



OFAH Zone J 2010 Winter Newsletter

December 2010



OFAH Zone J Quarterly Meeting in London—September 2010 OFAH Zone J Executive with OFAH members Cassandra & Fred Holthy and their son Hunter. Hunter earned the recognition of being the youngest (17 days) OFAH member to attend a meeting in recent memory.

OFAH Zone J Quarterly Membership Meeting

Sunday January 9, 2011
at the Tavistock and

District Rod & Gun
Club. See enclosed map

Visit www.tdrgc.com

for more info.

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OFAH Zone J Executive

Chair: Tony Jackson, Stratford area

tjsfinsnfeathers@sympatico.ca Tel: (519) 273-4193

1st Vice: Jim Greenwood, Simcoe area

jgreenwood340@gmail.com Tel: (519) 426-2590

2nd Vice: Brian Moore, Sarnia area

brianmoore@live.ca Tel: (519) 919-1520

Secretary/Treasurer: Kathy Moore, Brantford area

kfm00@rogers.com Tel: (519) 756-9386

Alternate Director: Bruno Vanden Berghe, Windsor area

Fax: (519) 252-3968 Tel: (519) 253-0448

Past Chair: Felix Barbetti, Niagara area

fbarbetti@cogeco.ca Tel: (905) 892-4381

Past Chair: Alf Marinelli, Port Colborne area

alfred.marinelli@sympatico.ca Tel: (905) 834-6142

Would you like the Zone J Newsletter emailed to you?

If so send your email address to teamofah@live.ca
saying that you would like the newsletter emailed to you.



BREAKING NEWS!!

OFAH Zone J Announces Guest Speakers for the January Quarterly Membership Meeting

Dr. Scott Petrie of Long Point Waterfowl will discuss the long-term affects of Industrial Wind Turbines on Migratory birds in the Great Lakes region.

Chris Maher of Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) will discuss the role of the NCC in Ontario's landscape and what it means to access and hunters

Life as I see it.....

By Kathy Moore

Another year has past and many proud OFAH members were able to attend numerous Youth mentored hunts in Southwestern Ontario. By my best estimate, about 200 youth were taken into the field and on the water, guided in their first ever hunting experience this year alone. Add to it the hundreds mentored over the past few years and we are well on our way to seeing the next generation of hunters take to the field.

As I browse the hundreds of photos posted on-line of these hunts, sharing the pride and accomplishment glowing in each face, I stop for a moment and silently Thank each and every person involved in making this happen. Just a few years ago, we felt that our hunting heritage could be lost because no young folks were interested in learning the necessary skills of putting organic fare on our tables.

I couldn't possibly list everyone involved with these hunts but I can say THANK YOU—you know who you are. You could be a land owner who says yes when asked for permission to hunt; maybe a field marshall who donates their time; a supporter; a sponsor; a corporate bigwig who choses to make a donation; a parent who allows their child the experience; a dog handler who prides themselves on sharing their skilled dogs; an instructor; a mentor; a cook; a volunteer. You may belong to a local conservation club or an organization such as the OFAH; Ducks Unlimited; Delta Waterfowl; Long Point Waterfowl; NWTF; MNR; Ontario Stewardship or you may be a Conservation Officer. For each youth, it takes approximately 3 adults to make this day happen. Without YOU, these hunts could not happen. THANK YOU!



OFAH Zone J 2011 Meeting Prize

This year we have decided to switch things up a bit and change the way the prize is awarded. Each meeting we will be giving away a \$100 gift card to be used at the OFAH Merchandise Store. To win this prize all you have to do is attend a Zone J meeting in 2011



Some days all you can do is smile and wait for some kind soul to come pull your ass out of the bind you've gotten yourself into.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy Holiday Season and all the Best for 2011!

*From Your
OFAH Zone J
Family*

OFAH Zone J is now on **FACEBOOK!!!!!!**

Reporting a Violation is VERY Important

If you see or suspect someone of abusing a natural resource, please call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time to report a violation or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Be sure to include information on the exact location of the violation, date and time of the violation, and a description of the individuals and vehicles involved. Timely and accurate information will assist conservation officers in apprehending violators and *protect your natural resources*.

Are you hosting an event that you would like to have OFAH attend?

