



## **‘South Shore Wildlife Association’ 2014 Annual Report**

SSWA introduced a brand new website earlier this year to replace the old and cumbersome site we have had for many years. Many new pictures of our activities were added in addition to some new and modern features. Check us out at <mailto:southshorewildlife@weebly.com> [southshorewildlife@weebly.com](http://southshorewildlife@weebly.com).

***Guest Speakers:*** This year SSWA entertained a variety of guests. We started our year in January with a continuation of our efforts to become more aware of the dangers of lyme disease by inviting a local pharmacist to address our group on her knowledge and experience with this crippling threat that is rapidly engulfing the entire province.

In March we invited Big Game Biologist Peter Macdonald to discuss some of our concerns and issues in this field. It was at that time that Peter introduced his thoughts on a trail camera survey to replace the roadside deer survey that we had taken part in previously.

April saw us listening to two representatives from the local Waste Facility, where we got an insight into our concerns on the unsightly littering issues that we have been battling for many years. This knowledge helped determine our Earth Day efforts in April.

Then in Oct. we completed our guest speaker agenda when Mike Pollard and Helene Van Doninck attended to give an extremely interesting and informative discussion on the hazards of lead bullets for hunting. We also did a lead to copper ammo exchange that evening. We are pleased that many of our members have committed to helping Helene in her efforts to eradicate lead poisoning in large birds of prey, simply through a conversion to shooting copper instead of lead bullets. I would suggest that all other clubs take an active approach to this initiative right away. Mike and Helene are a dynamic duo in this field and provide a very compelling argument that you will find impossible to counter. It will be well worth your time to listen to them.

### ***Fraternity Involvement:***

- SSWA were invited to, and did, a repeat rabbit snaring presentation to the attendees of the Winter Youth Hunting Camp put on by Natural Resources at McGowan Lake depot in March. This included a talk and presentation, in addition to a demonstration of cleaning rabbits, and ended with taking the young people out to set their own snares in the local bush. We donated prizes for the young people in attendance as well.
- SSWA was again represented at the March NSFAH Convention by two delegates and we co-sponsored the local snack foods for an evening. SSWA proposed a total of five Resolutions of which three were passed.



- In August we hosted our annual BB/pellet gun shooting booth for young people at the Trappers Rendezvous in Hibernia, Queens Co. This was the best attended event so far, and the new targets were a big hit with both the young – and senior – participants.

- SSWA planned on sending 2 people to the NSFAH dinner and auction in Sept but last minute changes again prevented anyone attending. The tickets were donated to the Federation.

- Community Involvement: - For Earth Day this time we took a different approach. Instead of futile efforts in an active anti-littering campaign like the past 2 years, we opted to once again climb down ditches and bag refuse. This time however, instead of focusing on one particular road, we divided up into 4 groups and covered roads in four different communities, some of them more than once. In addition to the usual tires and large items, SSWA members collected a total of 112 large Earth Day garbage bags full of litter.

- SSWA was again present at the Michelin Health and Safety Fair as we have been for many years, giving us good exposure to the public, while at the same time trying to bring awareness to the public on various outdoor hazards such as wood and deer ticks and lyme disease, poisonous plants, coyotes, sun exposure, getting lost and other topics. We are particularly concerned about the rampant spread of lyme disease and are pleased that the public is showing more interest.

- Four Fishing Events: We entertained a variety of people at the MARC ponds again in May. In addition to other things, SSWA continues to organize these events and supply all the fishing gear and bait, instruction and supervision. The first was for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Unfortunately many of the expected participants cancelled so we had one of our smallest groups of young people ever for this event. A total of eleven ‘littles’ accompanied by Charmaine Hachey from Big Brothers, along with several ‘Bigs’, had a very enjoyable outing at the MARC ponds. The weather co-operated nicely and black flies were absent as the group had a splendid time catching a total of 57 trout and 4 gold fish. Nine of these trout were between 12 and 17.5 inches in length - beautiful fish! Needless to say there were some happy little fishermen. SSWA cleaned, bagged, and stored their catches in ice chests until they were ready to depart. SSWA once again provided refreshments including hot dogs, drinks, fruit and veggie trays, and Girl Guide cookies. SSWA member Barry Kelly again generously supplied all the ‘littles’ with a camo cap, and we handed out certificates from SSWA for participating in the event. The next one was a total day for two groups, Supported Living Community Options and Support Services Group, who both enjoyed a wonderful time at the ponds. Many trout were caught and happy participants enjoyed the fresh air and friendship.



Lastly, on May 27'th, we again hosted the Bridgewater School grades 2/3 when 73 energetic young people eagerly awaited their turn as we broke them into three groups and entertained each group over the course of 3 hrs. The class teachers gave us a card of thanks and a check for \$75.00 to be used toward new fishing gear. Letters of thanks from the other groups also expressed their appreciation as well as reminders that this fishing experience remains the favorite thing that all of these groups do every year. That alone gives us the incentive to keep hosting these fun outings for all of these folks – some of whom have never fished before. I took a total of 157 pictures throughout these four events, and on behalf of SSWA presented packages, including some framed 8" x 10" collages, to all of the groups taking part.

-In June, just prior to the July long weekend, we once again hosted our annual Giant Flea Market at the Michelin Social Club. This was a huge success again as well over 500 buyers paid to peruse a full slate of sellers in a packed auditorium.

Fundraising and Donations: -In addition to donations to the Federation dinner and auction and Youth Hunting Camp, SSWA sent donations to three local food banks in February, and sent \$100 to the Youth Exchange Program sponsored by the DNR.

We finished the year by holding a lobster raffle draw in Dec. as another fund raiser.

Other Notes: Our club continues to meet monthly eleven times a year. Minutes, either electronic or hard mail, are sent to all members from these meetings so that all remain informed of their club's activities. With an important election looming this year, it is more important than ever to be associated with NSFAH through member groups across the province. With the number of hunting and fishing licenses sold in this province each year, the NSFAH membership should be 10 times what it actually is. Unfortunately, these non-member avid sportsmen and women may well end up being the naive unit that destroys our gallant efforts in defense of their favorite sporting activities. It is both ironic and sad that such people with normal eyesight can live in total blindness. This is the frustrating challenge that we must all work to change.

Yours in unity,        Stephen Joudrey    President, SSWA