

DECEMBER 2025



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

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Breakfast with Santa
7	8	9	10	11 General Meeting & Turkey Roll	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Executive Meeting (early due to holidays)	23	24	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve			

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	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

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

Wow, what an amazing club we all belong to!

I am continually overwhelmed by the volunteer support our membership gives to this club. In all my time supporting different organizations, I have never seen such a commitment. Young and old alike, male or female, everyone pitches in to get the task at hand completed.

This was demonstrated: beyond all expectations ago when our members tackled the fall cleanup and tree lot setup. This task took most of Saturday with many volunteers. Later the same week, even more volunteers put their efforts towards the unloading, unwrapping, and stacking on the racks all the Christmas trees that we will be selling this year. As all this was going on another group of volunteers has been busy for a couple of weeks getting the wreath brigade organized. The weather has turned cold but the snow has held off. Unfortunately, this is just the start of a very busy season for all of us, so when I see the efforts put forward by all, I am truly amazed. Thanks to all who organized and worked on these ventures and also to those who will keep working until the last tree is sold and all is put away until the next time.

Donations of unwrapped toys may be left at the club or brought to the December General meeting.

In the spirit of the Holiday Season, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

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 condolences to Darlene Keating and her children after the passing of her father at the end of November.

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.

The winner of the monthly meeting draw was Bob Thursby (\$ 35.00). Congratulations Bob.

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

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 December 1, 2025, then your membership period ran from December 1, 2024 through November 30, 2025. Your membership will lapse on December 31, 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.

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. 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.

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.

WREATH BRIGADE

While the trees are being sold on the lot, the Wreath Brigade will be hard at work making and decorating wreaths, crosses and other novelties in the basement from all the donations received.

If you are able to assist with wreath making, please contact Stan Gibbs.

If you are able to assist with decorating, please contact Angela Liberatore.

Drop ins are always welcomed.

If you can come, please confirm with Lou Liberatore.

TREE SHIFT SCHEDULING

Don Colborne is the main contact for scheduling persons for tree shift selling.

The shifts last only a few hours and cover morning, afternoon and evening shifts.

Only one person is required to handle cash in the trailer per shift (training provided). Lots of help is needed on the lot to sell trees, trim and bag trees and help get the tree to the car or truck. This is especially true on weekends and after dinner hour weekdays.

There always seem to be a race to get assigned the best shifts so don't delay in contacting Don Colborne.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Sat. Dec 6

9:00 til 11:00 am

Come out for a great club cooked breakfast before the family heads to the tree lot to pick that perfect tree for this Christmas.

Santa will arrive for a visit with the children around 10:30.

Cost:

Adults \$ 10

Children \$ 6 (ages 5 to 10)

No charge for children aged 4 and under

ANNUAL TURKEY ROLL

Thurs. Dec.11

(Following a shortened General Meeting)

Once again, we are having our annual Turkey Roll with 7 turkeys and 3 hams to be won.

Refreshments, snacks and prizes will be available. Come out for a great social evening with lots of laughs, cards and good company. The cost of each ticket is \$ 1.00. Hope to see everyone there!

CHRISTMAS TIME SAFETY TIPS

Here are just a few reminders as you begin to decorate your home for the holidays.

Carefully inspect wires on light strands to make sure they are not cracked or broken. Throw away damaged or "suspect" lights. New LED lights are much safer than the "old" ones and very energy efficient. Do not overload wall sockets or extension cords.

Keep all real Christmas trees well-watered and away from heat sources and fireplaces. Trees will need a fresh cut on the trunk and should be put into water as soon as possible. Take your tree down when it starts showing signs of dryness as it is a fire hazard.

Did you know that tinsel, the sparkle glue and regular glue on many decorations are highly poisonous to animals? Keep your pets away from these items or refrain from purchasing them.

As tempting as it seems, do not feed your pet anything but their regular food during the holidays. Spend time with your pet. They are often overlooked and get stressed as we enjoy the festivities with family and friends.

Never leave candles, a fireplace or woodstove unattended for any length of time. A fire can become out of control in a few moments.

Have fun with family and friends and remember – DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE OR ALLOW YOUR GUESTS TO DO SO. There are many other options such as abstaining, having a designated driver, staying the night, taking public transit or calling for a ride home from taxi, Uber or friends.

DANGER – THIN ICE

December temperatures are beginning to drop and soon ice will be forming 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.



The Executive body and all Committee Chairpersons wish the members all the best during the holiday season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

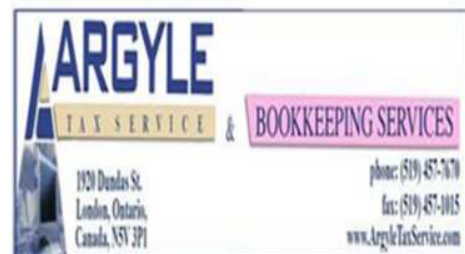
The event calendar for the 2025 – 2026 year is available and posted on the club website www.wofgpa.org. Details are also posted on club bulletin boards/

Sat Dec 6	Breakfast with Santa
Thurs Dec 11	General Meeting & Turkey Roll
Mon Dec 22	Executive Meeting (early due to holidays)
Thurs Dec 25	Christmas Day
Fri Dec 26	Boxing Day
Wed Dec 31	New Year's Eve
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

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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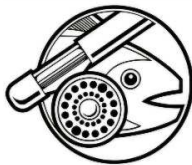
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Dan Colig

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Fax: (519) 681-4611

Email: ctc058gm@yahoo.ca

CANADIAN TIRE ASSOCIATE STORE
1125 WELLINGTON ROAD SOUTH, LONDON, ON N6E 1M1

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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

Established in 1961 - Établie en 1961