

# Fur, Fins and Feathers

December 2023



The Clubhouse is off Old Oliphant Road on Northacres road and off County Road 13 in Wiarton. Next meeting, Jan 25th 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Your participation is welcome and anticipated. For inquiries e-mail [bpsportsmen@gmail.com](mailto:bpsportsmen@gmail.com) or mail to P.O. Box 548, Wiarton, Ontario N0H 2T0

## Christmas Celebration 2023

- *"there was laughing and chatting and all through the club...*

- *its was Christmas at BPSA, what a pleasant hubbub..*

*from gourmet fish chowder to world class baked goods...*

- *it was quite a time, we were all in good moods, for a Christmas celebration we will never forget Santa dropped by and wished us all well.*

- *he urged us to continue our community work for what we've been doing is swell*

- *there were archery and membership prizes. most winners had pleasant surprises.*

- *President Carl was as jolly as old Saint Nick...we were all celebrating a Christmas pic nic"....*

*Warton, Ontario:*

This event was a pot-luck affair which included sharing such goodies as zesty fish chowder with 5 kinds of fish and seafood. And scrumptious cakes, pies and cookies.



There was a merry mood during the Christmas Pot Luck celebration at the headquarters of the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA). The clubhouse was jammed as members marked the end of another successful year of community conservation efforts including fish stocking and tree planting.





The BPSA Youth and Adult Archery Team co-ordinators Donna and Paul Maginnis were honoured for their years of leadership. They are stepping aside due to health concerns. They presented awards to several Youth Archery members.



Lexi Hewton received the Sportsman's Award. It is given to one that is there helping other archers, helping with the program. Encouraging others. Lexi and her family have been with us for years.



Evie Thompson, is an archer and does well. Eva placed the wreath for the club at the Remembrance Day ceremony. Evie is standing with Brenda McLean the new chair for archery. Claire Gibbons received the Safety Awareness award although she was unable to attend.



Brydon Shiels was presented with a BPSA hoodie. Brydon has been helping us out for years. He does a lot of the muscle work for the group. Brydon loved his club hoodie and his name and Archery Assistant will be printed on it.

Then BPSA Director Al Hunter honoured Donna and Paul with a plaque recognizing their "excellent volunteerism chairing the BPSA Archery Program."



BPSA President Carl Jones wished the members "A VERY MERRY AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS." He also congratulated the volunteers who put in thousands of hours a year doing all that is necessary to keep a successful conservation club operating effectively.







Hailey Belanger helped Santa with the draws.  
Santa had a few helpers.

When he heard us signing "Santa Clause is Coming to Town" Santa appeared on cue to hand out the Early Bird prizes. The BPSA Early Bird club membership sign-up program, was successful. Those who renewed their membership or signed on as new members by 2pm December 17, were eligible for special prizes.

**BPSA Early Bird membership draw winners:**

**Jeff Coady - smoker**

**Tom McKee - microwave**

**Dennis Morton - Wiarton Home Hardware gift card**

**Carl Berfelz - tackle box**

**Alison Gibson - cooler**

**Brydon Shiels - Great Lakes Hearing**



**John Morton - coffee maker**

**Dave Hemington - Hoodie**

**George Mallard - solar light**

**Marc Boisvert - fishing shirt & bow hanger**

**Joanne Stevens - glass and fishing lures**

**Bruce Beacock - BPSA calendar & lures**

**Charles Robinson - BPSA calendar and lures**

The last two years have been exciting for BPSA. We celebrated our 61st birthday. Twice this year we stocked the largest fish our club has ever stocked. We continue to be supported by the Ontario Community Hatchery Program. We officially affiliated with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Our tree program is a success as are our archery and sports shooting programs. Ahead is the BPSA Youth Firearms Safety Program launching January 14th, 2024. It runs every Sunday for six weeks starting at 1:00 pm. And we will have Fin Clipping of our hatchery raised fish in the new year as well as more fish stocking to support our sports fishery. The next BPSA general meeting is at the clubhouse at 7:30 pm on Thursday January 25, 2024.

*by Stu Paterson*



# BPSA Final Stocking of 2023

It's a pre-Christmas tradition with the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association (BPSA). This year twenty club members, all volunteers, gathered to measure and sort and then stock fish raised at the BPSA Hatchery west of Wiarton. The trout stocking ritual went well on November 26th.

