

FISH TALES

BLUEWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER

<https://bluewateranglers.com>

Summer 2026

BLUEWATER ANGLERS SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Point Edward Arena & Community Centre

210 Monk Street

Doors open at 7:00PM

Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

FAMILY FUN FISHING DAY

Saturday, July 4, 2026

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

This is a FREE activity for families. You do not need an Ontario fishing license during the June 27 – July 5, 2026, Ontario Family Fishing Week. Sign-in will be at a booth set up by the Bluewater Anglers in Centennial Park near the “fishy” fountain in the parking lot just south of the end of London Road at Front Street. Everybody must sign in to receive a bucket that can be used to collect your gobies and get your ticket for a free hot dog & pop back at the weigh-in at the Bluewater Anglers' Hatchery. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. A limited number of fishing rods and bait will be available at the sign-in booth.

You will fish as a family. If your children have brought friends, they will count as part of your

family for the derby. Boundaries are from Ferry Dock Hill to the Kayak Docks. Bluewater Angler volunteers will be in the fishing area to assist you as well as measure any fish other than gobies. This will allow you to live release the fish you do not want to keep

The weigh-in is at the Bluewater Anglers' Hatchery (...Waterfront Park, north of the Bluewater bridges in Pt. Edward) between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM. Bring your bucket of gobies to be weighed-in and redeem your ticket for a hot dog & pop. There are prizes for the heaviest pail of gobies caught. The weight of gobies caught divided by the number of people fishing in your group gives you your total score. There will be a variety of prizes in the biggest fish category.

NOTE: The \$100 Bluewater Anglers member big fish prize does not apply to this family event.

The event will be held if it is raining. The event will be cancelled if there is thunder and lightning in the area. There is no rain date.

Billyard Insurance is a sponsor for the event.



BLUEWATER ANGLERS' WALLEYE DERBY

Start: 6:00 PM July 24, 2026

End: 2:30 PM July 25, 2026

Everybody is eligible to enter the Bluewater Anglers Walleye Derby provided you have a valid fishing license and you have purchased a \$10.00 entry ticket. This is a BOAT and SHORE event. If fishing in a group, everybody in the group must have a ticket. Tickets are available at *The Outdoorsman* until 4:30 PM on Friday, July 24th. Any money raised will go to support the Bluewater Anglers.

CLUB SPRING DERBY

The Club Spring Derby was held on Saturday, April 25th. This is an opportunity get out and check out your equipment and technique before the start of the Salmon Derby.

There were 20 fish weighed in. 14 fish were caught from a boat, and 6 fish were caught from shore. This included 6 walleye, 6 rainbow trout, 3 lake trout, 3 coho salmon and 2 Atlantic salmon.

Shore Category Winners (left to right)



1st Place: Cody Spinks (7.89 lb. Rainbow Trout)
 2nd Place: James French (7.76 lb. Rainbow Trout)
 3rd Place: Steven Kozlof (5.99 lb. Rainbow Trout)

Boat Category Winners (left to right)



1st Place: Everett Fields (9.58 lb. Lake Trout)
 2nd Place: Kevin Childs (9.38 lb. Atlantic Salmon)
 3rd Place: Bob Simic (7.39 lb. Rainbow Trout)

The Walleye Derby starts on Friday, July 24th at 6:00 PM. The weigh-in will be at the Hatchery from 2:00 PM– 2:30 PM on Saturday, July 25th. You *MUST* be in line by 2:30 PM to have your entries qualify. This is a single fish event ... you can only weigh in one (your largest) walleye. The Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby boundaries apply ... in the St. Clair River south to the south end of Fawn Island, east to the harbor at Grand Bend, and north latitude 43'34" in Lake Huron.

Prizes will be awarded to the 10 heaviest walleyes.

1 st Place	\$500.00	6 th Place	\$25.00
2 nd Place	\$250.00	7 th Place	\$25.00
3 rd Place	\$125.00	8 th Place	\$25.00
4 th Place	\$100.00	9 th Place	\$25.00
5 th Place	\$50.00	10 th Place	\$25.00

PLUS ... \$100.00 for the biggest fish (by weight) entered by a Bluewater Angler member.

