



# 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 32 No. 5

May, 2013



## THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

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

Thursday

May, 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}

**Mike Morencie** has accepted the  
SSA executive's invitation to speak  
at our general meeting on May 2.

He is the director of the MNR's  
Fish and Wildlife branch, a member  
of the negotiating team for the  
SON/MNR agreement and is on the  
Governance committee that will  
administer this agreement.

## President's Message

Thank God it is turkey season and I can go out and shoot something!  
As Larry Miller, one of our esteemed members and staunch conservationists likes to say  
"let's call a spade a spade". Since the announcement of the SON/MNR fishing agreement  
all hell has broken loose. Misinformation, assumptions, rumours and opinions without  
facts has many of us frustrated to the point of anger. When you are angry you do not  
think rationally.

We all want to ensure the sustainability of our fishery, not only in our lakes and bays but  
in our rivers and streams too. We all agree, as another one of our members passionate  
about conservation said, there should be no commercial fishing nets in Colpoys or  
Owen Sound Bay PERIOD! The problems for safety and conservation that commercial  
fishing nets in the bays will cause are so damn obvious it just makes you want to scream.  
There is, however, some often adamant differences of opinion on just how we, the  
angling community can achieve what we want.

For me personally it is all about conservation. I do not really care if someone questions  
my leadership while we are working together slinging and raking gravel into a spawning  
beds, collecting salmonoid eggs in freezing water, slugging wood duck boxes into a  
marsh, selling tickets or flipping hamburgers to raise funds and the list goes on. I don't  
care as long as the Conservation work is getting done! I just may not have to Drink and  
Think so much.

The other unfortunate part of all this mess is that it is detracting from who we really are  
and all of what we do. For example a member phoned me to say that a teacher at a local  
public school has an outdoor program that they want all the kids to get involved in and  
could we help with advice setting up their long term plan and provide hands on  
experience for the students to build nesting boxes, bee boxes, toad boxes and planting  
of native flowers and shrubs. This kind of activity gives ownership to the  
conservationists of our future. After one of many restless nights that was like a breath of  
fresh air.

Mike Prevost President SSA

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

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 John Ford, Wayne Gallagher,  
 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!*

### Non Restricted Gun Course

to be held at the Clubhouse  
 May 8th-10th.

This course is open to ANYONE twelve years old or older.

Cost \$50.00 for Members,\$100.00 for Non Members,\$35.00 for Junior Members,\$50.00 for Non Members under 18 years old.

LADIES ONLY Non Restricted Gun Course. JUNE 26th-28th

NO HUSBANDS,FATHERS.SONS ,BOYFRIENDS,FIANCES,UNCLES, NEPHEWS,OR OTHER MALE RELATIVES.

This course is ONLY open to Ladies age twelve and up who want to learn how to handle firearms safely.

Cost \$50.00 for Members,\$100.00 for NON Members,\$35.00 for Junior Members,\$50.00 for NON Members under 18 years old.

To register for either of these courses call **Bob McKay at 519 534 0827.** Maximum Number of students is 8 people for either course.

Watch the NEWSLETTER for information on any Up-coming Restricted Courses.



### 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



### HP Laser Printer Toner Cartridges Available

Due to the death of our former SSA printer, I now have some toner cartridges available. I have one unopened 124A Q6000A black and one just opened Q6000A black. I also have about half used Q6001A, Q6002A and Q6003A cartridges. If you have a printer that uses these cartridges, please contact me and we will make you a very good deal so that these get used rather than recycled. If you know of someone who can make use of these, please call me at 519-934-0410 or email me at johnrford@xplornet.com

Thanks J Ford



"April's air stirs in Willow-leaves. A butterfly floats and balances."

Matsuo Basho, Japanese poet



*A Computer is completely reliable, until you turn the power on!*



**Twin County Bounty Hunters** had a blast at BPSA 2013 indoor Shootout. Kactus Kat, Da Boss Hawg, Major Regret, Desboro Kid, Curley Bill, Hermit Tim, Traveller Peppermint Paula were few that were in shooting up the targets that are all active SSA members.

