

# Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



## Discharge of Firearms By-Laws

Presented at:  
Shooting Club and Range Seminar  
Saturday September 13, 2014



# Discharge of Firearms

What does it mean?

# Discharge of Firearms By-law:

- A By-law, by design, is meant to regulate or prohibit a particular activity in a particular area;
- Restrictions (time of day, day of week, etc.);
- Potential loss of recreational shooting and/or hunting opportunities; and
- Often arises from traditional urban residents relocating into traditional rural settings (expecting their “norms” to relocate with them).

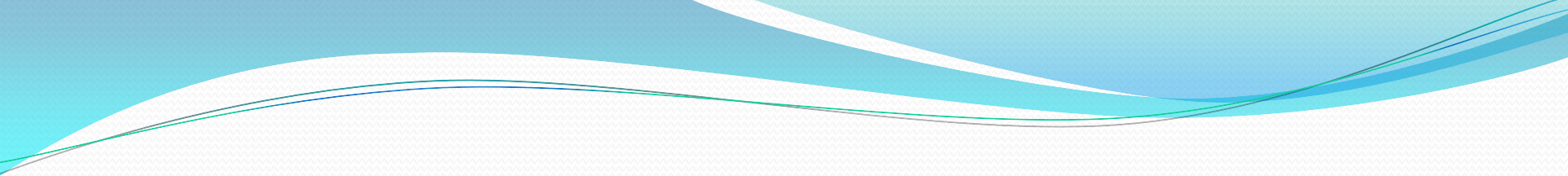
# Discharge of Firearms By-law: Current and Past

- Since January 2013, the OFAH has been directly involved with no less than 22 different municipal discharge of firearms by-laws;
- Average of 2 – 3 meetings per (committee, council, public); and
- Common theme – loss of opportunities!
  - Total loss.
  - Expansion of areas where prohibited.
  - Bows included.
  - Public safety – FACT OR FICTION?



## PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERN?

According to Statistics Canada, hunting today is measurably safer than bicycling, boating, swimming, horseback riding, and most recreational field sports, including baseball and golf.



In fact, both the Canada Safety Council and the National Safety Council have stated that hunting in Canada is responsible for only 0.001% of accidents, which pales in comparison to injuries from the sports previously mentioned, and the number of injuries occurring as a result of automobile accidents, insect bites, and even lightning strikes.

# Discharge of Firearms By-laws: Current and Past

- Barrie
- Belleville
- Bracebridge
- Brant
- Brighton
- Cavan-Monaghan
- Clarence-Rockland
- Essex
- Greater Napanee
- Hamilton
- Innisfil
- Kawartha Lakes
- King
- Kincardine
- Larose County Forest
- Lincoln
- London
- Markham
- Meaford
- North Bay
- Ottawa
- Pickering
- Port Hope
- Rideau Lakes
- Scugog
- Sudbury
- Thorold
- Uxbridge
- Wainfleet
- Whitby
- Wilmot
- Woodstock

# Process: Steps to work through

- Awareness – open communication (individuals, clubs, etc.) – **CONTACT the OFAH.**
- Make contact with the municipality (introduce, delegation request, etc.).
- Review, seek input from the municipality, and review proposed changes.
- Provide feedback – be polite about it (do not burn bridges).
- Speak to, and attend various meetings – tell your friends (get support).



# Process: Steps to work through

- Attendance at meetings is critical;
- Education (council members, municipality staff);
- Public meeting, committee meeting, and council meetings; and
- Show your support.

# Assistance:

- Have your voice heard;
- Letters of support;
- Petitions;
- Emails, telephone calls to your local councillors, etc.;
- Speak at a council meeting (members of council need to see people engaged, and attending their meeting); and
- We can lose more than we will ever gain.

# Consequences:

- Loss of opportunity
  - Recreational shooting and/or target shooting
  - Hunting
  - Firearms AND bows
- Expanded areas of no discharge
- Examples
  - Whitby
  - Uxbridge
  - Wainfleet

# Preventative Measures:

- Only shoot during prescribed times;
- Open line of communication with neighbours;
- Invite neighbours to events (open houses, pig roasts, dinners, etc.);
- Make concessions with neighbours (weddings, anniversaries, etc.); and
- Invite council members to events/functions at your club/range.

# Next Steps:

- Listen and act (if and when you first learn of something);
- Contact the OFAH;
- Show your support;
- More to lose than to gain; and
- Speak up, others will, and you might not like what they have to say.

Questions and/or comments?