

JANUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER



790 Southdale Road
London, Ontario N6E 1A8
681-2370

January 2010

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

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 General meeting	12	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Family Day (STAT holiday)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Executive meeting	26	27
28						

**KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP VALID TO AVOID BEING ON A WAITING LIST TO REJOIN WOF&GPA
OBSERVE POSTED ICE CONDITION SIGNS AND STAY OFF UNSAFE ICE**

**Western Ont. Fish & Game Protective Association
Executive & Committees for 2009 - 2010**

President

Stan Gibbs

1st Vice President

Don Colborne

2nd Vice President

Jim Morrow

Secretary

Teresa Couture

Treasurer

Steve Couture

Directors

Brian Ernteman

Lawrence Lainchbury

Past Presidents

Bill Rodrigues

John Manvell

Onsite Managers

Russell & Sheena Fralick

Worm Machine

Steve Couture

Committees

Entertainment

Karen Anderson (Co-Chair)

Teresa Couture (Co-Chair)

Valerie Grahl

Sylvia Lewis

Pat Lockery

Myra Rodrigues

Barb & Richard Toner

House

Don Colborne (Chair)

Alex Duffitt

Tony Dukic

Don Finch

Jack Gerrard

Lawrence Lainchbury

George Maudsley

Howard Pearcey

Walt Seleski

Gord Spotton

Grounds

Steve Couture (Chair)

Brian Ernteman

Don Finch

Howard Pearcey

Walt Seleski

Bob Smale

Ponds

Stan Gibbs (Chair)

Tony Dukic

Brian Ernteman

Don Finch

Walt Seleski

Bob Smale

Welfare

Tom & Shirley McGill

Boat Racks

Jim Morrow (Chair)

Membership

Valerie Grahl

Newsletter

Teresa Couture

Lawrence Lainchbury

Tree Carvers

Herman Szielasko

Howard Pearcey

Public Relations

Lawrence Lainchbury

Jim Morrow

Political & Environmental Research

Steve & Teresa Couture

Stan Gibbs

Lawrence Lainchbury

Jim Morrow

OFAH Representatives

Bill Rodrigues

Teresa Couture

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 & Minerals, its Waters, Forests, Air & Wildlife, & 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, can attend any of the meetings. Your input is highly valued and appreciated.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is presented at the General and Executive meetings, showing the accounts are in order. If you wish to receive a copy of the full report, please attend either of these meetings.



**There is no smoking in
the club at any time.**

The newsletter and up to date club information can be obtained on our website at www.wofgpa.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With a new year just over the horizon, I like to reflect on all of our times, most of them quite enjoyable that we had at our club this year.

As most of you already know, our event calendar is quite full. It usually starts in January with the planning of making ice rinks, planning Ice fishing derbies and getting ready for the upcoming elections. There is also a Tackle Swap to plan, clean up work parties, Karaoke's, more fishing derbies, fund raising ventures to consider, dinners, euchres and barbeques. This is only a small portion of what we do at our club to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

As I have mentioned before it takes many dedicated volunteers to maintain the level of service that is provided at the Club for you. I would like to thank Don Colborne and all the volunteers who assisted with the Christmas tree setup and sales. Don will be providing an update on the tree sales at the next meeting. He spent many hours multitasking behind the scene to make this venture successful. Kudos on a job well done Don. Herman Szielasko came up with the idea last year to make wreaths, which could be sold on the Christmas tree lot. Herman's idea generated additional funds for the club. I would like to thank Herman for training his "staff" of volunteers in the correct method of making real wreaths. Thank you very much Herman.

Once again, I am asking for your help. If you are interested in a certain aspect of our Club's operation, please get involved. If you can spare a few hours, call one of the committee chairs and offer your services. Every little bit helps.

Alex Duffitt (519-200-6452) and Andre Koch (519-685-5725) are trying to organize a dart league at the club. The size of the league and the night chosen for darts will be dependant on the number of players. If you are interested in starting a WOFGPA Dart league, please contact either of these two men for more information.

If there is something that you would like to see at the club, please let us know. It is always refreshing to have additional input from the members.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010.

Yours in conservation

Stan Gibbs

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If you know of a member or their immediate family who could use some cheering up or has reached one of life's many milestones, please contact Tom and Shirley McGill who will gladly make contact on behalf of the club.  
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**PLEASE PATRONIZE THE BUSINESSES
THAT ADVERTISE WITH US**

ELECTIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010

7:30 PM

(Following a short General Meeting)

This notice is to advise all Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association members that the Annual Executive and Committee Elections for the 2010 – 2011 term will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

Note:

- All positions will be for a one year period, covering March 11, 2010 through until the next election, which will be held on the second Thursday in March 2011.
- Nomination forms may be delivered to the club by Wednesday, March 10, 2010, in a sealed envelope addressed to -

Teresa Couture

Secretary – WOF&GPA

RE: Election Nomination

- All nominated members must be present on election night to accept their nomination

OR

provide a written acceptance delivered to the Club Secretary on or before election night.

