

# Early controlled deer hunt not the same as in past years

Where were all of the hunters during the first local controlled deer hunt in early November?

And where were the deer?

Those two questions came to the front when all was said and done from this year's annual five-day controlled hunt, which ran Nov. 1 to 5 in Wildlife Management Units 78A and 78B.

Tim Boyd, Ministry of Natural Resources Aurora District Office Enforcement Supervisor noted this year's first hunt saw a lower than usual number of participants along with harvested deer.

Don't get Boyd wrong as there probably were groups of hunters that did well, particularly during the first few hours of the season.

But for the most part, it did not appear to be as active or productive as in years gone by.

"There wasn't a lot of hunters or deer that we saw," Boyd noted. "Usually you can see lots of hunters for miles away because they wear blaze orange. But we just didn't see a lot this year in the first hunt."

Ministry figures for the November hunt in Wildlife Management Units involving the Greater Toronto Area including 78A and B, 79C and D and 73, revealed that 183 hunters were contacted by ministry staff and just nine deer were harvested.

What might have set the tone for the



Mike Hayakawa

week, Boyd speculated was Mother Nature's unpredictability.

The unseasonably warm weather on opening day that hovered near the 20-degree Celsius mark, followed by a heavy downpour on the second day and snow on the third was not conducive to ideal hunting conditions. A windy fourth day on Thursday did not help matters either.

The final day turned out to be a decent day. That mattered little however, as Boyd cited the busiest and most productive days are traditionally the first two days of the season. And they were far from that this year.

While the weather might have been critical to what seemed to be low numbers of hunters and deer harvested, Boyd also theorized hunters were presented with other opportunities.

These included the rifle season in northern areas, which a lot of hunters traditionally participate in, and an

extended local archery season.

"A lot of guys go up north to other areas and there's an archery season too that a lot of people take advantage of in October and December."

With more crown land being removed in favour of privatization, hunters are finding fewer places to take advantage of the controlled hunt.

"A lot of people might have had problems in getting permission from landowners," Boyd speculated.

While the first controlled hunt might have proven to be unproductive for those in the field, the second controlled hunt, which ran from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3, was more productive, Boyd noted.

"We definitely saw more hunters and larger groups of hunters and more deer were taken."

Although the complete figures were not in yet for this hunt, the ministry partials revealed from areas 78A and B that 63 hunters were contacted and eight deer were harvested.

The arrival of more consistent weather might have attributed to the better success ratio, Boyd said.

"It was cold and it stayed cold for the whole week. And the days weren't too windy," he recalled.

As well, with other areas to the north having already concluded their season, this left hunters with an opportunity to take advantage of the second chance season locally.

# Waxers get extended break

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that the Axemen were the recipients of.

"Ajax is a good team. But they got a couple of breaks that we didn't. There was one goal that bounced in off one of our guys and one puck that was batted in. That will happen on some nights."

Tom Kotsopoulos scored both Waxers' goals in its tie with the Rangers.

In Saturday's win, the Waxers received goals from seven different players including Joel Kitchen, Greg Chambers, Jason Young, Mike Harding, with his first as a Waxer, Rob Mazzucca, Kevin Tompkins and Rob Burrows.

Mazzucca, Tompkins, Chambers and Kotsopoulos each scored once for the Waxers in the loss to the Axemen.

Entering the Christmas break with a 13-15-3-3 mark, good for fifth place in the southern conference, the Waxers do not resume league play until Jan. 2 when they take to the road for a game against the Aurora Tigers.

# Clippers ice B title

The Stouffville Edwards Murphy-Toronto York-Veterinary Ophthalmologists-Trane-Toronto Clippers midget A team skated off with the B title from a recent tournament in Douro after routing the host squad 6-1.

The Clippers won its opening game over Kingston 5-3 before suffering a 4-2 loss to Fenelon Falls in its second outing.

The split sent the Clippers to the B title game.

Scoring for the Clippers were: Justin Amyotte three goals, three assists; Mike Hulshof three goals; Chris Carruthers two goals, three assists; Mike Pennamen and Fraser Smith one goal, three assists; Jeremy Guest one goal, two assists; Tyler McMaster and Ben Crawford one goal; Spiros Tsiopoulos two assists; Brandon Tardella, Josh Archer and Jean Bourqui one assist.

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