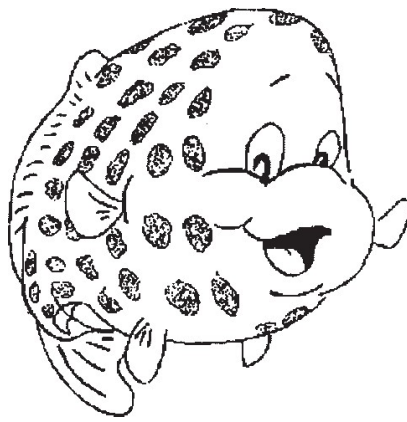


# THE SCAT



2025 ISSUE 4

April 2025



- 2. Our Mission Statement
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## Our Mission Statement

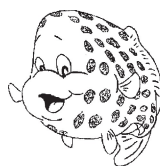
*The Society, established in 1958, is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of tropical fish; both at the beginner and more advanced levels.*

The March meeting of The St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society, (SCAAS) is going to be held on Monday April 7, 2025, at Our Lady of Scapular Hall at 6557 Thorold Stone Road in Niagara Falls. The doors open at 6 PM with the meeting starting at 6:30 PM.

SCAAS is a charter member of the **Canadian Association of Aquarium Clubs Inc.**, (CAOAC, [www.caoac.ca](http://www.caoac.ca)), and a member of the **Federation of American Aquarium Societies**, (FAAS, [www.faas.info](http://www.faas.info)).

More news and information about SCAAS can be found on our website: [www.scaas1958.ca](http://www.scaas1958.ca)

We also have a Facebook page under **The St. Catharines Area Aquarium Society 1958** where you can ask aquarium related questions and post photographs of your aquariums and fish, plants, etc. Unfortunately, due to Facebook policies we are unable to post fish for sale ads using our club page.



## Executive

**President: Jim Chalmers**

Jchalmers17@yahoo.ca

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Tom Hiller**

scaasexec@gmail.com

905.227.5008

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Erin Gettler**

[egotter@gmail.com](mailto:egotter@gmail.com)

**Secretary: Phil Barrett**

Pbarrett1970.pb@gmail.com

905.931.2044

**Treasurer: Kandys Mattatall**

kingtutkc@hotmail.com



## Advertising in The Scat

Full Page	\$150
Half Page	\$100
Quarter Page	\$80
Business Card	\$50

## Membership Fees

Family/Couple	\$30
Adults	\$25
Junior (under 16)	\$15

Senior (60+) \$10

Senior Couple (60+) \$15

## Jar ShowFOM

**September:** Goldfish

**October:** Danios, Barbs, Tetras

**November:** Cichlids

**December:** Open to All Types

**January:** Plants

**February:** Loaches, Sharks

**March:** Mollies, Swords, & Platies

**April:** Anabantids including  
Gouramis and Bettas

**May:** Guppies

**June:** Corys, Catfish, Plecos

**No shows for July and August**

## Committees

**Breeder/OAA Awards:** Vacant

**Horticulture Awards:** Vacant

**CAOAC Representative:** Phil Barrett

**Programs:** Open Position

**SCAT Newsletter & Jar Show Coord.:** Pat Shriner

**Past President & Membership:** Jon Mattatall

**Webmaster:** Jon Mattatall

**Ways & Means:** Open Position

**CAOAC Corresponding Secretary & SCAAS:**

Cindy Barrett

**Auction Committee:** Cindy Barrett

# Jim's Presidential Message



Hello all,

Hope all is well! We are going to open the doors at 6 PM this time as we are having a hot dog supper before we start! Jon will have tickets for anyone who has not purchased them for \$10.00. We have a few new sponsors for the club; The Meat Shoppe located at 4725 Dorchester Rd., in Niagara Falls, donated and has quality meat and sells pet food! Ruffins in Welland is new to us and Ripley's Believe it or Not has also donated! Things are looking up! This month we have Hayden Pounder as our speaker on collecting in Ghana will be very interesting! On another note, Tom Hiller has stepped down as First Vice President. Tom has held that position and more throughout his 25 years as a member. I would like to thank him for all his service and endless support in making this club what it is today. He will still be a member so I know where he will be in case, we need his expertise. Congrats Tom, it's been a pleasure working with you! The final note is about the upcoming convention at the Burlington Holiday Inn. If you have never been to one now is the time to book a spot. They are very informative and the auction and contacts you will make are second to none. The dates are Friday November 14 to Sunday November 16/2025 Book early and save a few dollars! That's all for now. Hope to see all who can attend.

Jim Chalmers, President

# Club Notes

As June is the election month, please consider if you'd be interested in running for one of the following positions:

- **The President.**

Shall officiate at all meetings and shall guide and direct the affairs of the society for the best interests of the society and the hobby. They shall be an ex-officio member of all communities and may countersign disbursement cheques.

