



# 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



SSA On Line  
  
Web Site

**Volume 38 No. 5 May, 2018**



### THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

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

**Thursday**  
**May 3, 7:30 pm**  
**AT THE CLUB HOUSE,**

### **NOTICE OF CHANGE FOR INTERCLUB TRAP SCHEDULE**

Because of weather conditions North Grey Bruce and Sydenham Sportsmen are switching places for the first scheduled Inter club shoot on April 28th.  
Also because of weather we at SSA may be down to one trap field BUT we will get it done!!

**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}

So now the schedule will be	SSA	April 28	2018		
	Blue Ridge	May 12	2018		
NGB	May 26	2018	NGB	June 9	2018
Blue Ridge	June 23	2018	SSA	July 7	2018
NGB	July 21	2018	Blue Ridge	Aug 11	2018
SSA	Aug. 18	2018	Georgian Bay Open		

**Earth Day** changed to Saturday, May 5, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, Behind City Hall, Owen Sound!

So there you have it . All shoots start at 8.30 Am . Come out and shoot!  
Sign up at trap shelter! Support your club !!!  
**Al Hillis**  
519-374-3069

SSA members: The speaker for May will be **Sean Cronsberry**, MNRF Conservation Officer who will speak about the MNRF's **Canine Services** Unit.

He will talk about his role and responsibilities as a Conservation Officer/Canine Handler, What the K9 partners are trained to do and their unique ability to assist Field Conservation officers in Fish and Wildlife investigations and he will demonstrate his dogs ability in obedience and detection to locate hidden fish and wildlife etc....

**Jim Hastie**

**Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation**



## Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Scott Grimoldby  
1st Vice President: Fred Geberdt  
2nd Vice President:  
Bill Douglas  
Recording Secretary:

Past President: Mike Prevost  
Treasurer: Dennis Wiseman  
Correspondence Secretary:  
John Ford

Directors:  
Jeff Caldwell, John Ford,  
Wayne Gallagher,  
Chris Geberdt, Jim Hastie,  
Al Hillis, Jim Jansen  
Ron Robb,

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



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

Clubhouse Bookings:  
Contact-  
**Ron McCartney** (Club Custodian)  
Home 519-794-3456  
Cell 226- 668-6031  
ultrasoundkennel@gmail.com



### Monthly Meeting Draw Prize Winners

APRIL 5, 2018  
Prize Winners

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Gorilla tape         | Fely Clarke   |
| 2. Off clip on          | Ron Baker     |
| 3. Hammer               | Don Keeling   |
| 4. Folding knife        | Rick Wardrup  |
| 5. Anvil pruner         | Alan Clarke   |
| 6. Multi tool           | Bill Colborne |
| 7. Dish clothes         | Doug Flood    |
| 8. Shop wipes           | Al Hillis     |
| 9. Yukon knife          | Al Smith      |
| 10. Bypass pruner       | John Ford     |
| 11. Leather gloves      | Brian Gamble  |
| 12. Leather palm gloves | Jim Hastie    |

Watsons Tackle House \$50.00  
gift certificate  
George Albright

Thanks to all, Brian



### Gate Keys for 2018

The 2018 keys have a black key spotter on them. They are available at meetings, at Watson's Tackle House, at the Maher Centre and from me. The cost is \$5.00 and I will recycle your old key(s) if you wish. In order to unlock the locks, you need to insert the key all the way in so that you are pressing against the key spotter.



### OFAH Conservation Lottery Tickets

If you have tickets out, please sell the remainder and bring them in at the meeting. The deadline for getting in tickets is the May general meeting. I have sent out emails to those who still have tickets outstanding. Thanks for your help.



**There are several firearms courses coming up in the next few weeks.** This includes club level courses and Canadian Firearms Safety Courses.

Club Level Safety Course is being held on Sunday, April 29th at the SSA clubhouse. This course is required for new shooters who are wanting to shoot handguns on the SSA ranges. Pre registration is required, Cost is \$30, If you are interested in this course please contact Dave Fritz [daveandpat.fritz@gmail.com](mailto:daveandpat.fritz@gmail.com) or 226-909-2516

Club Level Holster Course is being held on Sunday May 6th at the SSA clubhouse. This course is required for members wanting to us a holster for their handgun on the SSA ranges. Pre registration is required, Cost is \$30. If you are interested in taking this course please contact Tim Westover [toastgod@hotmail.com](mailto:toastgod@hotmail.com)

For all members please note that the handgun range is booked form 1pm until approx 2:30pm on Sunday April 29th and Sunday April 6th. This is in order for the live fire portion of the above courses to take place.