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

[http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/2013-SSA-Membership\\_form.pdf](http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/2013-SSA-Membership_form.pdf)

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

## **Magnificent Migrant**

Far to the south, the monarch butterfly has begun a 3,000 km journey from its wintering grounds in Mexico to its northern home in Canada. The monarch's North American migration is a fascinating journey unlike any other butterfly in the world.

In Canada, monarchs are designated a species of special concern, and one of the key threats to their survival is habitat loss. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is working to protect habitat like the Tall Grass Prairie in Manitoba. This helps monarchs and all the other species that depend on these lands for their survival.

In Manitoba, Cathy Shaluk, education coordinator for NCC in the province, uses the monarch's migration to demonstrate the need for land conservation.

"In my presentations, I always talk about the survival mechanisms of monarchs and how they benefit the prairie ecosystems," says Cathy. "They feed on milkweed, a plant that many consider a weed and try to eradicate, but on the natural Manitoba Tall Grass Prairie Preserve, monarchs find a feast of milkweed."

Visit our website to read about our work in Manitoba and across the country:

<http://support.natureconservancy.ca/site/R?i=qw5joB8K4AoisIDvJwUvIA>

Thanks to your support, we're able to help protect important habitat like the Tall Grass Prairie for the monarch, and the many other species that rely on natural lands across the country. Thank you!

## **Is Owen Sound the Ultimate Fishing Town?** By Arnie Clark

The World Fishing Network is again, hosting the Ultimate Fishing Sweepstakes and Owen Sound is on the list of participating communities, thanks to Chris Geberdt who nominated our town in the 2013 competition.

Anglers and the general public can all join in this competition by casting their vote on-line for Owen Sound. It's open to votes from all over Canada and the U.S.A. and based on the highest number of votes cast, the top vote achieving community in both countries, will each receive a \$25,000 grand prize award. In addition, there will be eight regional prizes awarded, valued at \$3,500 each. In last year's contest, Owen Sound was awarded a \$2,500 prize by the WFN, which was generously donated to the SSA for sport fisheries enhancement.

To date, in Canada, over 220 towns have been nominated. In Ontario, as of April 1st, 126 communities across Ontario had been nominated. When the votes are tallied for the 2013 contest, winning communities will be announced on or about June 4th 2013.

So how can you help and what are the voting details? You can ask friends and relatives all over Ontario to vote on-line for the Scenic City. In other-words, voting is just not restricted to Owen Sounders for our town. After you register on the WFN Ultimate Fishing Town web-site, for each email address, you can vote for Owen Sound once every 6 hours, or 4 times in a 24 hour period. The first Voting Period started at 12:00 noon, April 15th and continues until May 3rd at 11:59 a.m. The second Voting Period starts on May 3rd, 12:00 noon through to May 24th, 11:59 a.m. at which time, the contest ends.

Each community can receive bonus votes if you post comments on Twitter and Facebook. Photos and videos and photos, can also be submitted to help build Owen Sound's momentum and promotion, in the Fishing Sweepstakes. If you refer a friend or relative (up to 6 contacts) to the WFN Fishing Sweepstakes, there is more bonus points for Owen Sound. Simply refer additional potential voters, to the "Refer A Friend" page on the WFN Ultimate Fishing Town web-site.

The World Fishing Network is the leading entertainment destination and digital resource for anglers throughout North America. Distributing diverse and engaging content to fishing and outdoor enthusiasts, WFN is the only fishing channel solely dedicated to the angling lifestyle with more fishing programs than any other TV network. WFN programming includes fishing instruction, tips, travel, tournaments, fish and game preparation, boating and outdoor lifestyle with some of the most recognized personalities in the world of angling.

**VOTE now for Owen Sound -- the ULTIMATE FISHING TOWN.**

For more  **SSA Pictures:**

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/photoalbum/index.php> or  
<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/index.php> then click PHOTOS (left side)

**Connect to the SSA website!**

This Event is : June 8th & 9th, 2013



First Annual  
**Big Boys Tools & Toys**  
 Owen Sound's  
**NEXT big THING**  
 The Ultimate Recreation



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 Ontario N4K 5N7 6 kms. North of Springmount

*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](mailto:dskel@golden.net)

**OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets**

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to sell tickets at Heritage Mall during the month of February and all of our club members that sold books to their friends and bought some for themselves. We sold out and made \$1200 for club projects. Taking a page from Murray Smart and Chris Geberdt I guess I will order more next year.

