

## JANUARY 2026



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 Years Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 General meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Executive meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 General meeting	13	14 Valentine's Day & Tackle Swap
15	16 Family Day (Stat) & Ice Derby (tentative)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Executive meeting	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 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

Tracy McCaw 519-438-8884

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

Frank Stepien 519-671-2334

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

Happy New Year!!

Well, another year has gone by, and it is time to say farewell to 2025. As most of you know 2025 was a very special year for our club, we celebrated 150 years of existence. Over the course of last year, we held and attended many events in recognition of this achievement. All these events took a lot of organization, preparation, and commitment from many members. I would like to express my appreciation to all the folks that worked so hard to showcase our great club. The effort makes me confident that with great volunteers that we have, we should be able to achieve another 150 years.

Job Well Done!!

Let's look toward 2026 with the same commitment and effort to continue on the same path.

I hope this year will be a happy and healthy one for all our members, their friends and families.

Yours in Conservation  
Stan Gibbs

## ELECTIONS THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026 7:30 PM

This notice is to advise all Western Ontario Fish & Game Protective Association members that the Annual Executive Elections for the 2026-2027 term will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:30 pm.

Note:

- All positions will be for a one-year period, covering March 12, 2026 through until the next election, which will be held on the second Thursday in March 2027.
- Nomination letters may be delivered to the club by Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 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

**NOTE: THE EXECUTIVE MEETING IN DECEMBER WILL BE HELD EARLY ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 AT 7:30 PM DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS.**

There seems to be confusion as to the grace period permitted to pay dues.

If your renewal date on your renewal notice is January 1, 2026, then your membership period ran from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Your membership will lapse on January 31, 2026, 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.

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

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

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. WOF&GPA 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.

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES SUMMARY

By all accounts our 2025 team of volunteers shared in producing one of our best Trees Sale ever. I expect Steve will have the financial report available at any meeting if you would like to see the details of the sale.

For my part, I want to express my personal 'Thanks' for the generous time you have volunteered for this sale. You have made my coordinating efforts so much easier than it might have otherwise been. Give yourself a pat on the back for me!

Here's a few details to bring this valuable fundraiser into perspective: just over 100 of our club's members have donated their valuable time to this great fund-raising project this year.

Their jobs entailed the following and too many others to detail:

- planning for and ordering of the trees
- tree lot set up: cleaning the grounds, set up the tree stands, lights and signs around the yard and at the road
- setup the sales trailer, canopy and electrical wiring
- collection of material for making wreaths and preparing the basement tables etc. for that endeavor.

- then the gang needed to unload the transport full of about 1000 trees and unwrapping of many to start the sale.

All this was followed by 23 days of sales: greeting customers, juggling trees for display, assisting wherever needed, so many odd jobs.

During the sale, the Wreath Brigade is busy making those beautiful wreaths, Charlie Browns and table toppers.

Nearing the end and following the sale, everyone is active to clean up and put everything away for next year. Not to forget our volunteer who spent so many hours making that excellent soup for shift change every day.

So, why do we do this big sale? We make just enough money on this project to pay for the fish put in the pond each year (now at \$6 per pound (live weight). Another reason is that enough money is raised to save about \$100 increase in membership fees for EVERY club member.

If you have contributed to volunteering this year, I personally thank you on behalf of the Executive for your valuable time.

Have a great New Year and hope to see you next fall for a rerun.

Don Colborne

### **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 Sylvia Lewis, her family and the Lockrey family after Bill's passing in early December following a short illness.

### **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.

### **GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Lou Liberatore is heading the Grounds Committee. He is asking that those interested in helping with the grounds come each Wednesday morning at 9:00 am.

The project will be announced each week. Many hands make light work.

### **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

### **ANNUAL MEETING DRAW**

For each General Meeting that you attend, you can complete a ballot for a free one-year membership (no cash value). The draw is done each year at the Annual Elections in March of each year.

### **ANNUAL TURKEY ROLL Thurs. Dec.11**

A great evening was had by all.

The winners of turkeys were: Larry Holtzman, Fred Manuel, Valerie Ruscio, Tim Locke, Bob Thursby, Adam Mohammed, Murray Lane.

The winners of the hams were: Christina Sims, Herb Lukings, Jeanette Jurasek.

Door Prize winners were: Janice Colborne (Farm Boy basket), Mike Small, Mike Masse  
The winner of the 50/50 draw was Lou Liberatore - \$ 120.

### **TRINKETS, RIBBON AND CHRISTMAS TRIM NEEDED**

As you pack up your holiday decorations, please consider donating no longer wanted items, except glass ornaments to the Wreath Brigade at WOFGPA. The club will gladly store these ornaments and trinkets until November 2026 when the Wreath Brigade will begin their magic creating beautiful wreaths. These items can be dropped off at the club or brought to any meeting or function.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**Angela Liberatore**

## 20th ANNUAL TACKLE SWAP

DATE: Sat. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
TIME: Doors open at 9:00 am until 1:00 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.

### GUNS AND AMMUNITION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE

### DANGER – THIN ICE

December temperatures have dropped and ice has formed on the pond. Please stay on the docks to fish until the ice has completely formed and is at least 10 cm. (or 4 inches) thick.

A windmill has been installed to aerate the water. There are buoys marking the location of the aeration stones. These two areas may stay as open water or will 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.

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.

The ice conditions will be posted and monitored regularly. Please stay off any unsafe ice and remember that ice conditions vary from day to day.

Obey the thin ice signs and 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.

Mark your fishing holes with a flag or small branch – for safety and consideration of others.

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.

## 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

The event calendar for the 2025 – 2026 year is available and posted on the club website [www.wofgpa.org](http://www.wofgpa.org). Details are also posted on club bulletin boards. Hopefully soon the updated event calendar for 2026 through 2027 will be completed and posted on the website.

Thurs, Jan. 8	General Meeting
Thurs, Jan. 22	Executive Meeting
Thurs, Feb 12	General meeting
Sat, Feb 14	Valentines Day
	Annual Tackle Swap
Mon, Feb 16	Family Day
Thurs, Feb 26	Executive meeting
Thurs, March 12	General meeting
	Annual Elections
Thurs, March 26	Executive meeting
Fri, April 3	Good Friday
Sat. April 4	Easter Breakfast
Sun, April 5	Easter Sunday
Thurs, April 9	General Meeting
Sat., April 11	Spring cleanup
Sun, April 12	Spring Trout Derby
Sat., April 18	Post Election Dinner
Thurs, April 23	Executive Meeting
Sat., May 9	Ladies Only Derby (tentative)
Sun, May 10	Mothers Day
Thurs, May 14	General Meeting
Mon, May 18	Victoria Day
Thurs, May 28	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.



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519-685-5748

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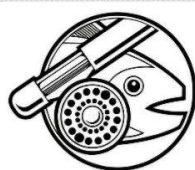
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