



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



Volume 35 No. 7 September, 2013



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,
 First Thursday of each month, October to June,
 September exception -> second Thursday

Presidents Message

Thursday
September, 12, 7:30 pm
AT THE CLUB HOUSE,

Please take note of the change of date for the September general meeting. This one meeting is the second Thursday, so September 12th. This is because a lot of our derby volunteers will be dragging their butts over to the Owen Sound Fall Fair to help take entrance fees and parking which we are paid for, just another fund raising effort for our club conservation projects. If you can help with this for September 4th, 5th and 6th please let me know.

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}

This year's 26th Salmon Derby went well with lots of anglers, men, women and children catching a lot of nice fish. We will do a better report in following newsletters. Early unbiased concerns and rumours of would there even be a Derby or Salmon to catch were just that and a lot to do about nothing that would have been better left unsaid.

Having said that our club is not taking for granted the effects that an unregulated commercial fishery can have on all fish species of the lakes. Our local elected politicians continue to support our management goals for conservation but senior bureaucrats do not seem to recognize the economic and cultural importance of our angling fishery. The idea that we can get along is only workable if we can continue to have an honest exchange of information and show through accountable actions that we really want to walk the talk.

The clubs summer activities have been busy as you can see by the enclosed reports.

Rifle shooters should take note of the changes to the physical structure of the high power range and new guidelines for its use of which Bill Douglas has explained in this newsletter. These new guidelines will take time to work out smoothly so we ask for your patience but we all want the same thing which is to be able to use that range as soon as possible.

I am sure that we are looking forward to the many pleasures that the fall season brings us. Enjoy the club, participate in the club. Send me your ideas, although I do tend to pay a little more attention to ideas coming from members that offer up their help along with their suggestions. Thanks

Mike Prevost, President

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
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 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!

**THANK YOU
 THANK YOU
 THANK YOU**

Many thanks to all those who helped with this past years boat draw ticket sales. Your help was very much appreciated.

Thanks again,
Brian Clements



**At Cowboy Camp
 this past Spring.**

Lots Of Fun!!

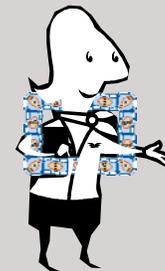


Volunteers - Thank you -

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

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.

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises!

New Changes to the SSA Membership Application Form in 2014---J Ford

By way of reminder, we do not accept 2013 New Membership Applications after August. Our membership is chronological, in other words, it ends on December 31, 2013.

Your Directors have decided that in 2014 and thereafter, new members applying for membership **must have a sponsor listed on the form**. This sponsor will be an existing SSA member who will vouch for the person applying for membership. You can expect that I will contact you if your name appears as a sponsor on a New Member Application Form and ask you a few questions about the person applying for membership. If we receive an application without a sponsor, we will inform the applicant that a sponsor is required and return the application if one is not forthcoming.

If you are aware of people interested in joining the SSA, please make them aware of this new requirement.

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

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**.

The RESTRICTED P.A.L COURSE SLATED FOR SEPTEMBER 21st WILL NOW TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 28th. This is due to circumstances out of my control.

My apologies to those who signed up for this course, I hope to see you all on the 28th.

The NON RESTRICTED P.A.L.COURSE dated September 25-27th WILL GO AHEAD as scheduled at the clubhouse 6:30-10:00 pm.

There will be a RESTRICTED P.A.L.COURSE October 19th at the clubhouse 9:00am till 6:00pm. Anyone interested in taking these courses should contact Bob McKay by telephone at 519-534-0827.

Cost PER COURSE is \$50.00 for members, \$100.00 for non members, \$35.00 for junior members, \$50.00 for junior NON members.

NOTE YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 15 YEARS OLD TO TAKE THE RESTRICTED COURSE.

Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular Opening Weekend Report by Arnie Clark

The opening weekend of the 26th Annual Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular got off to a great start with plenty of fishing action on the waters of Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay. Lots of hefty and very healthy chinook salmon hit the weigh scales over the first weekend of the 10 day event, along with some good trout catches, including a chunky 16.0 lb. lake trout that was leading the trout category as of the Aug. 26th press deadline for the SSA's September Newsletter.

The Opening Ceremonies on the Friday evening attracted a crowd of 2,000 and featured local dignitaries for the official march and customary welcome and congratulatory speeches. Led by Fred and Donna Geberdt's granddaughter, Kemble Piper, Keith Davidson and drummer, Bill Murdoch of the Bognor Drum Corps., the entourage featured a very special guest ... the Hon. Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries & Oceans, who made an announcement for funding to the SSA for stream conservation work.

