

By: Yvonne Brown

Ontario Women Anglers is an organization that provides a variety of programs aimed at getting more women and children outdoors and involved in fishing. Through anglers' education workshops, hands-on activities like knot tying and rigging rods, fishing excursions and community events, Ontario Women Anglers provides opportunities for both new and experienced female anglers to increase their fishing skills and to network with others that share this passion. We are completely volunteer driven and receive the generous support of individuals and businesses in the fishing industry.

This year, we introduced a number of new initiatives including an Angler – New Angler Fishing Day and the 1st Annual Ontario Women Anglers Bass Tournament. The fishing day was held at Island Lake Conservation Area in Orangeville and attended by about 40 women, many of them new to fishing and, because the event was held during National Fishing Week, a licence was not required. The bass tournament saw 18 female anglers and 9 boaters from the Port Perry Bassmasters out on Cameron Lake for a friendly competition where each team had to bring in their three biggest bass.

Both events were a great success and through our 50/50 draws, we were able to raise \$340 for the Kelly Shires Breast Cancer Foundation. The 2016 slate of events is already in the works and we are planning to make another contribution to the foundation through the generosity of the participants. For more information about Ontario Women Anglers and the Fishing 101 for Women program, visit: <http://www.fishing101forwomen.ca>



