

# FISH TALES

BLUEWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER

[www.bluewateranglers.com](http://www.bluewateranglers.com)

WINTER 2012

Seasons Greetings



## LISTING OF EVENTS 2012

January 10	General Membership Meeting
February 18	Ice Fishing Derby
February 24-26	London Boat, Fishing & Leisure Show
March 6	General Membership Meeting
March 17-18	Hatchery Open House
April 10	General Membership Meeting
April 14	Shoreline Clean Up
April 21	Club Spring Derby
April 27-May 6	Salmon Derby
May 16	Salmon Derby Awards Night
May 26	Kids Training Day
July 7	Family Fun Fishing Day (Goby Derby)
August 10-11	Walleye Derby
September 11	General Membership Meeting
September 29	Fall Big Fish Derby

Pick up a copy of the **Listing of Events 2012** at the January 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting and check the Bluewater Anglers website for current information on upcoming club events at [www.bluewateranglers.com/events.html](http://www.bluewateranglers.com/events.html).

## JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 10, 2012  
Point Edward Arena & Community Centre  
210 Monk Street  
Doors open at 7:00 PM  
Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

### AGENDA

Election of 2012 Directors  
2011 Treasurer's Report  
Hatchery Update  
Salmon Derby Update  
Ice Fishing Derby  
Fishing Report  
Swap Table

### **Guest Speaker/Topic**

Jeff Glass  
Ice Fishing Tackle & Techniques

## ELECTION OF CLUB DIRECTORS

One third of the Bluewater Anglers Board of Directors is elected to a 3 year term at the first General Membership Meeting of each year. This provides both continuity (at least 10 returning directors) and new blood (at least 5 new directors) on your Board of Directors. New ideas and perspectives will help our club grow and prosper. Both shore and boat fishermen and fisherwomen are encouraged to get involved in how your club is run. The job is not difficult or time consuming. The Board of Directors meets the first Wednesday of each month and generally the meetings last less than 1½ hours.

The Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and thank this year's retiring directors for their service and dedication during the past 3 years. This year's retiring directors are Dick Bornais, Paul Heckley, Ed Holubowicz, Stefan Jackson and Gary Mitchell.

At least five (5) new directors are needed for the 2012 – 2014 term. If you are interested in becoming a Director or know a club member who is interested, contact Paul Heckley (519-869-2593 before the January 10<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting. Nominations will be accepted at the January 10<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. Please get involved in your club.

## HATCHERY REPORT

The hatchery has been a busy spot since our last meeting in September.

Early in September, the fin-clipping crew went to work and clipped all of this year's Brown trout. Approximately 17,000 Browns were clipped in one morning. The membership response was terrific. A team of 22 people can get a lot done in a morning. After lunch, a bunch of the crew went fishing and the pickerel were biting. Most of the guys limited out.

We made our annual trip to Owen Sound for Salmon eggs in late September. This was about two weeks earlier than normal. The fish were moving up the ladder very well and we had our MNR allotted 110,000 eggs in 2 days. The hatchery workers and club volunteers processed the eggs and started the incubation process. Once again, this year 60 to 70 percent of the fish we handled were clipped fish returning to the Sydenham River.

During the early stages of incubation we maintained fungus control every other day and by eye-up in late October our eggs were fungus free but our losses were still high. Most of the losses were with small eggs. The first run through the automatic egg picker had losses of about 30,000 eggs. The daily hatchery crews picked another 15,000 eggs over the next few weeks. The salmon fry were moved to the starter tanks in early December. We will have a more definite number of the surviving salmon count by the January meeting. By that time the salmon will be in the large tanks and we will have weighed them all to get a better number. As of Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, we think that number is about 75,000, they weigh about 0.3 grams and they are starting to eat.

