

## DECEMBER 2023



790 Southdale Rd E., LONDON, ON. N6E 1A8  
 (519) 681-2370     [www.wofgpa.org](http://www.wofgpa.org)

### December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Breakfast with Santa
10	11	12	13	14 General Meeting & Turkey Roll	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Executive Meeting	22	23
24 / 31	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30

### January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 General Meeting	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Executive Meeting	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP VALID TO AVOID BEING ON A WAITING LIST TO REJOIN**

**Western Ont. Fish & Game Protective  
Association  
Executive & Committees for 2023 - 2024**

**Executive**

**President**

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

**1st Vice President**

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

**2nd Vice President**

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

**Secretary**

Jeanette Jurasek 519-685-0237

**Treasurer**

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

**Directors**

Joe Isenor 519-681-4301

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

**Past President**

John Manvell 519-455-3627

**Committees**

**Entertainment**

Jeanette Jurasek (co-chair) 519-685-0237

Mary Degan 519-438-8104

Valerie Grahl 519-453-0659

Randy Keating 519-476-1916

Julie Thursby 519-473-5506

**House**

Lawrence Lainchbury (Chair ) 519-681-7199

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

**Grounds**

Lou Liberatore (Chair) 519-649-1988

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

Randy Keating 519-476-1916

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

Vito Lorusso 519-471-2114

Henry Van Eerdewijk 519-432-4239

**Ponds**

Stan Gibbs (Chair) 519-709-9413

Brian Allen 519-668-1908

Rod Cameron 519-685-1377

Ron Dennis

Joe Isenor 519-681-4301

Randy Keating 519-476-1916

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Doug Springer 519-680-2599

Bob Thursby 519-473-5506

**Welfare**

Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

**Boat Rack**

Don Colborne 519-686-9559

**Membership**

Valerie Grahl 519-453-0659

**Newsletter**

Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

**Fundraising**

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

**Youth Committee (Adult Mentor)**

Jeanette Jurasek 519-685-0237

**Club Merchandise**

Please see the Executive at any meeting or function

**Website Administrator and Public Relations**

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

**Political & Environmental Research**

Steve & Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

**Wreath Brigade**

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

Angela Liberatore 519-680-1222

**Club Caretakers**

Ray and Barb Smith 519-681-2370

**Our Conservation Pledge**

I give my pledge as a Canadian to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country, its soils and minerals, its waters, forests, air, and wildlife, and to obey all Fish & Game laws.

**Our Purpose**

- To promote true sportsmanship by the protection, breeding, propagation and conservation of fish and game.
- To obey the Fish and Game Laws of Ontario.
- To promote reforestation and conservation.
- To maintain a club and pond for the accommodation and enjoyment of the members and friends.

**Meetings**

General meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, except for the months of July and August. The Executive meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month. Remember that you, as a member, are welcome to attend all club meetings. Your input is highly valued and appreciated.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report is presented at the Executive meeting and questions and comments are always welcome. If you wish to receive a copy of the full report, please attend this meeting.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, what an amazing club we all belong to!

I am continually overwhelmed by the volunteer support our membership gives to this club. In all my time supporting different organizations, I have never seen such a commitment. Young and old alike, male or female, everyone pitches in to get the task at hand completed.

This was demonstrated: beyond all expectations ago when our members tackled the fall cleanup and tree lot setup. This task took most of Saturday with many volunteers. Later the same week, even more volunteers put their efforts towards the unloading, unwrapping, and stacking on the racks all the Christmas trees that we will be selling this year. As all this was going on another group of volunteers has been busy for a couple of weeks getting the wreath brigade organized. The weather has turned cold but the snow has held off. Unfortunately, this is just the start of a very busy season for all of us, so when I see the efforts put forward by all, I am truly amazed. Thanks to all who organized and worked on these ventures and also to those who will keep working until the last tree is sold and all is put away until the next time.

Donations of unwrapped toys may be left at the club or brought to the December General meeting.

