

**AHEIA's Mission is to Make Wildlife and Fish Part of the Value System of Every Albertan**

*Summer 2014*



**Alberta Hunter Education  
Instructors' Association**

# **Conservation Education**

**The Voice of Conservation Education in Alberta**

**Magazine**



**ALBERTA HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION**  
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# ELEMENTS OF WILDLIFE

## AHEIA FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

### THREE CHANCES TO WIN

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**"Mallard Duck Pair in Flight"  
 Wood Carving  
 By Ed McMaster**



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 AT THE WARD WORLD CARVING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**APPRAISED VALUE: \$22,500.00**



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 By Tom Schultz**

RETAIL VALUE: \$985.00



**"Diving Bear with Fish"  
 Authentic Inuit Soapstone Carving  
 By Guy Uniuqsaraq**

By Bob Gruszecki



Bob Gruszecki  
 President - A.H.E.I.A.

**H**ello Everyone:  
 In May we received news that some of our funding from what has been traditional sources has been drastically reduced. As a result, A.H.E.I.A. launched a number of programs and efforts to replace this much needed funding in order to continue offering the valuable programs within the Conservation Education umbrella. Our world renown programs are reaching more people, we are expanding our types of training and our students are coming to us in record numbers!

Clearly the need has never been greater and therefore A.H.E.I.A. is launching its first ever capital campaign.

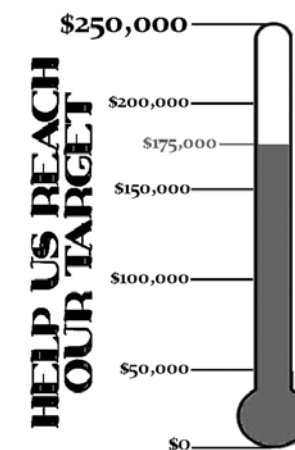
### Now is the time for us to ask for help: Your Help!

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.) is a small non-profit registered charity that has tremendous reach and impact. Province wide we have a total of 22 full time staff manning four facilities and numerous mobile initiatives, who work with and coordinate the activities of nearly 3200 volunteer members delivering programs in every portion of this great Province. Combined, this team will serve over 85,000 men, women and children in Alberta in 2014. A.H.E.I.A. and our cause of Conservation Education is something very special! Through our many training programs, including the Hunter Education Program, Fishing Education Program, Canadian Firearms Safety Programs, Camp Programs, Youth Programs, Kidwise Firearms Safety Programs, Women's Programs, Archery Essentials and associated programs, Bear Essentials Programs, Youth Firearms Safety Programs, Hunter Mentor Programs, National Archery in the School Programs and more, we help to add value to people's lives! We connect people to wildlife and wild places. We are an independent non-government charity and we survive on donations.

A Capital Campaign called the **"A.H.E.I.A. Annual Campaign for Conservation Education"** launched today and will run through to August 31, 2014. Our goal is ambitious, but our needs have never been greater. There will be numerous announcements and launches over the coming days and weeks. This part of the campaign kickoff is circulated to our entire electronic mailing list and e-users of our conservation education programs. People visiting our website will have the opportunity to understand our campaign and hopefully will find it within themselves to contribute so that we may continue to offer the finest Conservation Education programs in North America!

Our website alone is visited in excess of 1.2 million times per year. If every one of those visitors gave an average of \$3.75 our fundraising would be done for the year and our valuable program delivery could continue unabated. We will also be launching an on-line auction with proceeds going directly to this campaign. Watch our website and your email in-basket for details. Other initiatives include raffles of firearms and optics. Additionally, there will be special news regarding "Conservation Education Month" at a large sporting retailer in Alberta. Watch for that press release and ensure you get to their store to shop and donate to our cause at the till.

Please help us forget about fundraising and get back to the important task of Conservation Education program delivery.



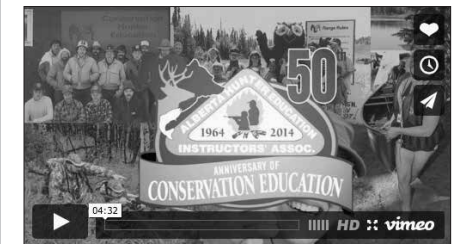
We are making great strides since the start of the campaign on May 1.

We need you to find it within yourself to contribute to our cause and consider one of the donation options through this link: <http://www.aheia.com/CampaignForConsEd2014>

Alternatively, if you would like to contribute by cheque or with a credit card over the phone please contact us directly at the Edmonton or Calgary office: in Edmonton 780-466-6682, in Calgary at 403-252-8474.

If sending contributions by mail, please send to: The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association, 911 Sylvester Crescent SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 0R8.

**Please take the time to connect through the link above, read about the campaign, track our progress and watch the short video** that describes our cause and our significant impact on communities throughout the Province. Donations to our cause are directed to our programs and qualify for a tax receipt.



As I mentioned at the outset, this is our first ever capital campaign in our 50 year history. Now is the time we are asking for your help and **any** help you can provide is greatly appreciated. That help includes you taking the time to share this communication with your friends, family and virtually anyone you think may have an interest in our cause of making people's lives better by connecting them to Wildlife and Fish!

Thank you for your consideration!

Yours in Conservation.

Alberta Hunter Education  
 Instructors' Association  
**Conservation  
 Education**  
 Magazine

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Front Cover Photo by:

**Gordon Court**

Alberta Environment and  
 Sustainable Resource Development

# Edmonton Report



“ I am always pleased that our camps are so popular, but a bit sad that we have to turn away many youngsters each year. ”

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch  
Program Coordinator  
A.H.E.I.A.  
Red Deer - North

Our 2014 Youth Hunter Education Camps are sold out. I am always pleased that our camps are so popular, but a bit sad that we have to turn away many youngsters each year. If you are one of the youngsters who missed out or wish to be placed on the “Advance Notification” list for 2015, email your request to [edmontoninfo@aheia.com](mailto:edmontoninfo@aheia.com).

The Outdoor Youth Seminar is also sold out. Our goal for the Seminar has always been to provide an opportunity for parents and guardians to spend some quality time with their children or grandkids. The Alford Lake camp is the ideal place to accomplish this. This year we will have participants aged 7-74 partaking in, and enjoying everything, the great outdoors have to offer.

If you would like to be added to our “Advance Notification” list for 2015, email your request to [edmontoninfo@aheia.com](mailto:edmontoninfo@aheia.com).

The Migratory Bird Calling Seminar is the second in the Game Calling Series. This seminar will be held at our Edmonton office on Wednesday, August 13 from 6:00-9:00 pm. Join us and the Cabela’s Team for this educational and fun-filled event.

The 2014 Migratory Bird Calling Seminar will provide the participants with hands-on training in various areas of calling ducks and geese. Topics covered:

- Planning Your Hunt
- Spotting/Scouting
- Quest for Permission
- Gear: Guns / Ammunition / Choke Tubes / Decoys / Blinds / Accessories
- Concealment Tips and Strategies
- Effective Decoy Patterns
- Adding Realistic Motion to your Decoy Spread
- Calling

Contact me directly for more information or to register.

Congratulations to Don and Grace Dwyer who have been named the Volunteers of the Year in our Edmonton office. Both have been long-time instructors and have volunteered countless hours assisting with our many courses, programs and events. It is very rewarding for me when I see how this dynamic duo pays it forward and give selflessly of their time to the A.H.E.I.A. cause.

We continue to look for volunteers who are able to assist with our varied courses and events. If you have some spare time and wish to lend a hand, please contact any of our delivery team: Chuck Strong ([chuck@aheia.com](mailto:chuck@aheia.com)), Ken Cook ([ken@aheia.com](mailto:ken@aheia.com)) or myself at [len@aheia.com](mailto:len@aheia.com). You will have more fun than you can “shake a stick at” and we could really use your assistance.

Also remember to have fun in the Great Outdoors and take a kid or two along with you.



# Firearms Education Report



## Is the Buyer Aware?

By Glenn McKay



Glenn McKay  
Firearms Education  
Coordinator  
A.H.E.I.A.

Over the past few years, there have been a number of websites that have advertised firearms for sale, either a private sale or at a commercial location. I do not think that I am any different than any other prospective buyer. I research the firearm I want in a calibre that I desire. Based on research, I try to find the best price for the exact item I want. If I find a “new in box” at a good or a great price I am generally all in. If it is from someone I know or a commercial location, I simply purchase the item. Now what takes place? A commercial location will simply take my information, which would include a method of payment, a shipping address and my PAL number.

Some may even ask for further information such as place of birth. Now, if this is a business or someone that you have done business with before, then no fuss no muss. You get the firearm delivered to your door and you have not left the comfort of your home.

Sounds like, and actually is, a great way to shop. The downside of it is not as easily seen and, in some cases, never will be seen by the unsuspecting buyer. Where it can and has apparently gone off of the rails is when you find that once-in-a-lifetime deal that you cannot turn down. Problem is it’s from someone you have never dealt with. You are taking a huge risk in getting the firearm and an even bigger risk with giving your information out.

If you think about it, you have given your name, address, a credit card (including the verification number), your PAL and a birthplace. If I was “that person”, I could call a legitimate store, use all of your information and purchase any firearm I wish!

Well, if I am “that person”, why would I stop at one firearm? I could call five or six places and purchase a complete set of firearms using your credit card! I get all of that for a free ad in a local publication or for a small fee in a national publication.

Fraudulent use of PAL information has unfortunately taken a huge jump in the past year and this poses a real problem for legitimate firearms owners. Investigators are often left with a phone number which was purchased for a limited amount of time, by a person with fake identification. You are out money on your credit card and there could be a large number of firearms out there in the hands of someone who really does not care about the rules. Can I suggest where you should or should not buy? No. Can I ask you to be careful in how you purchase a firearm or allow your information to be used? Well, hopefully I just did.