Please send an invitation to Secretary Kathy Moore and we will work with you to meet your needs.

The OFAH encourages you to report anything suspicious to the MNR Tips line. The information you have may just be the important piece needed to stop the abuse. Our MNR Conservation Officers cannot be everywhere all of the time.

Please help them protect our natural resources.

Many municipalities in Southwestern Ontario are facing By-law issues that are affecting hunting and recreational shooting. If you hear of anything occurring in your municipality regarding noise or discharge By Laws, please contact OFAH Zone J Tony Jackson as soon as possible. The faster we begin to work with your municipality the better.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR CLUBS TO HOST OFAH ZONE J MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2012...

If you are interested in hosting a meeting of 25 – 30 OFAH members, please call Secretary Kathy Moore.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your Club

and it's accomplishments.

We enjoy moving around our Zone, visiting Clubs and making ourselves available to all of our members.

**IF YOU OR YOUR CLUB
HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT
INDUSTRIAL WIND
TURBINES COMING TO
YOUR AREA, PLEASE
CONTACT PAST CHAIR
FELIX BARBETTI.**

OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets for the 2011 Conservation lottery draw

Now Available

Please contact Cathy MacKay at OFAH head office in Peterborough to order your Club's tickets.

Cathy can be reached via email at cathy_mackay@ofah.org or by calling her at 705-748-OFAH



Origins of Carp in South Western Ontario

By: Felix Barbetti

Carp are large members of the minnow family (*Cyprinidae*). They originated in Europe and Asia (many varieties) 8 Asian species where they were wild and also domesticated for food and trade spanning over 2,000 years.

As the U.S and Canada was settled and began to develop industries rapid population growth resulted in large harvests and marketing of valued native species. By the mid to late 1800's fish stocks began to decline at an alarming rate. The U.S. reaction in 1871 (Grant Presidency) was to appoint the U.S Fish Commission to oversee the nation's fisheries interest. One of its first tasks was to report on "Fishes worthy of Cultivation." Since trout bass and other fish were obviously declining the USFC promoted a fish with advantages that could rapidly populate ponds reservoirs (rivers fragmented by mill dams and tolerate degraded/polluted warm waters) conditions unfavourable to native species.

European carp had high reproductive capabilities, rapid growth and palatable flesh. Furthermore it was thought to be harmless to other fish being an omnivore rather than another fish eater. It was also proven to be able to populate large and small bodies of water effectively.

Rather than delay by 1877 USFC imported 345 carp of scaled, mirror (fewer very large scales) and leather varieties of carp from Germany. The latter variety was hyped as German leather trout. These were propagated in Maryland and Washington DC and by 1879 over six thousand fingerlings were shipped to 24 states. In short order 1879 to 1896 some 2.4 million carp finger-

lings were sent around the U.S and some even going to Central America and Canada. So this "super fish" seemed to be gaining popularity. And make no mistake about it many anglers took to carp fishing with a passion.

Canadian history in this regard, although perhaps much less trumpeted, also had a rising tide of fish stocking and Conservation interest. Alarmed by the declining Fish and Game in Southern Ontario Canada's first Fisheries Overseer (enforcement officer) John W Kerr (Then Secretary of the Wentworth Game and Fish Protective Association that met at Dundurn Castle in Hamilton) was appointed by the Fed Govt 1857 and began licensing and trying to enforce fisheries laws and assess the situation.

Fish culture in Ontario was initiated by Samuel Wilmot who began rearing and transferring rainbow trout, Chinook salmon along with bass and common carp in the 1860's as Atlantic salmon declined and Lake trout

was extirpated in Lake Ontario herring declined in Lake Erie.

In Dunnville a local Doctor naturalist and hunter G.A. MacCallum requested and received permission to stock over 400 common carp in the Grand River in 1892. So between significant stocking on the American side and some from Southern Ontario the earliest carp stocking into Lake Erie was in the 1890's. They certainly took hold.

Wildlife conservationists in Ontario made a major breakthrough in November 1890 when the Mowat Government appointed a Royal Commission on



Game and Fish headed by that same G.A. MacCallum whose Commission reported back within two years –essentially substantiating what the Fish and game clubs were concerned about. This also led to some difficult relations with the Feds that prompted the British Govt to cede fish and game management to Ontario.