The following Courses will be held at the SSA clubhouse.  
Canadian Firearms Safety Course ( Non Restricted) June 23rd and June 24th  
Hunters Safety Course September 8th and 9th  
CFSC ( Restricted) September 30th

Please contact Chuck Cannon [lcannon45@gmail.com](mailto:lcannon45@gmail.com) or 519-379-0297 for more details or to sign up for any of these courses.

Thanks! Jeff

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

## **Motus Wildlife Tracking System: Determining landscape use of migratory animals in Eastern Canada.**

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is a joint project of Bird Studies Canada, Western University, Acadia University and the University of Guelph. The primary goal of the project is to establish a network of automated radio telemetry arrays throughout the Americas that will allow the real time tracking of radio tagged flying migratory animals throughout the land and seascape.

In 2014 The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association was asked to be part of this unique program by allowing for the placement of a radio telemetry tower on our property. This 24 ft tower now sits on the R. Blake Smith Conservation property that we like to call our wildlife demonstration field.

Some of the largest barriers to effective conservation and management of migratory animals is our ability to determine the importance of various landscapes and how they are utilized throughout their annual cycle.

Southern Ontario and Atlantic Canada have numerous geographic ( e.g. the Great lakes, Niagra Escarpment, Bay of Fundy ) and anthropogenic features ( major urban centers, industrial, utility, and transportation infrastructure)

that might influence migratory animals use of and movement throughout the landscape.

Getting a better understanding of these processes will help decision – makers and other stake holders make informed and ecologically sound decisions with regard to wildlife management, policy and regulation.

A major portion of their funding is directed at the development of automated telemetry arrays, which will allow researchers to track the movements of radio tagged birds, bats and insects throughout the land and seascape with unprecedented precision.

The tagging process varies depending on the species and the project. Motus acts as a organizing body, all the tags are put out by separate projects that tap into their network of receiver stations.

Many songbirds are captured using mistnets. The vertical nets are set up in wooded areas and as the birds fly by they get tangled and then you can remove them safely and attach a tag. In terms of timing for songbirds, you generally do it first thing in the morning when birds are most active, and you wouldn't do it in heavy rain or high winds so as not to hurt the birds.

Other species are captured in other ways, for example, some seabirds are captured while they are on their nests using a number of live trap methods. There are also some species that can be captured by shooting a net at them. You can capture seabirds this way from a small plane or helicopter. In these cases you would have a large group of people ready to remove the birds as quickly as possible to reduce stress and injury. Of course all of this capturing and tagging requires a number of permits and animal safety protocols.

Tags are put on using a leg-loop body harness, it's like a little backpack that rests on the bird's lower back, with elastic thread wrapping around the birds thighs. Each tag weighs less than 5% of the bird's body weight to reduce any impacts on the bird. The smallest tags only have a lifespan of 15 days, the largest ones nearly three years. From a recent update sent to us from the Motus group 12 birds representing eight different species were detected in our area in 2017 and 2018. This is a very small detection number considering that in 2017 they radio-tagged 111 species and 3626 individuals including birds, bats and insects. Motus points out that although we may have only a few detections, it is still providing valuable data as part of the whole array.

Conservation embodies a large spectrum of our environment. Big or small any conservation projects are worth our efforts and we have always tried to do our part.

**Submitted by Mike Prevost**



*Photo by Mike Prevost*

At the end of March, when we actually had very little snow, the wildlife committee had a work day to fertilize trees and do a general cleanup of the R. Blake Smith Conservation property ( wildlife demonstration area ).

With the snow gone we could see deer and rabbit droppings throughout the property and noticed how the coppice shoots of Sumac had been browsed by deer. I even saw a red squirrel scamper ahead of me running for cover under one of our brush piles.



Mike Prevost



### **Changed your email address or location address?**

### **Bluebird Nesting Box Assistance**

Bob Hunt, who co-ordinates our extensive nesting box programme, is looking for more help in checking our boxes.

Please give him a call at the Maher Centre 519-371-8560 to offer your assistance.

A number of times, I have heard members indicate that they are not receiving information from the club. Dave Skelton often sends out email blasts about a number of topics. If you have moved locations and have not informed us, we have no way of knowing. As well, we need to let the OFAH know so that your magazine can reach you.

In today's age of many internet providers, some frequently change providers. If you decide to do that, please let us know so that we can update your profile. My email address is johnrichardford5@gmail.com Don't forget the 5 and my telephone number is 226 664 0960.



*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*

### **Record High Chinook Salmon Fishing on Lake Ontario in 2017**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced that Lake Ontario Chinook salmon fishing quality in 2017 was the highest recorded in more than 30 years.

