



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 36 No. 1 January, 2016



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

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

Thursday

January, 7, 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}

Presidents Message

Since I am stepping down as club President this will also be my last message so I will keep it short and sweet. I want to thank all of the executive members and committee members for all of their guidance and support over the past four years, for making it a lot easier for me and even make it look like I was actually doing something. I also want to thank all of the members that came out to our general meetings and put up with my antics. We are a club of volunteers that rise to the occasion. I expect 2016 will be another good year for our club.

Mike Prevost, Past President

ANNUAL MONEY DOLL DRAW

We are pleased to announce the two winners of our MONEY DOLL DRAWS Saturday December 19th, 2015.

Rick Cranwell, Owen Sound ON Ticket #0883

Sue Gunn Owen Sound, ON Ticket #1602

Special thanks to Tony Ersser, owner and the staff of Canadian Tire Store. Ryan Lemieux, owner and the staff of Giant Tiger for all their support of our conservation fundraising efforts.

A big thank you to Gary Legate, Wayne Gallagher, Randy Legate, Cliff Springer, SuAnn Geberdt and Ashley Geberdt for all their help selling this years money doll tickets. Another sell out for our 57 annual draw.

All the best to everyone in the 2016 season.

Thanks , **Chris Geberdt**

Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

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

Directors:
 Brian Clements, John Ford,
 Wayne Gallagher ,
 Chris Geberdt, Fred Geberdt
 Jim Hastie, Al Hillis, Jim Jansen
 Tim Lahey, Ron Robb,
 Dennis Wiseman

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

*How can you tell if you have a slow dog?
 He brings you yesterday's newspaper!*

*Seamstress-
 A real material girl!*



Monthly Meeting Draw Prize Winners

DECEMBER 3, 2015

STEAK DRAW WINNERS

Ken Miersch
 Dave Hartrick
 Janette Wagner
 Doug VanHorne
 Ron Robb
 Dave Skelton

Thanks to all, **Brian Clements**



2016 Executive Nominations Open at the January General Meeting

The members of the Sydenham Sportsmen are invited to nominate fellow members or themselves for the 2016 SSA Board of Directors. Nominations will be accepted at the January General Meeting with the election of directors to follow. If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to let your name stand for election, please provide written authorization to a club member to present on your behalf.

The following directors will be serving their second year of a two year term in 2016 and **do not need to be considered for nomination** –Bill Douglas, Jim Hastie, Al Hillis, Murray Smart and Dennis Wiseman.

An election will take place during the Thursday January 7, 2016 meeting with the top five vote recipients to serve for a two-year term with the balance of those elected to a one year term. Please consider providing your volunteer time to assist in the management of your club.



Early Bird Membership Draw on January 7---J Ford

Two lucky members will win prizes on January 7. Everyone who has renewed their membership by that date will be entered into the draw. The first person drawn will win a Koolatron and the second a free 2016 membership. Good luck to all!!

Keeping us Updated---J Ford

Frequently, we have members who move and change addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Please update us so that we can keep our membership records up to date. You can send a message to me or the website. If you would prefer, you can call to provide me with the up to date information. My phone number is **226 664 0960** and my email address is johnrichardford5@gmail.com

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

Swap Meet, SSA

Sunday, February 21st

Buy, Sell, Trade

8:30 am till 12:30 pm



**Fishing rods and reels? Camping and boating equipment?
Another rifle or shotgun perhaps?
Need reloading equipment or supplies?
Fitting yourself up in cowboy action gear?
Or is it time to sell or trade some of those firearms and
hunting or fishing gear that you don't use anymore to
make room for new toys?**

**Then you need to come to the Sydenham
Sportsmen's Club Swap Meet!**

**You can bring anything you want to sell or trade sports related.
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.**

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.**



SSA RENEWAL FORM FOR 2016 (TO BE COMPLETED BY 2015 MEMBERS ONLY)

(For your convenience SSA Renewal Memberships can be purchased directly on our website after Nov 1, 2015)

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.

Membership Fees for 2015: Memberships are based on the Calendar Year (January until December).

	Family	Adult, Spouse, Children, includes full time students under 21	\$135.00
	Adult	Individual	\$110.00
	Senior Citizen	Age 60 & over	\$95.00
	Student	Age under 21 or in full time study; (no magazine)	\$40.00
	Add a Spouse	Additional fee	\$25.00
	Junior	12 and under; no magazine	\$35.00
	Juniors & Students	Magazine available for Juniors & Students for an extra	\$8.00
	Property Gate Key	With the return of last year's key	\$4.00
	Property Gate Key	Without last year's key	\$5.00
Check off your selections above _____			Total

Note: Help us save money and select to view the Newsletter on our website, please update your email address below. YES ___ NO ___

Please use reverse side for additional names, ages etc. for family memberships

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ (Please Update your Email Address)

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ (Juniors & 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

TO MAINTAIN A STRONG AND VIABLE ASSOCIATION, ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE.