## Recycled Paper ...

I hope that by the time you read this article, spring has finally released its grip on the land and you start enjoying the outdoors. I know I am watching water levels on my favourite streams and rivers so I can head out and cast some flies. One of the last things on my mind is the endless task of reviewing course reports and class sheets. A look at the numbers for the first quarter is very encouraging in that there appears to be no let off on those wishing to obtain training for their PAL.

The downside of the volume of reports is that some little items are getting by some instructors. The little things that I am seeing include:

- incomplete names of the student and no student signatures;
- students are using an operator’s licence for identification, but it is still being recorded as a driver’s licence; and
- the test number and test scores for each section which are to be recorded by the instructor are missing.

Having to review these items takes but a few seconds, but when you are tasked with obtaining the missing information, this now takes a

good portion of a work day. I truly believe that all of us want to do the best job we can and there are days that you will miss an item. My advice is to just take a couple of minutes at the end of the day to examine the course report before giving the student their copy. This review will catch some little mistakes before the student sends in their PAL application. This speeds up the process, which gets these students into the game.

Another issue is the volume of requests from past students because they have lost or misplaced their course report. Make sure that course re-

ports are kept for the five year period so that if a student calls you, they can obtain their reports. As all of the course reports are subject to FOIP rules, a person who calls you should be able to provide you with enough information so that you can release the information to them. That is the instructor’s responsibility to the program.

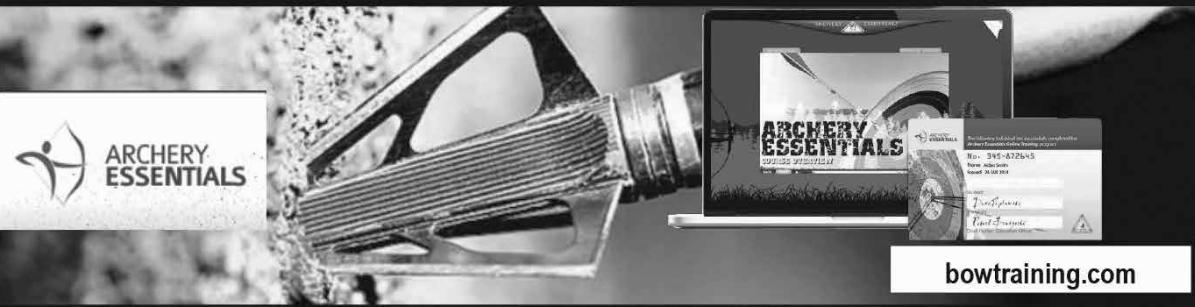
By doing that quick review, it not only eliminates the little mistakes, but it enhances your reputation as an instructor and reduces the times that we recycle paper!



THREE NEW ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS VISIT [WWW.AHEIA.COM](http://WWW.AHEIA.COM) TO START YOUR TRAINING TODAY



[kidwisetraining.com](http://kidwisetraining.com)



[bowtraining.com](http://bowtraining.com)



[bearsafetytraining.com](http://bearsafetytraining.com)

# Introducing the Kidwise Firearms Safety Course



The Kidwise Firearms Safety Program was launched May 9, 2014 with the first group of children meeting Wisely the Owl and learning the safe way to respond when encountering a firearm.

Underlying all of our programs is an emphasis on safety and we are proud to report that we have an impeccable safety record in all of our programs. The Kidwise Firearms Safety Program is A.H.E.I.A.'s most recent program in teaching firearms safety and this time to pre-school and young children. The target age group is pre-school to early grade school (ages 4-7, Grades K-3) and gives teachers and parents an excellent resource for teaching firearms safety to young children.

The purpose of the program is to teach children how to safely respond when encountering firearms. In particular, the goal of this new program is to introduce and educate children to the use of firearms in wholesome and safe environments, and in particular, how to respond when encountering a firearm: "If you find a firearm, STOP what you are doing, MOVE AWAY from it, TELL AN ADULT what you've found and where it is!"

This project has two delivery methods:

1. In a teacher led classroom.
2. Individually on-line with parental assistance.

The Kidwise Firearms Safety Course can come with a number of peripherals to assist in the learning objectives: the multi-media Kidwise Firearms Safety Program, student colouring books reinforcing what the children have viewed in the media program, memory games to reinforce the learning objectives, stickers of the owl mascot "Wisely", instant tattoos, games, rulers, pencils, erasers, magnets, and more. We even have a full body mascot that can be utilized for classroom appearances, festivals, etc.

**"Knowing what to do in such situations  
moves children away from a reaction of fear  
to a position of self-confidence in knowing  
the 'right' thing to do."**

Introducing Firearms Safety to young children will have many benefits:

- The Kidwise Firearms Safety Program teaches young children that firearms are not something of which to be afraid (which is the image portrayed of firearms on much of public television). Instead the Kidwise Firearms Safety Program uses media to teach that firearms have a useful and enjoyable function and that there is a safe way to be around them.
- Additionally, it reinforces a safe and fun introduction to the positive activities associated with firearms.
- Teachers and parents are very involved with the enjoyment of the online Kidwise Firearms Safety Program, as they, along with the children, are captivated by the fun, entertaining and educational presentation of the Kidwise Firearms Safety Program.
- A.H.E.I.A. is on the cusp of introducing this innovative, creative and forward-thinking on-line Kidwise Firearms Safety Program, following in the steps of A.H.E.I.A.'s award-winning "Bear Essentials On-Line Course" and our newly implemented "Archery Essentials Program". This new program will prove to be an effective first introduction to all the other programs in A.H.E.I.A.'s Conservation Education programming, including Hunter Education, Outdoor Youth Camps, Archery, Fishing Education, mentored activities and many other programs targeted to teach youth to enjoy the outdoors and pursue responsible and ethical treatment of wildlife and their wilderness habitat.
- The Kidwise Firearms Safety Program is excellent for children who live in an urban environment as it teaches them safety around firearms and introduces them in a positive way to shooting and target activities to which they might

not otherwise be exposed. This will have a long-term impact in promoting the effective management of wilderness areas where hunting and other shooting activities are pursued, subsequently increasing the accessibility of Alberta's wilderness to an urban generation.

- Additionally, children in rural areas will benefit by being taught on how to safely be in the same environment as firearms, which is a common scenario for many rural children where firearms are part of their day-to-day world.
- Parents will have an increased comfort level as their children, trained in firearms safety, accompany them on hunting or any outdoor excursions. This kind of activity will greatly increase the likelihood of children joining in the outdoor experience and having an appreciation for the wildlife and waterfowl who share the rural areas in which they live. This appreciation of wildlife and waterfowl will promote habitat conservation by these students who have the most likely potential of being the future landowners of much of these wetland and field environments, ensuring the best possible motivation for careful conservation of such areas and management of the waterfowl populations.

The consumer media seeks to indoctrinate children from a young age to fear firearms and

particularly to fear the people who use firearms. Lack of knowledge adds to the fear factor. The Kidwise Firearms Safety Program effectively teaches children not to fear firearms, but instead, how to safely react when encountering firearms in the home or other places. Knowing what to do in such situations moves children away from a reaction of fear to a position of self-confidence in knowing the "right" thing to do.

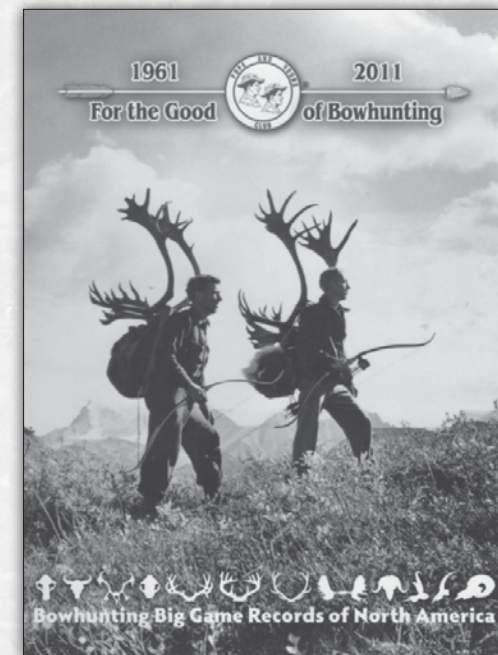
As children are taught to have self-confidence in knowing what to do in such situations, this will positively affect them in all other aspects of their development in school and extra-curricular activities.

The Kidwise Firearms Safety Program teaches children that there is a useful and important role for firearms and users of firearms in our society, not just for law enforcement, but for the enjoyment of hunting and shooting activities, as well.

Shooting activities are primarily an outdoor pursuit, teaching participants (both urban and rural, as discussed previously) to enjoy the natural habitat of wildlife and waterfowl, giving much opportunity for instructors and parents to transfer their values, including a knowledge and love for Alberta's wildlife and waterfowl and their habitats and range lands. Included in this is teaching the value and place in our society for hunting and shooting activities.

**The Kidwise  
Firearms Safety Program  
is a great introduction  
into the full range  
of programs for teaching  
and mentoring youth  
as they grow into adulthood  
in the safe and enjoyable pursuit  
of hunting and  
shooting activities.**





## Hunting For Tomorrow partners with the Pope and Young Club as the Canadian distributor for the 7th Edition of the Bowhunting Big Game Records of North America

This edition contains records from the inception of the Pope and Young Club in 1961 to December of 2010. The statistics within this edition reference bowhunters, wildlife professionals and other seriously interested in the native big game populations in North America.

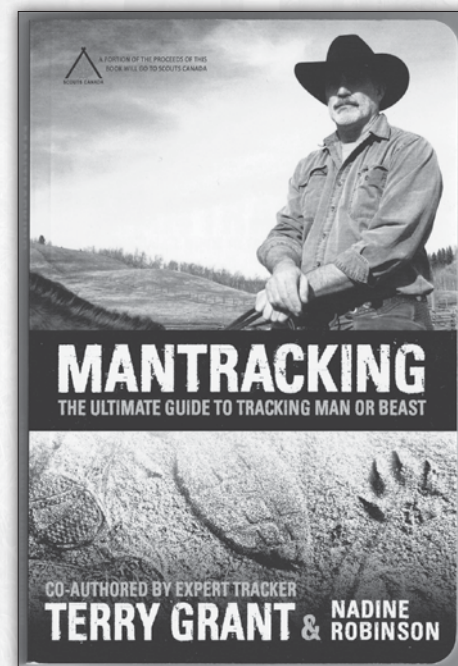
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# Hunting for Tomorrow

“The survey results improve our understanding of the importance of nature and biodiversity to Canadians ...”

