



THE SPORTSMAN

“Conservation is Our Aim”

**SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN’S ASSOCIATION,
INCORPORATED**

P.O. BOX 264 OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO,
N4K5P3

www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/

Affiliated with the OFAH, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



Volume 31 No. 6

June, 2010



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

First Thursday of each month, October to June,
September exception -> second Thursday

Thursday

June, 3, 7:30 pm

AT THE CLUB HOUSE,

THE CLUB HOUSE is:

Lincoln Park Road,
in the township of Georgian Bluffs, or
{082535 Side Road 6}, or
{217567 Concession 3 Side road,
behind Gord Maher Centre}

Salmon Spectacular Needs Your Help

The volunteer sign up sheets will be available at the June general meeting so please check your schedules and check the sheets to see where we need your help, if you have not already done so.

The derby starts on Friday August 27th and ends on Sunday September 5th.

Thanks.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

This is the last SSA Newsletter to be printed until our regular club meetings start up again in September. The editor gets a bit of a break over the summer, but he has assured us that he will be back at his desk in time to get things rolling again in the fall. The summer months present a long list of events and activities for the SSA and its members; Fund Raising BBQs, Salmon Spectacular Boat Draw Ticket Sales, Youth Activities, Stream Work Projects, Forestry/Wildlife Projects, Range Shoots, Range Work, the Salmon Spectacular, etc. There is a lot to do and help is appreciated in any and all areas of concern. If the committee chairmen don't get around to asking you for help on a project, don't be afraid to ask them if there is something that you can help out with. With over 500 members in the club, I sometimes begin to imagine what could be accomplished each and every year, if every member were to give some of their time, in whatever way is possible, to the various SSA activities taking place throughout the year. I even begin to believe that the "Things-To-Do" list might even get shorter rather than simply stay the same.

Somewhere in this newsletter you should find a series of three letters dealing with the gun registry. The bill that deals with scrapping the registry is now before committee, and will soon come back to parliament for third and final reading. This will probably be the last time that clear thinking Canadians, with good common sense, will have a chance to get this mill stone off their necks. We want you to have every opportunity to make a difference when it counts, and where it counts. We believe that you're input on this issue counts, and that you need to act now; not next month or sometime over the summer months, that will be too late. Please read the letter from the O.F.A.H. and utilize the two accompanying letters as they suggest. Don't sit back and let this issue be decided by people that don't have the foggiest idea as to what it's all about.

Have a happy and safe summer, and stay/get involved with the events and activities of the SSA.

Dennis Wiseman, President

Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Dennis Wiseman
1st Vice President: Mike Prevost
2nd Vice President: Fred Geberdt
Recording Secretary: Mike Prevost
Past President: Bill Douglas
Treasurer: Murray Smart
Corresponding Secretary: Geoff Ford

Directors:

Verle Barfoot, Carol Barfoot
Bill Beamish, Brian Clements,
John Ford, Chris Geberdt,
Dave Hartrick, Jim Hastie,
John McNamara, Dave Shipley,
Cliff Springer

Newsletter: Dave Skelton
Webmaster: Bruce Farrell
Membership: John Ford
Key Keeper: John Ford

Please inform John Ford if your address, phone number, or, email

Frustrating Turkeys

After another unsuccessful turkey hunt I was once again lamenting my frustrations with my fellow hunters over breakfast at a local restaurant. Something has changed and I don't know what it is but it seems to me that turkey hunting was better some years ago. Maybe I just need to accept the changes and adapt my hunting methods.

I was pressing the point that I thought there were too many hens out there with the toms when one of my companions said it sounded like I was saying there were too many turkeys to hunt. We were still chuckling as we left but his good natured twist on my comments made me consider my actions. It was easy to envision that what I said on Monday morning and overheard by the wrong person could easily have been distorted by Wednesday to "I heard Mike Prevost say that he thought we have too many turkeys and they should have never have been introduced in the first place and he is on the executive of the S.S.A."