## **Boat Launch – Low Water Dilemma Arnie Clark**

Both Lake Huron and Michigan are now at all-time low levels. Experts predict that the draining of these lakes will continue, and the problems associated with this phenomena will continue to escalate.

Increasing numbers of boats are running aground, harbour mouths are being silted in, docks are being left high and dry and many boat ramps are now useless. Anglers are scrambling everywhere to find launch ramps that still provide enough depth to launch their fishing boats.

Owen Sound is no different. Recent observations at the Georgian Shores Marina (formerly Owen Sound Marina) revealed that the docks on both sides of the ramp are now suspended several feet above the water line. While there still is adequate depth to launch fishing boats, once launched, one needs an extension ladder to climb down into your boat. Let's hope the marina owners are looking at somehow, in the next few weeks, lowering the dock levels to allow easy walk-on, step-in access to boats. The Georgian Shores launching ramp is not only a vital service for its clients, local and visiting anglers. It's also an important asset during the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular.

Now the east-side Bayshore Community Boat Launch (behind the Lumley-Bayshore Centre) is another story. This is a City owned facility, which when water levels were much higher, saw countless numbers of boats being launched each season, particularly during the Salmon Spectacular and peak spring and fall salmon and trout fishing periods. The ramp, one of the largest of its kind along the entire coastline of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, allowed 6 boats to be launched simultaneously at any one time. The parking lot easily accommodated parking for hundreds of vehicles and boat trailers. It was easily one of the best boating access points on the Great Lakes.

Today, the immediate waters fronting this launch, unless you're fishing from a canoe or Mark Twain's raft, are now too shallow to accommodate fishing boats. There have been numerous incidents where lower units and engine props have been damaged at this ramp. It's an understatement that the east-side launch needs dredging. No action by the City on this facility will pose a huge detriment to the success of the Salmon Spectacular. And unfortunately, to undertake such a project requires various Government red-tape approvals and a qualified contractor with the expertise and time to dedicate to such a project. And it takes cash. Perhaps this is something the SSA could look at contributing to.

The east-side launch also has some structural issues. One of the extended docks is severely twisted and warped, and is no longer safe. It's been cordoned off since last October. Again, this is a City facility and accordingly, is a municipal responsibility. Aside from the dredging issue, anglers are asking "will the City take action and repair the damaged dock?"

Aside from the boat launching dilemma that we are now faced with on our waterfront, the one ramp ... the west-side inner-harbour launch, that is still fairly accessible, was blocked with a snow pile until the second weekend of April. It only became passable when anglers pulled out their shovels to clear out a single lane, allowing enough room to back a boat and trailer in. Just the week before, Easter holiday weekend to be exact, anglers with boats from Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo, pulled in to the same west-side launch only to be confronted with the snow-pile which had obviously been deposited there by snow-plowing. Again a City managed facility, our municipal officials should ensure that this ramp is free and clear of snow so that it's readily accessible to early spring fishermen.

On top of declining access to our waters, anglers who do manage to find a way to launch their boats, can take precautions to ensure against damage to their boats, lower units, out-drives and outboard motor props. Many Great Lakes trollers in U.S. waters are now switching to stainless steel propellers. With the severe drop in the water level of Owen Sound Bay, many rocky shoals that were once out-of-sight, out-of-mind, are now precariously close to the surface. Aluminium props are no competition for these unsuspecting reefs.

Sonar or fish-finder units are now more important than ever, in terms of boating safety and the protection of props and lower units, and boat hulls. Most sonar units have an adjustable off-set feature which allows an angler to fine-tune the unit. Fine-tuning will tell you exactly how much water one needs to keep props and lower units from meeting the lake bottom, head on. Setting the sonar's bottom alarm feature to get an audible warning, is another key point to remember when boating or fishing the shallows.

Finally, boaters and trollers in our waters, must keep in mind defensive driving more than ever. Underwater dangers have never been more evident in our near-shore waters. Much of our immediate off-shore areas support rocky shoals. The shoreline waters in Owen Sound Bay that we were once familiar with, no longer resemble what we've been accustomed to. Safe boating..... and if you happen to be speaking with any of our municipal reps, don't hesitate to remind them launch ramp dredging and boat dock repairs and maintenance, rests with City Hall.



