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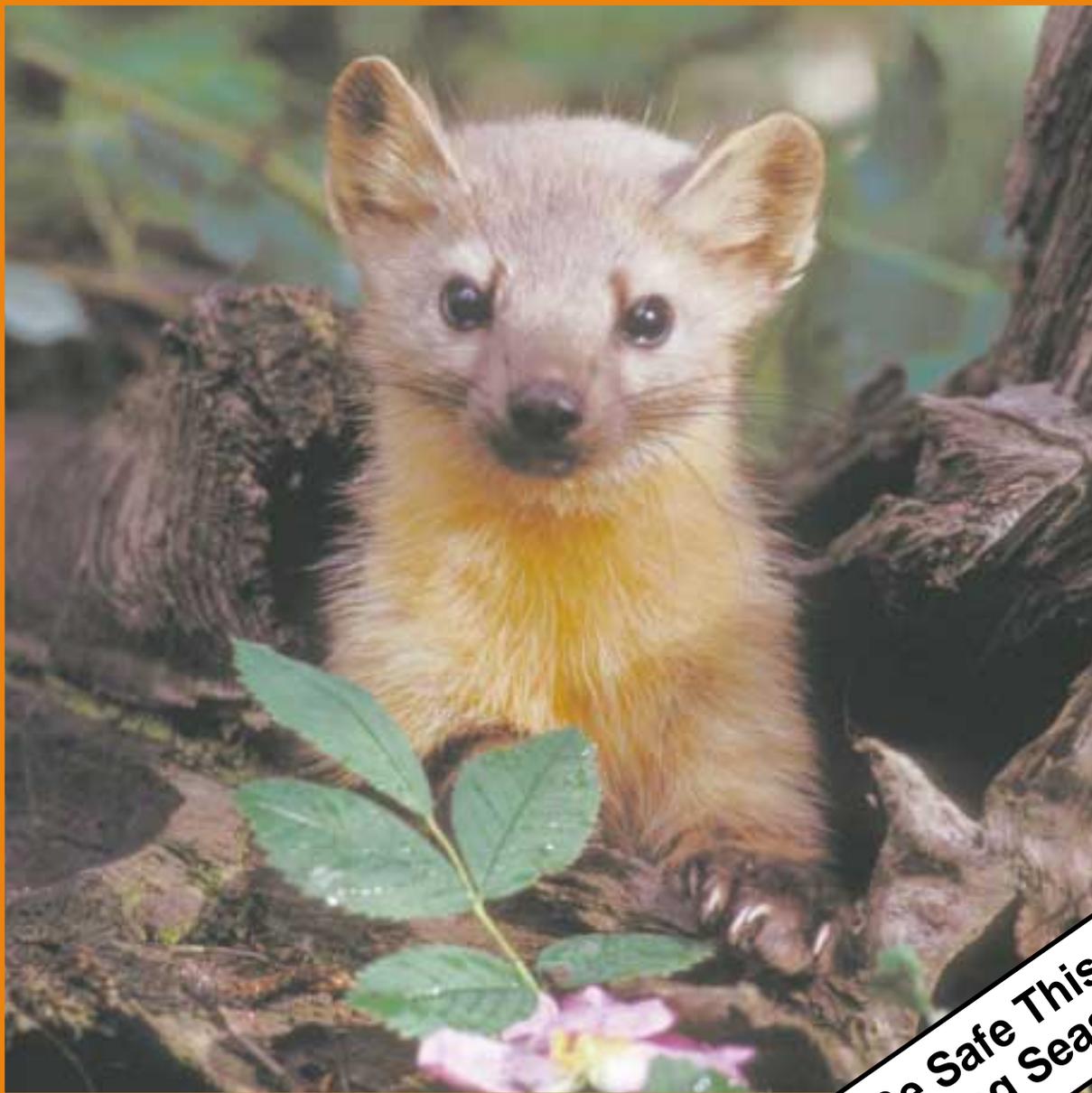
**VOLUME 14, NO. 4**  
**FALL 2005**

**New This Year:**  
Online Deer  
Registration

**Random Casts**

**Fitness For  
Hunting**

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION  
OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS**



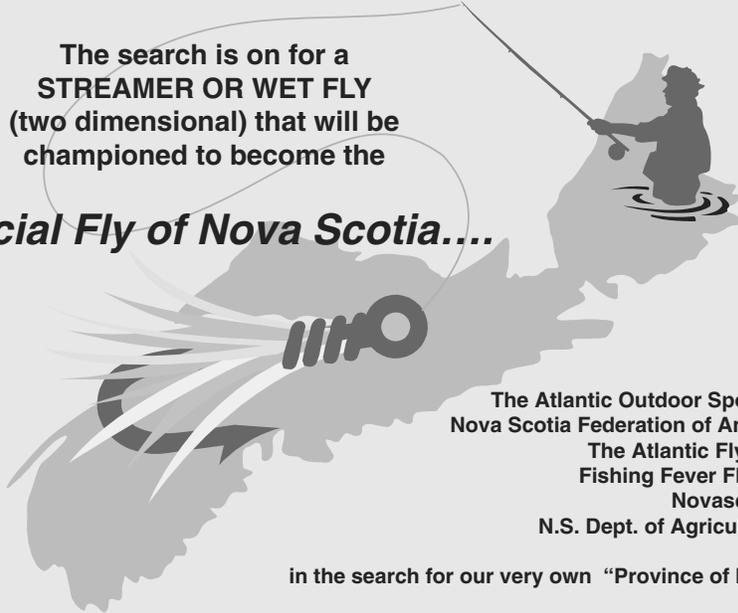
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[www.flyschool.net](http://www.flyschool.net)

[www.nsfah.ca](http://www.nsfah.ca)

[www.fishingfever.ca](http://www.fishingfever.ca)

Please note that this competition is open to all fly tiers, both professional and amateur with the exception of members and/or family members of the judging panel. EACH fly must be accompanied by the tiers name; address; telephone number; and the list of materials used in tying each fly. All flies entered into the competition become the property of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers & Hunters

Atlantic Fly Fishing School



NOVA SCOTIA  
Agriculture and Fisheries



# NOVA OUTDOORS

## FALL 2005

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To place your ad in the next issue (Winter, 2005) of Nova Outdoors, please call (902) 468-6112, or call Tony Rodgers of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters at (902) 477-8898.

# Nova Outdoors

Official Publication of the  
Nova Scotia Federation  
of Anglers and Hunters



Vol. 14, No. 4  
Fall 2005  
**STATEMENT  
OF PURPOSE**

Nova Scotia Federation of  
Anglers & Hunters

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters is interested in all aspects of the out-of-doors and is dedicated to the fostering of sound management and wise use of the renewable resources of the Province. We want to ensure that their economic, recreational and aesthetic values may continue for the benefit of this and all future generations.

Nova Outdoors is the registered trademark of Nationwide Promotions. The opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily represent the official views of the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters nor its publishers. Nova Outdoors is published quarterly and will be made available free of charge to the membership and selected retailers, government offices, libraries and other seasonal outlets.

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## President's Message

By Darlene Caldwell



but recall a bit of my past.

Today, I am an avid hunter and angler and it all started over forty years ago in Cross Creek, New Brunswick.

My fondest memories are of my brother Junior (now deceased) and myself jumping on our bikes with lunches and gear in hand. We would be gone the whole day, fishing at our favourite "secret" fishing hole down by our Uncle Clarke's place.

Our fishing rods were those we cut off a tree somewhere, with white string for line and an old bent up hook. Off we would go with our cup of worms and not a care in the world. When the fishing wasn't so great, we would pick fiddleheads and sell them for 25¢ a bucket. Those truly were the days!

The outdoors and all that it has to offer me is my passion (hunting, fishing, going to the camp or just a quiet walk in the woods).

My husband Danny and I will be married 32 years this November and even though our three children are grown now, it gives me great pleasure knowing we did all that we could to ensure our children experienced everything that our vast wilderness had to offer. We went camping, fishing, hiking and hunting, when they were old enough!

Today, they have tremendous respect for wildlife and their surroundings. This certainly has played a major role in forming them into the wonderful young adults they are today.

I now find it very sad that this is being lost to our youth. Computers, video games, malls and such are their replace-

ment. They are losing touch. I don't believe it to be their fault. Guess who is to blame?

As I sit here at my desk with pen in hand, pondering on what to write about in my first president's report, I can't help

ment. They are losing touch. I don't believe it to be their fault. Guess who is to blame?

