

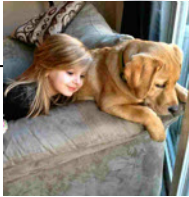


THE SPORTSMAN

"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 35 No. 1 January, 2015



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

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

Thursday

January, 8, 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}

The **speaker** for the January meeting will be a professional chef, **Keith Hagedorn**, who will show us and tell us what to do with wild turkey legs.

In his words "many hunters during the hunt regard the turkey leg as wasted meat, tough and inedible. I would like to demonstrate how to utilize the very tasty and tender wild turkey leg".

Chef Keith will demonstrate how to cook and eat wild turkey legs. (He said he has turkey legs; I don't know as I haven't seen them).

Jim Hastie.

Presidents Message

Seems that everyone enjoyed another successful Nibble Night at our December general meeting and I want to thank all of the cooking participants for their time in offering us some tasty dishes. Having brought in five dishes myself and not even placing in the top three I have had to put in a request for a recount but to date have not heard back from the ballot committee.

Our January general meeting on January 8th (second Thursday not the first) will be the final night for our nominations and voting to form the 2015 SSA executive. The executive makes decisions for the club but the executive needs to know the direction from the club that it should taking in making those decisions. Please come out to vote. As usual it is not all business and we will have another interesting speaker.

We have had another pretty good year. Once again as winners of our Zone H we have another chance to be selected as the top conservation club at the OFAH Provincial Conference in March 2015.

Continued page 2



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 changes!

Early Bird Membership Draw

The Early Bird Membership Draw will be held at the January General Meeting.

There are 2 prizes. One is a BBQ and the other is a free membership for 2015.

John Ford



Monthly Meeting Draw Prize Winners



December 4, 2014
Steak Draw Winners

Dave Skelton Frank Lehneis
 Jim Jansen Rob Cameron
 Ted Loughead Dave Hartrick
 John Ford

Nibble Night Winners

1 st Stan McLean
 2 nd Ted Loughead
 3 rd Guy Doherty



President's Message

We have worked hard to constructively promote conservation while enjoying the fellowship of social and other outdoor club activities.

I want to thank the entire committee chairman for the time that they commit to the success of our club. Our shooting sports are a resounding success. Our hatchery fish are cared for every day of the year. Shelters and feeders of every description go flying out of our workshop promoting our conservation message to the public. Our property is maintained better than my house.

Of course, all of this is made possible thanks to our dynamic fundraising efforts that operate all year long.

On behalf of the Executive I want to thank the membership for their support although I may not be thinking of the club so much as I sit out this winter on a beach in Florida.

Mike Prevost, President SSA

2015 SSA SWAP MEETS

Please note that the swap meet poster has TWO dates on it. Yep, two swap meets this spring !...by request.

These meets don't conflict with any other shows/season openers at the time of planning so we should have a great turn out.

Hope to see you at both of them. Bring 'stuff' and money, lot's of it !

Stew. Wallace. (..and, "thanks " to Kat for the artwork).



Property Gate Keys

The current gate key has a red key spotter on it. This key will remain current until April 1, 2015. On that day, the new locks will go on the gates and you will need a new key which will have a yellow key spotter on it. For those of you who like to shoot in the winter, I suggest that a cigarette lighter or a bottle of de-icer might be handy in your vehicle. Finally, the locks on the 2 main gates have been removed for the winter.

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, March 8th & Sunday April 19th. 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 Sydenham Sportsmen Club.

