



# THE SPORTSMAN

"Conservation is Our Aim"

SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION,

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

[www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/](http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/)  
Affiliated with the OFAH, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



Volume 34 No. 4

April 2014



## THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

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

**Thursday**

**April, 3, 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}

## President's Message

Well we did it again. At this year's OFAH Annual Conference held in Mississauga March 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association was awarded the oldest and most sought after OFAH award, the Mary Pickford Award, which each year goes to the OFAH club that is considered to have done the most in conservation in the past year. It is interesting that Mary Pickford was a famous Toronto-born actress of the thirties who enjoyed trout fishing and wanted to promote it. Women have, for a long time, played an important if not sometimes overlooked role in promoting conservation.

This award has been given out 72 times since 1940, with two clubs, us and the Orillia Fish and Game Conservation Club tied for top spot having won it 13 times each. Our 14<sup>th</sup> win this year broke that tie leaving us with the record.

More importantly, I like to think that this award is like an accounting of our actions. We are always asking our membership to volunteer for something to raise funds like selling tickets, work barbeques or the Salmon Derby and we promote the raising of these funds from the public and corporate sponsors by telling them the proceeds are going to conservation projects. This award is judged on a point system based on the diversity, quality of projects and number of volunteer hours performed. So if someone asks just what our club does with our money and you're not sure at least you can mention this award and what it stands for.

Of course none of us do these projects for the recognition which is made obvious by the fact that the awards committee has to continually remind our volunteers to keep records and take some pictures which doesn't happen often enough.

**Mike Prevost President**

**Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation**



## Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

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

### Directors:

Brian Clements, John Ford,  
 Wayne Gallagher,  
 Chris Geberdt, Jim Hastie,  
 Al Hillis, Jim Jansen  
 Doug Murdoch, Ron Robb,  
 Dennis Wiseman

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

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

### BOAT DRAW TICKET SELLERS

We are looking for volunteers to sell boat draw tickets at various locations around the city.

Our sales this year start Monday April 28 and run through to August 20. If you have not already been contacted

Please give me a call and help fill the schedule. Thanks  
**Brian Clements 519 376-9410**



### Monthly Meeting Draw Prize Winners



MARCH 6, 2014-03-07  
 DRAW PRIZE WINNERS

Survival knife	Fred Geberdt
Towels	Jack Doherty
Gloves	Sam Buzza
Tarp	Wally Cunningham
4 flash lights	Bill Colbourne
Float light	Jeff Caldwell
Buck knife	John Morneau
Lure	Cliff Springer
Flash light	Dave Skelton
Multi tool	Jack Osadzuk
Binoculars	Lary Fischer

Red Tag \$50.00 gift certificate from  
 Fletcher Sports – Dan Colbourne



### Upcoming Turkey Hunting Course in Owen Sound

The Ontario Wild Turkey Hunting Education Course returns to Owen Sound on Thursday, April 17, 2014. This year's course, which is an evening event starting at 6:00 p.m., will again be held at the Royal Canadian Legion (1450 2nd Ave. West) in Owen Sound.

To register in advance for the course, both hunters and non-hunters can do so by signing up online ([ofah.org/seminars](http://ofah.org/seminars)) or by calling 705-748-6324 ext. 241 or 285. Participants can also purchase the course on DVD and take the test by contacting a local Hunter Education Instructor. If taking the course at the Legion, participants are advised that registration closes at 11:00 a.m. the Tuesday before the April 17th course date.

The course fee is \$35.00 which is non-refundable and cannot be transferred to another party. A refund will only be provided if the course is cancelled. Payment for the course can be by credit card or via a cheque payable to the Wild Turkey Course, c/o OFAH (PO Box 2800, Peterborough, Ontario. K9J 8L5).

Participants will need to present their Outdoors Card or other form of identification (ie. Driver's License) at the time of the course. Students under the age of 16 years are welcome to take the course. They must file a Consent signed by one parent or guardian, before attending the Turkey Course.

Attendance at this Hunter Education Course is mandatory for anyone wishing to hunt wild turkey in Ontario.

