

FEBRUARY 2026



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

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 GBSA Pond Hockey Day	16 Family Day (Stat) & Ice Derby	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Executive meeting	27	28

March

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE
MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE**

Please take note that membership fees will increase by \$ 5.00 in each category, effective April 1, 2026.

The new rates will be:

Family	\$ 175.00
Single	\$ 155.00
Senior	\$ 150.00
Youth (16-18 Yrs)	\$ 75.00
Boat Rack	\$ 60.00 (unchanged)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Events, February/March

Good day members,

With the holiday season behind us, it is time to get ready for another busy time around our club. In February, we have three events that might interest you in coming out and enjoy our great Canadian winters. On February 14th we will be hosting our Annual Tackle Swap from 9am till 1pm. This is a great opportunity to pick up some great deals on fishing used and new fishing equipment, and other items for outdoor enjoyment.

On the 15th we will be welcoming hockey players from the George Bray Sports Association to participate in a mini hockey day on the ice. We will be serving a lunch for these folks, so if you are free come out and watch or help with the event.

On February the 16th we will be hosting our Annual Family Day Ice Fishing Derby. This event is open to all; there will be lunch and prizes after the derby ends at noon. This is all in thanks to our great sponsors, and volunteers at your club.

In March, our yearly Elections will be held at the General Meeting. This is a perfect time for you as members to come out and participate and maybe get involved with your club.

Hope to see you soon!

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 best wishes for healthier days are with Valerie Grahl and Ron Dennis as they recuperate at home following surgery.

**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.

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.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

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

If your renewal date on your renewal notice is February 1, 2026, then your membership period ran from February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026. Your membership will lapse on February 28, 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

**** There is a rate increase of \$ 5.00 effective as of April 1, 2026.**

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.

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.

20th ANNUAL TACKLE SWAP

DATE:	Sat. Feb. 14th, 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

GEORGE BRAY SPORTS ASSOCIATION POND HOCKEY DAY SUN. FEB. 15

Game times: 11:00 am
12:00 pm
1:00 pm

There will be a tented area outside for coaches and players only. Only players, coaches and referees will be allowed on the ice although spectators can watch from shore. Please dress for the weather.

Hot chocolate, hot dogs and soup will be served inside.

Volunteers are needed throughout the day.

FAMILY DAY ICE DERBY Mon. Feb. 16

What better way to spend Family Day than ice fishing on the pond with your family and friends.

The derby is open to the public and all are welcome.

Registration: 7:30 am
Derby: 8:00 till Noon
Cost: \$ 20.00 Adults
\$ 10.00 Youth aged 12 and under

Volunteers are needed throughout the day to assist with the meal and the derby.

POST ELECTION DINNER Sat., April 18

It is a tradition that the "old" Executive serve dinner to the "new" Executive, members and their guests.

Dinner is served at 6:00 pm with cocktails at 5:30 pm.

Tickets are available now from the club Secretary, Jeanette Jurasek for \$ 30.00 each. The tickets are in limited supply and are available now. Please see Jeanette at any meeting or function.

The meal for this year includes: herbed roasted chicken, roasted Pork with herb stuffing, herb roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, garden salad with Balsamic, ranch or blue cheese dressing and dinner rolls. Dessert is assortment of chocolate, lemon and pecan tarts.

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

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.

DANGER – THIN ICE

The 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. Details are also posted on club bulletin boards. The event calendar for 2026 to 2027 is available and posted on the website.

Thurs, Feb 12	General meeting
Sat, Feb 14	Valentines Day
	Annual Tackle Swap
Sun, Feb 15	GBSA Pond Hockey Day
Mon, Feb 16	Family Day
	Ice Fishing Derby
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.



676 Exeter Road – London
519-685-5748

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Nick Robertson - owner



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