November was stock out time. With the Cormorants gone for the season, we hope, we completed our fall stocking. The remaining 8,500 of the 2010 Rainbow trout were stocked at Port Franks (2,250), Hickory Creek (2,200) and Exmouth St. (4,050). These fish were held over the summer to increase their size prior to stocking. They averaged 70 grams and 18.5 cm (7.5" to 8") fish. At the same time, we stocked the 2011 batch of Brown trout. A total of 16,800 browns were stocked at Hickory Creek (4,000) and Exmouth Street (12,800). The Browns averaged 18.5 grams and 14 cm (5.5" to 6") fish.

In late November, the original standby diesel generator was replaced with a new state of the art machine. We can once again feel secure that we have a reliable source

of emergency electrical power for protection of our fish. A lot of effort was put into this project by the hatchery workers. They continue to do a great job keeping the fish happy and the operation running smoothly.

December the 6<sup>th</sup>, the hatchery operators and club members who volunteer for different jobs and events got together with the board of directors for a fish fry. Frank, Gerry and John cooked enough fish and fries to feed all 40 of them. A great time was had by all. We look forward to having this show of appreciation again next year.

The 2011 batch of Ganaraskas Rainbow trout are growing well and should be ready for fin-clipping in February. Most of the Rainbow trout will be stocked in the spring after grading out the smaller fish. We plan to continue our program of stocking larger fish to increase their potential for survival.

The hatchery seems a little empty at present (... but it is nice to have a little quieter time). We are expecting 25,000 Brown Trout eggs in late December and another 50,000 Ganaraskas Rainbow Trout eggs in March. It will get busy again and the hatchery should be full by spring.

See you in January.

Jake



### GAMBLE INSURANCE DONATION

Marcia and Barry Hogan at **Gamble Insurance** donated \$1,500 to the Bluewater Anglers in memory of "Nana" Ileene Johnston.

Barry specifically mentioned how much his kids enjoy feeding the fish in our pond, and the tours that his Scout groups from St. Bart's have enjoyed at the Hatchery, as well as some of the volunteer opportunities for his Scout group kids in the past.



The following two Lake Huron reports are reprinted from the December 2011 edition of the **Inland Seas Angler GREAT LAKES BASIN REPORT**.

## **MI DNR to reduce Lake Huron Chinook salmon stocking**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources plans to reduce Chinook salmon stocking in Lake Huron by more than half in 2012, compared to 2011 levels. The DNR plans to stock 693,000 spring Chinook fingerlings in 2012, down from almost 1.5 million in 2011, because of poor return and harvest of stocked Chinooks.

“Recreational harvest of Chinook salmon has virtually vanished in the southern two-thirds of Lake Huron,” said acting DNR Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter. “It’s obvious the forage base is no longer available to support large numbers of Chinooks in Lake Huron.”

Analysis of recreational catch data shows only the northern portion of Lake Huron, where there is significant Canadian natural reproduction of Chinook salmon, continues to produce a viable recreational fishery.

Michigan will continue to stock Chinook salmon at Nunn’s Creek, Cheboygan River and Swan River in the northern Lake Huron watershed. All three stocking sites are within the boundaries of the 2000 Consent Decree with Tribes in the 1836 Treaty area. The DNR consulted with the Chippewa-Ottawa Resource Authority, the Lake Huron Citizen Fishery Advisory Committee, Ontario fisheries officials, and held three public meetings in the Lake Huron Basin before reaching this decision.

Reduced Chinook salmon stocking is likely to continue for the immediate future.

“Angler harvest of stocked Chinook has been at record low levels for the past few years. Poor returns of stocked fish and a collapse of prey fish populations throughout Lake Huron were key factors in the decision to suspend Chinook salmon plants in the southern two-thirds of Lake Huron,” said Todd Grischke, the DNR’s Lake Huron Basin coordinator. “We will continue to monitor biological data for the next six years and will make interim stocking adjustments as necessary.”

The DNR has committed to mass marking all Chinooks stocked in Lake Huron during the next three years to help biologists better understand the contributions of natural reproduction to the fishery.

For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/fishing](http://www.michigan.gov/fishing).