Aside from being representatives of our sport we have to remember that closer to home as club members, by what we say and do, we are also representatives of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association. Complaining and venting our frustrations about our fishing and hunting experiences is natural and can even be amusing but as S.S.A members we have a responsibility to be a bit more mindful of what we say and where we say it.

Mike Prevost

Life is not measured by the breathes we take, but by the moments that take our breath away!

Thanks to those submitting material for this newsletter.

Anyone with articles for this Newsletter should get them to me by the 20th (or sooner) of the preceding month.

*Dave Skelton 519-376-9554
dskel@golden.net*

PITCHIN DAY

Held Saturday May 8, 2010

Thanks go out to the Juniors and other club members who turned out to help with Pitchin Day.

Thanks to a number of Cubs, Scouts, and Junior Rangers we had a total of 50 people out.

A big thank you to Bill Wattie for the use of his truck and trailer, and to Jim Hastie. We were able to get 3 loads of carts etc., etc. from behind Giant Tiger, and pull them over to the Sound Rail and Marine Museum for the city to pick up. It's a long story, and we won't go there, but we ended up using Jims truck, with Bill's trailer.

Once again, many thanks to all.

Brian Clements



Disclaimer:

The editorial comments in this Newsletter do not always Reflect the policies or opinions Of the SSA.

Reproduction of any SSA material in this document is encouraged by any paid up member of the SSA.

I have some sad news... **Jim Weir**, one of the great champions of the outdoors & the conservation movement, passed away today at approx. 1:30 p.m. (May 5, 2010).

Funeral arrangements are being finalized by his family & will be passed on. Jim recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

He was a 'Life Member' of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association.

Arnie Clark

An **Application Form** may be obtained by using the link below.

http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/2010-SSA-Membership_form.pdf

Just fill in the form, and mail to the address on the front page of this newsletter, c/o **John Ford**.



SSA Life Members
Jim Weir (left), Os McArthur (right)
have a laugh with Gerry Oulette
(Centre), formerly Minister MNR,
at an OSSS event!



Jim Weir: April 23rd 1920 - May 11th 2010

With the passing of Jim Weir this past May, a Life Member of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, another passionate voice for the outdoors has left us.

As his health declined during this past winter and on into the spring of 2010, Jim confided in me that it was perhaps his time to move on. No longer could he venture outdoors, take in SSA meetings or team up with some of his pals at the coffee shop. He felt he was becoming too much of a burden to his family, friends and the staff at Central Place, his home for the past few years.

The daily adventures he loved so dearly during his 32 years in Owen Sound, had come to a close. It was sad to see an old friend at the end of the trail. He turned 90 on April 23rd. The family had planned a big party at Central Place. Jim was not feeling so well after suffering a bad fall. He thought the party should be postponed until he was feeling better. Jim loved parties and he certainly didn't want to miss his own. Then, on May 11th, he left us.

I first met Jim back in December 1978 during the Owen Sound Winter Carnival. I had entered my Samoyed Husky, Kody, in a 'Pull the Weight' contest which was being staged at the Holiday Inn (now the Day's Inn). Jim happened to be standing beside me at the time watching all the pooches lined up for the pull. A conversation ensued. We discovered we both loved to talk, a trait that defined Jim very well right up until his last days! He told me he had retired from his machinist job down Hamilton way and he and his wife Teresa, thought they would like to move to Owen Sound where the pace was a little slower and the fishing was good. And they did, purchasing a nice home on Indian Acres Road near Balmy Beach.

During that day at the Winter Carnival 32 years ago, we talked about our hobbies. I learned that Jim loved to hunt and fish and that he was a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters. He liked conservation work. His passion was obviously the outdoors. I suggested that he might wish to consider joining the Sydenham Sportsmen, a group of outdoorsmen who not only enjoyed fishing and hunting afield, but also fish and wildlife conservation work. Jim was more than interested, and in short order, joined the outfit, becoming a regular fixture at the club meetings. Club members soon discovered that Jim had lots to say about issues affecting angling and hunting and the fish and wildlife resource. He went on to become one of the SSA's most noted vocalists. Often, he was a force to be reckoned with, but as vocal as Jim was, you couldn't ask for a better club ambassador.

