
WESTERN ONTARIO FISH AND GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION INC.

790 Southdale Road
London, Ontario N6E 1A8
Phone 519-681-2370

The Club is located on the north side of Southdale Road just east of Wellington Road in London.



Established 1875

**Encourage Conservation
Protect the Environment and the
Natural Resources**

www.wofgpa.org

- OUR PLEDGE -

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

- OUR PURPOSE -

- 1) To promote true sportsmanship by the protection, breeding, propagation and conservation of game & fish.
- 2) To obey the fish and game laws of Ontario.
- 3) To promote reforestation and conservation.
- 4) To maintain a club and lake for the accommodation and enjoyment of the members, their families & friends.

- OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS -

Seven directors and seven chairpersons, who are elected by the membership annually, administer the club. The club also has resident managers to address hall rentals, take membership applications and to address any concerns of the members.

- AFFILIATIONS -

The club is affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Close liaison is also maintained with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment, as well as other local conservation groups.

- RENTALS -

The Clubhouse and facilities are available to responsible groups or individuals at reasonable rates.

- MEMBERSHIP -

Membership is available to all persons who are interested in the aims and ideals of the club. Membership fees are moderate and can also include membership in the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters for an additional charge. Members may store personal watercraft (non-gasoline powered) on site.

Family	\$135.00 per year
Single	\$115.00 per year
Senior Citizen	\$110.00 per year
Youth **	\$70.00 per year
Plus a one-time Initiation fee of \$10.00	

Boat Rack Position \$25.00 (first year)

- ACTIVITIES -

Family Day	Fishing Derbies
Socials	Fishing Trips
Boating	Euchre
Sport Shows	Tackle Swap
Fish stocking	Senior's Visitation
Hunter Education and Safety Courses	

- NEWSLETTER -

A monthly newsletter is sent to each member so that they are made aware of current and upcoming activities. Visit www.wofgpa.org for copies of the newsletter.

- OUR HISTORY -

The Western Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association is "Canada's Oldest Conservation Club" and was founded in 1875. The first club executive for which there are records is found in Goodspeeds' *History of the County of Middlesex*. An officer traveling with Lt. Gov. Simcoe in 1793 on a trek to Windsor documented the unique character and features of the area.

The original founding members' purpose was to create an organization where sportsmen could meet and share a common love of the outdoors. The club property is located within the boundaries of the City of London. It offers a unique natural area featuring many bird species, a spring-fed freshwater pond and numerous species of fish and game. The original property was purchased in 1910, with additional acquisitions in 1925 and 1946. The total acreage on the property is 13.8 acres including a 9-acre kettle lake ("the pond"). The Association was incorporated in 1954.

- THE PROPERTY AND LAKE -

The 9 acre kettle lake was formed by ice which left depressions during the melting of the glaciers about 14, 000 years ago.

A survey in the 1980's indicated the presence of 232 species of birds, 22 species of mammals, 12 species of amphibians and 7 species of reptiles found in the area. The pond and surrounding conservation lands offer a stop over for many migratory birds as well as ideal conditions for nesting species. Unique vegetation, often found much further north,

can be found in this area as a result of the glacial retreat. Some of the species found are Pitcher plant, Leather leaf, Tamarack, Orchids and Ferns. Tree species include a variety of Maples, American Elm, Red and White Oak, Shagbark Hickory, Basswood, Cherry and Flowering Dogwood are found in the northern limits of the Carolinian forest. In total, 757 plant species have been identified in the Westminster Ponds area, some of which are very fragile. The Shoreline Restoration area located along the water's edge and to the east of the clubhouse was planted with native species of this area in order to stop erosion from occurring.

Throughout the years, the pond has been known by many names such as: Tumbleson's Pond, South Walkers Pond, Lukings Pond and the Fish & Game Pond. The pond contains Bass, Black Crappie and many types of sunfish. It is routinely stocked with Rainbow Trout when water temperatures permit. This variety of fish provides club members and their guests with many leisure hours of angling. The club also sponsors many fishing derbies throughout the year, which are open to the public. A membership limit has been implemented to ensure that the pond is not over fished.

In 1925, a bathhouse and boathouse were constructed and served the members until 1946. At that time, two war surplus army huts were moved to their present site. The two huts were joined and with many renovations throughout the years, it has become the clubhouse.

In 1948, a 75-foot rifle range was constructed in the basement. The range was dismantled and all firearms permanently removed from the property.

The club has offered Safe Hunter training since 1957 to its members and the public. The *Galerucella* beetle, which eats only Purple Loosestrife, was successfully introduced to control this invasive exotic plant species around the pond and neighbouring ponds.

- ACTIVITIES -

Throughout its 132-year history, the club has depended on the efforts of its volunteer members. The club is also affiliated with many other organizations in the area and has worked on joint ventures to ensure that its conservation objectives are met.

Liar's Night was started by members of WOFGPA. Family Day is one of the activities that has been held each year since the 1960s for members and their families. Fishing derbies, including a Children's Only derby, are regularly held in all seasons throughout the year. Over the years, a few residents of the Dearness Home have been invited to come and enjoy an afternoon of fishing with the assistance of members. Other functions held at the club include: Progressive Euchre games, Garage Sale, Tackle Swap, Jiggs Dinner and Breakfasts at Easter and Christmas.

The main fundraiser for the club is the Christmas Tree Sales in December. A variety of short and long needle, fresh cut trees are sold by the member volunteers to the public for a very nominal cost.

Excerpts from *Delaware and Westminster Townships: Honouring Our Roots*. The Westminster Township Historical Society, 2006.