

## **2000 Annual Report for South Shore Wildlife Association** *Bridgewater, NS*

---

Another year has passed, possibly the greatest impacting period in the lives of Canada's firearms community. A major battle has been lost, one that threatens our very rights, and question our integrity. We at South Shore Wildlife once again took an active role in fighting this injustice. Throughout the year we attempted monthly to keep our membership up to date on C-68, and through various letters from club members in local newspapers hoped to disclose this Bill for what it is. In April we purchased 25 videos from the NRA in the U.S. for public distribution, showing the consequence, in other Commonwealth countries, of confiscation after registration. In May, we organized two meetings with the Firearms Critic for the Official Opposition – Garry Breitkreuz – from Saskatchewan, is the first one for local clubs, by invitation, and the second one open to the public. And we also cosponsored a candidate's debate prior to the Nov. election, all in hopes of enlightening the pro supporters of the futility and exorbitant costs of this law. And although we suffered a major disappointment, we must continue the fight. If we throw in the towel and accept the path of destruction we are on, we may well witness the demise of the shooting sports. Eventually, even our clubs and federations will succumb to the strengthening anti-movement.

In addition to the C-68 issue, SSWA was active on different fronts again. In the spring we introduced our own Website in an attempt to move forward in the technological world. We also purchased our first banner, a 3' x 6' club logo, to display at public functions. For fund raising we ordered new hats and crests, and also sold tickets for a lottery draw, the first prize being a \$100 gift certificate from a local sports shop.

In May, we assumed a larger role in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Fishing Derby, supplying bait, manpower, and some gear, in assisting enthusiastic young people to catch, clean, and store their treasured trophies – a highlight being the priceless look on the face of a charming little 3 year old girl as she landed her very first trout. At the conclusion of this event we were pleased to donate again this year a \$50 cheque to BB/BS Association.

In June SSWA was invited to set up a booth at the annual Michelin Health and Safety Fair. We concentrated on promoting safety on land and water when pursuing the outdoor activities we love – fishing, boating, camping, etc. Approximately 1500 people view this event each year so it was an excellent chance to display our new banner. In July we had another opportunity when we entered a float in the Bridgewater Exhibition Grand Street parade. The theme was comparisons to the old days, and we were proud to win second place in our category, including a \$50 prize, for our efforts displaying modern sporting equipment vs. the way it used to be. We took advantage of the captive audience of thousands to remind them of the simpler times in the years past, and the restrictive licensed world we live in today; C-68 included. Another event in July that we were pleased to be involved with was the Junior Guides Conservation camp held in Hibernia. SSWA sponsored 4 youths this summer, as well as several trophies, to this extremely worthwhile venture. Keith Oakes, one of our directors, actually took a weeks vacation to spend at this camp, chairing events and helping to run the program. It was such a hit that he has already committed to repeat this dedication in 2001.

Also, in October, Keith was involved with organizing the first Conservation Camp Ruffed Grouse Course, and requested SSWA to assist in putting it on. This program introduced nine young people to the Ruffed Grouse species and how to hunt them, including actual range practice shooting clay pigeons. It was another day well spent, of good experiences and pleasant company, and most important of all, hopefully planting some seeds of preservation for our future.

Again this year our involvement with BACAP failed to materialize in that our hands-on input was not required. We entertained two representatives of BACAP at one of our meetings, to address their mission and explain potential resource requirements, and published reports from these representatives in the minutes of our following two monthly meetings, requesting much needed information to assist them in their restoration and protection projects. We still hope to partake in one of their upcoming programs, and will keep the offer open.

I would be remiss in this report if I failed to thank our executive and directors for their continued support and input, without which none of the above would have been possible. Special thanks to our secretary for the extra efforts to hold things together, to the hands-on members always ready to lend support, and to Keith Oakes for all of his input and involvements throughout the year. We should all be pleased with what we have accomplished in 2000. Our membership has steadily increased crossing over the 100 mark. We were awarded the Vice Presidents Trophy at the Annual Federation Meeting. We fought hard to see the repeal of the despised gun registration program. We publicized our club through both the radio and newspaper media, and various public functions. And we have strived to involve our youth, which we will continue to do, as we feel that our future rests in their hands.

Finally, in closing, it is my personal feeling that if our clubs are to survive at all, each must make an effort in several areas. The steadily increasing pressure from animal rights activists and anti-gun, anti-hunting, anti-anything-that-we-stand-for groups, is taking its toll. Bills C-68 and C-17 are just stepping stones. If we do not work at both increasing our membership's and involving young people in what we believe in, we may well witness the end in our own lifetime. One of the areas that we continue to be weak in is visibility. Perhaps it's time to start standing up to be heard, to counter any negative comments and opinions publicly expressed, and to expose and promote our many various associations, instead of dwelling underground as we have in the past, unseen, unheard, and unknown. If we continue to give ground as we have, we may well be digging our own graves.

Respectfully submitted

Stephen M. Joudrey – President  
South Shore Wildlife Association  
Bridgewater, NS