

FISH TALES

BLUEWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER

<https://bluewateranglers.com>

Fall 2025

Cancelled

**SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

Cancelled

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Point Edward Arena & Community Centre

210 Monk Street

Doors open at 7:00PM

Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

AGENDA

Hatchery Update

Club Updates

WALLEYE DERBY SUMMARY

Friday, July 25th – Saturday, July 26th

Thanks to everybody that participated in the 2025 Walleye Derby. The weather and the fish were cooperative for the club outing. A total of 118 tickets were sold.

The 2025 Walleye Derby winners are

1st Place - Brian Somes - 5.08 lbs

2nd Place - Kevin Somes - 3.78 lbs

3rd Place - James French - 3.71 lbs

4th Place - Ryan Sharpe - 3.11 lbs

5th Place - Bryan Childs - 2.97 lbs

6th Place - Dave Quinn - 2.88 lbs

7th Place - Rob Zimmer - 2.74 lbs

8th Place - Dylan Stephenson - 2.63 lbs

9th Place - Dayna De Keyser - 2.56 lbs

10th Place - Cole Anderson - 2.56 lbs



Big thanks to the **Village of Point Edward** for donating the \$500 first place prize, and **The Outdoorsman** for selling the derby tickets.

Thanks to Lou for running the derby again this year, and to all the volunteers who came out to

FAMILY FUN FISHING (GOBY) DERBY

July 5, 2025
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Saturday morning, July 5th, was a great day for the Family Fun Fishing Derby along Sarnia Bay. One hundred and thirty-two people registered for the event. The weather was hot, and the fishing was slower than normal. About 14 lbs. of gobies were weighed back at the hatchery. Congratulations to winners and thank you to everybody who participated in the family focussed event.

Most Gobies Winners (by weight / person)



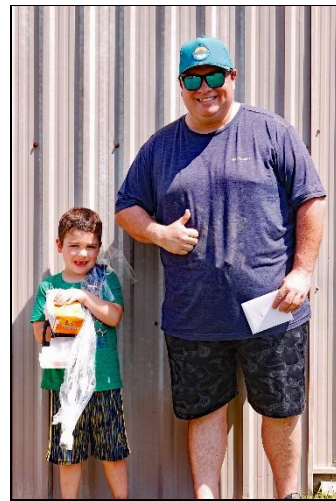
Zdimal Family 0.58lbs



Burns Family 0.44lbs



Mezzatesta Family 0.40lbs



Nicholas Lawrence

11in rock bass



Clara Green

10.5 in rock bass



Holly Smith

10 in rock bass



We would like to thank Boston Pizza, Dairy Queen, Desa Enterprises, Dockside Restaurant, The Outdoorsman, the Armitage family and the Elviage family for sponsoring the event.

Happy Retirement Henry Kock



Henry was on the Board of Directors (2012 - 2014)

A member of the Salmon Derby Committee (2010 - 2020)

Hatchery operator until his retirement in 2025



Sarnia Aquarium Society - Hatchery Tour donation
\$500 towards our School Salmon Mini-Hatchery Program



Wayne White – Hatchery Tour donation \$100

How do you introduce a kid to fishing

Being part of the excitement when kids catch fish can form memories that last a lifetime. But taking kids fishing can present some unique challenges. Jeff Ledermann knows all about the joys and challenges of taking kids fishing. He was able to start his own daughters fishing when they were just over the age of two. When they were older he helped form a girls' fishing club after hearing one daughter say after school that "Girls don't fish." Now, Ledermann works with educational programs that help teach kids and others about fishing. As the angler recruitment, retention and education supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, he's glad to share some wisdom on how to connect kids with the outdoors through fishing. What can adults do to make fishing fun for kids? For the first times out with kids, focus on short and successful outings. Do some research to find a place where fish populations are high and other opportunities exist when kids get bored, such as playground equipment, rock hunting and climbing, or chasing bugs. It's even better if there are bathrooms close by. Don't forget to bring snacks and a camera to capture the excitement of that first fish. How important are those first few times a kid goes fishing? The first few times are critical. If a child has a really bad experience, it may take a lot of effort to overcome those memories and anxieties. Make it fun and keep outings short. Don't be afraid to call it a day if they start to get bored, the bugs are bad or the weather is not good. What are some of the biggest mistakes parents and others make when taking kids fishing? The biggest mistake I see is that parents lose focus on the kids. As much as we all relish the opportunity to wet a line, fishing with young kids means you may have to give up some of your own fishing time. What fishing skills do kids need the most help with? New anglers of all ages need lots of help figuring out how to use fishing equipment. Be sure to demonstrate to them how rods and reels work and give them lots of opportunity to practice. Casting in the yard at hula hoops or other targets is a great way to get kids excited about fishing. The biggest mistake that young anglers make is not keeping a tight line while playing a fish. Teach them to keep their rod tip up. You can make it easier for kids by giving them a rod that is the right size for them. A rod that has a lighter action or more flex also provides more room for error and kids will be less likely to