*Pictures page 6*



**Snow blocked access to the west-side boat launch during the Easter weekend.**



**One of the docks at the east-side Bayshore Community Boat Launch, has been damaged & un-useable since last fall.**



**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 know what you get when you cross a pit-bull terrier with a computer?*

*Not sure, but when it megabytes, it megahertz!*



**Handgun  
Stew Wallace**



**ON SATURDAY MAY 11TH, THE HANDGUN RANGE WILL BE UNAVAILABLE FROM APROX. NOON. TO 4.00 P.M.**

PLEASE ARRANGE TO AVOID THIS TIME SLOT.

My apologies for the inconvenience .

And, a reminder to keep track of the expiry date of your ATT. This will generally expire on the same date as your PAL/POL. I need three or four weeks notice to get a renewal through the CFO .

There will be several work parties needed soon for range maintenance. These will be advertised in this newsletter and offer an excellent opportunity for newer members to get involved in the ongoing upkeep of our club facilities and to meet other members and see how the club operates.....hope to see you there.

**Stew Wallace, Hand Gun Chair.**



**Membership John Ford**

**The SSA Welcomes New Members as of May 2013**

Recently a number of new members were passed by the directors. We welcome them to our club, which we think is one of the best in Ontario and encourage them to get involved in as many activities as possible.

Brad Dickinson	Cornelius Van Zyl	Deacon Burgess
Frank Lehneis	John De Johng	John Van Heusden
Rob Charette	Brett Andrews	Daryl Minifie
David Brown	Jeremy Gardner	Matthew Blackman
Michael Shewchuk	Philip Cockram	Ron Davy
Ryan Campbell	Shane Ruther	Steve Davy



**Shot gun sports.**

As I'm writing this (Apr.20th) it's snowing, after last year it is kinna hard to believe ,but what can we do besides complain . Anyway , back to the subject. We have had a great winter season at the trap range thanks to some great people, lots of great new people ,lots of old regulars , had a shotgun seminar at which we all learned something new!

Too all the new members that just signed up with the club you can bet that I will be pestering you via email to come out and join us at the ranges , we have a lot of fun there and there is always some one available to help if you need a bit of instruction on the rules and tricks of trap , double trap , wobble trap , skeet or sporting clays. Come out and join us ( see schedule on web page ) Ammo is available at the range . please bring your pal card with you.

If you need any info please feel free to contact me at **al.hillis@gmail.com** or **519 371 3825**

**MNR's response to a TV program** on coyotes: In preparation for the potential fallout that may come from tonight's airing of "Meet the Coywolf" on CBC's Nature of Things, I have attempted to set the record straight on a few potentially contentious issues related to coyotes in Ontario.

Brent Patterson

Research Scientist – wolves and deer

Adjunct Professor, Trent University, Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,

Wildlife Research and Development Section

**Q. Are coyotes native to Ontario?**

No, coyotes are not native to Ontario, but over the last 90 years they have moved north and east and now inhabit all of eastern North America. Human-caused changes to the landscape, including removal of other large predators like wolves, facilitated this range expansion by coyotes.

**Q. What is the genetic makeup of coyotes in Ontario?**

When coyotes first arrived in Ontario they hybridized with eastern wolves along the southern edge of wolf range in Ontario. As a result of this hybridization with eastern wolves, all coyotes found in Ontario today carry some wolf DNA. Depending on which genetic markers you look at, and which samples you include/ exclude, between 66-82% of the genetic makeup of contemporary eastern coyotes is attributable to western coyotes with the remainder coming from either Eastern wolves or, to a lesser degree, domestic dogs.

There is little or no evidence of contemporary hybridization with dogs, rather the genetic material from dogs we see in Ontario coyotes today likely results from a small number of hybridization events with dogs while coyotes were colonizing towards Ontario.

Because of this hybridization with wolves, the eastern coyotes typical of southern Ontario tend to be larger, and perhaps more social (i.e. greater tendency to live in packs), than coyotes in their historic western range.

