

## ODFGA President's Report to 2023 Annual General Meeting

I am pleased to report that the Okotoks and District Fish and Game Association had another successful year in 2022.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in January. I want to thank the people who stepped up to accept positions on the executive: Vice President Shawn Lorenz, Treasurer James Oancia and Secretary Mark Anderson.

Our horn scoring evening in February was very well attended. We held it at Hubtown Brewing. We had over 30 people show up, and our volunteers measured over a dozen sets of antlers. It was obvious that people were anxious to 'get out' again. Holding it at the brewery gave us a free facility, the pub made a lot of extra sales, and we got some good interest from people who wandered in and took note of the event. Everyone had a great time.

We had a guest speaker at our April general meeting. Jim Clarke is a very avid turkey hunter and promoter of the Wild Turkey Management Plan in Alberta. He spoke at our meeting on Turkey Hunting Basics, and took lots of questions from our members.

In early June, we were asked to help out at a 'Dad's Central' event at a stocked trout pond in Okotoks. Dad's Central is an organization that promotes bonding between dads and children by introducing them to new activities. Two of our members helped out at the 2-day event, demonstrating how to fish to new anglers as well as safe fish handling techniques.

Our first ever Wild Game Banquet and Fundraiser open to the public was held on June 24. It was a tremendous success. 92 people attended, and enjoyed a wide variety of dishes prepared by a fantastic chef. They included big horn sheep appetizers, smoked trout salad, lake trout risotto, goose, deer cabbage rolls, pheasant, smoked elk stroganoff, stuffed roasted bear, and others. A good selection of silent auction and raffle items kept people interested. The event raised some good funds for the club. Some things were a big success, others need some tweaking, but overall it went extremely well. Thank you to Jaren Baranyay for chairing the banquet committee, and to all the committee members for their great work.

We sponsored a youth member to attend the Narrow Lake Conservation Camp in July. This is the first time we've done this as a club. I am really happy to be able to have offered an opportunity to one of our young club members to have this kind of experience.

We held a fundraising 50/50 raffle which wrapped up early August. Many of our members worked hard to sell tickets. The winner was a lady from Spruce Grove, with the consolation prize going to a lady from Lethbridge. The club realized \$2600 profit from the raffle, to use for our various gaming-authorized programs.

We held our first meeting of the fall in September. Guest speaker for the meeting was our youth member that we sponsored to Narrow Lake Youth Camp. He provided a very enthusiastic report, speaking for 15 minutes on the programs and activities he took part in. His presentation included a PowerPoint with lots of pictures and videos. He answered lots of questions from the members at the end of his presentation.

Our November meeting had a demonstration on scoring an antelope. An antelope hunt opportunity only comes every 10-14 years, so it's not often we have a chance to harvest and measure one. Thanks to Mark Anderson for doing the demonstration and to Shawn Lorenz for providing the antelope to score.

We had a booth at Light Up Okotoks in November. Our members volunteered to run a booth for the 2-day event. They passed along information on our club and sold memberships to interested people.

Our club membership stayed consistent in 2022, at around 120 members. We've got members not only from the area, but also from St. Albert to Red Deer to Lethbridge. I want to thank all of these members for recognizing the importance of belonging to a conservation-based club and for choosing the ODFGA. Thank you to Dulcie Zazula, our membership chair, for processing all the memberships and liaising with the Alberta Fish and Game Association keeping the affiliate records in order.

We arranged for member contact cards to be printed for interested members. These cards provide contact information, as well as the benefits of AFGA affiliation. We also had some ODFGA logo ball hats made up for members to purchase, showing their pride in belonging.

Throughout this report, I have mentioned many times that volunteers stepped up to help out with our meetings, programs and events. I want to thank all of those volunteers, whether they worked the banquet, sold raffle tickets, helped with horn scoring, represented the club at events or just showed up at meetings to participate and show their support. I also want to acknowledge and thank the people who donated items for our draws, raffles and door prizes. We couldn't have accomplished what we did without you.

I urge everyone to continue to support our club. Share information with your outdoors friends and families, and talk them into joining as well. A larger club means more activities for everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your president in 2022.

Matt Zazula