



THE SPORTSMAN

“Conservation is Our Aim”



SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED
 P.O. BOX 264 OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO, N4K5P3
www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/
 Affiliated with the OFAH, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



Volume 35 No. 2 February, 2013



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,
 First Thursday of each month, October to June,
 September exception -> second Thursday

Presidents Message

Thursday
February,7 7:30 pm
AT THE CLUB HOUSE,

Well it hasn't taken us very long to get things started and involved for the coming year. Our ticket sales team has been down to the Toronto Boat show to promote and sell derby boat draw tickets. The March 2nd Conservation Dinner and 2013 Salmon Derby Committees are starting their regular meetings. During the month of February we will be selling the OFAH Lottery tickets at the center court of the Heritage Mall. Some of the fellows from the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Club were down to help us build 100 plus bird feeder boxes that the two clubs will cooperatively hand out from a booth at the Warton Willie Festival in February.

Shooting sports are active, even through the winter and 21 shooters were out for trap and skeet on January 13th.

At the January meeting Gord Hedges, a member, and his wife gave an interesting talk with slides about their experience for a week helping out with whale research at a site on the St. Lawrence River. You just never know what you can learn about at the meetings.

A new executive has been formed from the sixteen members voted in by the membership at the January meeting. At the first executive meeting,

January 24th this year, those sixteen people nominated, voted and appointed themselves to various positions and duties. This information will be in the next newsletter.

Mike Prevost

THE CLUB HOUSE is: on the Lincoln Park Road, in the township of Georgian Bluffs, or {082535 Side Road 6}, or {217567 Concession 3 Side road, behind Gord Maher Centre}

Disclaimer:



The editorial comments in this Newsletter do not always reflect the policies or opinions of the SSA.

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Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Mike Prevost
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 Bill Douglas
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 Scott Grimoldby
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 Corresponding Secretary: Geoff Ford

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 Brian Clements, John Ford,
 Wayne Gallagher, Chris Geberdt,
 Dave Hartrick, Jim Hastie,
 Al Hillis, John McNamara,
 Ron Robb, David Shipley

Newsletter: Dave Skelton
 Webmaster: Bruce Farrell
 Membership: John Ford
 Key Keeper: John Ford

Please inform John Ford if your address, phone number, or email changes!

JANUARY 2013 GENERAL MEETING DRAW WINNERS

Life jacket Scott Grimoldby
 Multi tool and hat Ken McMeekin
 Hatchet and hat Larry Fischer
 Hammer and hat Jim Cunningham
 Survival knife Mac Gamble
 Scissor set Ken McMeekin
 Folding knife Dennis Wiseman
 Fishing rod and reel Bill Douglas
 Pliers Garry Legate
 4 pack flash lights Bill Wattie
 Red tag spotting scope Gary Ricketts



Early Bird Membership Draw Winners---J Ford

At our January meeting two lucky members won the early bird draws.

First, Tim Lahey won the microwave oven and secondly, Wayne Gallagher was the winner of the free 2013 membership.

Next year, buy your membership early and get a chance at the early bird draws.



The SSA Gate Locks and Winter---J Ford

As some observant SSA members have already noticed, the gate locks at the entrance to the property and at the top of the hill have been removed for the winter season. However, we are unable to remove the locks on the handgun range and the high power range.

If you are a winter shooter and want to use those facilities, please have either a disposable cigarette light or some de-icer as those locks will likely freeze at some time.

Also, make sure that your 2013 dues are paid and you are wearing your SSA membership card with the 2013 sticker affixed on the back.

Volunteers - Thank you -

The Sydenham Sportsmen's Association would not function, if it were not for its many volunteers. Thank you to everyone that helps with our fund raising ticket sales, shooting range improvements, fish hatchery maintenance, wildlife projects, the Salmon Derby and the many other things that keeps our club going.

The SSA Executive



Selling OFAH Lottery Tickets

We will be selling the OFAH Lottery tickets at the Heritage Mall starting January 28th and ending on March 1st. This is another fund raiser for the club as we get \$ 6.00 form every book we sell.

This message is basically for any of you new or old members that have not been able to assist with this before but may be able to help out now.

We sell tickets in two or three hour shifts during the week and week-ends. We could really use some extra help, even for one shift.

