















## Table of Contents

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This publication is available at [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting)



## How to Use this Summary

This is a summary of information dealing with hunting licences and hunting laws. This summary is neither a legal document nor a complete collection of the current regulations. It is meant to be a convenient reference only. For complete details, see:

- the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, and the regulations made under this Act;
- the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (Canada) and the *Migratory Birds Regulations*;
- the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*, and the regulations made under this Act;
- the *Species at Risk Act* (Canada), with regard to federally listed species that are threatened, endangered or extirpated and their critical habitat; and
- the *Trespass to Property Act*.

Each game wildlife species or group of game species has a section in this summary. Each section deals with basic regulations on hunting the species, including open season tables (showing when and where you can hunt that species). The maps that show Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) boundaries appear on pages 8 to 13 of this summary.

See the Definitions on pages 86 to 87 for an explanation of terms found throughout this summary. You can obtain specific details of the regulations, including more accurate descriptions of Wildlife Management Unit boundaries, at [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting)

## MESSAGE from the Government of Ontario

Each year, thousands of Ontario residents and visitors to the province eagerly await the arrival of hunting season.

A key part of the province's wildlife management program is hunter education. Since 1968, Ontario's Hunter Education Program has been completed by more than one million individuals. The program's current network of over 300 instructors teaches students all about wildlife management, laws and regulations and field techniques. New hunters must take this training and pass an exam before they can purchase their first hunting licence.

The ministry has made a number of changes to how some activities are authorized, such as permitting, licensing and other approvals. For more information on the changes to wildlife-related licences, permits and authorizations, see page four of this publication. For updates to this summary throughout the year, make sure to visit [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

Ontario is home to a healthy and sustainable bear population. However, growing concern has been expressed among some northern Ontario municipalities about human-bear conflicts and safety. In response, the ministry has proposed a two-year black bear pilot project in specific northern municipalities that would see a limited early hunting season. The hunt would occur in the wildlife management units closest to the communities with high reported levels of nuisance bear activity.

Ontario is also taking strong action to address the ecological and economic threats to our natural environment posed by invasive species through the proposed Invasive Species Act. If passed by the Legislature, it would make Ontario a national leader in invasive species prevention and management by making our province the first and only jurisdiction in Canada to introduce stand-alone invasive species legislation.

The ministry monitors moose in Ontario to ensure populations remain sustainable. Recent aerial surveys have revealed declines in the moose population in some parts of northeastern and north-western Ontario. Many factors may contribute to such periodic declines. This year's revised moose tag numbers represent a significant and collaborative effort to ensure moose populations remain healthy and resilient. Ontario will continue to work with hunters to successfully manage moose populations.

If you bought your Outdoors Card in 2011 and intend to go hunting in 2014, make sure to renew your Outdoors Card right away and get

the licence tags you need. Valid for three years, Outdoors Cards expire on December 31. Renewing your card couldn't be easier: go to [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard) or call 1-800-288-1155.

The Ontario government appreciates hunters' commitment to conservation. Hunters and anglers contribute to the management of wildlife their licence purchases with all licence revenues deposited to the Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account. This account funds two-thirds of the ministry's wildlife and fish management activities, such as monitoring and research, administration of licences, allocation of wildlife tags and support of the enforcement program. Over the past year, the ministry has worked with stakeholders to develop a strategy to address the changes in participation, and ultimately the amount of revenue available to fund wildlife and fish activities.

Thank you for your ongoing support for Ontario's wildlife management programs.

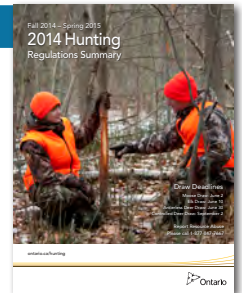
### More About Our Cover

Ontario's Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program gives new hunters the chance to develop their hunting skills under the guidance of a qualified mentor. Open to those 12 years of age or older, the program encourages participation in the outdoors while providing practical training and fostering traditional values.

Mentors teach inexperienced hunters how to look, where to look, and how to interpret the signs animals leave behind. Learning the patterns of animal behaviours, and the time of day animals move, rest and feed are all part of the hunter's skills development. It is what makes hunting both interesting and challenging.

Many other skills are also passed on from mentors to apprentices including wildlife identification, the importance of good equipment, proper shooting skills and game processing. For experienced hunters, the opportunity to pass on knowledge by mentoring new hunters is a great investment in the future of hunting. It is also a very rewarding personal experience for both the mentor and apprentice.

Get more information on the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program on page 22.

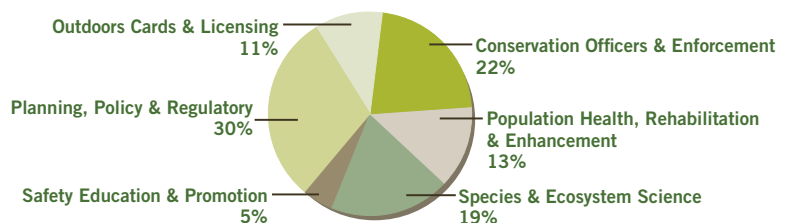


## Your licence fees – Ensuring great hunting for years to come

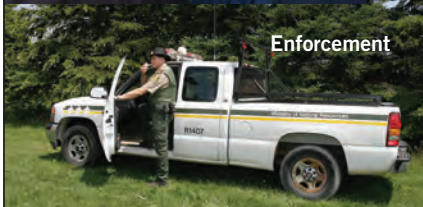
When you buy a hunting or fishing licence, the fees go directly to managing Ontario's world class fish and wildlife resources.

All licence fees, fines and royalties go into the Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account which funds fish and wildlife programs such as monitoring populations and enforcing regulations.

For 2013/14 the Special Purpose Account will contribute approximately \$70 million to fish and wildlife management in Ontario.



Research



Enforcement

# Important Telephone Numbers and 2014 Dates for Ontario Hunters

## General Inquiry Telephone Numbers

Outdoors Card Centre (lost or stolen cards and general card inquiries) .....	1-800-387-7011
Outdoors Card renewal (available all year).....	1-800-288-1155 or <a href="http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard">ontario.ca/outdoorscard</a>
MNR Natural Resources Information Centre .....	1-800-667-1940

**Automated Licensing, Draw Application and Draw Results Telephone Line .....** **1-800-288-1155**

**Licensing and Draw Application Web Site.....** [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard)

## Other Important Telephone Numbers

TIPS-MNR (Natural Resources Violation Reporting Line).....	1-877-847-7667
Canadian Firearms Program.....	1-800-731-4000
Environment Canada Public Inquiries (waterfowl seasons) .....	1-800-668-6767
Banded Birds Reporting.....	1-800-327-2263
Crime Stoppers (anonymous tips, report a poacher Canada-wide) .....	1-800-222-8477
Forest Fires in the 705/249 area code (north of the French/Mattawa rivers) (this number does not work on satellite phones)	310-FIRE (3473)
Forest Fires in the 807 area code (northwestern Ontario)..... (this number does not work on satellite phones)	310-FIRE (3473)

## Important Dates for Ontario Hunters

### Moose

Licences and draw entry available.....	April 22
Deadline for draw entry.....	June 2
Draw results available.....	August 1
Surplus tag information from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. (ET) at 1-800-363-3730.....	August 18

### Wild Turkey

Licences available for spring hunt.....	March 1
Licences available for fall hunt.....	September 1

### Elk

Draw entry available .....	May 1
Deadline for draw entry.....	June 10
Draw results available .....	August 2

### Antlerless Deer

Licences and draw entry available.....	March 1
Deadline for draw entry.....	June 30
Draw results available .....	August 8

**Additional Game Seals for Deer Available.....** July 16

### Controlled Deer

Draw applications available .....	August 1
Deadline for draw entry.....	September 2
Draw results available.....	October 10

### Black Bear

Licences available.....	March 1
Second game seals available.....	August 1
Mandatory questionnaire deadline for non-residents .....	November 30
Mandatory questionnaire deadline for residents .....	December 15

### Small Game

Licences available.....	January 1
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### Wolf and Coyote

Seals available.....	January 1
Questionnaire deadline.....	January 15 of the following year

# The Ontario Hunter Education Program

The Ontario Hunter Education Program is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). The Ontario Hunter Education Course and exam are delivered by approximately 300 certified instructors across the province. To find a hunter education instructor in your area, please contact the OFAH at (705) 748-5785 or [www.ohep.net](http://www.ohep.net). To purchase *Ontario's Hunter Education Manual*, contact an instructor or the OFAH.

