

# First-time Ont. hunters soon required to pass an exam

Ontario is tightening up its hunting licence regulations in an attempt to make the sport even safer. The changes are aimed at educating hunters before they go out into the field.

Under the new regulations, if you live in Ontario, haven't had a resident's hunting licence since January 1, 1968 and want one, you'll have to pass Ontario's hunting licence examination -- even if you have a hunting

licence from another province or country.

A resident who has had a hunting licence or a hunter safety certificate issued in any other jurisdiction after January 1, 1968, was born after December 31, 1954, and fails the examination, must complete the Ontario safety training course, if not previously taken, before reapplying.

These amendments to the Ontario hunting regulations -- effective July 1, 1983 -- com-

plement the ministry's hunter education program which aims to upgrade and improve the knowledge and skills of Ontario's hunters.

"What we're trying to do, of course, is to reduce the number of hunting accidents -- and if statistics are any indication, we're succeeding," Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope said. "In 1961, 36 hunters were killed and 118 were injured as a result of careless hunting -- 20 years later, three were killed and

34 were injured."

The success of the hunter education program -- which began in 1957 -- has been largely due to the dedication of voluntary hunter education instructors who conduct the training courses. Certified by the ministry, the instructors -- many of them members of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters -- have already trained more than 500,000 prospective hunters.

## Big prizes in Big Fish Contest

Silver anniversary of the "Molson" Big Fish Contest starts off on the 15th day of April, and will celebrate with the addition of a new catch and live release category. The 25 year old contest, operated by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, has over \$35,000 in cash and prizes to be won.

Anglers can win 18 Evinrude electric trolling motors and 270 Mitchell rod and reel combinations, plus up to \$600 cash in each of nine species categories. In addition to these awards, an honour award will be sent to each entrant whose fish meet the minimum standards in both the regular and a new live release category.

The live release category is a special addition to this year's contest which will enable those sportsmen that catch and release fish, the opportunity of entering the contest. The only difference is you will have to carry a camera and measuring tape in your tackle box to be able to adequately complete the entry form. Each fish can only be entered in one category or the other but offers a conservation oriented alternative to the angler.

This year, the coho and chinook will be combined into one salmon category. Leading fish scientists have determined it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between the two species without doing an internal examination. The increasing similarities between the salmon are presumed to be the result of similar habitats being shared by both species.

All fish may be entered in one of the following nine categories and those reaching the minimum length or weight requirements listed are eligible to win a personalized commemorative 25th anniversary plaque.

	CATCH AND KEEP	CATCH AND LIVE RELEASE
Largemouth Bass	5 pounds	20 inches
Northern Pike	15 pounds	40 inches
Walleye	8 pounds	28 inches
Rainbow Trout	6 pounds	24 inches
Salmon (Coho and Chinook)	12 pounds	29 inches
Smallmouth Bass	4 pounds	19 inches
Maskinonge	20 pounds	45 inches
Lake Trout	15 pounds	32 inches
Speckled Trout	3 pounds	19 inches

Ontario's most prestigious fishing contest has attained international recognition. All entries are subject to Ontario Fishing Regulations. The entry forms for 1983 are available at most tackle shops, lodges, taxidermists, Evinrude dealerships, "ANGLER & HUNTER" magazine or direct from The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Box 28, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 6Y5.

### Seed lawns

Spring is a good time to reseed worn areas of the lawn which suffered from disease, insect or excessive travel during the past growing season. The soil should be worked up to a depth of 10 centimetres to 15 centimetres (four inches to six inches) levelled, some fertilizer added and worked in lightly and then a good grade of seed applied. Lightly cover the seed by raking and keep the soil constantly moist for rapid seed germination.

### NOTICE

Midland Figure Skating Club

Elections  
annual  
General Meeting

Midland Centennial Arena  
April 14, 1983 7:30 p.m.

## Waterfowl viewing day

On Sunday April 17, 1983, a waterfowl viewing day will be held at Tiny Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area. Each spring thousands of ducks and geese return to Canada from their enviable winters in the south. On their northward flight to the nesting grounds, many waterfowl will stop to feed and rest at Tiny Marsh. To assist visitors in seeing this exciting spectacle, staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources will be available all day. Viewing stations will be

set up at several locations to help visitors with waterfowl identification. The highlight of the day will be a dyke hike commencing at the Interpretive Centre at 9:00 a.m. In addition, slides and movies will be shown at specified times throughout the day.

To compliment nature's show, local artists have been invited to display and sell their masterpieces in the Interpretive Centre. Tiny Marsh also has 7 kilometers of dykes, a self guiding nature trail

complete with boardwalk, two lookouts and a viewing tower. Three goose ponds and 4 hectares of goose pasture grace the property, so you won't

see everything on your first visit. This introduction to Tiny Marsh will entice you to revisit the marsh through the changing seasons.

Admission is Free: Plan to join us for half an hour or the whole day. Pack a lunch, binoculars and camera. Don't forget to wear a pair of boots for hiking.

## New moose program takes effect in fall

The new selective harvest program, designed to help boost declining moose populations in Ontario, has been approved by the Ontario government, Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope announced recently.

The program includes a selective harvest, improvements to moose habitat, increased enforcement to reduce poaching and selected predator controls.

Beginning this fall, hunters will need special validation tags to harvest a bull or cow moose. Limited in number in each wildlife management unit, the tags will be allocated by random draw. Hunters who do not get a licence in the draw will still be allowed to harvest a young-of-the-year moose.

Non-residents wishing to hunt moose in Ontario must be registered guests at a licensed tourist outfitter in the province. The only exceptions will be for non-residents who either own real property in Ontario or who have immediate relatives living here. In each instance, they will have to apply in the residents' draw to get a validation tag.

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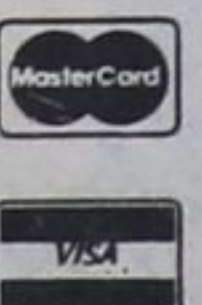
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