So the common carp, organized Fish and Game clubs like our OFAH affiliates of today, and Dunnville were prominent in pressing for the beginning of our modern Conservation (wise use and protection) movement some 111 years ago.

Whether you like or dislike carp (and there are pros and cons on both sides of the argument) it was perhaps the most deliberate and most hyped fish of that day when degraded and dammed fisheries habitats and unchecked exploitation to meet rising population demand and industrialization triggered a political need for a broad based super fish solution. And it was implemented successfully?

As we look at "Green Energy" initiatives that include more dams on more flowing rivers we may again be trading sturgeon walleye and trout habitat for more carp and vegetative wetland monocultures. The same holds for refurbishing obsolete dams and millponds in our Zone and possibly offshore wind farms.

LARGE GERMAN CARP.

Published: January 24, 1885

The New York Times

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In a bunch of fish shown yesterday by E. G. Blackford at Fulton Market were the largest German carp yet seen coming from the Potomac. One of them, a leather-back carp, weighed over 15 pounds; the other, of the scale variety, 13 pounds. On the occasion of a freshet which took place at Washington some years ago the waters of the Potomac flooded the Government Fish Pond back of the White House, and these carp, then only a few inches in length and weighing not more than 5 ounces, were carried away into the river, and finding plentiful food there have in a short time greatly increased in bulk. As they are true specimens of the German carp, which is not indigenous to the United States; their origin can be positively fixed. It is already quite well known that, by transplantation, the German carp grow much faster in their new surroundings than in the old. To-day carp raisers in Germany are getting their young fish from the United States. The demand for carp is quite active, the best restaurants in New-York buying them. In a very short time German carp will be plentiful in all parts of the United States, and will be one of the regulation fish in the market. The introduction of these fish is due to the United States Fish Commission.

Congratulations to Windsor Sportsman Club!!

After years of being closed to trap and skeet shooting, Windsor Sportsman Club have overcome huge challenges with thanks in part to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters assisting them with a first in Canada solution.

Kevlar shot curtains have been installed along the property line and now stop shot from leaving the property. This was a great challenge and shows the commitment and dedication of Club members and supporters.

November 23, 2010 was the Grand Opening and media event with November 27th being an Open House and shooting event. Cold weather did not deter visitors from all parts of southern Ontario including members of the OFAH Zone J Executive and members from the Tavistock and District Rod and Gun Club.

Windsor Sportsman Club's members were proud and so they should be. A long history of shooting has been preserved within the City of Windsor and should attest to the fact that anything is possible if you set your mind to it!



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Wearing Hunter orange while driving an ATV

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is in the process of clarifying regulations that possibly require hunters to wear 400 square inches of hunter orange and hunter orange head gear while driving an ATV between hunting areas during the hunting season that requires hunters to wear hunter orange. Some hunters already wear a hunter orange helmet "skin".

Watch for updates in the Ontario Out Of Doors magazine.

Bruno and Yolande Vanden Berghe of OFAH Zone J flew the flag of the OFAH at both the Outdoor Farm Show and the International Plowing Match. Both shows were held in Zone J during the month of September. This booth gives our OFAH members the opportunity to renew their memberships and purchase OFAH merchandise face to face. If you missed this opportunity, please visit www.shopofah.org to purchase your own high quality OFAH merchandise.



OFAH Conservation Nevada (rip open) Tickets

Please remember that OFAH has these tickets available and are always looking for new locations. If you know of a location that may be interested in making a profit while selling these tickets, please contact OFAH Zone J Secretary. Funds raised thru the sale of the Nevada tickets are used for conservation projects.

What a great time of year Fall is. I always looked forward to checking hunters in the field and talking hunting when I was in uniform.

Now I look forward to spending time in my tree stand, or in the marsh, or just talking hunting with others who share a similar life choice.

I recently attended two youth hunts in our zone. The Long Point Waterfowlers Assoc. held their 4th annual hunt at Long Point. Twenty young hunters and their mentors spent a morning listening and learning about waterfowl hunting from some pretty experienced folks. Duck ID, using a call, setting decoys, cleaning your harvest, and rules and regulations were the order for the morning.