*Submitted by Arnie Clark*

There will be a

### **NON RESTRICTED POSSESSION AQUISITION COURSE**

held at the clubhouse MAY 28th to 30th. Anyone interested in taking this course please contact **Bob McKay at 519-534-0827.**

Make sure to disable call blocking as UNKNOWN NAME UNKNOWN NUMBER WILL NOT BE ANSWERED.

The cost of this course will once again be \$50.00 for members \$100.00 for non members.

ANYONE 12 years of age or older is welcome.

**SIX PLACES ONLY  
 don't miss out.**



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.**

**SSA club members receive the Mary Pickford Award as the top provincial conservation club at the annual OFAH conference for the 14th time which gives us the record.**



The gentleman in the middle is Brian McRae, OFAH Zone Member and Club Services Liaison.

*photo credit to Jeff Helsdon.*

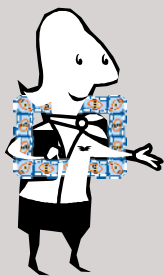


**Volunteers - Thank you -**

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**

**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.

**RESTRICTED POSSESSION AQUESTION COURSE**

to be held at the clubhouse SUNDAY JUNE 22nd from 9:00am till 4:00pm.

ANYONE 15 years of age and older who has passed the NON RESTRICTED PAL course is welcome to attend. SIX PLACES ONLY!

Contact Bob McKay at 519-534-0827 for details and to register.



**OFAH Zone H Meeting Set At SSA Clubhouse:**

If SSA members have never attended an OFAH Zone meeting, here's your opportunity. The next Zone H meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 6, 2014, 10:00 a.m., at the SSA Clubhouse.

A number of outdoors items will be on the agenda, all of which will be of interest to anglers and hunters. The meeting will also offer attendees a venue for input and questions on matters they would like to address or hear about.

There are 14 clubs in Zone H which are affiliated with the OFAH. The Zone boundaries span from Tobermory in the north, south to Grand Bend, east to Markham, and north to Orillia.

This upcoming meeting is a great opportunity to meet Zone Directors, hear about news on the outdoors and extend a welcome hand to members of other Zone H clubs.

For more information, contact 519-395-0320.



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*Photo submitted by Mike Prevost*

*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*

Arran Lake in Arran Township is a good spot to introduce your grandchildren to ice or summer fishing with lots of action from perch and sunfish. Fortunately my grandson Nolan, on right, waited to put his foot down the hole just as we were leaving, wherein lies another lesson !

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

# SSA Renewal Form for 2014

(to be completed by 2013 members only)

We need you to take a few minutes to help us update our records. If you have a rural address, Canada Post requires your fire number and road as well as your rural route.

Memberships are based on the Calendar Year (January until December).

**Please use reverse for additional names, ages etc. for family memberships. Membership Fees for 2014 are:**

FAMILY (Adult, Spouse, Children)-\$ 125.00	STUDENT (Age under 21 if in full time study; (no magazine)...\$40.00)
ADULT (Individual).....\$100.00	JUNIOR (12 and under; no magazine)..\$35.00
SENIOR CITIZEN(Age 60 & over)..\$85.00	PROPERTY GATE KEY: \$5.00 (without last year's key);
SPOUSE: additional \$25.00	\$4.00 (with the return of last year's key)
Please circle the appropriate membership above.	(Magazine available for Juniors & Students for an extra \$8.00)

**Note: If you have a computer with internet access and wish to receive your newsletter electronically, you will receive your newsletter in colour, receive email blasts of information and save both the club and the newsletter chair considerable cost and effort. Please include your up-to-date email address below and place a checkmark here.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ \ **TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **POSTAL CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Juniors and Students only)

