



## **‘South Shore Wildlife Association’ 2017 Annual Report**

SSWA meets monthly 11 times a year. Minutes of every meeting are issued to all members via email or Canada Post so that everyone stays current with our activities.

### **Fraternity Involvement:**

**Youth Hunting Camp:** For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we took part in this annual event put on by DNR staff at McGowan Lake depot facility in Queens County over March break. Four SSWA members met locally again at 8:00 am and traveled to the event to do the rabbit snaring presentation on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Once again the weather cooperated nicely. We displayed an assortment of animal hides and skull props for the young people to examine and discuss, and provided instructions in making and setting snares. The next step was to take these young people outside to actually set their own snares in the adjacent bushes in an attempt to be successful that night. The final activity was to do a rabbit skinning/cleaning demonstration, and allow participants to take part if they wanted to. We once again presented checks to cover the course fees for three of the twelve participants, which were randomly drawn for on the final night of the camp when parents were in attendance. We are pleased to report that this part of the event has now been adopted into the program by DNR, and we are very happy to be able to provide funding for three of the youth at these camps as a memorial in memory of our late member Greg Tanner.

#### **Annual Convention:**

In March, we once again sponsored two delegates to the Convention in Truro. Our one Resolution for the proper live release of all species of sport fish was passed unanimously.

**Trapper's Rendezvous:** Although we were prepared to set up our BB gun shooting booth again this year, the weather did not cooperate and our event had to be canceled.

### **Fund Raising and Donations:**

- In June we hosted yet another successful annual giant flea market. Once again over 500 people paid to browse the 65 tables of wares on display. We provided three door prizes drawn for at the end of the market. Sales from our kitchen and 50/50 draw contribute to our profits from this event, along with our own table sales, table rentals, and admission.
- In addition to 50/50 draws at each meeting and membership fees, we also raise funds through our annual Lobster Raffle draw held at our Dec. meeting.
- For our donation list this year, in addition to the DNR Youth Camp, SSWA contributed \$200 to each of the following local organizations: Big Brothers, the Kinsmen, Health Services Foundation, and the Salvation Army.

**Club Promotion:** We invested in 4 dozen new SSWA hats this year, in various styles and colors. These are sold at cost, to better advertise our club. In an effort to better educate the public about proper handling of fish that are to be released, we designed and purchased 3 dozen ‘Catch and Release’ signs to post at various popular fishing locations. At a time of increased stress on various fish species, these signs list proper techniques for the safe handling of those that are to be returned to the waters. Also, to further our involvement with the endangered Atlantic Whitefish

project, we issued letters of support for BCAF, letters of concern to both Federal and Provincial Fisheries Ministers, and to Species at Risk Management Division. Contact was also made with the David Suzuki Foundation, all to bring attention to the plight of a species right here in our own backyard that is bordering on extinction. Our concerns on forestry harvesting practices and the potential threat of the FULA agreement with Westfor here in Southwest Nova Scotia resulted in a letter to the editor, and hosting representatives from the DOE to address our meeting and answer questions on this topic.

### **Guest Speakers:**

**July:** Jillian Genge and Liz Cogan, Regional Foresters from Dept. of Natural Resources to address current forestry harvesting practices, and to respond to concerns from SSWA members.

**October:** Wayne Galley and Randy MacDonald from Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights, to give a presentation on the CCFR, and to answer questions and provide explanations regarding this new national organization.

### **Community Involvement:**

**Earth Day:** SSWA members collected 74 bags of garbage this year, down considerably from last year. Also collected were 5 blue bags of recyclables, 50+ lbs of metal, and miscellaneous items such as a TV, tires, a bucket seat, a water cooler, hoses, screening, plastics, styrofoam fish boxes, and even some live ammunition. About 12 kms of roadway were covered between four groups this time.

**Fishing Derbies:** For the very first time since 1999, SSWA did not get to entertain the folks from Big Brothers/Big Sisters at a fishing derby. The scheduled event in April was rained out, and we were unable to plan a rain date later on due to staff shortages at Big Brothers. An attempt to do it in the fall was also canceled due to their unavailability.

- However, for another first, our other fun fishing day was for participants from four support service groups this year. The two morning groups, fishing from 9:00am until 12:30pm, landed a total of 82 trout. In the afternoon, the other two groups had a wonderful time as well but only managed to catch 30 trout. SSWA looked after the fish for all of the happy participants until they were ready to leave. Pictures are taken throughout the day and prints provided to staff members of the groups. These outings remain the highlight each year for most of the participating residents.

**Michelin Health and Safety Fair:** Three members of SSWA managed a booth at the 2017 fair in June. We provided loads of material for our theme of 'Safety in the Outdoors', but the most discussed topic with the public was on Black Legged Ticks and Lyme Disease. Hundreds of people viewed our booth and SSWA banner and logos.

I take great pleasure again this year in mentioning that our most senior honorary member, Mrs. Ruby Bower of Lower Ohio, turned 101 on March 25'th. She remains a youthful and alert lady and an inspiration to all who know her. Three members of SSWA visited Mrs. Bower on her special day to deliver flowers and gifts. Mrs. Bower has been a loyal member of our club since 2007. 102 is now just around the corner!