

Sackville Rod and Gun Club

Report to New Brunswick Wildlife Federation

2015 Annual General Meeting

The Sackville Rod and Gun Club Inc. holds its regular monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month, from September to May. The meetings begin at 7:00 PM, and are held at the Veteran’s Memorial Civic Centre located at 182 Main St. in Sackville. Each meeting begins with a guest speaker.

The club also holds weekly clay bird shoots at its shotgun range, located at 32 Landing Road in Sackville. The shoots are held at 6:00 on Monday evenings, from May to November.

The Sackville Rod & Gun Club has not only continued to host many member & community activities year after year, but has been actively exploring new opportunities and partnerships. Some of the highlights have been:

1. Sponsoring the Sackville Youth Marksmanship Team. The Sackville Youth Marksmanship Team continue to try and replace equipment lost in the Enterprise Foundry Fire. Over $3000 has been donated in recent years to aid in rebuilding the range and help with travel costs to sanctioned events. The club attended NS airgun provincials in NS (Gold women’s air pistol), North Atlantic Championships in St. Stephen (Bronze women’s air pistol), RNBRA SCS international provincial shoot (Gold & Silver in women’s air rifle), North American Indigenous games in Saskatchewan (2 Gold & 1 Silver, Under 19 Men’s Rifle), RNBRA interprovincial shoot (Gold women’s air pistol, silver men’s air rifle), Inter-provincial NS fall shoot in Truro (Gold & Silver women’s air pistol, Silver & Bronze men’s air rifle). The club had 6 other top 5 finishes in these events. The 2014 year ended with two members, Katelynn Turner & David Knockwood being named to the NB air gun team to compete in the 2015 Canada Winter Games in Prince George, BC. The team is also part of the Royal New Brunswick Rifles Association Youth Sector, and participates regularly in those meetings.
2. The Rod and Gun Club held its annual Fall Fair Shotgun Shoot. The shoot is held at the club’s shotgun range in conjunction with the Sackville September Fall Fair. The shoot gives the public an opportunity to try clay bird shooting under close supervision. A competitive shoot was held for adults. Prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The Youth Marksmanship team was present and had their air rifles available for youth to try and provided food and coffee. The event is open to the public, and has become a major annual event for the fair.
3. On Oct 5th the club hosted an introduction to .22 rifle shoot for anyone in the community interesting in learning marksmanship basics. The shoot was open to the public and all the gear/ammunition was provided by the SRGC free of charge. Participants aged 16-60 attended in the event. The youth marksmanship team held a fundraising BBQ on site.
4. The Club’s annual barbeque was held on May 7, 2014. The event always brings a large turnout of members. The Town of Sackville assists by providing access to the local arena’s lounge, kitchen and BBQ with food being cooked by our very own Mayor Bob Berry. This year’s BBQ is set for Wednesday May 6, 2015, all are welcome to attend. Charlie Leblanc attended to discuss the importance of NBWF involvement.
5. On October 4, 2014 a big bore rifle shoot was held at the club’s Walker Road Range. The event was open to members only and required firing 3 shots at a distance of 75 yards within 2 minutes. 18 shooters registered for the event. There were cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The Youth Marksmanship Team held a fundraising BBQ at the shoot and a Savage 64F .22 was raffled off.
6. The Sackville Rod and Gun club held a raffle for a Tikka T3 .22-250 rifle sponsored by Green Diamond Equipment. The funds were used to support ongoing club activities.
7. On December 13, 2014 the annual Rabbit Shoot took place at the clubs private Walker Road Range. This year the event was opened to members of other clubs as well and saw representatives from the Shepody Fish and Game participate. The shoot is a 25 yard marksmanship contest using .22 calibre rifles in three separate classes: scoped, open or peep sights. Cash prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for each class. The shoot was followed by a home cooked chili and rolls donated by club members. A raffle was held for a .22 rifle. The shoot is not only competitive, but is a key networking event for clubs in South East New Brunswick.
8. The Sackville Rod & Gun Club continues to network and form partnerships with likeminded organizations. The latest example being the Chignecto Naturalists Club. We have begun sharing information, routinely attend one another’s meetings and inform/invite members of both clubs to local events.
9. The SRGC recognized the hard work of volunteer Eric Wheaton by presenting him with a Lars Larson print. Eric has purchased the ingredients and prepared a homemade stew for the annual rabbit shoot for many years.
10. The club once again sold raffle tickets on a complete canoe package with the proceeds going to sponsor our youth fishing derby to keep the event free to the public. A canoe, paddles and life jackets were sponsored in part by Canadian Tire Mountain Road.
11. The Sackville Rod and Gun Club continue to sponsor its annual Youth Fishing Derby. The 2014 derby was co-sponsored by the New Brunswick Conservation Officers Association. The derby introduces 65 children between 5-15 years old to the sport of fishing. There is no fee for the event and a free BBQ is available to all. Instruction is provided and prizes are awarded. The DNR anti-poaching trailer was on display to teach children respect for the law and game animals. The club has been hosting the derby since 1993.
12. The Club continues to financially support the Christmas Cheer fundraiser for less fortunate families in the Sackville area.
13. The monthly club meetings typically contain refreshments, 50/50 draws, and a guest speaker. Guest speakers who have visited the club in the last year include: Michael Lutes & Wayde Clifford of the Royal New Brunswick Rifle Association, Retired Biologist Gerry Parker speaking about the eastern coyote, Charlie Leblanc of the New Brunswick Wildlife Federation, Bear Biologist Gerry Redmond, Kevin Davidson from Canadian Wildlife Services discussing species at risk, Ben Phillips – conservation project manager of Fundy Biosphere reserve, Craig Smith head of Canadian Wildlife Service Federal Enforcement discussing protection of migratory game birds & the international wildlife trade in Atlantic Canada.
14. Following the presentation by Dr. Vett Lloyd on Lyme disease, many members of the SRGC were recruited to aid in her studies by donating blood samples to be tested for the disease.
15. The Sackville Rod & Gun Club officially became a member of the New Brunswick Salmon Council and sent representatives to the directors meeting. Following the meeting the SRGC has begun work to implement the Fish Friends Program, having already found a willing host (Tantramar Wetlands Center) and are currently raising funds to purchase necessary equipment.
16. Representatives of the Sackville Rod & Gun Club attended the Royal New Brunswick Rifle Association AGM and presented a yearly report. The SRGC has agreed to attend meetings to be scheduled in early 2015 to aid the RNBRA in implementing a plan for sustainability and continued growth.