- **Vice-President.**

Shall take over and substitute for the President they are unable to attend.

- **2nd Vice-President.**

Duties shall be determined by the executive as a whole.

- **Secretary.**

Shall record the minutes of the regular and executive meetings. Be responsible for reading the minutes of previous meetings.

- **Treasurer.**

Shall receive all the monies of the society and make sure the funds are deposited in the society's account and shall disburse them only on the approval of the society's officers.

## Minutes from the March Meeting

- Call to order 19:32
- 1 new member signed up, 1 new member visiting for the first time.
- The spring auction has been moved to May 3, due to Windsor having Swap Meet that weekend March 22, Durham and Peel have Auctions that weekend and the weekend before March 22.
- Fall Auction is Nov 1<sup>st</sup>
- The April Meeting is dinner and a show- \$10.00 ticket for hotdog side and desert (Costco dogs) along with guest speaker Haydon- Jon selling tickets already for next month- Funds in for dinner help offset \$431.50 for Website at Godaddy
- June will be Toms last time sitting in Chair on the Executive committee- Will remain a member and be Mentor and Ambassador on getting donations for Club
- Ribbons being issued for Jar Show Best in show, 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> along with pictures
- Best in show Mollies Swords Platies- Brett J
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Shawn J
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Erin G
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Denise

## Editor's Note



Please I need your aquarium related articles, and photos for future editions of the SCAT. Wanted or for sale ads are welcome too.

Please send them to me by email at [pshriner17@gmail.com](mailto:pshriner17@gmail.com) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the next SCAT edition.

Thank you.

Pat



## Treasurer's Report for March 2025

Well, what a change up for the club this month. Thanks to Erin for stepping up and taking care of the secretary position and being my Phil during the auctions. We had a great meeting, and I do believe Erin got her steps in. It was also nice to see one of our own do the presentation for the month, way to go Skip!! We started this month's meeting with a cashbox balance of \$258.90. That evening and during the month the changes were:

Balance carried forward			\$258.90
50/50 Raffle	\$49.50		\$308.40
Fish Auction - club share	\$84.20		\$392.60
Raffle	\$78.00		\$470.60
Memberships			\$470.60
Canteen Deposit			\$470.60
Purchased business card blanks		\$39.36	\$431.24
Donation	\$7.00		\$438.24
New Sponsor - The Meat Shoppe	\$100.00		\$538.24
Change from Website Renewal	\$143.17		\$681.41
Grace/Gratitude		\$1.71	\$679.70
Float		\$258.90	\$420.80
Total			\$420.80

There were only two changes to the bank account, which last month ended with a balance of \$4236.92.

			\$4,236.92
March 3, 2025	OLOTSC - March Rent	\$100.00	\$4,136.92
	cheque eighteen		\$4,136.92
			\$4,136.92
March 12, 2025	Website and name renewal	\$466.64	\$3,670.28
	cheque fifteen		\$3,670.28

Overall, we had a great month. The pleasant surprise of the lower cost for our website and name renewal was impressive. Always good not to have to spend what was expected. Now we can start looking forward to our special dinner and presentation at this coming meeting and preparations for the spring auction. Things are sure looking up!

Kandys Mattatall - Treasurer





**WELCOMES YOU TO A SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION AND DINNER  
FEATURING.....**

**HAYDN POUNDER**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**\$10 PER PERSON \$10**



**DINNER INCLUDES**

**JUMBO ALL BEEF HOTDOG  
GARDEN SALAD  
DESSERT  
BOTTLE OF WATER**

Other Beverages Available At The Canteen For Purchase

**PRESENTATION**



**COLLECTING  
ADVENTURES  
IN GHANA**



Microsoft Teams



**MONDAY APRIL 7TH 6:00PM**

**Our Lady Of The Scapular Parish Hall  
6557 THOROLD STONE RD NIAGARA FALLS**



**IF POSSIBLE PLEASE BRING A  
NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM  
FOR THE CHURCH'S FOOD DRIVE**



# AQUARIUM FISH AUCTION



## SATURDAY MAY 3RD

6557 THOROLD STONE RD. NIAGARA FALLS  
OUR LADY OF THE SCAPULAR PARISH HALL

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
OVER 700 ITEMS SOLD LAST AUCTION

PLENTY OF  
FREE PARKING

DOORS OPEN @ 8:00AM  
FOR REGISTRATION

AUCTION STARTS  
PROMPTLY @ 10:00AM



MANY RAFFLES AND  
PRIZES TO BE WON



FOOD & BEVERAGES  
WILL BE AVAILABLE

APRIL 30TH IS THE FINAL DAY FOR PRE-REGISTERING AS A  
SELLER. ALL OTHER SELLERS WILL BE REGISTERED AT THE  
EVENT. TO PRE-REGISTER OR ASK A QUESTION EMAIL US AT

