



April 6, 2023

# ONTARIO CONSERVATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

## 2023 Ontario Conservation Officer of the Year

**Clinton, Ontario** – The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCA) is pleased to announce that Conservation Officer Drew Pegrum has been selected as the 2023 Conservation Officer of the Year. Conservation Officer Pegrum is a part of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) and works within the Guelph Enforcement Unit working out of the Clinton office.

Officer Pegrum started his seasonal career with the MNR in 2011 as a Park Ranger at Inverhuron Provincial Park, then in 2012 moved to a Park Warden position at Balsam Lake Provincial Park. In 2013 Officer Pegrum took his career to Rocky Mountain House Alberta as a seasonal Conservation Officer (CO) before returning back to Ontario as a CO Intern within the Bancroft Enforcement Unit working out of the Minden office. He completed his internship in 2014 and was hired as a contract CO out of Owen Sound and shortly after secured a full time position within the Guelph Enforcement Unit, working out of Guelph prior to getting to his current position out of the Clinton office.

Officer Pegrum is a professional who demonstrates exceptional leadership and motivates his team, colleagues and trainees to administer their very best to protect our natural resources, and ensure public safety within the Province of Ontario. He is also well established within the community he serves and is often called upon by residents, landowners, policing partners and community groups in relation to angling, hunting and land use questions and complaints.

Officer Pegrum has been an OCA member since he began his career as a CO and most recently served as a Regional Representative in Southwest Region for five years and is currently part of the 2023 OCA Convention Committee.

“Officer Pegrum is not afraid to utilize new techniques or solutions to aid him in his pursuit of ensuring hunter safety” said OCA President Matthew McVittie. “He is a natural leader that has collected extensive knowledge throughout his life hunting, fishing and being outdoors. In the last few years, he has had the opportunity to become a Coach Officer. He takes great pride in the individuals he has coached, who have moved on as full time COs”. Officer Pegrum volunteers his time in many ways within the community of Listowel, but his true passion lies with the outdoors and hockey. “Anytime that Drew can’t be found spending time with his family or at work, he can be found mentoring youth hunters, anglers and hockey players throughout his community”

Officer Pegrum is an accomplished investigator and no matter the investigation, big or small, he leaves no stone unturned. Drew goes to work everyday maintaining his top priorities of ensuring hunter safety, protecting the public and the natural resources of Ontario. Some of the most recent work that Drew has completed includes:

- Completing multi-district surrogate wildlife decoys to address hunter safety and trespassing within the Guelph Enforcement Unit

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/bulletin/1002092/government-protecting-ontarians-from-unsafe-hunting>

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/bulletin/1002287/government-protecting-ontarians-from-unsafe-hunting>

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/bulletin/53322/trespassing-to-shoot-a-turkey-costs-hunters-7000-and-licence-suspension>

[Public photo of Officer Pegrum](#)

- Providing exceptional service to a mobility impaired hunter ensuring they could engage in the hunting activity they loved
- Has and continues to demonstrate a high level of competency, knowledge, and capability through contributions to enforcement activities in and around Hullett Provincial Wildlife Area
- Coordinating multi-district search warrants and statements in relation to hunter safety and trespassing
- Being a coach officer and mentoring many officers to become successful CO's

Officer Pegrum was nominated for the 2023 Ontario Conservation Officer of the Year award by his peers. He was selected to receive the award by the selection committee of the OCA. The Conservation Officer of the Year award acknowledges officers who have demonstrated the highest level of dedication and professionalism amongst our ranks and pays tribute to the high quality of COs within Ontario.

Officer Pegrum is also a member of the North American Wildlife Officers Association (NAWEOA) and was nominated also for North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Officer of the Year Award.

Drew will be presented with his award, in person, during the OCOA Annual General Meeting this summer by representatives of the OCOA.

More information including the criteria of the award and previous winners can be found on the [OCOA website](#)

For more information contact:

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