

## **2001 Annual Report for South Shore Wildlife Association**

*Bridgewater, NS*

---

It is with pleasure that I submit this, my third, annual report of our club activities for the past year. SSWA was very active again on a local front. In a continuing effort to promote youth exposure to outdoor interests, we once again took part in the yearly fishing excursion for our local Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in early June. For the first time the event was completely arranged by us. Approximately 18 young people, along with their "Bigs", enjoyed excellent weather as they consistently hooked and landed many trout throughout the morning. Members of SSWA assisted every step of the way including cleaning, cold storing, and bagging the catches for the excited young anglers. Refreshments, a barbecue, and instamatic pictures of the activities capped off a pleasurable experience for everyone involved.

This year we once again sponsored youths for the Junior Guides Conservation Camp in Hibernia. Unfortunately one of the four sponsored in 2000 had to withdraw at the last minute, but the remaining three had an excellent time once more. And once again, one of our directors, Keith Oakes, spent a week of his vacation here at camp assisting in the operation and successful outcome of this camp.

Other activities for our club during 2001 included again hosting a booth at the Bridgewater Michelin Health and Safety Fair in June. Our display to the fair's theme 'Prevention is the Cure' generated a lot of interest from the public. In July we again entered a float in the South Shore Big Ex parade, based on the parade theme of 'times change but the spirit remains'. Our efforts depicting sport fishing today compared to past experiences was rewarded with 'Best Theme Entry', accompanied by a cheque for \$200. This was especially gratifying as it was one of only two top prizes given out of 27 cash awards in 12 categories.

In September we hosted our second Big Game Show in Bridgewater. The weekend was spent at the Michelin Social Club, along with several invited groups and displays. The hourly draw prizes, taxidermy displays, raffles, along with a canteen, and of course the heart of the show, a big game scoring contest judged by members of Nova Scotia Big Game Society, made for a pleasurable weekend. A disappointing public turnout was compensated by the healthy number of mounts entered for the scoring contest. A total of nine trophies were presented for this contest, along with a grand prize of sponsored by Lunenburg County Wildlife Association for the 'peoples choice' award, presented by President Larry Hirtle. Thanks to all who took part or contributed in any way. Special thanks to Lunenburg County Ground Search and Rescue for another well supported display.

Fund raising for us this year centered around raffle tickets and memberships, although we attempted in September to host a mixed team softball tournament. Unfortunately this had to be canceled due to an insufficient number of registrants. We entertained the Lunenburg Municipality Trails Co-coordinator at a meeting in March to obtain information and a better understanding of the meaning of trail development, and to also investigate the possibility of our involvement. Over several meetings we expressed interest in hosting a Youth Waterfowl Hunting Workshop, similar to the Ruffed Grouse Workshop we had the pleasure of being involved with, but through communications with Sue Bowes of NBWF eventually decided that we had neither the resources, or knowledge, to properly cover this experience. We pursued the IRM debate, and received feedback from Minister Fage on our concerns. We attended the Annual Federation meeting in March and were extremely proud to receive the President's Trophy for best promoting wildlife conservation among youth. And although things have been undeservedly quiet in 2001, we continually try to stay current with the status of Bill C-68, our pet peeve.

At a time when some organizations are struggling with support, SSWA continues to increase its membership despite the inevitable losses each year. Through our monthly mailouts SSWA continues to keep its membership informed of club activities, federation news, and issues of interest. This we believe to be an extremely important and necessary part of our existence as a club. We continue to meet monthly. This allows for continuity of ongoing involvements, current information for our mailouts, and a chance to react to new events. This year promises to make headlines on the C-68 topic, and our members will be following it as it unfolds. A lot is at stake this year for the millions of concerned gun owners. It would appear across this country that we are incapable of organizing ourselves against such a major impacting serious threat. If we allow this infringement on our rights as free citizens, we may as well be prepared to open our doors for whatever our dictatorial lawmakers wish to deem appropriate action at any time, on any matter. It's time for passive Canadians to stand up for our rights and beliefs. As the year-end deadline approaches let's hope that common sense eventually prevails.

Respectfully submitted

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