Please select activities of special interest to you from the list above. 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.

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ **Expiry Date:** _____

Security Code as it appears on the back of the Credit Card: _____

We lost a Good Member on Christmas---J Ford

We recently found out that Rae Paterson passed early on Christmas Day. Rae served on the club executive in the 1970's and was President in 1980. He has maintained his membership throughout this whole time. More recently, Rae was our major fish cleaner at the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular and has done this for many years.

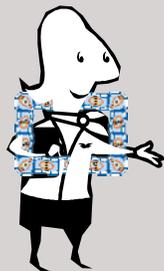
We know that many of your friends will miss you!!



High up in the mountains a mother grizzly bear prepares to spend another long winter hidden in her den, caring for her two cubs until spring. She's one of the lucky ones. She has a large enough habitat to find a mate and food to feed her family. Not all bears are so lucky.

In Canada, grizzly bears are a species of special concern. Their habitat is increasingly being threatened by disturbance, degradation and loss. Often bears don't have the room they need, driving them into conflict with humans.

Disclaimer:



The editorial comments in this Newsletter do not always reflect the policies or opinions of the SSA.

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Emerald Ash Borers headed for Muskoka forest

Bracebridge - The Emerald Ash Borer is headed to the Muskoka Forest according to the Muskoka Conservancy. They're already in Barrie and it's only a matter of time until they get here.

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

On the offensive: Feds, city team up to fight emerald ash borer

The emerald ash borer is in town and this beetle is no summer tourist. From Beaconsfield in the west to Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve in the east, the destructive insect continues its unrelenting assault on ash trees across Montreal. Dr. Robert Lavallée, an entomologist and research scientist with the Canadian Forestry Service, is part of a joint federal and municipal effort to halt the spread of the EAB in Montreal using biological control methods, including deadly fungi-baited traps and parasitic non-stinging wasps



Protecting Toronto's downtown trees from the hardships of urban life

There's nothing like the spring bloom to reveal the devastation that afflicts Toronto's long-suffering street trees, many of which succumb to their injuries – compacted roots, dehydration and the mounds of crud that accumulate around their spindly trunks –during cold winters.

Scientists have discovered that **living near trees** is good for your health

In a new paper published Thursday, a team of researchers present a compelling case for why urban neighbourhoods filled with trees are better for your physical health.

Arnold Schwarzenegger: climate change is not science fiction

Terminator star calls global warming a 'battle in the real world' that's bigger than any movie, at the first summit of conscience for the climate in Paris. Arnold Schwarzenegger has been chosen by the French government to join Nobel prizewinners, philosophers, UN secretary generals, spiritual leaders and theologians to make the moral case for the world to act urgently on climate change.



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.**



Effective January 1 2016, there will be a new standardized procedure and forms for **signing in** at ALL of the shooting ranges at SSA (including Shotgun Sports).

The main changes are:

1. There will be one Waiver per Guest per year, filed alphabetically (by Last Name / First Name) in the Range Sign-In Binder or separate Waiver Binder. It will allow recording the date of each visit (maximum 3) in the year – this will enable an RSO or the accompanying host member to determine whether the Guest has visited the maximum number of times. Note that “Invitational” or “Open House” events do NOT count towards the three allowed visits.

2. There will be only one Sign-In Register at each range in place of separate Members and Guests registers, and Members and Guests will both sign in using that one Register. This will make it easier to determine who was at the range on any given date, without having to review two different registers.

Note that this will mean Shotgun Sports will no longer have to retain all of the individual score sheets from each round, which will cut down greatly on the paper filing.

On Dec 31, I will be loading the Range Binders with a copy of the Procedure document and the new forms, and removing existing Waivers for filing at the clubhouse.

Remember that a Guest fee of \$5 per visit is required for each visit (other than Invitational or Open-House events, which typically have their own fees).

NOTE: The Range Committee is aware that there may be Waivers for any given Guest at as many as six ranges, making it impractical to check each binder to see how many visits a Guest has had in TOTAL for the year.

Having a single Waiver binder at one Range seems equally impractical. We will likely be proposing to the 2016 SSA Executive that the rule be amended to allow a Guest three visits per year per range. Since the guest fee is \$5 per visit, this would potentially increase revenues from frequent Guests, and push them towards actual membership.

