving

By Allan Orr



Allan Orr
Assistant Conservation
Education Coordinator
AHEIA Red Deer - South

AND our seasoned veterans how to drive in the safest, most efficient manner. I took an

Something I hold near and dear to my heart is driving. You could even say I have a passion for professional driving, whether it is in my work life or my personal time.

In a previous life, I was the head driving instructor for the Saskatchewan Conservation Officer Service. We taught our new recruits

Emergency Vehicle Operator Course instructor course through the Winnipeg City Police and added some components that were unique to the conservation officer/game warden profession. Not surprisingly, those added components are common to most people out enjoying our natural resources today.

Do you watch “Canada’s Worst Driver”? I sure do. The skills that are being taught there are exactly the same as the basic skills we taught in our course. As expected, many of our course candidates were very good drivers and understood these concepts coming into the course, but many (some of whom had been driving for many years) didn’t understand many of the concepts and felt that they could learn nothing from our training team. Consequently, they had a difficult time getting through some of the drills. After the five day training course, every one of the successful candidates commented on how valuable this learning was and how they would use it when on the road.

Now naturally there is no substitute for hands-on experience. I would love to be able to put on a safe driving course, but that’s not available to us here, so I can only pass along some of the tips and tricks that I’ve learned in the hopes that you will see value in some of these concepts that you may not have been familiar with in the past.

Mirrors

The very first “new” concept that I show new drivers is how to correctly set their mirrors. Traditionally, we set our rear-view mirror to look directly through the rear window so that we can see what is directly behind us. This is good. Keep doing this! After that, we usually adjust the side-view mirrors so that we can see along the side of our vehicle as well as see any vehicles that are approaching us from our rear quarters. This is where we can improve our safety and the safety of everyone around us. By looking down the side of our vehicles, we are effectively creating a very large and dangerous blind spot on either side. You all know about your blind spots, and many of us have learned the hard way that when someone else drives there, we cannot see them.

Want to virtually eliminate those nasty blind spots? Simple. Adjust your side-view (note the name!) mirrors outward from where they are now, to gain vision into that former blind spot. The way to do this is to lean over to the left as far as you can (head against the window) and

adjust your mirror so that you can see down the side of your vehicle from that location. Then lean over to your right so that your head is over your center console and adjust your right side mirror so you can see down the right side of your vehicle from there. After adjusting the mirrors, you will see that from your normal driving position you will have virtually eliminated both blind spots. Having adjusted the mirrors outward allows you to see vehicles that you may not have been able to see before without twisting your neck around much farther than necessary.

Of course, you should still do a shoulder check when changing lanes, but with your mirrors adjusted properly, you can achieve the same result with a very slight turn of the head. Remember, you drive where you look, so cranking your head around in a big shoulder check can easily lead to an inadvertent swerve into another lane. If adjusted properly, you should be able to see the front of a vehicle travelling beside you even as you can see the back of it in your side-view mirror.

Hauling Stuff

Whether towing a trailer or loading up the back of your truck with necessary equipment, hauling “stuff” changes the dynamics of your vehicle, and if you find yourself in an emergency situation, you need to understand how your newly weighted and balanced vehicle is going to perform.

Now we all know that trucks are built to carry stuff ... that’s why we buy them. What most of us don’t know is that by using a truck like a truck, we could be creating a situation that could lead to injury or death. This happens when we put heavy loads into the backs of our trucks and continue to drive like we had previously. Small, relatively light loads that remain low in the bed of the truck are not much of a concern, other than in the event of a collision or roll-over where there could be debris flying around. The problem comes when people place heavy or tall loads into their trucks. Probably the most common of these are ATVs or snowmobiles. Having machinery of this weight will increase your stopping distance significantly (light truck brakes are designed to effectively stop the truck under normal loads only) and will decrease your rate of acceleration.

I think most people understand these concepts, but what they don’t understand is the even more deadly concept of roll. Increasing the weight in the back of a truck shifts the centre of balance backward and upward in a truck. Of course, car-



Without weight distribution. Note how the weight of the trailer is carried forward toward the front of the trailer and the rear of the truck.



