



THE SPORTSMAN

“Conservation is Our Aim”



SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN’S ASSOCIATION,
 P.O. BOX 264 OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO,
 N4K5P3
www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/
 Affiliated with the OFAH, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



SSA On Line

 Web Site

Volume 37 No. 5 May, 2017



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

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

Thursday

May 11, 7:30 pm

AT THE CLUB HOUSE,

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

*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*

President’s Message

(May, 2017)

Welcome all to Spring as now the streams have opened, the turkey stalking has begun, the sun is shining, the grass is growing, all is good. I would like to thank those who helped this past Saturday in the Earth Day event to do our part to clean up our community. Fred and grandson Wyatt were able to launch the pontoon boat and did a great job of cleaning up where those on foot would not have been able to get at. I would like to thank Jim & Lorraine Jansen for looking after the snacks & drinks for participants. It is hard to believe what obvious length’s some will take to toss their unwanted items, this could be a weekly event. As well, the club held the quarterly OFAH Zone meeting Sunday, it appeared well attended and the guest speaker I was there for was very interesting, thanks to all those involved in organizing, food prep., drink service, etc. you all make our club tops. Don’t forget the Inaugural Chowder night May, 17th as well as the June 1st Auction General Meeting and the June, 17th Summer Social dinner, all these will be at the Clubhouse and will be A-1 events. Enjoy the great weather and stay safe with ladders, chainsaws, bottle openers or whatever tools you are using.



Don’t forget **Chowder Night**, Wed. May 17, 6pm.

Tickets available from Jack Doherty, jddoherty@rogers.com, or 519 376- 3440

Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Scott Grimoldby
1st Vice President: Fred Geberdt
2nd Vice President: Bill Douglas
Recording Secretary: Jeff Caldwell
Past President: Mike Prevost
Treasurer: Dennis Wiseman
Correspondence Secretary: John Ford

Directors: Brian Clements, Wayne Gallagher, Chris Geberdt, Jim Hastie, Al Hillis, Jim Jansen, Ken Miersch, Ron Robb, Murray Smart

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



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

Clubhouse Bookings:
Contact- Ron McCartney (Club Custodian)
Home 519-794-3456
Cell 226- 668-6031
ultrasoundkennel@gmail.com



Monthly Meeting Draw Prize Winners



APRIL 6, 2017

PRIZE DRAW WINNERS

- 1. Camo rope Ron Baker
2. Rapala knife Klaus Wagner
3. Yukon multi tool Wayne Gallagher
4. Hand pruner Brian Gamble
5. Folding knife Ken Miersch
6. Tarp Scott Grimoldby
7. Suede gloves Stan McLean
8. Utility knife John Snook
9. LED light John Ford
10. Buck knife Wally Cunningham
11. Leather gloves Don Fosbury
12. Muskol spray Don Keeling

Red tag - \$50.00 Giant Tiger Gift Certificate Ron McCartney

Thanks to all for participating : Brian Clements

SSA Gate Keys

We will have gate keys available at the meeting on May 11. Please remember that the locks were changed on April 1 (no joke). As well, Bob Hunt has keys available at the Maher Centre, Drew has keys at Watson's Tackle House and Al Hillis also has gate keys available. The keys cost \$5 and can be paid where you pick up the key. If you already paid, just tell Bob or Drew. If you turn in the old key (blue) I will dispose of it for you. The 2017 keys have a purple key spotter on them.

Can you make a mule laugh if you tickle him? Maybe, but you will get a bigger kick out of it than he will!

Dates for NON RESTRICTED (Rifle,Shotgun) P.A.L Courses.

May 3rd,4th,5th. 7:00-10:00pm

Sept 27th,28th,29th 7:00-10:00pm Open to anyone 12 years old or older.

RESTRICTED (Handgun) Courses May 20th 9:00am-6:00pm

Oct 7th 9:00am-6:00pm MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER.

To register for any course call Bob McKay at 519-5340 0366. You really do have to call me as I am a DINOSAUR. I don't subscribe to Antisocial Media and I don't accept e- payments.

