

APRIL 2025



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

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4	5 Post Election Dinner
6	7	8	9 Trout Stocking	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			

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 General Meeting	9	10 Ladies Derby & Pancake Breakfast (tentative)
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Victoria Day	20	21	22 Executive Meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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

**Western Ont. Fish & Game
Protective Association
Executive & Committees for 2025 - 2026**

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

Angela Liberatore 519-680-1222

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

Steve Robertson 519-872-4671

Henry Van Eerdewijk 519-432-4239

Ponds

Stan Gibbs (Chair) 519-709-9413

Brian Allen 519-668-1908

Ron Dennis

Joe Isenor 519-681-4301

Murray Lane 519-681-8309

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

Steve Robertson 519-872-4671

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



WOFGPA Executive for 2025 – 2026 (left to right) John Manvell (Past President), Lou Liberatore (2nd VP), Marco Liberatore (VP), Stan Gibbs (President), Val Grahl (Membership), Lawrence Laichbury (Director), Jeanette Jurasek (Secretary), Vito Lorusso (Director) and Steve Couture (Treasurer).

Happy 150th Anniversary WOFGPA

It's a great time to be a member of the Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Assoc. It is hard to believe that our beautiful Club and its property had its start by a group of men that had a vision of a place to hunt and fish while looking after this special place in the Westminster Ponds area. Through the years we have had to adapt to the ever-expanding limits of the city and its growing population. To this day I think our members have continued all of the environmental values that our fathers had in a spectacular way.

Please pay attention to your newsletter for information on upcoming events to help celebrate this great time for our association.

One promotional idea we have to offer our members to commemorate this great year is Craft Beer by Upper Thames Brewer in Woodstock, and red and white wine from Summer Set Fine Wines. These items are available in limited quantities at cost pricing. Please contact myself or one of the Executive Body for availability.



The 150th Anniversary Committee is chaired by Stan Gibbs and Jeanette Jurasek. Members include: Val Grahl, Marco and Angela Liberatore, Lou Liberatore, Mike Masse, Lawrence Laichbury, Tracy McCaw, Ron Dennis, Teresa Couture, Darlene Keating and Frank Stepien.

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.

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 April 1, 2025, then your membership period ran from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. Your membership will lapse at the end of April 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.

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

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).

TROUT STOCKING
Wed. April 9th

Please come ready to get splashed. The stocking will happen around 11:00 am. Many hands are needed to transfer the fish to the pond in a timely manner.

As usual, no fishing is permitted from the back dock (stocking area) until Thurs., April 10th.

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

FISHING LEAGUE

Good day members.

Our fishing league is about start for the season. This is a great way to meet other members and get some great tips how to fish the many species of fish in our pond.

How it works: We meet at the club on Tuesday nights and be ready to fish at 5pm. This starts on the first Tuesday after our Spring Trout Derby, and concludes on the Tuesday before our Fall Trout Derby.

Attendance is not mandatory every night.

We assign five different species of fish for each night. (Perch, Trout, Sunfish, Black Crappie, and Bass when in season) (bonus points for carp, and catfish)

The biggest of each species is awarded points that are accumulated.

We fish until just before dusk at which time we do official measurements of fish caught. All fish lengths must be verified by another angler. We follow this with a lite meal usually consisting of hamburgers, hotdogs, or sausage on a bun. The winning angler will do the BBQ the following week.

All anglers pay \$20.00 up front for the meals throughout the season.

All anglers pay \$2.00 per night to fish, with half the proceeds going to the angler with the most points that night, and the other half goes into a fund for the Angler of the Year Award.

Points are also acquired if you finish 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any of our derbies that we run.

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.

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

LADIES ONLY DERBY
Sat., May 10th

Members are NOT allowed to fish on the morning of a derby, including before the derby starts.

After the derby ends, members may fish with their daily catch limit determined by your membership type.

PRE-REGISTRATION CUTOFF: Executive Meeting on Thurs., April 24th

REGISTER: 7:30 am until 9:00 am

TOURNAMENT: runs from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon

COST: \$ 25.00 Members & Non-members
\$ 15.00 Girls (age 12 and under)
\$ 8.00 Gentleman's lunch

The rules will be provided at the time of registration. The men are allowed to assist the ladies by helping her with the line should it become tangled or hooked, netting their fish, boat driving and making "Timmies runs". Men must not cast out or bring Trout in.

Volunteers are needed to assist throughout the morning and at lunch. If you are able to help, please contact Stan Gibbs as soon as possible.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sat., May 10

This event will be held only if there are not enough ladies pre-registered to hold the Ladies Only Derby. This decision will be made on April 24th Executive Meeting.

The details will be posted in the May newsletter and on the club bulletin board.

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 on June 11th.)

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.

Pre-registration is required. Please contact Val Grahl to confirm how many people will be attending.

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 by Thurs. August 5th by contacting Val Grahl.

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.

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 is now available and posted on the club website www.wofgpa.org.

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
Sat., June 7	Yard Sale
Thurs, June 12	General Meeting & BBQ Meat Draw
Sun. Junne 15	Father's Day
Thurs. June 26	Executive Meeting
Sat. June 28	Friends and Family 150 th Celebration (pre-register by June 12 th)

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.



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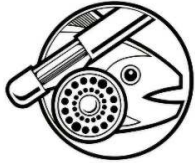


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GIANT TIGER



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