- All membership fees must be up to date on election night. Please have your valid membership card with you. (The one-month grace period for membership renewal will not apply).
- One vote shall apply per membership, regardless of the membership type.
- An updated membership list will be available for viewing at the club after February 28, 2010.

The Election each year is a very important part of this organization. Our members' input and participation into the election process is necessary to keep this organization viable and accountable to its members.

Get involved and strive to make Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association in London, Ontario the very best that it can be.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

You may obtain your valid membership sticker when you pay your membership renewal at any meeting or through special arrangement with Stan Gibbs only. **DO NOT MAIL YOUR PAYMENT OR LEAVE IT WITH THE CARETAKERS.**

As a member, if you do not have a valid card displayed, you should expect to be asked by any other member to stop fishing and that you must leave the premises immediately. Any non-members caught fishing on club property are subject to prosecution for both trespassing and poaching. Observe your fishing limits, which are determined by your membership type and record your catch in the Fish Registry Logbook.

DANGER – THIN ICE

When the latter part of December arrived, the temperature started to fall and ice has formed on the pond. **The pond ice is currently very unsafe to venture out on**, as it is still early in the winter season. Here are just a few reminders about ice safety:

- A windmill, located on the west side of the pond by the front dock has been installed to aerate the water. There are buoys marking the location of the aeration pipes. **We anticipate that this area may stay as open water or may have a very thin ice covering. Please keep well away from this area by at least 50 feet, as it will never be deemed safe to support any weight, including your pet’s weight.**
- A minimum of four inches (10 cm.) of clear ice is necessary to support the weight of a person. Additional ice thickness is needed if you are with a group
- The ice conditions will be posted and monitored regularly
- Stay off any unsafe ice. Stay off the ice if you are unsure of the current ice conditions.
- Always use the “Buddy” system and never venture out alone
- Obey the thin ice signs and exercise caution at all times on pond ice. When in doubt, stay off the ice.
- Mark your fishing holes – for safety.

Ice derbies will be held throughout the winter months and often on very short notice. Unfortunately, this short notice does not always allow for the members to be notified by newsletter. If you want to know about upcoming derbies, please leave your name and number with Stan Gibbs and check the Bulletin Boards and website regularly.

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**BOAT RACK AGREEMENTS**

A notice was put in the November and December newsletters for all members who have a boat or canoe in the Boat Rack to reconfirm their boat rack agreement. It is very surprising that a number of members have neglected to do so.

**It is mandatory that all persons with a boat or canoe at WOFGPA must reconfirm their Boat Rack Agreement immediately.**

Arrangements must be made by contacting Jim Morrow at 519-649-2405 or by seeing him at a meeting.

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The WOFGPA newsletter is a great place to advertise as the newsletter reaches over 225 member families and publicly on our website each month. The price is very reasonable. If interested in placing or you would like more information, call Teresa at 519-668-6257 (evenings) or by email at tcouture@gapenviromic.com

FOR THE RECORD

Well another super year for Christmas tree sales has come and gone. And thanks to our great team of volunteers it has been the best year ever.

In a nutshell and all inclusive, this year some 83 members volunteered over 1200 hours to our biggest fundraiser. Truthfully, such dedication is almost unheard of in many clubs. Twenty-six helped for the set-up, Forth-three helped unload the transport even though it was over 2 hours late, sixty-two handled all the sales for 25 days and in the end, eight came out to put the trailer, canopy, signs and last few things back to normal.

A special thanks to Stan for taking the ‘big step’ this year, to get rid of our old wood pallets, then design and assemble (primarily with George Maudsley’s help) our new ‘no-nails’ tree stand system. A terrific improvement!

Hats off to Herman Szielasko for his super idea, dedication, enthusiasm and many other superlatives I could mention. After winding down his tree carving for the season, Herman went full swing into the wreath and swag manufacturing business. Herman and his number one elf, Bob Smale, along with a lengthy list of lesser elves, actually made and sold over 80 wreaths and swags in the three-week period (even selling a few trees in the mornings before we were officially open). I understand from Herman that the best is yet to come, he’s already thinking of next year’s big business! Thanks Herman, Bob – two thumbs up!