Bognor Jam's True Country Show kicked off the entertainment on the opening night with many old familiar country music tunes. Joining the show were special guests, John and Tyler Becket and Justine Farrar.

The first Saturday featured two Birds of Prey shows by staff of the Canadian Raptor Conservancy. Viewed by many as a highlight event of the Spectacular, the show featured Uncle Sam, a bald eagle, To ba, the Great horned owl, a Harris Hawk and an American kestrel. Both kids and adults marveled at this unique show.

The Elvis Gospel show and breakfast saw an unprecedented crowd for this opening weekend event. Kids Day too, attracted countless numbers of youngsters who all went home with prizes galore and memories about the many displays, face-painting, horse wagon rides, Dickie Bird, the Taylor Swift and Boymania musical acts, and much more.

A Tribute to Bon Jovi topped off the first Sunday evening. The act had to compete with a thundering storm which blew in from the west. Luckily, the 'Big Top' tent suffered no damage and the show went on as the storm moved eastward.

By the end of the Spectacular, thousands of digital images will have been captured on this huge event.

The images here highlight the march-in for the opening ceremonies, fishing on the bay, the True Country Show, the Hon. Gail Shea, a hefty chinook salmon, James Cowan and Uncle Sam, a female bald eagle, Dickie Bird and youngsters with their face-painted art work, a lineup crowd for the Sunday Morning Elvis Gospel Breakfast, the Remax Balloon being fired up adjacent to the big tent and some of the hard working volunteers cooking up grub at the tent's food booth.

Look for further reports on this year's Salmon Spectacular on the event's website and facebook.

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!

NCC- Did you know that Canada is home to 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater? That's a huge global responsibility for Canada!

That's why we must take responsibility and protect our watersheds, and that's why the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC's) land conservation work is so important.

Help NCC protect our watersheds today.

(http://support.natureconservancy.ca/site/R?i=aDrDaB_ACRz_Zx06oFx6_A)

What is a watershed?

Watersheds are the areas of land that drain rain water or snow into our streams, lakes and wetlands. As the water travels through grasslands and forests they act as nature's filters, helping to keep erosion and pollution from flowing into our water supply.

These are our sources for clean drinking water. They water our crops, power our cities, provide habitat for plants and animals, and are the places we seek out for recreation.

Yet our watersheds face threats. Pollution runoff and erosion can diminish the health of a watershed, and affect the quality of our water.

That's why NCC's work protecting watersheds is so important, and that's why we need your help.

You can be a part of protecting the lands that provide clean water for our cities and homes for our wildlife species by making a gift to NCC today!

(<http://support.natureconservancy.ca/site/R?i=5yxQO5qMUEVYVkJtg6wywA>)

Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely, Teva Harrison, Director of Marketing, The Nature Conservancy of Canada



SSA FISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE – August 15, 2013

SSA Fish Hatchery –

At this time the hatchery has approximately 65, 000 Rainbow trout fingerlings and 30,000 Brown trout fingerlings being looked after by SSA volunteers.

Hatchery Storage Shed – The Storage Shed now has a concrete floor, and we are currently in the process of building shelves and storing hatchery materials and equipment that isn't used on a regular basis.

Circular Tank Netting - The netting has been ordered, but as yet has not been received. Once received, I will look into getting suitable netting for the hatchery troughs.

Egg Tray Drain Stem Screening – We are looking at replacing the current drain stem screens to a slightly modified system that involves a suitable screen running the full width of the trays, with no screen around the drain stem itself. This should allow us to pull the stem, flush the waste and unused feed, while eliminating the loss of fish during the cleaning process. It should also reduce the number of fish being caught in and dying at the screen end of the trays.

Egg Tray supports Over Existing Troughs – I'm going to get a set of modified supports to try out this fall. Depending on how the volunteers feel about their design, I may look at getting more sets of the same type for the 2014 Rainbow trout eggs.

Funding and Assistance Applications –

Community Hatchery Program – Have received confirmation that our application has been received for our hatchery operation, and that everything looks fine. Still waiting for word as to whether or not funds will be coming our way on this. Possible monetary amounts are also unknown, since the rules and regulations seem have changed slightly from what was in place for the old CFWIP program.

Land Stewardship And Habitat Restoration Program - Approval has been received from the MNR on our application to this program. The reporting documents have already been received via e-mail and will be filled out in due time. A contract is currently on its way, and once received will be signed and returned before the September 30th deadline.

