

# JANUARY 2021



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

## January

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

## February

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	16	17	18	19	20 Tackle Swap
21	22	23	24	25 Executive Meeting	26	27 euchre (cancelled)
28						

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

**Western Ont. Fish & Game Protective Association  
Executive & Committees for 2020- 2021**

**Executive**

**President**

Stan Gibbs 519-668-2609

**1st Vice President**

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

**2nd Vice President**

Joe Isenor 519-691-7510

**Secretary**

Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

**Treasurer**

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

**Directors**

Jeanette Jurasek 519-685-0237

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

**Past President**

John Manvell 519-455-3627

**Committees**

**Entertainment**

Teresa Couture (Chair) 519-668-6257

Mary Degan 519-438-8104

Valerie Grahil 519-453-0659

Jeanette Jurasek 519-685-0237

Andre Koch 519-685-5725

Julie Thursby 519-473-5506

Diane Waite 519-685-7393

**House**

Lawrence Lainchbury (Chair ) 519-681-7199

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

Bert Smit 519-472-5624

**Grounds**

Henry Van Eerdewijk (Chair) 519-432-4239

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

**Ponds**

Stan Gibbs (Chair) 519-668-2609

Brian Allen 519-668-1908

Rod Cameron 519-685-1377

Jim Graham 519-681-0975

Joe Isenor 519-681-4301

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

George Maudsley 519-681-6429

Doug Springer 519-680-2599

Bob Thursby 519-473-5506

Diane Waite 519-685-7393

**Welfare**

Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

**Boat Rack**

Don Colborne 519-686-9559

**Membership**

Valerie Grahil 519-453-0659

**Newsletter**

Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

**Fundraising**

Andre Koch 519-685-5725

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

**Youth Committee (Adult Mentors)**

Jeanette Jurasek (Chair) 519-685-0237

Autumn Ernteman 519-453-3641

Andre Koch 519-685-5725

**Club Merchandise**

Andre Koch 519-685-5725

**Website Administrator and Public Relations**

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

**Political & Environmental Research**

Steve & Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

Stan Gibbs 519-668-2609

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

**Wreath Brigade**

Stan Gibbs 519-668-2609

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.



Cigarette smoking is not permitted within 5 metres of all club entrances. Smokers are asked to use the containers provided for cigarette butt disposal. Cannabis use and vaping is not permitted anywhere on club property.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

It is very important that you send any and all changes in mailing address, email or phone number(s) to Val Grahl (Membership Committee). WOFGPA will not be responsible if your membership lapses due to incorrect contact information.

All membership renewal notices will be sent electronically. Renewal notices will be mailed only to those persons without an email on file. Please bring your notice with you when paying your membership dues. Mailed payments are not acceptable. Any late payment will not be accepted and you will no longer be considered a member in good standing. If you choose to rejoin the club, your name will be added to the waiting list which is currently has over 250 names on it and an estimated 4 to 5-year wait time.

**THE PROVINCE IS CURRENTLY IN GREY LOCKDOWN STATUS UNTIL JAN. 23<sup>RD</sup> AND THIS DATE COULD BE EXTENDED. THE CLUB IS CLOSED AS IT IS A NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS. THE WASHROOMS WILL BE OPEN FOR ANY ANGLERS WHO COME TO THE CLUB. THOSE MEMBERS WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS DUE IN JANUARY, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE CLUB ON A SCHEDULED MEETING NIGHT. YOUR NAME HAS BEEN NOTED AND YOU WILL BE INFORMED BY EMAIL WHEN NORMAL BUSINESS RESUMES TO PAY YOUR DUES. AT THIS TIME, THE GRACE PERIOD IS GRANTED ONLY TO MEMBERSHIPS WHO RENEW IN JANUARY.**

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Real Christmas Spirit

As everyone knows, we are in the middle of a very stressful time. The Coronavirus pandemic has affected all aspects of our normal life. Especially at this time of year some folks find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

I would like to share with you a real feel-good story that pertains directly to our club and its members. Every year we try to help out those in need by organizing a food and toy drive for the Salvation Army Hamper program. This year, the pride I have for this club and its members reached a new high. During the course of our very short Christmas Tree sales, our club collected and donated over \$2000.00 worth of food and toys to the program. The generosity of our members and customers blew me away.

A big thanks go out to a few of our members who spent many hours shopping and obtaining donations from many sources. I'm sure that our efforts were appreciated, and there should be more families out there that can enjoy this holiday season. Once again, I say that this club, its members and all that we stand for is the best club around.

I hope you had a Great Christmas, and I wish you all a Safe, Healthy, and Happy New Year!!

Yours in Conservation  
Stan Gibbs

### WELFARE

Many club members who aren't able to attend the club for meetings or fishing might welcome a quick call to say "Hello and what have you been up to?" This is especially important during the pandemic as many of our members venture outside or visit friends and family infrequently and would likely welcome a call.

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 thoughts and prayers are with Bev Miller-Smit and her family after the passing of Bert Smit on Dec. 7. Bert was an apprentice carver under the tutelage of Hermann Szielasko and their work can be viewed at the club. A plaque with Bert's name will go on the Volunteer Memorial Pergola when weather permits.

Our heartfelt condolences are with Rick Thompson and his family after the passing of his wife in December.

