



South Shore Wildlife Association

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

Date: March 10th, 2014

In Attendance:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Stephen Joudrey | Albert Rafuse |
| • Greg Himmelman | Ron Seney |
| • Doug Corkum | Ron Thompson |
| • Otis Scott | Doug Joudrey |
| • Annette Mader | Gerry Read |
| • Barry Kelley | Billy Hirtle |

Guest Speaker: Peter MacDonald, Large Mammal Biologist, Wildlife Division, Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources

50/50 Toonie Draw

Door Prizes:

Due to the length of the meeting it was suggested that we forego the prize draws for this meeting.

Executive Phone List:

- Stephen Joudrey (President)
543-9891
- Eugene Herman (Sec/Treas)
543-2893

Email:

southshorewildlifeassociation@hotmail.ca

New Website:

southshorewildlife@weebly.com

Regrets: Eugene and Sheila, Linda Joudrey, Reg Archibald

Our guest speaker arrived just before the start of our meeting. Stephen opened the meeting at 7:08 pm. To allow for maximum time for our guest he proposed we accept last month's minutes as issued. Passed. After addressing the disappointing turnout for tonight's meeting he turned the floor over to Peter MacDonald, DNR biologist, who addressed the group for over two hours on varying components of his department. Peter presented stats on various aspects of last falls deer season, as that was a topic of particular importance. He took questions from the floor as they arose, and several good discussions were fielded. Following are some of the points he covered, along with additional information from DNR reports for the 2013 deer season:

- jawbone returns are less than 15%.
- 1084 deer license reports were submitted blank.

These first two items alone are concerning. Such a low return rate on jaw bones, and large number of incomplete reports, does not allow for the broader view that would provide a better feel for the deer herd situation. SSWA supports a better compliance to anything that can help improved management in wildlife resources. If we do not look out for our resources, who do you think will? Is anyone better armed with current, accurate knowledge of these matters than people like us who dedicate a lot of time connecting to the outdoors? DNR rely heavily on reports from individuals like us to assess and mandate regulations for fish and mammals in our best interests. We all need to try to do better.

- a major change for the 2013 deer season saw increased opportunities and extended seasons for the A&M segment of hunters. A&M season included bows and crossbows, and the newest introduction – muzzleloaders. A lot of concern was raised with the DNR regarding this abrupt

change, particularly regarding the fear that too many deer could be taken at a time when the overall herd size was felt to be in decline. Peter addressed this with some stats to indicate it had not been a real issue. The most up to date report shows a total harvest of 10,730 deer registered in the 2013 season – for all methods. Numbers from the previous six years for total harvest range from 9,036 to 12,568. First impressions for 2013 are in line with previous counts obviously. However, there are some variables that need to be studied before we can comfortably state that the 2013 changes were an acceptable move. The spring deer sightings will tell us a lot. SSWA will try to monitor the local situation in respect to the health of the deer herd. Members are encouraged to be vigilant over the next few months, and if possible pass on any info by late May to Stephen so he can accumulate a data base from which we can draw on if necessary.

- license sales from 2007-2013 range from a low in 2012 of 35,732 to a high in 2008 of 41,150.
- there were approx. 40,000 licenses issued in 2013, 80.8% of which were for the general rifle season, while the remaining 19.2% were for the A&M seasons.
- method breakdown of the 10,730 registered deer taken in 2013: bow 6.4%; crossbow 4.9%; muzzleloader 8.6%; shotgun 1.2%; rifle 78.9%.
- method breakdown of the 1700 deer taken in the A&M season: bow 31.7%; crossbow 23.8%; muzzleloader 44.5%.
- success rate for license types: A&M - 21.5%; General - 28.2%.

Peter also talked about a trail camera survey he is attempting to initiate. Once again hunters and concerned individuals can contribute to deer management assessments, this time by using the latest technology. He would like to receive reports from volunteers who are willing to utilize their game cameras to assemble information on deer numbers, gender, age, etc. This could best be done through the Federation's membership groups if that is something they wish to organize. Peter will discuss this with Tony. If it comes to light SSWA will poll our membership to look for willing participants and to relay the guidelines for this study.

Old Business:

Website: Our new site is up and running. We'd appreciate any comments, good or bad, or suggestions for improvements. Google: southshorewildlife@weebly.com Check out the many photos in the Album pages, and our Activity page highlights.

- **Thank You Letter:** Ron met with James Hebert and presented him with our letter of appreciation and a free one year membership to SSWA for his noticeable efforts in the Lahave River tributary clean-up. Ron also provided him with two of our anti-littering signs to post in warranted locations. It should be noted that James has been invited to speak at various local meetings in regards to his efforts since the story was published. Well done James.
- **Gun Show Project:** Jeremy was not available for this meeting again. We are waiting to see what information he has accumulated so we can start now to assemble the plans for this project in the fall.
- **Postage Fee Increase:** Stephen touched on this topic again to encourage members to help out if possible. If we can eliminate a dozen mail outs of the minutes we could recover most of the substantial increase to our costs from the pending postage rate hike. Postage costs alone will amount to approximately \$130 annually for a dozen mail-outs starting next month. If anyone could help deliver even one set of minutes we could include the extra minutes in any mail-out. Please let Stephen or Eugene know if anyone is interested. From there we can determine if it is a possibility for that individual based on proximity.