## Plan Ahead

To ensure you receive the training and the appropriate accreditation required to hunt in Ontario and to avoid disappointment, please contact an instructor well in advance of the hunting season.

## Consent Required

Individuals under the age of 16 must file a consent signed by one parent or guardian **before** attending the Ontario Hunter Education Course or the Ontario Wild Turkey Hunter Education Course. Consent forms can be obtained by visiting [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

## Ontario Outdoors Cards

Two classes of Ontario Outdoors Cards and Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Cards are available to residents – one for gun hunters and one for non-gun hunters.

### Class H1 Outdoors Card – Residents

The H1 card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*. Applicants for this version of the Outdoors Card will have to provide documentation that they have passed both the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam and the Canadian Firearms Safety Course exam. These courses are normally delivered in a “One-Stop” combined course; however, both courses are available independently if desired. “One-Stop” graduates will meet provincial training requirements to hunt with a gun or bow hunting equipment and the federal training requirements for firearm possession, acquisition and ownership.

Any person with a hunting version of an Ontario Outdoors Card, Ontario Hunting Licence or Hunter Education Exam Report indicating a pass issued after January 1, 1968, and before January 1, 2006, will be eligible for the H1 Outdoors Card.

### Class H2 Outdoors Card – Residents Only

The H2 card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Act except guns. Applicants for this version of the Outdoors Card will have to provide documentation that they have passed the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam.

## Contacts

For information on the Ontario Hunter Education Program, contact the OFAH at (705) 748-5785 or [www.ohep.net](http://www.ohep.net).

For information on the federal *Firearms Act*, contact the Canadian Firearms Program at 1-800-731-4000 or [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf).

## Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program – Residents Only

Ontario's Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program allows individuals to safely develop their hunting skills while under the **direct and immediate supervision** of a qualified mentor. The program provides practical training for future hunters. Two classes of Ontario Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Cards are available: one for gun hunters and one for non-gun hunters.

### Class A1 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card

The A1 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Act and regulations. Applicants for this version of the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card must be 12 years of age or older and will have to provide documentation that they have passed both the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam and the Canadian Firearms Safety Course exam. These courses are available in a “One-Stop” combined course; however, both courses are available independently if desired. “One-Stop” graduates will meet provincial training requirements to hunt with a gun or bow hunting equipment and the federal training requirements for firearms possession, acquisition and ownership. (**NOTE:** To own or acquire a gun, you must be 18 years of age or older.)

### Class A2 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card

The A2 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Act and regulations except guns. Applicants for this version of the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card must be 12 years of age or older and provide documentation that they have passed the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam.

## Other Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program Requirements:

- Written parental consent is required from both parents if the apprentice resides with both parents or from one parent or guardian (if not living with both parents) if applicant is less than 16 years of age before they can be issued a hunting Outdoors or Apprentice Safety Card.
- The applicant must be a resident of Ontario.
- The apprentice, while hunting, must be under the **direct and immediate supervision** of a mentor who is 18 years of age or older, and who holds a valid Outdoors Card of the equivalent class and a valid hunting licence for the game species being hunted.
- The apprentice must share a **single firearm** with the mentor.
- An apprentice must possess a federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt migratory game birds.
- With the exception of migratory game birds, game wildlife taken by the apprentice must be added to the daily bag limit of the mentor.
- If wild turkey is being hunted, the apprentice must take the Ontario Wild Turkey Hunter Education Course and pass the exam.
- A Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card is valid for three years.
- Apprentices must carry the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card with them while hunting.

# General Regulations

## Firearms

Firearms include rifles, shotguns, air or pellet guns, bows and crossbows. You may use semi-automatic or repeating firearms for hunting in Ontario, but not handguns that are restricted or prohibited firearms or fully automatic firearms. Air and pellet pistols with a muzzle velocity less than 152 metres (500 feet) per second may be used for hunting in Ontario (see restrictions on page 24).

**Remember: Hunting carelessly is an offence.** Hunters who handle or discharge firearms without due care and attention or consideration for persons and property are liable to a fine of up to \$25,000 or imprisonment for up to two years - or both. Depending on the circumstances, a person may also be subject to charges under the *Criminal Code*.

**ANY injury caused by the discharge of a firearm while the firearm is possessed for the purpose of hunting or trapping and which results in treatment by a physician MUST BE reported to a conservation officer.**

**Before hunting, check local sunrise-sunset times. You may only hunt from half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset (exceptions: night raccoon, spring wild turkey, and, in some WMUs, pheasant). If you are in an area usually inhabited by wildlife, during the period from half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise you must unload and encase any firearms (including air gun, pellet gun, bow or crossbow) in your possession.**

**To be considered encased, firearms must be enclosed on all six sides.**

A firearm is considered to be loaded if it has a cartridge in the chamber or in a magazine that is attached to the firearm.

A **muzzle-loading gun** is a gun that is loaded through the muzzle. A percussion muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a charge of powder and a projectile in the barrel and a percussion cap on the nipple. A flint-lock muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a charge of powder and a projectile in the barrel and the vent is unplugged. An electronic muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a projectile in the barrel.

A **crossbow** is considered to be loaded if the bow is cocked and there is a bolt in the crossbow. A bow other than a crossbow is considered to be loaded if the bow is strung and an arrow is nocked.

The draw length of a **bow** (compound, recurve, long) is the measured distance from the outer edge of the main riser (handle), following the line of an arrow to the string at the anchor point.

The draw length of a **crossbow** is measured along the bolt ramp (where the bolt rests) from the outer edge of the main limb, to the anchor point (release latch mechanism) at full draw.

## Roads – Possession and Discharge of Firearms

Restriction	Geographic Areas
No <b>possession</b> of a loaded firearm within eight metres of the travelled portion of a road (or roadside fenceline where one exists) at any time AND no <b>discharge</b> of a firearm from or across a right of way for public vehicular traffic at any time.	Brant, Bruce, Chatham-Kent, Dufferin, Durham, Elgin, Essex (except the single-tier municipality of Pelee), Frontenac (except the lower-tier municipalities of Central and North Frontenac), Grey, Haldimand, Halton, Hamilton, Hastings (except the lower-tier municipalities of Bancroft, Carlow/Mayo, Deseronto, Faraday, Hastings Highlands, Limerick, Madoc, Marmora and Lake, Tudor and Cashel and Wollaston), Huron, Kawartha Lakes, Lambton, Lanark, Leeds and Grenville, Lennox and Addington (except the lower-tier municipality of Addington Highlands), Middlesex, Niagara, Norfolk, Northumberland, Ottawa, Oxford, Peel, Perth, Peterborough (except the lower-tier municipalities of Galway-Cavendish-Harvey and North Kawartha), Prescott and Russell, Prince Edward, Simcoe, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington, York.
No <b>possession</b> of a loaded firearm within eight metres of the travelled portion of a road (or roadside fenceline where one exists) during an open gun season for deer or elk AND no <b>discharge</b> of a firearm from or across a right of way for public vehicular traffic at any time.	Lower-tier municipalities of Central and North Frontenac in the geographic area of Frontenac, Haliburton, Hastings (except the single-tier municipalities of Belleville and Quinte West; and the lower-tier municipalities of Centre Hastings, Stirling-Rawdon, Tweed and Tyendinaga), the lower-tier municipality of Addington Highlands in the geographic area of Lennox and Addington, Muskoka, the lower-tier municipalities of Galway-Cavendish-Harvey and North Kawartha in the geographic municipality of Peterborough, Renfrew, the single-tier municipalities of Alberton, Chapple, Dawson, Emo, Fort Frances, La Vallee, Morley, Rainy River and the geographic townships of Morson, McCrosson, Tovell, Dance (excluding Lyons Bay Road and Lost Creek Road), Kingsford (excluding Fleming Road), Miscampbell (excluding Boffin Road), Pratt, Nelles, Spohn and Sutherland all within the Territorial District of Rainy River, and the single-tier municipality of Kenora, geographic townships of Boys, Ewart, Forgie, Gidley, Glass, Gundy, Kirkup, Pellatt and the unorganized area south and east of the geographic township of Boys township, south of the geographic township of Pellatt and west of the single-tier municipality of Kenora to the shore of Lake of the Woods all within the Territorial District of Kenora.
No <b>discharge</b> of firearms from or across the travelled portion of a right of way.	Any part of the province not listed above.

