

IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR HUNTERS

As this 2008–2009 hunting summary goes to press, several changes are being considered.

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 will be June 30. The earlier deadline will enhance customer service and ensure timely delivery of deer validation tags to hunters.

NEW – Wild Turkey

- New spring wild turkey seasons are now in place in WMUs 45, 53, and 56.

PENDING – Wild Turkey

- The ministry recently completed consultation on a proposed fall wild turkey hunting season in selected WMUs in 2008. Further news regarding the fall turkey hunt is available at ontario.ca/hunting.

PENDING – Sunday Hunting

Changes are expected to be made by September with regards 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 51 for details.

Importing Deer/Elk Carcasses

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

PLEASE NOTE: Most jurisdictions have regulations in place governing the transport of deer or elk 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 deer or elk carcasses.

NEW – Endangered Species Act, 2007

As of June 30, 2008, the new Endangered Species Act, 2007 will be in effect. The new act provides broader protection for species at risk and their habitats, greater support for volunteer stewardship by private landowners and partners, a stronger commitment to recovery of species and more effective enforcement provisions. More information is available at ontario.ca/speciesatrisk.

Northern Bobwhite and Gray Fox are listed species that will be afforded protection when the act comes into affect on June 30, 2008. As a result, the open seasons for these species are currently under review. Please check with an MNR office or ontario.ca/hunting before hunting for these species.

NOTICE TO HUNTERS

For pending changes, in-season Regulation changes are posted on the MNR website.

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 MNR's hunting and fishing licences.

Before travelling to a ServiceOntario centre for counter service, please check the list of offices on page 80 for the location nearest you. For updated information, refer to the list of offices at www.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 (O.F.A.H.) or by calling 1-877-295-7277.

Where it is not feasible to donate hides, hunters may leave the hide 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 our ability to provide 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 2008 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 (toll-free 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

In 2007, Conservation Officers were designated to enforce certain provisions of the Liquor Licence Act. In addition, Conservation Officers now enforce 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

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