All courses are restricted to five students.

COST. REGISTRATION \$40.00 PER COURSE

COURSE FEE \$50.00 MEMBERS \$ 85.00 NON MEMBERS
\$ 40.00 JUNIOR MEMBERS
\$ 60.00 UNDER 18 NON -MEMBERS

To register for any course please call Bob McKay at (519) 534- 0366 between 6;30pm and 10:00pm.I am NOT available at any other time.

I may hold courses at other times IF you can guarantee FIVE STUDENTS. The choice is your's.

ALL courses are restricted to FIVE STUDENTS.

REGISTRATION FEE is NON REFUNDABLE.

Balance due on first night of NON RESTRICTED COURSE or day of RESTRICTED COURSE.

Payment MUST be CASH or CHEQUE..

For a coloured version of this document, go to the SSA website at http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/ select from SSA Newsletters - right side.

White-tailed Deer Management Policy Posted on the Environmental Registry

I would like to inform you that a draft White-tailed Deer management policy has been posted to the Environmental Registry for public input. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) is committed to sustainable management of Ontario's White-tailed Deer to maintain healthy populations while balancing social and economic interests. This policy will complement existing ecological frameworks and modernize deer management practices, allowing us to better align and coordinate our resource management activities. The draft White-tailed Deer management policy provides guiding principles, management objectives and strategies to help ensure the long-term, ecologically sustainability of White-tailed Deer populations.

For additional information regarding the draft White-tailed Deer management policy, please visit https://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/searchNotice.do?menuIndex=1_2&searchType=splash.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is seeking public input concerning this posting for 45 days from March 20, 2017 to May 4, 2017.

All media requests should be directed to MNR's media desk (MediaDesk.MNR@ontario.ca).

Submitted by Jim Hastie



Volunteers - Thank you -

The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association would not function, if it were not for its many volunteers. Thank you to everyone that helps with our fund raising ticket sales, shooting range improvements, fish hatchery maintenance, wildlife projects, the Salmon Derby and the many other things that keeps our club going.

The SSA Executive

FLETCHER SPORTS
It's The REEL Thing
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Tel: (519) 371-8587
Fax: (519) 371-2096
R.R. #5, Owen Sound #6 Hwy & Ledgerock Road
Ontario N4K 5N7 6 kms. North of Springmount

Please help to reduce postage costs

The directors are looking for ways to reduce club costs. It was brought to our attention that the cost of mailing a paper newsletter is more than \$2 per copy. We realize that a number of our members do not have computers and need a paper copy so we are not trying to eliminate paper newsletters but to reduce them.

However, we know that many do have computers and can easily read the newsletter on our website. Most of you who receive paper copies, simply read the newsletter and put it in recycling.

What we are suggesting is that you provide us with your email address. When Dave Skelton finishes the newsletter, he will send you a message that will include a link. If you click on the link, you will be taken directly to the website and the appropriate place to read the newsletter. What you read is in colour. You still have the option the print it in any part that you choose.

I simply read it. As well, you can go to any newsletter in the past few years and read any or all of them. Doing this saves the SSA a substantial amount. Please help us by providing your email address and permission to send you the email message. We have reduced the number of paper newsletters by 50 % but know that there are still members with email addresses who could help with this. Remember, if we can reduce these costs even more, that may reflect in the membership fee increase.

SSA Revenue and Expenses

Recently, our Treasurer reviewed some revenue and expenses over the last few years. What he found was that our revenue was not keeping pace with our expenses. Costs like telephone, hydro, gas and tractor repairs have increased dramatically. Dennis indicated that some of our costs have jumped more than 20 %. Please don't misunderstand! All of the executive is very much aware of this situation and try to reduce costs whenever possible! Obviously, we can't continue to operate in a deficit position. This is another reason why we are asking you to get the newsletter on our website rather than on paper.

