

MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER



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

March 2006

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

April 2006

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



Boating Safety Courses

Canadian Coast Guard

Accredited

Courses Include course instruction, testing and Canadian Coast Guard Pleasure Craft Operators Card (Course and testing takes approximately 4 hours)

For more information and dates for the next course contact:

Phil Gingrich (519) 668-1130

phil.gingrich@sympatico.ca

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/phil.gingrich>

Firearms and Hunter Safety Courses

These courses are offered once a month through February, March, April, May, September, October and November. If there is sufficient demand, extra courses are scheduled.

For more information and dates for the next course contact:

Emad Hazboun 519-685-7496

emadhaz@hotmail.com

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/phil.gingrich>

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

Discounts cannot be combined.

All courses held at: Western Ontario Fish & Game, 790 Southdale Rd. E. London

WEAR YOUR MEMBERSHIP BADGE AT ALL TIMES

Poaching is a serious problem. Anyone not visibly wearing a valid membership card should NOT be fishing in WOF & GPA water. If you see anyone fishing with no visible card, ask to see proof of valid membership. **If you do not have a valid card, you should expect to be told that you must leave the premises immediately.**



**Western Ont. Fish & Game Protective Association
Executive & Committees**

President

Stan Gibbs

1st Vice President

Don Colborne

2nd Vice President

Tom McGill

Secretary

Teresa Couture

Treasurer

Steve Couture

Immediate Past President

Ron Earle

Directors

Lawrence Lainchbury

Gord McCurdy

Past President

Gloria McRonal

Onsite Managers

Russell & Sheena Fralick

Committees

Entertainment

Karen Anderson

Teresa Couture

Jim Douglas

Bonnie Earle

Cindy Gibbs

Valerie Grahl

Pat Lockery

Gord McCurdy

Myra Rodrigues

House

Don Colborne

Jim Douglas

Tony Dukic

Ron Earle

Lawrence Lainchbury

Grounds

Steve Couture

Don Finch

Bill Lippold

Jim Morrow

Gary Carew

Ponds

Steve Couture

Don Finch

John Manvell

Tom McGill

Herman Szielasko

Welfare

Bonnie & Ron Earle

Boat Rack

Stan Gibbs

Gary Carew

Membership

Valerie Grahl

Newsletter

Teresa Couture

Lawrence Lainchbury

Public Relations

Lawrence Lainchbury

Political & Environmental Research

Steve Couture

Ron Earle

Stan Gibbs

Lawrence Lainchbury

OFAH Rep

Bill Rodrigues

Teresa Couture

Safe Hunter Training & Boating Safety

Philip Gingrich

668-1130

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

Steve Couture presented the Treasurer's Report at the last meeting, showing the accounts are in order. If you wish to receive a copy of the full report, please attend either the General or the Executive meetings.



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

President's Message

March 2006

This past Sunday, we held our annual Ice Fishing Derby. It was a beautiful sunny, but cold winter day. Unfortunately, the trout were not very cooperative. Even with the slow fishing, I was impressed with the 40 or so anglers that came out to participate. The food was great and there were prizes for all that stayed. My thanks to all that worked so hard in the running of the event.

With this in mind, I would like to remind all our members that on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at our General Meeting we will hold our Executive Elections. As you can imagine it takes a lot of work and planning to run our Club. Please make an effort to attend this meeting and cast your vote or better yet get involved on a Committee or Executive if you qualify.

Yours in Conservation

Stan Gibbs

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The WOFGPA Executive and members send their condolences to Tom and Shirley McGill and their family after the passing of Shirley's mother in late March.

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If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, would like to update your email address, have an Item for Sale or an article to share with other members: contact Teresa Couture by phone at 668-6257 (evenings) or by email at teresa.dodge@sympatico.ca

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Please remember to record your catch in the Fish Log Book located just inside the side entrance. Review the Fishing rules occasionally as a reminder of the catch limits allotted to each membership type. These rules are posted in the Fish Registry Room and just inside the main building. Happy angling.