Our wish for healthier days is with Hermann Szielasko, George Maudsley and Tony Dukic.

### MERCHANDISE

NEW ITEM – Black mask with embroidered "fish" logo.

Cost is \$ 13.00 each or 2 for \$ 25.00. This item is in limited supply. Please contact Stan Gibbs about mask purchases.



The club has pens, lanyards, T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, toques, patch crests and key chains available in stock. Lined jackets with an embroidered club crest and your name are available as custom orders only. Custom orders can be placed at any time. Current selection includes larger sized hoodies and T-shirts (sizes up to 3XL).

Andre Koch can be reached at home by phone.

**ELECTIONS**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021**  
**7:30 PM**

This notice is to advise all Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association members that the Annual Executive Elections for the 2021 - 2022 term will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Note:

- All positions will be for a one-year period, covering March 11, 2021 through until the next election, which will be held on the second Thursday in March 2022.
- Nomination letters may be delivered to the club by Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 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 Teresa Couture (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.

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.

All members are encouraged to get involved and strive to make Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association in London, Ontario the very best that it can be.

**15th ANNUAL TACKLE SWAP**

DATE: Sat. Feb. 20, 2021  
TIME: Doors open at 9:00 am until 12:00 pm  
LOCATION: WOFGPA club hall and basement  
COST: No entrance fee

The annual Tackle Swap allows us to shake off those winter blues. You may also want to sell some of that old equipment you have lying around. Previous years have been a great success with many different clubs promoting their club's activities and selling different fishing/hunting related wares to the visitors.

Preregistration for a reserved table is mandatory. There is a nominal registration fee of \$ 15.00 for a table and reservations can be made by contacting Stan Gibbs. Tables will be assigned.

If you have anything to donate, please contact Stan as soon as possible.

**GUNS AND AMMUNITION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE**

**CHRISTMAS TREE SALES - 2020**

This has been an exceptional year for the club Christmas Tree Sale fund raiser. As Stan has already noted in a previous e-mail, from the arrival of our 900 trees on Nov. 25th to the last one leaving the lot on Dec12th. Our volunteers did their usual super good job.

Official sale started on the Friday when we sold over 80 trees. The next day, Saturday afternoon, we sold a record 117 trees on the 4-hour afternoon shift. Works out to be a tree going out close to every 2 minutes.

The Wreath group started their craft creations immediately on Wednesday when the trees arrived and by the end of sale they had crafted and sold well over 100 items.

No one can overstate the willing enthusiasm of our great gang of volunteers.

With this note, I want to send out my personal 'Thank You' to all the volunteers and spouses for their part in another great fund raiser for the club, in spite of all the virus inconveniences.

Special thanks going out to George Maudsley for his excellent assistance rounding up volunteers for the shifts. Last, but not least a big thanks to our Executive team who work so hard on the myriad of important details necessary to have a successful sale.

We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Stay safe, keep well next year and beyond.

Don & Marian Colborne

**POACHING**

Poaching is a serious problem. Only club members wearing their valid membership cards and their guests, are allowed to fish on the pond. If you see anyone fishing with no visible membership card, ask to see proof of valid membership. Club members who do not display their membership badge should expect to be told to immediately stop fishing. Non-members caught fishing on club property could be charged with trespassing and poaching.

**HONEY AND PURE MAPLE SYRUP  
FOR SALE**

For those who always purchased their honey and maple syrup from Don Parker at Euchre, Teresa Couture will be selling it on his behalf. Please call Teresa at home to arrange your purchase.

The cost is:  
Pure honey (1 kg) \$ 10  
Pure Maple Syrup (1 Litre) \$ 18

## DANGER – THIN ICE

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

A windmill has been installed to aerate the water with 2 buoys marking the location of the aeration stones which will be open water or 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.

The ice conditions will be monitored regularly but not posted. Please stay off any unsafe ice and remember that ice conditions vary from day to day. 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.

Do not break the ice away from the docks, use an auger or punch small holes. If the ice is continually broken away from the docks, this creates a hazard of thinner ice and makes it hazardous for anglers and skaters stepping off.

If there is a skating rink located near the main dock, please keep your fishing holes at least 15 metres away.

It is a good idea to have safety measures in place, carry a whistle and have ice picks on your person.

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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The event calendar for 2020 – 2021 is also available on the club website. Please be advised that all functions listed in this newsletter may be cancelled due to the government regulations.

If an event is cancelled, the President, Stan Gibbs will notify members by email. The cancellation will also be posted on the bulletin board at the club.

**Please note that some of our events have been cancelled. These include: Euchre, GBSA Hockey Day, Spring Fling.**

Fri. Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Thurs. Jan. 14	General Meeting (Closed to members. The Executive will hold this by Zoom.)
Thurs. Jan. 28	Executive Meeting
Thurs. Feb. 11	General Meeting
Sun. Feb. 14	Valentine's Day
Mon. Feb. 15	Family Day
Sat. Feb. 20	Tackle Swap
Thurs. Feb. 25	Executive Meeting
Thurs. Mar. 11	General Meeting & Elections
Wed. Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day
Thurs. Mar. 25	Executive Meeting



The Executive, the Directors and the Committee Chairs would like to wish all members and their families the good health, happiness and prosperity is 2021.



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