

Snowmobile "one-time"

permits available

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Communications announced recently new, one-time snowmobile validation decals are now on sale. The effective date for the new decals was October 1.

Under the new system, snowmobile owners will pay a one-time permit fee of \$25.00 and that fee will be valid for the lifetime of the machine.

On payment, the ministry will provide validation tags which are to be

placed on the vehicle as follows:

— for presently registered vehicles, the two validation tags are to be placed on either side of the cowling in the same location as previous tags

— for new vehicles registered after October 1, MTC will issue two identical decals (approximately motorcycle plate-size) to be placed on either side of the cowling. The validation tags are to be placed in the upper right-hand corner of the decal, as

on a regular licence plate.

Snowmobile owners may validate their vehicles at any ministry or local motor vehicle licensing office.

The new system will eliminate an annual fee and result in a more accurate up-to-date vehicle registration file.



Terrace Bay Barber Shop will be open

Oct. 8 to 14, 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 15 & 17, 9 a.m. to noon
1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Oct. 18 to 24, 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 25 & 26, 9 a.m. to noon
1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Oct. 27 to Nov. 2, 8:30 to 8:30 p.m.

NOTICE

Please note that the Royal Canadian Legion Br. No. 223 Ladies Auxiliary

General Meeting has been **changed to the last SUNDAY** of every month.

Ontario sportsmen benefit from Hunter Safety Programme

by BOB DEFIRES
MNR

You don't need a university degree to go hunting, but many Ontario sportsmen require some schooling and a lot of understanding, before they can practise the sport safely.

More than half a million hunters have been thoroughly tutored in the art of "huntsmanship" since the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced a hunter safety training program in 1957. The training course, which averages about 15 hours, is followed by a written and practical test before a prospective hunter is eligible to purchase a licence. The course includes instruction in firearms, firearm safety, safe hunting practices, hunting ethics, wildlife management, hunter-landowner relations, hunting techniques and survival.

All new hunters or anyone who has not held a licence since January 1, 1968 must pass the examination. Applicants who were born after December 31, 1954, are required to complete the training course before applying for an examination.

Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope attributes a dramatic drop in accident and mortality rates since his ministry first began the program, to the quality of the course material and competence of the volunteer instructors. In 1982, there were 42 accidents and four fatalities reported in Ontario as compared to 154 accidents and 34 fatalities in 1960.

"I'm happy to say that most applicants who have successfully passed our hunter safety training requirements have proven to be responsible sportsmen and women," he said.

"Hunting means not only knowing the appropriate regulations, but also knowing how to practise the sport fairly and safely."

Bill McKittrick, the ministry's hunter education program co-ordinator, says it is important for hunters to thoroughly know their firearms inside and out.

"Even graduates of the course should memorize 'The Ten Commandments of Hunter Safety,'" McKittrick said.

He highlighted some of the major points.

• **Treat every firearm as if it were a loaded firearm.** This is the primary and perhaps the most important rule for all gun handlers to follow.

• **Always carry your firearm so that the muzzle is under control.** By safe firearm carries, the hunter controls the muzzle even if he stumbles or falls. Unless the hunter knows where the muzzle is pointed, he or a companion may be a casualty.

• **Be sure of your target before you squeeze the trigger.** The hunter should positively identify his target as legal game before he fires.

• **Never point a firearm at anything you do not want to shoot.** Avoid all horseplay while handling a firearm. Firearms are not toys and should never be pointed at others even when they are not loaded.

• **Firearms must always be unloaded when carried into camp or when not in use.** Actions should be opened, or firearms taken down, when you have completed the hunt. Recheck your firearm before entering the camp. Firearms should be carried in cases to the shooting area.

• **Never climb a fence or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.** Place unloaded firearm on other side of fence, if alone, and climb the fence at another place that is suitable. Never pull a firearm toward you by the muzzle.

McKittrick also advised hunters not to mix hunting and drinking. Drinking dulls the vision, disturbs the aim and impairs judgement.

Hunter education has come a long way since fire-arm safety training first began in Ontario in the early 1900s — often by groups of farmers who held "shoots." Members of these early gun clubs insisted that newcomers strictly observe safety and courtesy rules.

This still holds true today.

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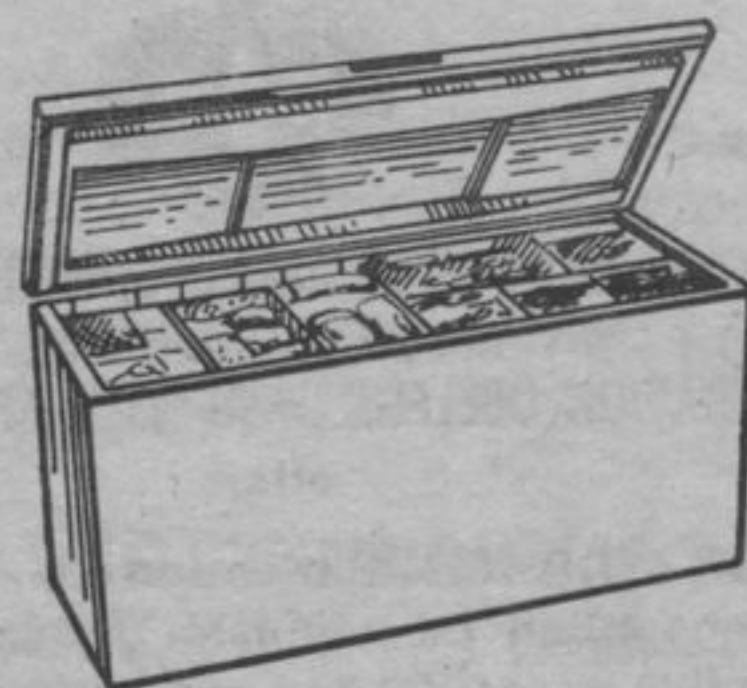
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