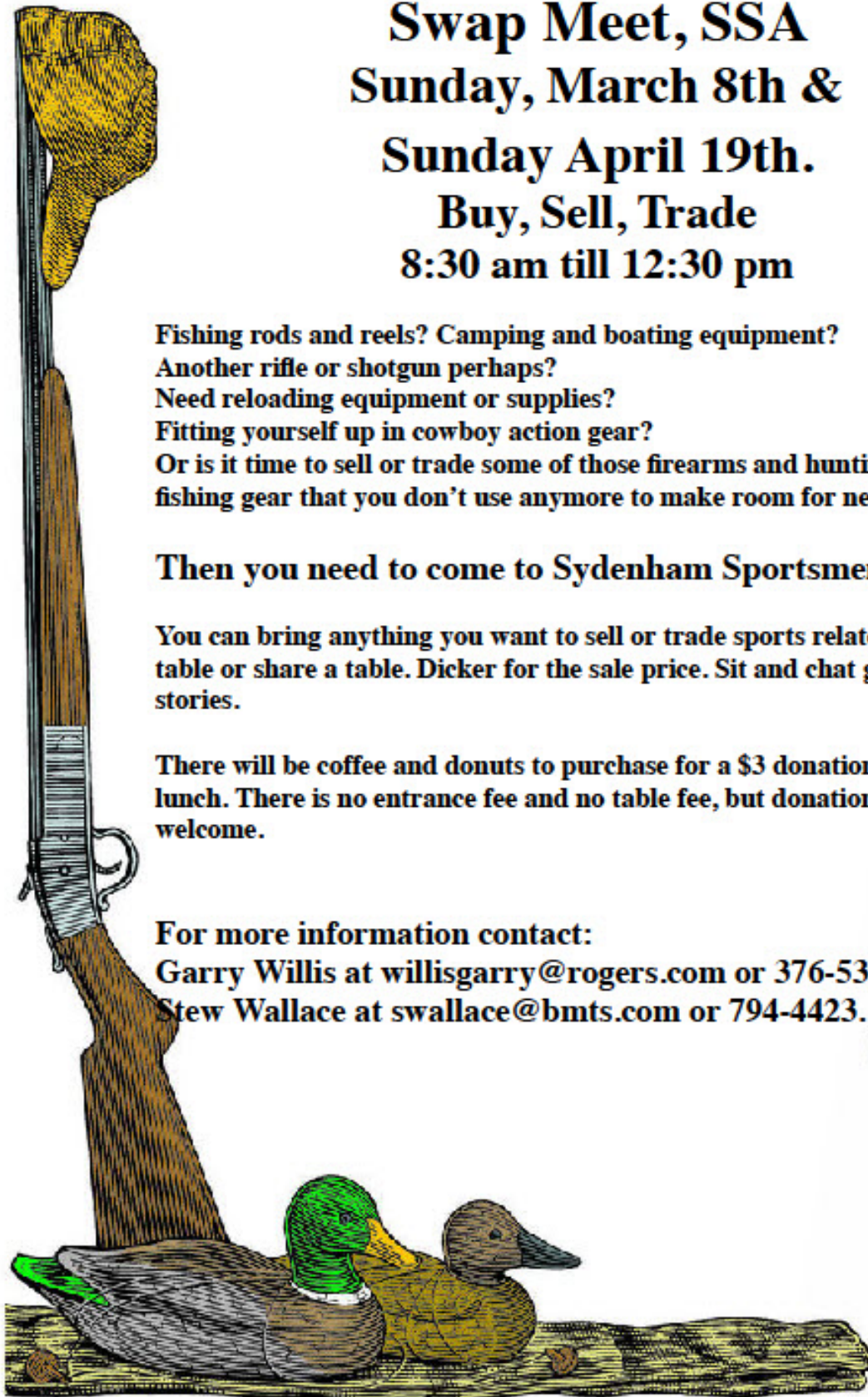
You can bring anything you want to sell or trade sports related. Set up a table or share a table. Dicker for the sale price. Sit and chat gun or fishing stories.

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.

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 2015 (TO BE COMPLETED BY 2014 MEMBERS ONLY)

(For your convenience SSA Renewal Memberships can be purchased directly on our website after Oct. 1,2014)

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: _____

SSA Early Bird Membership Draw---J Ford

This is a reminder that again in 2014/15 we are having an Early Bird Membership Draw. If your membership for 2015 is paid in December, you will get 2 free chances on the prizes. This year, the prizes are a free year's membership in the club and the second prize is a small BBQ. This will be drawn at the January meeting.

Good Luck to all.

Help your club by selling OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets

We will have these tickets at each meeting and also plan to sell them at Heritage Place Mall during the month of February.

If you are interested in helping in February, please contact John Ford.

My email address is johnrichardford5@gmail.com and my telephone number is 226 664 0960

However, we also need people to take a book or two to sell to others.

They will be at the meetings or I will make sure you get some to sell if you contact me.

Thanks in advance for your help! **John**



Gun Courses

There will be **no more gun courses** until after the snow leaves. The first Non Restricted course will probably be late April or May. Restricted courses will depend on demand for them but I would like to put on at least one in 2015.