Following a Bbq lunch the young hunters, with new calls and decoys received as part of their goody bags, were taken out into the marsh with a guide in hopes of harvesting some of the wary waterfowl that stopover in one of North America's busiest flyways.

The weather couldn't have been more "ducky" with wind and rain for the better of the afternoon. Harvest for this years hunt was higher than in past hunts, with some of the youth hunters coming back to the unit office with more than a single bird.

In November, I attended the 3rd annual youth pheasant hunt at Gold Creek Farms, west of London. This hunt, supported by the Middlesex Stewardship Committee, saw 12 apprentice hunters and their mentors learn some pointers on firearm and hunter safety before trying their hand at shooting some trap. After a morning prayer led by an Elder from the Chippewa of the Thames, they were off to the field with a guide and a dog handler.

Weather couldn't have been better, and although the pheasants weren't holding for the dogs, every youth was able to bag a nice bird.

After a brief lesson on how to clean your harvest, a few birds made it to the deep fryer for lunch.

These 2 hunts demonstrated what willingness from a few dedicated folks can do for our youth who care enough about what hunting has to offer.

I continue to speak at hunter education classes given by local instructor Bert Cronkwright, and always ask the youth there to thank the mentors who have taken the time to spend with them.

We all have a responsibility to spend a little time with our young people and teach them what hunting has to offer.

It's a great lifestyle choice.

Jim Greenwood

1st Vice chair OFAH Zone J

Did you know...

The Chief Firearms Office deems any place where regular shooting occurs is an "official" range and needs to be inspected. This includes the place you sight in your rifle each year.

SPRINGBANK DAM PETITION

If you or your Club would like more blank petitions please contact your OFAH Zone J Secretary/Treasurer.

Did you know....

The Chief Firearms Office MAY attend a certified shooting range AT ANY TIME. If your Club advertises a "Special Event" shoot, you should expect a surprise visit from the CFO.



OFAH Head Office in Peterborough continues its search for photos of wildlife crop damage for an Ontario Crop & Livestock Wildlife Damage Assessment Manual.

If you have photos that could be used, please contact OFAH Zone J Secretary.





Atlantic Salmon Restoration Myths:

Lake Ontario and its tributaries aren't what they were 100 years ago

MNR has been stocking Atlantic salmon for 18 years and it hasn't worked

Atlantic salmon need to migrate to the ocean

Atlantic salmon will displace rainbow trout, brook trout, and brown trout in streams

There isn't enough forage base for another large predator species in Lake Ontario

The current forage base leads to thiamin deficiency, causing early mortality in Salmonids

Fishing opportunities will decline

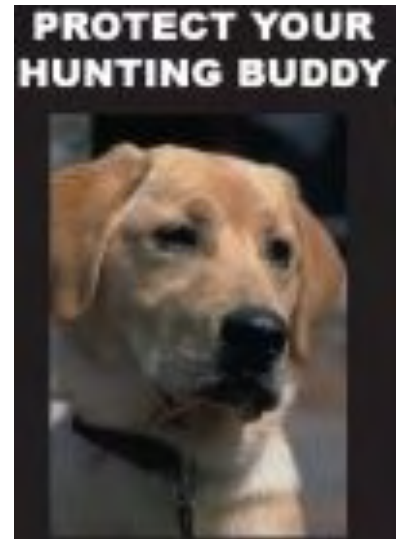
Atlantic salmon may migrate into Lake Erie through the Welland Canal and ruin fisheries there

For the truth about these myths visit www.bringbackthesalmon.ca

Community Wildlife Management Workshops

Have you attended one of Greg Balch's workshops? If you have, I'm certain you were impressed with his extensive display of Ontario wildlife mounts as well as his knowledgeable presentation. If you have not experienced one of these presentations, please consider hosting one. Greg has a way of explaining the food web and how everything in nature affects our native species that makes it fun and easy to understand.

To contact Greg for more information and availability please email him at gregbalch@rogers.com. The same email address can be used to make a donation to Greg's continuing efforts.



Congratulations to Brad Kirkpatrick of the Southwest Outdoors Club.

Brad won the OFAH Zone J 2010 Attendance Prize of \$500.00 to be used at his favourite outfitter store. Brad chose to spend his winnings at General Gun in Windsor.