In addition to the new Sign-In documents, I also have from Bill Douglas forms for “Personal Injury Report” and “Occurrence Report” that will go into each Range binder.

The “Personal Injury Report” is to be filled out in the event of an accident that involves an injury requiring medical attention, caused by discharge of a firearm. This would NOT include slide- or scope-bites.

The “Incident Report” is to be filled out in the event of some lesser incident that needs to be reported to the Range Committee. Examples would include disagreements over allowed firearms, magazines, or calibers; violations of Range Rules; safety concerns; damage to property; injury due to anything other than a firearm discharge.

Happy New Year!

Tim Lahey 100-Yard Range Coordinator

Christmas trees inspected for Gypsy moths, pine tree beetles: CFIA

CBC News - Nov 30, 2015

While the transportation of firewood is prohibited between districts in Ontario, Christmas trees from the south will soon be taking up residency in parking lots, homes and eventually backyards and fireplaces all across northwestern Ontario.

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*

Trees could make you feel younger

After analyzing two sets of data from the city of Toronto, researchers report that adding just 10 trees to a single city block could improve how healthy a person feels as much as if they made an additional \$10,000 a year or if they were seven years younger

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

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

SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION FISH HATCHERY

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE; THE DECISION IS NOW IN YOUR HANDS

From the early days of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association and its predecessors, much work has been put into fisheries projects, and fish stocking activities. These activities escalated in the mid-1980s when the Province of Ontario encouraged the development of Community Fish Hatcheries, and the stocking of popular cold water fish species such as Rainbow trout and Chinook salmon. The SSA quickly realized that this would allow us the best opportunity to create a first class sport fishery in Owen Sound and the surrounding area, which is exactly what we have been able to do. Not only did this benefit the local anglers, and businesses, but also the anglers coming into the area to experience the excitement of hooking and landing the magnificent fish our waters had to offer. Anglers have come not only from Ontario, but also from across Canada and several states from south of the border.

It became rapidly obvious that, because of the local geography, the wild fish stocks in our area could not withstand the fishing pressure brought on them, while sustaining their numbers, without help from hatcheries such as the one we are currently operating. The short stretch of river available to them for their spawning activities is simply not long enough or large enough to produce enough young fish to replace those lost through angling activities or acts of nature. The fish hatchery is essential to the local fishery; without it, the fishery would become a mere shadow of what it is/was, and angling opportunities would dwindle to the point where local anglers would have little return for their efforts, and visitors to the area would go elsewhere to enjoy the sport of fishing. Not only would the fishery suffer, but so too would the economy of the area.

For over thirty years now, we have been operating the SSA Fish Hatchery on the farm owned by James Weaver. Now Jim has reached the point in his life where he would like to dispose of this property and finally enjoy the fruits of his labours. The SSA has always had the "right of first refusal" in purchasing this property, should this day come. The day has come, and we are now put into the position of making a very important decision; one that will not only determine the future of the sport fishery in the Owen Sound area, but quite possibly, the direction that the SSA will take in the future, as a conservation minded organization. In short, do we elect to buy the property, and secure the future of our fishery, or do we let this opportunity pass us by and risk the possibility that the hatchery will be closed and dismantled, and the cold water fishery allowed to "fail" in this part of Ontario.

When the decision was made to sell the property in question, we were asked to pay a monthly rental fee of \$500.00 to the landowner, to cover ongoing costs of the farm, costs pertaining to a new place of residency, etc. This has enabled us to operate the hatchery since then, and secured additional time to do the work needed to put us in a position to make a viable offer to purchase. As of this date, we have paid rent to the landowner, totalling \$8,000.00 (\$6,000.00 per year).

Since the opportunity to purchase this property came our way, we have been working steadily to find the ways and means of bring this property into our hands, thereby securing the future of the hatchery and the fishery we have come to enjoy. The asking price for the entire farm had been set at \$750,000.00, a price that is well out of reach for any single "local" purchaser, but not for the well-to-do that have made small fortunes in areas to the south. In order to achieve what we wished, we developed a partnership with two other interested parties; Mark McConnell and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Mark is interested in the workable farmland, the conservancy is interested in the woodland, and we are interested in the land where the hatchery now sits, as well as the entire waterway that passes through the property. This split fits very well into the interests of all three parties, and with the plan to have the parcel of land split into separate and workable sections, clearly owned by the individual partners.