Correspondence/Info: Among the articles presented/discussed were:

- ☆ Wild game meat has been approved to be added to the menus of several selected top restaurants in the province of Quebec.
- ☆ Contact has been received from our newest fishing derby group, Supported Community Living Options, requesting being added to our spring roster for the upcoming season. They had a wonderful time last year and definitely want to be included again this spring.
- ☆ Several New Brunswick organizations are calling for a ban on herbicide spraying in that province. They say the government has underestimated the impact spraying has on deer herds.
- ☆ Stephen received a reply back from Lindsey Freeman, Habitat Ecologist with the Clean Annapolis River Project. The group is trying to gather information from fishermen and others who are familiar with the Nictaux water shed system in an effort to implement restoration measures as necessary.
- ☆ An important message was delivered by Stephen regarding the recent Liberal Party of Canada Convention held in Montreal. Resolution #151, introduced by the Young Liberals of Canada, states:

“Whereas evidence demonstrates a clear relationship between the number of firearms in a society and the number of firearm-related homicides and suicides;

Whereas gun violence in our urban and suburban centers remains a significant threat to public safety;

Whereas incidents of firearm related crimes, deaths, and injuries decrease when access to firearms is combined with effective policies that keep firearms out of the hands of those who would use them for such purposes;

Whereas the Australian Conservative government of John Howard successfully reduced the number of firearms in that country through proactive initiatives such as gun buybacks which led to decreases in the rates of firearm related crimes, homicides and suicides;

Be It Resolved that the primary objective of a Liberal government firearms policy shall be reducing the number of firearms in Canada through initiatives inspired by the Australian model.”

Treasury Report:

Stephen reported we still have a balance of \$3305.81 because he has not issued any cheques since last meeting. Our secretary receives all correspondence regarding invoices so an update will have to wait until he returns next month.

New Business:

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters Annual Convention will be held in the Bridgewater Days Inn, March 21 to the 23rd. Gary and Annette Mader are attending as our voting delegates. Stephen stated that he had not heard anything yet, but we may be asked to provide refreshments for one of the evening events as we have done for the past two years. It was decided the budget for this, if needed, would be left up to Stephen at that time.

The upcoming DNR Youth Hunting Camp will be held over the next two days. Annette brought the unfortunate news that Gary would not be able to make this session, but she would still be willing to attend and to do the presentation part assisted by one of the others. We are fortunate to have some very good members in our club. Stephen tried to make contact with three individuals today in regards to this camp but none of the three were available, and none got back to him. Therefore, we went with the agenda they had indicted - that we will be doing a repeat of last year, rabbit snaring and rabbit cleaning presentation starting at 10:00am, followed by taking the young participants outside to set

snare in the adjacent cover in hopes of catching one or two of their own overnight. Stephen showed the prizes he had canvassed for the young participants as requested by DNR – donations from Gow's Home Hardware and Woodwise Outfitters - as well as three small flashlights SSWA purchased from Gows. Many thanks to both vendors for their support in our efforts. Four SSWA members, Greg, Annette, Ron Thompson, and Stephen agreed to meet in Newcombville at 8:15 and leave for the McGowan Lake Depot from there.

Reminder: Special guest speaker at our April meeting will be a representative from Whynott's Settlement Solid Waste Facility, to discuss waste handling issues and other items of interest. Stephen has met with the rep to help assemble her list of topics.

NEXT MEETING: *April 07'th 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, or to interested individuals. Scheduled dates for 2014 meetings are: Apr. 7; May 12; Jun. 16; Jul. 14; Aug. 11; Sept. 15; Oct. 20; Dec. 15. **No meeting in November.** Mark your calendars now!!!

Did You Know: - Birds do not urinate. That explains why bird droppings are usually quite wet.

- Ants never sleep. Also, they do not have lungs. (If you see an ant with a cigarette, he's faking it) Worker ants may live up to seven years, and the queen for up to fifteen years.

Smile of the Day: - One Sunday morning a minister announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons. The \$150 sermon lasts five minutes, the \$100 sermon lasts fifteen minutes, and the \$50 sermon lasts a full hour. We'll now take up collection and see which one I'll deliver!"

- Isn't it amazing that one careless match can start a forest fire, but sometimes a whole damned box won't get a campfire going?

Thought of the Day: - Knowing that a tomato is a fruit is knowledge; Not putting it in a fruit salad is wisdom.

- When tempted to fight fire with fire, you may want to stop and consider that firemen take a completely different approach.

I Believe: - That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

- That under anyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.