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple  
Executive Director  
Hunting for Tomorrow

More than two-thirds of Canadian adults choose to spend time outdoors in order to experience nature. This and other fascinating facts can be found in the report on results from the 2012 *Canadian Nature Survey*, the first national survey of its kind in Canada in over 15 years and the first ever to include information

about all 13 provinces and territories. The results of the survey clearly demonstrate the importance Canadians place on spending time in nature and the significant contribution that nature-related activities make to the national economy.

The survey results improve our understanding of the importance of nature and biodiversity to Canadians by measuring their awareness of nature-related concepts and their participation and investments in a wide range of nature-based activities.

Here are just a few highlights from the report:

- More than two-thirds of Canadian adults (70%) chose to spend time outdoors in the last year in order to experience nature, and almost half of Canadian adults travelled to experience more nature (47%).
- Awareness of the terms “species at risk”, “biodiversity”, and “ecosystem services” was consistently high in every province and territory.
- 89% of Canadian adults participated in at least one of over 30 different nature-based activities, with the most popular being picnicking or relaxing in nature (71% nationally), followed by reading or viewing nature media (66%); hiking, climbing, horseback riding (64%); and gardening or landscaping with plants (51%).
- Expenses for nature-based leisure accounted for \$6.2 billion (15%); non commercial fishing \$2.2 billion (5%) and non commercial hunting and trapping \$1.8 billion (5%). Birding accounted for \$537 million or 1% of all expenditures.
- 13% of Canadian adults volunteered in nature conservation away from their homes during an average of 31 days per year.
- When asked about barriers to nature conservation volunteerism, 32% replied that they “were not aware of an opportunity” to participate.
- 4.6 million Canadians (almost 19% of all adults) gave money for donations or membership dues to nature or conservation organizations.
- Over all, Canadian adults made an estimated \$41.3 billion (Cdn) in expenditures for nature-based activities in the 12 months prior

to completing the survey, with the greatest amount dedicated to non-motorized, non-consumptive activities.

- Canadian individuals who participated in hunting and trapping activities, reported average expenditures of \$814.00 in the previous 12 months (for hunting large game).
- Daily expenditures were highest for waterfowl hunting (\$83.00 per day), and ranged to \$78.00 per day of activity for hunting large game.
- Canadians who did not participate in hunting, trapping or fishing within the previous 12 months were asked what prevented them from doing so. For all demographic groups, “do not like to/not interested” was the most commonly cited reason for not participating in hunting/trapping (41%) and fishing (31%).

Data was collected between Fall 2012 and Spring 2013. Participation in the survey was limited to Canadian adults age 18 and over. Over 24,000 responses were received.

The 2012 *Canadian Nature Survey* was developed through active collaboration between the federal government and all 13 provincial and territorial governments, with the involvement of officials from departments including those responsible for managing natural resources, wildlife, land use, nature and biodiversity conservation.

The 2012 *Canadian Nature Survey* updates and expands on information provided by Canadians in the 1996 *Survey on the Importance of Nature to Canadians*, and the 1981, 1987, and 1991 surveys on the *Importance of Wildlife to Canadians*.

The 2012 *Canadian Nature Survey* is part of the *Value of Nature to Canadians Study*, launched in 2009.

A complete copy of this survey, along with other public survey information is available on the Hunting For Tomorrow website ([www.huntingfortomorrow.com](http://www.huntingfortomorrow.com)) or visit the Canadian Nature Survey information at [www.biodiv.canada.ca](http://www.biodiv.canada.ca).

Kelly Semple, Executive Director  
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[www.huntingfortomorrow.com](http://www.huntingfortomorrow.com)



“The results of the survey clearly demonstrate the importance Canadians place on spending time in nature and the significant contribution that nature related activities make to the national economy.”



## 2012 Canadian Nature Survey:

Awareness, participation, and expenditures  
in nature-based recreation, conservation,  
and subsistence activities

Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments of Canada  
[www.biodivcanada.ca](http://www.biodivcanada.ca)



# 2014 Spring Fling Banquet and Fundraiser

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple  
Executive Director  
Hunting for Tomorrow

The 2014 Spring Fling Banquet was an unqualified success! Following on the heels of the Fall Festival, it was decided to move the banquet to a date that might have a few less conflicts with our outdoor audience. So, on June 7 nearly 250 people packed the ballroom at the Taliani Palace in south Edmonton for an evening of exceptional camaraderie and great food, where old friends and new joined together to share their connection with wildlife and wild places.

There was an opportunity for everyone to be involved in the various fundraising events, whether it was bucket raffles, silent auction items, specialty draws or participating in the Live Auction.

Chairman Bob Gruszecki brought greetings on behalf of the organization and shared the vision of A.H.E.I.A. and our commitment to the delivery of essential programs in the future. Len Gransch was joined by Dave Paplawski, Provincial Program Co-ordinator, who helped to share in the celebration by recognizing the Edmonton area Volunteers of the Year Don and Grace Dwyer.



Committee Chairman Len Gransch once again did a super job and kudos to all the volunteers who assisted with this event. Thanks to the organizing committee of Len Gransch, Chuck Strong, Ken Cook, Kelly Semple, Doug Urchuck and Perry Tomik. Special thanks to all the donors and special contributors who made this event such a success. Planning for the 2015 event is already underway and the event date will be announced shortly.

This year we are celebrating our 50th anniversary of providing Conservation Education programming across Alberta. A.H.E.I.A. and our cause of Conservation Education is something we are very proud of! Through our many training programs, including the Hunter Education Program, Fishing Education Program, Canadian Firearms Safety programs, camp programs, youth programs, Kidwise Firearms Safety Program, Women's Program, Archery Essentials and associated programs, Bear Essentials Program, Youth Firearms Safety Program, Hunter Mentor Program, National Archery in the School Program and more, we help to add value to people's lives!

During this time, over 420,000 participants have attended one of our camp programs. In 2014 over 85,000 Albertans will be involved in at least one element of Conservation Education. To date we have had over 1,500,000 students graduate from one of our Conservation Education programs.

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (A.H.E.I.A.) is a small, non-profit registered charity that has tremendous reach and impact and we survive on donations.



Left to right: Dave Paplawski, Edmonton Area Volunteers of the Year Grace and Don Dwyer, and Len Gransch.



Left to right: Dave Paplawski, donor Greg Kereluk of Yardstick Testing and Training Experts, and Bob Gruszecki.



Left to right: Ken Cook, firearm raffle winner Lindsay Kovak and Lee Poirier.



Left to right: Kayla Poirier and firearm raffle winner Holly Rogoschewsky.

Spring Fling photos  
continued



## Conservation Education Points of Contact

**Calgary**  
**Conservation Education Centre For Excellence**  
911 Sylvester Cr. SW  
Calgary, AB T2W 0R8  
Phone: 403-252-8474  
Toll Free: 1-866-852-4342  
Fax: 403-252-3770  
E-mail: [info@aheia.com](mailto:info@aheia.com)

**Edmonton**  
**Conservation Education Centre For Excellence**  
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Edmonton, AB T6E 6M8  
Phone: 780-466-6682  
Toll Free: 1-866-282-4342  
Fax: 780-431-2871  
E-mail: [edmontoninfo@aheia.com](mailto:edmontoninfo@aheia.com)

**Alford Lake**  
**Conservation Education Centre For Excellence**  
Box 369  
Caroline, AB T0M 0M0  
Phone: 403-722-2423  
Fax: 403-722-2445  
E-mail: [alfordlake@xplornet.com](mailto:alfordlake@xplornet.com)

**A.H.E.I.A.**  
**Calgary Firearms Centre**  
242 Avenue & 32 Street SW  
DeWinton, AB T0L 0X0  
Phone: 403-256-0665

Web Site: [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com)

## Conservation Education Programs

Alberta Conservation & Hunter Education  
Alberta Fishing Education  
First Time Hunter Program  
Home Study Program  
Canadian Firearms Safety Course  
Outdoor Camp Programs  
Outdoor Women's Seminar  
Outdoor Youth Seminar  
Wildlife Seminars  
Fishing Seminars

# A.H.E.I.A. Offers Teachers' Workshop

## July 25-28, 2014

**"Each year, approximately 15,000 students complete the Conservation Education program and 6,500 students complete the Fishing Education program."**

By Kelly Semple



Kelly Semple  
Executive Director  
Hunting for Tomorrow

In 1964, the Alberta Government, together with Alberta outdoorsmen, created a hunter safety program. This program later became the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education program. Each year, approximately 15,000 students complete the Conservation Education program and 6,500 students complete the Fishing Education program. On October 15, 2006, the 1,000,000th student graduated from the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association's (A.H.E.I.A.'s) Conservation and Hunter Education program. In 2014, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Conservation Education in Alberta.

Since April 1, 2010, it is a legal requirement for all first-time hunters in the Province of Alberta to complete the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education program or an equivalent hunter education course.

The Conservation and Hunter Education and Fishing Education programs are offered in Alberta schools through the Alberta Education curriculum, within the Careers and Technologies Studies option, Natural Resources (NAT) Program.

A.H.E.I.A. has developed a specific workshop for teachers related to the NAT cluster. Part of the A.H.E.I.A. Teachers' Workshop will offer the certification that teachers require in order to teach the Alberta Conservation and Hunter Education and Fishing Education courses (WLD 1070, WLD 2070, WLD 1080, WLD 2080). An additional session of the workshop will familiarize teachers with outdoor activities related to Outdoor Survival Skills (WLD 1130, WLD 2130), including hands-on participation in the Survival and Camping Program, the Shooting Program (shotgun, small bore and large bore rifle), the Compass Program, the Fishing Program, and the Archery Program. The Teachers' Workshop concludes at noon on July 27.