For more SSA Pictures: Connect to the SSA website using
<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/> then click SSA Gallery Images (right side)

2017 OFAH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY – HONOURABLE KATHRYN McGARRY

The minister gave a very positive presentation of what the MNRF has done and is doing on behalf of the citizens of Ontario, by ensuring that while conservation is a high priority, providing greater hunting, angling and trapping opportunities is equally important. She made special note of the fact that the MNRF and the OFAH have long been partners in maintaining the health and diversity of Ontario's natural resources; thanking the OFAH and its many volunteers for the conservation work they have done and are doing. She proudly pointed out that 2017 is the second year of another three year agreement between the MNRF and OFAH in the administration of the province's Community Hatchery Funding Program. There was nothing very controversial in the presentation, or the question and answer period that followed, other than for the current situation with Ontario's Moose population, and the current hunting opportunities for them.

Of particular interest was the info relating to the Special Purpose Fund that is the pot where our hunting and fishing license money ends up in. A while back there was a lot of discussion about how the money in this fund is spent by the MNRF, and the fact that there really isn't any money there for anything beyond what goes into the MNRFs regular operating costs.

The MNRF spends an average of \$100,000,000.00 annually of fish and wildlife in the province of Ontario. Two thirds of this cost is covered by the entire Special Purpose Fund during that same time period. They are quick to point out that the SPF isn't simply dumped into the general tax revenue that funds all provincial government branches and programs, but kept specifically for fish and wildlife. With every dollar from the SPF going to benefit every Ontarian, be they hunters, anglers, trappers or not, and with the 2 to 1 ratio of funding, it really doesn't make any difference in the end. Call it a tax, call it a fee, call it anything you want, collected for a specific purpose or part of the regular tax return; the way the provincial government utilizes it makes no difference to the bottom line.

At the conclusion of her presentation, she took the opportunity to present the OFAH Youth Conservation Award to the Barrie & District Conservation Youth Program; a very worthy recipient of the award.

ALUS (ALTERNATIVE LAND USE SERVICES) – BRYAN GILVESY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUS CANADA

This program helps farmers produce crops and food in a manner that also helps protect wildlife and natural spaces on the properties they own. It partners them with conservationists for the purpose of creating the spaces required by wildlife while at the same time helping to improve the productivity of the land that is still utilized for agriculture.

Across Canada, since ALUS was launched, approximately 18,200 acres of farmland has seen some sort of restoration work done. The local office of the OMAFRA is responsible for the administration of the program. The farmer retains title to all the land, but an annual payment is made to the farmer, as compensation for the land that was taken out of production for the purpose of conservation. He now makes money promoting wildlife, which is far easier than planting and harvesting a crop of any kind.

NASP (NATIONAL ARCHERY SCHOOL PROGRAM) – TIM WATTS, OFAH NASP COORDINATOR

NASP is operating in ten countries around the world. The program is set up to provide instruction and hands on use of archery equipment to students from grades 4 through to grade 12. The program and related equipment are the same right across the board regardless of the school, the class, or the number of students involved.

The kit that goes out is valued at \$10,000.00 retail, but is being sold to participating schools, at a cost of \$5,900.00 plus HST. Included in the kit are ten right handed bows, two left handed bow, 140 arrows, 5 targets, PLUS miscellaneous equipment and teacher training.

Provincial subsidies are available to the schools; that would provide a \$900.00 reduction in price for the first 30 schools getting involved, with an additional reduction available to the second group of 30 schools participating in the program. The price of kits would drop to \$5,000.00 and \$5,200.00 plus HST, respectively. There is no shipping cost associated with these kits, since the manufacturer is picking up these cost on behalf of the schools. Schools are expected to make some kind of investment in the program and equipment, but there is no reason why they can't fund raise or obtain donations to help reduce their out of pocket costs even more. By them having an investment in the program, they tend to value it more and take care of and extend the life of the equipment they are responsible for.

NASP is not an after school program. It must be a part of the regular curriculum, operated as a two week program during the school year. Once a class has completed their two week session, the program is set aside until the following school year, when it again made available to the students.

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There is government funding available to cover the costs of sending archery instructors to interested schools, to operate an archery fun day. These instructors will run the program for an entire day, showing the teachers, principals, and students how it operates and what is involved. Once they see how well the program operates they tend to want it implemented in their schools.