Please contact me, **Mike Prevost** at **519-376-7368** or **mprevost@hotmail.com**

For those of you who have thankfully helped before I will be calling you again.



A man at a job interview is told that he has the job. He will be paid \$12,000.00 In six months, he will make \$20,000.

"Excellent"; said the man, "I will come back in 6 months."

An **Application Form** may be obtained by using the link below.

http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/2013-SSA-Membership_form.pdf

Just fill in the form, and mail to the address on the front page of this newsletter, c/o **John Ford**.

2013 SSA ELECTION RESULTS

by Murray Smart

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| Brian CLEMENTS | _____ | Bill DOUGLAS | __**__ |
| Terry FAULKNER | _____ | John FORD | __**__ |
| Wayne GALLAUGHER | _____ | Scott GRIMOLDBY | _____ |
| Jim HASTIE | _____ | Al HILLIS | __**__ |
| Doug MURDOCH | __**__ | Ron ROBB | _____ |
| Murray SMART | __**__ | Dennis WISEMAN | _____ |

Chris GEBERDT, Fred GEBERDT, Geoff FORD and Mike PREVOST are serving the last year of a two-year term from 2012 elections.

** INDICATES
FIVE CANDIDATES WITH MOST VOTES SERVING A TWO YEAR TERM
ALL OTHERS SERVING ONE YEAR TERM



Membership John Ford

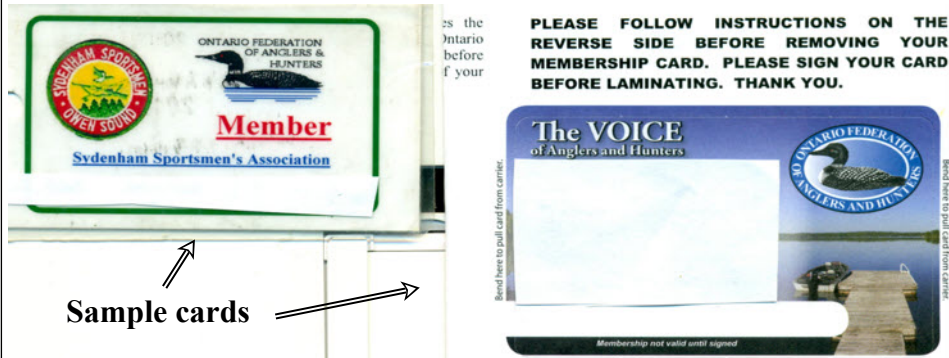
The 2 Different Membership Cards that You Receive

At various times, SSA members have been confused about the SSA membership card on the back of which you put the current year's sticker and the OFAH membership card which you receive each year.

First, the SSA card is laminated and you only receive one (when you first join). It is pictured on the left. This is the card where you affix the 2013 sticker. If you lose it, as has happened a few times, you will have to buy another at a cost of \$5.00.

On the other hand the membership card on the left is the OFAH card which is blue and has the title "The Voice of Anglers and Hunters" at the top. It also has your expiry date on it and your name. This is the card that you get new each year.

Hopefully, this will clear up any confusion about which card is which.



To All Button Collecting SSA Members— J Ford

As a result of being Membership Chair since the trees were very small, I have accumulated membership buttons from a number of years. I have saved 12 of each year and will have them at club meetings. If you collect these and are missing some, please look through the collection and help yourself.

Membership Fees Are Now Due!!--J Ford

Please remember that your 2013 membership fees are now due. The price is unchanged over the last 4 years. You are able to use the renewal form printed elsewhere in this newsletter with a cheque or your credit card information, or use the on line store on our website (www.sydenhamsportsmen.com)

For more SSA Pictures:

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/photoalbum/index.php>
<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/index.php>

Connect to the SSA website!

or
then click PHOTOS (left side)

S S A Renewal Form for 2013 (to be completed by 2012 members only)

Please take a moment to update your interests. If you send this with your payment or bring it to meetings, we can provide assistance for Committee Chairs in contacting workers.

If you have a rural address, Canada Post requires your fire number and road as well as your rural route.

Memberships are based on the Calendar Year (January until December).

Please use reverse for additional names, ages etc. for family memberships.