[SCAASEXEC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SCAASEXEC@GMAIL.COM)



[WWW.SCAAS1958.CA](http://WWW.SCAAS1958.CA)

# ***Water Changes – Alternative Opinion***

***By Richard Matthie***

Our hobby is dependent on water and its chemical makeup, pH, Nitrates, and Ammonia etc. We set up a new aquarium and we "Cycle" the water. Everyone's tap water is different depending on the water source it's drawn from. Cycling can take 3 days to couple of weeks. It is just part of keeping and breeding our fish. Once we have every chemical level to our liking, we add fish. This process we all know, accept and live by.

A lot has been written about "weekly" water changes. Take out 25%, 50% and some people advocate 75% and replace it with "new" water. Do you know what your tap water chemical make-up is? Our water treatment plants play around with chlorine levels, fluoride and other parameters to make our water "safe" for drinking on daily basis. Is the water fish safe though? You do a big water change. You replace it with water out of the tap. What is your tank water chemical make-up now? We put a dechlorinator like Aqua Safe in the new water to control the chlorine but what about the other chemical parameters?

How many times have we read a post saying " Help! My Fish Are Dying "after a BIG water change. Your tank isn't cycled any more. Your water parameters are out of the acceptable levels. The good bacteria level had been reduced to low levels. Your fish can't take the change and pass away. We need to think about what we are adding to our tanks. You're playing dangerously if you have high value fish or you're doing a major breeding program.

So, what is the answer and proper procedure? For me the answer is no water changes. I don't do weekly changes just replace water that has been evaporated. I'm sure everyone that keeps a large amount of tanks has their own system. I have over 25 tanks (more getting added all the time for breeding purposes). Twice a week, I top up the water level. I use tap water with Aqua Safe added. The most I add to any tank is 1.5 gallons. My big 75 gallon tanks would never be bothered by that amount in the slightest. My 10 gallon guppy breeding tanks might get a quarter gallon added max (that's 3% new water). A low amount of new tap water doesn't upset your water chemistry like adding 25%, 50% or 75% new water. You don't dilute your bacteria level very much. Your tank is basically still cycled. Your fish can handle a very slight change. I have tanks that I have had in operation for 4 years and it's very rare to lose a fish.

So, what about when a tank just gets too dirty? Water clarity is a high importance to me. When it's time to overhaul a tank, I don't drain it. The fish are moved to another tank. Heater, filters, rocks and plants are removed. The gravel or sand is stirred up releasing the dirt trapped. I put a strong power filter on the tank and filter out the contaminants. Over usually 3 days. I keep stirring the tank until the water is clear. Why do all this? Wouldn't it be easier to just drain it, clean the tank and gravel and set it back up? Easy isn't always the best way. It's faster to tear a tank down and put it back together with "NEW" water. That's the catch. New water means cycling the tank all over. For me keeping the tank set up and filtering out the dirt means my tank stays cycled. Water parameters don't change. I also don't have a water bill (\$\$\$) for the water that would have been replaced.

Agree with me or disagree with my logic, this is what works for me. Oh, one last thing, I've been keeping and breeding fish for over 50 years. I have a civil engineering background dealing with water treatment plants and it has helped with my fish addiction.



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**JIM CHALMERS**

**2024**

**TOM HILLIER**



**1ST VICE  
PRESIDENT**

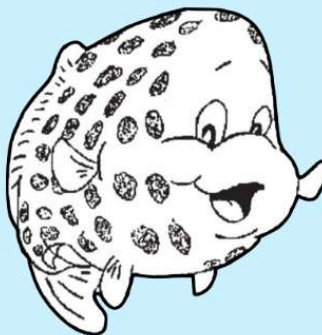
**PHIL BARRETT**



**SECRETARY**



**PRESIDENT**



**2025**

**ERIN GETTLER**



**2ND VICE  
PRESIDENT**

**KANDYS MATTATALL**



**TREASURER**



**VOL. 3  
ISSUE 8**

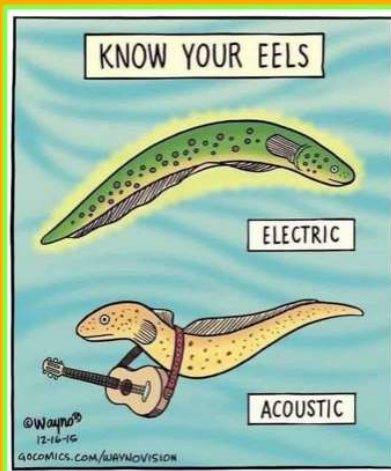
**APRIL  
2025**



# THE FISHY FUNNIES



- What Do You Call A Fish With No Eyes? A Fsshhh!
- Why Are Fish Always So Smart? Because They Live In Schools
- Where Do Fish Sleep? In Their "Water" Beds!
- Why Did The Fish Live In A Castle? He Was A Royal "Guppy"
- What's A Shark's Favourite April Fool's Day Prank? "Gulp"... I'm Just "Krill"Ing!







# KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THINGS

# S.C.A.A.S.

HOME MEMBERSHIP THE SCAT JAR SHOW AUCTIONS FORMS SPONSORS MORE ▼

**OUR FIRST MEETING OF  
THE NEW CLUB SEASON  
IS ON SEPTEMBER 9TH**

Club meetings resume in September.

1	7	0	6	1	5	1	9
Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds				

HOME MEMBERSHIP THE SCAT JAR SHOW AUCTIONS FORMS SPONSORS MORE ▼

**THE ST. CATHARINES AND AREA AQUARIUM  
SOCIETY**

**About Us**

Welcome to the St. Catharines & Area Aquarium Society. The Society was established in 1958. It is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to the task of promoting interest in the breeding, raising, maintenance and study of tropical fish and plants both at the beginner and advanced levels. We hold our monthly meetings in the months of September to June on the first Monday off every month at 7:00 pm at OUR LADY OF THE SCAPULAR, 6557 THOROLD STONE RD, Niagara Falls Ontario. At the meetings we start off with welcoming new members and discussing club business. After that we have a presentation/speaker who will speak on a specific topic in the aquarium hobby.

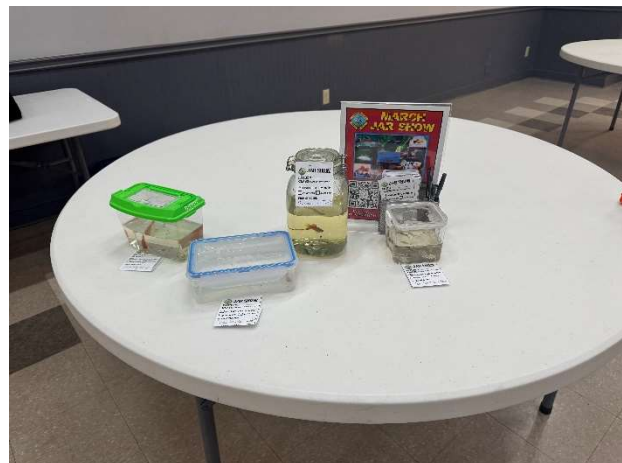
**Ready to Join  
The Club?**

Becoming a member is easy. Simply sign up and start enjoying all the benefits of being a part of our community.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT  
HOW TO BECOME A  
MEMBER](#)

# VISIT US AT [WWW.SCAAS1958.CA](http://WWW.SCAAS1958.CA)

# Our March 2025 Club Meeting







# **Big Al's** **PET SUPERCENTRES**

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**DISCOUNT IS APPLICABLE TO AQUARIUM PRODUCTS AND FISH ONLY.**

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ELIGIBLE FOR THE DISCOUNT.**

**DISCOUNT CANNOT BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER  
OFFERS INCLUDING COUPONS.**

**THANK YOU - MANAGEMENT**



# **Upcoming Events**

**April 6, 2025**

**Peel Regional Aquarium Club  
Society Spring Auction**

**April 13, 2025**

**DRAS Aquariama Auction**

**April 26, 2025**

**Sarnia Aquarium Society Spring Auction**

**April 27, 2025**

**Niagara Coral Expo  
The Casablanca Hotel - Grimsby**

# Awards from Last Month

Jar Show

Fish of the Month

Mollies, Swords and Platies

Best in Show – Brett

1<sup>st</sup> Denise Wyse

2<sup>nd</sup> – Shawn

3<sup>rd</sup> – Erin





# NorthFin

**Les meilleurs ingrédients à 100% dans chaque granule**

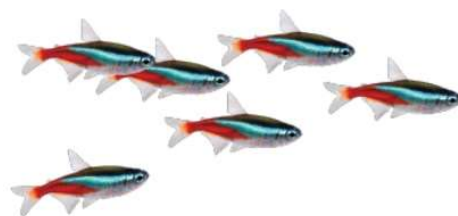
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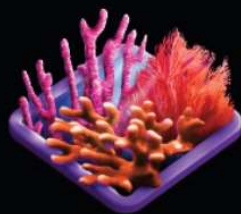
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*(SALE ITEMS, KITS AND AQUARIUMS ARE EXCLUDED)*







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