In 2016 there were 60 schools involved in the program. To date 275 teachers have been trained in the program and 17 schoolboards and 6 first nations communities involved. The word is getting around and although the equipment cost is a concern, more schools are getting involved in NASP. It is estimated that another 10 schools will be in the program by the end of 2017.

It was noted that after completed the program, 32% of the students continued to participate in archery activities; some even getting involved in hunting.

ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM – ANDY TODD, LAKE MANAGER & MIKE YUILLE, ECOSYSTEM BIOLOGIST, LAKE ONTARIO MANAGEMENT UNIT; CHRIS ROBINSON, ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Atlantic salmon had virtually disappeared from Lake Ontario by the early 1890s. In 2005/06 steps were taken to start the restoration process for Atlantic salmon to Lake Ontario through fishing stocking and habitat restoration programs. To date, work has been done on 211 cold water streams, 87,000 plus trees and shrubs have been planted, and 6,137 volunteers have put in 15,285 man hours in habitat restoration work of some kind. Rather than stocking fingerlings, the switch has been made to stocking yearling salmon; increasing the survival rate in the streams, rivers and the lake.

In 2016, 60,000 yearlings were stocked, and in 2017, another 50,000 are expected to be stocked. These stocked fish can be distinguished by the adipose fin clip. Prior to 2016, Atlantic salmon could not be a targeted fish by anglers, but in 2016, Atlantics could be fished, but only as catch and release.

Of special interest was the manner in which adult salmon are now being studied in the wild, without being caught and/or being removed from the water in the process. Previously, adult assessment work was being done via electroshocking, basket lifts, and at weir structures, which took quite a bit of manpower to achieve. In 2017 an instream electronic counter is going to be utilized for this kind of work. The fish will be directed through the counter where an infrared scanner and camera are positioned. The scanner would count the fish going upstream as well as back downstream and trigger the camera each time this happens. Between these two devices, the size, sex, species, fin clips, etc. in the river/stream can be determined. Data such as date and number of days of fish migration, as well as temperatures and times is also collected at the same time.

This information can be accessed on line, along with videos of fish movement in the river or stream.

ILLEGAL KILL OF MOOSE IN NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO: 1997-2014 – CHARLIE TODESCO, CONSERVATION OFFICER (RETIRED), MNRF

This study was formulated from base minimum numbers, which were verified by MNRF Conservation Officers.

During the study period, 1,741 moose were illegally killed; 759 of which were simply abandoned. The Wawa and North Bay areas had the highest numbers, with the Chapleau area coming in second.

Moose cows were 53% of the illegal kills, with 41% being bulls and final 6% made up of calves. Most disturbing is the fact that, 322 of the adult moose were killed because they were mistakenly shot as calves. This means that 20% of the annual illegal kills were adult moose, mistaken as calves.

MNRF Conservation Officers found that 76% of the illegal kills showed signs of human interference.

It was estimated that the 759 abandoned moose carcasses amounted to about 100,000 kilograms, or 220,000 pounds of moose meat. That works out to 110 tons of meat over an eighteen year period.

With these kinds of figures, it is easy to see that illegal kills of moose definitely have a negative impact on the population of moose. In the northeastern Ontario study area, recruitment loss resulted in 4,190 moose being lost in the region's WMUs. The net loss from 1997 to 2014 was 5,931 moose.

MNRF's Conservation Officers spent 197,000 hours, with 238,000 hunter contacts, during the study period, which works out to 1 illegal moose kill per 139 hunter groups contacted.

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

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/> Top menu Bar -> **Membership**

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

The bottom line is that this kind of activity certainly has a negative impact on the moose population, and therefore a negative impact on the number of available tags for the WMUs.

