



South Shore Wildlife Association

1632 Camperdown Rd.,
Camperdown, N.S.
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2015 Annual Report

Our club continues to meet monthly eleven times a year. Members still receive monthly minutes from the meetings to keep them updated of their club's activities. Our membership renewal process was revamped this year to bring every one in sync with an end of year renewal. This will greatly simplify the renewal process and streamline the membership roster. This revamp also was a good process to update our list with members truly interested in belonging, those who value our club and show support through annual renewals with little to no prompting. Therefore many members in arrears have been removed until renewal dues are received. Currently SSWA has an active paid-up membership of 116. As more people get online, the hard copy mailout list has been reduced significantly which translates directly into cost savings for our club.

Following are our club activities for 2015:

Fundraising and Donations: Our giant flea market held in June was an overwhelming success again, netting us a profit of \$1057.10 in a four hour period that saw over 500 people pay to peruse our 60+ tables of vendors wares.

The other fund raiser we held was our annual lobster raffle at Xmas time. We sold tickets on three prizes of 10 lbs of lobster. After expenses, we cleared a total of \$362.

For our donation list this year, in addition to awards and/or prizes for Big Brothers fishing derby, the Youth Hunting Camp, and the BB Gun Shooting Booth, SSWA contributed the following amounts:

\$100 to Health Services Foundation

\$250 to Halifax Wildlife for their copper ammunition exchange program

\$100 to Bridgewater Food Bank

Guest Speakers: **September:** Ed Pomeroy & Brock Junkin, representing the "Society of People for Crown Lands" requested the opportunity to address our meeting on a land usage issue concerning the Medway Lakes Forest area (former Bowater lands) which was being targeted by the D.O.E. to be added under the Wilderness Protection Area Legislation. SSWA agreed to investigate this matter further with the D.O.E.

October: Peter Labor and Sally Steele from the Dept. of Environment, Parks and Protected Lands Division, gave a very good and detailed presentation of what the Province has planned for protecting certain lands and what limitations of use can be expected for some of the more sensitive land.

December: Andrew Breen of Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation gave a very interesting presentation on the problems facing not only the endangered Atlantic Whitefish, but some other species potentially being threatened by the rapid expansion of two predator fish species, namely Smallmouth Bass and Chain Pickerel. He asked if SSWA could provide some assistance with his work in these matters, and we willingly agreed.

Fraternity Involvement: Youth Hunting Camp: Once again, SSWA was asked to participate in this annual training experience for young people. Four members traveled to McGowan Lake Depot in March, in less than favorable conditions, to provide information on snowshoe hares, and how to catch them and dress them for cooking. We did our usual introduction, snaring instruction, rabbit cleaning demonstration, and snare setting guidance which included taking the youth out - snow shoes a necessity this time - to set their own snares. We also provided lots of animal hides and skull props for the young people to examine, as well as some prizes to go to the participants.

Annual Convention: In March, we once again sponsored two delegates and submitted one resolution to be discussed. Our resolution was withdrawn in lieu of a similar one. SSWA was again awarded a trophy, this time the Tobin Trophy, for our “continuous education of the public about wildlife and environment.”

Trappers Rendezvous: SSWA again sponsored the BB/Pellet Gun Shoot booth at this annual event in August. There were 15 young people taking part between 3 and 15 years old. Hats were given out to the participants. All enjoyed their shooting experience that day.

Community Involvement:

Earth Day: Sixty-four bags of road side garbage were collected by SSWA members in their respective areas. Unfortunately this clean look lasts a very short time in some of these areas! We were presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Municipal Joint Services Board for our extra efforts each year, and the impressive amount of trash we turn in.

Michelin Health and Safety Fair: This was the 30'th anniversary for the fair so it was fitting that SSWA be represented once again. We set up our display Friday night and attended the fair on Sat. June 13'th. It was a steady turnout all day. Not surprisingly, most of the interest shown was over the concern about lyme disease.

Fishing Derbies: As always, in addition to assisting the participants, SSWA supplied all of the gear and bait and looked after the fish for all the groups we hosted.

Big Brothers event was held on May 02. There were only 12 “Littles” in attendance this year and they caught only seven fish. They enjoyed a lunch of veggies and fruit trays supplied by us. The weather was beautiful, with no blackflies to contend with. Each child took home a new camo hat, and a certificate package which included our annual colored personalized certificate, along with fishing related brochures.

The CSSG, SCLO & ARK groups had a great time fishing on May 15th. The morning saw a total of 37 attending the CSSG/ARK outing. Two of these were staff out of Halifax who came down to check out this fishing day that the participants enjoy so much. A total of 58 trout were landed, three being in the 15–16 ½” range. The CSSG staff put on a hot dog barbecue for everyone. In the afternoon, the SCLO group arrived with 26 people just as the morning participants were departing. They in turn landed another 45 trout. Several of these were over a foot long, the largest being 16 ¼”. Everyone in all three groups had a tremendous time. We later received letters of thanks from the staffs expressing their appreciation for SSWA putting together such a wonderful day for their clients.

**Yours in conservation
Stephen Joudrey – President
South Shore Wildlife Association**