With weight distribution bars. Note how the weight of the trailer is more evenly distributed.

rying two ATVs or snowmobiles on TOP of the box on a moveable ramp raises the centre of gravity significantly, and despite any attempts an owner may make to adjust the suspension and/or steering, this condition is extremely dangerous and can very easily cause the vehicle to up-end if a quick, corrective action is required. Think of a vehicle loaded as described, driving down the road at legal speed and a deer (or moose, or elk, or kid) runs out in front of them. Normally a quick ¼ turn of the steering wheel will avoid danger. However, with a higher centre of gravity, the vehicle will much more easily roll over on its side with the possibility of a catastrophic result. Keep your centre of gravity low!

The preferred (and waaay safer) method of hauling heavy stuff is in a trailer. Trailers are built for this, and most will have their own braking system built in, which will help to bring the whole outfit to a stop when necessary. They also keep the weight of the freight low, which prevents roll-overs under the situations discussed above.

The main point to remember when loading your trailer is to keep the majority of the weight closer to the front of the trailer. Front weighting your trailer will keep sideways momentum from causing the trailer to go out of control. When properly loaded, a trailer and the vehicle towing it will both be level. The best way to achieve this is to use a good weight distributing hitch and load-

leveler bars. To do otherwise will cause sway and could cause an accident. There are a couple of very good videos on YouTube that can demonstrate the point much better than I can describe it, so go to YouTube and search “Trailer Weight Distribution”. It could save your life!

Stay tuned, there is more to come!



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Notice

Please place a special mark on your calendar for Saturday, February 11, 2017

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors’ Association Annual General Meeting will be held in Calgary at the BMO Centre, Stampede Park that day starting at 12:00 noon and ending at 3:00 p.m.

The W.I.S.E. Awards Banquet/Auction and a general celebration of this great cause will follow starting with a silent auction and cocktails at 4:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m.



Not Your Average Lee Enfield Sporter

By John Morrissey



John Morrissey
Assistant Conservation
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AHEIA - Calgary

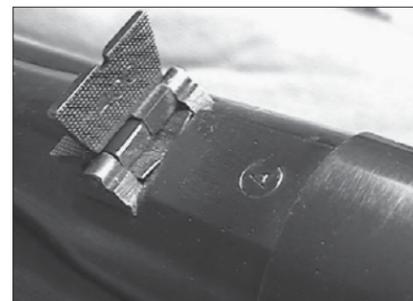
Although this rifle may look like the average sporterized Lee Enfield that was built from surplus rifles, such as the Savage or Long Branch No4 Mk1, this version is a variant of the No4 Mk1. These rifles were produced in the 1950s by Essential Agencies Limited (E.A.L.), a Toronto, Ontario based sporting goods importer and distributor.

E.A.L. purchased surplus No4 Mk1 barrels, as well as actions and small parts, from Canadian Arsenals Ltd. (C.A.L.) of Long Branch, Ontario. Prior to assembly, the action body was modified by removing the charger bridge, as well as by milling the top portion of the action body. The barrels were shortened to a length of approximately 21³/₈ inches, or 542 millimetres, and re-crowned. These completed actions were placed into new stocks with a JOSTAM "Anti-Flinch" recoil pad, as well as sling swivels which were variants of late model No 4 swivels.

It is interesting to note that the actions are void of the usual markings found on sporterized Enfields, such as "Long Branch" and "Mk4 No1", although the E.A.L. did have Canadian proof marks and C.A.L. inspection stamps. The left side of the receivers were simply marked E.A.L. followed by the serial number. The calibre designation, "303 Cal", is not found on all the E.A.L. variants. Recently, I had the opportunity to inspect an early model E.A.L. with a three digit serial number, with no calibre marking.

Enfield researchers, such as Warren Wheatfield, have noted the E.A.L. was produced in civilian models as well as a military model. Although there have been varying opinions on which branch of the Canadian Armed forces was issued the E.A.L. rifle, Mr. Wheatfield has found documentation indicating the E.A.L. rifle was given a NATO, as well as a RCAF, stock number and was issued to the RCAF as a survival rifle.

Two styles of sights were also used by E.A.L.: The two position flip style rear sight marked for 300 and 600 yards, while the military model used an express type rear sight with two folding blades. As for magazines, the standard 10 round Enfield magazine was used, as well as a flush mounting five round magazine.



“... produced in civilian models as well as a military model ... the E.A.L. rifle was given a NATO, as well as a RCAF, stock number and was issued to the RCAF as a survival rifle.”