It wasn't long after joining the SSA that Jim found himself nominated and elected as an Executive member of the SSA. He became active in many of the club's activities, conservation projects and social events. He fabricated electric fish feeders out of BBQ motors for the club's salmon and trout hatcheries. He collected salmon and trout eggs and babysat juvenile rainbows, browns and chinook salmon. He participated in fish stocking, built trout habitat and spawning areas, and constructed and maintained nest boxes for wood ducks, kestrels, screech owls and bluebirds. During the winter months, he helped feed whitetail deer, turkeys and other wildlife. For virtually every SSA activity, you could count on Jim to volunteer. The Salmon Spectacular was always one of his favourites. It was a marvelous social venue for Jim, a time of the fellowship he enjoyed so much. He had great respect for the OFAH and Conservation Officers, always offering his vocal support for both. Jim also served on the Rankin River Resource Group as an adviser.

One of Jim's favourite accomplishments was the 'Adopt a School' which was a program designed by the OFAH to teach youngsters about fish and wildlife management and the value of fishing and hunting. Jim, along with the late Os McArthur, took 'Adopt A School' on the road, visiting every public and secondary school in the Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound area, delivering the fish and wildlife harvest and conservation message. Another milestone that he often reflected on was his selection as a Life Member' of the SSA. He was deeply honoured and touched by this gesture of recognition.

Jim loved books, loved reading and loved politics. His library was home to many historical periodicals and over the past several years, he had many discussions, as well as advice, for our Federal and provincial Members, Larry Miller and Bill Murdoch. He was always warmly welcomed by their staff, and a regular at both politicians offices where he would often drop in for a coffee and share his views and concerns. Both Larry and Bill served as pall-bearers at Jim's funeral. He touched their lives too.

I will miss my friend Jim. Folks like him only come along once in a lifetime. I'm thankful I spent 32 years on the trail with him. So many memories.

Submitted by Arnie Clark.....

For more SSA Pictures:

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/photoalbum/index.php> or
.....<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/index.php> then click PHOTOS (left side)

Connect to the SSA website!

**The SSA Welcomes
its newest members**

David Buckton--Owen Sound
Marcus Marsh--Owen Sound
Marvin Snook--Mar
Andrew Robertson--Annan
Fred Raper--Markdale
Kevin de Jong and family--
Owen Sound
Slawomir and Alexander Liszewski--
Mississauga
Brett Cybulski--Flesherton
Jacob Bartley--Owen Sound
Ken and Elaine McCollum--Dundalk
Eugene Bogan and family--
Owen Sound



Help Wanted:

*The Sydenham Sportsmen's
Association would not function,
if it were not for its
many volunteers.*

Looking for members to serve on both
the **Derby Committee**
and the **Executive** of the SSA-
or on any other of the
numerous committees!

If interested in volunteering,
please contact:

Dennis Wiseman

taxman2001@rogers.com

FLETCHER SPORTS

It's The REEL Thing

• Rod & Reel Repairs • Parts & Service

• Retail Sporting Goods

LORNE & HAZEL FLETCHER

Tel: (519) 371-8587

Fax: (519) 371-2096

R.R. #5, Owen Sound
Ontario N4K 5N7

#6 Hwy & Ledgerock Road
6 kms. North of Springmount

Rough Landing for Young Eaglets

Arnie Clark

One of two young bald eaglets that came crashing to the earth recently, has died. The 200 pound plus nest, which was located near the Hyde Park area of London, blew down in a violent windstorm leaving the two month old eaglets with fractured legs.