break off. Also be sure to check the drag on the reel so they can manage a larger fish if they catch one. What safety pointers should people remember? Safety should be your highest priority. Be mindful of the dangers of being on or near the water. Wearing a lifejacket is the law for kids under age 10 and a really good practice for everyone when in a boat. The other big safety concern while fishing is hooks. That risk multiplies when lots of people are casting. If I have lots of kids in a boat, I minimize casting by having them fish right off the side of the boat or slowly troll the weed edges with small spinners and jigs. For older kids, spinnerbaits are great for casting as the hook is less exposed. I would avoid any casting with treble hooks until kids have more experience. Any tips for what kinds of fish to try for and what gear to use? Catching bluegills or bullheads is a great way to start fishing with kids. In many lakes these fish are very abundant, but also very small. If you use light line and small hooks with live bait, you will have a good chance at success. How do you choose where to fish with a kid? Ask at bait stores, surf the many fishing blogs on the web or ask other anglers where they would recommend taking kids fishing. In the Twin Cities, the DNR's Fishing in the Neighborhood program manages and stocks several lakes and ponds to increase fishing opportunities. Check out www.mndnr.gov/fin for details. What should you pack to bring a kid fishing? Bring enough items so that you're prepared for all kinds of weather, and distractions if fishing gets tough or kids get bored. We want kids to eat healthy, but I'm not against making the outing special by bringing a favorite treat or stopping by the ice cream shop on the way home. Bring what you think will help make the outing fun. A positive attitude is probably the most important. Your enthusiasm for fishing will rub off on them! Where can people learn more? Adults who want to learn more before taking a kid fishing can find answers to common fishing questions, download a beginner's guide to fishing, and find a place to fish at www.mndnr.gov/fishmn.



Cathy & Mike Ellie

Donated 4 open face Rods & Reels

Kids donation



Sara & Greg Armitage – In-memoriam donation
\$350 in memory of Gary Swackhammer.



OFAH – Kids Training Day sponsorship \$1250

Columbia Sportswear Employee Store

**1425 Max Brose Drive, Unit 1; London,
Ontario**

Bluewater Anglers members receive invitations to shop at this store four times per year. The invitations are posted on our website and Facebook page.

To shop there you need ID, the invitation either printed or on your phone and proof of Bluewater Anglers membership. You can use either your OFAH membership card that shows membership in the Bluewater Anglers or your Bluewater Anglers membership card.

The invitation is valid for you and up to four guests for multiple visits during the invitation period. Also, seniors over 65 can shop without an invitation on Tuesday. Seniors can bring four guests.

The store carries the following brands: Columbia Sportswear, Mountain Hardwar, SOREL, and prAna.

If they do not have your size in stock you can order at the discount pricing on the store computers. They will ship to your home for a flat fee of \$7.00.

The store has excellent customer service. Enjoy shopping.

Thank You Duncan

It is gone! Duncan Mitchell made short work of the prep, moving the incubator racks, dismantling and disposal of the old table and metal surface, clean up of the hatchery, all in less than 1.5 hours. He was amazing. Ready for delivery of the new table. The old table was falling apart with rot in lots of places, especially under the incubator trays.

**OFAH ZONE J
Membership Event**
Saturday, September 20, 2025

Special Guest Speaker

 Mark Ryckman, OFAH
Manager of Policy
Moose Management Update.

STARTS AT 10:00AM – OPENS AT 9:30AM

Join us in celebrating National Hunting,
Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day
with **free cake!**

HOSTED BY:

Halton Sportsmen's Association
5125 Steeles Ave West
Milton, ON L9E 0R6

- Free coffee and morning snacks
- Lunch for a reasonable fee
- Door prizes for all!

Door prizes for all!



