

## **2024 Sporting Clays Annual Report**

2024 was another great year for Sporting Clays at the club with the usual Wednesday shoots and other special events held throughout the year. There were lots of familiar faces on the range with some new participants along the way. Activities during the year included the following:

### **1. Wednesday Evening Sporting Clays:**

- Shoots ran each Wednesday evening from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup>. This timeframe provides ample evening daylight.
- Includes 50 target sporting courses (typically 5 or 6 stations) that shooters may shoot multiple times, daylight permitting.
- Average of 15-20 dedicated shooters every Wednesday evening.

### **2. “Off Season” Monthly Sporting Clays Shoots:**

- The Sporting Clays Committee makes every effort to hold a Saturday shoot once a month in the off-season when days are short. Weather is often a challenge, particularly during the winter months, when weekend storms and/or large accumulations of snow on the sporting trail can result in cancellations. 2024 included:
  - Leo’s Invitational in January 2024 - 20 participants.
  - April Shoot 2024 - 24 participants on a cold blustery day.
  - Thanksgiving Shoot - Held on October 5<sup>th</sup> with 16 participants.
  - Santa’s Challenge - Held on December 7<sup>th</sup> with a healthy turnout of 26 participants.

### **3. Regatta Day Blast:**

- This shoot is an annual event first held in 2015 on the Regatta Day holiday, which normally consists of a 75-100 target sporting course and shooting challenges with lunch served in between.
- 2024 consisted of a 75 target course in the morning and a clays shooting challenge in the afternoon.
- This year, the shoot was held on a Saturday instead of actual Regatta Day to enable participation from those who may not get the Regatta Day holiday.

### **4. Hunters Challenge:**

- This shoot is an annual event that has been held at the Club for many years, typically the weekend before the upland bird/waterfowl season opener. This gives folks a chance to blow the cobwebs out of their shotguns and warm up for the season ahead.
- This year’s shoot was held on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> with a good turnout.

### **5. OFCL (Old Fellows Clays League):**

- Once the days get too short for Wednesday evening sporting clays, the Club shifts to daytime shooting which continues throughout the fall, winter and Spring (weather permitting) until evening sporting clays restarts in May. Shooting typically starts at 10 am and utilizes the Sporting Clays or Five Stand courses depending on time of year.
- Number of participants has been up to 15 shooters.

## **6. Other Activities:**

- Support was provided to the youth group who in return help with setup and takedown, moving boxes of clay targets, etc.
- Also supported the Becoming an Outdoor Woman's program.

## **Equipment and Course Improvements**

- New stands and covers were built to house two more sporting clays launchers out on the sporting clays trail. This enabled some exciting new target presentations as well as protecting our valuable clay launchers by reducing the number of units being moved around each week. Solar battery chargers were purchased so that batteries could be kept charged under the new covers. These new stands can be moved to different locations each season to change up target presentations.
- This past year, benches for the sporting clays trail were donated by the OFCL.

## **Thanks**

- The Sporting Clays Committee would like to thank all the members and youth who come out to our sporting clays shoots and keep it exciting and to those who help facilitate our shoots, whether it be helping to set (or dismantle) courses, loading clay launchers, working the kitchen or registration desk, etc.
- Thanks to those who have helped out with maintenance/improvements when needed. Most of the work on the sporting clays trail and equipment maintenance over the past year has been carried out with volunteer labour, mainly undertaken by Leo Carns and Christian Winter (Thanks Guys!).
- A special thanks to Alice and Bob Barbour for their support and commitment to sporting clays at the club over the years. Alice, who commanded the registration desk and kitchen during Wednesday evening sporting clays for well over a decade, announced this past season that she would be "retiring". She will be missed and hard to replace.
- Many thanks to the club executive for its continued support for Sporting Clays.