In the spirit of the Holiday Season, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Yours in Conservation  
Stan Gibbs

## WELFARE

Many club members who are not able to attend the club for meetings or fishing might welcome a quick call to say "Hello and what have you been up to?" If you know of a club member or their immediate family who could use some cheering up or has reached one of life's many milestones, please contact Teresa Couture who will gladly make contact on behalf of the club.

Our heartfelt condolences to Elwin Minchinton and his family after the passing of his wife.

Our heartfelt condolences to the Sharpe family after the passing of Rob's father.

Our wish for healthier days ahead is with Leo Murphy and his wife as they recuperate at home.

## GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

For each General Meeting that you attend, you will receive a ballot for the free one-year membership draw. The draw is done each March during the Elections.

There is also a monthly General Meeting draw. Your chances of winning increase with each meeting that you attend.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

You must attend either the General or Executive meeting to pay your dues. These dates are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, before the meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

### The new membership rates (effective July 1, 2023) are:

Family	\$ 170.00
Single	\$ 150.00
Senior	\$ 145.00
Boat Rack	\$ 60.00

There seems to be confusion as to the grace period permitted to pay dues. If your renewal date on your renewal notice is December 1, 2023, then your membership period ran from December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023. Your membership will lapse at the end of December 2023, which is the one-month grace period permitted. At the end of the grace period, your name will be removed from the membership list. If you choose to rejoin the club, your name will be added to the waiting list.

If you need special consideration regarding payment of dues, contact Val Grahl before your membership lapses. WOFGPA will not be responsible if your membership lapses due to incorrect contact information on our files. The club will accept cheques, debit, and credit card payments but not e-transfers. Mailed payments and late payments will not be accepted and will be returned to you. The caretakers, Ray and Barb will not accept membership renewals.

## ANNUAL TURKEY ROLL

Thurs. Dec. 14th

(Following a shortened General Meeting)

Once again, we are having our annual Turkey Roll with 7 turkeys and 3 hams to be won. There will also be door prizes to be won.

Refreshments, snacks and prizes will be available. Come out for a great social evening with lots of laughs, cards and good company. The cost of each ticket is \$ 1.00. Hope to see everyone there!

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sat., December 9th

9:00 till 11:00 am

Come on out to visit Santa and enjoy a great club cooked breakfast. The Breakfast with Santa is open to everyone.

Your hot and fresh breakfast consists of: sausage and scrambled eggs, pancakes and baked beans, orange juice and coffee or tea.

Adults – (age 12 and up) - \$ 8.00

Child – (under 12) - \$ 5.00

After this event, the family can go outside to pick out their fresh cut and trimmed Christmas tree and a real wreath from the tree lot for a very reasonable price.

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

It is almost Christmas Tree selling time again. This is the club's largest fundraiser of the year. The proceeds are what keeps your membership dues low and funds many club events throughout the year. It also ensures a continuous stock of Trout in the pond. Now is the time to get involved at your club and join the fun!

### Pricing for 2023

Wreaths & swags	\$ 30
Trees under 5'	\$ 50
5-6.5'	\$ 60
6.5-7.5'	\$ 70
7.5-8.5'	\$ 80
Over 8.5'	\$ 90

## WREATH BRIGADE

If you would like to volunteer to make the wreaths, contact Stan Gibbs. If you wish to volunteer to decorate the wreaths, contact Angela Liberatore. Drop ins are also welcome.

As you begin to unpack holiday decorations, please donate no longer wanted decorations and trinkets to the club wreath brigade. These items will be used to adorn the beautiful natural wreaths that are sold at the same time as tree sales is occurring.

Please leave your donations at the club or bring to any meeting or function.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Angela Liberatore proudly displays the club wreath

## FOR SALE

If any members wish to sell or donate a watercraft that they no longer use, please contact Stan Gibbs with the details.

## CHRISTMAS TIME SAFETY TIPS

Here are just a few reminders as you begin to decorate your home for the holidays.

Carefully inspect wires on light strands to make sure they are not cracked or broken. Throw away damaged or "suspect" lights. New LED lights are much safer than the "old" ones and very energy efficient. Do not overload wall sockets or extension cords.

Keep all real Christmas trees well-watered and away from heat sources and fireplaces. Real trees will need a fresh cut on the trunk and should be put into water as soon as possible. Take your tree down when it starts showing signs of dryness as it is a fire hazard.