Excellent Chinook salmon fishing in Lake Ontario is expected to continue into 2018, and anglers are encouraged to head out on the water for a chance to catch the "king" of the Great Lakes.



### **31 st Annual Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular**

The derby is really just around the corner, time wise.

This year's Edition starts on Friday August 24 and ends on Sunday September 2.

As you can appreciate, it takes many volunteers to make this major fundraiser for the SSA operate. We have a weigh in station, a food booth, a PR booth, a Bar and a food booth. All of these must be staffed over the 10 days. We need volunteers to work on the many areas of the Salmon Spectacular. In particular, we need strong backs to help in setting up and taking down.

If you can help or have ideas of where we can get help, please let a member of the Derby Committee know.

If you worked on the Weigh in Station or the Computer last year, please contact me to offer your assistance.

I plan to have the Weigh in Station Schedule at each meeting so that you can easily sign up. If you are new to the club, this is a great way to get to know people and also help to fund conservation. You can also call me or email me to help. My telephone number is 226 664 0960 and my email is johnrichardford5@gmail.com

April 19th seven club members went to the **MNRF Chatsworth Fish Hatchery** to help transfer a tanker load of 28 month old brown trout destined for the Allan Park trout pond on SVCA property east of Hanover as part of the governments plan for public access fishing.



If we had known that they were this nice we would have brought along coolers. We will try to get the list of all the stocking sites and species and make this information available to the membership in the June newsletter.

Believe it or not some members feel that only a select number of members are contacted about these jobs which is total nonsense.

If you want to get involved please contact Ron Robb at [rjrobb52@gmail.com](mailto:rjrobb52@gmail.com) or myself, at [mbprevost@hotmail.com](mailto:mbprevost@hotmail.com).



*Photos by Mike Prevost*



### 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



**Wildlife is very adapt at using our bird feeder / nesting boxes in a various ways**

*Photo by Mike Prevost*

### New Membership Cards

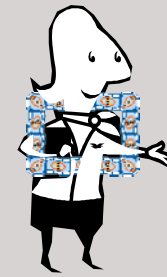
A number of members have asked me about getting a new membership card. This is entirely possible, however there are a couple of wrinkles. First, I only print new cards when new members are accepted into the club i.e. After executive meetings. Secondly, you will have a new membership number and finally the cost is \$5.00. However, it is possible to print a new membership card for you with your current number. The problem is that I have to use up 8 cards in order to do that. If you are willing to pay \$10.00 rather than \$5.00, I will do it. If you need a new card and your membership is paid, contact me.



**Lake Ontario counties take regional approach to harbor dredging!**

A regional plan developed by Niagara, Orleans, and two other Lake Ontario counties in New York calls for retaining a contractor to ensure the harbors are deep enough to handle the fishing and pleasure craft that use them.

### Disclaimer:



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

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### **Parks Canada kills thousands of fish with Whirling Disease**

Parks Canada has so far killed and removed up to 30,000 fish from Johnson Lake and its surrounding streams and wetlands as it continues to try and eradicate whirling disease from the 18-hectare lake.

It was the first time the disease was detected in Canada. In response, Parks implemented a three-year plan to remove all fish from the lake. Click on the following two sentences to access the full story.

The disease is not harmful to humans. "The biggest vector is humans moving live fish around watersheds," said Nelson-Chorney. On top of removing fish, Parks Canada has also closed all critical habitat for west slope cut-throat trout throughout the park, banned felt soled wading boots and implemented a catch and release policy for all fish, except for two lake trout from Lake Minnewanka. <sup>2</sup>

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.**

## **May Brings Plenty of Shooting Opportunities**

May signals the start of many shooting activities on the ranges.

We encourage members to come out and see what these activities are all about.

Check the club calendar for complete listings of events, and times.

Tuesday , May 1st is the start of Defensive Pistol practice evenings.

Things normally get rolling around 5:30pm on the 100 yard range!

Saturday, May 5th is the first Sporting Clays event of the year,  
registration is 10am -11am

Tuesday May 8th, is the start of Cowboy Action practice evenings  
starting at 6pm.on the rimfire/ CAS range

Saturday May 12th is the first ladies day of 2018.

## **Upcoming Range Closures**

Please make note of the following dates that affect some or all of the ranges.

Sunday, April 29th 1pm -2:30 PM the handgun range is booked for the live fire  
portion of the CLSC

Sunday, May 6th 1pm -2:30 PM the handgun range is booked for the live fire portion  
of the club level holster course.

Saturday, May 12th ALL ranges are booked from 8am until 2pm for the Ladies day  
event.

Saturday June 2nd ALL ranges are booked from 7am - 4pm for the Annual Youth  
Expo event.