I do not have any grandchildren yet, but if I should someday. Danny and I and their parents will do whatever we can to pass this wonderful legacy on.

Being President of the NSFAH is not the only thing I do. I am a Hunter Safety Ed. Instructor, past president of the Big Game Society of Nova Scotia; on the organizing committee and an instructor for the Becoming An Outdoors Woman Program, on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Wildlife Federation and finally, involved with two worthy youth programs (The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia Youth Scholarship and The Nova Scotia Youth Hunting and Fishing Exchange Program).

My first few months as President have not been idle ones:

Gary Penney and I attended the CWF AGM in Winnipeg. Our Youth Exchange winner was Donovan Stansburg-Lloyd from Lockeport. I met with Donovan and his family at the Halifax Airport prior to Donovan and his Dad flying off to Newfoundland, on an all expenses paid two day salmon fishing trip. It was at this time that I presented Donovan with a backpack full of goodies. All of these items were donated, with a value of over \$600. A special thank-you to Judy Clattenburg for her hard work and dedication in helping me make this another very memorable experience for our youth exchange winner.

On July 3, Danny and I attended Noel Shore Game Protection's Annual BBQ and get-together. This event was held at Paul and Betty Densmore's home. A great time with great people.

On July 11, Judy Clattenburg and I visited the Nova Scotia Guides Youth Camp in Hibernia. It was there that the Guides presented Judy and I with a cheque donated to the Youth Exchange Program. I had lunch with everyone in-

*Continued on page 6.*

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# Executive Director's Voice



By Tony Rodgers

How does that old expression go? Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Well, it looks like the folks at the Hudson Bay group of companies (HBC) that include Zellers and Home Outfitters have forgotten its own history.

Recently one of the most staunch anti-hunting, angling, farming - well you get the drift, they don't like the use of animals groups - the Animal Alliance of Canada is encouraging its members to donate their Club Z points and other award program points to them through a program set up by HBC.

Now here is a conundrum if I ever saw one. A company who's very foundation was based on the fur trade in Canada - Hudson Bay - is unwittingly helping a group whose only purpose is to discredit, boycott, hurt and ruin legitimate trapping, hunting and angling in Canada.

On the other hand, Animal Alliance of Canada is demonstrating that they have absolutely no shame by taking gifts from a company who still sells products manufactured from animal meat and skins. How two faced is that?

The Federation has not yet had an opportunity to deal with how they should handle this situation but as an individual I have.

In my last billing statement returned to HBC is cut up credit card pieces. I mailed it back with the last payment I'll ever send to them.

"Well, what's the big deal?" some of you might say about me reacting in such a way. Since I have been in this position, the single most damaging element to the decline in the activities of hunting and angling, except for hunter and angler apathy, is the

ture of energy to hunt and fish and have shown them to be beneficial to the participants. It's not only the exercise at the time of the activity but also in the lead up to the hunting or fishing season. I know many people who would not walk a block for a free coffee but would get up and exercise to get ready for an upcoming fishing or hunting trip.

Not wanting to be the one to let the companions down because they were out of shape, they made sure they were in condition.

Using outdated pictures of hunting and trapping activities they work hard to bring forth negative attention to our sports in order to invoke enough public wrath that some day legislation will be passed to end it once and for all. They are having an effect. They talk to children in our tax paid for classrooms and bring a message so soft and gentle about their own ideas about animals but fail to introduce biology into the equation.

They have said on their web page that they have already purchased equipment with the new found Club Z points that will aid them in their campaigns.

HBC will flip some day when a group of protesters stands in front of one of their stores and condemns them for selling bacon and eggs in their Skillet Restaurant.

Now that I have vented, I would like to talk about a couple of positive things for the Federation.

The Federation has been awarded a \$5,000 grant by Nova Scotia Cabinet Minister Rodney MacDonald of the Office of Health Promotion to assist in promoting the physical activity benefits of hunting and fishing to the tens of thousands of anglers and hunters across the province.

He said the department recognizes the historical, cultural and recreational values of angling and hunting in Nova Scotia and that they look forward to partnering with the Federation in addressing issues relating to physical inactivity.

We appreciate the minister's confidence in us. It has always been our goal to encourage angling and hunting for its intrinsic values but we also recognize that, as a lifestyle, hunting and angling can provide much needed exercise to participants.

Studies have been done on the expendi-

ture of energy to hunt and fish and have shown them to be beneficial to the participants. It's not only the exercise at the time of the activity but also in the lead up to the hunting or fishing season. I know many people who would not walk a block for a free coffee but would get up and exercise to get ready for an upcoming fishing or hunting trip.

Not wanting to be the one to let the companions down because they were out of shape, they made sure they were in condition.

In many rural parts of the province, the private woodlot and the activities that go on there are the exercise venues in the area. There are not many bowling alleys and fitness centres outside of cities and towns.

We are happy that the Minister wants to work with us. We thank him and will work on that promotion of fitness for anglers and hunters.

Over the winter, all of you fly tyers will have a chance to create a new fishing fly, one that may become known as the Nova Scotia Fishing Fly.

With the help of many sponsors, the Federation will ask the province of Nova Scotia, through the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Chris d'Entremont, to champion our selection and have it recognized by the province as our official fly.

We hope these efforts will help in the promotion of angling in Nova Scotia and create more interest in fly tying.

First prize for this contest is \$1,000 Canadian and open to everyone. Well, with the exception of our judges and their families. An ad in this issue will provide you with more details.

So start walking those BBQ pounds off and get ready for the fall hunting and fishing seasons.

Make sure you sight in your rifle, practice with your bow and arrows and be safe this hunting season. Nova Scotia has maintained a fantastic hunting safety record over the past years so let's keep it going. 🍀

Tony Rodgers  
tonyrodgers@eastlink.ca

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54090-

# New This Year: Online Deer Registration

By Tony Nette

Since 1988, successful hunters have been required to register their deer at a Deer Registration Station. However, in recent years, an increasing number of registration stations have closed and it has been difficult to replace all of them. For the convenience of hunters and to maintain accurate data on the annual harvest, this year the option of registering your deer on-line has been offered. Note: It remains mandatory to register any deer that has been killed by a hunter.

If you kill a deer this year you must:

1. Present it for registration at the nearest open deer registration station, OR
2. Register it online by providing the necessary information, at [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/DeerRegistration](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/DeerRegistration)

To comply with the regulations you must:

- Immediately upon killing a deer, cut the tag from the back cover of your licence booklet, and
- Cut out the appropriate triangles on the inside edge of the front cover of your licence booklet, indicating the month and date of kill,
- Field dress your deer, and

## Registration Option #1:

A list of Deer Registration Stations begins on page 69 of the 2005 Nova Scotia Hunting & Fur Harvesting Licence & Summary of Regulations booklet.

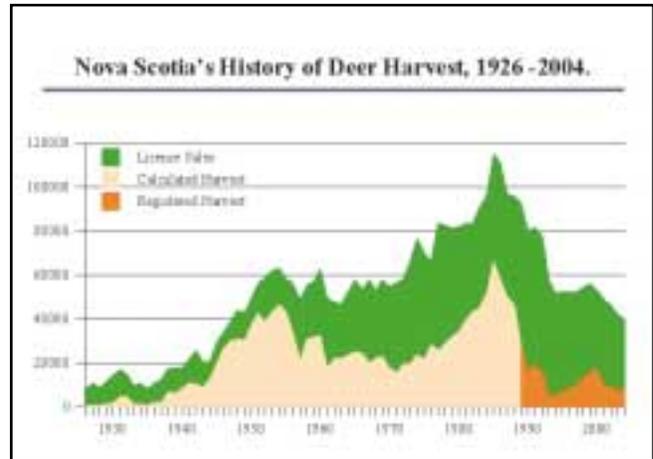
To register your deer at a deer registration station, you must:

- Transport your deer to the nearest deer registration station. The tag from your licence must remain with the deer. Note: You must be with the deer you killed when it is being transported and registered.
  - Present your deer hunting licence and the detached tag to the registration agent (\$1.00 fee + HST)
  - After the agent has completed the (Weekly Deer Harvest Form( for your deer, read the information to be sure the information is correct. Sign in the space provided.
  - The agent will enter the necessary information on the inside cover of your licence booklet. Ensure the information is correct.
- OR

## Registration Option #2:

To register your deer on-line, you must:

- Go to [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/DeerRegistration](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/DeerRegistration) and provide the required information. Upon submitting the information, you will receive a deer registration confirmation number.
- Record this number in the space provided on your Deer Hunting Tag that you have detached from the back cover of your hunting licence booklet.
- Also record the deer registration confirmation number in the space



provided on the inside front cover of your hunting licence booklet.