1. The Sackville Rod & Gun Club sponsored an entire elementary class to participate in the Ducks Unlimited Project Webfoot program. The program educates children on wetland ecosystems and conservation through class based resources and wetland field trips.
2. The Sackville Rod & Gun Club initiated a $500 bursary to a graduating student of Tantramar Regional High School for the 2014-2015 school year. The student must have been accepted into a conservation related post-secondary education program and submit an essay on the importance of hunting and fishing to conservation.
3. On October 6, 2014 the Sackville Rod & Gun Club aided The Council of Canadians in bringing and publicizing The Great Resource Giveaway presentation in Sackville. The public presentation sees Rod Cumberland (certified wildlife biologist), Don Bowser (Transparency and anti-corruption international expert) and Charles Theriault (Documentary filmmaker of is our forest really ours fame) question the management of New Brunswick’s Crown Land forest. The presentation was followed by a question period and seminar from Forests International.
4. The Sackville Rod and Gun Club continues to partner with the Tantramar Regional High School to provide Firearm Safety/Hunter education in the Tantramar Wetlands Centre. The Wetlands Centre has received an international RAMSAR award for education in wildlife habitat protection. TRHS is one on the few schools to include courses that deal with wildlife management, trapping hunting and ecology in the regular curriculum. Since the 2007 closure of the local DNR office, the Rod and Gun Club has been the sole provider of FS/HE courses to people wanting to get involved in outdoor sports in the Sackville area. Over 165 new shooters and hunters attended courses hosted by the club since 2012. Courses were hosted by the club in the spring and fall of 2014 with 45 newly certified hunters being trained. Courses are already booked for 2015.
5. When not hosting courses in town, members of the SRGC travel to the Dieppe DNR office to aid in teaching the firearms safety & hunter education courses to youth there. Members also aid in teaching of the NB trapper education course.
6. The Sackville Rod & Gun Club continues to provide subscriptions to 3 outdoor life magazines for the Tantramar Wetlands Center at Tantramar Regional High School. Students receive Fur-Fish-Game, Outdoor Canada and Wild Fowl magazine free of charge to educate students on the Canadian environment, waterfowl ecology and hunting/fishing/fur harvesting.
7. The club president attended the 2014 New Brunswick Wildlife Federation Annual General meeting at Pres du Lac, Grand Falls. The SRGC donated prizes to the event for fundraising. The SRGC was presented with the Most Active Club Award.
8. Members of the SRGC continue to volunteer and support the NBWF. The SRGC sold raffle tickets for the License Lottery and our monthly meetings, as well as sent two volunteers to man the NBWF booth at the NB Sportsmen’s show at the Moncton Coliseum.
9. The club held its annual spring sportsman supper. The supper continues to sell out every year. In addition to a great meal, raffles, auctions and games with many prizes are available. This year’s supper is set for Saturday April 25, 2015.
10. Using the funds acquired from selling raffle tickets on a Tikka rifle the Sackville Rod & Gun club continued to improve our shotgun range on Landing Road. We modernized the range with the addition of a second electric clay bird thrower and re-shingled our storage building.
11. The Sackville Rod and Gun club has leased the crown land surrounding the DNR Walker Road Rifle range. The club took over operation of the 100m range from the province in September 2011 and continues to maintain it. In 2014 the club improved the range with the addition of 2 new shooting benches and new target stands. The club allows non-members to use the range for a daily fee.
12. The club continues to enter the electronic age. We recently purchased a laptop, printer/scanner and external hard-drive to improve our management of business records. We have begun migrating archival paper records, minutes and reports to electronic format.

1. In an effort to recognize the hard work of our many volunteers, the Sackville Rod & Gun Club has initiated an “Outdoorsman of the Year Award” given to a member in good standing that contributes significantly to the clubs objectives. The inaugural winner of the award was past President Craig Smith, who was presented with an individual commemorative plaque.
2. The Sackville Rod & Gun Club encourages community initiatives, and on April 7, 2014 donated $1000 dollars to the Sackville Memorial Hospital’s “Let’s not miss a beat” campaign to purchase lifesaving heart monitoring equipment. The donation elevated the SRGC to the “Benefactor” level of donor recognition.
3. The Sackville Rod & Gun Club continues to sell club merchandise to anyone interested, hats & patches containing the clubs crest are still available.
4. The Sackville Rod & Gun club continues to attract new members year after year. In an effort to make membership affordable for all families the club instituted family memberships for the first time. Dependents of club members are able to join for 50% off the regular price. This has without doubt been part of the reason the club had 45 new members join last year.
5. The Sackville Rod & Gun club continues to maintain our website [www.sackvillerodandgun.ca](http://www.sackvillerodandgun.ca) to inform members and the public of upcoming activities. We also provide news articles and pictures of all events to our local paper, The Sackville Tribune-Post.

The club’s monthly meetings and weekly shoots are open to all. Should you find yourself in Sackville, please make an effort to join in our activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sean Gormley

President