



South Shore Wildlife Association

1632 Camperdown Rd.,
Camperdown, N.S.
B4V 6S5

Date: May 14, 2012

<p><u>In Attendance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Joudrey • Otis Scott • Gary Mader • Ron Thompson • Dr. Reg Archibald • Gerry Read <p><i>Regrets: Barry Kelley</i></p>	<p><u>50/50 Tonnie Draw</u></p> <p>Ron Thompson \$11.00</p> <p><u>Door Prizes:</u> Reg A. – Hat Greg H. – Flashlight</p>	<p><u>Executive Phone List:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Joudrey (President) 543-9891 • Eugene Herman (Sec/Treas) 543-2893 <p><u>Email:</u> sellherman60@hotmail.ca</p> <p><u>Web-Site:</u> sswa.chebucto.org</p>
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Stephen opened the meeting at 7:08 pm, Eugene read the April minutes and moved for adoption as read - seconded by Greg.

Long Gun Registry: Destruction of the long gun registry files has not begun as of yet. The province of Quebec is challenging the Federal Government on this issue, and that is causing a delay with the final step to bury the corpse. This final step is a necessity – leaving the records on file will allow resurrecting the law under a different government.

Ontario's Chief Firearms Officer is demanding that all gun shops continue to record firearm purchase records. This is in defiance of the RCMP orders to not use any method of tracking the sale of non-restricted firearms. Supposedly all Firearms Offices in each province report to the RCMP who in turn have been given strict orders from Public Safety Minister Toews to cease immediately registration of long gun sales.

Old Business:

- Stephen has still has not received a response to SSWA's offer to help the Young Naturalists Club in September.
- Sales of our spring money raffle tickets are going well. Draw will be held at the June 11'th meeting.
- Still no action with the Youth Trapping and Hunting Camp reimbursement of two local participants. Stephen will try to get contact info for the two we selected.
- Earth Day cleanup: We have received a response to Stephen's letter from Mayor Carroll Publicover addressing the futile efforts of roadside cleaning instead of battling the causes of the problem. He has forwarded our letter to Mr. Jim Annand, Solid Waste Operations Manager and two council representatives on the Inter-Municipal Waste Management Committee (Councilors Bill McInnis and Jim Bell).

- Acting on Lawrence's motion in April, a letter was written by Eugene & Stephen and published in the Progress Bulletin, May 02, 2012 addressing the lack of education on littering, lack of signage and lack of fines. There was also a letter in the Halifax Herald. We are still waiting for replies from our local MLA's and Municipal Mayor. We will continue to challenge this issue to make our point, and hopefully to invoke a few changes in dealing with some of the causes of our littering culture. Stephen received an email from Bulletin editor Vernon Oickle regarding a new \$1000 fine for littering violators in an eastern Ontario town. The town of Horton passed the new bylaw recently after what community leaders called one of the worst years of littering they had ever seen. Mr. Oickle has indicated that, in support of our efforts, he will be doing an article in the Progress Bulletin regarding the littering problem.
- New club hats have arrived - hunter orange and solid black. Member cost \$10.

Correspondence/Info:

At the April meeting a few more questions came up for Kevin Benjamin, Off Highway Consultant, Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Division. Here are the questions with Kevin's answers: You can also check out the web site below for more info.

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/ohvsafth.htm>

Q. If you have taken the safe driving Course in another province and move to N.S., does this meet the proof required?

A. If the OHV Safety Training course was a Canada Safety Council course and taken since 1991, then the training obtained in another Province would be valid. If both or one of these criteria cannot be met then the individual would be require to take the course locally.

Q. How much does the course cost?

A. The Safety Training Course takes approximately 5-7 hours to complete. The All Terrain Vehicle Association of Nova Scotia administers the course. To get more information on location, dates and fees please contact Brian Hatt at 354-2398.

***The Ontario Wildlife Federation has had a spring turkey hunt since 1987, along with the fall hunt. The population is still growing dramatically. There were 60,000 licenses issued in 2010 and 8,859 reported harvests.**

***Life Jackets: Should it be mandatory to wear them when in a watercraft under a certain size? There is a serious debate over that topic. With the lightness and flexibility of the floatation devices on the market today, is it not reasonable to make wearing one mandatory? Who wants to be the one to go home and tell your friend or relative's wife and kids that you won't be coming home tonight because you weren't wearing your life jacket?**

Ron T. suggested we construct a letter to the Herald on this topic. It should address the fact that people have drowned because they couldn't get their boots off due to too much water trapped inside which sank them right to the bottom because they did not have a PFD on. Gary Mader reminded us that wading fishermen should also wear a PFD. Boots and waders can trap air inside and actually act like a PFD in trying to float. In such instances the body is inverted and holds the head under water. Stephen was elected to do a letter and Ron will submit it to the Herald.