Given that the E.A.L. Enfield has not been produced for the last 50 some years, original owners may now be selling off these "old guns".

Chances are these E.A.L. rifles will be showing up at gun shows or estate sales with more frequency.

So next time you see that "old Enfield Sporter", maybe take time to really have a look at it.

It just may be an E.A.L.

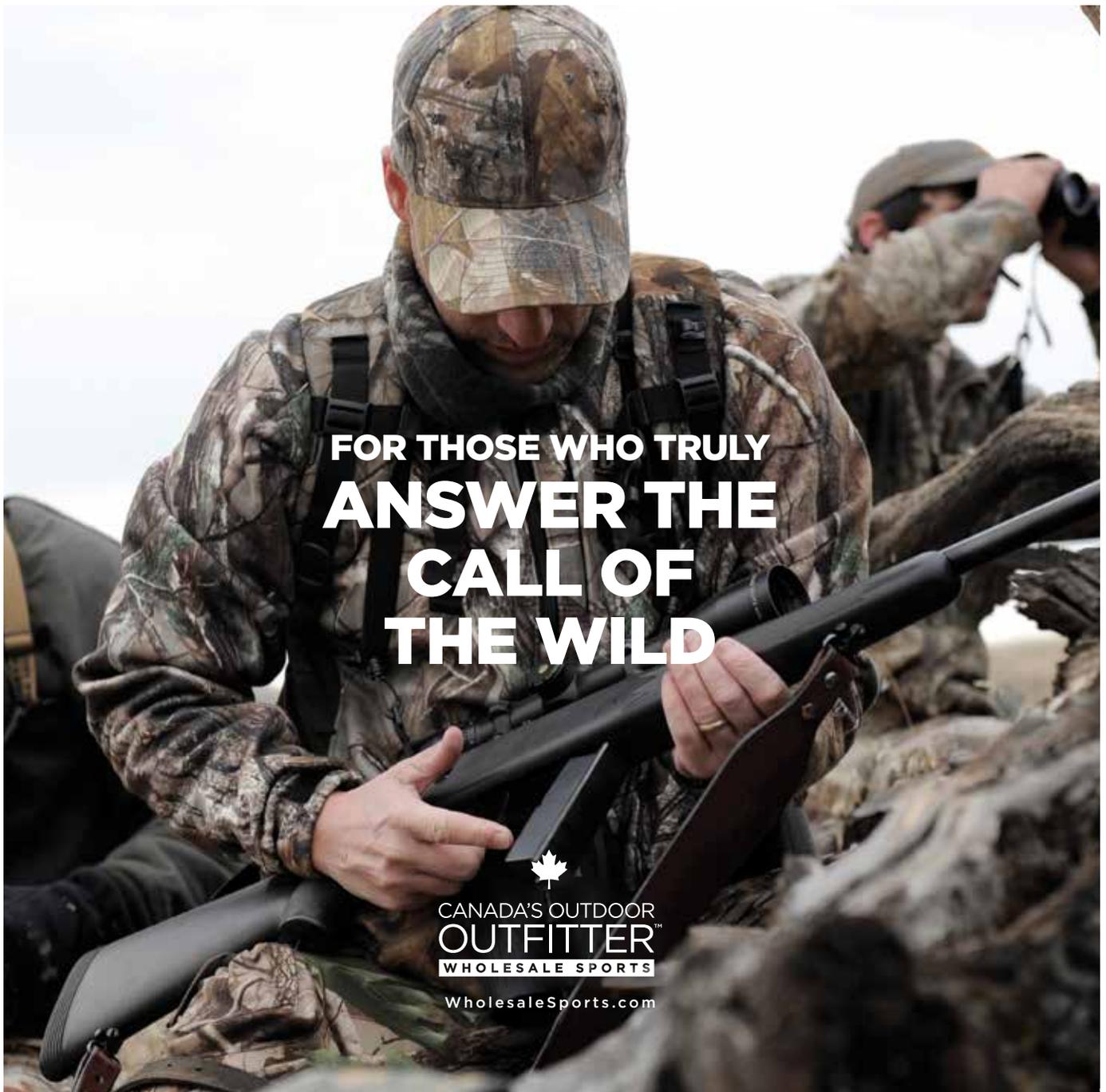


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