## **Fishery updates for Lake Huron Reduced Chinook salmon stocking**

DNR handout material summarized the decision timeline and process for the Chinook salmon stocking reduction in Lake Huron. This was accomplished in a timely manner over five months allowing reductions to be made starting with the 2011 fall egg take. The final decision resulted in a target of 693,000 Chinook salmon to be stocked in Lake Huron beginning in 2012 with 250,000 at Nunn’s Creek, 67,000 at Cheboygan and 375,000 at Swan River.

*This is the first year that mass marking will be conducted on all Chinook salmon stocked in the Great Lakes. The State of Michigan will also be partnering with the tribes to recover tagged Chinook from Nunn’s Creek. These fish will have the adipose fin clipped since all fish marked with coded wire tags (CWT) in their nose have the adipose fin removed.*

### Steelhead update

*This is the first year for stocking marked steelhead in net pens at Harbor Beach, Oscoda and Harrisville. A comparison is being made to determine if steelhead stocked after becoming acclimated in net pens survive better than steelhead stocked directly into Lake Huron. This study will continue in 2012 and 2013 and it is crucial that captured marked fish are turned in. These fish have an adipose fin clip and a coded wire tag in their nose.*

*Three Lake Huron tributaries including the East Branch of the Au Gres River, Riffle River, and Ocqueoc River each received a plant of 100,000 fall fingerling steelhead. These fish were not marked and measured 2-3 inches in length. Survival is anticipated to be low, but fishing opportunities should result.*

### Atlantic salmon experimental rearing study

*Currently all the rearing space is utilized for production of yearling brown trout and steelhead. There is some space available, however, at the Platte River State Fish Hatchery because of an overall reduction in Great Lakes stocking in addition to the Lake Huron Chinook salmon cuts. Emphasis will be placed on determining if production level Atlantic salmon can be obtained at the Platte River Hatchery.*

*Currently, tests have shown that fingerling Atlantic salmon produced at other facilities and transported to the Platte River State Hatchery can be raised to an acceptable yearling size. During 2008, eyed Atlantic salmon eggs were reared at this hatchery but the spring fingerlings became infected with whirling disease and had to be destroyed. This fall a UV filter system, at a cost of \$150,000, was installed on the Brundage Creek water supply to control the organisms that cause the disease. Tests will be conducted in 2011 and 2012 to determine if the new filter was successful and if Atlantic salmon can be raised from egg to yearling. This will be a less than a full production trial with a target of 40,000 to 120,000 yearlings raised from eggs for stocking in 2013 and 2014.*

*The final step in the Atlantic salmon experiment is to determine the full capacity of the Platte River State Hatchery using both the indoor and outdoor rearing space.*

### Brown trout update

*2011 began the third and final stocking year of the fall yearling brown trout project. We are now entering the review phase of the study. Jim Baker’s crew surveyed the harbor at Harbor Beach on September 27, shocking and capturing 14 brown trout that appeared to be from the 2009 plant. These preliminary results indicate we are potentially starting to see some return on these fish, but so far it appears the fish are not returning in big numbers. The goal is to have a return of at least 5%, and to determine more accurately how the study is progressing we will revisit this topic at the January 11, 2012 Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee Meeting. The discussion will include the creel and charter boat data from the 2011 harvest.*

## ICE FISHING DERBY

Saturday, February 18, 2012

Come out and participate in the first club event of 2012. The Ice Fishing Derby is open to both Bluewater Anglers members and the general public. Bring the family or a friend. This is a license free weekend in Ontario ... so no fishing license is needed.

An entry fee of \$5.00 per person must accompany the entry form. Entry forms and complete Ice Fishing Derby information will be available at the January 10<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting, Bucks Bait or The Outdoorsman until 4:30 PM on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Centennial Park boat ramp parking lot at Sarnia Bay on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 AM - 9:00 AM.