Winners will be announced immediately after completion of the weigh-in. There will be draw prizes with winners drawn from all Walleye Derby entrants present. You must be present to win a draw prize. Come out and participate in the event.

Special thanks again to the *VILLAGE of POINT EDWARD* for their generous donation of the \$500 firstplace prize.

In-Memoriam donation from Penelope Willan in memory of her husband Wayne Willan - 100.

In-Memoriam donation from Mary Jo Mather in memory of Norma Johnston - 100

Lambton County Rural Game Protective Association **\$504 Donation**

Kevin Childs won the bonus \$100 prize for the biggest fish entered by a Bluewater Anglers member.

Bluewater Anglers' Hatchery

History 5.5 Million & Counting

A group of 20 anglers from the Sarnia / Point Edward area met with officials from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in the fall of 1979 to discuss the state of sportfishing in lower Lake Huron. One of the results of these meetings was the formation of an angling club in early 1980 that became known as the Bluewater Anglers. The club's main objectives were to improve area fish stocks, and to promote sportfishing for the fisherpersons of today and future generations. The Bluewater Anglers worked with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to get Rainbow Trout stocked into local waters starting in the spring of 1981. Over 350,000 Rainbow Trout fingerlings were stocked into local waters over the next seven years. After extensive discussions with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Bluewater Anglers received approval to build a temporary, pilot fish hatchery near the Point Edward water treatment plant. The pilot hatchery, funded by the MNR, was built in 1982. The first batch of 10,000 Rainbow Trout fingerlings were received in March 1983. They included 3,000 6"-7" fingerlings and 7,000 4"-6" fingerlings. The fingerlings were raised and released in June of 1983. Eight thousand Rainbow Trout fingerlings were received in mid-July 1983 and released in May 1984. The MNR decision in September 1984 to allow Chinook Salmon to be stocked into Lake Huron changed the Bluewater Anglers' hatchery objectives. The original objective to raise Rainbow Trout was changed to raise both Chinook Salmon and Rainbow Trout in a full-scale hatchery. The club obtained approval to raise 20,000 Chinook Salmon and 3,000 Rainbow Trout in the final year of the pilot hatchery. The experience gained from the pilot hatchery in 1983 – 1985 was crucial to the planning and operation of the future full-scale hatchery. The Bluewater Anglers Fish Culture Station (hatchery) was the culmination of all the efforts put forth by the club members with assistance from local industries, the public and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The MNR committed \$75,000 to the construction of the hatchery with the condition that the Bluewater Anglers raised the

remaining estimated \$40,000 - \$50,000. Fund raising, and planning and design of the hatchery started in 1984. The \$53,000 raised by the club was only enough to construct part of the hatchery. It was decided to raise Chinook Salmon in the hatchery. The raising of Rainbow Trout would have to be delayed until additional funds could be raised. Construction of the new 5000 sq. ft. facility started in 1985. Construction was finished in the fall of 1986 just in time for the first collection of Chinook Salmon eggs. Two hundred and thirty thousand Chinook Salmon eggs were collected from local streams and the Credit River. One hundred and seventy three thousand Chinook Salmon fingerlings were released in April 1987. Sufficient funds were raised during the next couple years to allow the introduction of 10,000 Rainbow Trout in 1989 along with the Chinook Salmon. The hatchery was upgraded in 1992 with the addition of a large 21' circular tank to support up to 40,000 Rainbow Trout per year. Thirty thousand domestic Rainbow Trout eggs were purchased in the fall of 1992. A total of 20,000 Rainbow Trout and 200,000 Chinook Salmon were stocked in the spring of 1993. The domestic Rainbow Trout eggs were replaced with wild strain Ganaraskas River Rainbow Trout eggs in 1995. The MNR supplied the eyed-up Rainbow Trout eggs from their MNR hatcheries. The electrical control room in the hatchery was upgraded, the outside pond was rebuilt, and the bathroom was remodelled in 1996 – 1997. Hatchery operations were curtailed in late 2001 as the Bluewater Anglers addressed funding and volunteer support issues. Normal operations restarted for the 2002 hatchery activities. The collapse of the alewife population in Lake Huron during the severe 2002 – 2003 winter had a dramatic effect on the hatchery operation. The number and size of spawning salmon, and the quality of the salmon eggs dropped dramatically in subsequent years. Our salmon egg quota was reduced from 250,000 to 185,000 eggs in 2004 and reduced again to 110,000 eggs in 2012. Brown Trout were introduced in 2004 to fill up the spare capacity resulting from the reduced number of salmon. The hatchery now had the capacity to produce up to 200,000 Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout annually.