Solution:

- 1) Hunter Education & Moose Identification
- 2) Strategic & Focused Enforcement Presence
- 3) Timely Intelligence Collection, Analysis & Dissemination
- 4) Shareholder Buy-In
- 5) Timely, Accurate, Violation Information
- 6) Effective Prosecution & Adequate Penalties
- 7) OUR HELP – USE THE TIPS LINE (1-877-TIPS-MNR) (1-877-842-7667)

Fred Geberdt, John Ford, Jack Osadzuk & Dennis Wiseman



30th Annual Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular

The 30th Annual Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular is just around the corner! As usual, we are asking for help. The areas that I specifically work on are the computer operators and the Weigh in Station staff. I still need some computer operators for the afternoon shifts. Don't worry, I do provide training. The Weigh in station needs lots of help. I will bring the schedules to the next meeting on May 11 and hopefully you will sign up. There are probably other areas where help is needed as well.



Spring is here!

The daffodil has similar uplifting meanings across cultures, probably because this bright flower appears as the cold, dark days of winter wane and the warm rays of spring appear.

- *China:* The daffodil symbolizes good fortune in the Chinese culture. In fact, it is so esteemed for its ability to bring forth positive things that it is the official symbol of the Chinese New year.
- *Japan:* To the Japanese people, the daffodil means mirth and joyousness.
- *France:* In France, the daffodil is a sign of hope.
- *Wales:* A Welsh legend claims that the person to find the first daffodil bloom will be blessed with more gold than silver in the upcoming year.
- *Arabian Countries:* The Arabians believe the daffodil flower was an aphrodisiac and cure for baldness.
- *Medieval Europe:* The medieval Europeans believed that if your gaze caused a daffodil to droop it was an omen of impending death.
- *United States:* In the United States, the daffodil is the official symbol for the American Cancer Association, symbolizing hope for a cure. It is also the flower for the month of March and the symbol of the 10th wedding anniversary.

Happy Spring!

The SSA Executive and --- SSA Boat Draw Contest

We are considering changing the way, the boat draw mailings happen this year. Our members will be notified that all members who sell their boat draw tickets will be eligible to win one of several prizes. The difference is that you have to notify Lillie Bates at **519 376 5264** or **batesj @xplornet.ca**.

When you do that, Lillie will mail you a book of tickets. If you decide to sell more than one book, just contact Lillie.



OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets

Thanks to all of you who helped, either by buying or selling a book or by selling at Heritage Place Mall during the month of February!! We have generated more than \$1000 in revenue for the SSA.

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.

*Do you believe in intuition?
No, but I have a feeling I might someday!*

Use this link below to renew you membership! **Pay Pal or a Credit Card can be used**

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/>

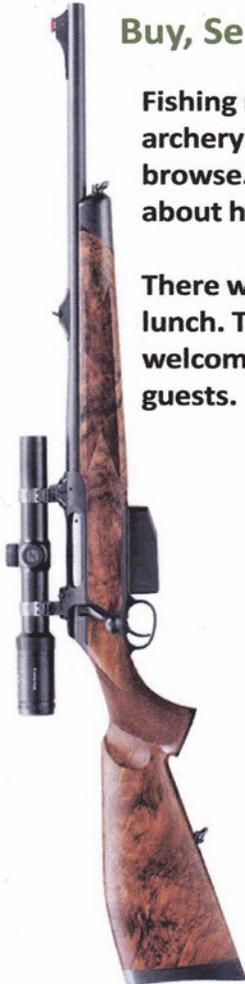


ANOTHER Swap Meet at the **SSA CLUBHOUSE** **Sunday May 14th 2017** **0800 to Noon**

Buy, Sell, Trade

Fishing rods and reels? Another handgun, rifle or shotgun perhaps? New archery gear ? Need reloading supplies ? Buy, sell or just come and browse. Set up a table or share a table. Dicker for the sale price. Sit and chat about hunting or fishing stories.

There will be coffee and donuts to purchase for a \$3 donation or bring a lunch. There is no entrance fee and no table fee, but donations are always welcome. Entrance and tables open to Sydenham members and invited guests.



For more information contact:
Garry Willis at
willisgarry@rogers.com or 376-5347,
Stew Wallace at
swallace@bmts.com or 794-4423.