***Maine has been trying a moose lottery since 1998. They have a point system that appears to work very well. For every year that you apply and are not drawn, the next year your chance increases to where you are almost guaranteed to get a license after five years.**

***Please note: If your Wildlife Resources Card has or will expire any time soon, don't lose any sleep over it. DNR are working on an electronic replacement system. Your present card is now good until Dec. 31, 2015.**

***The moose draw has been put on hold in N.S. because of issues surrounding Zone 1. Watch the papers and news for further developments.**

***The 87 lb coyote/wolf shot in N.B. in January proved to be a wolf after DNA testing was completed. Apparently wolves were rampant in the 1800's until a \$15 bounty caused them to become extinct in 1876. Wolves have been recently reported in Maine and Quebec south of the St. Lawrence River. And speaking of large coyotes, a Newfoundland hunter has shot a 37 kg (81.4 lb) beast on the Bonavista Peninsula. DNA and blood samples have been taken to determine why the animal was so large. It will be mounted and displayed in an outdoor supply store.**

*** Stephen has been in communication with a Fisheries Biologist from the Pictou office regarding aquatic invasive species. Several queries were answered regarding the use of live bait, maps of invasive species distribution, and the representation of fishing organizations in the new Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group. Concern over the surging problem of invasive species has prompted the formation of this group.**

Treasury Report: We have a balance of \$2794.13.

New Business:

- ☆ **BBrothers / BSisters Fishing Event went without a hitch except for one young fellow who fell in and got very wet. That was the first time in the 13 years we have been doing this! We had twenty-four children and they had a wonderful time catching fish. Sixty-nine trout and two goldfish were caught. Twenty-two of the trout were between 13 & 18 inches, and some were well over 2 lbs each! We once again provided a certificate, refreshments and lunch, and member Barry Kelly again supplied hats for each of the young attendees. Big Brothers Director Sandra Murray gave us a heartfelt thank you speech and presented us with a lovely plaque of appreciation after the event.**
- ☆ **Greg & Stephen purchased new fishing reels, line and swivels for the fishing events. They bought six new closed faced reels and Canadian Tire donated another two. We now have 30 fully functional sets.**
- ☆ **The Support Services Group fishing event will take place on Wed. May 16th at 9:00am rain or shine!**
- ☆ **Weather permitting, the following day we will entertain 78 Bridgewater Grade 3 children at the pond as well. This will be done in three classes for one hour each. We will provide bait and all the gear as well as instructional support and fishing assistance along with the volunteer parents in attendance.**
- ☆ **No word was received regarding the annual roadside deer survey either from the DNR or Lunenburg County Wildlife Association, the other club that takes part. It would appear that after 3 consecutive years we will not be doing one.**
- ☆ **PLEASE NOTE: We will have a guest speaker at our June 11 meeting. Veterinarian Helene Van Doninck will give a presentation on the growing concerns over lead fragments found in large game after being shot by lead**

bullets. All indications are this is a health hazard to humans consuming these animals, and is supported by the study of the deaths of large birds of prey like bald eagles after consuming lead killed carrion. There is a lot of work going on in the US regarding lead fragmentation and the ill effects associated with consumption of these particles. All hunters should be aware of this issue. Lead bullets are gradually being replaced by copper. Woods Wise in Oakhill has some on hand currently. Come get educated on this topic at our June meeting. Helene is rapidly becoming an expert on this topic and has a lot of information and statistics to support these health claims.

Helene's presentation will begin at 8:00 pm.

Dates to Remember:

Community Services Fishing Event 9:00am	May 16 th
Bridgewater Grade 3 Fishing Event 10:00am	May 17 th
SSWA Raffle Ticket draw Please return tickets early if possible	June 11 th
Michelin Health & Safety Fair (Sheila & Eugene to work it)	June 16 th
Giant Flea Market at Michelin Social Club (workers needed)	July 21 st

NEXT MEETING *June 11th* at 7:00pm in Sobey's Store meeting room – back left corner by the washrooms and up the steps, or use the elevator (key required from front desk). Meetings are open to all members and friends and are scheduled for Mondays: July 16th, Aug. 13th, Sept. 10th, Oct. 15th and Dec. 10th. **MARK THE DATES!**

Smile of the Day - Why aren't baseball fans seated in "sits" instead of "stands"?

- Why do some houses burn up, while others burn down?

- The cost of living is more expensive than ever, but remember, it includes a free trip around the sun every year!

Thought of the Day – At what level of a man's importance does a murder become an assassination?

- Few skills require more practice than the art of positive thinking.

- Take to heart only those things that will make you stronger.

I Believe: - You keep on getting what you've been getting when you keep on doing what you've been doing!

- That heroes are the people who do what has to be done when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

- That the people you care about most in life are taken from you too soon.