I would also like to run a Ladies Only course. I ran one a few years ago and IF I CAN get five interested Ladies I will run one this coming year.

The cost for any gun course is as follows.

Registration Fee \$ 35.00 (non refundable) This pays for the book And the tests. Payable at time of registration.

Course Fee \$ 50.00 for Members. \$ 85.00 for NON Members , \$ 35.00 for Jr Members,
\$ 50.00 for NON Members Under age 18.

The Course Fee is in addition to the Registration Fee and is payable on the first night of the course.

There have been some changes to the Firearms Act that members should be aware of.

NO ONE under the age of 18 may challenge the Non Restricted Firearms Test or Restricted Firearms Test. They have to take the appropriate courses.

There is also legislation in the works that IF PASSED will mean that NO ONE will be able to challenge the tests PERIOD. This means that first time gun owners will **Have** to take a Firearms Safety Course to LEGALLY POSSESS Firearms.

Remember Gun Safety BEGINS AND ENDS WITH YOU.

Bob McKay

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.**

Smaller Yearling Deer Observed on Manitoulin

Arnie Clark

The bi-annual Manitoulin Island deer hunting check station at Espanola this past fall, revealed healthy does and fawns, but “skinny yearlings.” Many Manitoulin hunters attribute the less than healthy condition of last year's fawns to the severe winter which resulted in significant deer mortality across parts of the island. The poor health of last year's crop of fawns wasn't the only sign the unforgiving winter had on whitetails. Technicians and biologists working the Espanola check station for the 2014 island rifle hunt found almost a 50% drop in numbers of deer at the check station this past fall, compared to that observed in 2012. That year, 622 deer were checked, while the 2014 check station observed only 330 animals. Hunters suggest that Antlerless Deer Tag cutbacks for the island hunt, was not the main reason for the low number of deer registered at the check station or in the overall harvest. They point the finger clearly at the winter of 2013-14 as the culprit for deer declines and less than robust yearlings from the 2013 crop of fawns. What all of this means for the future management of Manitoulin's white-tails is not clear at this point, says MNRF staff.



Brown Trout Migration Stalled

Arnie Clark

This new beaver dam on the upper Sydenham River completely blocked the upstream migration of spawning brown trout this past fall. The landowner engaged the services of a trapper, but unfortunately, the peak spawning season was over before any of the pesky beavers could be trapped.



Hopefully, a crew of SSA members can pull the dam after the spring thaw and exercise some proven beaver management control techniques.

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*



In preparation for colder temperatures, Coast Guard crew members around the Great Lakes are transitioning from summer life jackets to insulated coveralls and dry suits.

The Coast Guard offers these tips to help keep you safe:

- ▶ Always wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket, and dress for the lake temperature. A life jacket allows a person to float with a minimum of energy expended and allows the person to assume the Heat Escape Lessening Position (H.E.L.P.): bringing the knees close to the chest and holding them in place by wrapping the arms around the shin portions of the legs.
- ▶ Never go out on the water alone. Use the buddy system.
- ▶ Ensure your vessel is seaworthy and inspect it thoroughly. Contact the local Coast Guard Auxiliary for a free vessel safety check.
- ▶ Always check and monitor the marine weather forecast before and during any trip out onto the lakes. High winds and dropping temperatures are good reasons to postpone an outing.
- ▶ Carry a registered personal locator beacon in addition to a marine radio to alert the Coast Guard and local safety agencies of potential distress. Consider a waterproof hand-held model that can be worn.
- ▶ Carry all required and recommended safety gear, such as visual distress signals, a sound-producing device and a fire extinguisher.
- ▶ Carry your visual distress signal and whistle in the pocket of your life jacket so they're close at hand in an emergency.
- ▶ If boating with pets, keep in mind that animals also need the added protection of flotation. Like their human companions, animals are just as susceptible to the harsh elements, including the effects of hypothermia. Several manufacturers make life jackets specifically for dogs and cats, in a variety of sizes.

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

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



Nibble Night Winners 2014

Photos by Mike Prevost, Rob Cameron

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.



Accountability and Enforcement Needed

Regarding the SON Fishing Agreement

As has been reported in the media Colpoys Bay has been hit hard by the Native Commercial Fishery and the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Club has had to bear the frustration of trying to raise awareness of incidents of non compliance of the fishing agreement.

