

JANUARY 2022



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

January 2022

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

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 General Meeting	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19 Tackle Swap (tentative)
20	21 Family Day – Stat Holiday	22	23	24 Executive Meeting	25	26 Euchre (tentative)
27	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 2021 - 2022**

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 Grahl 519-453-0659

Jeanette Jurasek 519-685-0237

Randy Keating 519-476-1916

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

Grounds

Henry Van Eerdewijk (Chair) 519-432-4239

Steve Couture 519-668-6257

Randy Keating 519-476-1916

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

Joe Isenor 519-681-4301

Randy Keating 519-476-1916

Lou Liberatore 519-649-1988

Lawrence Lainchbury 519-681-7199

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 Grahl 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a safe and happy Christmas. With the pandemic raging on, it has sure been a challenge to celebrate this time of year with much enthusiasm. The only saving grace is the fact that we can at least visit our friends and family via social media. I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

I realize that there are many restrictions in the public sector, however if you need a place to enjoy nature, our club remains open to members. The only restriction we have for outdoors is that only 4 persons on the docks at one time, and it is recommended that if you are with strangers please mask up. Our clubhouse is limited to 40 persons for meetings, double vaccination will be confirmed on entering and masks are required.

With the Ice fishing season close at hand I ask you to please bring your own tool for getting through the ice. Do not use our brooms and shovels as ice breakers. Remember if you are not sure of how to read ice conditions, do not venture on to it.

On a final note, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the volunteers who helped out with the Christmas Tree lot, the Wreath Brigade, and the Salvation Army Hamper Program. All these ventures were a great success. The tree lot and wreath project netted approximately \$14,000, and we donated about \$ 2,000 in product for the hamper program. Great Job!!!

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?" 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.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

For each General Meeting that you attend, you will receive a ballot for the free one-year membership draw. The draw is done each March during the Elections.

A monthly meeting draw is done following the General Meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

ONTARIO HUNTER EDUCATION & BOW-HUNTING COURSES

Emad Hazboun teaches these courses for a very reasonable cost. He offers a discount if you are a WOFGPA club member.

For more information and the starting date of the next course, please contact Emad by phone at 519-317-4132 or by e-mail at emadhaz@heafs.com or visit his website www.heafs.com

ELECTIONS THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 7:30 PM

This notice is to advise all Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association members that the Annual Executive Elections for the 2022 - 2023 term will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Note:

1. All positions will be for a one-year period, covering March 10, 2022 through until the next election, which will be held on the second Thursday in March 2023.
2. Nomination letters may be delivered to the club by Wednesday, March 9, 2022, in a sealed envelope addressed to -
Teresa Couture - Secretary – WOF&GPA
RE: Election Nomination
3. 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.

ATTENDING CLUB FUNCTIONS

The government has set out guidelines which must be followed by members and their guests when attending club functions. Each person attending an indoor club function must provide proof of full vaccination for covid-19. The club will retain this information and will not share with anyone unless a situation for contact tracing should arise. In this situation, it will be shared only with pertinent organizations.

All attendees must wear a mask or face covering at all times except when they are eating or drinking. During functions, it may be necessary to place families together and observe physical distancing limits.

Please stay up to date with all current government regulations with regards to Covid – 19 and the Omicron variant. If you exhibit any signs of illness, please self-isolate to protect further spread of the virus.

TREE SALES 2021

Another exceptional year for our Christmas tree sales.

Official sales started on the Friday Nov 26th when we sold over 70 trees, but this was just a fore-runner of what was to come the next morning. On Saturday morning, the reality of the tree shortage scare was evident by our customers when 140 trees sold in 4 hours.

Our volunteers did themselves proud, assisting buyers to pick the best tree, trimming, bagging and most often carrying to their vehicles. No doubt it's that kind of service that helps keep our customers coming back every year. Overall, in just 9 days plus two shifts, on Dec. 5th, our 855 trees were gone.

In addition, over \$ 3000.00 of wreaths and other crafted items were made and sold by our talented team of volunteers, headed up by Stan Gibbs and Angela Liberatore. Once again, our club has shown what a great bunch of volunteers we have when over 100 of our 275 primary members elected to help out this year in spite of the ongoing virus inconveniences.

Well Done and 'Thank You' to all the volunteers and spouses for their part in another great fund raiser for the club. Also, a big thank you to Lou Liberatore for his help with the many phone calls necessary for scheduling shifts. Last, but not least, a special thanks to our Executive Team, who do so much of the prep work, readying the grounds, lights, phone, trailer and so many other details to ensure a successful sale.

It takes a Team, and they prove we've got it!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe, keep well so we can do it all again next year.

Don & Marian Colborne

ANNUAL TURKEY ROLL Thurs. Dec. 9 (Following a shortened General Meeting)

What a great turnout we had for the Annual Turkey Roll, despite the covid limitations.

The winners of the Turkeys were: Shelley Noonan, Herb Lukings, Val Grahl, Murray Lane, Jeanette Jurasek (2x), Tim Locke and Robert Sharpe.

The winners of the Hams were: Randy Keating (2x) and Tracy McCaw.

The winners of the door prizes were: Paul Cuthbert, Tim Locke, Enoch Greenwell, Lawrence Lainchbury (2x), Don Colborne, Murray Lane, Adam Mohammed and Chris Goodchild.

The Christmas Breakfast with Santa was cancelled for this year due to the new Omicron variant of Covid-19.

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 April 1, 2021) are:

Family	\$ 160.00
Single	\$ 140.00
Senior	\$ 135.00

There seems to be confusion as to the grace period permitted to pay dues. Hopefully this will clarify things for everyone.