Recreational Fisheries Community Partnerships Program – I've had to make some adjustments to the financial figures on the original application, but as of August 12th everything seem to be in order, and will be forwarded on for a decision by the Minister's Office.

Bill Stonehouse Property Stream Fencing Project –

Two loads of gravel have been ordered for delivery to the Stonehouse property, bringing this project to a successful conclusion.

Owen Sound Tourism / Owen Sound Salmon Run Tour & The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association –

OS Tourism will be out on the water and in the derby tent during the Salmon Spectacular, collecting material for use in the Owen Sound Salmon Run project. They will also be at the Mill Dam and at the Fish Hatchery during late September and early October when we are working on egg collection and egg processing.

Side Channel Spawning Beds –

Stewardship Rangers - The Stewardship Rangers completed two days plus, in July, at the Side Channel Spawning Beds, totally refurbishing the channel closest to the road, and part of the one closest to the river. They are already planning to do more work on the spawning beds next year.

Side Channel Repair Project – During the week of July 29th, Thom Construction removed the old earthen/culvert structures from the two Side Channels near Inglis Falls, replacing them with new, stronger structures. The earthen structures are now almost thirty feet wide and house two 20" culverts each. We still need to attach the flow control valves and the safety grates on the ends of the culverts. As of Friday, August 9th, the four safety grates and one flow control valve had been fabricated. When the three remaining valves are finished, we'll start attaching these components where required. We will need to bring in a load of unscreened top soil to dress up some rough sections created during the construction process. To finish off this project, I'm going to get a grass seed mix and plant it in the top soil, to hold the soil in place until natural vegetation becomes established.

LSHRP approved our funding application for the full amount we were seeking.

School Salmon Hatchery Program –

The cooler unit has been ordered for the program at Alexandra Community School, and as long as there isn't a glitch in the process, it should be here by the start of the school year. I'll begin getting the rest of the equipment collected between now and then as well.

Dennis Wiseman
FACC

Range Report



THE SHOOTING SPORTS - SEPTEMBER 2013 RANGE REPORT

1. The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association will be instituting some new sign in procedures for all guests using any of our shooting ranges starting on September 15th 2013. These new rules are necessary due to club liability issues and Insurance requirements. Many clubs in our region have already instituted similar sign in protocols, and we are no exception.

2. Here's how it will work for Ranges #1, 2, & 3 [these are the handgun, 22 rim fire/CBA, and high power ranges]. There will be two books kept at each of these ranges, one for Members and one for Guests. Members will sign in as usual (no change)

3. Guests must be accompanied by a member, and the members are totally responsible for their guests. All guests must sign in the "Guest sign in book" at the appropriate range that they are shooting at. The date, guests name, address, phone #, Pal/Pol # if they have one, and the sponsoring members SSA number. **This information is required every time they are brought to the range.**

4. Secondly all guests must sign the "Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of risk, and Indemnity Agreement" which is located in the second section of the same Guest sign in book. **NB: this form only has to be signed and filled out once.**

5. Here's how it will work for Ranges #4, 5, 6, & 7 shotgun ranges. The Guest sign in information will be collected by the Range officer and/or sponsoring member and put on the regular sign up form. **This information is required every time they are brought/come to the range.**

Secondly all guests must sign the "Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of risk, and Indemnity Agreement: which is located in the second section of the sign up book. **NB. This form only has to be signed and filled out once.**

1. A new "Sydenham Sportsmen's Association Shooting Range Operations Manual" reflecting the above changes will be available to every club member after September 15th 2013. This new version will be electronically issued to all members in good standing. If you do not have an e-mail address, you can request a paper copy from B. Douglas or A. Hillis at any time, and/or there will be copies available at all the General meetings.

2. For those of you who shoot 22 rimfire or Cowboy action will notice even more improvements on Range #2. The "Twin County Bounty Hunters" and helpers have now erected some great new signing over the target frames, put up a new entrance gate, added the cedar rail fencing on both sides of the range, and put in two new portable shooting stations #3 & #4. Looks great and there is still a few more additions to come. [Refer to photo].