Wildlife Advisory Committee ___	Derby Committee----	Fishery Advisory Committee__
Public Relations Booth _____	Shotgun Shooting _____	Hatchery _____
Tree Planting _____	Social Activities _____	Derby Weigh In _____
Board of Directors _____	Fishing _____	I D P A Shooting _____
Derby Fish Fries _____	Trap Shooting _____	Skeet Shooting _____
Sporting Clays Shooting _____	Cowboy Action Shooting _____	Handguns _____
Black Powder _____	Boat Draw Ticket Sales _____	Archery _____
Property Care _____	Wildlife Enhancement _____	Stream Work _____
Fish stocking _____	Hunting _____	Junior Activities _____
High Power Shooting _____	Earth Day _____	Fall Fair Gates _____
Computer _____	Other Interests (List Below) _____	Expertise (List Below) _____
Retired _____	Have ATT _____	Telephone Committee _____

**IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A STRONG AND VIABLE ASSOCIATION, ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. Please indicate which of the above activities are of special interest to you. This information is used in planning work parties, committees, etc.**

**If you would like to purchase your renewal by credit card, please enter the number and expiry date below.**

**Credit card number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiry date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Security code as it appears on the back of the Crediy Card:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Birds of Prey Return to 2014 Salmon Spectacular**

**Arnie Clark**

Winged predators will again take flight at this year's Salmon Spectacular.

James Cowan, Director of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy, has confirmed the return of the C.R.C.'s Birds of Prey show at the 2014 S.S.

Young and old, who attended the C.R.C.'s first ever demonstration at the 2013 Spectacular, were treated to a "spectacular" exhibition featuring such birds of prey as Rocko, the Bald Eagle, Toba, the Great horned Owl, Lliy the American Kestrel and Sadie, the Red-tailed Hawk.

This year's C.R.C. demonstration in the S.S. Molson Tent, will feature two shows, sure to entertain the entertain family. Date and timing of the two shows will be announced in future SSA Newsletters and the Sportsmen's 2014 Outdoors Annual magazine.



## **Manitoulin Deer Save Fund**

submitted by Mike Prevost

A Stewardship Council on Manitoulin Island concerned about the possibility of a higher than normal mortality rate in their deer yards due to this years winter conditions on the Island has started in March to use skidders and bulldozers to blade out trails and cut down natural browse. The OFAH head office has approved their application for funds from their Deer Save Program. Our club has sent them \$200.00 to assist with their costs for equipment fuel. The deer hunt on Manitoulin Island is historic and several of our members have hunt camps there and have individually sent in donations. As a sub committee of our Wildlife Advisory Committee is being formed to draw up an emergency deer feeding plan for our area I have asked the Manitoulin group to provide us with any recommendations from their experience.

Donations can be made out to Manitoulin Area Deer Save and sent to C/O Ruth Frawley, Clerk Treasurer/CAO, Municipality of Central Manitoulin, PO Box 187, Mindemoya On, POP 1S0



**Thanks to the volunteers** who helped our club sell OFAH Conservation Lottery tickets at the Heritage Mall this past February. Probably because we were not able to be at center court and with the anchor store Zellers being closed our sales were slower then past years but every bit counts.



*Photo submitted by Mike Prevost*

The SSA wants to thank the management of Heritage Mall for providingus with this opportunity every year, Retailer TipTop Tailors for securing our cash box at their store and ThomBoys Power Sports for providing their ATV as much needed promotional display.

## **Special Dates on the High Power Range**

Turkey Shoot Patterning Only

Sunday, April 13---1:00pm to 4:00pm

Thursday, April 24---1:00pm to 4:00pm

Early Morning Rifle Shooting

Monday, April 7---8:00am to 11:00am

Wednesday, April 9---8:00am to 11:00am

These are experimental times.

If there is enough interest, they may be repeated in future.

**Thanks, J Ford**

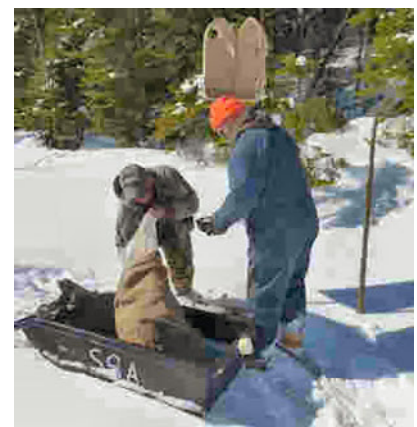


Again during the freeze up we were out checking some 60 wood duck boxes.