Those teachers who wish to become certified to offer Bowhunting Education (WLD 1075) can stay for the International Bowhunter Education Instructors' program. It commences at the conclusion of the Teachers' Workshop on July 27 and will end at 1:00 pm on July 28. The cost for this certification is an additional \$50.00 to cover cost of meals.

A.H.E.I.A. is hosting the Teachers' Workshop from July 25-28, 2014. The workshop takes place at the Alford Lake Conservation Education Centre for Excellence, located 24 kilometres west of Caroline, Alberta.

The Teachers' Workshop registration fee is \$175.00 per person, and \$50.00 for the optional IBEP course, plus GST. This fee includes all accommodations, meals, resource materials, instructor certificates, the use of all equipment for practical sessions and an A.H.E.I.A. membership.

For more information, teachers interested in the workshop should contact A.H.E.I.A. at either the Edmonton Conservation Education Centre for Excellence at [edmontoninfo@aheia.com](mailto:edmontoninfo@aheia.com), 780-466-6682 or 1-866-282-4342, or Dave Paplawski at [dave@aheia.com](mailto:dave@aheia.com), 403-319-2277 or 1-866-852-4342. See [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com) or [www.huntingfortomorrow.com](http://www.huntingfortomorrow.com) to download and complete the registration form. Registration is limited and must be submitted by July 18, 2014.

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# A.H.E.I.A.'s 2014 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Provincial Championships



H.A. Kostash School



Mountain View School



Gus Wetter School

#### High School Teams

First	H.A. Kostash Sr. Green	3313
Second	H.A. Kostash Sr. Orange	3113
Third	Salisbury Composite Sabres	2883

#### Middle School Teams

First	Mountain View Grizzlies	3077
Second	H.A. Kostash Jr. Green	2797
Third	Ottewell	2776

#### Elementary School Teams

First	Gus Wetter Elementary	2519
Second	L.T.I.S. Athabasca Elementary	2367
Third	H.A. Kostash Elementary Blue	2357

#### Top Archers High School Female

First	Brianna Senetza (H.A. Kostash Sr.)	285
Second	Carly Rosichuk (H.A. Kostash Sr.)	277
Third	Savanaha Cherniwchan (H.A. Kostash Sr.)	274

#### Top Archers Middle School Female

First	Alley Roe (H.A. Kostash Jr.)	274
Second	Kierra Andruko (Ottewell)	268
Third	Kassidy Creason (Mountain View)	258

#### Top Archers Elementary School Female

First	Payton Fuller (Gus Wetter)	243
Second	Twyla Damant (Gus Wetter)	241
Third	Amy Thompson (Tomahawk)	240

#### Top Archers High School Male

First	Derek Cherniwchan (H.A. Kostash Sr.)	283
Second	Mitchel Smith (H.A. Kostash Sr.)	282
Third	Riley Saitz (Kinuso Knights Sr.)	279

#### Top Archers Middle School Male

First	Joshua Ekins (H.A. Kostash Jr.)	286
Second	Steven Pelech (H.A. Kostash Jr.)	285
Third	Jayce Nelson (Mountain View)	279

#### Top Archers Elementary School Male

First	Carsen Runcer (L.T.I.S. Athabasca)	265
Second	Tyler Ekins (H.A. Kostash)	252
Third	Jordan Ekins (H.A. Kostash)	247

## Congratulations!



The National Archery in the Schools Program is an all-inclusive program affording all students equal opportunity to compete.

# Migratory Bird Species

## Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)



### Size

The merlin is a small falcon, about 30 centimetres (12 inches) long.

### Appearance

A merlin can be readily identified by its long pointed wings, tail with strong black bars, and the absence of facial markings. Plumage is generally dull brown or bluish. Adult males are powder blue, and females are brown on the crown, back and wings.

### Distribution

Merlins range throughout North America, and can migrate as far south as South America in the winter.

### Habitat

In Alberta they are found in wooded courses in the south, and mixed-wood areas near water in the north.

### Food

Prey is killed in the air in the same manner as by the larger peregrine falcon. Small birds are caught and often eaten on the wing.

### When Active

A fairly common summer resident, the merlin winters normally in the southern United States and South America, but a few regularly overwinter in urban areas of the province (e.g. Edmonton).

### Breeding Behaviour

Nesting occurs in trees, usually in the abandoned nests of crows, magpies or other large birds. Four to six reddish-brown eggs with dark brown markings are laid. Merlins are fairly tolerant of humans and many will nest close to cities or farms. However, if the nest is approached too closely, the nesting pair will defend it vigorously.

### Status

The merlin is classified as Secure in the current *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report.

### Current Management

Like all raptors in Alberta, the merlin is protected by the provincial *Wildlife Act* and is classified as a non-game species.

## Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)



### Size

The Harlequin duck is a small, rounded duck with a body length ranging from 36 to 48 centimetres (14 to 19 inches).

### Appearance

The male Harlequin duck has the following distinguishing characteristics: white crescent in front of the eye and a white patch near the ear; slate blue body plumage with chestnut sides and flanks and a dark blue-brown belly; head is dark and crown has a black stripe with a chestnut stripe on either side; and streaks of white are present on the head and body.

Female characteristics include: dark brown body plumage, white belly; brown checks; and three white patches on the head, located behind, below and in front of the eye.

### Voice/Call

Generally silent outside of the breeding season. Male courtship voice includes a descending trill and squeaky whistles. Female courtship voice is a low croak or a harsh ek-ek-ek.

### Distribution

Distributed in northern and arctic ecozones, and populations are found along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America. Eight to ten months of the year are spent in rocky coastal habitats. Migrates inland during the summer to nest.

### Habitat

Nests along swiftly flowing, clear mountain streams that are removed from human disturbance and have adequate nesting cover on islands or along the banks to conceal nests.

Prefers specific types of streams and terrain for breeding, and pairs will often return to the same area each year.

The narrow habitat requirements of the species restrict its breeding range to the mountains and foothills in Alberta.

### Food

Dives to river bottoms searching for fish eggs and aquatic invertebrates, in particular caddisfly and stonefly larvae.

### When Active

Is active, but uncommon, in Alberta from late April or early May to September.

### Breeding Behaviour

The harlequin duck breeds at a relatively late age, about two to five years old. Shallow nest is built and lined with grass, other plant material and down feathers. After breeding, males leave the females around July and travel to the west coast to molt. Females remain at nesting sites to incubate eggs and raise offspring alone.

### Status

The harlequin duck is classified as Sensitive in the current *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report.

### Issues

Late breeding maturity and intermittent breeding behaviour of this species results in low annual population growth. Breeding habitat is very specific, limited geographically, and vulnerable to human activities such as logging, mining, grazing and outdoor recreation.

### Current Management

Regional inventories and research initiatives have led to:

- restrictions on recreational boating and rafting on a number of streams and rivers in Alberta;
- potential site-specific mitigation for the effects of mining, and monitoring programs to evaluate population response.

### Hunting

Until recently, the harlequin duck was simply managed as a migratory game bird, although waterfowl hunting does not generally occur within its range in Alberta.



### Size

One of the world's largest birds, the American white pelican weighs five to eight kilograms (11 to 18 pounds). Wingspan can measure up to three metres (10 feet).

### Appearance

Adult male and female pelicans look alike throughout the year, and distinguishing characteristics include:

- primarily white plumage with a few feathers tinged with yellow on the breast and back, and black wing tips;
- long, flattened, yellow bill with a brightly coloured yellow-orange pouch beneath used for feeding;
- bright orange feet;
- breeding birds have a pale yellow crest on the back of the head.

Juvenile pelicans are similar to adults, but may have a grey patch on their head and back of the neck. The iris of the eye is usually brownish in juveniles, but orange-yellow in adults.

The pelican flies with its neck doubled back against its shoulder.

### Distribution

The American white pelican has a small and sparsely distributed population in Alberta. Less than half of the 20 known historic nesting islands are still in use today. Previously, the white pelican had a broad distribution across interior North America. Today, breeding populations can be found from the Slave River in the Northwest Territories south to Colorado, and from the Rocky Mountains east to Lake Superior.

### Habitat

Inhabits freshwater lakes in the summer.

### Food

An adult pelican can consume up to two kilograms (four-and-a-half pounds) of food each day. Diet includes young, warm-water fish such as:

- Perch
- Stickleback
- Northern pike
- Lake whitefish

# American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

Salamanders, frogs and a variety of aquatic invertebrates are also taken when they are abundant.

### When Active

The American white pelican arrives in Alberta in late April and leaves Alberta before freeze-up in late September, migrating to warmer coastal areas to spend the winter.

### Breeding Behaviour

Nests are grouped together in colonies and the same nesting site may be used for many years. Colonies may range from a few pairs to several hundred, and may also contain a number of juveniles and nonbreeding adults. In Alberta, pelican colonies are found in lakes in the boreal forest, aspen parkland and prairie regions. Ideally, lakes are deep enough to separate a nesting island from the shore throughout the summer.

Both sexes prominently display their bills during courtship rituals that include bowing, strutting, pointing their bills skyward and short courtship flights.

Once the pair-bond is formed, a small nesting area within the colony is chosen and defended. Little actual nest-building is done. The nest may simply be a mound of dirt, pebbles or sticks surrounding a shallow depression where the eggs are laid. Egg-laying within the colony can occur over a four-to-five week period, beginning in mid-May. Typically, two large, chalky, white eggs are laid and then incubated for approximately 29 days. Both adults tend the nest. While one parent incubates the eggs, the other will leave the colony to feed. The egg-hatching period lasts throughout June and July.