Did you know that tinsel, the sparkle glue and regular glue on many decorations are highly poisonous to animals? Keep your pets away from these items or refrain from purchasing them.

As tempting as it seems, do not feed your pet anything but their regular food during the holidays. Spend time with your pet. They are often overlooked and get stressed as we enjoy the festivities with family and friends.

Never leave candles, a fireplace or woodstove unattended for any length of time. A fire can become out of control in a few moments.

During the holiday season, have fun with family and friends and remember – DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE OR ALLOW YOUR GUESTS TO DO SO. There are many other options such as abstaining, having a designated driver, staying the night, taking public transit or calling for a ride home either from a taxi, an Uber or family and friends.

## APPLIANCE REMOVAL AND SCRAP METAL PICKUP

For those aged 55 and over, I will remove any unused appliances at no cost if the appliance is already outside. I will charge only half price of \$ 35.00 if the appliance is inside.

I will also remove any scrap metal that you have. Please call me to discuss the details and pricing

Tom Carriere  
519-520-0767

## DANGER – THIN ICE

December weather means a drop in the daily temperature and we know that soon, the ice will form on the pond. Please stay on the docks to fish until the ice has completely formed and is at least 10 cm. thick.

Please close the gates to all docks to keep the geese from venturing onto the property.

A windmill is aerating the water. There are buoys marking the location of the aeration stones. These two areas may stay as open water or will have a thin ice covering. Please keep well away from these areas, as they will never be deemed safe to support any weight, including your pet's weight.

Do not let your pet run loose on the property, including the ice. It is the club policy that all dogs be leashed at all times and in control of their owners. It is often best to leave your pet at home.

A minimum of four inches (10 cm.) of CLEAR ICE is necessary to support the weight of one person. If you are fishing with a partner or a group, additional ice thickness is required.

The ice conditions are monitored regularly but not posted. Please stay off any unsafe ice and remember that ice conditions vary from day to day. Obey the thin ice signs and exercise caution at all times on pond ice. When in doubt, stay off the ice.

Always use the "Buddy" system and never venture out alone.

Mark your fishing holes with a flag or small branch – for safety and consideration of others.

Ice derbies will be held throughout the winter months and often on very short notice. If you want telephone notification of scheduled derbies, please leave your name and number with Stan Gibbs. The derby dates will be posted on the website and the Bulletin Boards at the club.



**WOFGPA Executive and Committee Chairs  
wish its members all the joys of the holiday season  
with good health and prosperity in 2024.**

## PLEASE PATRONIZE THE BUSINESSSES THAT ADVERTISE WITH WOFGPA

### HALL RENTALS

Did you know that the WOFGPA hall can be rented for your next "special" occasion for a very reasonable price?

The hall has a maximum seating capacity of 80 persons, which makes it just the right size for a small wedding reception, bridal and baby showers, your next meeting, anniversary party, family reunions and get-togethers, Christmas party and birthdays.

The hall is available to members or their families to get together after the passing of a loved one. In certain circumstances, a special reduced rate may apply. Members receive a discount on rentals which occur on Friday or on a Saturday night only. Professional bar service is offered in the wet bar.

The club hall is not available for Stag and Doe parties, engagement parties or outdoor wedding photoshoots.

Please contact Barb Smith to discuss hall availability and rates.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

The Executive is evaluating each function to determine if it can be safely held. Details of these functions will be posted on the club website, the bulletin boards and in the newsletter. Please check these locations frequently.

Sat Dec 9	Breakfast with Santa
Thurs Dec 14	General meeting
	Turkey Roll
Thurs Dec 21	Executive Meeting
Mon Dec 25	Christmas Day
Tues Dec 26	Boxing Day
Sun Dec 31	New Years Eve

Thurs. Jan 11	General Meeting
Thurs Jan 25	Executive Meeting

Be an active member of WOF & GPA and reap the all the benefits this club has to offer and not be just a "name" on a committee list.

Watch for details of upcoming event in your newsletter, check the bulletin boards and the club website.

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Nick Robertson - owner



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