**Everyone must buy a ticket before they start fishing.**

All fish must be caught within the boundaries of the City of Sarnia and/or the Village of Point Edward. The Ice Fishing Derby starts at 6:00 AM on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Participants must bring their catch to the weigh-in station located at the Centennial Park boat ramp parking lot at Sarnia Bay. **All fish must be weighed in by 11:00 AM.**



Prizes are based on 90% of ticket sales and 10% will go to the Bluewater Anglers Hatchery. Cash prizes will be awarded based on size / weight in each fish category; Panfish (including perch, crappie, sunfish, rock bass), Pike, and Trout (rainbow and brown trout). You are allowed to enter only one fish per category. If no fish are entered in a category, that fish category is deferred to the Panfish category. Prizes will be awarded immediately after the weigh-in closes at 11:00 AM.

A minimum of 5 draw prizes will be made from entrants 13 and over that are present at the close of weigh-in. A minimum of 5 draw prizes will be

made from entrants 12 and under that are present at the close of weigh-in.



Full Ice Fishing Derby details will be available at the January 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, at Buck's Baits, at The Outdoorsman or on the Bluewater Anglers club events web page at [www.bluewateranglers.com/events.html](http://www.bluewateranglers.com/events.html).

In case of inclement weather or unsafe ice conditions, the Ice Fishing Derby will be cancelled. If in doubt, listen to the radio in the morning. There is no makeup date.

### BLUEWATER ANGLER MEMBERSHIP

Current club membership is 45 family members, 227 single members, and 2 junior members for a total of 364 (... each family membership is counted as 3). Typically, there are about 75 members whose memberships have expired and have not been renewed yet. Please check your membership card or the front of the FISH TALES newsletter envelop for your membership expiry date. We hope everyone renews their membership in 2012.

We are always looking for new members (... young or old, man or woman). We encourage members to bring a friend or two out to one of the General Membership meetings or club events. Help grow our membership.

JIMBOS  
Custom Fishing Rods  
Fishing Rod Repair Service and Parts

194 Stockwell  
Sarnia, Ont  
519-344-5570 [jimbobaluchi@hotmail.com](mailto:jimbobaluchi@hotmail.com)

## FALL BIG FISH DERBY

Saturday, September 17, 2011

Participation in the club's last outing of the year was good. Unfortunately, the dirty water and winds made for difficult fishing. Only 3 fish were entered. All fish were caught in the river (... 2 from shore & 1 from boat).

The Fall Big Fish Derby winners were ...

- #1: David Last with a 3.20kg Coho salmon,
  - #2: Richard Smith with a 2.58kg Chinook salmon,
  - #3: Gerry Lanteigne with a 2.18 kg Rainbow trout
- David Last was the club member with the biggest fish.

Thanks to all who participated in this final 2011 club event and everyone who came out to the weigh-in at the hatchery. Thanks to the people who helped out at the weigh-in. Your participation is much appreciated.

Special thanks to *Eric's Pro Tackle, Jiffy Lube, Home Hardware, Tim Horton's, and Naples Pizza* for donating the draw prizes.

The Fall Big Fish Derby will be held a couple of weeks later in 2012 with the hope that more salmon will be in the river.



Richard Smith (2.58kg Chinook salmon)



Gerry Lanteigne (2.18 kg Rainbow trout)



David Last (3.20kg Coho salmon)

Experience the Difference  
Specialists Make

Bluewater Padded  
Accents

Owned and Operated By Sam and Sandy

CANVAS • UPHOLSTERY  
Since 1980

211 WATER ST., SARNIA

519-344-5091

**PAT DEVINCENZO**  
Owner

#106-317 Adelaide St. South  
London, Ontario N5Z 3L3

Tel: (519) 649-7429  
Cell: (519) 859-5860

patdevincenzo@gmail.com

## 2012 SALMON DERBY UPDATE

Planning and preparations for the 2012 Salmon Derby started in late September and are progressing well. Once again, we have an excellent committee planning next spring's event. No major changes are planned in the 2012 Salmon Derby format, prize structure or weigh-in stations. The 2012 Salmon Derby starts on **Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** and ends on **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**.