Membership Fees for 2013 are:

FAMILY (Adult, Spouse, Children)-\$ 125.00

STUDENT (Age 13-16 or in full time study; (no magazine)...\$40.00

ADULT (Individual).....\$100.00

JUNIOR (12 and under; no magazine)..\$35.00

SENIOR CITIZEN(Age 60 & over)..\$85.00

PROPERTY GATE KEY: \$5.00 (without last year's key);

SPOUSE: additional \$25.00

\$4.00 (with the return of last year's key)

Please circle the appropriate membership above.

(Magazine available for Juniors & Students for an extra \$8.00)

Note: If you have a computer with internet access and wish to receive your newsletter electronically, you will receive your newsletter in colour and save both the club and the newsletter chair considerable cost and effort. Please include your up-to-date email address below and place a checkmark here

NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **POSTAL CODE:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ (Juniors and Students only)

Wildlife Advisory Committee ___

Derby Committee--

Fishery Advisory Committee ___

Public Relations Booth ___

Shotgun Shooting ___

Hatchery ___

Tree Planting ___

Social Activities ___

Derby Weigh In ___

Board of Directors ___

Fishing ___

Turkey Shoots ___

Derby Fish Fries ___

Trap Shooting ___

Skeet Shooting ___

Sporting Clays Shooting ___

Cowboy Action Shooting ___

Handguns ___

Black Powder ___

Boat Draw Ticket Sales ___

Archery ___

Property Care ___

Wildlife Enhancement ___

Stream Work ___

Fish stocking ___

Hunting ___

Junior Activities ___

High Power Shooting ___

Pitch In ___

Fall Fair Gates ___

Computer ___

Other Interests (List Below)

Expertise (List Below)

Retired ___

Have ATT ___

Telephone Committee ___

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A STRONG AND VIABLE ASSOCIATION, ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE

IN AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. Please indicate which of the above activities are of special interest to you. This information is used in planning work parties, committees, etc.

If you would like to purchase your renewal by credit card, please enter the number and expiry date below.

Credit card number: _____

Expiry date: _____

Security code as it appears on the back of the Credit Card: _____



New Year's Day Frozen Finger Shoot

Thanks to those submitting material for this newsletter.

Anyone with articles for this Newsletter should get them to me by the 20th (or sooner) of the preceding month.

*Dave Skelton 519-376-9554
dskel@golden.net*

New Year's Day Frozen Finger Shoot

Twelve hardy souls made it out on New Years Day to participate in the inaugural Frozen Finger Shoot. While conditions were definitely cold, propane heaters, walking down to score targets and hot chili for lunch kept everyone warm enough to shoot. A variety of skill testing targets kept everyone entertained, although some thought white targets against a white background was more than challenging with iron sights!

Top shooter for the day was Chuck Cannon shooting a 30-30 Winchester '94, 2nd place went to Garry Willis shooting a Winchester 1885 in 38-55. In 3rd place showing that modern guns can shoot every bit as well as the classics was Rob Cameron shooting an SKS. All three individuals generously donated their winnings back to the club for range maintenance and improvement. Thanks to all the shooters that came out and a special thank you to Ray's wife for the excellent chili!

Shoot safe, shoot often! Peter Robson



Handgun Stew Wallace



If things go to schedule, there should be targets available at the range by February. I will put them in the flat, green box on the central bench. Your gate key will unlock the box. There will be plenty of targets available so please take only what you need for the day. The cost to the club is around five cents a piece and a donation is suggested to cover target costs and ongoing maintenance to the range. There are approximately eighty five ATT holders in the club now so the range is getting a lot of use and this shows a healthy future for the sport. The extra use also leads to increased maintenance costs , hence the request for donations to help keep the range in good shape.

The plastic screening has proved to be very successful in keeping the wind and snow out of the shooting area. Thanks Rob and Ken.

With the increase in interest in handgun shooting it may be time to set up some informal competition/games With in the members of SSA. If anyone has ideas/suggestions around that concept, please contact me and we'll kick the idea around.

Keep shootin', muzzle downrange !