For the last year and a half, the partnership has been working on various issues relating to ownership and environment, as well as determining the use and/or restrictions that may apply to the sections of land in question. Through persistence and discussion with various local authorities and through some pressure on the seller, the issues and concerns have been addressed, and we now feel that we have finally reached a point where we can begin serious negotiations with the seller.

Appraisers have informed us that the asking price may be a bit on the high side, but it is a reasonable point at which to begin discussions. Based on that fact, and through talks between the partners, we have come up with a cost splitting formula that reflects the value of the land that each party is interested in. For the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, the 6 – 7 acre section we are interested in has been valued at \$275,000.00. This section of the property has been designated as developmental property, and as such bears the highest price per acre, compared to the rest of the farm. The appraiser feels that that figure is quite reasonable, and could easily be recouped, at any time, should the need arise.

Continued page 8

To finance such a purchase, we would utilize the \$200,000.00 +/- that now sit in the SSA Lottery in Trust Account; financing the rest via a bank loan from the Bank of Nova Scotia. The Lottery in Trust funds can't be used for any other purpose than that of conservation; and the purchase of this property for the hatchery fulfills that purpose. We would also seek a loan of \$100,000.00 to cover the \$75,000.00 needed for the balance of the land purchase price, with the balance to cover costs such as appraisal fees, legal fees, land transfer taxes, survey charges, etc. For arguments sake, let's say that we secured a five year loan of \$100,000.00 at 5% per annum. To pay that back, we would have monthly payments of approx. \$1,885.00, and once completely paid the interest would amount to \$13,088.00. Lengthening the term would reduce the monthly payments, but increase the total interest. Further elaboration on this isn't necessary at this point, since the terms of such a loan would be entirely in the hands of the bank. It is merely mentioned at this point to show that the cost of borrowing on the sum of money we are talking about is rather small when looking at the entire project being considered.

Allowing the property to be sold to an unknown party, hoping that we will be able to continue renting from a new owner, is not a situation that would be in our best interest. The chance of that owner being willing to rent, is extremely low. He may wish to have the entire property available to his exclusive use, and having vehicles and people going past the house, to work in the hatchery, may not be something he would appreciate or be willing to put up with. This would definitely see the hatchery being closed, and the fish stocking program in Owen Sound brought to a sudden halt. We would then see the negative results touched on earlier in this presentation; results that we really do not want. In the event, that the owner may be willing to rent the property to us, the monthly rate is sure to be quite a bit higher than it is now. Chances are that it could double, and each year we would be putting \$12,000.00 into a facility that we don't have any ownership in. In ten years we would spend \$120,000.00; in twenty \$240,000.00. This wouldn't be the most prudent way to use the money we spend so much time in raising at the fishing derby and other events we have throughout the year. With a purchase, we can recoup the funds, if necessary; with rent, they are gone, with no chance of seeing even a small part of them.

Any idea of starting a new hatchery in a new location would be doomed from the very beginning. New hatchery operations planned in locations across the province are currently on hold, with approvals and operating permits on indefinite holds, or denied. The SSA would have little to no chance in getting a replacement hatchery operation approved, should the current one be forced to close.

This is the point, where our members need to get involved; the point where they tell us what they want us to do at this critical point in the process. A motion will be brought to the floor at the January 7th General Membership Meeting, recommending that the SSA and its two partners in this transaction negotiate the sale/purchase of the Weaver Farm, as a complete single package, and that the farm be legally separated and registered in the names of the individual partners, as per their specific interests. The motion will also seek approval for the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association to commit \$275,000.00 to the purchase agreement, with another \$25,000.00 earmarked for additional costs and contingencies.

The motion would read as follows;

As chair of the committee set up to pursue the idea of purchasing the Weaver Property for the benefit of our hatchery operations and the continuation of related fisheries activities, I move that the general membership approve a \$275,000.00 expenditure of SSA funds for the purpose of acquiring such property, with allowance for an additional \$25,000.00 to cover expenses not part of the actual sale itself.

Because of the importance of this transaction, we want all of our members to have a vote registered on the motion being put forward, not just the members that are able to physically attend the meeting. For this reason, we want each 2015 / 2016 member, 18 years of age and older, to be able to vote, in person if possible, by email if not. Please send your vote, be it "for" or "against" the motion being put forward by no later than 1:00 PM on Thursday, January 7th to Dennis Wiseman at taxman2001@rogers.com. Please include your full name, town/city, and if possible, your SSA membership number. This info will be checked against the membership listing to ensure voting eligibility and the validity of the count.

Please give this matter the attention it deserves, and have your say in the direction that the SSA will take, once the final count has been made.

Yours in conservation Dennis Wiseman Fish Advisory Chairman