Derby information packages have been prepared and sent to previous and potential new Salmon Derby sponsors and brochure advertisers. Initial response through early December has been very positive. We hope that most of our previous sponsors and advertisers will return for the 2012 Salmon Derby.

Once again, the Village of Point Edward will be the host sponsor of the Salmon Derby. Their \$5,000 donation will be awarded to the lucky angler who catches the largest salmon during the 2012 Salmon Derby.



### Village of Point Edward

135 Kendall Street, Point Edward, Ontario N7V 4G6  
Phone (519) 337-3021 • Fax (519) 337-5963  
[www.villageofpointedward.com](http://www.villageofpointedward.com)

November 1, 2011

Bluewater Anglers  
P.O. Box 174  
Sarnia, Ontario  
N7T 7H9

Attention: Gerry Fawdry

Please be advised that at the regular meeting of Point Edward Village Council held on October 25, 2011 the following motion was passed.

**THAT the Village of Point Edward Council provide a grant to the Bluewater Anglers in the amount of \$5000.00 for the 2012 Annual Salmon Derby and THAT the funds be taken from the Capital donations budget.**

The Council appreciates the hard work your organization does throughout the year and applauds you on your very successful Salmon Derby held each year. The work that your group does attracts a large number of people to the Village each year and for that we are thankful. Best wishes for a successful 2012.

Jim Burns, CAO  
Village of Point Edward

*Progressively Independent Since 1878*

**Gibb Wilson Contracting** is returning as a Salmon Derby Gold Sponsor (... donation of \$1,000 or more in cash or merchandise) plus a major advertiser in the Salmon Derby brochure.

The **Point Edward Optimists** have donated \$700 for the Kids Prizes. This includes a bicycle for the kid (15 and under) who enters the largest fish during the Salmon Derby.

There will be more information at the January 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. If you know of any company that might be interested in becoming a Salmon Derby sponsor or an advertiser in the Salmon Derby brochure, please contact Gerry Fawdry (519-542-2764 for derby sponsors) or Pete Bothwell (519-869-4611 for brochure advertisers). We are happy to follow up on any leads.

### 2012 Salmon Derby Committee



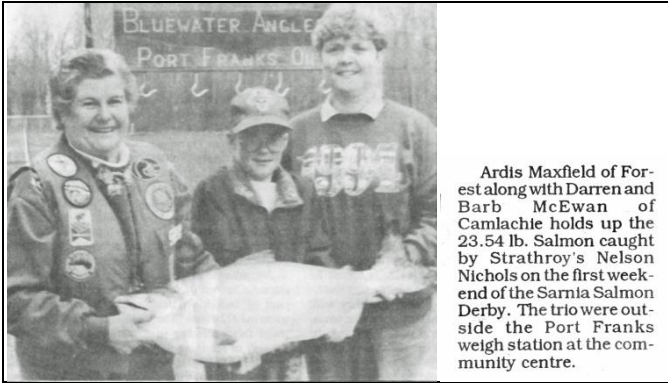
Seated (left to right): Bob Daly, Helen Blondin, Ralph McMurter, Dave Stewart, Colin Brown (chairperson)  
Standing (left to right): Paul Heckley, Henry Kock, Lloyd Blondin, Ralph Eves, Rick Vriesinga, Pete Bothwell, Gerry Fawdry, Ed Holubowicz, Ross Bishop  
Missing: Larry Emery

### HELP WANTED: PORT FRANKS WEIGH STATION

We are looking for two people to staff the Port Franks weigh station each day during the 2012 Salmon Derby. The weigh station will be located in the Port Franks Community Centre parking lot.

One person is needed to record and witness fish entered during the derby. A second person is needed to weigh the fish entered during the derby. The 2nd person must be able to identify the type of fish (... salmon, lake trout, rainbow trout, brown trout or walleye) being entered. An honorarium of \$8 per hour will be paid. If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please contact Paul Heckley at 519-869-2593 or [pheckley@mnsi.net](mailto:pheckley@mnsi.net).