## NOTE:

- The detached tag becomes a legal transport permit for the deer carcass and must remain with the carcass until it is prepared for consumption.
- When the registration information has been completed on the inside cover of your hunting licence booklet, the licence becomes your permit to keep the meat of your deer in storage until April 30.
- The licence booklet and tag, together constitute a legal export permit for the deer.
- Regardless of which registration option is used, all deer must be registered within 24 hours of when they were killed. 🦌

*Tony Nette is the Manager of Wildlife Resources, Wildlife Division in Kentville, NS. He can be reached via e-mail at: [Netteal@gov.ns.ca](mailto:Netteal@gov.ns.ca).*

## President's Message...

*Continued from page 6.*

cluding all the kids. After lunch, I was able to speak to the young people about our programs and the Federation.

Tony Rodgers, Scott Cook and I met with the Honourable Chris D'Entremont, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on July 13. I feel we had a very good meeting addressing a number of concerns of The Federation, its affiliates and members.

We are working together very closely and agree that more contact with govern-

ment is of great importance.

I am currently looking into new projects that will encourage the involvement of not only the young people, but the women out there as well. Hopefully, being a woman myself will be helpful in my endeavours. I hope to be able to report on these in the near future.

It's not going to be long before we are putting the fishing gear away and pulling out our guns in preparation of hunting season.

Please be responsible in insuring that all is in good working order. It also

wouldn't hurt to maybe start walking around the block to better prepare yourself for those long treks in the woods. Be fit.

As we start thinking of the upcoming hunting season, our trips to the camp and all that needs to be done, please remember, "be smart", "hunt safe". Carry yourself and hunt in a manner to be proud of. How we hunt is just as important as why we hunt. 🦌

*Yours in conservation,  
Darlene Caldwell*

# A Walk In The Woods

## Check Out Cape Chignecto for outstanding hiking and camping



Don Cameron

“Every woodlot or forest, in addition to yielding lumber, fuel, posts and other products, should provide those who frequent it a liberal education about nature. This crop of wisdom never fails, but unfortunately, is not always harvested.”

—Aldo Leopold

Recently I had the pleasure to explore a bit of Cape Chignecto Provincial Park. If you haven't been there, it's one to put on your calendar if you enjoy the outdoors, nature, beautiful natural scenery, beach combing, walking in the woods, challenging yourself with a long hike or wilderness camping.

Cape Chignecto Park is located in Advocate Harbour at the western tip of Cumberland County, approximately 45 kilometres west of Parrsboro. Cape Chignecto encompasses 29 kilometres of rugged coastline (some of which is 600 foot cliffs), some of Nova Scotia's most significant geological features, deep gorges and valleys, sheltered coves, rare plants, remnant old growth forest, scenic vistas and rich cultural heritage. At the foot of the cliffs is where the world's highest tides flow back and forth every day.

Getting to Cape Chignecto is half the fun. The beautiful, winding drive between Parrsboro and Advocate has been compared favourably many times with the

infamous Cabot Trail, but without the traffic volume. Recent paving work has made the excursion that much smoother.

Mi'kmaq legend has indicated that the Cape Chignecto area has always been considered important to aboriginal people. The first recorded accounts of Advocate was in 1398 by Prince Henry Sinclair, Earl of Orkney who rebuilt his ship there before returning to Europe. The area also appears in historical publications of 1604 by noted French explorer Samuel de Champlain. An Acadian community at Advocate Harbour was abandoned about 1755 when the British expelled most French-speaking Acadians from Nova Scotia. Acadian dykes are still visible and protect the main street of the village from the sea.

The forest cover in the Park includes red spruce (many of the large variety), balsam fir, sugar maple, red maple, yellow birch, white birch and beech. The ground vegetation includes a huge variety of flora, some of which are rare plants, mosses and lichens.

The geology and landforms of Cape Chignecto tell a story of the collision of continents, uplifting of mountains, massive erosion, glaciation and rebounding of the land. At Spicers Cove, the red rhyolite cliff face was deposited during violent volcanic eruptions some 400 years ago. During the next 100 million years, meandering rivers deposited sediments in a large lowland area in the Chignecto region.

Some of the sediments found at Spicers Cove contain thin coal seams and fossilized plant remains.

The Spicers Cove area also contains evidence of immense glaciers which once covered our province. Glacial striations

and grooves scar a rock outcrop on the Eatonville Road while a mass of glacial debris at Halibut Head marks the end point of one ice sheet. The raised beaches and wave-cut terraces at Squally Point were formed at sea level during and immediately following the retreat of the glaciers about 14,000 years ago. These features now stand more than 35 metres above sea level as the land, freed of the tremendous weight of the ice, rebounded to its present elevation.

The Cobequid Fault, the geological boundary between southern and northern Nova Scotia, is revealed along the spectacular cliff escarpment of the West Advocate shore. Over millions of years, southern Nova Scotia has moved hundreds of kilometres east in relation to the northern part of the province. The effects of the fault movement can be seen in nearby rock formations, from severe crushing adjacent to the fault, to slight deformation as distance from the fault increases westward.

Cape Chignecto Park offers a wide range of hiking choices. For a short trip one can take the leisurely two hour trail hike that starts at the information centre, meandering through old growth mixed wood forest and coming down to meet the beach at a waterfall where McGahey Brook falls toward the sea.

There is an extensive 50 kilometre coastal and return loop trail system with trail head facilities located in West Advocate. As well, there are 47 back country hike-in campsites, 28 walk-in sites, a picnic area, park administration and interpretation centre, gift shop, tourist information, public washrooms and access to the Bay of Fundy shoreline. For those so

*Continued on page 9.*



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# Random Casts

## Inside the Trout

By Don MacLean

It had been a good fishing trip and we kept four trout for supper. I went down to the edge of the lake to clean them as my fishing buddy gathered up our gear. As is my practice with fish that I keep, I check to see what they were feeding on. I opened up the first fish and was sorting through the entrails when he came down to see what I was up to. "You finish yet?" he asked. "No, I'm doing an autopsy," I replied.

"What's that?", he pointed to a worm-like mass in the body cavity. Now was the chance to impress him with all those biology courses I had taken over the years. "That's the pyloric caeca." "What does it do?" he replied. That gave me the opening I needed to launch into a lesson on trout biology.

Trout have a fairly straightforward system of digestion and blood flow. They take food in through their mouths, which have short pointed teeth to grab prey.

They don't chew their food, instead it is swallowed into the gullet or esophagus and moves to the stomach where it is digested. Digestion is aided by enzymes produced by the pyloric caeca, a worm-like mass of tissue located at the base of the stomach. From there it moves through the intestine and finally is expelled through the vent. Two other organs aid in digestion. The liver is a large dark brown organ located in front of the stomach and on top of it is a small green sac, the gall bladder, which releases bile to neutralize stomach acids.

The heart is a simpler organ in trout than it is in birds or mammals. It is a small, pink, sac-like organ located at the base of the throat. In a fish there is a single pass system which sends blood from the heart to the gills to receive oxygen, then through the rest of the body and kidneys before returning to the heart. In birds and mammals, such as ourselves, it is a two stage process, with blood going to the lungs and then back to the heart to be pumped to the rest of the body.

Along the back of the trout, you will find a membrane which looks like a bal-

loon. This is the swim bladder, which enables trout to maintain neutral buoyancy in water. They expand, or deflate the swim bladder by taking air in, or out, through the mouth. Behind the swim bladder lies a dark line of tissue along the backbone. This is the kidney and most anglers remove it by scraping along the backbone with their thumbnail.

Depending on the time of year the fish is caught, the sex organs will be small or more developed. These are twinned structures, the males have pale gray smooth testes while the ovaries contain small eggs which will vary in size, depending on the season. So, the next time you clean your catch, take a moment to conduct your own investigation of what is inside the trout.

Tight Lines. 🍷

*Don MacLean is a Nova Scotia biologist who writes on sportfishing topics. His book, Discover Nova Scotia Sportfishing, was published in 2003.*

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# Where The Wild Things Are (And How To Get There)

By Rachel Rourke

Every hunter worth her fanny-pack knows the first step to a good hunt is to be well prepared. There are several items one must take to legally hunt: a compass, matches, various licences, a knife. Then there are other necessities, like toilet paper, rope, a bag, camera, mascara and, above all, a butt-warmer.

Let me explain: when you are female and participating in a potentially all-male activity, you must take care of yourself.

