

# Important Messages for Hunters

As this 2014/15 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)

## REMINDER – Postal/Zip Codes and Address Changes

You are required to provide your Outdoors Card number, date of birth and the postal/zip code on your file when purchasing an Outdoors Card or any other product. **The postal/zip code is required because it is an important identifier that is not printed on your Outdoors Card.** Occasionally, existing card holders are not able to access their accounts because the postal/zip code they have provided does not match the one that we have on file. This occurs for a number of reasons:

- The postal/zip code on file may have been entered incorrectly.
- You may have moved and not updated your address.
- Your postal service may have changed the postal/zip codes in your area.

**You must notify the Ministry of Natural Resources of any address or name change within 10 days of the change. Any clients who have had a recent address, postal/zip code or name change may contact the Outdoors Card Centre at 1-800-387-7011 to update their address or name prior to purchasing a licence or renewing an Outdoors Card.**

## NEW – Big Game Draws

What's changing?

- **Paper applications are no longer being used or accepted. All draw entries will be electronic.**
- **Big game draw entries can now be made in person electronically at participating ServiceOntario centres or licence issuers.** For a list of participating ServiceOntario centres and licence issuers, please visit [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard).
- Applications to the big game draws can also be made online at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard), or by telephone at 1-800-288-1155.

For more details, refer to the moose, deer and elk sections in the summary.

## PENDING – Changes to Black Bear Seasons

Please check for an update on the status of this potential change at [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting) or call 1-800-667-1940.

As of the time of printing of this document, the ministry has proposed a two-year Black Bear Pilot Project to be conducted in 2014 and 2015. The proposal includes:

- an open black bear season for resident hunters from May 1 to June 15 in Wildlife Management Units 13, 14, 29, 30, 36, 39, 41 and 42
- a prohibition on harvest of bear cubs and female bears accompanied by a cub during the early season, and
- a requirement that resident hunters who purchase a bear licence before June 16 report their bear hunting activity and harvest for the spring season separate from their report of their fall activity and harvest.

For more information on the proposed pilot project see page 78.

## New - Changes to Various Licences, Permits and Authorizations

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is moving forward with an initiative to streamline various licences, permits and authorizations to make it easier, faster and more efficient for individuals and businesses to access government services.

At this time, there are a number of changes to licences, permits and authorizations that are of interest to hunters. Additional information on these changes can be found at [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or by calling 1-800-667-1940.

Changes affect the following activities:

- Exporting wildlife from Ontario (e.g. harvested deer)
- Serving fish or game at charitable events (e.g. fish and game charity dinners)
- Hunting raccoon at night
- Chasing raccoon at night or fox, coyote or wolf during the day
- Small game hunting by non-residents of Ontario
- Releasing pheasants or chukars for hunting on private property
- Harassing, capturing, or killing wildlife to protect property
- Tanning, treating or preserving furbearing mammal pelts
- Keeping dead wildlife (e.g. roadkill)
- Keeping, buying or selling furbearing mammal pelts
- Keeping, collecting, buying or selling live reptiles and amphibians
- Buying or selling hides or cast antlers

For more information on these changes, please check [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or call 1-800-667-1940.

## 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 - Wild Turkey Season Openings

- New spring wild turkey seasons are now in place in WMUs 42, 47, 49 and 50.
- A new fall wild turkey season is now in place for WMU 59.

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## NEW – Use of Tracking Dogs for Big Game Retrieval

The use of leashed dogs to track and retrieve wounded big game is now permitted during all big game hunting seasons. For more information, please call 1-800-667-1940.

## REMINDER – Hunter and Harvest Reporting

The information provided by hunters through harvest and hunting activity reporting is important for managing wildlife in Ontario. It helps to:

- monitor wildlife populations
- set harvest quotas and determine availability of additional game seals
- develop regulation proposals such as changes to seasons and bag limits, and
- inform management policies.

If you receive a hunter activity and harvest questionnaire for deer, moose, elk, black bear or wolf/coyote in the mail, you may submit your completed questionnaire(s) by mail or online by following the link at [ontario.ca/harvestreporting](http://ontario.ca/harvestreporting).