Stew. Wallace swallace@bmts.com 519 794 4423

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6 kms. North of Springmount

Clubhouse Lights

When you are at the next meeting, have a look at the ceiling lights in the club house and in particular the long plastic covers for the florescent lights. You will notice that a number of them are missing. We are having a problem trying to find a supplier for new ones or any source to get some replacements. If anyone knows how to help us with that please contact President **Mike Prevost.** at mbprevost@hotmail.com

For a coloured version of this document,

Go to the SSA website at <http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/members/index.php>

New Life For Kilsyth Creek

submitted by Arnie Clark

I'd driven by Kilsyth Creek countless times over the years, but never gave the watercourse a second thought. It was always quite turbid and had the appearance of a glorified drainage ditch rather than the cold-water stream it really is.

It wasn't until the summer of 2010 that we, as in MNR biology staff and a handful of SSA members, took this creek seriously. We had been out on a hot, humid July afternoon electro-fishing on another local watercourse with MNR staffers, when we just happened to stop at the creek to check it out. Surprisingly, we discovered a mid-summer creek temperature in the low 50's (F). Now if you know anything about temperatures in a stream, you'll recognize that this temp. means one thing.... it's trout water, particularly for brookies. A decision was made that day to further investigate the stream to look at fisheries habitat, the source(s) of the creek and adjacent land uses.

We soon discovered why Kilsyth Creek is one of the major cold-water sources to the upper Potawatomi River. Not one, but four significant spring ponds feed the creek. We also found significant damage to the creek corridor and three of the four springs, which explained the high turbidity, from intensive livestock and horse access. It was more than obvious that this cold-water jewel, was seriously suffering from agricultural practises.

A plan was put into place. Under the direction of MNR staffer, Jason Ritchie, former coordinator of the Grey County Stewardship Forest Network, funding sources would be researched to finance fencing of the creek, install restricted watering sites and a tree planting effort along the stream's corridor. The SSA would begin the process of approaching landowners to explain the creek's environmental issues, and offer a restoration plan at no cost to the cooperating landowners.

Jason was successful in obtaining funding from a number of sources ... the Community Fish & Wildlife Improvement Program (CFWIP), the SSA, the Federal Government's Eco Action Fund, the Stewardship Network and the Alternative Land Use Services Program. Since considerable funding (\$16,000) was committed by the Federal Eco Action Fund, MP Larry Miller, took time out of his busy schedule to pay an on-site visit at the McConnell farm to learn more details about the project.



The SSA received overwhelming support for the project from the landowners ... the McConnell family (Albert & Keith), Guy Barfoot, Dr. Peter Kotzeff and Stephen Logan. Chub McComb, of Black Sheep Fencing, was retained to lay out and install the stream-side fencing and construct restricted watering sites as well as crossings for farming equipment.

After confirming all the funding, the project got underway in October 2012. Three of the spring sources (#1, 2 & 3), were excavated, and deepened by Chub. Increased spring discharge flows immediately resulted to the creek. Fencing of the corridor continued through October. Concrete base structures were installed as footings for livestock watering at various locations. Chub's fencing effort was sheer professionalism ... an outstanding example of a contractor who really did personally embrace this project with quality work.

SSA members were on-site for much of the work and continued to liaise with the landowners as the project proceeded. Members also began landscaping spring # 1 ... several loads of topsoil were delivered by Bud Mervyn Construction staff, to the spring site for leveling and backfilling severely eroded areas. The club tractor was employed and boulders were moved around to stabilize and enhance the spring side shoreline. The spring site itself, was completely fenced off to prevent cattle access. Soil was levelled followed by tree and shrub plantings, including cedar, dogwood and fruit bearing wildlife trees and shrubs. Further tree and shrub plantings, and seeding, will take place in the spring of 2013.

Sadly, Ab McConnell's wife, Irene, suddenly and tragically passed away in her laneway during last spring's late March snowstorm. As a tribute to Irene, who was a big supporter of this project, landscaped spring # 1 will be the site of a family-SSA get-together. In May 2013, The restored site will be dedicated to Irene and will be preserved and maintained in her memory.



continued

With the initial fencing, watering sites and crossings now in place on three of the four properties, the second phase of the project will include stream riparian plantings for shade and trout habitat restoration. This work will commence in 2013. The fencing-restoration project will also be extended to the Stephen Logan property.