Brad earned his ballot in the Attendance Prize draw by attending the OFAH Zone J meeting in January at the Wellington Street Sportsman Club in Dorchester.

Brad used his winnings towards purchasing a new hunting rifle.

OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award

This award is to recognize an individual's outstanding effort towards outdoors education, stewardship, conservation, and/or the promotion of angling or hunting in South-western Ontario as selected by the OFAH Zone J membership.

Members of OFAH Zone J may nominate anyone, does not have to be an OFAH member, for this award.

Nominees for the 2010 award may be submitted to the Zone J Secretary/Treasurer no later than December 31, 2010. Please include a description of the work the nominee has done as well as photos, news articles, etc. The Zone membership will vote on the winner at the January 2011 Quarterly meeting in Tavistock with the winner being announced at the Zone J Annual meeting on April 10, 2011.

Please remember to submit your nominations for the 2010 OFAH Zone J Outstanding Achievement Award.

We know there are many deserving volunteers who quietly devote their time, energy and money to conservation, hunting and angling within our Zone.

Please help us recognize them by submitting a story about their dedication and passion.

OFAH Zone J Annual General Meeting and Elections will be held April 2 & 3, 2011 at the Essex Legion. The Gosfield North Sportsman Association is hosting this meeting.

If you like what the Federation does and are interested in volunteering some of your time with the OFAH, please consider running for a position on the OFAH Zone J Executive. The positions available include: Chair; 1st Vice Chair; 2nd Vice Chair; Secretary/Treasurer and Alternate Director.

Contact Felix Barbetti, Nominations Committee Chair for more information on these positions.



Do you have a person on your Christmas List that has everything ?

I bet they don't have an Atlantic Salmon named after them!

Visit www.bringbackthesalmon.ca and buy them an Atlantic Salmon

Resources for you!

www.youthhunting.ca

This is your on-line tool kit for planning and executing a youth hunt. Helpful information, guidelines, suggestions and contacts are available at this website.



OFAH Mario Cortellucci Hunting and Fishing Heritage Centre – www.hfhc.ca

This world class, state of the art education centre in Peterborough next door to the OFAH head Office (4601 Guthrie Drive) is incredible. If you get a chance to visit, please do so – it is a destination where conservation success stories of anglers and hunters are proudly told. See the Shimano aquarium teeming with Great Lakes native fish species. Call for hours of operation and more info 705-748-6324 ext.100.

OFAH Zone J Youth Activity Fund

If your Club is interested in assisting the Youth in South-western Ontario, please consider a donation to this fund. The OFAH Zone J Youth Activity Fund is used to financially support hands-on educational experiences for youth

within our Zone in angling, hunting and conservation work. Contact your OFAH Zone Secretary/Treasurer for more information.

www.ofah.org
For all your OFAH
needs

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

83rd Annual General Meeting and Wildlife Conference

March 17 thru 20, 2011

Details at www.ofah.org

The Delta Meadowvale Resort in Mississauga is once again hosting the OFAH Annual Conference.

Every hunter, angler and conservationist should attend this event at least once in their lifetime. This event is coordinated with the Toronto Sportsman Show

All attendees receive a free pass into the Sportsman Show along with free shuttle bus service Saturday between the Conference Centre and the Sportsman Show.

Mark Your 2011 Calendars

OFAH Zone J Quarterly Membership Meeting : Sunday January 9, 2011 at the Tavistock and District Rod & Gun Club. See map on next page.

OFAH Annual Conservation Lottery – first Early Bird draw Feb 18, 2011



Ontario Family Fishing Weekend

February 19 – 21, 2011 – Watch for Events in your area!

If you or someone you know would like to try fishing in Ontario waters for the first time (or the first time in a long time), circle the weekend of February 19-21, 2011 on your calendar. For those three days only (12:01 a.m. Saturday to 11:59 p.m. Monday), Canadian residents can enjoy the fun of fishing in Ontario without a licence during the annual Ontario Family Fishing Weekend. Visit www.familyfishingweekend.com for more information

Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters 83rd Annual General Meeting and Wildlife Conference: March 17 thru 20, 2011 is being held once again at the fantastic Delta Meadowvale in Mississauga, ON

OFAH Zone J Annual General Meeting and Elections will be held April 2 & 3, 2011 at the Essex Legion. The Gosfield North Sportsman Association is hosting this meeting. Details and directions will be in our next Newsletter.