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The newsletter can also be obtained online at www.wofgpa.org

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A MINIMUM OF FOUR INCHES OF CLEAR ICE IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE WEIGHT OF A PERSON. THE ICE CONDITIONS ON THE POND WILL BE POSTED. STAY OFF UNSAFE ICE. OBEY ALL THE POSTED SIGNS AND EXERCISE CAUTION AND COMMON SENSE. ALWAYS VENTURE ONTO ICE WITH A BUDDY AND NEVER ALONE.

**PLEASE PATRONIZE THE BUSINESSES THAT ADVERTISE WITH US.**

## EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006  
7:30 PM**

This notice is to advise all Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association members that the Annual Executive and Committee Elections for the 2006 – 2007 term will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 7:30 pm.

### Note:

- All positions will be for a one year period, covering March 9, 2006 through until the next election, which will be held on the second Thursday in March 2007.
- Nomination forms may be dropped off at the club by Wednesday, March 8, 2006, in a sealed envelope addressed to -  
Teresa Couture  
Secretary – WOF&GPA  
RE: 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 posted at the club after February 28, 2006.

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.

## ICE FISHING DERBY

Sat. Feb. 26th

Mother Nature came through once again and froze the pond so that forty anglers could try their luck. Although there were not many Trout caught, the weather was great for all to have a good time.



Tom McGill and Ron Earle figure out the winners

The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Kevin Ripley 120 cm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Mike McCormack 42.5 cm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Stan Gibbs 40 cm

50/50 – Mike McCormack



1<sup>st</sup> place Kevin Ripley and the catch of the day

It was great to see grandfathers and fathers with their young children ice fishing; another way of teaching children to keep interested in the outdoors and all that it has to offer.

Thank you to Tom McGill and Ron Earle for running this derby. Thank you to Jeanette Cronkwright for the great homemade soup and to Teresa Couture for getting the lunch ready.

One ice derby has been held with a second one planned for mid-March. If you want to be notified by

telephone of the upcoming derby date, please leave your name and phone number with Tom McGill at 652-2875.