**NOTE:** The restrictions above do not apply to unmaintained roads.

Summary of Firearms Restrictions for Hunting in Ontario

Game Species & Season	Centre-Fire Rifle	Rim-Fire Rifle	Shotgun	Muzzle-loader	Bows See page 23 for measurement instructions.	
					Bow (compound, recurve, long)	Crossbow
Moose – Rifles, Shotguns, Bows and Muzzle-loaders	Yes	No	Yes, but no person shall use a shotgun smaller than 20 gauge when loaded with shot or any shotgun loaded with shot smaller than SG (No. 1 buck).	Yes	Bows must have a draw weight of at least 22 kilograms (48.5 lb.) at draw length of 700 mm (27.6 in.) or less. Arrows must be at least 600 mm (23.6 in.) long and have at a minimum a 22 mm (0.87 in.) wide head with at least two sharp cutting edges.	Crossbows must have a draw length of at least 300 mm (11.8 in.) and a draw weight of at least 54 kilograms (119 lb.). At a minimum bolts must have a 22 mm (0.87 in.) wide head with at least two sharp cutting edges.
Moose – Bows and Muzzle-loaders Only	No	No	No	Yes		
Moose – Bows-Only	No	No	No	No		
Elk - Rifles, Shotguns, Bows and Muzzle-loaders	Yes	No	Yes, but no person shall use a shotgun smaller than 20 gauge when loaded with shot or any shotgun loaded with shot smaller than SG (No. 1 buck).	Yes		
Black Bear	Yes	No				
Deer – Rifles, Shotguns, Bows and Muzzle-loaders	Yes	No	Yes, but no person shall use a shotgun smaller than 20 gauge when loaded with shot or any shotgun loaded with shot smaller than SG (No. 1 buck).	Yes	Bows must have a draw weight of at least 18 kilograms (39.7 lb.) at a draw length of 700 mm (27.6 in.) or less. Arrows must be at least 600 mm (23.6 in.) long and have at a minimum a 22 mm (0.87 in.) wide head with at least two sharp cutting edges.	Crossbows must have a draw length of at least 300 mm (11.8 in.) and a draw weight of at least 45 kilograms (99.2 lb.). At a minimum bolts must have a 22 mm (0.87 in.) wide head with at least two sharp cutting edges.
Deer – Shotguns, Bows and Muzzle-loaders Only	No	No				
Deer – Bows and Muzzle-loaders Only	No	No	No	Yes		
Deer – Bows-Only	No	No	No	No		
Wild Turkey	No	No	Not larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge. Shot size must be 4, 5 or 6.	Muzzle-loading shotgun not larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge. Shot size must be 4, 5 or 6.		
Deer – Rifles, Shotguns, and Muzzle-loaders Only	Yes	No	Yes, but no person shall use a shotgun smaller than 20 gauge when loaded with shot or any shotgun loaded with shot smaller than SG (No. 1 buck).	Yes	No	No
Deer – Shotguns and Muzzle-loaders Only	No	No		Yes	No	No
Deer – Muzzle-loaders Only	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

**NOTE:** See appropriate sections for complete details. If you are hunting small game in an area where there is an open season for deer, moose, elk or black bear, you may not possess or use a rifle of greater muzzle energy than 400 ft-lbs or shells loaded with ball or with

shot larger than No. 2 shot, unless you possess a valid licence to hunt deer, moose, elk or black bear as the case may be. When hunting deer, elk or moose, you may only use or carry the type of firearms allowed.

**NOTE:** A broadhead used for hunting big game or wild turkey must be at least 22 mm wide and have at least two sharp cutting edges.

Arrows must be at least 60 cm in length. The length of an arrow is measured from the base of the arrowhead to the bottom of the nock slot.

You must plug a semi-automatic or repeating shotgun so that it will not hold more than a total of three shells in the chamber and magazine combined.

On the Aulneau Peninsula (WMU 7A), from August 15 to December 15, you may not use a rifle of greater muzzle energy than 400 ft-lbs or a shotgun loaded with ball or with shot larger than number 2 lead shot, triple BBB steel shot or double BB bismuth shot.

Under the *Criminal Code* of Canada you cannot possess any clip/magazine that holds more than five shots for a semi-automatic centrefire non-restricted firearm unless that clip/magazine has been specifically exempted, pursuant to the Firearms Regulations.

Contact the Canadian Firearms Program at 1-800-731-4000 (or [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/cfp-pcaf)) for information about the requirements for firearm ownership, licensing, storage and transportation.

### Municipal By-laws

Some municipalities have by-laws restricting the discharge of firearms. In addition, many municipalities have by-laws regarding dogs, including by-laws that may affect the use of dogs while hunting. Check with the local municipal office for details.

### Hunter Orange

The objective of the hunter orange regulation is to maximize hunter safety without negatively impacting hunting success. Under this regulation, all licensed hunters, including bow hunters and falconers, hunting during a gun season for deer, elk, or moose, are required to wear hunter orange. This requirement does not apply to persons who are hunting migratory game birds, except woodcock.

In addition, all licensed black bear hunters hunting during the open season for black bear are required to wear hunter orange except when in a tree stand.

Where there is a gun season for moose, elk, or deer concurrent with an open black bear season, then the only persons exempted from wearing hunter orange are migratory game bird hunters as indicated above.

A hunter orange garment and head cover must be worn. The hunter orange garment must cover a minimum of 2,580 square centimetres above the waist and be visible from all sides. Open mesh or camouflage hunter orange must not be part of the 2,580 square centimetres (400 square inches). A hunting coat or vest generally meets this requirement. The hunter orange head cover may have: open mesh; a peak or brim colour other than hunter orange, and a crest or logo which does not completely cover the hunter orange on the side where it is affixed. The head cover must not contain camouflage material.

Hunter orange colour standards are generally consistent across North America. Manufacturers can provide information regarding clothing compliance with this standard.

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 an appropriate method to mark a ground blind.

### Party Hunting

A person may hunt moose, deer or black bear in a party even if the person has previously attached his or her game seal to a moose, deer or black bear. A person may also hunt elk in a party with some restrictions in addition to the conditions listed below - see page 53 for more information on Modified Party Hunting for Elk. The term "Party Hunting" means two or more persons hunting during an open season for moose, elk, deer or black bear under all of the following conditions:

- Each person has a valid licence to hunt the big game species being hunted.
- The total number of moose, elk, deer or black bear killed by the party does not exceed the total number of game seals held by the members of the party licensed to hunt that species.
- The total number of moose, elk, deer or black bear of a specified sex, age or type killed by the party does not exceed the total number of game seals validated for that sex, age, or type that are held by members of the party.
- All members of the party hunt together in the same Wildlife Management Unit or portion thereof for which the game seal is valid.
- Each member of the party hunts within five kilometres of the person who holds the game seal that is valid for the wildlife being hunted.
- Each member of the party must be able to reliably and immediately communicate with other members of the party.
- All members of the party, including the person who holds the seal that is valid for the wildlife that the party is hunting, actively participate in the hunt and hunt co-operatively.

