

# The Glengarry News

## **South Lancaster Fish and Game Club gets kids hooked on fishing!**

**July 10 2019 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff**

The South Lancaster Fish and Game Club hosted their annual Kids' Fishing Derby on Saturday at the South Lancaster wharf.

This much-loved event has been drawing in children and families for nine years now, said South Lancaster Fish and Game Club member Shawn St. Pierre of Lancaster who founded the event with local fishing legend and co-author of the book 'The Rivermen - Echoes of Lake St. Francis' Roy Levebre who was unable to attend. "We were look to do something for the kids and community," said Mr. St. Pierre. We wanted something free for all to enjoy and to get kids fishing again, this is what we came up with."

Mr. St. Pierre who was joined by his sons, was beaming with pride as he surveyed all of the children participating in the event. "It bets better and better every year, it's nice to see something that we started still going strong so many years later."

More than 80 children participated in the event which offered free fishing rods to try out, worms, a competition for biggest fish, participation certificates, prizes, goodie bags, a barbeque and much more! While attendance was free, participating families were asked to bring a canned good or non-perishable food item to donate.

For club President André Hébert, the focus was on having fun while promoting fishing as a sport and generating awareness for the wharf. "It's important to educate people on fishing so new generations can take it over and help protect the sport," he said. "This area has been the best small mouth bass fishery in the country if not the world."

The event also has a strong educational component. Every year, children learn about the 'goby' which is an invasive species. Gobies caught by the children are placed in a tub where they will be destroyed following the event. This year, the tub was full of gobies with six year old Liam Morin of Cornwall winning the prize in his age category for catching nine gobies along with a large mouth bass.

"Liam caught a 2.95 lb bass," said club member and weigh in operator Chris Rousseau excitedly. "It's probably the biggest bass we've had at this event!"

Little Mr. Morin's big brother was all smiles as he congratulated the young star of the morning. "It's in our blood," said eleven year old Aiden Morin. "I caught a 2.2 ounce sunfish, two perch and four gobies." Both brothers took first prize in their age categories saying they enjoy being outside on the water and catching fish. "If they are big enough, they put up a good fight," said the elder brother. "This is our first time here, but we're definitely coming back!"