### Growth Process

Newly hatched young are blind and naked, but within a week they become covered in warm protective down. Although two eggs are usually laid at each nest, often only one chick survives for more than two weeks after hatching. Chicks remain dependent on adults for protection against predators as well as from wind, sun, rain and cold until their third or fourth week.

At four weeks of age, young birds begin to move away from the nest site during the day and gather in groups called pods. Pods normally

include young of various ages with older chicks providing protection for younger birds. This social activity allows adults to spend less time feeding and protecting their young.

As juvenile pelicans grow older, they spend less time in the large pods and start to venture off in smaller groups. At five to six weeks of age, they will return to adults only for food and start spending time on the water.

At 10 weeks, they can outweigh adults, but this extra weight is lost when the young birds learn to fly at 11 to 12 weeks.

By 13 to 14 weeks, young pelicans are ready to leave the home lake and forage elsewhere.

### Status

The American white pelican is classified as Sensitive in the current *General Status of Alberta Wild Species* report.

### Issues

The most significant factor affecting white pelican populations in Alberta is the disturbance of their breeding sites. Human disturbance, even if motivated by simple curiosity and attraction, has been the most common cause of colony failure and abandonment in the past century.

Loss of habitat from changing water levels is another form of disturbance affecting pelican breeding populations and is the most common reason for the temporary abandonment of a colony.

As predators at the top of their food chain, white pelicans are also at risk of accumulating toxins that occur in their food sources.

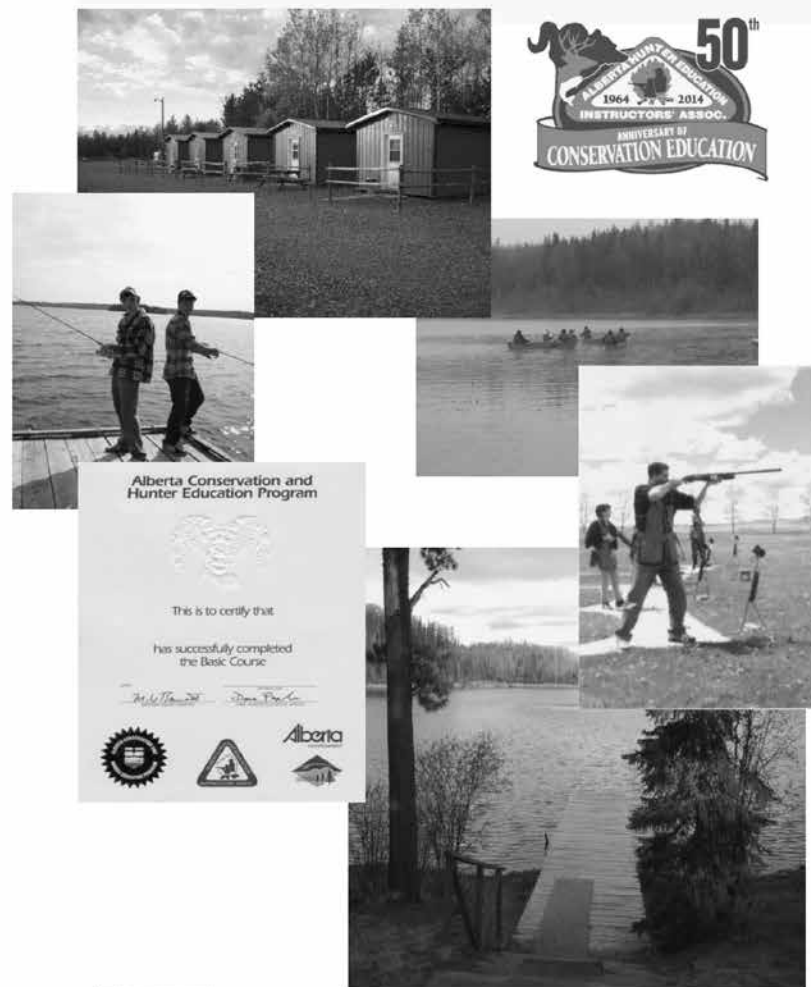
### Current Management

The American white pelican is protected by the provincial *Wildlife Act* and it is illegal to kill or harass individuals or disturb their nests at any time of the year.



Photos of Harlequin Duck and American White Pelican courtesy Robert Burton, Laura L. Whitehouse and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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# Introducing Charles (Chuck) Strong

"... I am now working with this great organization and looking forward to giving back and passing on a love of everything outdoors ..."

By Chuck Strong



Chuck Strong  
 Assistant  
 Program Coordinator  
 A.H.E.I.A.  
 Edmonton

It is with great excitement, anticipation and yes, even a little trepidation, that I find myself heading down a new trail on my life's journey and I welcome the challenges and surprises that this new trail will offer me.

It never ceases to amaze me how life works out. In late 2012 I found myself retired with a non-compete from a 35+ year career in the oil industry, first as a geologist in Calgary and then as a manager of an oilfield equipment manufacturing company in Edmonton. After a few months of retirement, I was becoming a little bored and restless, so I decided (with a little prodding from my darling wife Susan) that it might be time to find something to do with my spare time.

I started to think about what I might like to do or, better yet, what I was qualified to do outside of the oil industry. I had always had a love of the outdoors and have 45 odd years of practical experience from camping to hunting and fishing. So my thoughts turned in that direction with the idea that this may be my opportunity to give back and pass on all I have learned and enjoyed over the years. Sue suggested that it might be worthwhile to call an old friend of mine who was involved in the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors Association to see what might be available out there in the industry.

Being the independent kind of guy that I am, I decided to instead search the job ads for positions from the various local sporting goods franchises. Low and behold, the local Cabela's was posting for outfitters on their gun counter; however, my first application was rejected. Undaunted and with the help of my daughters, Carly and Leanne, I rewrote my cover letter to highlight more of my relevant experience in the outdoors. Wouldn't you know it that the next time I submitted my resumé I was hired to work the optics counter, with a promised move to the gun counter after my probationary period was up.

I had been happily working away at Cabela's for a couple months when, shortly before Christmas, I noticed a fellow wandering around the store that I thought I knew. Sure enough, it was my friend from years past, Bob Gruszecki, doing a little

Christmas shopping. (If I'm not mistaken, it sure looked like most of the stuff in his shopping cart was for himself.) Like old friends have a tendency to do, we got to talking (yes, I was on my break) and he was wondering what I was doing working there. I told him my story and he suggested if I really wanted to make a difference and give back, I should think about doing something with the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association.

Well, I didn't want to let on to Bob, but it took me about 30 seconds and the obligatory "I told you so" from Susan to make the decision that working with him and A.H.E.I.A. in some capacity was the opportunity I was looking for. After a couple of days (I didn't want to seem too eager), I called Bob and told him I was interested.

To make a short story even longer, I am now working with this great organization and looking forward to giving back and passing on a love of everything outdoors that was instilled in me from an early age by my father and nurtured over the years by many likeminded friends.

Like many youngsters from that era, my first introduction into the fraternity of firearms and hunting was at the age of 10 when I received a Daisy "Red Rider" BB gun as a Christmas present. Now I would be allowed to tag along with my father and older brother to the local pastures to hunt gophers and plink away at old tin cans. This first small introduction kindled in me a fascination for all things hunting and firearms.

My father thought that it would be a good idea for me to take a firearms safety course, so at the

age of 12, he talked with a friend of his who was a Saskatchewan instructor and enrolled me in a hunter's safety course which instilled in me a profound respect for firearms. During the course we were instructed in the safe use of firearms with a number of different rifles and shotguns; as well, we were taken to a local gun club to shoot clay targets. What a thrill for a young lad to be able to "dust" a couple of clay pigeons! Then at the ripe old age of 14 I was taken on my first hunting trip, where I managed to tag my first big game animal, which led to an unceremonious introduction to the art of field dressing as well as proper game care and preparation. Since that time it has been a love affair with everything outdoors.

I have been truly blessed that working in the oil industry afforded me the ability to hunt, fish and travel the world. I have always known that Alberta was a great place to live, but over time I have become aware that one of the world's best outdoor resources exists right here in our own backyard and that it is our responsibility as hunters and fishers to do our part to help conserve this resource. It is fantastic that I have been given the opportunity to influence others to enjoy, preserve and maintain our natural heritage through conservation and education for all Albertans.

I am looking forward to meeting, working with, learning from and supporting all the talented people that make the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association such a successful and world class organization.



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1

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2

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**Dan Mosier**  
Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

3

Third prize of a Winchester  
12 GA Super X Pump Action Shotgun  
won by

**Willie Hardwig**  
St. Albert, Alberta.



# Great Meals

from the

# Harvest

with Len Gransch



Len Gransch  
Program Coordinator  
A.H.E.I.A. Red Deer - North

## Grilled Sesame Moose Steaks

4 Moose T-bone steaks (about 1" thick)

### Marinade:

2 tablespoons brown sugar	1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 cup soy sauce	2 tablespoons canola oil
2 tablespoons sesame seeds	2 teaspoons onion powder
2 teaspoons lemon juice	1/4 teaspoon parsley (finely minced)
Salt and pepper to taste	

Combine all marinade ingredients in a bowl and whisk until well combined. Pour marinade into a large Ziploc bag or baking dish. Add the steaks and coat well. Seal or cover; place in the refrigerator for a minimum of 4 hours. Remove steaks from marinade and shake off all excess. Allow steaks to come up to room temperature prior to grilling. Preheat your gas or charcoal grill. Grill until the steaks are done to your likeness. Tent with aluminum foil and allow to rest for 10 minutes prior to serving. Serve with your favourite sides and a nice salad.

The marinade also works well with other game such as elk and deer, and you can easily substitute other wild game tenderloin.

## Alford Lake Special Seasoning Salt

2 tablespoons fine ground black pepper	1 teaspoon onion powder
1 tablespoon garlic salt	1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon dry marjoram	1 tablespoon finely minced dry parsley
1 teaspoon paprika	1/2 teaspoon curry powder
1 tablespoon chili powder	1/3 cup fine sea salt
1 tablespoon chicken bouillon powder	

Combine all ingredients thoroughly until very well combined. Place in a shaker of some type and enjoy. Keep at room temperature and use within about 3-4 months.

