

PUT SAFETY FIRST DURING MOOSE AND DEER HUNTS**NEWS**

October 15, 2008

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Bancroft District, will be conducting heightened enforcement activity this fall. In particular, from October 20 to November 16, during the moose and deer gun hunts, conservation officers will be checking hunters regarding hunter orange requirements and safe use of firearms. The moose season is from October 20-25 and the deer gun hunt is from November 3 to 16 in the Bancroft and Minden areas.

Fines range from \$100 to \$250 for offences involving these matters. In more serious cases, offenders could face fines of up to \$25,000 or imprisonment, or both.

To ensure a safe and lawful hunt, hunters are reminded of the following:

- All hunters must wear solid hunter orange clothing (minimum of 400 sq. inches) and a hunter orange cap, except during a "bows-only" season. Mesh type construction and camouflage vests are not acceptable.
- All persons in possession of a firearm for the purpose of hunting should not handle or discharge it or cause it to be handled or discharged without due care for persons or property.
- Any hunting injury caused by the discharge of a firearm resulting in medical treatment by a physician must be reported to a conservation officer.
- If you are in an area inhabited by wildlife or on the way to or from an area inhabited by wildlife, you cannot have a loaded firearm in on a vehicle, ATV, motorboat or aircraft. It is illegal to discharge a firearm from any of these modes of transportation.
- You cannot shoot from, down or across a public road.
- You may not have in your possession, in an area usually inhabited by wildlife ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset, a firearm unless it is encased and unloaded.

Under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, a firearm includes air guns, bows and crossbows, along with traditional rifles and shotguns. A firearm is considered loaded if there is a cartridge in the chamber or a magazine that is attached to the firearm. Bows, crossbows, and muzzleloaders have various definitions of 'loaded'.

Conservation officers may also enforce Small Vessel Regulations and sections of the Liquor Licence Act. Anglers and hunters are reminded that alcohol affects the ability to safely handle firearms and motorized vehicles or vessels and increases the risk of exposure while in the outdoors.

For more information on hunting regulations, please consult the [Hunting Regulation Summary 2008-2009](#) available from licence issuers, ServiceOntario/Government Information Centres and on the ministry's website at ontario.ca/hunting.

To report a natural resources violation, call 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free any time or contact your local ministry office during regular business hours. You can also call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).