

# IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR HUNTERS

As this 2011/12 hunting summary goes to press, several changes to the hunting regulations have been made or are pending. For more information, please refer to [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

## NEW - Moose Tag Transfer Policy

As a result of input from hunters during the Moose Program Review, the policy for transferring moose validation tags has changed. Beginning in 2011, consecutive moose tag transfers will not be permitted. Hunters can still make a request to transfer their tag to the designated alternate in their group, but then must accept the next tag they receive (i.e. in following years) before they are allowed to request another transfer. For more information and details on the new Moose Tag Transfer Policy, please visit [ontario.ca/moosereview](http://ontario.ca/moosereview) or see page 39.

## NEW - Elk Hunting Season in some WMUs in Bancroft Area

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of all partners involved in restoring elk to Ontario, elk have reached self-sustaining levels in parts of southern Ontario. Ontario's first modern day elk hunt will take place in September 2011. More information can be found on page 52.

## NEW - Hunting Attractants

In order to prevent the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease, products that contain bodily fluids (urine, gland oil, feces, saliva, etc.) of a member of the deer family (including deer, moose, and elk) are not permitted to be possessed or used for the purposes of hunting in Ontario. Hunters are allowed to possess and use artificial or plant-based products that can attract wildlife or be used as a cover scent.

## ATTENTION ALL HUNTERS

If you harvest an animal that is wearing an ear-tag that has phone number 1-866-514-2327, this animal was chemically immobilized in the past using veterinary drugs. Health Canada has established recommended guidelines for consumption. Please call the above number for specific information on whether Health Canada would recommend that the meat of your animal be consumed.

## NEW - Bringing Out of Province Carcasses into Ontario

Due to the continuing spread of Chronic Wasting Disease outside Ontario, there is a restriction on the possession of high risk carcass parts from all members of the deer family (including deer, elk, moose and caribou) that were harvested in other jurisdictions. If you intend to hunt out of Ontario, please consult the "Regulation to Minimize Risk of Chronic Wasting Disease Entering Ontario" at [ontario.ca/cwd](http://ontario.ca/cwd) for more information.

**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.

## NEW - Deemed Residents

Recent regulatory changes have clarified the definition of deemed residency for military, RCMP, and diplomatic personnel. Individuals that may be considered deemed residents should contact ServiceOntario regarding requirements.

## NEW - Muzzle-loading firearms

Due to a recent regulatory change, electronic ignition muzzle-loading firearms may be used for hunting during seasons where flint-lock and percussion cap (including in-line) muzzle-loading firearms are already permitted.

## NEW - Firearms

Due to a recent regulatory change that updates language to be consistent with industry terminology, a person hunting small game, when hunting during an open season for a species of big game, shall not possess or use a rifle of greater muzzle energy than 400 foot-pounds or shells loaded with ball or shot larger than No. 2 shot. This is equivalent to a .22 calibre rimfire rifle chambered to .22 short, .22 long or .22 long rifle cartridges.

## NOTICE TO HUNTERS

In-season regulation changes are posted at [ontario.ca/hunting](http://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](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

# IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR HUNTERS

## UPDATE - Hunting Blinds

As a best practice to protect hunter safety, hunters using ground blinds should take steps to make their blind clearly visible to other hunters that may be in the area. Use of hunter orange material on the outside of the blind is a recommended method to mark a ground blind.

## 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 in the municipality in which you wish to hunt, please check the Sunday hunting information available at [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

## NEW – Possession and Discharge from Road Right of Ways

New regulations have added areas within the districts of Rainy River and Kenora to the list of areas where loaded firearms may not be possessed in a right of way during the open deer gun season. Please refer to page 21 for further information on specific areas where firearm possession and discharge is restricted.

## REMINDER – Donation of Big Game Hides

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

More information on the Hats for Hides program as well as a list of drop-off depots are available at [www.hatsforhides.com](http://www.hatsforhides.com), or by calling **1-877-295-7277**.

Where it is not feasible to donate hides, hunters may leave them in the bush to be scavenged by many wildlife species, such as blue jays, ravens, eagles, martens, fishers, 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 – Big Game Draws

Changes (additions/deletions) to group members will not be allowed once your paper or telephone application has been submitted.

Visit [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting) for program updates.

## REMINDER – 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 management of wildlife populations. If you receive a questionnaire, please take the time to accurately and completely fill it out and return it promptly.

If you receive a 2011 Deer Hunter Questionnaire and/or the 2011 Moose Hunter Questionnaire in the mail you may submit your completed questionnaire(s) by mail, or use the easy and quick online option at [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

In the case of black bear, the mandatory 2011 resident questionnaire is provided on page 77 of this publication. This questionnaire is also available from ServiceOntario counters or [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting). The mandatory 2011 non-resident questionnaire is provided at the bottom of the Black Bear Hunting Licence Validation Certificate and must be completed by the hunter on the copy of the certificate held by the issuer (operator licenced to provide bear hunting services or ministry office).

## REMINDER – Captive Deer/Elk Escape Notification

The Ministry of Natural Resources, along with the 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 88). 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 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs office for guidance on the necessary live deer or elk movement requirements.

## WHITE NOSE SYNDROME

Bats are an important part of Ontario's biodiversity. Recently, a disease known as White Nose Syndrome has caused large mortalities of bats in the United States. In March 2010, White Nose Syndrome was detected for the first time in Ontario. The Ministry of Natural Resources is concerned about the potential effects on bats in Ontario. If you encounter sick or dying bats, please call the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre at 1-866-673-4781 or the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940.

White Nose Syndrome is not known to affect humans. To prevent the spread of the disease, we are asking the public to refrain from entering caves and abandoned mines unless they are managed tourist sites. For more information on White Nose Syndrome, please visit [ontario.ca/wildlifehealth](http://ontario.ca/wildlifehealth).