3. What we thought was the last of our modifications and requirements from the September/2012 range inspection by the CFO's office was completed prior to the end of June. We had to raise the height of the 100 yd range [#3] backstop berm to meet the current regulations, ours was too low particularly on the right hand side. This job was completed thanks to Al Hillis and his group of volunteers. [Pictures included]. We also made some changes and improvements to the 100 yd. target holders, cleared some brush along the side berm, cleared brush off the bullet backstop [thanks to Tim] and did some general maintenance at the same time. Since that time we had an incident on the 100 yd range were several ricochets left the range and this incident was reported to the OPP and as a result we were asked to close the range until a through inspection and investigation had taken place (for your information this was not the first registered complaint). As a result of that inspection/investigation by the CFO's office we had to make even more changes to this range to prevent any further ricochet incidents.

The trees had to be removed from the left side berm, the intermediate 25 yd and 50 yd berms had to be staggered and the 75 yd berm eliminated, plus other changes to the target holders, the addition of sand bags covering any exposed railway ties, increase in height of intermediate berms, etc., etc.

4. These physical changes to the range are only part of what SSA has to do to comply with the mandate from the CFO's office in order to get this range open and operating again. This is a quote from the report "As a result of the inspection, and approval condition has been added to your shooting range approval certificate on Range #3; **while this range is in use a Range Safety Officer must be on duty at all times.**" What this will mean to all members and guests using this range is that it will now have specific hours when it is open for your use and there will be a **qualified Range Safety Officer on duty** to ensure all range safety rules are followed. Unfortunately no one can use range unless there is a Range Safety Officer there. If someone does they will lose their shooting privileges at SSA and if the CFO's office finds out about it the range will probably be closed permanently. All members will shortly be advised about the schedule for shooting on this range (it will also appear on the Club Shooting Calendar) and just who in the club are qualified Range Safety Officers.

5. You will also notice that some improvements have been done to Range #6 Skeet & Trap just after the 100 yd range was finished. The grass and weeds have been removed from between the cement stations and walkways and has been replaced with stone dust. Looks great and cuts down on maintenance and grass cutting. Thanks again goes to Al Hillis, Wayne Gallagher and crew.

6. September is the time to get practicing with bows for the upcoming Moose and Deer Seasons. With that thought in mind we will be putting out the 3D targets on lanes #11 through #20 on the Archery walk-through range. They should all be in place by September 7th and will stay out for you to hone your skills until September 30th. Enjoy and shoot safely.

Shooting Sports Committee Chairs Bill Douglas & Al Hillis



Range Photos

See article on



Love is what makes two people sit in the middle of a bench when there is plenty of room on both sides!

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 Ontario N4K 5N7 6 kms. North of Springmount



Range Report

Page 4.



You grew up the day you had your first laugh- at yourself

OFAH & WHC remind hunters of waterfowl opportunities

Regulation changes provides for additional seasons and species

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) remind hunters in Ontario of the upcoming season and the excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities available this fall. Changes to the Migratory Game Birds Hunting Regulations will provide new opportunities for additional seasons and species.

“Waterfowl hunting is one of the most traditional and time honoured of all hunts,” said OFAH Executive Director Angelo Lombardo. “Many of Ontario’s 440,000 licensed hunters were introduced to hunting through waterfowling and have many fond memories of early morning trips to the marsh. With events such as Waterfowl Heritage Days, it’s a wonderful opportunity to introduce youngsters to the outdoors and hunting. Recent regulatory changes for migratory game birds will allow for increased possession limits and hunting for new species such as mourning doves, which are strongly supported by the OFAH.”

The Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp are now available at Canada Post outlets. Proceeds from the stamp, which validates the hunting permit, are transferred to WHC under an agreement with Environment Canada, which WHC uses to fund primarily waterfowl and wetland conservation projects across Canada.

“Since 1985, Wildlife Habitat Canada has provided more than \$60 million in funding in support of over 1,500 conservation projects across Canada,” said WHC President Len Ugarenko. “WHC has also been instrumental in ground-breaking conservation initiatives like the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), an international action plan to conserve waterfowl throughout North America and associated upland habitat.” For more information on how to purchase your Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Stamp, and to learn more about enhanced waterfowl opportunities, visit www.ofah.org/waterfowl.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is Ontario’s largest, nonprofit, fish and wildlife conservation-based organization, representing 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 710 member clubs. To learn **Media Contacts:**

Shannon Gutoskie
OFAH Manager of Communications
705-748-6324 ext 270
shannon_gutoskie@ofah.org

Len Ugarenko
President, Wildlife Habitat Canada
613-722-2090 ext 224
ugarenko@whc.org

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*



**A few Great Photos of the Derby 2013
by Arnie Clark!**

One housewife to another-

“What do you use for washing dishes?”

“Oh! I tried many thing but I found my husband best!?”