BPSA Hatchery Manager Al Sutter reports eleven-thousand brown trout and six thousand rainbow trout were stocked at two different locations on Colpoy's Bay.

According to terms of the Fish Stocking license BPSA has been issued by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the browns were released into the wild at the Wiarton Marina. The rainbow trout were set free at Colpoy's Creek, one of three Georgian Bay locations the club is licensed to use for rainbow trout stocking.



Since the sixties BPSA has planted more than 4-million trout and salmon to benefit our sports fishery. Its a fishery that does good things for our Ontario economy:

- 1.2 million residents and non-resident anglers participate in recreational fishing.
- their combined spending contributes \$2.2 billion annually to the Ontario economy.
- this activity also supports 41,000 person-years of employment.



A provincial official has paid tribute to our BPSA volunteers. Ontario's Natural Resources and Forestry Minister described our club as:

*"a Community Hatchery Program supported group with 51 hatchery volunteers who donate over 1,500 hours a year raising and stocking: 75,000 Rainbow Trout fingerlings, 25,000 Rainbow Trout yearlings and 27,000 Brown Trout fingerlings a year."*

It is estimated each fish stocked is worth 30-dollars to the community where it is stocked.





The 300-member BPSA was established in the sixties to “preserve and enhance fish and wildlife.” BPSA has the longest running volunteer-run fish hatchery in Ontario, something we are proud of.

Our conservation club is best known for fish stocking. However, we have other family-oriented programs that attract young and old. There’s our “Invasive Species Awareness - Boot Scrubber Program”, Stream Rehabilitation projects, BPSA youth and adult Archery, Tree Planting sessions, youth and adult Firearms Safety Training and our BPSA Handgun Club at our indoor range in the BPSA Clubhouse. Oh yes don’t forget our open houses and the annual BPSA Kids Fishing Derby.

BPSA recently affiliated with the 100-thousand member Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters. It is THE major lobby group representing the interests of anglers and hunters that meets regularly with governments on the many issues facing the outdoors community.

Our regular club meetings are held on the last Thursday night of the month. The next session is on January 25th at 7:30 pm at the BPSA clubhouse on North Acres Road west of Warton. Join us if you are curious about our conservation group and our aim of preserving and enhancing fish and wildlife.

Please check our website at: [bpsportsmen.com/newsletters-wp/](http://bpsportsmen.com/newsletters-wp/)

The BPSA membership team reminds us: We can’t stress enough how important it is to have your membership renewed by the end of the year.







*Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year from your friends at the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association.*

*by Stu Paterson*



# Handgun Range Refurbishing Bullet Trap



Shrapnel from rounds hitting the backstop at our range was found on the floor much closer to shooters than I am comfortable with. The safety of everyone is always number one for all of us. The work to solve the problem has been waiting for the rain to stop so the sand could arrive without the truck getting stuck in the yard. I found railway ties on the property that have become the retaining wall for the sand. Keith Davidson, Frank Hutter's brother in law donated hardwood from his mill that we used to repair the trolley or target rack and to also use in front of the railway ties to soak up lead.

This is a 100 % improvement to the bullet trap area and was much needed. Many thanks to everyone for their hard work.

*Don Kramer, Gary Tessier, Glen Usher, Tony Brinovec, Mark Boisvert, Deb Gibson, Ken Noble, John deJong, Ray Marklevitz, Jason Cowan, Gabe Cowan, Achilles Cowan, Jim O'Reilly, Al Hunter, Rob Quesnel, Al Sutter, Kat McCulloch.*

If I missed anyone, I appolize.  
by Kelly Lang













# BPSA .22 Rifle Program

This is a pilot program to get more shooters out and have some fun. Everyone has a chance for a prize. You can shoot your target whenever you want. Shoot as many targets as you like. 2 shots per bull, total of 10 shots.

## Two categories, freehand and supported.

Have another member score your target and initial it.

Sign, date and punch it. Put in the back of the blue WOHL binder.

At the end of April, we will pick top two scores in freehand and top score in supported.

Plus, we will draw two names out of a hat for prizes. Everyone has a chance to win.

