

St. John's Rod and Gun Club  
2025 Annual General Meeting  
Trap Report

The 2024 trapshooting season at the St. John's Rod and Gun Club started off on a cold, damp, wet, foggy, and windy day on April 28 for the Dianne Wood Memorial Shoot. Dianne was from London, Ontario and passed away on December 23, 2023, a short time after a cancer diagnosis. The shoot was held as shooters at Dianne's home club, the Crumlin Sportsmen's Association near London, Ontario, hosted their Dianne Wood Memorial Shoot. A celebration of life was held on the previous day and was attended by over 100 close family and friends. Dianne and husband Jim regularly attended the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships and befriended many of us at the St. John's Rod and Gun Club. A group of members felt it was important to join in the celebration to remember a fine person, so a shoot was held that was followed by a game of cribb; another favourite pastime of Dianne's.



(left to right) Christian Winter, Andrea Bassan and Troy Coldwell

The 2024 trapshooting season was on par with the previous year. Our weekly shoots were well attended, and the club hosted a number of ATA registered shoots. The season wrapped up in early November with a combination Memorial / Turkey Shoot which was a huge success. The trap, sporting clays and steel shoot group got together for a club shoot, a great turkey dinner, and together raised \$1000 for the Community Food Sharing Association through cash donations, a goods raffle, and some very generous members.

Much of the summer was spent preparing for the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships that was held over the Labour Day weekend from August 29 through to September 1. The club grounds were neatly kept, and the clubhouse got some much need maintenance. A kitchen range hood and backsplash were installed, deck repairs completed, the flagpole was re-rope, and the clubhouse got a much need coat of stain. Thanks to everyone that volunteered their time and labour to ensure everything got done.

Overall, the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships was a success. The shoot was supported by local shooting sports and outdoors businesses, major industry brands, and shooters from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and the Atlantic Provinces.

Despite the impressive visiting shooter attendance, the number of entries was down from the previous 2 years. Shoot organizers largely attribute this to the rising cost target ammunition, clay targets, travel, and the cost of living in general. Regardless, those in attendance were treated to a great shoot, good targets, friendly hospitality, a cribb tournament, fish fry, and a fully catered meal and informal banquet held at the club.



Visiting shooters were treated to a day cod fishing on Conception Bay by club members Christian Winter (left), John Tucker (right of center, front) and Peter Tucker (right)

From a club perspective, it is a huge effort to put off and organize a shoot like the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships. The planning starts 10-12 months in advance and there are countless things to do to ensure the shoot happens and turns over a profit for the club. Thanks to everyone that made the shoot possible.

For some context, the Atlantic Provinces forms the province / state organizational body for shooters living in the Atlantic Provinces that shoot Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) competitions. Shooters are members of the ATA, follow ATA rules for all shoots and the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Association (APTA) represents shooters in the ATA. The APTA and the ATA are the major sponsors of the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships and provide the trophies for the championship events. Trophies and awards for the preliminary day events are the responsibility of the club.

In 2024, the St. John's Rod and Gun Club was awarded another grant from the ATA's Gun Club Fund. This program awards grants to gun clubs to help with any project, purchase, or activity that promotes

trapshooting at the club level. This is the fifth ATA Gun Club Fund grant the club has received totalling over \$5500 US.

Looking forward to 2025, the club's trap section will continue with regularly scheduled weekly shoots, ATA competitions, fun shoots, general maintenance of trap equipment, and general upkeep of the trap range. The cost of clay targets and target ammunition have the largest impact on participation in the clay target shooting sports. Target ammunition has already taken a 5% increase this year, and the availability and cost will continue to be a major factor to watch this year. Clay target pricing from the manufacturer will also more than likely see a price increase this year due to the US exchange rate and rising costs of raw materials. Fortunately, the trap section has a sufficient inventory of clay targets that will meet the needs for the upcoming season, so no target fee increases are anticipated.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone that helped make the 2024 trapshooting season at the club possible. Your help is very much appreciated. Like the proverb says, many hands make light work.

See you at the club.

Andrea Bassan  
Chairman  
Trap Committee