## Buttermilk Biscuits

4 cups self-rising flour	1 tablespoon sugar
2 cups buttermilk	buttermilk for brushing on top of biscuits
2/3 cup shortening	1 tablespoon baking powder

Mix ingredients together, but **do not knead**. Kneading will make the biscuits too hard, not light and fluffy. Roll out to a 1" thickness. Use a glass or cookie cutter to form the biscuits or, if you wish, cut into squares. A 3" size works quite well.

Preheat oven to 400° F. Place biscuits on a well-greased cookie sheet and brush tops lightly with the extra buttermilk. Bake for 15 minutes (keep an eye on them as oven temperatures vary). Serve hot with real butter or use for mopping up all those tasty sauces.

# Chronic Wasting Disease in Alberta

**"Prevalence continues to rise, with 40-50% of some declining local populations infected with CWD."**

Many wildlife managers and stakeholders across North America agree that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is the most significant disease concern facing big game populations across the continent. CWD is a prion-based, progressive disease that is 100% fatal. It attacks the nervous system of cervids (deer, elk, moose) and causes premature death. Infected individuals do not show clinical signs of "wasting" until after ~2+ years. The dominant route of transmission is unknown, but the disease can be transmitted individual-to-individual as well as through the environment. Data from long-term monitoring of local deer populations in established disease areas indicate infected populations slowly shift towards younger deer, lower productivity, and fewer trophy males. The changes are attributed directly to the effects of CWD. Prevalence continues to rise, with 40-50% of some declining local populations infected with CWD. In Saskatchewan CWD is the single greatest cause of death in adult deer in an infected local population along the South Saskatchewan River.

## Background on CWD Surveillance in Alberta

Since 1998 ongoing surveillance and management of CWD in Alberta evolved to have three primary objectives: (1) detect CWD in wild cervids, (2) try to limit the spread of CWD in wild cervids, and (3) learn about CWD in Alberta landscapes and Alberta ecosystems. The programs were summarized in 2012 and a full report is available on the CWD pages of the Wildlife Diseases web site [www.esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/](http://www.esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/).

Hunter harvest samples are the backbone of the wild cervid surveillance program, in addition to heads collected during disease control activities and supplemented with opportunistic samples such as found dead, road-kill, and emaciated cervids. In over 47,000 heads tested, 211 cases of CWD were detected: 183 mule deer, 27 white-tailed deer, and one moose. The disease occurs predominantly in male mule deer and proportionately more in deer collected during disease control programs conducted 2005-2008. Weighted surveillance measures adjusted for sample size indicate the highest CWD risk is in mule deer males and the lowest is in white-tailed deer females.

The overall proportion of infected wild cervids remains low (1.34%); however, it has increased steadily in the hunter surveillance samples since disease control programs were discontinued in 2008. Prevalence in mule deer alone reached 2.0% in 2013 (up from 1.4% in 2012). Prevalence in mule deer males in specific WMUs in 2013 ranged from 1.54 to 12.0%.

Risk models reveal increased geographic spread. This spread is occurring in relation to riparian areas and proximity to previous cases. The Battle and Red Deer/South Saskatchewan watersheds are at the highest risk of CWD occurrence. Mandatory designation significantly increases the number of heads submitted. Approximately 50% of the At Risk WMUs met the criteria of sufficient surveillance for detecting CWD prior to the first report of the disease in that unit. These units were on the immediate periphery of units with previous cases. The results imply that CWD spread into these WMUs. The remaining At Risk units had insufficient surveillance to be assured that the disease could be found prior to its actual detection in the WMU. In other words, CWD may or may not have been there before we found it. Major surveillance gaps were identified in CFB Suffield (WMU 732) and Cypress Hills (WMU 624), areas in close proximity to known cases of CWD but with limited sampling effort to date. WMUs with the best CWD detectability have two or more years of surveillance data and multiple years of mandatory head submission. Note that while there was a case of CWD in a road-kill

moose near Medicine Hat in 2012, this is considered spillover from infected deer in the area. Thus deer remain the best surveillance sample to indicate disease occurrence. However, as always, the program will test the head of any cervid harvested in Alberta.

Ongoing support from the public, and hunters and outfitters in particular, is essential to CWD management.

Article courtesy Alberta Environment and  
Sustainable Resource Development

For more information about CWD  
contact your local Fish and Wildlife office  
or visit  
[www.esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/](http://www.esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/wildlife-diseases/)



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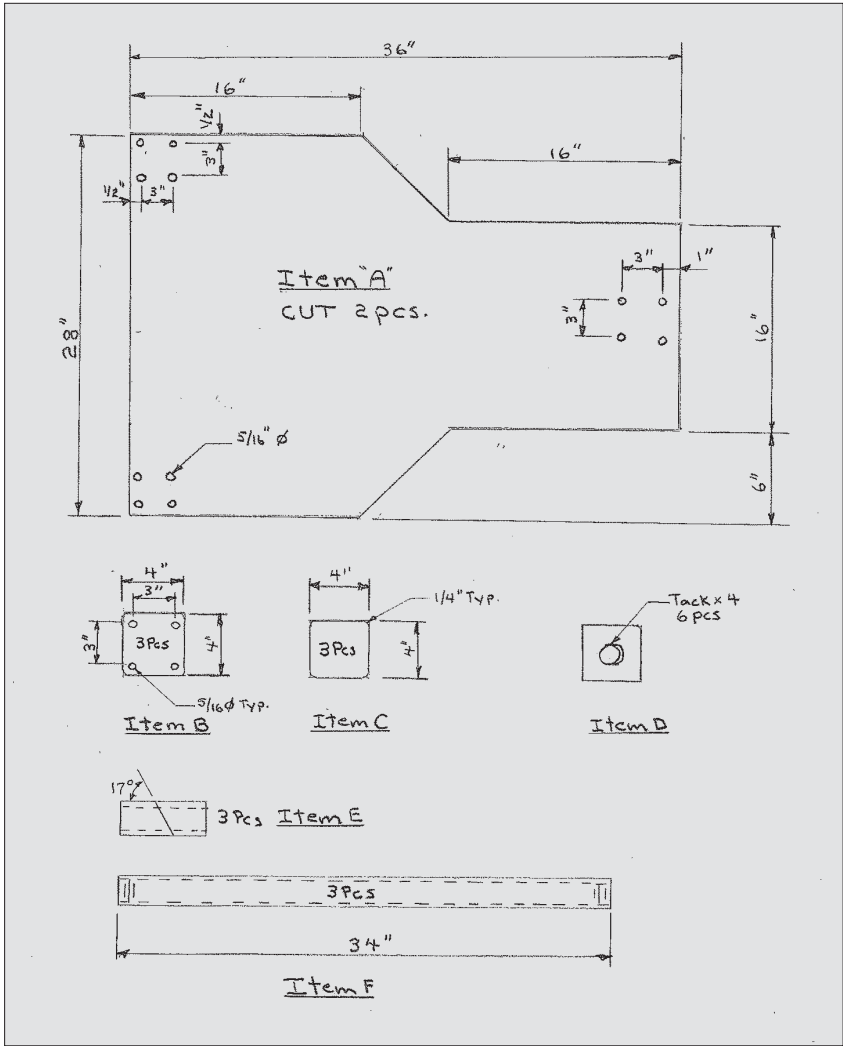
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# Building Your Own Portable Shooting Bench



**By Chuck Strong**

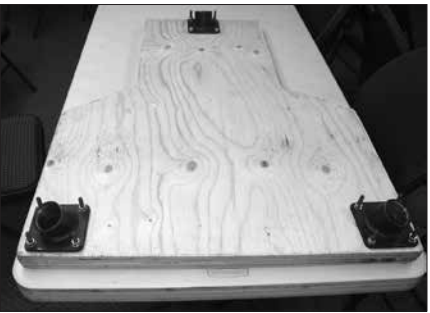
For those of you who have access to an area that can be used “SAFELY” as a shooting range, here is the perfect accessory to making your target practice a success: a portable shooting bench. This bench is easily transported, assembled and disassembled for easy storage. The bench will handle both left and right handed shooters and every calibre from your .22 rimfires to heavy hitting big game calibres. Just add a suitable rifle rest and you are ready to shoot.



- Materials:**
- 1 - 3/4" x 4' x 8' OSB plywood
  - 3 - 1 1/2" x 34" lg. schedule 40 pipe thread both ends
  - 3 - 1 1/2" std pipe coupling (cut in half @ 17 degrees)
  - 6 - 1/4" x 4" metal plates
  - 12 - 1/4" x 2 1/4" hex head bolts c/w nuts and lock washers
  - 1 carpenter's glue (Gorilla)
  - 1 wood finish (Varathane)
  - 1 metal finish (Rustoleum)



- Instructions** *cont.*
4. Cut Items B and C using the 1/4" plate 4"x4".
  5. Drill 5/16" holes in Item B as shown (3 Pcs.).
  6. Cut Item E at 17 degree angle to make 6 pieces.
  7. Tack weld Item E to Item B, 2 Pcs. at 45 degrees off centre and one Pc. on centre. Paint as required.
  8. Tack weld Item E to Item C. Paint as required.
  9. Drill 5/16" holes through Item A as shown to match Item B.
  10. Using 1/4" socket head bolts, secure Item B to bottom side of Item A with nuts and lock washers.
  11. Screw Item F into Item B and C.



## On-line Bear Essentials Program

This instructive, easy-to-use program includes:

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Go to [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com) and click on "on-line training" to launch the Bear Essentials program or watch the demo.