Ice derby dates will be posted on the bulletin board at the club so remember to check it regularly.

~~~~~  
WOFGPA held its second Annual Tackle Swap on Sat. Feb. 18. It was a great success with about 250 people coming through the club to see the demonstrations and to pick up a bargain. Many thanks to Tri County Bass Masters and all those involved with organizing and running this event. Thanks also to all the other London clubs involved with demonstrations and displays for our guests.

This Tackle Swap was so popular that many members and their friends showed an interest in trying to get a table for themselves. Due to this demand, the Executive has set aside Sat. June 3 for a Fishing / Tackle Sale. The format will be similar to a garage sale. There will be a fee charged per table. The next newsletter will contain more details so mark your calendar.



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Winners of the Feb. 26 Euchre:

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| High Man:        | Ron Earle             |
| High Lady:       | Mickey Eggett         |
| Mystery Man:     | Dave Jefferies        |
| Mystery Lady:    | Darlene Hawley        |
| Most Lone Hands: | Ken Lockrey           |
| 50/50            | Bill Lewis - \$ 27.00 |

The next Euchre will be on March 25, 2006. The final Euchre of the year will be April 29 (Pot Luck).

The games start at 7:30 pm SHARP (arrive anytime after 6:45 pm to ensure you get a seat to play). The cost is only \$ 5.00 per player.

Progressive Euchre is a fun filled evening with good company, good cards and a lot of laughter and is open to everyone. You do not need to have a partner or a foursome to play as players move around throughout the evening. There is a light snack served during the break and door prizes at the end of the evening

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If you attend a general meeting and complete a ballot, your name is entered to win a one-year membership. **Only one ballot per membership per month is allowed.** The draw is held in March of each year, immediately following the elections.



Jigg's Dinner

The 2006 – 07 Executive members will serve the members and their guests a dinner of corned beef and cabbage, roast beef, potato and veggies, roll, salads, deserts, tea or coffee.

Date: Sat., April 1, 2006

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

\$ 10.00 Adults

\$ 5.00 Child (under 12)

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Teresa Couture at 668-6257 (evenings) or from her at a meeting or a function.

If you can bring a salad or desert, please call Teresa and let her know as soon as possible.

The tickets sell out very quickly so do not delay. This evening was sold out last year!

BOAT SAFETY COURSE

Wed., March 22, 2006

6:30 pm start time

Phil Gingrich is offering a boat safety course at the club on March 22, 2006. He provides all instruction, course materials and the test. Upon passing, he will issue your Safe Boating card.

It will soon be the law that all boaters, jet skiers and watercraft operators must have taken this course and provide proof by showing their card when requested.

Our club President, Stan Gibbs, could not stress more how important it is for everyone (both water craft operators and passengers) to know boat safety and how it relates to you.

The course runs from 6:00 till 10:30 pm. **The cost is \$ 40 for members and \$ 45 for non-members.**

To enroll in the course, call Phil at 668-1130 or email him at phil.gingrich@sympatico.ca

Remember to mark Wed., March 22, 2006 on your calendar once you are registered with Phil.

**On Olden Pond
Chapter 4
By Jim Morrow**

Sidney is one of the ugliest and most dangerous creatures you will ever meet. Sidney is a snapping turtle. He lives under a piece of wood that I have heard those big creatures call, plywood. Do not ask me how I can understand them when they talk, but I learned somehow. One day, I saw Percy the Perch gobble down a worm that the big creature offered him; all of a sudden Percy got hauled off to this long floating hunk of wood they call a dock. Poor Percy, they stuck a chain in his mouth and left him dangling in the water. You will not believe what happened next! Sidney the Snapper sidled up to Percy and chomped him in half. It was horrible. It is a good thing turtles do not eat as often as us fish and it is a good thing Percy has many cousins.

Harry and Helen are a sight to behold. When they spread their wings over the water, they are usually after Ferdinand the Frog. Harry and Helen are of course Great Blue Herons. They usually don't fly together but they will each patrol one side of the pond or the other. Sometimes Harry will sit on his perch on the north side of the pond and watch Kirk the Kingfisher dive for his food. He very rarely misses his target.

I was watching Sebastian and Sofia Squirrel scampering around together looking for food this morning. They are so playful together. They are so agile and they keep jumping from branch to branch and from one tree to another. I fear they will fall and hurt themselves but they never seem to have an accident. I notice that Terrance the Turkey laughs at them scampering all over the place. You do not see Terrance very often. He usually hides in the bushes. The odd time you will see him strutting around showing off his feathers. He is proud of himself.

Well here comes Tessie again so it is time to look for some food. See ya later.

Toby

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Please send any submissions or items to sell to Teresa Couture at [teresa.dodge@sympatico.ca](mailto:teresa.dodge@sympatico.ca) or drop it off in person at a meeting or leave it with the caretakers, Russell and Sheena Fralick