As the saying goes every cloud has a silver lining and this years cold temps allowed us to get into some areas that we have missed in past years.

The boxes had a 80% sucess rate with use by some waterfowl, wood ducks or hooded mergansers and even a Screech Owl. We didn't see any flying squirrels this year.

It helps to have tall vounteers like Cliff Springer along to cover for us short guys like me and Jim Hastie.



*Photo submitted by Mike Prevost*

On Wednesday, February 26, 2014 3:04:23 PM, "Todd, Craig (MNR)" <craig.todd@ontario.ca> wrote:

Hi Folks,

Volunteers are needed for the summer of 2014 on Sauble Beach to help support the **Piping Plover Recovery Program**.

The Rankin Resource Group Inc. will be coordinating community volunteers to keep an eye on the Piping Plovers at Sauble Beach while providing education and outreach to the beach going public in partnership with the Owen Sound Ministry of Natural Resources.

We are sending out an invitation to organizations and individuals who may have an interest in helping out during the time the adults lay their eggs, the chicks are on the beach and they start flying off on their own which is roughly from May 15th to August 1st. We need dedicated volunteers willing to be part of this very important yearly recovery project but you do not need to be a birder just someone interested in an important species at risk recovery program.

There will be a May evening training session in the Sauble Beach area for interested persons when we will go over the birds biology, history of plovers in Ontario and Sauble Beach, volunteer duties, directions on interactions with the public, discuss volunteer visual wear, shifts and answer any questions folks may have. All volunteers will receive the Plover training manual. We will also have a calendar available where volunteers can fill in any specific time slots where they can be available. We do not need round the clock beach monitors but particularly weekends and holidays when beach goer numbers are higher and are of specific concern at the beginning of the nesting and hatching time. When the birds have hatched and the school year is finished week days become more important as well. Generally (2) volunteers on the beach each day is preferred.

There will be a coordinator paid for by the Rankin Resource Group Inc. who will work directly with and organize the volunteers schedule, provide the daily visual wear, data sheets, handouts, brochures, collect data from the volunteers and be responsible for any liaison with the MNR.

At the end of the season we will have a wrap-up get together and volunteers will be given a thank you gift on behalf of the Rankin Resource Group and MNR.

If you are interested in volunteering a day or more please contact me ASAP to be put on the list.

Feel free to circulate this invitation to your members/ friends and if you have questions call or email me.

Sincerely, Craig Todd

Partnership Specialist      Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources      Owen Sound Field Office

1450 7th Ave. E., Owen Sound, ON. N4K 2Z1      Phone: 519-371-8465

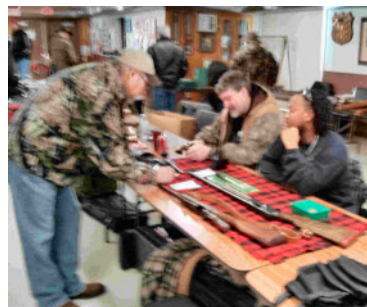
Email: craig.todd@ontario.ca

**Submitted by Jim Hastie**

### **Swap Meet 2014**



*Photos by Rob Cameron*



A Great Event -  
Very Successful  
26 Tables, busy for the full  
time (until noon)

That the 2013 awards will be  
presented at this next Gener-  
ak Meeting!

Thanks, John Ford



*Usually any solutions  
proposed by a politician  
will cause more problems  
than it solves!*

That is the question that Canada's Supreme Court will answer after an Ottawa man's lawyer argued that a recent Ontario Court of Appeal decision has exposed owners of pellet guns purchased at sporting good stores to criminal prosecution and potentially lengthy mandatory minimum prison sentences.

On Thursday, the country's highest court agreed to hear the case of Christopher Dunn.

Dunn, 45, had his acquittal on firearms charges overturned after the court of appeal disagreed with an Ottawa judge's ruling that the Crosman Model Pro 77 air gun Dunn was accused of brandishing in April 2010 met neither the definition of a firearm or a weapon.