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# Let's Talk About Optics

## Improve Your "Outlook" and Your Success in the Field

By Bob Gruszecki

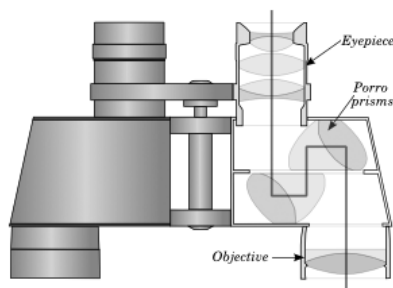


Bob Gruszecki  
President - A.H.E.I.A.

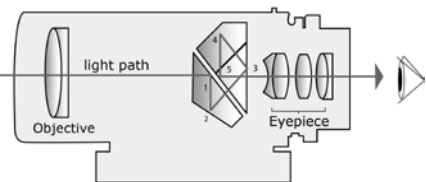
In the last issue we covered a number of items in detail regarding the use and selection of a good set of optics. My goal was to assist you in your quest and narrow down the plethora of choices the market has to offer, allowing you the perfect choice for your needs. We covered the basics including how the human eye works and how it translates the information offered to it through your optics. Now we need to expand the discussion to cover Light Transmission, Chromatic Aberration and a few other things to set you on your way.

### Light Transmission

In Part 1 we learned how light travels through the binocular and off the prisms to your eye. We learned that the binocular is a complex piece of equipment and it contains a series of prisms, lenses and numerous coatings that all have to be working in total concert in order to ensure the image delivered to your eye is as good as it can be. It's important to know that there is a certain amount of light that is lost or reflected away at every point where the air meets the lens and on every mirror surface of the prisms contained in the binocular. It is thought that the very best combination of coatings and lenses can deliver



Light path through Porro Prism binoculars.



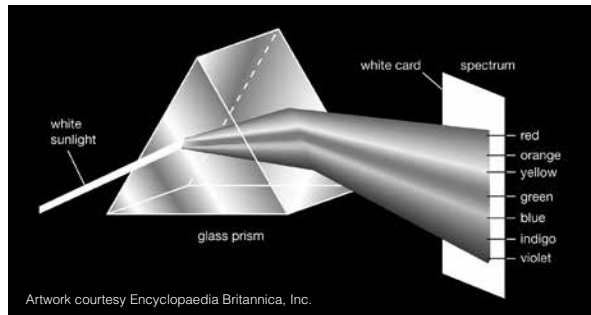
Light path through Roof Prism binoculars.

about 99.9% transmission, but it is common for as much as 4% of the light to be lost on each surface of a prism. It doesn't sound like much, but when you add it up, the amount of light transmission that can be lost or reflected away in a roof or porro prism can be as much as 20% based on the number of times the light is bent in your particular choice of optics. Generally speaking, as we learned from the diagrams in Part 1, Porro prisms will reflect light four times and Roof Prisms will reflect that same beam of light five times. Roof Prisms need to make one more light correction than Porro in order to maintain their compact structure.

Also, we have to be mindful of the fact that some light, such as UV and IR, cannot be seen by the human eye. Often times the manufacturers make claims about this side of the light spectrum, but there is no acceptable industry standard for testing the total light transmission. Unfortunately this means that we are unable to compare a claim by one manufacturer versus another. So what does all of this mean? I think that anyone would be hard pressed to notice the difference between 91% transmission and 97.6% transmission without the special instruments available at some high quality lab! In the final analysis, it might account for no more than two minutes of dusk viewing and transmission. If this is important to you, then you will need to spend the extra money to get it. Contrast, internal baffling, quality of the coatings in reducing reflection from behind the observer, even design of the eyepiece may be more important to you. You are going to have to make that decision. I think that's why I have so many pairs of binoculars. What is vitally important to me now isn't what was important to me when I started using optics.

In daytime and for astronomy, reflections from backlighting are a real irritation to me. I have experienced binoculars from several manufacturers and I have my favourites that do the best job of suppressing those reflections. In short, you may have preferences beyond light transmission.

What is amazing is that the best roof binoculars now have light transmissions so close to that of Porros. The differences would have been more pronounced only a decade ago. It is just a simple fact, for the reasons I have explained earlier and in Part 1 of this article, that light transmission is poorer with the mirror in most roof glasses.



Light passing through a prism.

### Chromatic Aberration

What on earth is that? Why do I need to know and do I care? Well ... over the last few years, every company marketing binoculars has been incorporating a solution for minimizing chromatic aberration. Their goal is to try and get the last bit of resolution and truer colour rendition possible to us, the client. As the end users, we want there to be image clarity, especially if we pay the premium, the manufacturers want us to believe they build into their optics. So what is it we are getting for that premium? Due to the wave nature of light, different bands of colour are refracted differently as they pass through the lens. We all remember the light experiment done in high school as we passed light through a prism and we saw the separation of colour.

As an image moves through the many lenses and prisms in the binocular, without corrective measures this separation of light can result in "flaring" on the edges of the subject. The more flaring the higher the degree of degrading of the image we see. Bottom line is that special lens coatings minimize this effect. There are many names that each manufacturer uses to refer to their proprietary coating, but some are HD, ED, XD, APO, etc. Whichever optic you choose, read carefully and understand the claims made by the manufacturer relative to their coatings. There is no question that great coatings make great optics.

These two concepts of Light Transmission and Chromatic Aberration, coupled with the concepts we learned about in Part 1 of this series, give us a firm understanding of what makes optics do what they are supposed to do. In Part 1 we discussed what part the human eye played in all of this as well. Now we need to spend a few minutes and review some basics about how you actually test these optics at the store or in the field so that you can make the right decision with your purchase for your use.

### Diopter Adjustment and How to Adjust the Focus

I seem to spend lots of time answering the same question about how to focus binoculars. Most seasoned sportsmen won't ask because they think it's such a basic reality. You look, you focus, good enough ... right? However, many newcomers aren't too proud to ask and when they do, they get the whole story, which I believe helps them immensely with their choices. So let's start firstly with the diopter adjustment. Well, it's nothing new to those of us that wear glasses for vision correction. Basically, there can be a significant difference between the way our own two eyes view an object. If you have read any of my articles on Shotgun coaching and vision you will know this to be true, as it really shows up in that sport! When the difference is significant, our eye doctors prescribe two lenses, each with a different degree of vision correction. Now imagine looking through an 8 power binocular ... this same difference is now 8 times worse. To solve this problem, the manufacturers offer this diopter adjustment that allows us to focus binoculars independently one side versus the other to balance the two images. This adjustment can be on the collar of one tube on the binocular right below the lens cup or it is sometimes located near the central focus wheel.

Secondly, we need to ensure that the IPD is adjusted. The IPD is the Interpupillary Distance. Since the distance between the eyes — more specifically the distance between the centres of the pupils — varies from person to person, the binoculars must be correctly aligned. To align them or make this adjustment, lift the binocular up to your eyes using both hands and look through them at an object in the distance. Move the two halves of the binoculars about the image until you see one clear circle of image through both eyes.

Now let's focus our binoculars. As we learned above, most people have a variance of vision from their left eye to their right eye. Because of this we need to adjust the focus system on the optics to get image clarity. Use the following system to get the best clarity your optics will offer:



Interpupillary distance setting.

1. Close your right eye and look through the left side of the binoculars with your left eye at the subject matter. Now rotate the centre focusing wheel until the image appears to be sharp and in focus.
2. Close the left eye and look through the right eyepiece (the diopter). Now rotate the right eyepiece until the image appears to be sharp and in focus. (Most optics have a dipoter indicator. Note the setting for later use and for faster focus adjustment).
3. Now look through both eyepieces with both eyepieces open. Since the right eyepiece has already been adjusted, focus on a new object at a different distance using only the centre focusing wheel.

Assuming all of this information has attracted you to the perfect set of optics for your needs, we should now spend a minute on protecting your investment.

### Care and Cleaning

Binoculars do not need routine maintenance other than being certain that they are kept clean. We need to ensure the objective lenses and the eyepieces, as well as the exterior body, are kept clean. If repairs are necessary, get them serviced under warranty by the manufacturer or by a qualified binocular repair company. Never attempt to open the tubes! Collimation or "optical alignment" is the biggest issue with binoculars. If you treat your binoculars roughly or drop them, there is a really good chance the collimation will be out and they should be serviced. If your eyepieces or objective lenses get dirty, it ultimately means less light transmission and loss of brightness as well as unsharp images. We went to such length to get these important qualities and we don't want poor care or dirt to fog our view. Keep your optics clean!

When they aren't in use, they should be stored in their case. Avoid touching the glass and clean them as soon as possible, especially if they get fingerprints on them (oil on your skin can contain a mild acid).



Lens pen.



Binocular harness.

Clean them as soon as possible to avoid damage to the coatings. Buy a lens cleaning kit available at most photo or optical shops. Follow the instructions with the kit for best results. If you have a lot of dust or dirt accumulated, brush it off gently with a camel hair brush or a soft blast of air from your kit. Try not to blow on them to avoid breath and spit landing on the lens. I carry a Lens Pen because it is small and is designed specifically for this purpose.