To All of our volunteers

Thank You





Kids Training Day returns

Teaching tomorrow's anglers: Inside Bluewater Anglers' 2025 Kids Training Day

The hatchery at Point Edward was filled with sounds of excitement as the Bluewater Anglers hosted their annual Kids Training Day on May 31. With exactly 100 spots available, the event filled up fast, drawing eager children ages six to 12 and their families for a morning of fishing, learning, and community camaraderie. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., volunteers guided junior anglers through essentials such as choosing the right rod, casting techniques, and tying fishing knots. They also stressed the importance of boating and water safety. Each participant enjoyed testing new skills at the stocked rainbow trout pond, often reeling in their very first fish. Held at the local hatchery, the event was as much about nurturing young talent as it was about community. Sponsorship from the Point Edward Optimists and Goldfish Crackers meant hotdogs, snacks, and pop kept energy levels high all afternoon. Generous donations by Nova Chemicals and the OFAH Membership Community Projects Fund enabled organizers to work with Zale

Outdoors and Cabin Creek Supply Chatham so that every participant left the event with an Okuma rod and reel combo as well as a starter tackle box. "It's incredible to see the outpouring of support from our community partners," event and salmon annually — is the heart of this effort. Events like Kids Training Day connect these conservation efforts directly to the community, allowing children to experience stewardship firsthand. Kids Training Day isn't just about teaching children how to fish. It's about fostering a deep respect for nature and passing on a tradition of conservation that aligns with the broader mission of OFAH Membership. Through hands-on education, community connection, and environmental stewardship, the Bluewater Anglers are helping to raise the next generation of responsible anglers and conservationists. As an OFAH affiliated club, their commitment to sustainable fishing, habitat restoration, and youth engagement reflects the core values of preserving Ontario's natural resources for generations to come. Participants enjoyed food and drinks, fishing, and took home an Okuma rod and reel combo with a starter tackle box. organizer John Klazinga . "Thanks to them, we're not only able to teach kids the basics of angling but also equip them with the tools they need to get out and try it themselves." The Bluewater Anglers, an OFAH-affiliated club known for its commitment to sustaining fish stocks in Lake Huron, have a long-standing tradition of community outreach. Their hatchery in Point Edward — built in the 1980s and today producing hundreds of thousands of trout

Salmon Egg Collection

We need volunteers to help with egg collection in Owen Sound this year.

This is usually on a weekday. We carpool so no one has to drive alone.

If you think you can help,
please contact

Ross Bishop (519-331-6253)



Salmon Derby.

Volunteers needed for the Salmon Derby Committee!

We're looking for more help to keep this great event going: Many hands makes light work.

Mandatory Roles

- Must be able to speak with potential sponsors regarding donations or ad space.
- Attend meetings every 2 or 3 weeks from end of September through to the derby in May.

Optional Support

- Delivery and collection of tickets pre and post derby
- Collection of prizes pre derby
- Co-ordination, setup, and teardown of weigh station trailers

If interested, please message us or send an email to

bluewateranglers.salmonderby@gmail.com



BLUEWATER ANGLERS AND OFAH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The **Bluewater Anglers** are an affiliated club of the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)**. Membership in the Bluewater Anglers includes membership in the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** since all members of an affiliated club must also be members of OFAH (www.ofah.org). Members can choose between an OFAH membership which includes the \$5 million personal insurance and OFAH benefits with or without the **Ontario OUT OF DOORS (OOD)** magazine. If you have a current **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** membership through another club or organization, then you only need to pay for your regular Bluewater Anglers membership.

Complete the form below to become a Bluewater Anglers member or to renew your current membership. More information about membership benefits can be found at <https://www.bluewateranglers.com/memberships> and www.ofah.org. Contact Rob Mina (519-328-6918 or rob_esso@hotmail.com) for more information.

BLUEWATER ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2025

Date (YYYY/MM/DD): ____/____/____ Membership: New ____ Renewal ____

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Step 1: Bluewater Anglers Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior: \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Single: \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$30.00 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Step 2: Do you have a current OFAH Membership from OFAH or another club. If YES complete Step 3. If NO complete step 4. | Step 3: OFAH Membership # _____ | Step 3: OFAH Expiry Date ____/____/____ (YYYY/MM/DD) |
|---|------------------------------------|--|

| Step 4: OFAH Membership | OFAH Membership Type | Ontario Out of Doors magazine | OFAH Membership Benefits |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Junior (under 18 yr. of age) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 | No | Full (except voting) |
| Basic Adult | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 | No | Basic (no family additions) |
| Full Adult | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 | Yes | Full |
| If a Full Adult AND a Family Membership | (Select all that apply) | | |
| Spouse / Partner | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 | Yes | Full |
| Number of Adult Children (age 18 - 25) | <input type="checkbox"/> X \$15.00 / child | Yes | Full |
| Number of Teen Children (age 13 - 17) | <input type="checkbox"/> X \$5.00 / child | Yes | Full |
| Number of Children (age - under 13) | <input type="checkbox"/> No fee / child | Yes | Full |

Name _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____ City _____
 Province/State _____ Country _____ Postal/Zip Code _____
 Email Address _____

NOTE: The names & birth dates of ALL family members are needed to ensure that each person is covered by the personal insurance and OFAH benefits.

| Name | Date of Birth | Name | Date of Birth |
|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

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