



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

DECEMBER 2023



The last General Meeting of the year will be on Thursday December 7 at 7:30 pm.

This is our Annual Nibble Night. Members are invited to bring their favorite dish to be sampled by all. Usually we vote on our favorite and small prizes are awarded.

President’s Report

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}

I am not a Criminal,
 I am a Gun Owner,
 and I do not deserve to be criminalized for that.



Welcome to everyone, the season is upon us so be prepared for some wintery weather. Do not forget to join us for the December General meeting on the seventh, as it is our annual Nibble night. It is always a fun and social evening to meet up with other club members. We will also be taking nominations for 2024 Executive that evening. I would like to thank the membership, various committees and my fellow Board members on all their hard work this year. There were numerous improvements made to the facilities this year and without our hard working group, none of these would happen. Hats off to you all for bringing our property and its resources back to life. I would like to wish all of you a joyful holiday season and look forward to another new and prosperous year.

Enjoy and Stay Safe
 Scott Grimoldby



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



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Scott Grimoldby

First Vice President:
Chris Geberdt

Second Vice President:
Bill Douglas

Past President: Mike Prevost

Recording Secretary:
Allan Smith

Treasurer:
Dimitrious Geberdt

Directors:
John Ford, Jay Murdoch,
Jim Hastie, Dave McKinnon,
Joe Gray, Trevor Dollmaier,
Craig Geberdt, and Scott
Millar, Wayne Gallagher, Ken
Miersch, Mike Thompson,
Gord Fraser

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



Got Questions? Contact
John@sydenhamsportsmen.com



Early Bird Membership

At the meeting you will have a chance to enter the Early Bird Membership draw by renewing your membership early. The draws will be made at the January Meeting. In fact, there are 4 draws this year. They include a free year's membership, a rod and reel, a sleeping bag and a blow up bed.

When you renew, please put your 2024 windshield decal on your vehicle. This identifies you as a current member.

As usual, you can renew on line, via mail or by calling me, John Ford, at 226-664-0960 and using your credit card. However, you do have to fill out the Renewal Form, whichever way you choose.

Gate Keys

The current gate key has an orange key spotter on it. The new keys will be available in March 2024. The locks change on April 1, 2024. During the winter months, we remove the lock on the main gate and the hilltop gate. This is to prevent freezing. If you are last using our facilities, please close the gate, so that it appears to be locked.

Club Awards

As 2023 winds down, please be reminded that the SSA does have club awards. They include a number of fish species, a Best Turkey contest and a Best Buck contest. You can access the applications for these awards by going to our website, clicking on the Main Menu, then on Membership and then on Club Awards. There are a couple of rules to follow: first these awards are only available to 2023 members and the trophies must be harvested in Grey or Bruce Counties. Applications should be sent in by the end of January 2024.

Rankin Resources Group

At a recent SSA Meeting President Art Ward was the guest speaker. He talked about the history of Isaac Lake on the Bruce Peninsula. At one time, the MNR seriously contemplated selling this property. Thanks to a large number of Conservation groups, this property remains open to the public. Art is looking for one or two SSA Members to be part of this group. If you are interested, please contact me, John Ford at 226-664-0960



Nuisance Trapper Needed by Sydenham Conservation Foundation

The SCF owns a property in the former Derby Township on the Upper Pottawatami River. Unfortunately the Beaver have built a large dam. The water is flooding important properties. We need a nuisance trapper to remove the beaver so that the dam can be pulled. If you are aware of a trapper that we might use, please contact John Ford at 226-664-0960.



Reminder about reviewing Range Rules on our website

Director, Joe Gray, at our last Executive Meeting, asked me to remind you to review our Range Rules on our website. You will note the different ranges have different rules. When you use SSA Ranges, you are on camera. If we all follow the Range Rules, everyone can have an enjoyable time and be safe. Go to our website. Click on the Ranges button and then on Range Rules.

78th Annual Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade

Shelly Edwards, Aiden Geberdt, Julian Parra Geberdt, Paisley Geberdt, Logan Parra Geberdt, Ashley Geberdt, Adalyn Edwards Geberdt, Chris Geberdt, SuAnn Geberdt, Tyler Edwards, Nathan Parra Geberdt and Craig Geberdt.





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Cowboy Action at SSA 2023

Another successful season has been enjoyed by all the Cowboy Action shooters as the Twin County Bounty Hunters held their last Cowboy Action Shooting event of the year. Autumn Thunder for 2023 was put to rest this September. Along with regular members we are seeing shooters coming from other Clubs that are as far away as Sudbury, Guelph, Burlington, and Barrie. With colourful stages, interesting scenarios and the great ranges that are provided by the SSA we are hoping to keep them coming back.

We have a small but enthusiastic group of shooters and are always looking to encourage some of our original shooters to come back and join in on the fun, and of course continually welcome new shooters to come out and see what this sport is all about. We will continue next year with our Tuesday night practices and monthly shoots. Watch for dates in the coming months.