**Q. Should eastern coyotes be referred to as "coywolves"?**

The eastern coyote, in its present form, has been established throughout southern and central Ontario since the first half of the 20th century. There is nothing "new" about its presence here, and the coyotes we find in southern Ontario in 2013 are morphologically and genetically the same as they were shortly after their colonization of this province and initial hybridizing with eastern wolves. Furthermore, all coyotes found in Ontario are genetically similar to each other (i.e. they are all part of one large and fairly homogenous population).

Their genetic makeup, coupled with behaviour and physical characteristics that are closer to western coyotes than to wolves, make use of the term "Coywolf" both inappropriate and misleading. Both John Pisapio (former Aurora area biologist) and myself argued this position at length with the producer of the CBC documentary "Meet the coywolf" scheduled to air Feb 14 2013, but to my knowledge those arguments have been omitted from the show.

When the media or other individuals try to play up this idea of a new or "super" breed of coyotes they are trying to fabricate hype and sensationalism out of what is actually old news.

Attempting to rebrand the eastern coyote as a "Coywolf" serves 2 primary purposes:

- 1) It generates hype and publicity for magazine articles, documentaries, and individuals
- 2) Given the general view of coyotes as vermin across much of their historic range, some people interested in gaining additional legal protection for coyotes feel that a name with "wolf" included in it is likely to garner more attention and sympathy from both the public and policy makers.

**Q. Some people say that as a result of this hybridization, coyotes are becoming more aggressive, less fearful of people, more aggressive in attacking livestock; that the species is changing?**

As per above, there is no basis or evidence to support the suggestion that "coyotes" at a population or species level are changing in Ontario. Furthermore, wolves are typically less tolerant of people and developed areas than coyotes, so it seems very unlikely that hybridization has made Eastern coyotes more tolerant of people and developed areas. Finally, unhybridized coyotes in their historic range also live in urban areas and sometimes come into conflict with both people and livestock producers.

**Submitted by Jim Hastie**

**WAC Meeting Minutes # 3**

**April 8, 2013**

Present were: John Morneau, Ron Robb, Jim Hastie, John Ford, Mike Prevost, Don Lobban, Tim Lahey and Steve Klerks.

The March 4 revised minutes were handed out. There were no questions about these as the only change was the tree order.

The tree order with John Morton has been made and will be ready by early May.

John Morneau will try to get some Red Oak saplings from Manitoulin Island. He is willing to offer his camp for some members to come up with him to dig some trees and stay over.

Rob Robb and John Ford checked on the large trees at the DWMA on Sat. April 6. They confirmed that we need to order 15 which will be 3 Apple, 3 Pear, 4 Sugar Maple and 5 Burr Oak. Ron was directed to get the 15 trees for a total of \$1950.00 taxes in from Annan Way Nursery. It is more important to get the allocation of 15 trees than the size of the trees.

Jim Hastie will purchase 12 bags of fertilizer from Bayshore Country Feeds. He will confer with Wayne Gallagher as to type and location of storage.

Ron Robb and John Ford also selected some possible wildlife plot locations. One is at the north eastern edge of the DWMA. The other is between the permanent trailer and the club roadway. There is also a possibility of 2 more plots in the area of the old archery course. This will be decided after the snow in the bush is gone.

We need to flag the locations of existing stakes with dead trees before we do replacement tree plantings. We have selected **Tuesday, April 23 at 1:00 pm** as a work party.

The committee thought that it was desirable to have one tree planting session on a weekend to encourage junior members to help plant trees. We will try for **Sat. May 4 or Sun May 5** as possible dates.

The two Black Locusts that are smothering out a Sugar Maple were located on the western edge of the DWMA just north of the Maher Centre. The committee agreed to have the Locusts removed and have asked Wayne Gallagher to remove them.

A future date will be set to dig replacement ironwoods from Ron Robb's property. Ron will advise us when the area is dry enough.

Some of the committee spent some time after the meeting looking in the basement for a laminated aerial photograph of the DWMA that Jim Hastie had done. If anyone is aware of its location, please contact Jim.

Jim Hastie will look after the tree and cocodisk order from the CA.

Ron Robb suggested that we test the pumps for watering before we use them. Wayne Gallagher will be the action person on that.

Mike Prevost will send Dave Skelton an email message to the membership asking for help to do the flagging and tree planting on the property.

The next meeting will be at the call of the chair in September.

