

MARCH 2025



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

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 General Meeting & Annual Elections	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27 Executive Meeting	28	29

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5 Post Election Dinner
6	7	8	9	10 General Meeting	11	12 Spring Clean up
13 Spring Trout Derby	14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday	19 Easter Breakfast
20 Easter Sunday	21	22	23	24 Executive Meeting	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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

**Western Ont. Fish & Game Protective
Association
Executive & Committees for 2024 - 2025**

Executive

President

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

1st Vice President

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

2nd Vice President

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Secretary

Jeanette Jurasek 519-685-0237

Treasurer

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

Directors

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Vito LoRusso 519-857-8240

Past President

John Manvell 519-455-3627

Committees

Entertainment

Jeanette Jurasek (Chair) 519-685-0237

Teresa Couture 226-224-6351

Mary Degan 519-438-8104

Valerie Grahl 519-453-0659

Darlene Keating 519-857-8915

Julie Thursby 519-473-5506

House

Lawrence Lainchbury (Chair) 519-681-7199

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Grounds

Lou Liberatore (Chair) 519-649-1988

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

Larry Hackman 519-657-5161

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Marco Liberatore 519-680-1222

Vito Lorusso 519-471-2114

Ken Mayer 519-808-0525

Jeff Murphy 519- 870-0049

Henry Van Eerdewijk 519-432-4239

Ponds

Stan Gibbs (Chair) 519-709-9413

Brian Allen 519-668-1908

Rod Cameron 519-685-1377

Ron Dennis

Joe Isenor 519-681-4301

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Doug Springer 519-680-2599

Bob Thursby 519-473-5506

Welfare

Teresa Couture 226-224-6351

Boat Rack

Don Colborne 519-686-9559

Membership

Valerie Grahl 519-453-0659

Newsletter

Teresa Couture 226-224-6351

Merchandise

Marco & Angela Liberatore 519-680-1222

Fundraising

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

Youth Committee (Adult Mentor)

Jeanette Jurasek 519-685-0237

Club Merchandise

Please see the Executive at any meeting or function

Website Administrator and Public Relations

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Political & Environmental Research

Steve & Teresa Couture 519-668-6257

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Wreath Brigade

Stan Gibbs 519-709-9413

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed or are you just content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings, mingle with the flock or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along or are you just satisfied to say that you belong?

Do you ever voluntarily help to make things run so slick or leave the work to just a few and talk about their clique?

Come often to our meetings and help with hand and heart, don't just be a member. Take an active part.

Think this over member, you know right from wrong. Are you an active Member or do you just belong?

With our elections being this month please be an Active Member, come out and exercise your democratic right!

Yours in Conservation
Stan Gibbs

WELFARE

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 condolences to Vito and Simone Lorusso and their family after the passing of Vito's mother Maria at the end of January.

FAMILY DAY ICE FISHING DERBY Mon. Feb. 17, 2025

It was a beautiful day after the storm the day before. A total of 67 anglers were out trying their luck.
Thank you to all who came out to make this day a success.

The winners of the day were:

Adult Division

1st John Fitch 55.5 cm

Youth Division

1st Mason Craftchick 30 cm

Largest catch of the day

Heather Demelo 22 cm (Crappie)

50/50 draw Mike Small \$ 105.00

ELECTIONS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025
7:30 PM**

This notice is to advise all Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association members that the Annual Executive Elections for the 2025 - 2026 term will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

Note:

- All positions will be for a one-year period, covering March 13, 2025 through until the next election, which will be held on the second Thursday in March 2026.
- Nomination letters may be delivered to the club by Wednesday, March 12, 2025, in a sealed envelope addressed to -
Jeanette Jurasek - 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 Jeanette Jurasek (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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

You must attend either the General or Executive meeting to pay your dues. These dates are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm, before the meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

The new membership rates (effective July 1, 2023) are:

Family	\$ 170.00
Single	\$ 150.00
Senior	\$ 145.00
Boat Rack	\$ 60.00

There seems to be confusion as to the grace period permitted to pay dues. If your renewal date on your renewal notice is March 1, 2025, then your membership period ran from March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025. Your membership will lapse at the end of March 2025, which is the one-month grace period permitted. At the end of the grace period, your name will be removed from the membership list. If you choose to rejoin the club, your name will be added to the waiting list.