The nest had been actively used by nesting adult eagles for years, and has been a popular attraction for birders. Local resident, Don Fairbairn has observed the nesting antics of the eagles since the nest was built. Every morning, he has picked up his binoculars to check out the nest. He was the first to discover the nest was down. After ATV'ing to the site, he spotted the young eagles alive, floundering in a pile of brush and limbs. He immediately contacted an MNR friend.

After retrieving the birds, with the adults circling menacingly overhead, they were transported to the Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre near Mount Brydges. The rehab centre, which is owned and operated by Brian Salt, is one of Canada's leading facilities for rehabilitating injured wildlife, and caring for the orphaned animals and birds.

The most seriously damaged eaglet was the first to be operated on. Unfortunately, it didn't survive the surgery, despite the heroic efforts of 3 surgeons and 2 technicians. Surgery on eagles is a sensitive procedure and this operation was no different. The eaglet's heart stopped during the operation. After successfully reviving the bird, it stopped breathing. The surgeons and rehab staff laboured valiantly for another four hours trying to resuscitate the bird, but to no avail.

The second eaglet fared much better. A leg cast was installed, which will be removed shortly and replaced with a new one. Since the eagle's legs and talons are its hunting weapons, recovery from this operation is paramount to its survival in the wild. Following rehab and training, the surviving eaglet will be returned to the wild.

Salthaven is just that... a haven for Mother Nature's sick, injured and orphaned. The centre receives an average of 40 calls a day from the public about birds and animals that need help or a home. About 750 critters are processed at the centre every year. Approximately 70% of the critters are successfully rehabilitated and returned to their natural habitat.

The facility relies on volunteer help. More than 90 concerned citizens volunteer at Salthaven, working three shifts a day around the clock, 7 days a week. It is licensed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service to accept and care for wildlife. With an annual operating budget of about \$50,000, the facility depends largely on donations and corporate help.

Brian Salt hopes to see his rehab centre move into bigger and better quarters. It's currently operating on rental property. Future plans call for a \$2.0 million dollar facility complete with a pathology lab, operating room, isolation facility and on-site residency for students. Corporations have come forward with two large acreages as a donation, which are now being assessed. Salthaven also offers a unique wildlife education program for students. Nine different programs are offered right from primary students up to university level.

Donations are gratefully accepted. As a registered charitable operation, tax deductible receipts can be issued for donations over \$25.00. For more information, check out Saltwater Haven's website at wildlife@salthaven.org

Let's hope the surviving eaglet makes a full recovering and returns to the wild.

April 16, 2010

You might call Lake Huron the forgotten Great Lake. There are no major cities on its shores. It doesn't get the media attention the other four Great Lakes do. But its problems are just as bad or worse. Rebecca Williams reports a new documentary tells the story of Lake Huron's struggle with dozens of alien invaders... and the biologists and fishermen who are trying to reclaim their lake:

The documentary *Lake Invaders* http://www.lakeinvaders.com/Lake_Invaders.html is a cautionary tale about opening the door to strangers. It tells how Lake Huron was opened up to alien invasive species. The film paints fish biologists as the heroes rushing in. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hums3cL9rlo>

Seems like it always has to wait until it's at a disaster level before you know, we can start fixing it... we're constantly putting out these biological fires, running from fire to fire, to try to keep them under control. We have to find another way to approach this."

More than 180 non-native species have gotten into the Lakes... and some of them have turned everything upside down. Long, slithering, blood-sucking parasites called sea lamprey were the first to get in. They slipped through a canal that connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. Lamprey killed off most of the big predator fish in the Lakes.

Then... came the alewife. Since the lamprey had taken out the top predators... there was nothing to eat the invading alewives. In the film... biologist Jeff Schaeffer explains how the small fish took over the lakes.

Schaeffer: At that time over 90% of the fish biomass of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron was probably dominated by the exotic alewife. One of my colleagues refers to the Great Lakes at that time as alewife soup.