Local MNRF enforcement advises us that all reported incidents that come in on their TIPS Hot Line are followed up and they should be acknowledged for this but that is where it ends for us, after that we are left out of the loop. We are never told the results of their investigations. Enforcement is an intrinsic component of managing a resource. Without transparent information real situations become clouded in rumours and innuendo, any supposed trust is lost and frustrations lead to anger. Time sensitive data should be shared with everyone using the resource so that our combined knowledge and experience will ensure its sustainability before it is too late to save it.

Once again I hear the few small voices of "where is the SSA in all of this" and I really get tired of this crap until I sit back, have a stiff drink and consider that if you can't take out your frustrations on your perpetrator then you turn on the person closest to you. I think my wife can attest to that these last few years.

The SSA is where it always has been, one of the leading conservation clubs. Yes action speaks louder than words but reckless action can speak volumes that can take a long time to recover from. Negotiating is a lot harder than just turning our backs to each other but if expectations of negotiations are not met then there has to be some accountability and enforcement which currently lacking.

The SSA executive wants to commend our Federal Conservative MP Larry Miller and MPP BILL Walker for their continuing support that recreational anglers have received from day one to try and have the bureaucrats of the MNRF recognize us as an equal and important partner in this agreement.

Mike Prevost



Reminder about using the SSA Ranges

If you plan to use SSA ranges, you must display your SSA membership card complete with a 2015 sticker.

The exception would be a guest of a paid up member.

SSA Hunting and Fishing Contests **John Ford**

Currently, we only have 4 entries in our fishing contest and none in the turkey and deer contests. If you do have an entry for 2014, please contact me with the following information: Date and Location caught, length and girth along with species. The wildlife must be harvested in Grey or Bruce Counties. In the case of turkeys and deer, please call me at 2266640960. In the spring, we will have the entry forms posted on our website.

□ **Proposed Tree Cutting Bylaw for SSA Property and Administered Properties**

August 14, 2014

1. We believe that, since the SSA is a Conservation Club, the wooded portion of the property should be managed for wildlife (of all types, including birds). It should be noted that this is consistent with our Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan.
2. Our by law regarding tree cutting should be very restrictive. This means that no cutting may occur without being submitted to the WAC for recommendations to the Executive and General Members.
3. There are a number of good reasons for tree cutting which may include hazards to people and existing property as well as conservation cutting to free fruit bearing trees (e.g. old apple trees) for wildlife. Any tree cutting must not conflict with our conservation policies. Some standing dead trees are very beneficial to wildlife and birds (e.g. den trees for raccoons)
4. It should be noted that this bylaw does not prohibit tree trimming on existing trails and roadways or tree cutting in order to maintain our range certifications (as required by the C.F.O). Additionally, due to insect infestations, Ash tree cutting is exempt from this bylaw.
5. If any other exception to this bylaw is required, prior notification in two newsletters must be given. The Motion must be passed by a 2/3 majority in order to be accepted.

This proposal must be read at 3 successive general meetings before it is voted on at the January 2015 meeting, First reading occurred at the October meeting.



OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets for Sale John Ford

We will have Conservation Lottery tickets for sale at each meeting. We also hope that you will take a book or two of tickets to sell for the club. The tickets cost \$3 each this year and the club realizes \$9 per book sold.

As well, we will be selling these tickets at the Heritage Place Mall during the month of February and we need sellers. We will have a sign up sheet at the meeting for you to sign..

I will be looking after this draw for Mike as he and Bonnie are spending the winter in Florida this year. While we can't help envying him, he deserves a good rest from SSA duties!

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

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Ontario N4K 5N7 6 kms. North of Springmount

What is the difference between a counterfeit bill and an irate rabbit?

One is bad money and the other is a mad bunny.

City unveils \$6 million, six year plan to control ash tree beetle

Kingston Heritage - Nov 2014

Kingston is getting ready to wage war against an invasive beetle that threatens to destroy thousands of ash trees in the city. But this battle will almost certainly cause casualties in neighbourhoods. "This is, generally speaking, a huge increase over our current tree budget," said Jim Keech, president of Utilities Kingston. The city has unveiled a plan to spend \$1 million a year over the next six years to control the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB), which is already munching its way through some of the city's 3,589 ash trees. That figure doesn't include the number of ash trees on private property.