Two small rearing tanks (6A and 6B) were installed in 2010. They would allow fry to be removed from the incubator trays and allowed to grow before being transferred to the large holding tanks.

The MNR adjusted our annual fish quotas to 110,000 Chinook Salmon eggs, 50,000 Rainbow Trout eggs and 25,000 Brown Trout eggs in 2011.

A major renovation project in the summer of 2015 rehabilitated the aeration section in the hatchery. The steel beam superstructure was repaired and repainted. The wooden decking under the two water storage tanks was replaced with composite flooring. The two aeration towers and their support structure were rebuilt.

The 21' circular tank was replaced by two 10'X10' fibreglass tanks (9 and 10) in 2016.

The Bluewater Anglers started a mini-hatchery program with three local schools in 2016. The program entailed providing each school with an aquarium, a water chiller, and assorted equipment plus 50 eyed-up salmon eggs. With the help of a dedicated mentor, the students raised the salmon in the classroom until they were released into local streams in the spring. The program has expanded each year. There are currently 19 schools participating in the mini-hatchery program.

The Bluewater Anglers curtailed all club activities, except the hatchery operation, during the 2020 - 2021 Covid-19 pandemic. The hatchery operated during this period with reduced manpower using enhanced safety and health protocols.

The operation of the hatchery has experienced many ups and downs over the past 40 years. It has taken a lot of effort and money. The hatchery and the club are run 100% by volunteers. A group of 4 – 6 volunteers come in each day of the week to take care of the fish and the operation of the hatchery. The profit from the annual Salmon Derby provides 50% or more of the money needed to operate the hatchery. Donations and grants provide the remaining portion of the operating costs.

We look forward to the next successful 50 years.

Year	Salmon	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout	TOTAL
1983		10,000		10,000
1984		7,500		7,500
1985	17,250	3,000		20,250
1987	178,000	0		178,000
1988	228,000	0		228,000
1989	198,000	8,000		206,000
1990	200,000	3,500		203,500
1991	190,000	7,000		197,000
1992	200,000	6,000		206,000
1993	185,000	30,000		215,000
1994	200,000	35,000		235,000
1995	200,000	20,000		220,000
1996	210,000	17,000		227,000
1997	150,000	22,000		172,000
1998	175,000	19,500		194,500
1999	160,000	28,000		188,000
2000	80,000	40,000	35,000	155,000
2001	156,900	45,400		202,300
2003	95,000	45,000		140,000
2004	80,000	20,000	18,000	118,000
2005	52,000	18,000	16,500	86,500
2006	40,000	38,500	15,600	94,100
2007	50,000	15,000	25,000	90,000
2008	12,000	18,000	12,000	42,000
2009	15,900	28,500	17,500	61,900
2010	18,000	12,500	32,300	62,800
2011	87,000	42,000	17,000	146,000
2012	83,000	30,000	14,200	127,200
2013	3,200	35,000	16,550	54,750
2014	75,800	46,400	15,250	137,450
2015	75,000	35,000	0	110,000
2016	91,500	32,750	22,900	147,150
2017	10,900	43,400	4,500	58,800
2018	60,000	40,000	25,000	125,000
2019	89,000	37,000	1,330	127,330
2020	91,000	40,000	18,000	149,000
2021	86,750	35,200	16,600	138,550
2022	12,250	36,100	33,350	81,700
2023	99,600	40,100	16,000	155,700
2024	7,230	25,043	24,810	57,083
2025	60,248	45,216	19,984	125,448
	4,023,528	1,060,609	417,374	