The person who kills the wildlife while hunting in a party shall immediately notify all other members of the party that the wildlife has been killed and the game seal holder shall immediately affix the game seal to the wildlife in the manner indicated in the instructions accompanying the game seal.

At this point, you and your party members at the kill site must determine the category of animals that may still be hunted. You must then make sure your other party members, who did not come to the kill site, are informed. The hunter in your party who killed the animal and the hunter who attached the game seal may continue hunting provided other members of your party possess valid, unused game seals for the wildlife being hunted.

If you have questions about party hunting, the best time to get answers is before the hunt begins. Contact a conservation officer at the ministry office in the district in which you will be hunting. A list of ministry offices and phone numbers is found on page 88.

## Use of Vehicles, Boats or Aircraft

(see Definitions, page 86)

Aircraft may not be used while hunting. Snowmobiles, vehicles or boats may not be used for chasing, pursuing, harassing, capturing, injuring or killing any wildlife.

**It is illegal to have a loaded firearm in or on, or discharge a firearm from, an aircraft, vehicle (including snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle) or motorboat** or anything towed by the boat. An exception to this rule is that a person may obtain an authorization through the local ministry office if the person's mobility is impaired and the person meets one of the following criteria:

1. A paraplegic or hemiplegic.
2. A single (above the knee) lower limb amputation or a double (below the waist) amputation.
3. Suffers severe disability and cannot hunt without the use of a wheelchair or similar means of locomotion. In this case, the hunter must provide a medical certificate stating disability.

The authorization is valid for a period of up to five years for a person with a permanent disability.

A loaded firearm may be carried in, and discharged from, a canoe or boat that is being paddled, with no motor attached.

**MOTORBOATS:** Under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, a motorboat means a boat with a motor that is attached to the boat (see Definitions on page 86). There is an exception to the prohibition on loaded firearms in a motorboat if you are hunting waterfowl in accordance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

## Sunday Gun Hunting

Sunday gun hunting is permitted in areas north of the French and Mattawa rivers. In areas south of the French and Mattawa, Sunday gun hunting is regulated on a municipality basis.

Changes will periodically occur to the areas where gun hunting on Sundays is allowed south of the French and Mattawa rivers.

To hunt with a gun on Sunday, you must ensure:

- the season is open for the species and type of gun you want to use
- gun hunting is allowed on Sundays in the municipality where you wish to hunt
- the municipality does not have a "no discharge of firearms" by-law in the area where you wish to hunt.

To confirm the status of the municipality in which you want to hunt, please check the Sunday gun hunting information available at [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

## Dogs

All dogs to be used to hunt deer, moose or black bear must be licensed. There is no limit on the number of dogs that may be licensed and used. Dogs may not run at large in an area inhabited by deer, moose, elk, caribou or black bear during the closed season. Dogs may not be used to hunt elk.

You must have an authorization or licence issued from MNR to conduct dog training and field trials on game mammals and game birds during the closed season, or an appropriate hunting licence during the open season.

**NOTE:** There is no authorization or licence that allows the chasing of wolf or coyote in the townships around Algonquin Park where there is a year-round closed season for those species.

To hunt raccoon at night, you must be accompanied by a dog licensed for raccoon hunting and you must have a resident small game licence. Only one dog licence is required while hunting raccoon at night regardless of the number of dogs used.

Many municipalities have by-laws regarding dogs, including by-laws that may affect the use of dogs while hunting. Check with the local municipal office for details.

For a dog coming into Canada from the United States, you must have a certificate, signed by a veterinarian licensed in Canada or in the United States, stating that the dog has been vaccinated against rabies during the preceding 36 months. The certificate must have a reasonably complete and legible description of the dog and the date of the vaccination. For more information, check with Canada Border Services Agency.

## Snares

Snares cannot be used for hunting, except by the holder of a resident small game licence taking varying hares north of the French and Mattawa rivers with a snare constructed of copper or brass wire between 22 and 24 gauge. The opening of the snare wire loop must be 10 cm (4 in.) or less in diameter.

Licensed trappers may use snares under conditions specified in the trapping regulations.

## Poison and Adhesives

It is illegal to use poison and adhesives to kill, injure or capture wildlife.

## Big Game – Swimming

You may not hunt moose, elk, deer or black bear while they are swimming.

## Trespassing

A person is trespassing if the person enters onto property or engages in an activity on property where notice has been given that entry or the activity is not allowed. Notice may be given in a variety of ways; some of the common ones are verbally, signs, symbols or fences. Lands under cultivation are also considered to be notice against entry. A hunting licence does not give a hunter the right to enter private property.

ALWAYS ask for permission and obey signs. Signs may be in three formats:

- Red or yellow markings of such a size that a circle of 10 cm (4 inches) can be contained wholly within them. Red means no entry is permitted. Yellow markings mean no entry is permitted except for activities that may be allowed.
- Graphic representation of a permitted or prohibited activity.
- A written sign.



If it is not evident what activities are allowed, ask for permission from the landowner or occupier. Not all land is signed. Unsigned lands may be private land as well. (For example if the property is fenced, no access is permitted without permission of the landowner.) It is your responsibility to find out who owns the land you wish to hunt on and obtain permission. If unsure, stay out. If a wounded animal runs onto private property where you do not have permission to enter, you must seek the landowner's or occupier's permission to retrieve the animal. **Positive landowner or occupier/hunter relationships are important to the future of hunting in Ontario.**

Be sure you are familiar with the *Occupiers' Liability Act* and the *Trespass to Property Act* before entering private land. (You may obtain these two acts from Publications Ontario or online at [ontario.ca/e-laws](http://ontario.ca/e-laws).) If you are on private property for the purpose of hunting or fishing and the occupier asks you to leave, if you do not do so immediately, or if you do not obey signs prohibiting trespassing, then you will also be violating the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*.

You may not enter private land in a party of more than 12 persons without the express permission of the occupier if any member of the party possesses a firearm or other hunting device.

Before hunting on Indian Reserves, ask the permission of the Band Council.

If you wish to hunt elk on private land you must have with you a valid elk licence and the written consent of the landowner on the form provided by the ministry. If you wish to hunt deer on Barrie Island, Cockburn Island or Manitoulin Island, you must have with you a valid deer licence and the written consent of the landowner on the form provided by the ministry. If you wish to hunt moose in WMU 65, you must have a moose licence, the appropriate validation tag and, if hunting on private land, written consent of the landowner on the form provided by the ministry.

### Crown Lands

In Ontario, travel for recreational purposes on Crown lands and waters is generally free and unrestricted. On most Crown land, camping is allowed free for Canadian residents for up to 21 days at one site. Campers can camp for an additional 21 days on a second site if the second site is located at least 100 metres from the first site. Please note, camping may be prohibited or restricted on some areas of Crown land; these locations are signed and regulated under the authority of the *Public Lands Act*. **As well, some Crown lands may have restricted-travel zones for forest fire prevention or officially closed forest-access roads. Some Crown land may also have specific areas posted with signs or red/yellow dots to prohibit all or certain kinds of uses/travel.** Please contact your local district office for specific information on access/use of Crown land in that area.

Non-residents of Canada, except those using a camping unit rented from a person who carries on an Ontario-based business (commercial outfitter), require a permit to camp on Crown land in northern Ontario (north of the French and Mattawa rivers). A camping unit is defined as equipment used for the purpose of outdoor accommodation and includes a tent, trailer, tent-trailer, recreational vehicle, camper-back and any watercraft equipped for overnight accommodation. Contact a ServiceOntario centre or licence issuer for permits.

Non-residents of Canada are prohibited from camping on some specific areas of Crown land in northern Ontario at any time of year. These areas are generally well signed; however, hunters are advised to check with the local ministry office for complete information on areas where non-resident camping is prohibited. **Information about restrictions on Crown Land Camping for non-residents of Canada in WMUs 6, 7B, 9A and 9B can be found on page 60.**

Some Crown lands may also be posted against hunting and possession of firearms to protect forest workers or other resource users. Contact the local ministry office for the area in which you wish to hunt for further information.

