

Activities

Throughout our history, we have depended on the efforts of our volunteer members. With the support of our volunteers, we are able to offer many events for our members to enjoy.

Fishing/Sports

Fishing Derbies

(Trout, Bass, Ice Fishing, Kid's Only and Ladies Only)

Fishing League

Tackle Swap

Fishing Trips

Fish Stocking

Safe Hunter Education and Safety Courses

Social Events

Progressive Euchre

Card Nights

Jiggs Dinner,

Easter Breakfast

Breakfast with Santa

Youth Activity Day

Yard Sale

Community Partnerships

In 1958, the Dearness Home residents were invited to W.O.F.G.P.A. to enjoy an afternoon of fishing. This partnership continued for many years.

Occasionally, St. Joseph's Health Care London uses our facilities to assist with the rehabilitation of a few of their patients who are involved with the Brain Injury Clinic and Physiotherapy Clinic.

The London Fire Department Water and Ice Rescue Team use our pond to improve their rescue training skills. This training is done at various times throughout the year.

Christmas Tree Sales

Our main fundraiser is the Christmas Tree Sales, held in December. A variety of short and long needle, fresh cut trees are sold by our volunteer members to the public for a very nominal cost.

Rentals

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

Membership

Membership is available at a moderate fee to all persons who are interested in the aims and ideals of W.O.F.G.P.A.

Family

Single

Senior Citizen

Student

(in addition to family membership, only available to students 16-18 years of age)

Sponsored Youth

(in addition to sponsor's membership)

Boat Rack

On site boat rack space (when available) is offered to members for a maintenance fee. Boats must be non-gasoline powered.

Newsletter

A monthly newsletter is available to each member to communicate information regarding current and future activities and events. Visit www.wofgpa.org for copies of the newsletter.

WESTERN ONTARIO FISH AND GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (W.O.F.G.P.A.)



Established 1875

*Encourage Conservation
Protect the Environment
and the Natural Resources*

*We are located on the
north side of Southdale
Road, just east of
Wellington Road in
London*

**790 Southdale Road
London, ON
N6E 1A8
519-681-2370**

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 and friends.

Officers and Directors

W.O.F.G.P.A. is administered by five officers and two directors; they are elected annually by the membership. There are resident managers to address hall rentals and on-site situations.

Affiliations

A close liaison is maintained with the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment. We also work with other local conservation groups on joint ventures to ensure that their conservation objectives are met.

Our History

The Western Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association is "Canada's Oldest Conservation Club." It was founded in 1875 and incorporated in 1954. The first Club executive for which there are records, can be found in Goodspeeds' *History of the County of Middlesex*. An officer travelling with Lieutenant Governor 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, share a common love of the outdoors, and socialize. Popular social events included: monthly dances and card games, the annual Family Day, and a highly publicized event known as "Liar's Night." Some of these activities continue to be popular and are still offered at W.O.F.G.P.A.

The original property was purchased in 1910, with additional acquisitions in 1925 and 1946. During that time, a bathhouse and boathouse was constructed and served the members until 1946. Two war surplus army huts were purchased, joined together and after many renovations throughout the years, became the clubhouse. In 1948, a 75 foot rifle range was constructed in the basement and in 1957, Safe Hunter training courses were offered to the members and general public. The range was dismantled in 1993; Safe Hunter training courses are currently still offered.

The property offers a unique natural area featuring many bird species, a freshwater pond and numerous species of fish and game. The total acreage on the property is 13.8 acres including a 9 acre kettle lake, known as "the pond." Throughout the years, the pond has been known by many names such as: Tumbleton's Pond, South Walker's Pond, Luking's Pond, Fish and Game Pond, Fisherman's Pond, and Nixon's Pond. The 9 acre kettle lake was formed by ice which left depressions during the melting of the glaciers about 14,000 years ago.

Due to our unique geographical location, we are host to a mixture of vegetation species. Some are only found in the northern regions of Ontario, while others are found in the southern states in the Carolinian forest.

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. In total, 757 plant species have been identified in the Westminster Ponds area, some of which are very fragile. The Galerucella beetle, which eats only Purple Loosestrife, was successfully introduced to control this invasive exotic plant species around the pond and neighbouring ponds.

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.

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. The pond contains Bass, Perch, Catfish, Carp and many types of pan fish. 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. We also sponsor 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.