



# O.C.O.A.

## ONTARIO CONSERVATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

May 2, 2021

### **2021 Ontario Conservation Officer of the Year**

**Sudbury** - The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (O.C.O.A.) is pleased to announce that Peter Koskela has been selected as the 2021 Conservation Officer of the Year. Peter is part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Sudbury Enforcement Unit working out of the Sudbury office.

Peter has held a variety of positions in a career with the MNR that has spanned over 30 years, the last 22 years of which have been as a Conservation Officer in Gogama and Sudbury. Throughout his career he has proven to be a competent and skillful investigator who maintains excellent working relationships with other enforcement agencies who value and respect his investigation skills. This respect is evident in the 26 letters of commendation that supported his nomination for this award.

“Peter is a dedicated officer who goes above and beyond to see an investigation through, including working long hours and leaving no stone unturned and until he is satisfied that he has collected all the evidence available.” said O.C.O.A. President Sean Cronsberry, “Peter isn’t the type of person who requires public recognition or acknowledgement for the work he does, he takes pride in his job and finds personal gratification in completing his duties to the best of his abilities. It is an honour and a privilege to publicly recognize Peter for his accomplishments.”

Peter is an accomplished investigator who has demonstrated his commitment to the job and to protecting the public and our natural resources. Some of Peter’s career highlights include:

- Conducting and assisting with many complex investigations, including investigations into careless hunting, forest fires, and illegal moose and elk hunting.
- Being the lead investigator on multiple high-profile investigations which attracted province wide media attention
- Working co-operatively with multiple police agencies while conducting investigations and utilizing a wide variety of investigative techniques, including remote piloted aircraft systems for crime scene re-creation.

- Past recipient of the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Torch Award, an award given to recently appointed officers who have demonstrated exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his or her duties and is respected by his/her peers and the general public.
- Being a valued member on many MNRF Enforcement Branch initiatives, including the creation of the North East Region decoy team, snowmobile procurement specification development, uniform and fleet committee and delivering training to other conservation officers on vessel safety legislation
- Working alongside the Greater Sudbury Police Service in promoting safe snowmobile operation and wilderness survival to high school students. This includes a two day session each year where over 50 students receive one day of classroom instruction followed by a second day that consists of a 100 km guided snowmobile tour that focuses on safe snowmobile operation practices on both lakes and trails.

Upon learning he had been selected as the 2021 Conservation Officer of the Year, Peter said, "I would like to sincerely say thank you for selecting me as the 2021 Conservation Officer of the Year! I am deeply honoured to be recognized by my peers, and for that I am very grateful. I share this award with all the people that I have worked with, and those that I have crossed paths with throughout my career. I believe what makes us better is working together. Being a part of this team of conservation officers and enforcement branch staff and witnessing their dedication has truly been inspiring."

Peter was also awarded the MNRF Conservation Officer of the Year Award and he will be receiving the Shikar-Safari Club International Ontario Wildlife Officer of the Year Award and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) Conservation Officer of the Year Award.

Remember to follow us on



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