TOTAL of 5,501,511 for you to catch

2026 Salmon Derby Results

Fish by weight station

	Port Franks	Sarnia bay	Daily total
Fri May 01, 2026,	103	110	213
Sat May 02, 2026,	68	169	237
Sun May 03, 2026,	113	65	178
Mon May 04, 2026,	55	67	122
Tue May 05, 2026,	83	106	189
Wed May 06, 2026,	21	70	91
Thu May 07, 2026,	119	88	207
Fri May 08, 2026,	172	103	275
Sat May 09, 2026,	75	70	145
Sun May 10, 2026,	85	53	138
Totals	894	901	1795

Salmon Category (Top 10 Salmon by weight)

#	Weight	Name
1	19.35	Ryan Cummings, Hanover
2	17.65	Dan Greenwood, Bright's Grove
3	17.42	David Jolliffe, Strathroy
4	16.80	Randy Core, Wyoming
5	16.77	Cheyenne Cloud, Kettle Point
6	16.50	Kevin Somes, Sarnia
7	16.34	Branden George, Kettle Point
8	16.15	Robert Brunet, Sarnia
9	16.10	Chad Wellington, Forest
10	16.02	Andrew Frayne, Forest

Lake Trout (Top 5 Lake Trout by weight)

#	Weight	Name
1	20.80	Casey Smith, Forest
2	20.61	Joel Weed, Petrolia
3	19.60	Kevin Wiseman, Strathroy
4	18.79	Len Cloud, Kettle Point
5	18.56	Rick Schram, Thedford

Walleye (Top 5 Walleye by weight)

#	Weight	Name
1	8.11	Bryce Harris, Brights Grove
2	8.10	Tyler Wells, Sarnia
3	8.05	Ryan Pettigrew, Sarnia
4	7.19	Dillon LaPointe, Sarnia
5	6.93	Joshua Rochon, Sarnia

Trout - Boat (Top 5 Rainbow or Brown Trout by weight)

#	Weight	Fish Type	Name
1	9.48	Rainbow Trout	Steve Vanderburgh, Sarnia
2	9.40	Rainbow Trout	Scott Tomlinson, Sarnia
3	9.17	Rainbow Trout	Steve Kuglin, Sarnia
4	8.93	Rainbow Trout	Kyle Limb, Petrolia
5	8.61	Rainbow Trout	Jim Sitzes, Brigden

Trout - Shore (Top 5 Rainbow or Brown Trout by weight)

#	Weight	Fish Type	Name
1	10.83	Rainbow Trout	Cody Chovancek, Petrolia
2	9.46	Rainbow Trout	Steve Brander, Sarnia
3	9.10	Rainbow Trout	Nic Direzze, Point Edward
4	9.05	Rainbow Trout	Josh McKinnon, Petrolia
5	8.76	Rainbow Trout	David Bourque, Sarnia

Ryan Cummings

Winner of the 50th Annual
Salmon Derby!



NOVA Chemicals

\$2500 for Kids Training Day
sponsorship



**FAMILY FUN
FISHING DERBY**

SATURDAY, JULY 4

FREE FISHING
SIGN IN AT THE BWA TENT NEAR THE FOUNTAIN
WEIGH IN AT HATCHERY BETWEEN 11:00 AND 11:30

CENTENNIAL PARK
NEAR THE FOUNTAIN

Hours
8:00 AM - 11:00 PM

SPONSORED BY **BIG** BELLYARD INSURANCE GROUP

HUGE Thank You to Imperial Sarnia Site!

Our old stocking trailer was at end of life and no longer safe for the roads. Through Imperial's Community Investment program, they've generously provided a new trailer for us to continue stocking fish for many years to come.



Rainbow stocking spring 2026



Donation for Hatchery Tours



24th Sarnia Beavers and Cubs \$ 100

5th Sarnia Scouts B-Colony \$100

Community Living \$25



Wayne White \$100 Donation



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 - 2026

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
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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)
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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 _____