*Submitted by John Ford*





# BILL WALKER, MPP

BRUCE-GREY-OWEN SOUND



## Repeal Fishing Agreement

**TO The Legislative Assembly of Ontario:**

**WHEREAS** beginning April 26<sup>th</sup> 2013, the new five-year commercial fishing Agreement that the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Ontario Government have signed allowing commercial fishing to resume in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay year-round over the term of the agreement; and

**WHEREAS** the terms and conditions of the Agreement were drafted and signed without full and proper consultations with all affected community groups, such as local sportsmen’s clubs who have and continue to do a tremendous amount of work in regard to stocking bays with fish to support the sports fishery; and

**WHEREAS** the aforementioned groups were promised by the former MNR Minister Donna Cansfield that full and proper consultation would take place before any agreement would be signed; and

**WHEREAS** the Agreement provides no guarantees Native fishermen won’t set their gill nets deep inside nor within 1-kilometre radius of the mouths of Gleeson Brook, as well as the Bothwell, Waterton and Kiefers Creeks to protect spawning salmon, and rainbow trout; and

**WHEREAS** the use of gill nets poses a safety risk to recreational angling and pleasure boating, and expansion of netting further into the bays threatens to destabilize fish stock and thus local sport fishing, tourism and the economy;

**THEREFORE**, we the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows: To repeal the agreement created between the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Ontario Government, effective immediately and renegotiate a new agreement in consultation with all key stakeholders, including the sports fishing community.

Name (Please Print)	Address (Please Print)	Email Address	

**PLEASE RETURN ORIGINAL PETITIONS TO:**

**Bill Walker, MPP 920 1<sup>ST</sup> Avenue West, Suite 100 Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K5 519-371-2421**  
**bill.walkerco@pc.ola.org www.billwalkermpp.com**

## **Chain of Events: - Regarding The SON/ MNR Fishing Agreement**

**March 11th** – signed agreement announced between SON and MNR

**March 20th** – a Wednesday instead of a Thursday, the SSA executive met for their regular executive meeting. At this meeting it was decided to ask the Mayor of Owen Sound Deb Haswell if she would contact the chiefs of the SON and try to set a meeting as soon as possible. It was agreed by the executive that this decision was, for the present, to not to leave the room as they say.

**March 21st** – a meeting with the chiefs was arranged at city hall in the evening. As a condition of the SON there was to be no talk of this meeting to anyone especially the press. Attending the meeting was Chief Scott Lee for the Chippewas of Nawash and native band member Jake Linklater. Mike Prevost SSA President and Dennis Wiseman SSA Director of our Fisheries Advisory Committee. Mayor Deb Haswell and Wayne Ritchie, Director of finances for the city.

Chief Randal Kahgee of the Saugeen First Nations was unable to attend.

Other than face to face dialogue and expressing our concerns for safety and conservation of the fishery in the bays there was no tangible results. Chief Lee suggested that we make our concerns known to the governance committee of the agreement. At the conclusion of this meeting it was asked by Chief Lee that the discussions of this meeting would not to leave the room until a joint SON/MNR news release came out in about 10 days.

This request that I wanted to honour basically held up the executive from coming up with a SSA membership position/policy. Unfortunately this created some public outcry of where is the public on this issue. Why are they not condemning this agreement? The executive has, however, appreciated the support it has received from the membership and their patience.

**March 23rd** – President Mike Prevost sent out the first club update, this should have also been called the SSA position (executive position) regarding the agreement.

**March 28th** – the SSA executive, under the President's signature, sent a request to the governance committee of the SON for them to consider our concerns of safety and conservation. This is to be presented to the governance committee on April 23rd by Mike Morencie, Director Fish and Wildlife Branch MNR.

**April 3rd** – a second update was sent out to the membership.

**April 4th** – the SSA had their regular general meeting at which time the membership discussed the SON agreement. It was agreed by the majority of the members present that we would wait a few more days to see if a joint SON/MNR media release would be sent out before deciding on the clubs direction.

As an affiliated club of the OFAH I think it is only prudent that we mention that around this time the OFAH wanted to send out their media release but as would happen the Minister of Natural Resources office called them to say the Minister would meet with them the next week. This basically handcuffed the OFAH from sending out their release so as not to jeopardize the meeting and get some answers to all our questions. This too created some public outcry of where is the OFAH on all of this. Are they not supposed to be the voice of anglers and hunters?