Suddenly... there was a major stinking mess. Each spring, hundreds of millions of dead alewives washed up on shore and rotted. Not the best thing for tourism.

Filmmaker John Schmit says he was surprised to learn what happened to the lakes next.

Schmit: The funny thing about the Great Lakes is there's Pacific salmon in them.

Schmit says biologists brought in millions of salmon from the Northwest to control the alewives. The crazy thing is... it worked. In the film we see how a 4 billion dollar sport fishing industry was born. And the native fish of Lake Huron were pretty much forgotten about.

The salmon fishery boomed for decades. Until the alewives crashed in 2003.

Fisher Doug Niergarth says then... the salmon started starving.

Niergarth: Two years ago we saw some monster salmon heads that were sitting on little dwarfed bodies. And it was the ugliest thing and rather nasty. Just skinny and withered away. It was the nastiest thing you ever done seen.

The fishing industry started slipping away. Marinas just scraped by. Tackle shops and motels closed. People finally realized there was something wrong with the lakes.

John Schmit says he wanted to make this film to show how even the smallest invader could mess up everything... both the delicate balance of life in the lake and the people who fish it and depend on money from tourism.

Schmit: Lake Huron has been the most impacted by the newest invaders. My personal concern, my investment in the Great Lakes and making this documentary is for people to be aware of the kind of damage invasive species can do to these huge lake systems.

He says his film *Lake Invaders* is an example of what invasive creatures can do... not just to Lake Huron ... but any ecosystem.

For the Environment Report, I'm Rebecca Williams.

John N. Cooper, Fish and Wildlife Services, Peterborough, ON, K9J 8M5, 705-755-5476



Rare Wolverine sighting on Manitoulin

Someone who lives on Bidwell Road on the Island took these photos earlier this week. He was very fortunate. You can spend your life in the woods and never see a wolverine. He was lucky enough to not only see one, but to get some photos.

Fish disinfectant prevents VHS transmission

The disinfection solution iodophor, presently used for salmon eggs, has been found to eliminate active viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) from fertilized walleye and northern pike eggs. Iodophor disinfectant solutions contain iodine formulated for use on fish eggs. USGS and USFWS researchers also found that although some of the disinfection treatments reduced the hatch, iodophor treatment at 90 minutes after fertilization did not alter egg hatch or fry development.

VHS has caused large fish kills in wild fish in the U.S., especially in the Great Lakes region, where thousands of fish have died from the virus over the last few years. The disease causes internal bleeding in fish, and although in the family of viruses that includes rabies, VHS is not harmful to humans. Thus far, the virus has been found in more than 25 species of fish in Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie, St. Clair, Superior and Ontario, as well as the Saint Lawrence River and inland lakes in New York, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Effective disinfection methods are critically important to natural resource agencies that collect eggs from wild fish stocks and to private aquaculture because the spread of the virus to a fish hatchery could be devastating, said Mark Gaikowski, the USGS researcher who led the research team. "If VHS virus is introduced into the aquaculture industry, it could lead to trade restrictions, as well as direct economic losses from the disease," Gaikowski noted.

Experts fear the disease could potentially spread from the Great Lakes into populations of native fish in the 31 states of the Mississippi River Basin. Regulatory agencies in the U.S. and Canada have already placed restrictions on the movement of fish or fish products that could pose a risk for the spread of VHS virus to regions outside of its known geographic range.

For more information about this subject, as well as recommendations on the disinfection process, see: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2009/3107/>.



Reduce nuisance Canada geese, how to

The USFWS has issued regulations that allow for additional control measures, apart from harassment techniques and traditional hunting, to address nuisance goose problems.