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Draw prizes available at each General Meeting. The winner of the February General Meeting draw was Paul Polischuk, who won a tackle box. Congratulations Paul!

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WOFGPA would like to thank Paul Polischuk for donating a heated / vibrating back support for next month's draw.

## HOW TO CATCH AND RELEASE

If you leave a hook in a fish, will it eventually rust away as many anglers believe? Many anglers believe that if they just cut the line, the hook will eventually rust out of the fish. This belief is widespread because many anglers think there is no harm to the fish. This is false.

Many fish have been found with rotted stomachs that are full of holes from the tips of the hooks because the angler just cut the line and left the hook deeply embedded in the fish.

Here are some numbers that will make you think twice about leaving that hook in. John Foster, recreational fisheries coordinator for the Maryland District MNR held bass in holding tanks containing 50 percent seawater to measure how long it takes hooks to dissolve. He used seawater to speed up the dissolution process. What he discovered is amazing.

After four months, not a single stainless steel hook had dissolved. Bronze hooks did the best but 70 percent were still in the fish. Eighty percent of the tin-cadmium hooks were still there. Eighty three percent of the nickel hooks were still in the fish.

Here are a few simple steps to help remove that deeply embedded hook successfully:

1. Open the fish's mouth and note which gill flap the hook shank is closest to.
2. Gently open that gill flap and, using your thumb and index finger, reach in through the space between the last gill filament and the fish's side. Carefully pull the hook eye through the opening and rotate the hook so the bend becomes exposed and begins to back out of the fish's throat.
3. Continue rolling the hook and, amazingly, you will feel the point and barb slip free inside the fish's stomach and begin to slide out of the fish's throat.
4. Depending on the size of the fish and its mouth opening, use your finger, a pair of pliers or forceps to grab the bend of the hook once it has fully exposed.
5. Lift the hook free.

This technique takes some practice but once mastered, an angler will truly be doing catch and release.

Pictures showing this technique with step by step instructions will soon be available in the club (mail slots by the washrooms). Feel free to take one and keep it in your tackle box. Once you master the technique, teach other anglers so that all fish will be released successfully.

Excerpted from "Off the Hook" by Gord Pyzer, Outdoor Canada magazine, 2004.



## Easter Breakfast

**Date:** Sat., April 15, 2006

**Time:** 9 am till 11 am

**Cost:** \$ 3.00 for Adults  
\$1.50 - Child under 7

For a very reasonable price, you can have a club-cooked breakfast of bacon, eggs, hash browns, toast, juice and coffee. The children can participate at the Craft Table while the adults enjoy their coffee. The Bunny will be handing out an Easter goody bag to each child.

Children, young and old, can have fun creating a special Easter craft while the rest of the adults enjoy their coffee and tea after eating a great breakfast. There is no charge for the children to do their crafts at the club.

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FOR SALE

Asking \$ 150 for a free standing "Valor" fireplace. For more details or to see the fireplace, contact Stan Gibbs (evenings) at 668-2609.

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## WOF&GPA WEAR

Time to start outfitting yourself and your family in our fashionable WOF&GPA Wear. High quality gear and goodies at a great low price.

|                                                        |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Lined jacket with embroidered Club crest               | \$ 45.00 |
| Lined jacket with embroidered Club crest and your name | \$ 49.00 |
| Tee shirts with Club crest                             | \$ 10.00 |
| Hooded sweatshirt with Club crest                      | \$ 28.00 |
| Polar Fleece jacket with crest                         | \$ 30.00 |
| Ball hats with embroidered Club logo                   | \$ 12.00 |
| Toques with embroidered crest – navy only              | \$ 12.00 |
| Club embroidered patch crest                           | \$ 5.00  |
| Lanyard                                                | \$ 5.00  |
| Key chain                                              | \$ 5.00  |

**To purchase items call Tom McGill at 652 -2875.**

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>George Bray Sports Association Inc</b><br/> <b>A Hockey Program for Children with Special Learning Needs</b><br/> <i>A Parent Participating Non-Profit Organization</i><br/> <b>Murray Howard, President</b><br/> 2 Jutta Cr.<br/> London ON N6E 3R2<br/> Phone: 685-3392</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:murrayhoward@execulink.com">murrayhoward@execulink.com</a></p> <p><i>Serving the Community since 1968</i></p>                    | <p><b>Investors Group Financial Services, Inc.</b></p> <p><b>Audrey Dakin, CFP</b><br/> Financial Consultant</p> <p><b>Peter Dakin</b><br/> Consultant</p> <p>Call for a complete Financial Review<br/> (519) 686-1402</p> <p><a href="mailto:peter.dakin@investorsgroup.com">peter.dakin@investorsgroup.com</a><br/> <a href="mailto:audrey.dakin@investorsgroup.com">audrey.dakin@investorsgroup.com</a></p> | <p><i>A.E.A.</i><br/> Anderson Entertainment Agency</p> <p><i>John Anderson</i><br/> 600 Southdale Rd E<br/> London, ON N6E 4A6</p> <p>(519) 685-9217<br/> <a href="mailto:aeamusic@aol.com">aeamusic@aol.com</a></p>         |
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