If you need special consideration regarding payment of dues, contact Val Grahl before your membership lapses. If you

must pay dues, please attend prior to the General or Executive meeting each month, held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. WOFGPA will not be responsible if your membership lapses due to incorrect contact information on our files. The club will accept cheques, debit, and credit card payments but not e-transfers. Mailed payments and late payments will not be accepted and will be returned to you. The caretakers, Ray and Barb will not accept membership renewals.

POST ELECTION DINNER **Sat. April 5**

It is a WOFGPA tradition, that the new Executive body serves dinner to club members and their guests. Dinner is at 6 pm with cocktails at 5:30 pm. Your meal consists of Garden salad with Balsamic or Blue Cheese dressing, Herb roasted chicken, potato and mixed vegetable, assorted tarts, tea or coffee.

The ticket cost is \$ 30.00 each and are available in limited supply. For more information and to purchase your tickets, please speak with Jeanette Jurasek or come to one of the meetings in March.

The deadline for getting your tickets is Thurs., March 27 (Executive Meeting).

GBSA HOCKEY DAY **Sat. Feb. 16**

Due to a terrible winter storm and bitterly cold temperatures, this day had to be cancelled for the Junior teams of GBSA, who were hoping to experience a great Canadian tradition of a game of pond hockey.

CLUB MERCHANDISE

The club is now loaded with plenty of new swag for its members, family and friends. This is the club's 150th anniversary so come and get your collectable swag.

Blue zippered hoodies	\$ 55
Blue sweaters	\$ 30
Blue, long sleeved T-shirts	\$ 30
Blue, short sleeved t-shirts	\$ 20
Blue Hoodies	\$ 40
Ball caps	\$ 15 - \$ 35
Winter Toques	\$ 15

Some items can be custom ordered such as jackets with name for an additional cost. Please see Marco or Angela Liberatore at any meeting or function.

APPLIANCE REMOVAL AND SCRAP METAL PICKUP

For those aged 55 and over, I will remove any unused appliances at no cost if the appliance is already outside. I will charge only half price of \$ 35.00 if the appliance is inside. I will also remove any scrap metal that you have. Please call me to discuss the details and pricing

Tom Carriere
519-520-0767

SPRING TROUT DERBY **Sun. April 13**

Members are NOT allowed to fish on the morning of a derby, including before the derby starts. After the derby ends, members may fish the pond with their daily catch limit determined by their membership type.

DATE:	Sun., April 13	
TIME:	Register at 7:30	
DERBY:	8:00 till noon	
COST:	Members & non-members	\$ 25
	Youth (12 and under)	\$ 15
	Gentleman's lunch	\$ 8

The derby rules will be provided at registration. Only those anglers participating in the derby will be allowed to fish during the derby. All fish caught during a derby do not count towards the member's daily limit.

With your registration, you will receive a light lunch and will be eligible to win one of many door prizes available. Prizes are awarded to the winners in both the Adult and Youth divisions.

Dates have been set aside for Trout stocking. Once the dates are confirmed, notice will be posted on the Bulletin Boards

EASTER BREAKFAST **Sat. April 19 from 9 – 11 am**

Come out for a great, club-cooked breakfast consisting of sausage, pancakes, beans, toast, juice, tea or coffee.

\$ 10	Adults
\$ 6	Children aged 5 – 10
No cost for children under 4	

SAVE THE DATE

Our club, the Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association is celebrating 150 years this year.

We have some exciting events coming so mark your calendars. Full details will follow in the newsletter and on the website as the date of the event gets closer.

Ice Cream dates

Ice cream with lots of toppings will be available on select days which will coincide with Ontario Free Fishing dates.

June 28th – Family and Friends Day (pre-register mandatory by June General Meeting)

This free event will run from 11 till 4 pm and is open to club members, their families and guests. It will be a fun filled day with games, BBQ, cotton candy and popcorn, bouncy castle, temporary tattoos and many groups coming with displays. The Youth Activity Day will not be held on this date.

Aug. 23rd – Adults Only Event (pre-register by Aug. Sat. Aug. 9th). This event is limited to the primary member and one guest only.