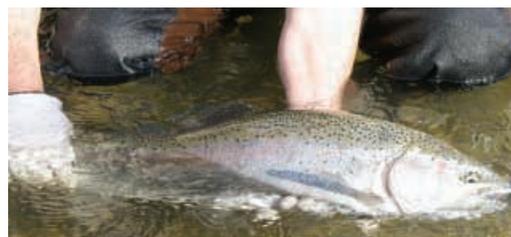
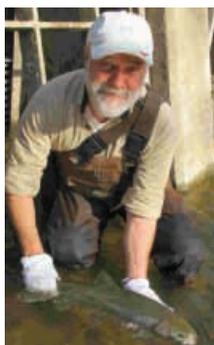
The Canada goose is an adaptable bird and can live in a variety of locations, including suburban neighborhood ponds, parks, and other urban areas. As their population increases and they become more common in urban areas so does the increase in nuisance complaints.

Landowners can first try "harassment" techniques, including chemical repellents, mylar balloons, wire/string barriers and noise makers. These methods are proven to help reduce goose problems. However, they do require consistency and are not 100% effective.

In response to these concerns, the FWS issued rules that allow for new control measures, apart from harassment techniques and traditional hunting. One of those regulations is a permit for reducing goose reproduction through nest and egg destruction OR egg addling or oiling which prevent the eggs from hatching.

These permits are easy to attain, and can be useful in certain situations — such as a homeowner that may have geese nesting close to home. It is a way to keep goose numbers down on the property without the population growing too large through years of unchecked reproduction. The permits are available at: www.fws.gov/permits. The website also contains useful information on the methods for addling or oiling the eggs or destroying the nests and when each method may be appropriate.

The nesting season for geese is underway now, and landowners and land managers who have problems with geese (homeowners, golf course managers, city/county managers, etc.), especially during the summer molting season, may be able to act now and reduce their nuisance problems later this year. For more info: www.fws.gov/permits.



**Rainbow Trout Egg Collecting
Spring 2010**

Opposition grows for wind farms

What's to like about this un-American energy effort

Proposals to desecrate the history and beauty of Michigan's shorelines in the name of "Green Energy" are meeting with growing opposition, yet politicians and environmental groups are forging ahead with proposals and plans to forever ruin the nation's landscape.

There are many proposals and plans for offshore and onshore wind farms. We oppose all wind farms — offshore and onshore — for many reasons, all the right ones.

Environmentally, esthetically, economically and from a conservation perspective, they are wrong. They create noise, lower residential property values; destroy ranges for wildlife and cattle and compromise pristine wilderness and shorelines. They indiscriminately kill wild birds, endangered birds, all kinds of birds; numerous birds and their habitats. They adversely affect bats, killing millions of them yearly, thus increasing mosquitoes and subsequently requiring more chemical spraying. They have a negative and deadly impact on wildlife and will forever ruin the nation's landscape.

Electricity produced by wind farms costs more than that produced by traditional energy sources, they threaten crop production, dry up and heat regional soils affecting agriculture and exacerbating droughts. Wind farms require massive governmental subsidies. They only produce energy when the wind is blowing.

Environmentalists and other do-gooders scare me because they prefer 'wind mills' to responsibly capitalizing on our own vast oil, coal and shale reserves. The United States will not achieve energy independence unless and until we develop our own vast resources rather than depend on our questionable world energy partners. Forging ahead with any planned wind farms and we forever abandon the beautiful landscape of our nation and the heritage of our children.

Folks may say they want them, but not in their own back yards. They are not an environmentally friendly power source. The first few may be uniquely "cute;" massive installations are horrifically ugly!

So...what's to like about them?

The letter below comes from OFAH regarding the debate over Bill C-391.

On page 8 and page 9 are two form letters that if you wish, may copy and send to the appropriate address.

If you wish a MSWord copy of these letters instead, email me, the editor, Dave Skelton at dskel@golden.nat , and I will gladly email you these as an attachment.

OFAH FILE: 401-12May 7, 2010

Dear O.F.A.H. Member Club:

The debate over Bill C-391, an act to repeal the long gun registry, has moved to the Standing Committee on Public Safety, and the battle over this issue is heating up quickly.

