



# 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 33 No. 10

December 2013



## THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

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

Thursday

Devember , 5, 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}

**Nibble Night**

Come See what this is all about!

## **FLETCHER SPORTS**

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6 kms. North of Springmount

## Presidents Message

Well this has been a very interesting year but I am sure that many past presidents have had the occasion to make that statement.

It is nice that we can end it with bringing home, once again, the Derlyn Valley Memorial trophy as the top conservation club in Zone H and hopefully will continue in March 2014 with the OFAH Mary Pickford trophy for the top Provincial Conservation Club. These awards recognize a club but it is really about the completed volunteer efforts and dedication of all of its members.

I would like to thank all of the 2013 executive and many committee members for their many hours of service making my job as President a lot easier.

## Nibble Night

Remember that our December 5th meeting is our wild game nibble night. Please think about bringing along a dish of your favorite recipe or something new that we can have a nibble of. Participation is the key. You can use the kitchen and extension cords for the tables to keep things hot. Doesn't have to be fancy for us folk although we are not snobs and to tend to like fancy if given the chance. Another tip is that anything spicy seems to do well. Your family can deal with the aftermath. This is a fun social evening so plan on attending.

The top three dishes as judged by everyone at the meeting will get a commemorative plaque.

Thanks **Mike Prevost** ( last year's winner )

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, Terry Faulkner,  
 John Ford, Wayne Gallaughier ,  
 Chris Geberdt, Jim Hastie,  
 Al Hillis, Doug Murdoch  
 Ron Robb,

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

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

November 15, 2013

### Prize Winners

Red Wolf tackle box	Jim Hastie
Muskoka Crew T-shirt	Bob Hunt
Moose print	Scott Hollywood
Tooke & gloves	Doug Van Horne
Leafs barbeque set	Ken Miersch
Opening Morning print	Bob Osplon
Gloves & hat	Doug Van Horne
Moose video	Tom Vandervoort
Mossback video	Mike Prevost
Cap light	Wayne Gallaughier
Flashlights pack of 4	Jim Graham
9 X 12 tarp	Lorraine Jansen
Knife & multi tool set	Ron Robb

Red tag - \$50.00 gift  
 Certificate CTC Ian Smart

### **Congratulations to all, Brian Clements**



### Membership      **John Ford**

#### Early Bird Membership Renewals---J Ford

The 2014 Early Bird Memberships renewals will be on sale at the December 5 general meeting. If you renew in December you will get 2 chances at our prizes to be drawn at the January meeting. The two prizes will be an orange hunting suit and a free 2014 membership Our 2014 buttons will also be available. This year we are asking that each member take a couple of minutes to fill out the membership renewal form so that your profile of interests can be updated. I will have extra copies available at the meetings. Some of our records are quite old and many of you may have changed your interests over the years.

The membership fees remain the same as last year and you are able to pay with debit, credit card, cheque or cash.. Please find the renewal form printed elsewhere in this newsletter.



#### A Revised New Member Application Form

As part of the last newsletter, I reported that the SSA Executive had decided that all 2014 application form had to include a sponsor who was an existing club member. Since that time, members have asked how a new member who is new to our area could become a member. The Directors have recently decided that now new members must have either a sponsor or a reference from a previous shooting/conservation club. When the New Member Application forms are printed that additional option will be included.

### **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**

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.**



**Handgun**  
**Stew Wallace**



Farewell John Fazekas.

Sadly, our friend John Fazekas passed away in September at the age of eighty four. John was one of the first SSA handgun members I met when moving into the area in '97. He was one of those rare people who always had a smile on his face, always had something positive to say and was quiet and unassuming. The expression ' still waters run deep' certainly applied to John. I knew, of course, of his interest in handgun shooting, also of his being a hunter.

He also had his private pilots license and used to fly a biplane out of Welland. I didn't know that. He was a gifted artist, using both water and oil paint, pen and wash, a gift and interest he shared with his wife Fran. I didn't know that.