This event will begin with dignitaries coming to help WOFGPA acknowledge the 150th anniversary and to bury a time capsule. The dignitaries will include representatives from MPs office, Mayor's office, news, MNRF, London

Police Services and London Fire Department, affiliated clubs and organizations. There will be a catered dinner, music from Tom Carriere and friends and will end with a Silent Auction Bonanza.

Make sure that you pre-register for these events as an accurate head count is needed to get supplies.

SPRING CLEAN UP

**Sat. April 12
8:30 start**

Lou Liberatore and the Grounds Committee have organized a spring clean up day. The grounds will need to be spruced up after the cold winter. Please bring a rake if you have one. Gloves and refreshments will be provided.

ICE FISHING

Please stay on the docks to fish until the ice has completely formed and is at least 10 cm. thick. Use caution when walking on the docks.

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. When in doubt, stay off the ice. Always use the "Buddy" system and never venture out alone. It is a good idea to have safety measures in place, carry a whistle and have ice picks on your person.

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 always 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. It is best to leave your pet at home.

Do not break the ice away from the docks, use an auger or punch small holes. At no time should anyone use club brooms or shovels to break the ice for fishing. 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 the docks.

Mark all holes with a small branch or flag.

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

If ice derbies are planned, it will be last minute notice and dependant on ice conditions. If you wish to be informed of these derbies, please contact Stan Gibbs.

HALL RENTALS

Did you know that the WOFGPA hall can be rented for your next "special" occasion for a very reasonable price?

The hall has a maximum seating capacity of 80 persons, which makes it just the right size for a small wedding reception, bridal and baby showers, your next meeting, anniversary party, family reunions and get-togethers, Christmas party and birthdays. Professional bar service is offered in the wet bar.

The club hall is not available for Stag and Doe parties, engagement parties or outdoor wedding photoshoots.

Please contact Barb Smith to discuss hall availability and rates. The hall is available to members or their families to get together after the passing of a loved one. In certain circumstances, a special reduced rate may apply. Members get discounted rates on Friday and Saturday evening rentals and not on hourly rate rentals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Details of these functions will be posted on the club website, the bulletin boards and in the newsletter. Please check these locations frequently.

The event calendar for the 2025 – 2026 year should be available soon.

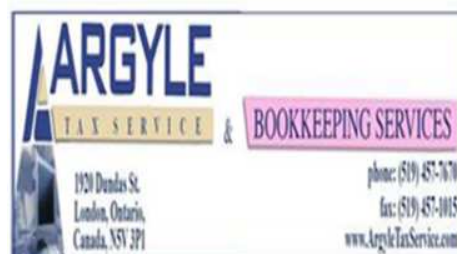
Thurs Mar 13	General meeting
Thurs Mar 27	Executive Meeting
Sat Apr 5	Post Election Dinner
Thurs Apr 10	General Meeting
Sat Apr 12	Spring Clean up
Sun Apr 13	Spring Trout Derby
Fri Apr 18	Good Friday
Sat Apr 19	Easter Breakfast
Sun Apr 20	Easter Sunday
Thurs Apr 24	Executive Meeting
Thurs. May 8	General Meeting
Sat May 10	Ladies Only Derby
Sun May 11	Mothers Day
Mon May 19	Victoria Day
Thurs May 22	Executive Meeting

Be an active member of WOF & GPA and reap the all the benefits this club has to offer and be not just a "name" on a committee list. Volunteers with a common purpose are the core reason why the club has existed for nearly 150 years.

Watch for details of upcoming 150th Anniversary events in your newsletter, check the bulletin boards and the club website.



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519-685-5748



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www.rghuxleyjewellers.com/
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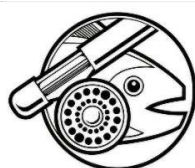
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Dan Colig

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1125 WELLINGTON ROAD SOUTH, LONDON, ON N6E 1M1

GIANT TIGER  **TIGRE GÉANT**

JOEL ST. ARNAUD
Store Owner

Tora London (Southvale) Ltd.
639 Southdale Road East, London, Ontario, N6E 3M2
Tel./Tél. 519 685 6987 Fax./Téléc. 519 685 9847
mgrstore135@gianttiger.com
www.gianttiger.com • www.tigregéant.com

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