**April 9th** – the Chiefs sent out a news release on their facebook page. There was no MNR involvement in this release. The SSA was notified of this release by Larry Miller on April 13th. Also on April 13th the Sun Times reported an article on the position of the SON from an interview with Chief Randall Kaghee. This news story did not really include anything from the news release the chiefs sent out on April 9th/13th.

**April 17th** - a special meeting of the membership was called to discuss what the SSA's position should now be considering the statements of the SON chiefs.

At this meeting a policy statement was drafted and approved by the membership at the meeting, albeit only 35 members, that would serve as our media release.

Also at this meeting a petition was drafted and approved by the membership at the meeting that was worded differently from a petition sent out earlier by some concerned anglers.

**April 18th** -the SSA executive met and two motions were passed to approve the policy and petition.

As Looney tunes says, and I'm getting there – That's all folks! (Tip – if you going to keep track of all this with media releases and paper clippings you had better get a thick binder and probably more then one)

**Mike Prevost**

## Latest In

**On Wednesday April 17th a special meeting** was called to discuss the media release from the chiefs of the SON.

Do not confuse the article/interview in the Sun Times on Monday April 15th (SON answers fishing deal critics) with the actual words of the two Chiefs. Unfortunately notice of this meeting went out on April 15th, short notice. So short that we were not able, by our clubs constitution, to make or pass any motions. As a result there were only about 35 people that could attend the meeting. From this attendance the enclosed policy was agreed to with the understanding that it would be presented and passed as a motion at the SSA executive meeting the next evening Thursday April 18th, which was done. Look for this SSA policy in the Sun Times. Also at the April 17th meeting the attending members agreed to revise a petition that had already been sent out previously by concerned anglers. This petition asked the legislature to repeal the agreement created between the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Ontario Government, effectively immediately. The question was asked what happens if the legislature should actually do that. Answer, there would be no agreement at all, no written goals, no commitments, no obligations, no Governance committee to send our grievances to. If you will notice the SSA petition asks for the Legislature to repeal the agreement and renegotiate a new one in consultation with all key stakeholders. Bill Walker was consulted with before discussing these revisions with the membership. Member Bill Murdoch was at the meeting, offered a good suggestion for some wording and as often happens when you make a suggestion was asked to write it out for us. You couldn't cover your butt better if you used four ply tissue! Please try to circulate this petition. I will put some copies in a plastic container at the front gates as well. Thanks, **Mike Prevost**

### Screwed Again



Once again Rick Bridgeman of Hold Tight has donated four boxes of various sized screws to the SSA. Just think of what you pay for a small pack at the hardware store. However if you are going to keep doing this Rick I am going to have to come up with some new puns. Thanks for doing your part in conservation.

**Mike Prevost, President**

*over*

## SSA Policy on the Fishing Agreement between the SON and MNR

**The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association requests that the fishing agreement between the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and the Government of Ontario be repealed immediately and that a new agreement be renegotiated in consultation with all key stakeholders including the sports fishing community that will protect our most valuable sports fish including, but not limited to, Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout. We continue to support open lines of communication with all stakeholders including the SON.**



**Students and Juniors** You will see a message about a cowboy action shoot planned for May 26th. This is a great opportunity for young members to come out by themselves or with their parents to see what this fastest expanding shooting sport in North America is all about. Tell the organizers, the ones doing all the talking, that you are a junior or student member and you will get preferential treatment even in the line for grub. Think about it.

**Mike Prevost**



**E-Mail Addresses** The most efficient way to get word out to our members is by e-mail. We do not have all the e-mail addresses available. Some of you may have changed your e-mail address. If you think that you are not getting messages from the club and have an e-mail address and I realize some don't (wish I didn't some times) then let John Ford know at johnford@xplornet.com If you are concerned about not getting your newsletter mailed to you as a hard copy then just let John know that. If you have changed your mind and want to have your newsletter sent to your e-mail address then please let John know that too. Obviously the less newsletters we have to send out by e-mail will save the club money and save Dave Skelton the time (about 2 hours) it takes to fold and stuff some 164 newsletters. **Thanks, Mike Prevost**

*over*