



MONCTON FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 423, Moncton, N.B. E1C 8L4

NB Wildlife Federation

February 1, 2017

MFGA 2016 Annual Report

The Moncton Fish and Game Association, one of the oldest Fish & Game Associations in the province, had a truly exceptional year in 2016.

I am pleased to list the MFGA accomplishments for 2016.

- The MFGA was formed in 1924 and incorporated in 1981. In June of 2016 the MFGA members voted on and accepted the first ever Constitution and By-Laws for the MFGA. This has strengthened the MFGA management and financial structure and is seen as an important benchmark for the long-term future and continuity of the MFGA;
- The MFGA has taken up a role of environmental advocacy by publically stating our opposition to forestry herbicide spraying and in promoting the use of non-toxic hunting ammunition within our Association, and advocating the same to the NBWF. The MFGA also wrote to the Federal Government with member concerns over proposed firearm-related Acts in the Senate and Parliament;
- We have also been a supporter (\$1000) of the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance which is a multi-stakeholder group working towards environmental awareness and sustainability in the Petitcodiac River drainage. Our focus has been on education and awareness projects;
- In 2016 the MFGA once again made a \$3,000 donation to Camp Centennial so that the Camp, through their scholarship program, can offer 30 scholarships for youth (with financial distressed needs) to attend a week of an outdoor-based summer day-camp. Thus far the, MFGA has assisted 300 + youth to attend camp. This is perhaps our highest priority as we are paying-it-forward with youth in Moncton;

- We also hosted a spring and fall "Family Range Day and BBQ" so that youth could be exposed to recreational shooting and archery. Cabela's operated an archery range for the youth and the NB Conservation Officer Association donated \$75 for participant prizes. We set an attendance record with 77 participants over the two events (47 youth and 30 adults);
- In 2016, we also developed our own internal Range Safety Officer Course (based on the RNBRA material) for members of the MFGA who want to volunteer as RSOs at the Victoria Road Range. A course was delivered and eight new RSOs ensued. (These RSO are recognized only at the MFGA Range);
- The MFGA, while not a gun club, or competitive shooting club, does operate the Victoria Road Range as a member benefit. The range program included a 'range clean-up day', a session on handgun proficiency, two 'rifle days' for instruction on sporting rifles, a pre-Christmas 'Turkey Shoot', and a range orientation for new members. We also developed and placed on our web site, a presentation on range safety and an orientation to the range. We have transformed the range from a perceived liability to an asset that is attracting new MFGA memberships;
- Through our annually held fall Sportsman Dinner event, the MFGA is able to support several community-based projects. In addition to the Camp Centennial and Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance Donations, we also donated \$1,500 to the Atlantic Wildlife Institute to support their ongoing wildlife rehabilitation efforts;
- This year at the Sportsman's dinner we obtained a major sponsorship from a cosmetic retailer such that we initiated into a 'Sportswoman's Raffle Table' that raised \$850. This company has indicated that they will support our dinner in 2017. We are strategically trying to engage more females as members and continue to support two or three women to attend the BOW workshop;
- While not exactly a hunting or fishing activity the MFGA also displayed social awareness, by matching the pass the hat funds raised at our December monthly meeting to support the annual 'Turkey Drive' in Moncton. A total of \$270 was donated to the community food drive.
- With respect to memberships, our Membership Director has reported that in 2016 we had officially 435 members for which fees were submitted to the NFA for insurance. This includes regular, life, and youth members, and some daily rates from the range. Back in 2015, the official

membership list was around 340 so this represents a **21% increase in memberships.**

There are several other activities such as membership in the NBWF, support to the ASF/Salmon Council annual dinner, Larry's Gulch draw (when we get a spot), sharing a booth at the Spring Sportsman Show in Moncton and our monthly meetings that are routine activities.

Like many clubs across the province, we too are facing an aging demographic and a general decrease in active hunting and fishing. The MFGA is also based in what would be considered a more urban area. That does not however, prevent us from being visible in the community through the projects that we support. We have taken the strategic approach of using membership fees for basic operation of the association, range fees to maintain and operate the range to NB Public Safety standards within the stated parameters of our lease with the Province of New Brunswick, and our Sportsman Dinner revenue to support our community projects. It is the latter that we try to make known in the community. I think we have been relatively successful in this regard.

This letter by its very nature is a comprehensive review of our 2016 operating year, so it will serve as the 2016 annual report to the NBWF.

Sincerely,

Robert Snider
President, MFGA