

'South Shore Wildlife Association'

2011 Annual Report

Community Involvement: - Earth Day Cleanup on April 22nd. For the 9th consecutive year SSWA members took part in this annual event. Due to a forecast of inclement weather our members arrived early afternoon and once again collected an amazing 16 bags of refuse along the same stretch of highway we've done every year. Obviously the littering routine is alive and well.

Big Brother's Fishing Derby Still an annual highlight for us. This year we hosted it on May 07th. We had a couple of new SSWA members taking part, and a total of 17 'littles'. In the twelve years that we've been doing this event, more fish were landed this time than in any year previous. They caught, and we cleaned and stored, 127 trout, plus they released over a dozen small ones. The largest were about 12" in length. Sandra Murray, BB/BS Director, came to our May meeting and expressed her sincere appreciation for what SSWA members have been doing for these kids. She presented Stephen with a framed photo of our two groups. Her comments were "You are great role models for these children". That pretty much sums up the gratitude felt, and why we continue to try to instill lifelong memories in many of the young recipients over the years.

Community Services Support Group Fishing Experience: The second year for this now annual event. It was held May 13th at the MARC. We had 17 clients plus several staff who also caught some fish. The largest trout was 16 1/2 inches long. Total trout caught and kept were 48 plus an unknown amount released. Five goldfish were also caught and released. Everyone had a great time. CSSG cooked and served hot dogs to all. At the end of the day several group photos were taken by both organizations, and we presented several awards for various things like the largest fish, the smallest fish, the most unusual catch, etc. CSSG presented us with a card of thanks signed by everyone in attendance.

Bridgewater Elementary Grade III Class Fishing Venture: A new experience for us. We were contacted by a teacher in April to take part in an 'Outdoors Day' for the grade III class, at the MARC facility. Our role was to put on a fishing experience for the more than 60 young people. We arranged for the pond stocking and provided all the fishing gear and bait along with instructions for first timers and assistance to all. We broke the afternoon into three sessions of approx. 20 students at a time as they rotated through several activity stations. Many trout were caught. Everyone had a great time but later reports were received that the fishing part was a favorite for a lot of the kids.

South Shore Outdoors Recreation Day: SSWA received an invite and attended this one day event hosted by Lunenburg/Queens Recreation Coordinators/Directors Association at the MARC facility on May 28th. It was an opportunity to promote local clubs and associations to the public. SSWA set up a display table with lots of info pertaining to our club functions and awards and also handed out a few membership forms as well.

Girl Guides Fishing Venture: Another first for SSWA. We were asked to put on a fishing class for one of the local Girl Guide units in June. It was a wet and breezy day so we entertained the troupe indoors. After an hour info lecture on fishing, and a hands-on learning session of gearing up their own fishing rods, and then an outdoor practice casting session in the rain - the girls STILL wanted to hike to the lake shore 1/2 mile away to try their luck. Attired mostly in garbage bags for rain gear, and after an hour of trying, only one small fish and a small rock were caught - but they still didn't want to stop when the time was up. It was inspiring to say the least!

Michelin Health and Safety Fair in June, another annual event allowed us to again host a booth pertaining to safety in the outdoors. We supply a varied assortment of information hand outs for the different dangers in our outdoors that average people are not aware of or know very little about. This includes things from the latest coyote threat to the hug-a-tree program for lost children, West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, insect bites, sunburn, poison plants, etc. It runs from 10:00am until 3:00 pm and sees many hundreds of people viewing our set-up.

Guest Speakers: - At our January meeting Federation Ex. Director Tony Rogers addressed our group on various topics.

-At our Sept. meeting Federation President Wilfred Woods addressed the members on a multitude of things.

- In October we hosted our local NDP MLA Gary Ramey in response to list of questions our club had presented to him regarding many items of interest from our members.

Fundraising: - In addition to annual membership dues, we held a Chinese Auction at our April meeting which netted \$141 profit and also held a seafood fall ticket raffle.

- Annual Giant Flea Market: A lot of work was put into this fundraiser again this year, but well worth it as this years market was another great success. We cleared about \$1185.00 when all the dust had settled. Many, many thanks to faithful club members who helped out in any way, be it with food or other donations, preparations, set-up and tear down, selling, kitchen, advertising, etc. etc. The man-hours would equate to several weeks work in total.

Donations:

- SSWA donated \$75 to Bonnie Lea Farm Christmas Party fund at the request of a member.
- SSWA donated \$150 to the Bridgewater Food Bank through Sobeys.
- SSWA sponsored two youths to the Youth Hunting Camp in Feb. held in Halifax.
- SSWA sponsored two youths to the Junior Guides Camp this year in July in Hibernia.
- SSWA donated a framed wild life print to the Federation's dinner/silent auction in Sept.
- SSWA donated a custom made lawn chair to TANS for an auction fundraiser item.

NSFAH: Annual Convention; Two resolutions were submitted, and two voting delegates represented us once again. We were very pleased that both our resolutions passed.

Roadside Deer Survey; SSWA took part for a 3rd year in this survey and assumed some additional routes this time. We gathered the recorded information from all teams and emailed a completed spread sheet to the DNR office staff contact as requested.

Dinner and Auction; For the second year in a row we were well represented with 6 members in attendance at the Sept. fundraiser. Everyone enjoyed themselves and a couple were successful with bids on merchandise auctioned off.

NSFAH Tickets SSWA sold 85 tickets for the Western Hunt raffle fund raiser.

Other Activities: 1/Our Migratory Waterfowl Committee continue in their efforts to stay current with federal activity. At our July meeting they reviewed their draft proposal on minor changes to hunting seasons, bag limits, etc for the South Western half of N.S. as recommended by the committee. A motion was floored and seconded that the proposal be emailed to J. Bruce Pollard, Wildlife Biologist, Gamebird Management, Canadian Wildlife Service. Passed unanimously. This was acknowledged in a favorable response from Mr. Pollard by a thank you email and a commitment to address our concerns at the fall meeting of their Federal and Provincial delegates when "developing recommendations for consideration".

2/. On Aug. 06 SSWA sponsored a 'Retriever Demonstration' open to the public at the MARC facility from 1:00 to 3:00pm where three businesses – Dockcove Retrievers, Hunter's Best Labs, and Salty Dog Kennels entertained us with land and water retrieving methods for Duck Tolling, Labrador, and Chesapeake Bay retrievers. The local paper carried coverage in 2 editions.

3/ In August we again hosted a successful pellet gun shooting booth at the Trapper's Rendezvous held in Hibernia.

4/ In February five members traveled to Windsor for the long gun rally with Candice Hoepfner. There were several hundred people in attendance. Of course we couldn't attend this event without being accompanied by our "White Elephant". We erected the large mammal right at the entrance to the hall – you couldn't miss - white, over 8' high and 8 ½' long. It was a big hit. Many took pictures of it and stopped by to chat about the concept. Even Candice posed for pics in front of the large white 'message board' slamming the Liberal's C-68 boondoggle. Pics are posted on our website.

Respectfully submitted
Stephen Joudrey
President, SSWA