Bill Wattie





Fisheries/Hatchery Report-M Prevost

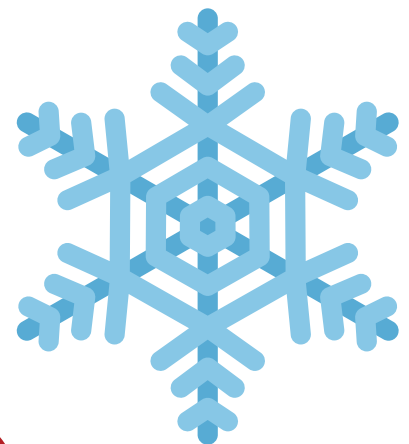
Our salmon eggs have hatched out into the fry stage where they look like thin opaque tubes with a big eye on the end carrying around a orange sac which is the egg they hatched from and are still feeding on. When they finally use up their egg sac they will start to rise up to the surface looking for any new food source. This is when we start to sprinkle feed on the water surface just as you would your fish in an aquarium. From our initial egg collection of 76,000 eggs we are now down to 59,000 which is a normal mortality rate. First checking the fish in their incubation trays the fry appear quite dormant just lying on the bottom until you start to disturb them and they become a swirling mass of fast swimmers which is a good sign of them being healthy.

Our rainbow fingerlings are progressively growing and always seem to be hungry. From our initial egg collection of 47,000 eggs we are now down to 37,000. We started these fish on a new belt feeder system thanks to a tip from a MNR fisheries technician. The feed is spread out over a plastic belt that is pulled out over the bottom of a metal box and this pulling activates a small gear box of springs and wheels that draws the belt back in slowly over a 24 hour period, all the while dropping feed off the end of the belt into the tank of fish. So far we like these feeders.

If any of this sounds interesting to you we need your help. We need some new volunteers to help with our Hatchery maintenance. This work is usually done in the mornings for no more than an hour and you won't be there alone. You can help as little or as much as you want. You can easily learn the system and like everything the more volunteers we have the easier it is for everyone.

Contact Mike Prevost Hatchery Manager, 519-376-7368 mbprevost@hotmail.com Thanks!

Chinook Salmon at the Yolk Sac Stage(Baby Chinook)





Shooting Sports

Range committee update - December 2023 Newsletter

2023 was a busy year on the ranges – lots of shooting activities and many improvement projects. We completed the hand gun range concrete floor and lighting project AND have made bench improvements at the 100 yard range. By the time you read this the handgun range and .22 rim fire range will both have new roofing installed as well. We hope everyone enjoyed the range activities in 2023 and encourage new and old members to participate in 2024. Please look at the “All Events Calendar” on the SSA website to see what shooting events or training courses are occurring.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of the member volunteers that put-on events and training courses at our ranges. It is a lot of work and those that participate always have fun. The list of these events is long but to name just a few: Handgun proficiency training, Skeet & trap shooting, Sporting Clays, Defensive Pistol Action, Youth Days, Precision Rifle, Cowboy Action, Crippled Clays, Blizzard Boys, Military Surplus Rifle Gathering, gear swaps, etc. etc.

Our facilities are also top notch because of members who volunteer to improve and maintain them as well. If you have an idea of something you want to do at the club – be it an event, gathering, or improvement project – please get involved. Things get done when everyone helps out and our expectation is that you not only bring your ideas, but you also “bring some effort.”

The range committee is looking for new members! At the end of December two members who have been past chairs of this committee and made significant contributions over many years will be retiring from the committee. We wish to Thank Bill Douglas and Jeff Caldwell for everything they have done for the SSA and for the guidance in helping us - the newer members of the executive and range committee - learn our roles.

We are looking specifically for someone to join our committee to be the voice of the archery shooters at the SSA, and help with sporting clays as well. We work together as a committee to make responsible decisions that guide how we manage the ranges and make changes if needed. If you have any interest at all please reach out and join us. We meet approximately 6 times per year.

This year the SSA upgraded the video surveillance system on the ranges and the executive adopted a Security System and Video Surveillance Policy. You are on camera when you enter our property and while shooting on every one of our ranges. The camera's are being used to monitor if members are in compliance with the range rules. This includes everything from use of legal firearms, use of holsters on the ranges by approved (trained) members, and shooting activities in compliance with our range licence and approvals.



Shooting Sports

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On initial review of the video's we are seeing infractions on the ranges. We recommend that all members review the range safety rules and comply with them. Failure to comply will result in follow up with the Range Committee and can result in the loss of your privileges to use the ranges. If you have any questions regarding the Range Rules, please contact any of the Range Co-ordinators.

Two range house keeping items - Please ensure that you pick up your shell casings and any other casings that you see. Also, we have added rakes to the ranges with sand back stops. We are asking members to rake the sand backstops even and level after blasting craters in the sand. Its simple – clean up afer yourself and help the volunteers maintain the ranges.

In September the Chief Firearms Office inspected the SSA Facilities and made recommendations to improve the safety of the ranges. All of the recommendations have been implemented and we are awaiting our new Shooting Range Approval (our range licence) that will be valid for two more years. This licence is very specific about which firearms and activities are allowed at each range. If you have any questions on what is or is not allowed, reach out to any member of the range committee.

Winter is now here and we have placed shovels at each range and the parking areas and road ways have been staked for the snow removal crew. It is an expectation that when you arrive at a range and find any build up of snow around the entrances that you remove it and create a safe route into the ranges.

Recently we were notified by a user of the handgun range of damage to the target backer structure.



If you find any damage to any facility, please report it to the specific range co-ordinator or the range committee chairs so that we can get it corrected in a timely manner.

We would like to Wish Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and safe travels during the holi-day season. Merry Christmas.



Wishing our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the SSA Executive!

