

2008 Annual Report

South Shore Wildlife Association

It becomes my privilege, and a bit of a milestone to submit this, my tenth annual report, for South Shore Wildlife Association. 'Where did the time go' has new meaning to me. In any event, it has been a rewarding experience, and both an eventful and entertaining decade for our club. 2008 has not been an exception as we continued to play active roles on many fronts. The following is a list of highlights:

- Annual NSFAH Convention: In March we were once again represented in Bridgewater by two voting delegates. In addition one of our members chaired one of the workshops, and another attended randomly the various events on Saturday. This allowed for full coverage of this Convention and provided detailed reports to our membership through our minutes.

-Donations: * \$25 to SHAID in memory of Karissa Boudreau
* \$50 to COHA's Hunting Defense Fund
* Club hat & membership to Italy Cross and District Fire Dept.
* Club hat and golf shirt to NSFAH as well as purchase of 2 tickets for the fundraising banquet
* Club vests to 2 honorary senior supporters of SSWA
* \$150 worth of groceries to Bridgewater Interchurch Food Bank

-Fund Raising: * Spring ticket raffle on three prizes
* Summer barbecue at Bridgewater Sobey's store
* Giant flea market at Michelin Social Club in July
* Fall seafood ticket raffle
* Generous cash donations from 2 individual club members who sold items and presented the proceeds to SSWA.

-Community Involvement: - *Big Brother's Fishing Derby* in May where 17 young people caught 82 trout. These were cleaned and bagged by our members and kept on ice for them. Once again we treated them to a healthy lunch and each participant was presented with a certificate and camo hat from our club. We receive much praise each year from Big Brothers as this remains their most popular outing.

- *Earth Day Cleanup* where over the course of three days in April we collected 19 bags of waste and garbage from our usual stretch of highway.

- *Michelin Health and Safety Fair* in June where once again we were exposed to hundreds of people in a few hours. Special attention was given to the deer tick and lyme disease situation due to the urgency of our local situation.

- *Nature Photography Contest* in conjunction with Bridgewater Photo and Art Store. This was done in Oct. and prizes were offered for three categories: people enjoying nature, wildlife shots, and scenic views. SSWA membership forms were distributed to all entrants, and 3rd place prizes of memberships and hats were supplied by our

club. This will likely become an annual event due to the success from this first attempt.

- Our donation to the food bank received local media coverage in the Bridgewater Bulletin.

- **Guest Speakers:** - South Shore Big Brothers Director Sandra Murray in June who discussed the needs of that organization and ways in which our club can get further involved.

- Bowater's/Abitibi rep Allen Smith in October who gave a slide presentation on that company's forestry practices including planning for the future, environmental concerns, quotas, sustaining supplies, proper harvesting procedures, etc.

- **Miscellaneous:** * South Shore Wildlife Association members took an active role in letter writing during the election campaign and received coverage in local and provincial papers. Our gun registry 'White Elephant' was resurrected for 5 weeks. * We also took part in the Trapper's Summer Rendezvous again this year with our BB Gun Shoot booth which was very popular with the young people in attendance. - * We created a new website to replace the old redundant and inactive site from 10 years ago.

* We have volunteered for the DNR's 'Roadside Deer Survey' as well as to host a public meeting for DNR to present their Mainland Moose Recovery Plan.

* We issued a letter to the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg requesting improvements to the MARC ponds where we hold the Big Brother's fishing derby and volunteered our help to achieve this.

Our club continues to mail minutes of our monthly meetings to all members in an attempt to keep them informed of our activities, and to allow for any input or complaints as warranted. Although both time consuming and expensive, we believe this is an important part and necessary to maintain a solid membership base. One of the features in our minutes is a classified ad section where members can advertise items for sale, wanted, give away, etc. Despite the unavoidable losses each year, our membership continued to grow through the year, reaching a high of 164 by fall.

In conclusion, we have seen many changes during the last decade, and will undoubtedly witness many more in the years to come. The colossal threat of loss of our rights to civilian gun ownership remains a very real and potential threat - in our lifetime - something our ancestors would never even visualize. We need to work hard to defend our rights, and that means working with the very public that threatens us. The future of our hunting, fishing, and trapping rights is in our hands. If we continue to ignore or to remain inactive, those rights will be lost. There is little hope of a future generation willing to carry the torch against increasingly organized and wealthy opponents wanting to shut us down for good. Please think about it!

Respectfully submitted
Stephen Joudrey – President
South Shore Wildlife Association
Bridgewater, NS