A large part of the hunting experience is cold comedy, especially if you're female. The people you hunt with actually dose themselves with doe urine and paw around in droppings to gauge how long ago a deer left the area. You're on your own out there ladies: take precautions. If men prefer moss, that's fine. I, however, require my two ply, recycled, cottony-soft paper. A little civilization amongst the beasts, if you will.

Men love to have their pictures taken out in the wilderness; it boosts their testosterone levels. This is especially true if they are straddling a dead animal. I, however, do not appreciate pictures of myself looking like Swamp Molly: mascara is a must. You must look good to feel good, even if you're hugging a deer's neck to your breast and its tongue is hanging out. We've all seen those fashion police mugshots of men on the back of rusty off-road half-tons. Wearing huge smiles and red and green bell bottoms, these triumphant hunters hold up their prizes by the rack. If you don't want pictures like these of yourself, remember the mascara and dress for success. I call my attire 'wilderness girl chic', and take pains to be presentable. Fortunately, florescent orange

is one of my colours. Complemented by black jeans and gorgeous green knee-high boots, I am, as they say, 'stylin'. Armed with my rifle, ammo, and Maybelline colourfast lipstick, I am ready to meet my public at the camp.

Upon arrival, it's a meet and greet; old friends trade pleasantries and insults, rifles and ammo and of course, recycled stories of the elusive twelve-point buck. This tremendous animal has roamed our countryside for twenty years, and this year, for sure, we are all going to shoot him. This liar's session takes place in a lovely old farm house belonging to Gordon and Shirley Sanford. The bumpy lane to the house runs parallel to the clean, clear water of the Meander River, with a cattle pasture separating the two. The grass is always green and the ground kept fertile by the annual spring flooding of the Meander. The salty St. Croix River is tidal and runs perpendicular to the Meander, backing it up against the old Acadian dykes as it pushes its way in. Deer are often seen feeding on the grass on the sides of the dykes. It is too close to the main road to take a shot, but it's been many an evening when I've pulled off to watch the deer. I think they know they're safe there because as I sit watching them, with my old Tempo idling and belching exhaust, they watch me. I doubt I'm as beautiful to them as they are to me; maybe if they could see my gorgeous green boots they'd think differently.

At the end of the lane is a house that looks like it grew there. It is as much a part of this place as the river is. The house serves as one wall of a boxed-in dooryard; the other walls are made of barns and woodsheds. Over the roofs of the sheds, on the horizon, is the side of the long hill

which points like a finger to the camp. One must always eye the crest of the hill because it is easy to spot the deer feeding there against the sky, silhouetting their bodies. In the house blasts an old-style wood cook stove where Shirley bakes bread and makes killer fudge that always finds its way into a knapsack for camp chow. It is imperative that you stop in for a chat and a snack with Gordon and Shirley to see what is new, and so someone knows your plans for the day. You must bring along at least three far-fetched tales to tell of your hunting prowess. Not only does this ensure your status as a great hunter but secures invitations to other elite hunting camps of those you have chosen to hunt with. On your way out the door, you must say something incredibly witty and insightful, or risk being outdone by the male hunters who are all vying for the top position of 'great white hunter,' the *crème de la crème* of all people woodsy.

Now you are ready to begin your hike across the interval toward the great camp and dinner. In the barnyard, stop and load your weapon of choice. I use my father's favourite, a cherished .30-30. Carefully count each bullet you insert in the breach, and how many shots you use, so later you will know how many to unload. Always check and double check. You don't want to kill yourself or your buddy, or blow a hole through your car. This tends to draw unwanted attention from the local authorities, and is frowned upon by the Sanfords.

Along the well-trodden path, relax and breathe that scented air. Listen for the musical trickle of the river. You'll feel so alive you'll want to burst. If the air is sharp, breathe so your nose stings and eyes water. It's a moment you've thought of since last season. Now begin your hunt. Watch for the telltale 'white flag' of a deer signaling others of danger; listen for the snorting and blowing of a rutting buck. Enjoy walking the woods your father walked, seeing what he saw, and living the feeling he taught you to appreciate. Just as the whole experience was given to you by him, now you must live it for him, and yourself, and remember.

The love of hunting was indeed a gift to me from my father. He had wanted boys, but being blessed with three girls instead, he made the best of it. Dad  
*Continued on page 10.*

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## A Walk in the Woods *continued from page 7.*

inclined, there is a wilderness cabin at Arch Gulch and a bunkhouse at Eatonville that can be booked via reservations.

The highlight reel section of the Cape Chignecto Park is undoubtedly the coastal hiking trail. Although it provides wonderful scenery, it also places strenuous physical demands on the hiker. Those interested in challenging themselves in such a way should be physically fit, able to hike and climb significant slopes and distances, and come prepared with the appropriate outdoor equipment and clothing.

Why not check out this local gem and see why the Cape Chignecto Park has received so much fanfare and awards such as the 2001 Gulf of Maine Visionary Award and 2002 Attractions Canada Award. For more information on Cape Chignecto Park phone 902-392-2085. Check out the website [www.parks.gov.ns.ca](http://www.parks.gov.ns.ca) for information on provincial parks in Nova Scotia. 🍂

*Don Cameron is a Registered Professional Forester.*

# Fitness For Hunters

Submitted by Tony Rodgers

Start now to be physically fit for a safer and more enjoyable hunting season.

Every hunting season is marred by a rash of heart attacks. In fact, heart attacks take a higher toll than careless hunting practices. Walking while carrying gear, spotting and shooting at a deer, and dragging out a carcass can cause more stress than the heart can handle. That's especially true if you are not physically active, smoke, have high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol or other health problems.

Hunting is more fun and a lot safer when you're not tired and out of breath. Physical fitness will enable you to cover more ground when hunting, get your game out of the woods easier, and avoid clumsiness and dangerous lapses of concentration and caution that accompany exhaustion. Fitness makes you a better shot, too. Shooting while out of breath is not productive.

If you don't exercise regularly, the unaccustomed excitement and exertion in the field can be dangerous. It's a good idea to start building up your endurance before hunting season. But you don't have to train like a marathon runner. Any activity that gets you moving around, even if it's done for just a few minutes each day,

can start strengthening your heart and lungs.

Physical activity will also help you lower your blood pressure, reduce your risk for some cancers, control weight and maintain healthy bones, muscles and joints. Choose an activity you enjoy doing and get a partner or a pet to share it with you. Try walking, bicycling, jogging, gardening, hiking, bowling or dancing. Be creative – park your car a distance from work or get off the bus early and walk the rest of the way. Take the stairs, and at lunch walk around the block. Also, malls are ideal for walking in any weather.

Two other good things you can do for your heart are to make healthful, low-fat meal choices and to avoid tobacco. The Canada Food Guide recommends eating at least five fruits and vegetables a day and drinking non-fat (skim) or low fat (1 percent) milk. Get in shape now to make your next hunting season the best one you ever enjoyed.

Following are recommended fitness tips :

- Try and get 30 minutes of physical activity five or more times a week.
- Regular physical activity helps reduce fatigue and manage stress.
- Walking is a simple, easy way to

strengthen your heart and lungs, tone muscles and generally improve fitness.

- Brisk walking burns up to 440 calories an hour.
- Walking three miles an hour burns 250 to 315 calories per hour. You can lose a pound of fat by burning 3,500 calories.
- Decide what your body can do comfortably. If you have been inactive, proceed slowly and build up.
- Before brisk walking, warm up for five to seven minutes by stretching and light walking.
- Wear shoes that are cushioned and provide support.
- Before starting a fitness program, seek your doctor's advice, especially if you have medical problems or are over 45 and not regularly active.

The Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters would like to thank the Minister responsible for Nova Scotia Health Promotions, Honourable Rodney MacDonald and his staff for their support in partnering with the Federation in promoting the benefits of hunting and angling as healthy outdoor activities. These are indeed life long activities that aid in the long health of many Nova Scotians and more youth should be encouraged to participate. 🍁

## Where the Wild Things Are....

Continued on page 9.

taught me how to cherish the woods and its creatures and to take more from the sport than just game.

The most important thing about your day's hunt isn't just taking that big buck out of commission. It's being part of the bigger picture that makes the day. It's the smell of the wet pine you're squatting under as it drips down your neck, and the weight of your long-arm on your wrist as you support it below the mechanism. It's the taste of gun oil and bluing on your gloves as you bite them off your filthy fingers to squeeze off a shot. It's the hellish bruised-in bra line on your shoulder from rifle practice on the tin plate targets, secured to the four-foot stump off the camp's deck. It's also really about just being there in the beauty of the woods and appreciating the wealth it contains.