If your renewal date on your notice is January 1, 2022, then your membership ran from January 2021 through December 31, 2021. Your membership will lapse at the end of January, which is the one-month grace period permitted. At the end of the grace period, you are no longer a member in good standing and 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 which is currently has an estimated 4 year wait time.

It is very important that you send any and all changes in mailing address, email or phone number(s) to Val Grahl (Membership Committee). This can be done by telephone or contacting her through the club website. WOFGPA will not be responsible if your membership lapses due to incorrect contact information on our files.

All membership renewal notices are sent electronically. Only members without an email on file will receive a mailed notice.

The club will accept cheques, debit and credit card payments but not e-transfers on a scheduled meeting night starting at 7:00 pm. 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.

EUCHRE

The Euchre night scheduled for Sat Jan. 22 has been cancelled. Please watch the website, Bulletin board and February newsletter regarding upcoming Euchre nights.

MERCHANDISE

Black mask with embroidered "fish" logo. Cost is \$ 13.00 each or 2 for \$ 25.00. This item is in limited supply.

The club has pens, lanyards, T-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, toques, patch crests and key chains available in stock. Custom orders can be placed at any time. Current selection includes larger sized hoodies and T-shirts (sizes up to 3XL).

Lined jackets with an embroidered club crest and your name are available as custom orders only.

Andre Koch can be reached at home by phone. Any of the Executive body can assist you at any time.

CHRISTMAS TRINKETS



In the fall of 2010, the late Hermann Szielasko approached the club Executive about making real wreaths. He proposed that the trimmed branches that were tossed aside or given away each year, could be fashioned into wreaths and swags and sold for a profit to the club. Unused trinkets, balls, and ornaments could be used to decorated these wreaths. His enthusiasm for this venture was endless. This was the beginning of the Wreath Brigade.

How time has flown.

As you pack away your Christmas decorations, please do not toss out your unwanted items. The Wreath Brigade is always looking for small trinkets and trimmings to decorate wreaths next year. Anything is acceptable except for glass ornaments and lights. Donations can be left at the club or brought to a meeting.

Thank you in advance for your donations.



After angling a tagged Trout, President Stan Gibbs presents Gord Spotton with his prize.

Gord has added a 9 ft. 5 weight fly rod with case (plus some flies donated by John Ritchie and Ron Dennis) to his collection. Congratulations Gord.

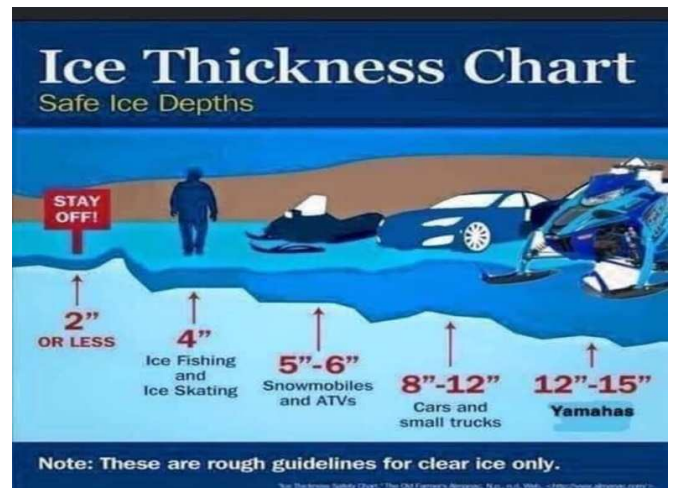
DANGER – THIN ICE

December weather has been unseasonably warm but colder days are ahead in 2022 and the ice 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. 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. 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 conditions permit, ice derbies may be held but on short notice. If you wish to be notified, please leave your name and number with Stan Gibbs.

16th ANNUAL TACKLE SWAP (This date is tentative)

DATE: Sat. Feb. 9, 2022 (tentative)
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

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.

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 receive a discount on rentals which occur on Friday or on a Saturday evening.

Professional bar service is offered in the wet bar.

Please contact the club caretaker, Barb at 519-681-2370 to get the low rental rates and availability of the hall.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ontario government had started to relax the covid-19 rules about gatherings and the Executive began actively planning many of the functions which have not been held since the pandemic started. Now there is a new Omicron variant of Covid-19 which is more transmissible. The Executive is evaluating each function to determine if it can be safely held.

Details of these functions will be posted on the club website, the bulletin boards and in the newsletter. Please check these frequently. In the event that there is a last-minute change, the President will send an email out to the membership.

Thurs. Jan 13 General Meeting
Sat. Jan. 22 Euchre (cancelled)
Thurs. Jan. 27 Executive Meeting

Thurs. Feb. 10 General Meeting
Sat. Feb. 19 Annual Tackle Swap (tentative)
Mon. Feb. 21 Family Day holiday
Thurs. Feb. 24 Executive Meeting
Sat. Feb. 26 Euchre (TBA)

Thurs. March 10 General Meeting and Annual Elections
Thurs. March 24 Executive Meeting
Sat. March 26 Euchre (TBA)

Helping out is also a great way for the new members to meet others in a relaxed and friendly setting when they aren't fishing. Be an active member of WOF & GPA and reap the all the benefits this club has to offer and not be just a "name" on a committee. If you wish to join the Executive Body, you must have served on a committee, so get involved. Please contact the Committee Chair to get more information or to join a committee at any time.

The club website is www.wofgpa.org

RULES/ REGULATIONS AND CONSTITUTION

If any members would like a copy of WOFGPA's Rules & Regulations or the its Constitution, please contact the club Secretary, Teresa Couture at couture.house@hotmail.com or by telephone.



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