OFAH Zone J Annual Youth Campout :
June 17—19, 2011 at the Tavistock and District Rod & Gun Club. Contact OFAH Zone J 2nd Vice Chair Brian Moore for registration and details.



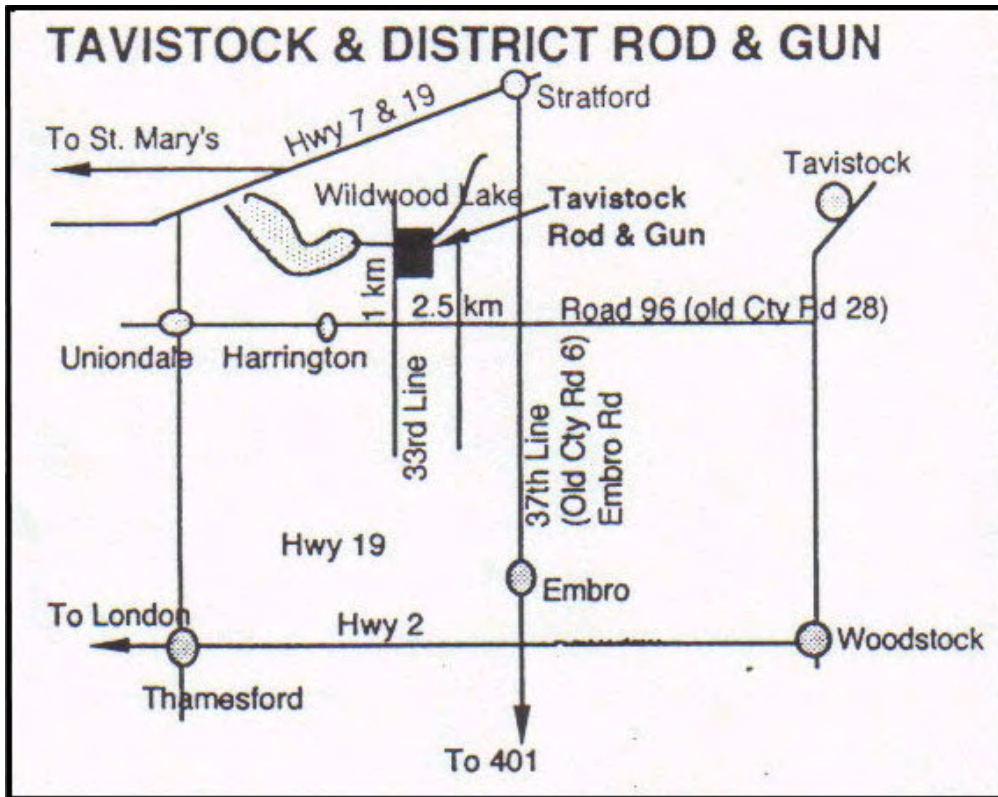
Spring Wild Turkey Seminars

Course dates and locations will be available at www.OFAH.org early in January. Register online or call OFAH 705-748-OFAH



HUNTER ORANGE ON POP UP BLINDS

OFAH is NOT supporting the MNR proposal that would require 400 square inches on each side of a manufactured pop-up blind. OFAH is not convinced there is a safety issue that would be averted with this Regulation. Watch for more information in upcoming issues of Ontario Out of Doors.



Driving Directions To The Tavistock and District Rod & Gun Club

From Highway 401

- Take exit #222 and go north on Embro Road = County Road 6
- turn West (left) onto County Road 28 (Maplewood Sideroad, Road 96)
- just before entering Harrington turn North onto 33rd Line
- go approximately 1 km
- the Club is on the East side and is identified by a sign and a gate

From Stratford ... approximately 20 km

- take Erie Street Southwest (Highway 7)
- turn South onto County Road 113 (going towards Embro)
- turn West onto County Road 28 (Road 96)
- just before entering Harrington turn North onto 33rd Line
- go approximately 1 km

the Club is on the East side and is identified by a sign and a gate