By remembering the essentials, you can only add to the forest's greatness; by being ready for anything, you've taken the first steps to having a successful hunt. Keep in mind that equipment differs in every situation: if you have ever sat, near dusk, scanning a field in an early winter's snow bank for two hours, you know what I'm saying. Only one set of cheeks should ever get cold. Always remember the essentials, and take your butt-warmer.

It's mandatory while you're out there to do your best to conserve, protect and preserve the greatness of your environ-

ment and all its inhabitants. This includes yourself: feel good, be safe and look good in orange. 🍁

Rachel Rourke is a writer based in Brooklyn, NS.

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# Ducks Unlimited Centre Unveiled at Shubenacadie Wildlife Park

By Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

A new interpretative centre at Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park will solidify Nova Scotia's status as one of the best places in Canada for bird-watching.

Plans for the Ducks Unlimited Greenwing Legacy Project, a 5,000-square-foot interpretative centre at the Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park in Colchester County, were announced recently by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the province of Nova Scotia, and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The centre will feature interactive displays, hands-on wetlands exhibits, and classrooms that provide a particular focus on conservation education for children. It will serve as a base for existing recreational activities in the area such as birding, adventure hiking and cross-country skiing.

Wheelchair accessible nature trails, bridges and boardwalks will lead visitors to wildlife observation areas at a series of demonstration wetlands near the centre.

"It is vital that we increase public awareness and understanding of the benefits that wetland ecosystems provide to the environ-

ment and to the health and enjoyment of people," said Jamie Fortune, director of regional operations, Ducks Unlimited Canada. "We are also very pleased with the project's emphasis on conservation education for young people. The Greenwing Legacy Project will be very much a natural heritage legacy for the conservationists of tomorrow."

The \$900,000 in capital costs will be funded equally by the federal and provincial governments and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

The Office of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage will provide the province's \$300,000 contribution.

The provincial Department of Natural Resources will provide the lease for the land as well as ongoing operational support. This will include maintenance costs of the interpretative centre, associated trails and walkways and staffing costs (about \$60,000 annually for 20 years).

"This project represents an incredible opportunity to expand and enhance one of our most popular parks for the people of Nova Scotia and to further promote the importance of Nova Scotia's wetlands," said Richard Hurlburt, Minister of Natural Resources. "The centre will also help to attract more visitors to the province by extending

our tourism season with such growing North American pursuits as birding."

"Nova Scotia is located on the spring and fall migration route, known as the Atlantic flyway," said Scott Brison, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, speaking on behalf of Joseph McGuire, Minister of ACOA. "The Greenwing Legacy Project will help to attract tourists to Shubenacadie during the spring and fall shoulder seasons and provide residents and visitors with a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the need for habitat conservation."

Ducks Unlimited Canada, the nation's premier wetland conservation organization, has been conserving, restoring and managing wetlands and associated habitats since 1938. The company has conserved more than 100,000 acres in Atlantic Canada and its work in designing and developing education programs and activities for youth is award winning.

The Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park attracts more than 90,000 visitors annually. It has a 50-year history with two-thirds of Nova Scotia's population having visited the park.

The new interpretive centre is expected to be complete in June 2006.

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# Books of Interest

## Roadside Wildflowers

### An Introduction to Familiar North American Species

By James Kavanagh, illustrated by Raymond Leung

This is one in a series called the pocket naturalist. It is a laminated reference guide that fits neatly in your pocket for convenience, and folds out to reveal a colour illustration, name and brief information on approximately 116 different species of wildflowers.

ISBN: 158355179-4, \$5.95, Waterford Press Inc. To order call 800-434-2555.

## Saltwater Fishes

### An Introduction to Familiar North American Species

By James Kavanagh, illustrated by Raymond Leung

This is another reference guide from the pocket naturalist series. There are colour illustrations, names and sizes for approximately 160 species of fish such as salmon and allies, small nearshore fishes, sea bass and allies and many other miscellaneous fish.

ISBN: 158355116-6, \$5.95, Waterford Press. To order call 800-434-2555.

## Eastern Coastal Birds

### An Introduction to Familiar Species

By James Kavanagh, illustrated by Raymond Leung

From the pocket naturalist series here is another take along reference guide for the novice bird watcher. In this fold out there are 140 species of birds identified with a colour illustration, common and proper names, and approximate size. The birds range from waterfowl and seabirds, to nearshore birds, perching birds and birds of prey.

ISBN: 1-58355-109-3, \$5.95, Waterford Press. To order call 800-434-2555.

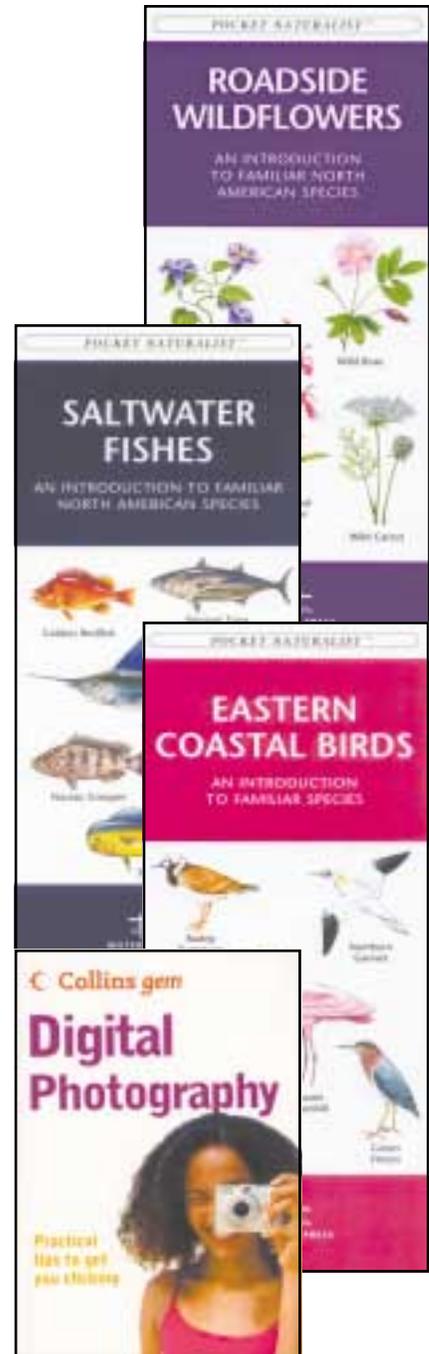
## Digital Photography

### Practical tips to get you clicking

By Patrick Hook

This is a small book that will fit in your pocket and is full of information to make digital photography simple. The terminology is explained, there is advice on buying a camera and then making the most of its functions. All the basics of downloading and editing images to get the picture you want is covered. There are tips on getting rid of red eye in a picture, how to take shots at night, and even how to enhance a photo so you can back up those tall fishing and hunting stories.

ISBN: 0-00-719431-5, \$10.95, Collins gem.



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# Bear-Proof Your Property

By Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Black bears are in the news again. A cool, wet spring has slowed the growth of their natural food supply. Bears are on the search for food from other sources, which may include back yards in rural areas, and subdivisions at the edge of towns and cities.

Black bears are the only kind of bear found in Nova Scotia.

Bear sightings in communities and near homes should be reported to the Department of Natural Resources. Trained and experienced staff will determine the appropriate action. During business hours, call a local Natural Resources office. After hours, and on weekends and holidays, call toll-free 1-800-565-2224.

In most cases, the problem can be solved by removing food sources, but in some cases live trapping and relocating the bear may be necessary. If the bear is bold or aggressive, or appears to be overly dependent on foods provided by humans, it may have to be put down.

In their search for food, bears are attracted to garbage, composters, green bins, and bird feeders. Home and cottage owners, campers and hikers should take the following steps to reduce the likelihood of attracting bears:

- Never leave garbage lying around properties or camp. If possible, garbage containers should be made of metal and kept away from forested areas or stored in a building.

- When leaving camps or cottages, garbage should be removed.
- Do not pour cooking fats outside, near homes, cottages or camps.
- Keep barbecue grills clean and free of grease.
- If household pets are fed outdoors, make sure leftovers and spills are cleaned up.
- Bird feeders should be removed at night in areas where bears are common or if a bear is known to be in the area. The feeders should be removed for several days until the bear has left.
- Composters should be properly used, which means meat and fish scraps should not be included. Compost should be turned often to prevent odours and to hasten decomposition. Lime can be used to reduce odours and make the compost unattractive to bears.
- Green bins should be kept in shady but open areas away from forest cover. Meat, fish scraps and kitchen waste may develop a strong odour. They should be wrapped well in newspaper or frozen and put in the green bin on collection day. Green bins should be washed often to get rid of lingering smells.

