

Fur, Fins and Feathers



September 2023

The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton.
Next meeting, Sept 28th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. Your participation is welcome and anticipated. For inquiries e-mail bpsportsmen@gmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 548, Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0

Community Living Fishing Derby



Even on a wet day, it didn't dampen the enthusiasm these fishermen and women had. The Community Living Fish Derby was held on Sunday the 17th. Fish that were badly hooked were cleaned and filleted and taken home by the clients for table fare. Everyone enjoyed a hot dog and drink after. Prizes given out to the largest and second largest fish and for the smallest fish caught. Thanks to all our club members for pitching in and socializing to make this day a memorable one for the folks from Community Living and BPSA members. Thanks for all the donations and special thank you to Bill Slot at Willie's Sports & More for worms. A great day was had by all.

Ray Marklevitz





Our registration group did an amazing job. Well organized.



Our professional wormers.



President Carl Jones welcomed all and officially started the derby.





Hatchery Manager Al Sutter explaining our programs.





Everyone enjoyed a hot lunch after. Thank you.



Vice President of BPACLS's Board of Directors, Jean Kirby thanked BPSA for supporting Community Living over the years. Commented on how much this day means to them.



Stocking rainbow at Colpoy's

On July 1st we stock more rainbow by the bridge at Colpoy's. This stocking of rainbow trout is the largest fish ever stocked by the BPSA. They should have a great impact on the fishery if they can avoid the blue herons, cormorants and all the other predators. Job well done everyone.

by Natalie Mechalko



BPSA Cleanup Bee

It was a mid summer work-bee. Twenty Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA) members of all ages took time out from summer activities to clean up the club property west of Wiarton.



They spent a sunny morning felling dead trees, cut the trunks into logs for firewood and hauled them to storage. Weed eaters were put through their paces. One participant said "I don't like doing this kind of work on my own property, but for BPSA I'm ready willing and able." Trees and shrubs were clipped. Brush and leaves were raked.

Last year's BPSA 60th Birthday Bash saw truck and car tires sink into the damp field beside our hatchery. During this summer work-bee an energetic team filled in the deep ruts made when vehicles became stuck.

It was yet another example of what's often heard about the volunteer efforts that keep BPSA going. That there is no "I" in BPSA. It's always a group effort that gets the best results at this community club that's now celebrating 61 years of conservation.

Fish stocking is a main feature of what this club stands for. Since the sixties, our volunteers have raised and stocked more than 4-million fish for the sports fishery. We also boast youth and adult firearms safety and handgun target programs, youth and adult archery as well as tree planting and an invasive species awareness program. BPSA was established with a mandate to enhance and protect fish and wildlife. Which it has been doing for decades.





After the summer recess, monthly BPSA club meetings resume on the last Thursday in September at 7:30 pm at the North Acres Road clubhouse. Everyone is welcome.

*by Stu Paterson
photos - Stu Paterson, Kat McCulloch*



Tent went up the **Salmon Spectacular**



In pouring rain more than fifty volunteers, including thirty-five from the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA), put up the giant tent, home of the annual Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular. There were no complaints about the weather from members of the BPSA team which was led by club President Carl Jones and tent-team co-ordinator Jerry Beaver.

Once again the setup was done in record time. With help from some Sydenham Sportsmen's Association members and Big Top Tent Rentals workers, it took only two-and-a-half hours to put up the 300 by 100 foot tent. It serves as headquarters for the Salmon Spectacular derby and festival which this year celebrates its THIRTY-FIFTH birthday. The derby which is often called "the largest event of the year in Grey-Bruce" runs from midnight Thursday August 25th to noon September 3rd. It attracts over forty-five thousand people to a wide variety of events at the tent as well as four-thousand anglers.

As derby co-Chair Chris Geberdt told Bayshore Broadcasting reporter Nathan Schubert, "we have expanded the hours of the kids fishing pond this year, and fishing is now extended to include an area north of Lion's Head." There will remain only one weigh station in Owen Sound to ensure derby

sponsors get the recognition they deserve. Geberdt noted the derby pumps an estimated three-million dollars every year into our region, attracting anglers from across Ontario and two US states.

BPSA members volunteer in various capacities at the big celebration, with profits benefitting the Sydenham Sportsmen's (SSA) Fish Stocking and other conservation projects. In return for helping with the tent erection and tear down, the SSA annually donates thousands of fish raised at the SSA hatchery for BPSA to stock in Colpoy's Bay. The BPSA tent effort saves the Sydenham Club about ten-thousand dollars a year, which would be the cost to SSA for the tent raising and tear down without the volunteer help. It takes 450 volunteers and more than 250 sponsors to mount this giant festival which this year will hand out more than \$200,000.00 in prizes.

Once the tent was up, other volunteers began loading all the equipment necessary to stage this ten day event which kicks off Friday.

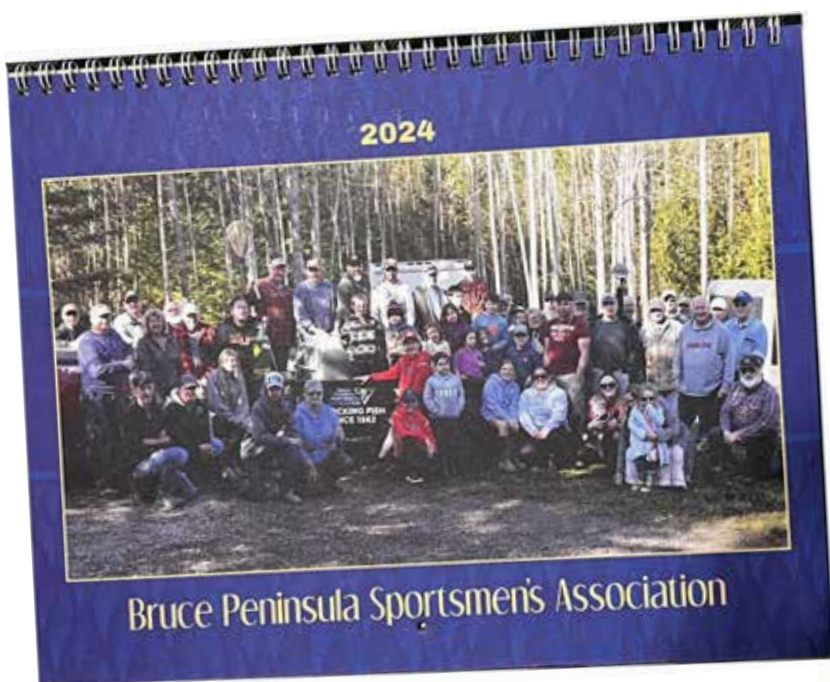
Derby Co-Chair Gebert profusely thanked the volunteers assuring them "we couldn't do all this without your help! Thank you very much!"

by Stu Paterson





BPSA has 2024 Calendars for sale!



Get yours at the
club or Wiarton
Home Hardware

\$25

BPSA has new fun T-shirts



Get yours at the club

We will have hoodies
for sale too!

\$25