He restocked some of his own guns, all at a high level of competence. I didn't know that. He had an interest in, and an extensive collection of, lever action rifles. I didn't know that. Certainly a man of many talents.

It was a pleasure and privilege to have known you John. If there is an after life, I'll see you on the range !

**Stew. Wallace.**

*( John's firearms collection has been sold at the request of his wife, Fran ).*

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**HANDGUN**

As you all know by now, Peter Robson will be taking over the position of Handgun Chair at SSA, effective 1st. January 2014. I will work alongside Peter for a while as he slides into the position and there will be no disruption of licensing renewals etc. Peter will be organising and running the ATT courses and I'll now be one of his assistants.

Peter's contact details to be used from January 1st are ;

**'phone #      519 935 2086**

**E-mail        hossstyles@gmail.com**

Peter still works and pays taxes to keep me in comfort in my old age, thank you Peter, so I suggest that you use e-mail as first contact and he can deal with things at his convenience.

There will be another Defensive Pistol holster certification/ information session in either December or January. Please contact Peter for more information on this. An excellent opportunity to master the dark art of holster wear, use and procedures. Defensive Pistol is a lot of fun and has a growing following at SSA and throughout Ontario.

No gripes or whining his month, just another reminder that the CFO is taking around four weeks to process an ATT renewal, so give us plenty of advance notice . Four to five weeks seems to be about right.

Keep that muzzle down range ! **Stew. Wallace.**



**Nominations for our 2014 Executive**

At the November meeting we had our first round of nominations for the 2014 executive. We will continue to do this at the December and January meetings with the final election by the membership present at the January 2014 meeting. Please think about putting your name forward. If you cannot attend a nomination meeting then you need to send me an e-mail or letter stating that you are willing to stand for a nomination. \\  
**hanks, Mike Prevost**

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_





We were happy to see so many members making use of the 3D targets on the Archery Range the last few months, and because of the very positive comments received we will be doing the same thing again next September, October and November. With the snow and very cold weather on the way we will have probably removed the 3D targets by the time you read this newsletter. There will of course still be the Aimes targets on the butts for your shooting pleasure all winter long.

Speaking of winter, did you know that the following ranges will be kept open this winter. 1) the Handgun Range, which is now closed in, will be kept open. 2) the 22 rim fire/CBA range, will now be open as well. 3) The 100 yd. High Power Range will be kept open 2 or 3 days a week, check the range schedule on our web site for details, and 4) the Skeet/Trap range will have regularly scheduled shoots throughout the winter, Again check the range schedule for details.

Here are a couple of other things you may not have been aware of, since hearing and eye protection are mandatory on our ranges, we now have a supply of loaner safety glasses, disposable ear plugs and ear muffs for you or your guests if you happen to forget your own. Just ask the RSO on duty at the 100 yd. range and they will gladly supply them to you. You may or may not be aware that the hand gun, 22, and 100 yd ranges have a supply of targets which are also available for your usage. In order for the Club to continue these services as well as first rate conditions on all the ranges we ask that you consider dropping a loonie or toonie in the Donation Boxes located in these ranges whenever you use them, as this certainly helps defray the maintenance costs.

We are continuing to work on our in-house program to train more Range Safety Officers, but are running behind on our intended schedule. We will be able to make an announcement before Christmas giving you all the details, and at that time will canvas our members to see who is interested in taking the course. We already have received requests from over 20 people to take this course in addition to our already qualified RSO's. There are a couple of things you must be prepared to do, like doing your fair share of shifts down at the 100 yd range and naturally being approved by the SSA executive.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Bill Douglas, Al Hillis**



### **OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets**

*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*

We now have the books of OFAH lottery tickets. There are ten tickets in a book for \$2.00 each / \$20.00 per book. Our club gets \$6.00 for each book that we sell. You can pick up books to sell for us or to buy for yourself at the general meetings or look for us selling at Heritage Place Mall in February. With \$322,000 dollars worth of prizes from trucks, boats, vans, travel trailer, ATV's, lodge vacation, 14 kt diamond ring and much more they make an interesting Christmas gift for those hard to get for people. It's worked for me. If you are out of town and send me a cheque made out to the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association I will mail you the books.