Bears are normally shy of people. There has never been a reported incident of a bear injuring a person in Nova Scotia. However, they have the potential to be dangerous, so use caution if a bear is sighted or when in an area where bears may be expected to be present.

Hikers or walkers who see a black bear should take the following steps:

- Keep calm.
- Back away slowly while watching the

bear. Do not run.

- If you see a bear before it sees you, leave the area. If it is not possible to leave the area entirely, move upwind to let the bear catch your scent.
- If the bear is more than 100 metres away, make enough noise for it to become aware of you.
- Talk in a calm, authoritative voice.
- If a bear approaches you or begins to follow you, drop an article of clothing, your backpack, water bottle or anything with your scent on it, and leave the area quickly. The bear should stop to investigate the article and this will give you time to move away.
- If you encounter a female bear with cubs, act non-threatening. Do not make sudden movements and avoid direct eye-contact. Leave the area immediately. Never get between a female and her cubs.
- If a bear should attack, do not play dead. If there is no way to avoid an attack, act aggressively by shouting, waving your arms, and throwing rocks or sticks. Leave the area at the first possible opportunity.

Do not attempt to shoot a nuisance bear. It is illegal to kill a bear unless it poses an imminent threat to human safety. In populated and developed areas use of a firearm could pose an added threat to human safety.

For information about bears visit the Department of Natural Resources website at [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife).

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# What The Liberals Can't Or Won't Tell You About Their \$2 Billion Firearms Program

By Garry Breitreuz, MP,  
Conservative Firearms Critic

In my search for the truth about government waste and incompetence on the firearms file, I have made more than 500 Access to Information Act requests over the last five years. The Auditor General's report of December 2002 uncovered the fact that the government had been keeping Parliament in the dark about the cost of the firearms program – but that's not all by a long shot. Here is my preliminary list of things the Liberal government can't and/or won't tell Canadians after spending \$2 billion of our tax dollars on this useless gun registry.

## What the Liberals won't tell you:

- Firearms Program Enforcement Costs;
- Firearms Program Compliance Costs;
- Firearms Program costs to the Economy and Jobs;
- Firearms Program Cost/Benefit Analysis;
- The Benefits of Firearms Ownership;
- The total cost to fully implement the Firearms Program;
- Total number of employees working in and for the Firearms Program at all levels of government (was more than 1,800 as of April 12, 2001);
- The annual cost to operate the program once it is fully implemented;
- That there are still approximately 10 million guns to register according to Statistics Canada firearm import and export records and previous Liberal government estimates;
- That Criminal Code incidents per police officer have more than doubled since 1962;
- That violent crime has more than quadrupled in the last 40 years;
- That in 2003, the crime rate in the three prairie provinces was 66 percent higher than in their four neighbouring states south of the border;

- That all 6.9 million registration certificates have been issued without the owners' names;
- That five million guns in the registry still need to be "verified" in accordance with police demands for accuracy;
- That there are more than three million blank and unknown entries on the gun registration certificates that have been issued – including almost three-quarters of a million that were registered without serial numbers;
- That more than 375,000 firearms brought into Canada by foreign visitors have never been entered in the gun registry or tracked to determine if they ever left Canada;
- Why prohibited guns cannot be taken to shooting ranges but can be taken to gun shows;
- Why legal firearms being imported into Canada will soon have to have special United Nations serial numbers on them, supposedly to stop gun smuggling in Africa;
- Why even though crimes committed with firearms is dropping, more victims are being injured and suffering more serious injuries; and
- Why 70 years of registering legally-owned handguns hasn't kept handguns out of the hands of criminals.

- Where all 7 million registered guns are actually stored;
- The number of firearm traces that led police to the robbers and shooters;
- The number of robbers and shooters convicted as a result of the affidavits issued; and
- The number of crimes solved with the 70-year-old handgun registry.

Finally, the biggest cover-up is the government's refusal to tell the Canadian people how many lives could have been saved and what major improvements in public safety could have been achieved with the two billion dollars and 10 years wasted on the Liberals' futile firearms program. How about 28,000 more police officers and border guards; or more women's shelters; or more suicide prevention programs; or more scientists to clear up DNA backlog; or kicking bogus refugees out of our country; or even keeping more violent offenders in jail where they belong? Sadly, the Liberals seem bound and bent to waste another billion on this pitiful excuse for a public safety program. Is there ever a time when a gross waste of tax dollars becomes a crime? ☹

Garry Breitreuz is the Official Opposition's Associate Justice Critic on Firearms Issues and the Member of Parliament for Yorkton-Melville, Saskatchewan. For more information: [www.garrybreitreuz.com](http://www.garrybreitreuz.com)

## What the Liberals Can't Tell You

- The addresses of the 176,000 convicted criminals with firearm prohibitions;
- The addresses of the 37,000 violent individuals with restraining orders against them;
- The addresses of the 15,500 persons that have had their firearms licences refused or revoked;
- The current addresses of more than 120,000 newly licenced gun owners;
- The current addresses of 315,000 owners of a previously registered handgun;
- The location of more than 600,000 previously registered handguns;



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# Exchange Program

By Judy Clattenburg

Again last fall, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick participated in the Youth Exchange Program for 2004. This program encourages youth to take part in hunting and fishing activities and is open to anyone between the ages of 12 and 17 who successfully completed the Hunter Education Course during the year. The winner receives an all expenses paid hunting or fishing trip for themselves and a parent/guardian to the other province.

The Big Game Society of Nova Scotia was the lead organization on this program and worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources to ensure that things went well.

Nova Scotia's 2004 winner was Jus-

tin Landry of Amherst. Justin and his dad spent two days hunting birds at Adair's Wilderness Lodge in Sussex, New Brunswick. New Brunswick's winner was Stacey Rideout. Stacey and his dad spent two days sea duck hunting. Special thanks goes out to Brian Mason of Goldeneye Guide Service (902-889-3187) as this was the second consecutive year that Brian volunteered his guiding services to this program.

Due to the generosity of sponsors, both boys received a backpack filled with hunting supplies including a Suunto compass, Grohman knife, GPS (global positioning system) unit, box of shells, Trail Blazer saw, hunter orange hat and vest, and numerous ball caps and t-shirts.

Each of the winners was successful in bagging a few birds, but more importantly they made memories that will last a lifetime.

This year Nova Scotia will be exchanging a student with Newfoundland.

Donovan Lloyd of Lockeport a student who took his Hunter Education course through Shelburne County Fish & Game, is Nova Scotia's 2005 winner and departing with his dad at the end of June to participate in a salmon fishing trip on the Humber River, Newfoundland. While there, Donovan made the draw for the student who will be coming to Nova Scotia this fall.

This is a non profit program which relies completely on donations. Anyone wishing to donate to the Youth Exchange Program, can contact Darlene Caldwell, P.O. Box 305, Windsor, Hants Co., N.S. B0N 2T0. Please ensure that donations are clearly marked "Youth Exchange Program".

Let's keep the hunting and fishing tradition alive and well. 🦅

*Judy Clattenburg is a Program Officer with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources in Halifax.*

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# Invasive Alien Species In Canada

## Invasive alien species are found nearly everywhere in Canada

*Courtesy of Canadian Wildlife Federation (Hinterland Who's Who)*

Invasive alien species:

- are brought into Canada accidentally and intentionally
- are one of the main threats to biodiversity
- are very difficult to control

## What are invasives?

Canada is being invaded by aliens, but not by the type you see in science fiction movies. These organisms are found nearly everywhere in Canada. They can belong to any of the categories of organisms in the world, including plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and micro-organisms. They include species native to one part of Canada that move to another region of the country, as well as those that come from outside the country. These aliens are any species that has spread beyond its natural range into new locations as a result of human activity.

You are already well acquainted with some alien, or non-native, species. For example, lawns and gardens are made up mostly of alien species, including Kentucky bluegrass, periwinkle, lily of the valley, and even the unwanted dandelion. The domestic cat is thought to have originated in Africa. And the pigeon and the European Starling, birds commonly seen in Canadian cities, both came from Europe. Even many of the foods you eat originated in other countries. Potatoes came originally from the South American Andes, corn from Mexico, and wheat from Africa and the Middle East.