Special thanks to Teresa Couture for putting me onto the source for our new tree bags this year. They are the best ever, a big hit with our sellers and customers. Thanks also to those of you who willingly filled in for emergency shift coverage when needed.

And finally, since the list is far too long to mention individual names, thanks to everyone for such a successful year. It has made my job that much easier and we couldn’t do this fundraiser without you.

I wish you all the best for the year to come. I’ll now revert back to my usual crusty but effervescent self until the next winter.

Don Colborne
1st Vice President

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Please visit our website and let us know what you think about it and how we can improve it. All feedback from the membership is welcomed.

Our website is [www.wofgpa.org](http://www.wofgpa.org).

This website contains our club history, updated information about functions; links to other groups, a photo library and of course our newsletter. If you have photos of the club, which you would like to share, please contact us.

## TURKEY ROLL

On Thursday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> many members, their families and guests attended the annual Turkey Roll at WOFGPA. The winners of a 5 kg. turkey were: Todd Stewart, Brian Logie (x2), Bonnie Earle, Don Turner (x2), Ron Dennis, Grace Sanders, Alex Duffitt, Gary Carew, Brian Allen (x2), Gord Spotton, Bill Smith and Jim Graham. The winners of the door prizes were: Ron Dennis, Don Colborne, Neil Moore, Dan Efford, Brock Reichstein, Brian Ernteman, Mike Steele, Brian Allen, Alex Duffitt, George Maudsley, Tony Dukic, Gord Spotton and Marian Colborne.



## EUCHRE

This function is open to members as well as non-members. The next euchre will be held on Sat. January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. Progressive euchre is a fun filled evening with good company, good cards and a lot of laughter. The games are open to both members and non-members.

The card games begin at 7:30 pm SHARP so please arrive anytime after 6:45 pm for a bit of socializing first. The cost is only \$ 5.00 per player. You do not need to have a partner or a foursome to play as your place will continually change throughout the evening.

There is a light snack served during the break and door prizes at the end of the evening.

A donation of a door prize or dessert is always welcome.

Hope to see everyone there.

### WOFGPA Merchandise is available again!

We have some items in stock for immediate purchase while some items may need to be ordered.

|                                        |          |
|----------------------------------------|----------|
| Jackets with embroidered crest         | \$ 40.00 |
| Hooded fleece sweatshirt with crest    | \$ 30.00 |
| Caps with embroidered crest            | \$ 12.00 |
| Toques with embroidered fish crest     | \$ 10.00 |
| T-shirts with embroidered club crest   | \$ 13.00 |
| T-shirts with silk-screened club crest | \$ 10.00 |
| Lanyards / key fobs                    | \$ 5.00  |

All taxes are included in the price.

To place an order, call Tom McGill at 519-652-2875. Don't delay and get some WOFGPA merchandise for yourself or as a gift for that special someone.

## FIREARMS AND HUNTER SAFETY COURSES & SAFE BOATING

If there is sufficient demand, extra courses will be scheduled. For more information and dates for the next course contact:

Paul General  
905-765-4627  
[pgeneral@sixnations.ca](mailto:pgeneral@sixnations.ca)

Member discounts, OFAH and additional family member discounts are available.

Discounts cannot be combined.

All courses held at: Western Ontario Fish & Game

At each General Meeting you attend, you will get a ballot per membership for the free one-year membership draw. The draw is held annually on Election night as one of the first duties of the new President. Come to a General meeting and get your name on a ballot.

At each General meeting, a draw is held. The winners of the December General meeting draw were: Todd Stewart (WOFGPA Toque), Dave Howard (snowbrush) and George Maudsley (\$30 Swiss Chalet certificate). Congratulations Todd, Dave and George.

Visit our website at [www.wofgpa.org](http://www.wofgpa.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS / FUNCTIONS AT A GLANCE

Ice fishing derbies will be scheduled according to ice conditions on the pond. The newsletter can't notify often members. Please leave your name and number with Stan Gibbs if you wish to be notified of a derby by phone. Derby dates will also be posted at the club on the Bulletin Boards.

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Thurs. Jan. 14  | General meeting               |
| Sat. Jan. 23    | Euchre                        |
| Thurs. Jan. 28  | Executive meeting             |
| Thurs. Feb. 11  | General meeting               |
| Sun. Feb. 14    | Valentine's Day               |
| Mon. Feb. 15    | Family Day (STAT holiday)     |
| Thurs. Feb. 25  | Executive meeting             |
| Sat. Feb. 27    | Euchre                        |
| Thurs. March 11 | General meeting and Elections |

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