Thanks **Mike Prevost 580 1st Street West, Owen Sound On, N4K 5Y3**

## Gary George Walter Ricketts

March 29, 1942 - November 7, 2013

On November 7th, sadly, the SSA lost another club member, Gary Ricketts, who contributed in his own quiet way, to the conservation effort of our organization.

Gary's love of angling & hunting, was well known in the community. But when he took up residence with his spouse, Ruth, in Stonewyck Park (formerly Lincoln Park), which happens to be the SSA's neighbouring property, his agenda soon spanned beyond fishing & pursuing game. Being a neighbour to the SSA property gave him the opportunity to meet club members and enjoy the amenities the property, activities & fellowship the SSA had to offer.



Gary came to enjoy card games & a coffee breaks with other club members at the Gord Maher Memorial Work Shop, while at the same time, help with the construction of bird houses & feeders. He went on to help maintain the club property, & on Saturday mornings, he enrolled to take a weekly shift in the SSA fish hatcheries babysitting salmon & trout. Gary also became a familiar face & a dedicated volunteer at the Salmon Spectacular & club meetings.

One of Gary's greatest contributions to the SSA was associated with his security officer job at Georgian College as an employee for Commissionaires of Great Lakes Security. Gary arranged for all salvageable wood materials associated with construction work & upgrades at the college, to be set aside to eventually be used in the SSA work shop to fabricate nest boxes & bird feeders.

"We received a lot of material from the college which would have been thrown out, thanks to Gary," said SSA member, Dave Hartrick. Said fellow work shop worker, Bob Hunt, "he arranged a separate storage container at the college just for materials for our bird box & bird feeder program," Added Bob, "a lot of building material came our way because of Gary."

It was most fitting to see several SSA members in attendance at Gary's funeral on November 12th to pay their respect & extend a fond farewell to a fellow club member who helped the Sydenham Sportsmen in many ways.

The SSA extend its sympathy to Gary's wife, Ruth, & their family. At the same time, the SSA is deeply honoured by Gary's family to generously have donations in Gary's memory, dedicated to the SSA.

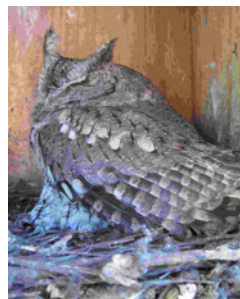
'ANGLER'S PRAYER' In Memory of Gary Ricketts

God grant that I may live to fish .... until my dying day  
And when it comes to my last cast ... I then most humbly pray  
When in the Lord's safe landing net ... I'm peacefully asleep  
Then in his mercy I be judged ... as big enough to keep.

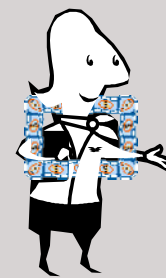


### Please Do Not Disturb ... "Screech" Asleep!

Over the years, nest boxes constructed at the SSA Gord Maher Memorial Work Shop by the hard-working team of Dave Hartrick & Bob Hunt, have been home to thousands of nesting birds & other wildlife critters. They are also a magnet for those feathered friends who like to take shelter from those stormy wintery days or simply stop by for an overnight sleepover. Several of the SSA kestrel (sparrow hawk) & screech owl boxes, have also proven to provide accommodation during the daylight hours for screech owls, who by habit, are nocturnal hunters & daytime sleepers. This photo of "Screech," as he (she) has been affectionately named, has adopted one of the SSA boxes for its daily snooze. There's a good bet that come next spring, "Screech" & his/her mate, will be raising a family of baby owls in this SSA nest box. It's another fine example of SSA conservation at work.



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