

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR HUNTERS

As this 2009/10 hunting summary goes to press, several changes have been made to the hunting regulations. For details on the items listed below, check with the local MNR office responsible for the Wildlife Management Units involved. See page 80 for office locations and phone numbers.

NEW – Antlerless Deer Draw Deadline

Starting in **2009**, the deadline for applying to the Antlerless Deer Draw is **June 30**. The earlier deadline will enhance customer service and ensure timely delivery of deer validation tags to hunters.

NEW – New and Enhanced Deer Hunting

A number of significant changes have been proposed to deer hunting seasons in Ontario, including the creation of new seasons in many northern WMUs. Please refer to the season tables found on pages 58-59 for more information.

NEW – Wild Turkey

- New spring wild turkey seasons are now in place in WMUs 45, 46, 53, 54, 55A, 56 and 57.
- New fall wild turkey seasons for WMUs 65, 66A, 80, 85, 87, and 91 are also in place.
- The spring hunting opening day is Monday, April 27, this year.

NEW – Non-Residents Outdoors Card

The ministry has introduced a non-resident Outdoors Card that will be required to purchase an Ontario fishing or hunting licence, except for a one-day fishing licence. Please refer to page 18 for more details.

PENDING – Sunday Hunting

Periodic changes may be made to gun hunting on Sundays in areas south of the French and Mattawa rivers. To confirm the status of the municipality in which you wish to hunt, please check the Sunday hunting information available at ontario.ca/hunting.

Moose

Ontario's Moose Program Review is underway. See page 34 for details.

NEW – Non-resident bow hunting season for Moose in WMU 11B. For additional details see page 46.

Importing Carcasses

In 2005, due to concern about Chronic Wasting Disease, Ontario passed a regulation restricting the possession of high-risk carcass parts from some members of the deer family (except moose and caribou) harvested in other jurisdictions. See page 66 or ontario.ca/cwd.

PLEASE NOTE: Most jurisdictions have regulations in place governing the transport of carcasses through their area. Hunters should be aware of these regulations to avoid inconvenience, potential seizure of game and charges. You should consult the appropriate government department in all provinces and/or states where you intend to transport carcasses of any member of the deer family.

Endangered Species Act, 2007 and Hunting in Ontario

Hunters understand the importance of a healthy and diverse natural environment. They also know our native species are a vital component of our natural heritage. Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* protects three times more species at risk than previous legislation in the province, making Ontario a North American leader in species and habitat protection.

The act is now in effect, meaning that some species that used to be hunted legally, such as the Northern Bobwhite and Grey Fox, are now protected. You may no longer kill or take into possession a Grey Fox. Northern Bobwhites may only be taken on a licensed game bird hunting preserve.

We need to act collectively to prevent further losses and to recover species and habitats at risk. Hunters have been very active in restoration efforts, and new stewardship opportunities have been established to encourage voluntary activities to protect or recover vulnerable species.

To learn more about the Endangered Species Act, species that are at risk in Ontario and how you can help, please visit ontario.ca/speciesatrisk.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

In-season Regulation changes are posted on the website (ontario.ca/hunting).

Regulations are subject to change from time to time, and it is the hunter's responsibility to be informed of current regulations. Information updates for hunters are available at ontario.ca/hunting.

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Counter Services

The Ontario government is committed to making it easier for people to access government services. ServiceOntario is now the key provider of walk-in transactional services and information for the public, including the ministry's hunting and fishing licences.

Before travelling to a ServiceOntario centre, please check the list of offices on page 80 for the location nearest you. For updated information, refer to the list of offices at serviceontario.ca by scrolling down the left hand menu and clicking ServiceOntario Centres.

Donation of Big Game Hides

Hunters are encouraged to donate their big game hides to collection depots across Ontario where available.

A list of depots will be available in September from ServiceOntario Centres and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, by calling 1-877-295-7277 or visiting www.hatsforhides.com.

Where it is not feasible to donate hides, hunters may leave them in the bush so they may be scavenged by many wildlife species, such as blue jays, ravens, eagles, marten, fisher, foxes and wolves. Disposal sites for hides or carcass remains must be out of public view and well away from homes, water supplies, cottages, public trails and popular recreation areas. For disposal at municipal waste disposal sites, contact your local municipality.

Reminder to Return Hunter Questionnaires

Hunters contribute important wildlife management information through their response to hunter questionnaires. The active participation by the hunting community in harvest data collection supports the provision of increased hunting opportunities where wildlife populations are sustainable. If you receive a questionnaire, please take the time to accurately and completely fill it out and return it promptly.

In the case of Black Bear, the 2009 questionnaire is provided on page 69 of this publication. Copies of this questionnaire are available from ServiceOntario Centres or ontario.ca/hunting.

NOTE: Successful wild turkey hunters must now report their harvest by telephone (1-800-288-1155) no later than 12:00 noon the day after the bird was harvested. This system has replaced mandatory registration of harvested turkeys at check stations. See pages 30-31 for details.

Trespassing

It is an offence under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 for anyone to trespass for the purpose of hunting or fishing. A hunting licence does not give hunters the right to enter or cross private property. ALWAYS ask for permission and obey signs. Positive landowner/hunter relationships are important to the future of hunting in Ontario. For more information on trespassing, see page 25.

Loaded Firearms on Roadways

In many parts of Ontario, it is an offence under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997 for anyone to have a loaded firearm on a road right-of-way, or to discharge a firearm from or across the roadway. For more information and a complete listing of where these regulations apply, see page 21.

The Small Vessel Regulations and the Liquor Licence Act

Conservation officers are designated to enforce certain provisions of the Liquor Licence Act, as well as certain provisions of the Small Vessel Regulations, such as safety equipment. Conservation officers will be using these powers while engaged in checks of resource users to verify compliance with fishing and hunting regulations. For more information on the powers of conservation officers, see page 26.

Captive Deer/Elk Escape Notification

Ministry of Natural Resources, along with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, urges all individuals who become aware of an escape from a captive deer or elk facility to report the incident to their local Ministry of Natural Resources office, see page 80. Additionally, if you are planning to transport live farm-raised deer or elk, please contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-800-442-2342 and your local office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for guidance on the necessary live deer or elk movement permits.