If you are not a HG Member you must receive the BPSA Range Orientation. Must be over the age of 18. For the first 4 shoots non-HG Members pay \$10. After 4 shoots we would encourage you to join the HG Club. The money paid during the first four will be deducted from your HG membership fee. If you require .22 ammo you can purchase from the club. If you are interested in coming out and giving it a try email us a [bpsportsmen@gmail.com](mailto:bpsportsmen@gmail.com)

We have dedicated the second Tuesday 6:45 of the month for a rifle shoot. First shoot will be January 9th.

As mentioned early, you can shoot targets anytime there is a Range Office Present.



## Youth Firearms Safety Program **pays off**



13 year old Waylong Greig bagged his first deer. He is a good hunter, very safe shooter. The Youth Firearms Program works. He started when he was 8. Thanks to Rob and Krista Quesnel. *Gramma Kat is very proud of him too.*





# Youth Firearms Safety Program



**Firearms Safety program begins  
January 14th, 2024.**

**Runs every Sunday starting at 1:00 pm for  
6 weeks.**

Instructors are long time members Rob and Krista Quesnel with  
the help of club Range Safety Officers.

One on one instruction with safe firearm handling given.

**Cost is \$20.00 if you don't have a  
BPSA family membership.**

**Call 519-935-2444 or email  
bpsportsmen@gmail.com**

Come out and learn safe shooting  
practices & have fun at the same time.

To learn more about BPSA activities check out  
our web site at [www.bpsportsmen.com](http://www.bpsportsmen.com)





# Ladies Firearms Safety Program



**Ladies Firearms Safety program begins January 28th, 2024. Runs every Sunday starting at 6:30 pm for 6 weeks.**

One on one instruction with our Safety Officers. Learn the basics in handling firearms and have fun doing it.

**Cost \$40.00 non-members.**

You can e-mail Patricia at [patricia\\_krieg@hotmail.com](mailto:patricia_krieg@hotmail.com)

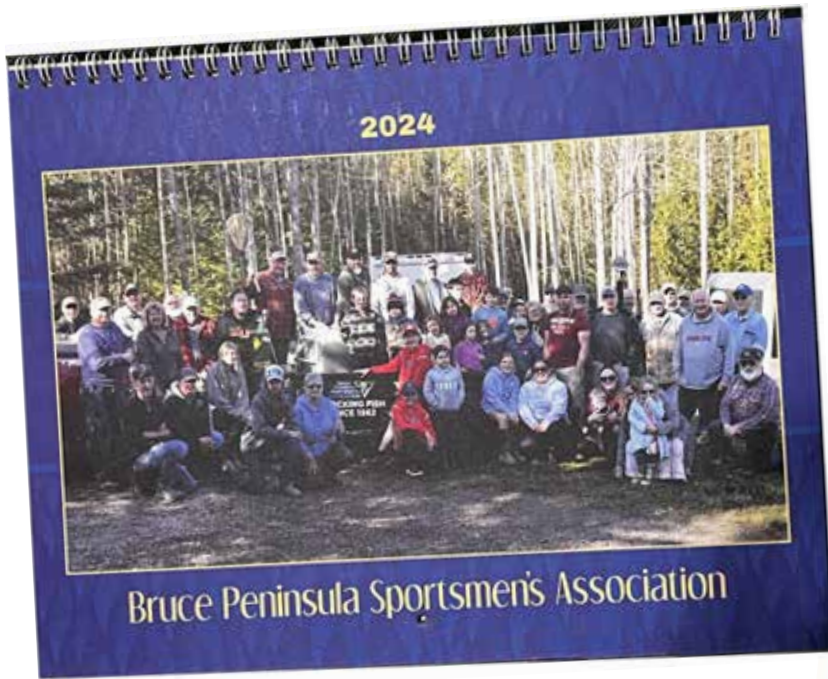
Never shot..this is the perfect place to try out this great sport and have fun at the same time.

To learn more about BPSA activities check out our web site at [www.bpsportsmen.com](http://www.bpsportsmen.com)





# BPSA has 2024 Calendars for sale!



Get yours at the club, Warton Home Hardware or Willie's Sports & .....

\$20



# BPSA has new fun T-shirts



BPSA t-shirts. Support your club \$25

We will have hoodies for sale too! \$45