According to the Criminal Code, a firearm is any barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or projectile can be discharged and is capable of causing serious bodily harm or death. But the definition of weapon is defined as anything used or intended for use in causing death or bodily injury or for the purpose of threatening or intimidating someone.

The court of appeal unanimously found that any pellet gun capable of firing a shot with a velocity capable of causing serious bodily harm met the definition of a firearm, regardless of how it was used or if it was used. It was a significant about face for the court of appeal — previously they had twice ruled an air gun was only considered a weapon if it was used to cause bodily harm or to intimidate someone.

Dunn's lawyer, Solomon Friedman, argued that the consequences of their decision are far-ranging and of national importance.

It exposes pellet gun owners to charges of careless storage as well as other offences carrying mandatory minimum sentences, he argued.

Parliament never intended readily available pellet guns, sold in stores like Canadian Tire and Walmart, to be classified as firearms, Friedman argued.

"The Ontario Court of Appeal has created countless new "firearms owners," all of whom are unlicensed and have never been subjected to mandatory safety training and other regulatory requirements," Friedman, a firearms law expert, argued in court documents. "None of these individuals have been put on notice that they are entering into a highly regulated zone of conduct — firearms ownership."

In their response, the Crown's office argued that the court of appeal's decision fixed a "jurisprudential glitch" that affected only a handful of cases in Ontario.

According to the Crown, the court of appeal decision "simply restored" the prevailing interpretation of a firearm that had existed in Ontario before another 2006 appeal court decision and across the rest of Canada.

A date has not yet been set for the Supreme Court hearing.

aseymour@ottawacitizen.com

twitter.com/andrew\_seymour

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To help all of us to have more shooting opportunities at the high power range member Chuck Cannon put on two Range Safety Officer training courses.

We have always been fortunate to have qualified people like Chuck and his wife Jayne who are willing to assist our club when needed.

Thanks also to our members who have agreed to take the training and responsibility off being an RSO.



*Photo submitted by Mike Prevost*



## Range Report - Shooting Sports

Bill Douglas and Al Hillis

The current plan is to have a Range Safety Officer present at the 100-yard Range for Rifle shooting on the following days/times in April:

**Every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday from 1pm – 4pm.**

John Ford is working on scheduling shifts for two other activities on the 100-Yard Range that were requested by a number of members:

1. Sighting/Patterning of Shotguns for Turkey Season using slugs, steel shot, or shot larger than 7-1/2 (these can only be used on the 100-yard range).

Bill Douglas has clarified that slugs may be fired into the 25-yard and 50-yard bullet catches, from the firing line benches under the shelter.

At all times, be careful to avoid damaging the target holder frames! Start at the 25-yard distance, then move targets out to 50 yards.

Slugs may not be fired at the 100-yard bullet catch from the firing line benches under the shelter.

Steel shot and shot larger than 7-1/2 may only be fired from down-range, through the pull-down patterning frame, and into the 100-yard main bullet catch. When doing so, the small Green flag must be displayed at the firing line under the shelter along with the sign indicating that Shooting is taking place down-range, and the small Red flag should be displayed down-range at the ad-hoc firing line being used for patterning.

2. Early morning (8am) Rifle Shooting.

John advised me earlier this week that he would be away until this weekend, and we hope that he can get the schedule for these activities to you by your Newsletter deadline.

Readers should be advised that scheduled shifts may be cancelled by the scheduled RSO, if the weather or road conditions are unreasonable.

The RSO may also begin closing the Range if no shooters are present 20 minutes prior to the end of the shift.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards, **Tim Lahey, 100-Yard Range Coordinator**



There were many unique and rare firearms at the SSA clubhouse for the first **Firearms Display Show** on March 23rd.

Socializing over a common interest related to fishing, hunting, shooting or collecting is a grass root event of outdoor clubs.

Thanks to Stew Wallace and Gary Willis for thinking positively about the club and making it happen. \

As Stew said there were some firearms there that you would be lucky to see at European displays.