There are also many examples of species from one part of Canada that have taken up residence in another. The familiar moose, for example, is native to most parts of the country, but is an introduced species on the island of Newfoundland, as are the red squirrel and the snowshoe hare. The bullfrog is native to some provinces, but is an alien species in British Columbia. And the House Finch, which originated in several western provinces, is now found in a number of provinces in the east.

Many of Canada's alien species are beneficial, but a great number are not. Sometimes the conditions are right for alien species to become *invasive*—they move into new habitats and take over, their populations sometimes expanding beyond control. The harm they cause to the environment, the economy, or human health can be costly and sometimes irreversible.

## Source of invasives Where do they come from and how do they get here?

Alien species come into Canada by any means of transport that moves them farther than they could move on their own. Sometimes they are brought in on purpose, but often they arrive unintentionally.

Seafaring European explorers and settlers were the first to introduce new species to Canada. They brought cattle, goats, and other domestic animals, along with familiar crops like wheat, when they came by ship to explore and settle the New World. Without meaning to, they also introduced unwanted organisms—pests, like the Norway rat, and viruses, like deadly influenza and smallpox.

Today, alien species are still being imported intentionally into Canada from around the world for use in many areas, from agriculture and horticulture to the pet trade to medical and scientific research. A variety of legislation regulates the importation of alien species into Canada and their movement once they are in the country. Unfortunately, even when programs are in place to monitor and contain imported species, the effects the species can have on the environment if they accidentally escape from their intended habi-

tat is not always considered.

It is more difficult to trace the pathways of species that have been introduced accidentally than it is those introduced intentionally. Accidental arrivals are rarely discovered until they have become invasive and spread some distance from their point of entry. For example, many unwanted aliens arrive in ballast water, the seawater or freshwater used to stabilize large ships during travel; aquatic species are taken up along with ballast water at one port and released at the destination port. About half of the alien shellfish species in Canada, including the highly invasive zebra mussel, probably arrived in North America in this way. Shipping-crate wood and packing materials may also contain unwanted species, such as insects. As well, unwanted aliens may travel with intentionally imported ones. For example, plants, seeds, and bulbs that are imported for use in landscaping may harbour foreign insects and fungi or may be contaminated with the seeds of other plants. Domestic animals and aquaculture species may carry foreign diseases or parasites.

Alien introductions into Canada are becoming more frequent and difficult to track as global trade and travel expand. Europe used to be the main area of origin of alien species. In recent years, more species have been arriving from Asia, some with telltale names like the Asian long-horned beetle, Japanese bamboo, and Eurasian water milfoil. More frequent travel between regions within Canada is also speeding up the spread of alien species to remote areas, isolated water bodies, and islands.

Purple loosestrife, introduced from Eu-

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rope in the early 1800s as a garden ornamental plant, has invaded wetlands throughout eastern North America, edging out many native species. Wetlands are the most biologically diverse part of our ecosystem. When the purple flower chokes out habitat, it affects hundreds of species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, insects, fish, and amphibians that rely on wetlands to survive. Only three provinces prohibit the sale of purple loosestrife; it can still be purchased in garden centres everywhere else in Canada.

## Concerns

### Why are we concerned?

When an alien species enters an ecosystem, it can have an impact on the species that are present, on important habitats, or even on the ecosystem itself. Concern arises when an alien species changes the system for the worse, either by reducing or eliminating populations of native species, or by otherwise changing the way the ecosystem works.

These changes have made the invasion of alien species a major global problem. If organisms were not able to move beyond their normal ranges, each part of the world would have a unique array of plants, animals, and micro-organisms. But as species move from one area of the world to another, sometimes squeezing out the competition, different places in the world become more alike in their biology—a process called biological homogenization.

This process is undesirable because as it takes place, ecosystems often become less stable, and valuable biodiversity, or variety of life, is lost. This variety is essential to the health of our planet; each species performs a function that contributes to global well-being. The spread of invasive alien species, like habitat loss, is considered one of the major

threats to biological diversity. Invasive alien species have obliterated about 110 vertebrate species around the world and have affected nearly every type of ecosystem. For example, in New Zealand, predatory European mammals such as rats, cats, and stoats have caused the extinction of nine native bird species, and they threaten many more. In Guam, the brown tree snake, an import that arrived hidden in ship cargo from New Guinea, has wiped out virtually all the island's native forest birds.

In Canada, about 5 percent of mammal species and 27 percent of vascular plant species are aliens. The number of many other alien species is not yet known.

Invasive aliens pose a problem mainly in places with a warmer climate and a disturbed landscape. In Canada, these two factors come together in the south, where most of the human population lives. Urban and industrial development and activities such as forestry and agriculture disturb the landscape in ways that make it more vulnerable to alien invasions and endangerment of native species. In particular, southern British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec are home to a large number of both invasive aliens and species at risk. Natural communities on islands are also particularly vulnerable to invaders. Their plants and animals have evolved in isolation from the mainland, and they do not have the adaptations needed to escape from or compete with outsiders. Almost half the mammal species found on the island of Newfoundland and on the Queen Charlotte Islands are invasive aliens.

The cost of the damage caused by invasive alien species in Canada and the cost of controlling these species is not precisely known. But these costs are considerable and will continue to grow. Forestry companies and farmers lose millions of dollars in products each year because of alien pests and disease, and they spend millions more on pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides to control the invaders. Another example involves an aquatic invader. Tens of millions of dollars have already been spent repairing the damage caused by the zebra mussel to industrial intake and output pipes and to locks and other waterway structures in the Great Lakes system. Unless checked, further damage by this invasive mollusc over the next 10 years is expected to cost Canada and the United States another \$5 billion. Invasive aliens also take a toll on health. The West Nile virus, for example, a disease transmitted by infected

mosquitoes, has caused numerous deaths in humans and wildlife in Canada and the United States since it was first detected in North America in 1999.

## Slowing the spread What can be done? Cooperation

The problem of invasive alien species is so large that it cannot be properly dealt with unless groups and countries work together to monitor the progress of invasive aliens and come up with solutions. Experts from many countries are now cooperating on programs like the Global Invasive Species Program to help develop a worldwide plan to deal with this problem.

An increasing number of countries around the world are also creating individual strategies and action plans on invasive alien species. In Canada, a comprehensive national plan to address the threat of invasive alien species, including invasive aquatic and terrestrial animal and plant species, is now being developed through the collaboration of federal, provincial, and territorial governments. In addition, many government and non-government groups run projects to monitor and control invasive alien species. For example, Environment Canada's EcoAction program supports community projects across the country to monitor and eradicate purple loosestrife and other invasive aliens.

## Prevention

By the time invasive aliens are detected, their populations have grown significantly, and they have usually spread far from their point of introduction. Controlling them at this stage is very difficult, sometimes impossible; it is better to prevent them from coming into the country. Over the years, Canada has instituted many laws, regulations, and policies aimed at achieving that goal.

In 1992 Canada joined the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. This international agreement aims, among other things, to prevent the introduction of alien species that threaten ecosystems and to control or get rid of alien species that are already established. Under this agreement, Canada developed the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in 1995. This strategy supports monitoring and controlling the importation

*Continued on next page.*

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## Invasive Alien Species in Canada...

Continued from previous page.

of alien species.

Keeping Canada's ecosystems healthy and undisturbed is another way to help slow the advance of invasive aliens or prevent them from becoming a nuisance.

### Targeted control

Keeping all alien species out of Canada is not practical, even though it would help us conserve our natural ecosystems. For one thing, enforcing Canada's laws and guidelines about alien species is very difficult. For example, only about 1 to 2 percent of shipments arriving at Canada's borders are inspected for alien species, so there is a great chance that accidental introductions will happen. Another consideration is Canadians' desire to have a variety of foods, up-to-date medicines, non-native pets, and strong scientific research programs, so that some importation of alien species must be allowed.

Canada's laws prohibit some species from entering the country. Others are allowed in after they have been assessed, reducing the risk that alien species will become invasive and cause environmental and economic losses. However, it is not easy to predict how invasive and damaging a species will be before actually observing it "in action." Once an alien species is established, some type of control may be necessary to reduce the harm it can do. Because resources are limited, decisions must be made about which invasive aliens cause the most harm and need the most control. Here are the four main methods used to control alien populations, along with some examples of how they are used in Canada:

1. **Physical control:** Physically removing the species from its environment includes pulling out unwanted plants by hand or machine; tilling soil; burning an area; and snaring, trapping, and shooting unwanted animals. An example of this is burning off invasive plants to restore a natural prairie grassland.