**Remember When: May 5, 1995 THE FOREST STANDARD**



Ardis Maxfield of Forest along with Darren and Barb McEwan of Camlachie holds up the 23.54 lb. Salmon caught by Strathroy's Nelson Nichols on the first weekend of the Sarnia Salmon Derby. The trio were outside the Port Franks weigh station at the community centre.

Ardis ran the Port Franks weigh station for many years.

**VHF RADIO COURSE – April 2012**

The next VHF course will be offered in 2012 on Tuesday, April 3rd, Thursday April 5th, and Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup>. The exam will be written on Thursday April 12th. There is no teaching done on Thursday, April 12th. All evenings start at 7:00 p.m. and go to approximately 9:00 p.m. The course is taught in Room 124 at St. Patrick's High School, 281 East St. North, Sarnia.

The fee for the study guide, course and exam is \$65 payable in cash (exact funds please) or by check made payable to CPS when you register the first night. If 2 people share a book (e.g. a husband & wife), the cost to the second person is \$45 for a total of \$110 per couple.

When you pass the exam you will be issued a Restricted Operators Certificate - Maritime (ROC-M) with the DSC Endorsement.

Please bring a pen, pencil and especially a highlighter should you decide to take the course.

If you are interested in taking the course let me know ASAP via email as classes fill up quickly.

Cheers!  
Dave Sidenberg  
Assistant Training Officer Sarnia Squadron  
[dsidenberg1@cogeco.ca](mailto:dsidenberg1@cogeco.ca)  
519-491-9733(Home)



**CN DONATION**

\$500 donated to the Bluewater Anglers in recognition of CN retiree Ross Bishop's volunteer activities with the Bluewater Anglers and the community.



174 North Mitton Street  
Sarnia, Ontario  
N7T 6H2  
Phone: (519) 344-8137  
[outdoorsman@bellnet.ca](mailto:outdoorsman@bellnet.ca)

## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The Bluewater Anglers' **FISH TALES** newsletter is available by e-mail. The benefits of the electronic version of the newsletter include:


- better print quality including color pictures and links,
- quicker distribution,
- more environmentally friendly (... save paper),
- reduced club costs for printing, envelopes & postage.

If you would like to receive your **FISH TALES** newsletter by e-mail rather than regular Canada Post (... snail mail) send a request to [bluewateranglers@hotmail.com](mailto:bluewateranglers@hotmail.com). Please include your name and current e-mail address.

# *Fiddick's*

Nursing Home Ltd. and Retirement Home

437 First Ave., Petrolia Ontario 519-882-0370



Feige  
Denture Clinics

## BLUEWATER ANGLERS AND OFAH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Complete the forms below to become a Bluewater Anglers or OFAH member or to renew your current membership. More information about membership benefits can be found at [www.bluewateranglers.com/membership.html](http://www.bluewateranglers.com/membership.html). Contact Ralph Eves (519-383-0873 or [raljo\\_eves@sympatico.ca](mailto:raljo_eves@sympatico.ca)) for more information on either membership.

### BLUEWATER ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP: New  Renewal  Junior (\$10.00)  Single (\$20.00)  Family (\$30.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province/State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

OFAH Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheque payable to **BLUEWATER ANGLERS** and send the completed form to **Bluewater Anglers**, c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 174, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7H9.

Also, did you know that you can join the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** at a discount rate through the Bluewater Anglers? Apply for an OFAH membership or renew your membership using the form below.

### ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS (OFAH) APPLICATION

OFAH MEMBERSHIP: Adult (\$33.50)  Family (\$44.50)  Youth, under 21 (\$30.00)  Youth, no magazine (\$6.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Province \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

OFAH Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (if a current member)

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make a separate cheque payable to **ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS** and send the completed form to **Bluewater Anglers**, c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 174, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7H9.