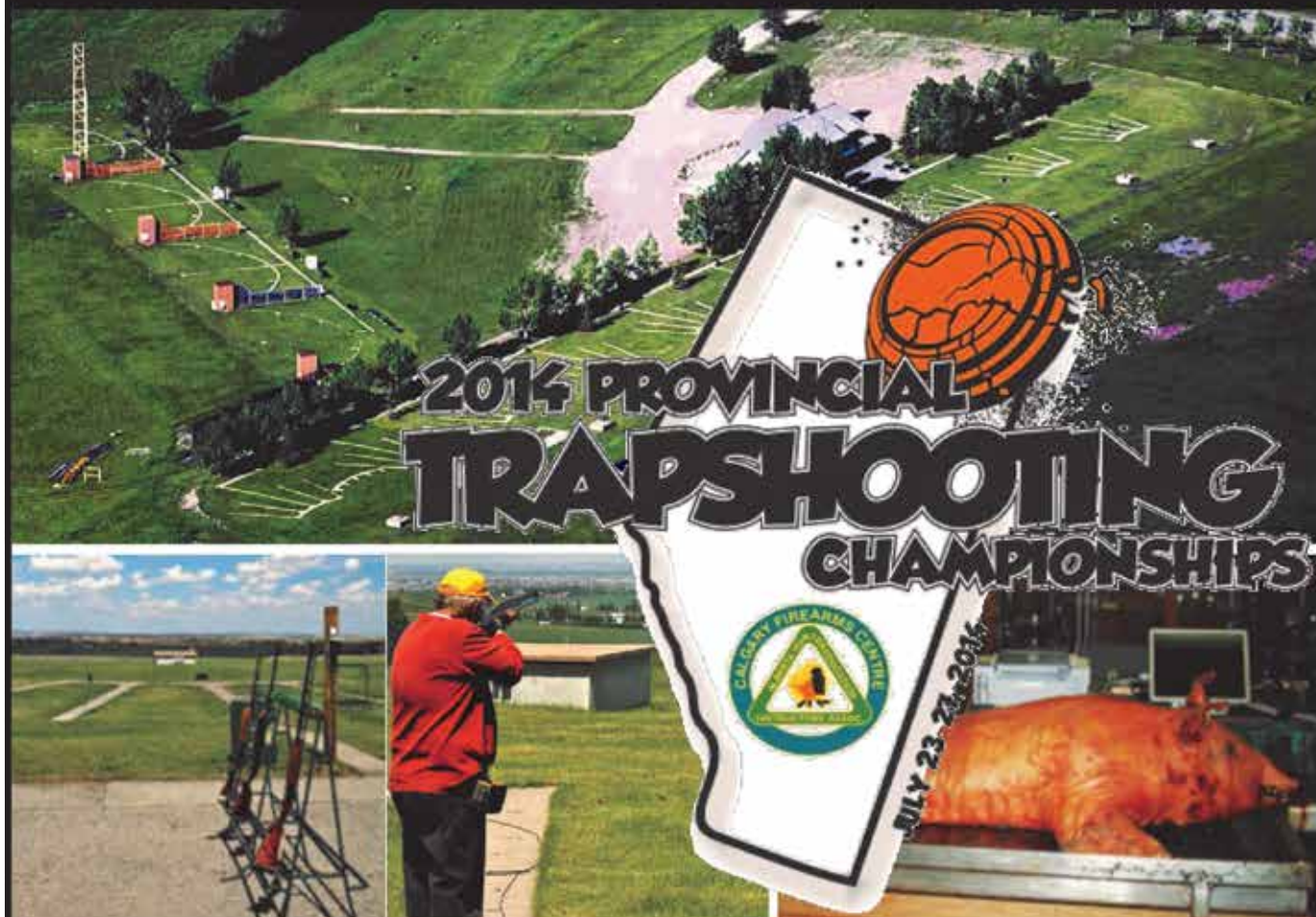
How you carry your binoculars is up to you. However, if you bounce them or bang them around they are likely to get damaged and dirty. If they are tucked deep into your clothing or into your pack you simply won't use them. In recent years a number of harnesses have been developed. Yes, each set of binoculars comes with a neck strap, but I find them to place the weight directly on my neck and a long day of bouncing around in a saddle or crawling on the ground or hiking up and down rough terrain ... the stress of the weight of the optics makes my neck sore. To eliminate this, there are lots of good optics harnesses available and I recommend you try one. They take the bounce out of the load as well as keep them handy and free from being beat against the terrain.

So now you are off and running! Get the best set of binoculars you can afford and you won't regret it. The eye strain experienced from looking through substandard optics robs you of the experience. If you are bird watching, measuring trophy rams at a distance, admiring the beauty of nature or counting tines on that trophy elk ... you won't regret doing your homework! May all of your wilderness trails be both safe and rewarding.





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# Online Hunter Education Program: Then and Now

“ With continuous growth each year, the program is truly a one-of-a-kind treasure.”

By Jessica Holt



Jessica Holt  
Administrative Assistant  
A.H.E.I.A.  
Edmonton

A.H.E.I.A. launched the Online Hunter Education Program as a static format of the Home Study Program in November 2010. Since the launch, approximately six major updates have been made to improve the program and enhance one's training and learning abilities. With continuous growth each year, the program is truly a one-of-a-kind treasure. The program is designed for first-time hunters, active hunters who wish to have a refresher course, and for educators to use as a teaching resource. The graduates of the online program increased by 62% in 2013 as compared to 2011 (14 months after the major launch of the program). The program was also designed for individuals to work at their own pace and from the comfort of their own home. The unique videos and video demonstrations have captured the interest of hunters worldwide with graduates from Ireland, Australia and Germany to name a few. In 2013, 2% of the graduates that year were from a province/country other than Alberta. The word of Conservation Education, “to increase the level of public commitment to wildlife and fisheries conservation”, is spreading positively throughout the world.

The program is not only growing with the number of graduates, but also in the female presence. Approximately 20% of all Online Hunter Education graduates are female. As a female hunter myself, it is always positive to see a growth of female hunters throughout North America. This program has been taken by people of all ages, with the oldest at the age of 72. This just goes to show that age is only a number and if you're passionate about something you need to go for it. With that being said, nearly 67% of all graduates range between the ages of 11 to 29 and this trend shows the influence and assertiveness in the activity of hunting for the younger generation.

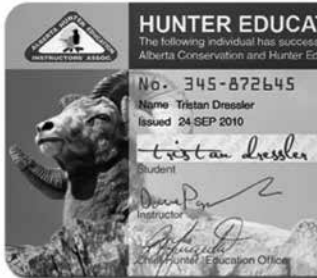
Once A.H.E.I.A. receives the exam results, the graduate will receive their hunter education certificate and a complimentary information package. These are mailed out on a daily basis.

When I first took this program, I was fascinated with all the information the program presented in a fun and enjoyable way and could not wait to embark on other programs that A.H.E.I.A. had to offer. It's incredible to watch the program grow in a way that complements other Conservation Education online training programs.

## Online Hunter Education Certification

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- Module 6 - Firearms
- Module 7 - Bow Hunting
- Module 8 - Survival
- Module 9 - Field Techniques
- Module 10 - First Aid
- Module 11 - Hypothermia
- Module 12 - Legal Responsibilities
- Final Exam
- Congratulations



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you think we might be able to.

*Please call us!*

# Fishing in Your Own Backyard

By Len Gransch



Len Gransch  
Program Coordinator  
A.H.E.I.A.  
Red Deer - North

The warm weather finally appears to be here in earnest. For those who live in one of the larger urban centres like Calgary or Edmonton, you may often find it very difficult to get out of town for any extended length of time. Those of you who already like to fish or want to learn how to peruse this rewarding activity, do not have to look very far. Quality fishing adventures are very close by indeed.

Urban fishing is often overlooked. A common misconception is that the fishing in the city is poor at best with limited access. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When it comes to Edmonton, there are numerous prime fishing spots right on the North Saskatchewan as well as stocked trout ponds. In Calgary, the world famous Bow River can be second to none for trout, and the Glenmore Reservoir and Elbow River are also popular destinations.

We will concentrate on Edmonton for this article. There are numerous species of fish that call the North Saskatchewan River system home. Among the more prominent members are the Burbot (Ling Cod), the Goldeye, its smaller cousin the Mooneye, the prehistoric Lake Sturgeon, the Mountain Whitefish, the Northern Pike, the Sauger and the ever popular Walleye. There are even five species of Sucker with some

interesting names including the Silver Redhorse, the Shorthead Redhorse, the Quillback, the White Sucker and the Longnose Sucker. There are also numerous smaller species like minnows, sticklebacks, etc. Most people are quite astonished when they hear about the abundance of fish available in their own backyard.

For the most part, access to the river is quite easy and fishing from the shore is a popular pastime for those who have discovered this fishing secret. If you have a vehicle, you can access numerous river and trout pond fishing spots. For that matter, a number are accessible by normal Edmonton Transit System buses if you don't have a car. Some areas include Fort Edmonton Park, Whitemud Park, William Hawrelak Park, Rossdale Water Treatment Plant, Emily Murphy Park, Goldbar Park and Hermitage Park, to name a few. The City of Edmonton has a marvelous pamphlet called the Edmonton River Recreational Guide. It is laden with valuable information including the previously named fish species with colour pictures, access, safety, water quality, fish consumption, catch and release techniques, river history, boating code of conduct and much more. I highly recommend downloading this pamphlet at [http://www.edmonton.ca/activities\\_parks\\_recreation/documents/PDF/River-Recreation.pdf#search=Edmonton River Recreational Guide](http://www.edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/documents/PDF/River-Recreation.pdf#search=Edmonton River Recreational Guide)

The City of Edmonton has two stocked trout ponds and both are located at Hermitage Park. Hermitage Park is located in the north end of the city, just off of Victoria Trail. This is a great park for fishing or a picnic with family, featuring naturalized hiking trails and picnic sites.

This year, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Urban Fishing Committee have stocked Hermitage Park Pond (pond with boat dock) with more than 3,000 Rainbow Trout and the "Back 40 Pond" (pond located in the off-leash area) with more than 1,600 Rainbow Trout.

Access to these ponds is free, but remember that all Sportfishing Regulations apply. Check out the website at <http://www.albertaregulations.ca/fishingregs/> for the 2014 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations. Hard copies are available at any vendors who sell fishing and hunting licences.

It is always your responsibility to know and follow all the fishing and boating regulations. Ignorance of the law is never an excuse. For specific questions you may have regarding fishing, please call the Edmonton Fish and Wildlife Division at 780-427-3574. If you wish to learn more about the boating regulations, please call the Boating Safety Information Line at 1-800-267-6687.

Please make sure that any trip to the river or ponds is always done safely. Be aware of hazards like water intakes, poor footing, changing water levels, obstructions in the water, etc. I recommend the use of a PFD (personal floatation device) and some kind of a buoyant heaving line. Remember, you are always responsible for you and your family's safety!

If you live in other cities please check with them for angling programs and opportunities available to you in your area.

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