The enhancement of Kilsyth Creek is truly, a Gold Medal effort. We have many to thank ... the landowners, the financial partners, on the construction side of the project, Chub McComb and Jason Mervyn and their staff, MNR's Jason Ritchie and Jody Scheifley, Fish & Wildlife Specialist and finally to those SSA members who contributed many hours of volunteer time and effort to make this project such a success story. A tip of the Conservation Cap is in order to SSA'ers Don Fosbury, Rob LeGrand, Doug Murdoch, Don Lobban, Bev Harron and Rick Murdoch. Special thanks to Don Lobban who was a wealth of knowledge about the history of Kilsyth Creek and its spring sources, and who really was a motivator in seeing this Conservation award winning project develop and proceed.

And if you're out for a Sunday drive, take a look at one aspect of the project. At the intersection in Kilsyth, drive south about 1.5 miles. Note the McConnell farm on your left (east side of the road). You will readily note the fencing traversing the fields. Turn left (east) at the next Concession Road past the McConnell homestead and travel a few hundred yards. On your left, stop and take a minute to observe spring # 1 ... and Irene McConnell's little Garden of Eden.



Range Report - Shooting Sports

Bill Douglas and Al Hillis

Thanks to some great volunteer help the trap warm up building on Range #6 is up operational .Its good to warm up your hands and other body parts while waiting to shoot a round of trap or skeet or just sit around and swap shooting or hunting story's .

Range fees are \$5.00 per round of 25 targets without a card or \$4.00 per round with a card . A \$10.00 savings if you by a 10 round card.

12 gauge ammo (# 8 or # 9) is \$6.50 per box of 25,s

New this year

This year we are going to try something different to get a better attendance at our great facility.

Every day that someone shoots any of the shotgun sports they will get a ticket to enter for a monthly prize.

These prizes range in value from \$35.00 to \$159.00. The winner of the draw will draw his own prize ticket out of a container to see what he has won.

Also this year we will have 2 special draws for anyone who shoots all 5 of the shotgun sports at SSA facility's.

- 1 Sporting clays
- 2 Trap
- 3 Skeet
- 4 Wobble trap
- 5 Double trap

They will be given a ticket to be eligible to win one of these (first prize , a sports pal canoe Value \$1100.00) (2nd prize , a stainless steel cooler value \$199.00)

Draw will take place after the last Sporting Clay shoot of the season. This is open to all shotgun shooters so come on out and burn up some rounds. You don't have to be high score to win something

Thanks again to the 18 people (both members and non Members) that came out and help with the erection of the building and especially my better half Mary who kept us feed and watered .

Al Hillis 371 3825 or cell 374 3069 al.hillis@gmail.com



Swap Meet, SSA Sunday, February 10th

**Buy, Sell, Trade
8:30 am till 12:30 pm**

**Another rifle or shotgun perhaps?
Need reloading equipment or supplies?
Fitting yourself up in cowboy action gear?
Fishing rods and reels?**

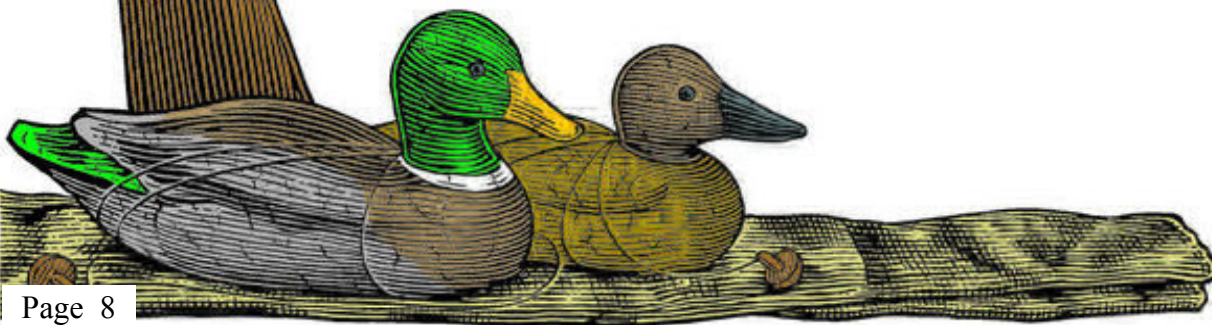
Or is it time to sell or trade some of those firearms and hunting or fishing gear that you don't use anymore to make room for new toys?

Then you need to come to Sydenham Sportsmen Club.