2. **Chemical control:** Pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other chemicals are used to kill target alien species on contact or to indirectly kill them or their offspring by damaging their essential life processes or ability to reproduce. An example is the use of poison to eradicate rats from Langara Island, one of the Queen Charlotte Islands. Chemical control was widely used in the past but is now used less because of possible harmful effects on non-target species, both wildlife and human.

3. **Biological control:** Living organisms, particularly predators, parasites, and disease, are used to control the growth of alien populations. Many organisms used to control alien species in Canada are aliens themselves – prey-specific predators brought in from the natural range of the species being controlled. An example is the introduction of host-specific plant-eating insects or parasites to control leafy spurge, purple loosestrife, and gypsy moth.

4. **Integrated control:** This involves a combination of control methods, changes in land use practices, and preventative methods like habitat rehabilitation that are used to control alien species and to prevent their recolonization. An example is the use, by Parks Canada, of a variety of control methods to carry out the agency's job of protecting the ecological health of Canada's national parks system.

### Monitoring, research, and education

People in Canada have only recently begun to keep track of alien species and invasives. Continued work is needed to monitor the arrival and progress of alien species in Canada. Researchers must also learn more about what allows a species to become invasive and which controls are the most effective. To fill these and other gaps in our knowledge and to produce materials on invasive alien species that are useful for scientists and ordinary citizens, much work will be required.

As people become more aware of the problem of invasive aliens, they will be more likely to make good decisions to help prevent and deal with this problem. Publications like this one inform teachers, students, and other interested Canadians about the problem. Conservation groups can help get the message out to their members. Industry groups, like nurseries and pet stores, can become more aware of the role they play in introducing alien species to Canada.

For the full story, visit the Hinterland Who's Who website at <http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=220>.

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# Changes to Wildlife Act

Department of Natural Resources

Recent changes to regulations under the Nova Scotia Wildlife Act will help reduce the risk of dogs becoming accidentally captured during the trapping season.

The changes clarify rules about the control of dogs in wildlife habitat, increase the distance allowed for setting traps near dwellings and require dog-proof enclosures on smaller-sized traps.

These changes are effective immediately.

Another change, which requires that all traps be marked with a unique identification number, will be implemented Oct. 15, 2006, so trappers can get their new Wildlife Resources Cards with the identification numbers.

"Hunting and trapping are longstanding, traditional activities in rural Nova Scotia. The Department of Natural Resources recognizes the need to main-

tain humane and practical tools and methods for these activities," said Natural Resources Minister Richard Hurlburt. "We also want to balance those needs with the interests of other outdoor recreational users, including people who are accompanied by their dogs."

As a result:

- Traps may not be set within 274 metres (previously 182 metres) of a dwelling, school, playground, athletic field or place of business without permission of the owner or occupier or the written authorization of a conservation officer for the purposes of trapping nuisance wildlife. This is not necessary if a box trap or submarine trap is used.

- Body-gripping traps (conibear type) larger than 12 centimetres (previously 16 centimetres) may only be used if they are at least 153 centimetres (five feet) off the ground, in or over water, or in a dog-proof enclosure.

- It is now illegal to set most traps within 15 metres of the travelled portion of a public road or a publicly operated walking trail. This is a new regulation.

- By October 15, 2006, all traps must be marked by the trapper's unique identification number.

- Dogs in wildlife habitat must be under the control and in the sight of their owners or handlers unless they are being used for hunting as allowed under the Wildlife Act and regulations.

Existing regulations already state that traps may not be set on cultivated land without permission of the owner or occupier unless a box trap or submarine trap is used and that a person may not trap on private forest land without permission if the owner has posted signs which prohibit trapping without permission. ☞

*For more information, contact officials at a regional office of the Department of Natural Resources.*

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# Old Waterfowl History, But New To Nova Scotia

By Steve Hessian

Delta Waterfowl is North America's original leader in waterfowl research and conservation. The organization began in the 1930s in the Delta marsh in Manitoba and has now become well established in both Canada and the United States. Delta's mission is to provide knowledge, future leaders, solutions and its passion for waterfowl to scientists, resource managers, waterfowlers, conservationists and the public to enhance waterfowl populations while securing the future of waterfowling. Their mission is accomplished through many projects, such as waterfowl research, influencing public policy and promoting hunting as an integral part of waterfowl management. Volunteer efforts and the financial support of waterfowl hunters and the public make these goals happen.

In February 2005 a group of concerned local waterfowlers decided to investigate the potential for Delta Waterfowl's mission to be applied in our province. This group felt that great accomplishments could be made in Nova Scotia through the implementation of various Delta Waterfowl projects such as youth waterfowling seminars, ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) and local nesting structure programs. We enthusiastically decided that Delta's mission was an excellent fit for many waterfowl issues currently facing Nova Scotia and the Nova Delta Waterfowl chapter was hatched.

Nova Delta Waterfowl has partnered with a local group, the Dartmouth Clay Target Association (DCTA), to organize a youth hunt in September of 2005 as an initial youth project for Nova Delta Waterfowl. This hunt is expected to attract 6-12 kids from throughout the province ages 12-17 that have completed the hunter education course, but all ages are

welcome to participate. The DCTA, located in Cow Bay, is providing a superb venue for the event and Nova Delta is organizing the hunt with the support of mentors and committee members. As a group we ask of you to help steer us in the right direction for what is needed as far as permits, licenses, and mentor qualifications that are required.

Nova Delta Waterfowl greatly appreciates your help in supporting our efforts to establish this as an initial hunt for our local youth and with our future fund-rais-

ing in the months to come will promise that next year's event will be all encompassing for the entire hunting community. Our vision is to have a hunting symposium that will display all aspects of hunting to the youth for a one day event that will showcase past, present and the future of hunting. ♣

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Steve Hessian  
Nova Delta Waterfowl Youth Hunt  
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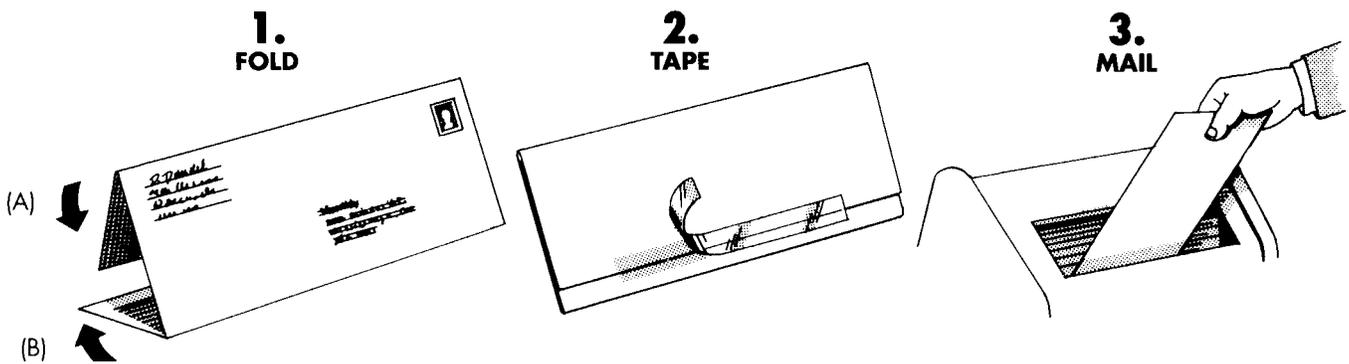
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### **RULES**

- Entrants must be 16 years or older to enter.
- Open to Nova Scotia residents only.
- Entry forms are to be completely filled out in ink or typed.
- The licensee is subject to the laws respecting hunting and fishing in the same manner as with any hunting or fishing license.
- This license is not transferrable, and may be cancelled, suspended, or forfeited in accordance with the law.
- Incomplete, illegible, or improperly filled out entries will not be accepted, and entrants will not be notified or have fees refunded.
- All entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 2005. Entries postmarked after November 30 will be included in the next years draw.
- All entry fees are non-refundable - do not send cash. **Draw date: Dec. 15, 2005**

### **ENTRY FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

You may play by using your -  Master Card  Visa

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **✓ CHECK ONE**

One Entry \$2.00

3 Entries \$5.00

6 Entries \$10.00

12 Entries \$20.00

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make cheques or money orders payable to:**

**Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, P.O. Box 654, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2T3**

Additional applications are available from all district offices of the Dept. of Natural Resources, the NSFAH,  
and most sporting good locations throughout Nova Scotia.

\*\*Fishing - Not including Salmon \*Small Game - not including Migratory Birds

\*\*\*Presently only the Deer License is co-sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources

Lotto#: AGA196716-05