With the exception of the 21 opposition members who supported the bill on Second Reading, the rest of the opposition M.P.'s will be seeking to defeat the bill, and keep the long gun registry.

The debate in the Committee is already nasty, with the Liberal, NDP and Bloc members trying to stop witnesses in favor of the bill from appearing, and attacking those who do. The Committee hearings will continue until May 27, and in early June, votes will be taken to determine whether the bill will go back to the House of Commons for Third Reading. The O.F.A.H. will testify before the Committee on May 26. The Third Reading vote will be critical. The Liberal leader has already made it clear that his members will have to vote against the bill, whether they want to or not. This means that the eight Liberals who voted in favor of killing the registry at Second Reading, will have to toe the party line and vote against the wishes of their constituents. So far, the 12 NDP members who supported the bill, and the one Independent member, are still on our side, but it is critical that we support them and urge them to continue that support.

Attached please find two form letters. The first is addressed to Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, and makes it clear that we do not support his heavy handed bullying of his own members, and do not support the 'compromise' proposed by the Liberals, which would only tinker with, not eliminate, the long gun registry. The second form letter is to local M.P.'s, outlining our case again and urging them to support the bill.

With the battle over this issue coming to a head over the next few weeks, it is critical that both the Liberal leader, and all M.P.'s in Ontario hear from the firearms community, both those who support us and particularly those who don't. Please take the time to make copies of both letters, pass it around to the members of your club, have them sign (and include their address on each letter) and mail or fax them -- the first to Mr. Ignatieff, and the second to your local M.P. For your convenience, a list of the constituency addresses and fax numbers of M.P.'s is listed on the O.F.A.H. website at www.ofah.org

Your help and cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours in Conservation, Greg Farrant O.F.A.H. Manager of Government Relations & Communications

Date

Dear Larry Miller

As a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.), who represent 100,000 members, supporters and subscribers, and 670 member clubs across Ontario, and a legal, law-abiding firearms owner, I am writing with respect to the upcoming vote on Bill C-391, an act to repeal the long gun registry.

Recent statements made by Liberal M.P. Wayne Easter, who suggested to the Globe & Mail on April 23, 2010 that firearms owners are supportive of the proposed Liberal 'compromise' ("the gunners like it; they got it") badly misrepresented the views of legal, law-abiding firearms owners and underestimated the level of opposition, not only to the compromise, but of the registry itself. Please be advised, notwithstanding such claims, I not only do not like the suggested compromise, but do not get it at all!

The recent 'compromise' proposed by the Liberal party does not recognize or speak to the flaws of the long gun registry; it does not resolve the myriad of mistakes that have plagued the system; it does not acknowledge the fact that virtually every public opinion poll over the past eight years has shown that Canadians do not believe that the registry works and it should be scrapped; it does not speak to the fact that the Auditor General found that the registry does not enhance public safety nor save lives; it does not recognize that the suggested compromise is likely unconstitutional, since the Firearms Act is part of the Criminal Code and an offence under the Act must be a criminal offence in order for it to be within the powers of Parliament; it does not reflect the views of thousands of frontline officers across Canada who, unlike the CACP, do not believe that the registry helps them to do their job; and finally, it is redundant as the government already has a list of firearms owners, along with their addresses, under the current licensing system.

Worse still is the fact that Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff has chosen to deny members of his party the freedom to vote their conscience and represent their constituents on Third Reading of the bill. Equally disturbing is the fact that the Liberal point man on the issue, M.P. Mark Holland, instead of seeking compromise, first attempted to undermine the democratic process by trying to limit witnesses at the Committee, and based Upon the opening day of the hearings, is now intent on pursuing a strategy that includes insulting and bullying witnesses who speak in support of the bill. If this is characteristic of the opposition's strategy on the issue, and their interpretation of what compromise means, thanks, but no thanks.