You can bring anything you want to sell or trade sports related. Set up a table and dicker for the sale price. Sit and chat gun or fishing talk. There will be coffee and donuts to purchase for a \$2 donation or bring a lunch. There is no entrance fee and no table fee.

For more information contact:

**Garry Willis at willisgarry@rogers.com or 376-5347,
Stew Wallace at swallace@bmts.com or 794-4423.**



Summary: Greater and Lesser Scaup (aka Bluebills; hereafter Scaup) are sought by hunters at the Great Lakes and other locales where they are abundant during Fall migration. The combined population of Scaup decreased substantially between the mid-1980s and late-1990s in North America. Although the population since has been stable to slightly increasing, in 2011 the estimated population of scaup (4.3 million) remained 15% below the long-term average and 27% below the North American Waterfowl Management Plan population goal of 6.3 million. One hypothesis proposed that the decrease in the continental scaup population resulted from increased exposure to Selenium leading to decreased reproduction of ducklings. Selenium is an essential trace element but can become toxic at levels greater than needed by animals. Research concluded that Selenium acquired by scaup was not negatively influencing reproduction. However, it remained unclear whether Selenium

burdens were affecting health or survival of non-breeding scaup at the Great Lakes. We conducted a captive study exposing lesser scaup to background (0.8 mg/g), moderate (8.1 mg/g) and high (20.7 mg/g) levels of dietary Selenium and measured survival rates and indices of health in relation to hepatic Selenium concentrations. There was 100% survival in scaup exposed to Selenium for 10-weeks (average staging duration at Great Lakes), but ducks in the high treatment group had less lipids. There was 93% survival after 23-weeks (average wintering duration at Great Lakes). Results from our captive study suggest Selenium alone did not cause the continental decline in scaup populations.

For more detailed information see the article recently published in the journal Environmental Pollution.

Brady, C., S. A. Petrie, M. L. Schummer, S.S. Badzinski, N. Belzile, and Y-W. Chen. 2013.

Effects of dietary selenium on the health and survival of captive wintering lesser scaup. Environmental Pollution 175:8-15.

Long Point Waterfowl is committed to waterfowl and wetland research, education and conservation in the Great Lakes region. www.longpointwaterfowl.org



S.S.A. Club News Letter (For The Birds)

Ron Robb

A New Year has arrived and We are starting our projects for 2013. The Sydenham Sportsmans Association and The Bruce Peninsula Sportsmans Association Members got together to build Bird Feeders to hand out to Children at The Warton Willie Festival Kids Day. This project was started last year and turned out to be very successful.

I would like to thank Jim McKane, Stu Patterson, and Don Elliot from the B.P.S.A. Club and Brian Clements, John Morneau, Don Lobbin, Mike Prevost, and Bob Hunt from the S.S.A.

The Bird Feeders were built in just over 2 hours at The White House. A job well done.

I would also like to thank Doug Gilkinson and Staff, at Bayshore Country Feeds for donating 200 Lbs. of sunflower seeds and packaging them in 2 Lb. bags to give out with the feeders.

The Sydenham Sportsmans Association is very fortunate to have volunteers and the corporate sponsors that we have.

Record Price Paid For A Blue Fin Tuna In Japan, at their first fish market auction of the year, a record price was paid by the owner of a chain of sushi restaurants for a single Blue Fin Tuna.

The fish weighed 593 lbs. He paid \$ 736,000 or about \$1,238 per pound for this one fish. He said he wanted to "liven up" Japan after last years devastating tsunami and economic stagnation.

Personally I do not think that this is going to help any Japanese fisherman to be concerned with conservation when he heads out to catch Tuna.

Mike Prevost



Busy Birdhouse Makers

Bob Hunt volunteers his time as a representative of the SSA to help build bird boxes at the Community Living Center in Owen Sound.



The sailors could not play cards because they were standing on the deck!

Mike Prevost and Jim Jenson along with Bob Hunt (not shown) helped kids and parents to build SSA bird feeders at the December Festival in Harrison Park hosted by the Order of Good Cheer.

Dave Hartrick and Bob Hunt are regular builders at the SSA work shop to keep up with requests for bird feeders thanks to Doug Gilkinson at Bayshore Country Feeds in Owen Sound