Mandatory harvest reporting for wild turkey and snapping turtle can now also be completed online.

In addition, all deer and moose hunters are welcome to provide information on their hunting activity and harvest through the online system whether they receive a questionnaire in the mail or not.

### Attention All Hunters

If you harvest an animal that is wearing an ear-tag with the 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.

### Notice to Hunters

In-season regulation changes are available 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.

## REMINDER – Captive Deer/Elk Escape Notification

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

## REMINDER – 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 outside 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.

## REMINDER – Lyme Disease

Ontario is experiencing an increase in the areas where the ticks that may carry Lyme disease are found. When outdoors, practise personal protection. For detailed information go to: [www.ontario.ca/lyme](http://www.ontario.ca/lyme).

### Notice to Hunters

MNR's recent aerial surveys have revealed declines in the moose population in some parts of northeastern and northwestern Ontario. The overall reduction in this year's moose tag numbers represents a significant and collaborative effort to ensure moose populations remain healthy and resilient. For more information about the moose tags available in your area, please consult page 50.

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## REMINDER – Wildlife Feeding

If you are feeding wildlife you may be doing more harm than good. A number of risks are associated with wildlife feeding at communal feeding sites. Animals being fed can:

- become habituated to artificial food sources
- consume artificial feed mixes not healthy for them
- cause road accidents as they move to feeders
- increase populations beyond the level nature can support
- become a threat to pets or humans
- have an increased risk of passing on diseases or parasites.

For these reasons, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources discourages the feeding of wildlife. For more information please visit [ontario.ca/feedingwildlife](http://ontario.ca/feedingwildlife).

## REMINDER – Moose Age Identification

It is important for moose hunters to know the difference between calf, cow and bull moose. Moose hunters are encouraged to review the calf, cow and bull identification information on page 38, as well as to take the moose ID quiz online at: [ontario.ca/conservationofficer](http://ontario.ca/conservationofficer) (see page 47 for more details).

## White Nose Syndrome

Bats are an important part of Ontario's biodiversity. However, White-nose Syndrome (WNS) continues to cause large mortalities of bats in the northeast United States and Canada, including 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.

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

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT BIG GAME DRAWS

Since 2013, the Ministry of Natural Resources has enhanced big game draws and is now accepting electronic draw applications through participating ServiceOntario centres and licence issuer locations. Please see below for more quick facts about entering big game draws in 2014.

- Draw availability:  
Moose: April 22 - June 2  
Elk: May 1 - June 10  
Antlerless Deer: March 1 - June 30  
Controlled Deer: August 1 - September 2
- **Note: Paper applications are no longer being used or accepted.** Moose, antlerless deer and controlled deer draw entries can be completed electronically through our automated telephone line at 1-800-288-1155, online at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard), or at participating ServiceOntario centres and licence issuers. Be sure to check your draw confirmation receipt prior to leaving the licence issuer or ServiceOntario centre to ensure your choices have been correctly entered. For a list of participating ServiceOntario centres and licence issuers, visit [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard).

- Note: The elk draw is not available at licence issuers. You can apply to the elk draw by telephone at 1-800-288-1155, online at [ontario.ca/outdoorscard](http://ontario.ca/outdoorscard), or at a participating ServiceOntario centres. There is a fee of \$16.95 to enter the elk draw.
- If applying on the automated telephone system, be sure to record the authorization number provided at the end of the call. This number confirms your draw entry has been accepted. If applying by Internet, be sure to print or save the receipt which indicates your selections for the draw entry. Please keep your authorization number or receipt for future reference.
- There is no draw entry fee to enter the moose, antlerless deer and controlled deer draws.
- Only one application per person per big game draw is permitted.
- For further information on entering big game draws, please refer to page 34 for moose, page 53 for elk, page 60 for antlerless deer and page 69 for controlled deer.

**You can access and view or download a copy of the 2014 Hunting Regulations Summary from** [ontario.ca/hunting](http://ontario.ca/hunting).