### Work Permits

The Public Lands Act states that you must have a work permit before you construct a new building, create trails or do other modifications on Crown land. Crown land also includes the bottom of most waterbodies. For information on work permits and the application process, visit [ontario.ca/publiclandpermit](http://ontario.ca/publiclandpermit). **Hunters are reminded that it is an offence under the *Public Lands Act* to leave any material, substance or thing on Crown land.**

### Wildlife Management Areas – Wildlife Extension Landowner Agreement Area/ Provincial Wildlife Area

There are 32 Provincial Wildlife and Wildlife Extension Landowner Agreement Areas in Ontario which provide hunting opportunities. Some areas have daily or seasonal licence fees, while others may be used free of charge. See pages 9, 11 and 13 for listings. Some areas are only open on certain days of the week and for special hours and designated species. Detailed information on each area can be obtained from local ministry offices.

### Crown Game Preserves

Except where stated in the regulations, you may not hunt or trap, or use or possess firearms, in Crown Game Preserves. You may possess firearms if you live on private land within a Crown Game Preserve, but you may not hunt or trap. There are Crown Game Preserves other than those shown on the maps. Contact a ministry office for more details.

## Provincial Parks

You may not hunt (or take) any mammals, birds, amphibians or reptiles in provincial parks, or have a firearm with you, unless otherwise provided in the regulations. See below for more details on hunting in Ontario Provincial Parks. Generally, **hunting of wolves is prohibited in provincial parks**. Check with Algonquin Provincial Park for more details and for special permit requirements for hunting in Clyde and Bruton townships (WMU 54).

## Conservation Officers

A conservation officer is appointed under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*. The term “conservation officer” also includes a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, a police officer or First Nations constable appointed under the *Police Services Act*, a game officer designated under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, a park warden designated under the *Canada National Parks Act*, and a person whose primary employment responsibility is enforcement of fish and wildlife laws in a border jurisdiction if he or she is acting under the direction of a conservation officer. Conservation officers have powers of inspection, arrest, search and seizure under the various statutes they enforce, including the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, the *Migratory Birds Convention*

*Act, 1994*, and the *Fisheries Act*. Conservation officers also have authority to enforce the *Off-Road Vehicles Act*, *Motorized Snow Vehicles Act*, *Liquor Licence Act*, and *Small Vessel Regulations*. When carrying out his or her duties, or investigating an offence under these statutes or the corresponding regulations, a conservation officer may do the following:

- Stop and/or inspect a vehicle, boat or aircraft
- Inspect firearms, ammunition, wildlife or fish
- Ask questions relevant to the inspection
- Inspect buildings or other places
- Search with a warrant
- Search without a warrant in circumstances requiring immediate action
- Seize items related to the offence
- Arrest anyone the conservation officer believes has committed, is committing or is about to commit an offence.

Conservation officers operate “game check stations” throughout the year. At these stations, conservation officers collect information on game taken by hunters and make sure the regulations are being followed in order to better manage our wildlife resources.

## Hunting in Ontario Provincial Parks

Hunting is permitted in the following provincial parks. **Hunters should ALWAYS check with the appropriate park office regarding areas open to hunting, species that can be hunted, seasons, and other restrictions that apply in each park.** Call 1-800-667-1940 for assistance.

Abitibi-De-Troyes	Esmerald Lakes	Mashkinonje	Rondeau
Albany River	Fawn River	Matinenda	Ruby Lake
Alexander Lake Forest	French River	Mattawa River	Rushbrook
Algoma Headwaters	Fushimi Lake	McRae Point	Sandbar Lake
Algonquin Park	Goulais River	Missinaibi	Sandpoint Island
(Clyde, Bruton and Eyre Twps.)	Grant's Creek	Mississagi	Severn River
Amable du Fond River	Greenwater	Mississagi River	Silent Lake
Aubinadong-Nushatogaini Rivers	Groundhog River Waterway	Nagagamis	Silver Falls
Aubinadong River	Grundy Lake	Nakina Moraine	Solace
Aubrey Falls	Gull River	Nimoosh	South Bay
Barron River	Halfway Lake	Noganosh Lake	Spanish River
Batchawana River	Ivanhoe	North Channel Inshore	St. Raphael
Big East River	Jocho Rivers	Obabika River	Steel River
Biscotasi Lake	Kap-Kig-Iwan	Obatanga	Sturgeon River
Bissett Creek	Kashabowie	Obonga-Ottertooth	Temagami River
Black Creek	Kawartha Highlands Signature Site	Ogoki River	The Massasauga
Black Sturgeon River	Killarney	Opeongo River	The Shoals
Blind River	Killarney Lakelands and Headwaters	Otoskwin-Attawapiskat River	Turtle River-White Otter Lake
Blue Lake	Kopka River	Ottawa River	Upper Madawaska River
Bon Echo	La Cloche	Oxtongue River-Ragged Falls	W.J.B. Greenwood
Bonnechere River	Lake of the Woods	Pancake Bay	Wabakimi
Brightsand River	Lake St. Peter	Pigeon River	Wanapitei
Chapleau-Nemegosenda River	Lake Superior	Pipestone River	Wenebagon River
Charleston Lake	LaMotte Lake	Point Farms	Westmeath
(Blue Mountain area only)	Larder River Waterway	Polar Bear	West English River
Chiniguchi Waterway	LaVerendrye	Presqu'île	West Montreal River
Dana-Jowsey Lakes	Little Abitibi	Pretty River Valley	White Lake
Darlington	Little Current River	Pukaskwa River	Whitesand
Eagle Dogtooth	Little White River	Puzzle Lake	Widdifield Forest
East English River	Long Point	Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands	Winisk River
Egan Chutes	Lower Madawaska River	Restoule	Woman River Forest
Englehart River Fine Sand Plain and Waterway	Magnetawan River	River aux Sables	
	Makobe-Grays River	Rock Point	

### **Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997**

The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, is the main provincial law regulating hunting and trapping. The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, is enforced by conservation officers and deputy conservation officers.

The penalties for offences under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, can include:

- General offences:.....\$25,000,  
1 year imprisonment, or both.
- Commercialization related offences: ..... \$100,000,  
2 years imprisonment, or both.

The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, and regulations are available at [ontario.ca/e-laws](http://ontario.ca/e-laws).

### **Reporting a Violation**

If you see or suspect abuse of a natural resource, please call **1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time to report a violation or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477**. Be sure to include information on the exact location of the violation, date and time of the violation, and a description of the individuals and vehicles involved. Timely and accurate information will assist conservation officers in apprehending violators and **protect your natural resources**.

### **Specially Protected Wildlife**

In Ontario, it is illegal to hunt or trap specially protected wildlife (see Definitions, page 87, for a list of these species). The ministry is interested in receiving information about any illegal acts involving specially protected wildlife. Please call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667).

### **Protection of Property**

If you have reasonable grounds to believe that wildlife is damaging or is about to damage your property, you may harass, capture or kill wildlife on your own land to stop that wildlife from damaging your property. This does not apply to moose, caribou or other species listed as extirpated, endangered or threatened on the Species at Risk in Ontario List. White-tailed deer or American elk may only be killed, captured or harassed and black bear may only be trapped with an authorization from the ministry. You may also use an agent if the agent is authorized by the ministry or belongs to a class of agents prescribed by the regulations. There are exceptions to this. Contact a ministry office for further information. A person may not use a body-gripping trap or be in

possession of a body-gripping trap unless lawfully entitled to use the trap. A person who kills a black bear anywhere in the province, or a wolf or coyote in WMUs 1-10, 11A, 11B, 12-42, 46-50 and 53-58, in protection of property must immediately report having done so to a ministry office whether or not the carcass is kept. A person who kills a specially protected raptor or furbearing mammal, other than a wolf or coyote, in protection of property, and is planning to keep the carcass must report the acquisition through submitting a Notice of Possession available at [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or by calling 1-855-613-4256.

### **Caribou**

There is no open season for caribou in Ontario.

### **Game Wildlife and Parts**

With the exception of furbearing mammals, you may not let the flesh of any harvested game wildlife (see Definitions, page 86), that is suitable for food, become spoiled or abandoned. This includes black bear. A hunter who kills a furbearing mammal shall not abandon the pelt or permit the pelt to be spoiled or destroyed.

In general, it is illegal to buy, sell or barter any game wildlife or specially protected wildlife or their parts (including taxidermy mounts). There are some exemptions – please contact your nearest MNR office to find out what these may be.

You may purchase the meat of a furbearing mammal from a licensed trapper or farmer for consumption by your immediate family. A person selling a carcass of a furbearing mammal for consumption must advise the buyer in writing that the meat has not been inspected under the *Food Safety and Quality Act, 2001*.

A person may buy a hide or cast antlers for their own use without a licence from MNR. A person may sell a single hide of a black bear (with head and claws attached), or a single hide of a moose or deer (without the head attached) and a single set of cast antlers of woodland caribou, white-tailed deer, American elk or moose per year if they were lawfully acquired.

A hunter or trapper may sell the hides of any black bear, deer, or moose that they have lawfully harvested, or cast antlers.

A person who wishes to buy or sell more than a single hide or single set of **cast antlers** may do so provided they follow rules set out in regulation under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*. For more information, please check [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or call 1-800-667-1940.

## A Message from Ontario's Conservation Officers

**It is an offence under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* for anyone to trespass for the purpose of hunting or fishing.**

1-877-847-7667



The above regulations apply not only to meat and parts of Ontario wildlife, but also to meat and parts imported into Ontario from outside the province.

A charitable organization may serve wild game for the purposes of fundraising provided they follow rules set out in regulations under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997* and *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. For more information, please check [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or call 1-800-667-1940.

**BLACK BEAR GALLBLADDERS: It is illegal to possess a gallbladder that has been removed from a black bear.**

### Possession of Accidentally Killed Animals

If you wish to keep the animals referenced below that have been killed by natural or accidental causes including roadkills, you must promptly report the acquisition by submitting a Notice of Possession. You can complete a Notice of Possession at [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or by calling 1-855-613-4256. **For migratory birds, contact the Canadian Wildlife Service, Burlington at (905) 336-6410.**

For information on keeping the carcass of a big game animal, a specially protected raptor or a furbearing mammal killed in protection of property, see Protection of Property, page 29.

There may be additional requirements regarding the possession of carcasses of species at risk. For more information, please visit [ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://ontario.ca/speciesatrisk).

### Shipping

Unless accompanied by the hunter or trapper who lawfully harvested the animal, receptacles containing game wildlife or specially protected wildlife that are being shipped or transported to points inside or outside Ontario must have the names and addresses of the sender and receiver, and a list of the contents written on the outside.

### Import

It is an offence to possess wildlife that was killed, captured, taken, possessed, transported, bought, sold or removed from another jurisdiction contrary to the laws of that jurisdiction.

It is an offence to sell wildlife from another jurisdiction if the sale is not permitted in the jurisdiction from which it was originally exported.

To prevent the introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease, Ontario restricts the possession of high-risk carcass parts from all members of the deer family (including white-tailed deer, American elk, moose and caribou) harvested in other jurisdictions. See [ontario.ca/cwd](http://ontario.ca/cwd) for more information.

## Export

### Export Permits

Non-residents must have an Ontario export permit to export moose, deer, elk, and black bear or their parts from Ontario. Export permits are not required for taxidermy mounts, tanned hides or other parts that have been treated by a taxidermist. An Ontario export permit for non-residents is \$35.00. Export permits have sub-permits attached to them for exporting a part or parts of the animal for which an export permit has been issued. You may obtain an export permit from most ServiceOntario centres as well as from licence issuers. You should obtain the necessary export permits before reaching a border point to avoid inconvenience.

You must have an export permit to export any furbearing mammal or its pelt from Ontario. Royalties are payable on all Ontario furbearing mammals prior to their export from Ontario.

### CITES Permits

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement which regulates trade in a number of species of animals and plants, their parts and derivatives, and any articles made from them. You need a Canadian CITES export permit to export wolf, black bear and several other species from Canada.

The CITES permit requirement is waived for U.S. or Canadian residents in some instances (see page 75). In some instances both a CITES permit and a provincial export permit are required.

Please contact a ministry office to make arrangements to acquire CITES permits (available free of charge). Please allow up to 10 days to obtain a permit.

### Export to the United States

Canadian hunters who wish to travel through the U.S. to reach a Canadian destination should check for any requirements for transporting meat before finalizing their travel itinerary. More information is available at the United States Department of Agriculture website at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).

**NOTE:** When planning their hunt, U.S. hunters should check on the status of requirements for the import of any wild meat or trophies from Canada to the United States, including hours of operation at ports of entry, to avoid delays when returning home with harvested game.

### Wildlife in Captivity

The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, generally prohibits the possession of game wildlife or specially protected wildlife in captivity except under the authority of a licence or authorization to keep game wildlife and specially protected wildlife in captivity.

## Field Dressing, Transporting and Preparing Wild Game

Proper handling of harvested game will help ensure a quality food product for the table. Always use a clean, sharp knife and cutting tools and wear disposable gloves.

### Big Game Field Dressing

Field dressing, or gutting, is the process of removing the entrails (internal organs) from the animal to promote cooling of the carcass and prevent the meat from spoiling.

- Always field dress game immediately after the kill.
- Move the animal to a clean site before field dressing.
- Roll the animal onto its back or side with head higher than the rump.
- Cut a line up from the crotch to the tip of the sternum (where the rib cage ends and the belly starts).
- It is best to cut with the blade up and out of the cavity to prevent cutting into internal organs.
- Free the colon by cutting around the anus and then tie a string just in front of the anus to prevent feces from entering the body cavity.
- Cut around the diaphragm.
- Free the windpipe at the throat and free any internal organs by cutting the tissue attaching them to the backbone.
- Do not cut open the rumen, intestines or bladder. If punctured, wipe cavity with paper towels.
- Position carcass to allow blood to drain out.
- Do not wash cavity with water from the field. It is often a source of bacteria.
- Prop open the body cavity to allow air flow and cooling.
- In warm weather remove the skin and apply cheesecloth to help keep meat clean and cool. In cold weather you can leave the skin on.

### Transporting

- Avoid dragging game through water, mud or dirt.
- Wipe out body cavity with paper towel if dirt enters.
- Use cheesecloth to keep meat clean if quartering animal. Never use plastic or tarps.
- Keep carcass away from engine heat, gas, road dust and sun. Allow air circulation.

### Hanging and Cooling

- Game carcasses should be cooled as soon as possible to a temperature not exceeding 7° Celsius (45° F).
- Hang meat in a place that is cool and dry with good air circulation.
- Remove areas of blood clots or tissue damage with a clean knife.
- Use pepper and cheesecloth on carcass to deter insects in warmer weather.
- If you are not processing your own meat, make butchering arrangements before your hunt.

- If weather turns warm, inspect the carcass and take it to a butcher immediately if you cannot keep it cool.

### Game Birds and Waterfowl

- Birds should have the entrails removed as soon as possible.
- Birds can be plucked or skinned.
- Keep free from dirt and untreated water in the field.
- Birds must be cooled as soon as possible to a maximum of 4°C (39° F).
- Remove any damaged meat and look for and remove any shot that remains in this area.
- Remember to leave one fully feathered wing on migratory birds when transporting.

### Rabbits, Hares and Squirrels

- Peel the hide completely off and remove the tail before cutting the abdomen open and removing the entrails.
- Trim away any shot-damaged meat and look for and remove any shot that remains in this area.
- The carcass should be cooled and maintained at a temperature not exceeding 4°C (39° F), as soon as possible.

### Preparing and Cooking Wild Meat for Consumption

- Always wash hands before and after preparing food and keep raw meat away from other food.
- Thaw your meat in the refrigerator, microwave or oven, not on the kitchen counter.
- Utensils, equipment and food contact surfaces must be cleaned and sanitized after each use. Disinfecting is especially important where wild game or fish is being prepared in the same kitchen as regular "store-bought" meat, poultry or fish. Disinfection must occur between the two types of preparations.
- You risk your health and the health of others when you do not thoroughly cook meat. Health officials indicate that meat must be cooked to a temperature of 82°C (180° F) or higher. Use a meat thermometer to check that meat is cooked all the way through. Clean the thermometer after each use. Red meat is cooked when it is brown or grey inside and birds are cooked when the juices run clear.
- Ensure that bear meat, whether frozen or fresh, is always cooked to this temperature (and always to a grey colour, not red or pink) to prevent any possibility of Trichinosis, a parasitic disease found in bears in North America. Public health officials advise that smoking, drying, or microwaving may not cook bear meat to a high enough temperature.
- For additional information on safe food handling and meat preparation, consult your local public health unit.
- More detailed guidelines on field dressing, skinning and processing wild game are available in the *Ontario's Hunter Education Manual*.

## Definitions

### ANTLERLESS DEER:

Deer that have no antlers or antlers that are both less than 7.5 cm (3 inches) long. Generally, antlerless deer include adult female deer and fawns of both sexes.

### BEAR MANAGEMENT AREA:

An area of Crown land licensed to an operator for providing bear hunting services to non-resident bear hunters.

### BIG GAME:

Includes black bear, white-tailed deer, American elk, moose and woodland caribou.

### BOWS:

Includes longbows, crossbows, compound bows and recurve bows.

### CONTROLLED HUNT:

Hunts in which the total number of hunters is restricted. A hunter needs a controlled hunt validation tag to participate in a controlled hunt.

### ELK HARVEST AREAS:

Numbered portions of a Wildlife Management Unit(s) used for elk harvest management. WMU and Harvest Area numbers are used in the table for elk open seasons, hunt codes and seal quotas to indicate the relevant area of the province in which an elk seal is valid.

### ENCASED:

A firearm is encased if the firearm is completely contained in a case so that it cannot be readily accessed.

### FURBEARING MAMMALS:

American badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, arctic fox, grey fox, red fox (all phases), lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, opossum, otter, raccoon, red squirrel, striped skunk, weasel (least, long-tailed and short-tailed), wolf, wolverine and polar bear.

### GAME WILDLIFE:

A furbearing mammal, game amphibian, game bird, game mammal or game reptile.

GAME AMPHIBIANS: Bullfrog.

GAME BIRDS: Ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, spruce grouse, gray (Hungarian) partridge, ring-necked pheasant, rock ptarmigan, willow ptarmigan, wild turkey and Northern bobwhite.

GAME MAMMALS: Black bear, woodland caribou, cottontail rabbit, white-tailed deer, American elk, European hare, varying hare, moose, gray (black) squirrel and fox squirrel.

GAME REPTILES: Snapping turtle.

### HUNTING:

Includes lying in wait for, searching for, being on the trail of, pursuing, chasing or shooting at wildlife, whether or not the wildlife is killed, injured, captured or harassed. You need a hunting licence to do any of these things, except where the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, states otherwise.

### LICENCES, TAGS AND GAME SEALS:

**ADDITIONAL GAME SEAL:** A game seal, purchased in addition to the game seal that comes with the deer or black bear licence, which allows the hunter to harvest an additional animal under certain conditions. An additional game seal is NOT a licence to hunt for the species. A licence must be purchased before the additional game seal is valid for use.

**E-LICENCE:** E-licences are available over the Internet and must be printed by the angler or hunter. These licences, when accompanied by an Outdoors Card, allow the angler or hunter to immediately enjoy the open season.

**GAME SEAL:** The seal that must be attached to a moose, elk, deer, wild turkey or black bear and to a wolf and coyote (see page 83) as soon as the animal is killed. The game seal must remain attached to the animal while it is transported.

**LICENCE TAG:** A tag which, when it accompanies an Outdoors Card, constitutes a licence to hunt wildlife, or a class thereof, specified on the tag.

**OUTDOORS CARD:** An Outdoors Card is a component of a licence to hunt the wildlife specified on the licence tag when that tag accompanies the card and any applicable paper hunting licences and game seals and/or validation tags.

**VALIDATION TAG OR CERTIFICATE:** A tag or certificate which validates a licence to hunt game mammals of a specified number, age or sex or in a specified area.

**VALIDATION CERTIFICATE:** A validation certificate must be carried by non-resident black bear hunters.

**VALIDATION TAG (NON-RESIDENTS):** A moose validation tag must accompany the non-resident hunter's moose licence.

**VALIDATION TAG (RESIDENTS):** A validation tag must be affixed to the front of the game seal to allow resident hunters to hunt adult moose or antlerless deer. In WMUs 48, 55A, 55B, 57 and 65, a specific calf validation tag is required to hunt calf moose. A validation tag is also required to take part in the controlled hunts for deer. A validation tag for a controlled deer hunt must be carried on your person.

Moose and deer licences obtained prior to the draw deadline are validated by the ministry on the game seal itself. They are valid for calf moose or antlered deer in other WMUs except for calf moose in WMUs 48, 55A, 55B and 57, during the regular open season providing the game seal has not been used.

Elk licences are validated by the ministry on the game seal itself, including information about the sex and age of animal that may be harvested, and the WMU and Harvest Area in which it is valid during an open season for elk. It also contains information (licence tag numbers) for the hunters who are permitted to hunt under the authority of the seal.

### MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

Waterfowl, common moorhens, American coots, mourning doves, common snipe, woodcock and rails (other than yellow and king rails which cannot be harvested).

### MOTORBOAT:

A boat with a motor that is attached to the boat and that is capable of being used as a means of propulsion, and includes any floating object being towed by a motorboat.

### MUZZLE-LOADING GUN:

A gun that is loaded through the muzzle. A percussion muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a charge of powder and a projectile in the barrel and a percussion cap on the nipple. A flint-lock muzzle-loading gun is considered to be loaded if there is a charge of powder and a projectile in the barrel and the vent is unplugged. An electronic muzzle-loading gun is considered loaded when there is a projectile in the barrel. Also known as a muzzle-loader.

### NON-RESIDENT:

A person who does not qualify as a resident (see Resident). The ownership of property in Ontario does not qualify a person for a resident's licence.

**PELT:**

The untanned skin of a furbearing mammal, whether or not the skin is on a carcass.

**RESIDENT:**

An Ontario resident is a person whose primary residence is in any part of Ontario and who has actually resided in any part of Ontario for a period of at least **six consecutive months during the immediately preceding 12 months**. For information on deemed residency for military, RCMP, and diplomatic personnel, please call 1-800-387-7011

**SELECTIVE HARVEST SYSTEM:**

The system that controls the harvest of breeding moose, elk and deer. The harvest of adult moose, elk and antlerless deer is restricted to those who hold the appropriate validation tag, which is obtained through a random draw. The harvest of calf moose in WMUs 48, 55A, 55B and 57 is restricted to those who hold the appropriate validation tag, which is obtained through a random draw.

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED WILDLIFE:**

A specially protected mammal, specially protected bird, specially protected reptile, specially protected amphibian or specially protected invertebrate.

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED AMPHIBIANS:** Northern cricket frog, blue-spotted salamander, eastern tiger salamander, four-toed salamander, Jefferson salamander, northern dusky salamander, northern two-lined salamander, redback salamander, small-mouthed salamander, spotted salamander, Fowler's toad and gray treefrog.

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED BIRDS (Raptors):** Bald eagle, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, gyrfalcon, northern harrier, broad-winged hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, American kestrel, American swallow-tailed kite, merlin, osprey, barred owl, boreal owl, burrowing owl, barn owl, eastern screech owl, great gray owl, great horned owl, long-eared owl, northern hawk owl, northern saw-whet owl, short-eared owl, snowy owl and turkey vulture.

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED BIRDS (other than Raptors):** Brewer's blackbird, rusty blackbird, yellow-headed blackbird, blue jay, gray jay, belted kingfisher, American white pelican and common raven.

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED INVERTEBRATES:** Karner blue, monarch, West Virginia white, mottled dusky wing, bog elfin, frosted elfin, black swallowtail, giant swallowtail, Old World swallowtail, pipevine swallowtail, spicebush swallowtail, Canadian tiger swallowtail, eastern tiger swallowtail and zebra swallowtail.

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED MAMMALS:** Big brown bat, eastern pipistrelle bat, hoary bat, small-footed bat, little brown bat, northern long-eared bat, red bat, silver-haired bat, eastern chipmunk, least chipmunk, northern flying squirrel, southern flying squirrel, arctic shrew, masked shrew, least shrew, northern short-tailed shrew, pygmy shrew, smoky shrew and water shrew.

**SPECIALLY PROTECTED REPTILES:** Eastern foxsnake, Butler's gartersnake, smooth greensnake, massasauga, milksnake, queensnake, blue racer, gray ratsnake, common five-lined skink, eastern hog-nosed snake, spiny softshell, Blanding's turtle, eastern musk turtle, midland painted turtle, northern map turtle, spotted turtle, western painted turtle, wood turtle, Lake Erie watersnake and northern watersnake.

**SPOUSE:**

Either of two persons who are legally married to one another; or either of two persons who live together in a conjugal relationship outside of marriage.

**VEHICLE:**

Any kind of vehicle that is driven, propelled or drawn on land or ice by any kind of power, including muscular power, and includes the rolling stock of a railway.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS (WMUs):**

Numbered divisions of the province used for wildlife management. WMU numbers are used in the tables for open seasons to indicate the relevant geographic areas of the province. For detailed information on WMU boundaries, go to [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).

# It's Your Call

**CRIME  STOPPERS**

Your hunt of a lifetime can be ruined by the illegal act of just one poacher! Every year hunters locate the rotting carcasses of unlawfully shot and abandoned moose – these are moose that are lost to honest hunters and to the tourist industry that relies on healthy moose populations.

## Protect your moose hunt – it's your call.

If you have any information about illegally shot and wasted moose, deer, or bear or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at

**1-800-222-8477**

All calls to Crime Stoppers remain anonymous and you could be eligible for a cash reward.

This message is brought to you by:



# Ministry of Natural Resources Services

## ServiceOntario

**Hunting and fishing licences, as well as a variety of permits, are available at participating ServiceOntario centres.**

Please ensure you go to [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard) to find the nearest participating ServiceOntario centre, or call 1-800-387-7011.

**Fishing Licences** – Ontario, Canadian and Non-Resident licences and Temporary Outdoors Cards.

**Hunting Licences** – Resident licences, Non-Resident licences and Temporary Outdoors Cards, Duplicate licences, Hunter Safety Exam submission, Big Game Draw Application submission, Moose Tag Transfers, Non-Resident Moose Tag Validation Certificate (non-draw applicant only), Licence to Hunt Raccoon at Night.

**Permits** – Big Game Export Permits, Non-Resident Crown Land Camping Permits, Blank Work Permit forms.

### Ministry of Natural Resources

#### MNR Authorized Licence Issuers

Hunting licences are available at licence issuers across the province. For the nearest location visit the MNR website at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard).

Specialized services and information are available by:

- **Making an appointment** at a ministry office;
- Calling the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940
- Visiting us at [ontario.ca/mnr](http://ontario.ca/mnr) for information on the following:

Export Permits      Crown Land  
CITES Permits      Game Preserves

### Other Information

#### Fishing or hunting:

Outdoors Card Centre  
1-800-387-7011

#### General Information:

Natural Resources Information Centre (NRIC)  
1-800-667-1940

[mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca](mailto:mnr.nric.mnr@ontario.ca)

[ontario.ca/mnr](http://ontario.ca/mnr)

#### Report a Bear Problem:

1-866-514-2327 (TTY) 705-945-7641

#### Report a Resource Violation:

1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)

## Ministry of Natural Resources District Offices

### Call for Appointment

To be transferred to local district offices please call 1-800-667-1940

#### SOUTHERN REGION

**Greater Toronto Area/Aurora District (WMUs 72B, 73 [Durham Region Only] 78, 79)**  
Aurora MNR Office: (905) 713-7400

**Aylmer District (WMUs 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95)**  
Aylmer MNR Office: (519) 773-9241

**Bancroft District (WMUs 51, 54, 55A, 56, 57, 60, 61, 62, 63)**  
Bancroft MNR Office: (613) 332-3940  
Minden MNR Office: (705) 286-1521

**Guelph District (WMUs 80, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89)**  
Guelph MNR Office: (519) 826-4955  
Clinton MNR Office: (519) 482-3428  
Vineland MNR Office: (905) 562-4147

**Kemptville District (WMUs 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69B)**  
Kemptville MNR Office: (613) 258-8204

**Midhurst District (WMUs 76, 77, 81, 82, 83, 84)**  
Midhurst MNR Office: (705) 725-7500  
Owen Sound MNR Office: (519) 376-3860

**Parry Sound District (WMUs 46, 47, 49, 50, 53)**  
Parry Sound MNR Office: (705) 746-4201  
Bracebridge MNR Office: (705) 645-8747

**Pembroke District (WMUs 48, 55B, 58, 59)**  
Pembroke MNR Office: (613) 732-3661

#### Peterborough District

**(WMUs 62, 68, 69A, 70, 71, 72A, 73, 74, 75)**  
Peterborough MNR Office: (705) 755-2001  
Kingston MNR Office: (613) 531-5700

#### NORTHWEST REGION

**Dryden District (WMUs 5, 8, 15A)**  
Dryden MNR Office: (807) 223-3341  
Ignace MNR Office: (807) 934-2233

**Fort Frances District (WMUs 9, 10, 11A, 12)**  
Fort Frances MNR Office: (807) 274-5337  
Atikokan MNR Office: (807) 597-6971

**Kenora District (WMUs 6, 7)**  
Kenora MNR Office: (807) 468-2501

**Nipigon District (WMUs 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21A)**  
Geraldton MNR Office: (807) 854-1030  
Nipigon MNR Office: (807) 887-5000  
Terrace Bay MNR Office: (807) 825-3205

**Red Lake (WMUs 2, 3)**  
Red Lake MNR Office: (807) 727-2253

**Sioux Lookout District (WMUs 1C, 4, 16A, 16B)**  
Sioux Lookout MNR Office: (807) 737-1140

**Thunder Bay District (WMUs 11B, 13, 15B, 16C)**  
Thunder Bay MNR Office: (807) 475-1471

#### NORTHEAST REGION

**Chapleau District (WMU 31)**  
Chapleau MNR Office: (705) 864-1710

**Cochrane District (WMUs 1A, 1B, 1D, 25, 26, 27)**  
Cochrane MNR Office: (705) 272-4365  
Moosonee MNR Office: (705) 336-2987

**Hearst District (WMUs 22, 23, 24)**  
Hearst MNR Office: (705) 362-4346  
Kapusking MNR Office: (705) 335-6191

**Kirkland Lake District (WMU 28)**  
Kirkland Lake MNR Office: (705) 568-3222

**North Bay District (WMUs 40, 41, 47)**  
North Bay MNR Office: (705) 475-5550

**Sault Ste. Marie District (WMUs 35, 36, 37, 45)**  
Sault Ste. Marie MNR Office: (705) 949-1231  
Blind River MNR Office: (705) 356-2234

**Sudbury District (WMUs 38, 39, 42, 43, 44)**  
Sudbury MNR Office: (705) 564-7823  
Española MNR Office: (705) 869-1330

**Timmins District (WMUs 29, 30)**  
Timmins MNR Office: (705) 235-1300

**Wawa District (WMUs 21B, 32, 33, 34)**  
Wawa MNR Office: (705) 856-2396  
Manitouwadge MNR Office: (807) 826-3225