As a member of the outdoors community and one of millions of legitimate gun owners and outdoor enthusiasts in Canada, I am appalled at the tactics being used to defeat a simple, straightforward, private member's bill. The suggestion that the Liberal compromise is aimed at providing relief to those in rural areas, while following a tough line to address urban crime, ignores the obvious fact that tens of thousands of legal firearms owners who may hunt in rural areas, also live and vote in major urban centres.

Once again, I do not support, nor 'get' the purported compromise. As a constituent, I strongly urge you to support Bill C-391 on Third Reading.

Yours sincerely,

Lake Erie Salmonid Stocking

A total of 2,343,897 yearling-equivalent salmonids were stocked in Lake Erie in 2009. This was a 4% increase in the number of yearling salmonids stocked compared to 2008. By species, there were 229,842 lake trout stocked in NY, PA and ONT waters (the highest amount stocked in the 30-year time series); 102,701 brown trout stocked in NY and PA waters (a 90% increase), and 2,011,354 steelhead/rainbow trout stocked by all five jurisdictions (a 1% increase). From the Great Lakes Basin Report, May 2010

Date

Mr. Michael Ignatieff, M.P.,
Leader of the Official Opposition
House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada
K1A0A6

Dear Mr. Ignatieff:

As a member of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.), who represent 100,000 members, supporters and subscribers, and 670 member clubs across Ontario, and a legal, law-abiding firearms owner, I am writing with respect to the recent Liberal 'compromise' put forward in lieu of supporting Bill C-391.

I also want to comment on recent statements by Liberal M.P. Wayne Easter, who suggested to the Globe & Mail on April 23, 2010, that "the gunners like it; they got it." Please be advised, notwithstanding Mr. Easter's claims, I not only do not like the suggested compromise, but do not get it at all!

The compromise proposed by your party does not recognize or speak to the flaws of the long gun registry; it does not resolve the myriad of mistakes that have plagued the system; it does not acknowledge the fact that virtually every public opinion poll over the past eight years has shown that Canadians don't believe that the registry works and should be scrapped; it does not speak to the fact that the Auditor General found that the registry does not enhance public safety nor save lives; it does not recognize that the suggested compromise is likely unconstitutional, since the Firearms Act is part of the Criminal Code and an offence under the Act must be a criminal offence in order for it to be within the powers of Parliament; it does not reflect the views of thousands of frontline officers across Canada who, unlike the CACP, do not believe that the registry helps them to do their job; and finally, it is redundant as the government already has a list of firearms owners, along with their addresses, under the current licensing system.

Worse still is the fact that you have chosen to deny members of your party the freedom to vote their conscience and represent their constituents on Third Reading of the bill. Equally disturbing is the fact that the Liberal point man on the issue, M.P. Mark Holland, instead of seeking compromise, first attempted to undermine the democratic process by trying to limit witnesses at the Committee, and based upon the opening day of the hearings, is now intent on pursuing a strategy that includes insulting and bullying witnesses who speak in support of the bill. If this is the Liberal party's means of 'compromising,' thanks, but no thanks.

As a member of the outdoors community, and one of millions of legitimate gun owners and outdoor enthusiasts in Canada, I am appalled at the tactics being used by your party during the debate over this simple, straight forward, private member's bill. The suggestion that the Liberal compromise is aimed at providing relief to those in rural areas, while following a tough line to address urban crime, ignores the obvious fact that tens of thousands of legal firearms owners who may hunt in rural areas, live and vote in major urban centres.

Once again, I do not support, nor 'get' the purported compromise, and will continue to support Bill C391 to repeal the long gun registry based on the facts, not emotional rhetoric, or political appeasement, and ask that you rescind the decision to force Liberal members~ to vote against the wishes of their constituents in the name of political opportunism.

Yours sincerely,

Waters look full of salmon so far

Prospects for Lake Michigan's salmon fishing this summer are good to excellent, with plenty of fish, good weights early in the season and a baitfish supply that should keep the game fish going for at least a couple of more years. From the Great Lakes Basin Report, May 2010