

## ODFGA General Meeting April 22 2026

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. 13 members in attendance.
2. Brief summary of past events
  - Horn scoring event was held at the end of January at Hub Town Brewing. We combined it with the High River Club. Close to 30 heads were measured. It was a good afternoon.
  - Kids Can Catch Ice Fishing Day on the February Family Day Weekend was a huge success. We had 350 participants, we ran out of hot dogs, 15 gallons of hot chocolate was given out, and it appeared everyone had a good time. The weather was good, and a few fish were caught. We were supported by volunteers from the Calgary Fish and Game Association. Thank you to Mark Anderson for once again coordinating it, and to all the volunteers who came out to help.
  - The Alberta Wildlife Federation Conference and Annual General Meeting was held in Calgary in February. We sent 2 voting delegates. Delegates from around the province attended. Of particular note was that our Okotoks Club received a provincial award for our yearly Kids Can Catch Ice Fishing Program which has been running for 4 years. Also, the ODFGA donated \$1,000 to the Alberta Habitat Fund for conservation of publicly-accessible lands.
3. Guest Speaker – Craig Jones, Teacher and Phys Ed Specialist at Westmount School here in Okotoks
  - Westmount School offers a hunter Education option led by Craig Jones and an Outdoor Education option led by Steve Kotowich. Craig provided a summary both programs, and highlighted potential ways we can collaborate to our mutual benefit.
  - Both the Hunter Education and Outdoor Education classes are an option, where students choose to take them. There are course fees associated with each class to offset cost of guest teachers, bussing, consumables, etc.
  - Much of the gear has been procured by the instructors with some support from the community as well as the school.
  - Westmount teachers Craig Jones and Steven Kotowich teach a Hunter Education and Outdoor Education program respectively, with a goal to provide safe, intentional experiences that foster growth in students.
  - Both programs work in conjunction with each other, all the while allowing for significant differences to provide students with a different skill set for heading into the outdoors.
  - The Hunter Education option uses the AHEIA Hunter and Fishing Education programs to deliver a variety of topics such as but not limited to: Animal/Fish Identification, Firearms/Archery introduction safety and awareness, Fly Tying,

Gear and outdoor awareness, Fishing Casting and Retrieving, and Career connections through guest speakers.

- The Outdoor Education option uses industry standard best practices with experience to provide Day Hiking, Back packing, Cross country skiing, Snowshoeing, Indoor Rock Climbing, First Aid Certification, Indoor Pool Kayaking, Stewardship, and Various leadership opportunities.
  
- Potential Ways OFGA and Westmount School can work together:
- Can work in collaboration with community style of events: Clean ups, graffiti removal, tree planting.
- Promotion of both organizations within the community at large: Kids can catch, horn scoring, spreading the word about opportunities and work at Westmount School through their programs.
- Community connections for students at Westmount: Guest speakers, volunteer opportunities for school-based activities and school field trips, program outside of school that can provide connection and community.
- Possible donations: Old mounts/racks that are not wanted by members anymore, new or gently used gear that is unwanted, fur/feathers for tying and/or identification, possible monetary support to continue to help build programs.
  
- Contact information for program coordinators at Westmount School:
- Craig Jones (Hunter Education)- [jonesc@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:jonesc@fsd38.ab.ca) (403) 995-4824
- Steven Kotowich (Outdoor Education)- [kotowichs@fsd38.ab.ca](mailto:kotowichs@fsd38.ab.ca) (403) 995-4824

#### 4. Guest Speakers – Don Younker and Shawn Lorenz

- Winners of the African Safari Hunts at our past fundraising banquets. Don and Shawn provided an interesting Powerpoint presentation with photos describing their experiences.

#### 5. Current and Coming Events

- We'll be sponsoring a youth member to attend the Narrow Lake Conservation Camp this July. Kids will take part in activities like Hunter Education, Firearm Safety, Boater Safety, Outdoor Survival, Archery, Field Position Shooting, Canoeing, Kayaking, and so much more! Our club will pay the registration fee, plus help out with the cost of gas to get there and back. We'll invite our interested youth members to submit a short essay, which will be used to select someone to go. It's for ages 12-17. Watch your email for details.
- We have a 50/50 Cash Raffle going on. We're asking each member to sell at least one book of tickets to make this a success. Tickets were made available for members to purchase or sell.
- Our Family Beach Day and barbecue will be here at Crystal Shores on Sunday July 12. All members and their families are invited to attend.

- Our Annual Fundraising Banquet will be Saturday September 26. It will be held at the Viking Rentals Center here in Okotoks. It will be a “Fall Dinner” style of evening, with a ham and turkey dinner along with a selection of wild game dishes. Tickets will be on sale by late May, and we expect them to go fast, so watch your email for details. We’re still accepting donations of any kind of wild game you might be able to spare. We’re also asking members who own or work for businesses to consider donating items for our live and silent auctions, for the raffles and for door prizes. Everything we receive will help the event be a success.  
Let us know if you have anything to donate.
- A suggestion from the floor was to hold another ‘Sportsman Sale’ sometime in the future. We will investigate co-hosting an event with a neighboring club in order to make it a bigger success.

6. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm