



This booklet contains a summary of the hunting regulations and other information for those who plan to hunt in Prince Edward Island.

Because this is a summary, not all of the laws contained in the *Wildlife*Conservation Act or Regulations are included. For additional information or clarification, please contact the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division office or any of the Conservation Officers listed in this booklet.

Enjoy a safe and successful hunting season.

Jamie Ballem, *Minister* Environment, Energy and Forestry

Jame Ballem





## **Attention Rabbit Snarers**

Everyone who snares rabbits (snowshoe hare) must purchase a <u>Snowshoe Hare Snaring Licence</u>. See summary for regulations and snaring season.

#### **Guides and Outfitters**

#### **Hunting Guide Regulations**

**Hunting Guides and Outfitters** are now licensed by the province.

**Non-resident hunters** must be accompanied by either a licensed resident hunter or a registered hunting guide while hunting in Prince Edward Island.

A resident of PEI who has a valid hunting license may accompany up to two non-resident hunters but they may not accept payment or other compensation for these services.

A registered guide may accompany up to four non-resident hunters. Registered guides may not actively hunt while guiding but may kill an injured bird for a client if necessary.

For more information please refer to page 6 of this summary.

## Use "1-800-327-BAND" to report Waterfowl Bands

Hunters can now report bird bands (bands on ducks and geese) by dialing this toll-free number: **1-800-327-2263** 

You should have the following information available before you call:

- 1. the band number; and
- 2. where and when you shot the bird.

#### **Chasing Wildlife**

No person shall use any air, land or water vehicle to chase, pursue, worry, molest, take, hunt or kill any wildlife or wilfully destroy wildlife habitat.

## **Hunting Responsibility**

Whether it is the pleasure of getting outside and enjoying nature in the pursuit of wild game or sharing an adventure with others, hunting is enjoyed by Island residents and non residents alike.

Along with the basics of handling firearms safely, ethical hunters demonstrate respect for themselves, others in the field, landowners and wildlife. Understanding wildlife management practices, wildlife laws and being active in one or more of the many wildlife conservation organizations is key not only to wildlife conservation but to hunting itself.

The safe and ethical hunter understands that laws are necessary to ensure safety and the welfare of people as well as to conserve wildlife. "Closed Seasons afford protection to wildlife during periods of reproduction, while bag limits make it possible for everyone to have a fair share of the game harvested.

Following these three main safety rules should ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable hunting season.

- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded. Always control the muzzle, keeping the firearm pointed in a safe direction and keep your finger off the trigger unless you intend to discharge the firearm.
- Be sure of your target and beyond. Positively identify your target, ensure
  that it is lawful and safe to shoot it. You must also consider safety far
  beyond your target as the projectile(s) travel long distances. Also
  remember that shooting a rifle at a hard flat surface or water is unsafe.
  Bullets will ricochet and may cause unknown damage or serious injury.
- 3. Safely store firearms when not in use. Firearms must always be stored unloaded. Ammunition should be stored separately from firearms. A locking device should be used to ensure the firearm cannot be fired while it is stored. Ensure that you comply with all storage and transportation of firearms laws that apply.

Once you pull the trigger it's too late to change your mind. Think, before you shoot!

## Hunting

A **resident** is a person who has taken up permanent residence in Prince Edward Island six months prior to purchasing a hunting licence.

All other hunters are not considered to be residents and require a Non-resident Hunting Licence.

Non-resident hunters must be accompanied by either a licensed resident hunter or a registered hunting guide while hunting in Prince Edward Island.

An aboriginal person does not require a hunting licence.

Youth (under 16 years of age) require a Youth Hunting Licence.

Farmers and commercial fishers who previously were issued a free Commercial Fisher/Farmer Hunting Licence are now required to purchase a Resident Hunting Licence.

- a) "Aboriginal person" means a person who is registered as an Indian pursuant to the *Indian Act*, R.S.C. 1985, or is a registered member of a bona fide aboriginal organization that has as a condition of membership proof of aboriginal ancestry.
- b) "Hunting" means any chasing, driving, flushing, attracting, pursuing, worrying, following after or on the trail of, searching for, trapping, attempting to trap, snaring or attempting to snare, shooting at, stalking or lying in wait for any wildlife whether or not the wildlife is then or subsequently captured, killed, taken or wounded, but does not include stalking, attracting, searching for or lying in wait for any wildlife by an unarmed person solely for the purpose of watching or taking pictures of it.
- \* No person under the age of **16 years** shall use or carry a loaded firearm except in company with a parent or guardian and subject to the provisions of the *Firearms Act* and *Criminal Code*.

Always treat every firearm as if it were loaded.

#### **Licences and Fees**

Provincial hunting licences can be obtained from authorized vendors around the province.

	Resident Hunting	\$10
	Non-resident Hunting	\$75
	Youth Hunting Licence	No Charge
	Registered Hunting Guide Licence (Resident)	\$30
	Registered Hunting Guide Licence (Non-resider	nt) \$50
**	Wildlife Conservation Fund	\$20
***	Permit to Hunt Raccoon at Night	\$7
	Snowshoe Hare Snaring Licence	\$5
	(Above foce include CST)	

(Above fees include GST)

- \*\* Charged once annually with first fishing, hunting or trapping licence purchased.
- \*\*\* Available only at the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Office or from any Conservation Officer listed in this booklet.

Note: Youth who acquire a Youth Hunting Licence are NOT required to purchase a Wildlife Conservation Fund Licence.

#### Note

A shipping permit is required for all game leaving Prince Edward Island. Non-resident licence holders are advised that their valid non-resident hunting licence, attached to the game being exported, is a shipping coupon authorizing them to export game from the province in accordance with possession limits.



Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

## **Season Dates and Bag Limits**

Most birds are completely protected throughout the year, including eagles, hawks, owls, cormorants and non-game migratory birds.

### **Hunting Game**

The open season, bag limits and possession limits for taking and shooting of game are as follows:

#### **Hunting Seasons and Limits**

Game	Open Season	Daily Bag	Possession
Pheasant	No open season	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 25 to Dec. 30	3	6
Hungarian (Grey) Partridge	Oct. 16 to Nov. 4*	3	6
Snowshoe Hare*** (Rabbit)	Oct. 2 to Feb. 28	5	-
Fox	Nov. 1 to Jan. 31	-	-
Raccoon	Oct. 16 to Jan. 31	-	-
Coyote	Oct. 2 to Mar. 31**	-	-

- \* There will be no open season for Hungarian (Grey) Partridge in Lots 1 to 10, inclusive, and Lots 43 to 47 inclusive, in 2006/2007. (See map on page 18.)
- \*\* Hunting with hounds is permitted from October 2 to February 28. The running of hounds for training or any other purpose will not be permitted during March 1 through March 31, except by permit. (*Please note that it is also illegal to chase or pursue wildlife with dogs during the closed season for that wildlife, except by special permit.*)
- \*\*\* A Snowshoe Hare Snaring Licence is required to snare snowshoe hare.

It is illegal to have in your possession, when hunting all game birds, migratory birds, crows or ravens, any shot larger than "BB" in the case of lead shot or size "T" in the case of steel shot.

#### **Migratory Birds**

Only the following migratory game birds may be killed: ducks, geese, woodcock, and Wilson or common snipe. Both a Provincial Hunting Licence and a Migratory Bird Hunting Permit are required. Seasons and bag limits are established by the Federal Government. A Migratory Bird Hunting Permit can be obtained at your local post office and most provincial licence vendors for a fee of \$17 plus GST.

Open Seasons – Both Dates Inclusive  Area: Throughout the province of Prince Edward Island		
Woodcock	Sept. 25 to Dec. 9	
Ducks, Geese and Snipe (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Oct. 2 to Dec. 9	

**Note:** No open season for Harlequin Duck

**Bag and Possession Limits** 

Game	Daily Bag	Possession
Ducks	6*	12**
Geese	5	10
Snipe	10	20
Woodcock	8	16

- \* Except that not more than four may be Black Ducks, Mallards or Black-Mallard Hybrids.
- \*\* Except that not more than eight may be Black Ducks, Mallards or Black-Mallard Hybrids.

Non-game migratory birds are all protected under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*. It is illegal to shoot such non-game migratory birds as yellowlegs, shorebirds, plover, curlews or any of the smaller non-game birds.

#### Raccoon

Hunters are reminded that a permit is required to hunt raccoon at night.

Because raccoons are traditionally hunted after dark, hunters should be aware that their activities (dogs, lights, etc.) may alarm uninformed members of the public. Hunters should make every effort to advise local residents before they hunt in that area.

# Landowner permission must be obtained prior to trespassing for the purpose of hunting.

## **Hunting Guide Regulations**

Hunting guides and outfitters are now licensed by the province. Nonresident hunters must be accompanied by either a licensed resident hunter or a registered hunting guide while hunting in PEI.

A resident of PEI who has a valid hunting license may accompany up to two non-resident hunters, but they may not accept payment or other compensation for these services. A registered guide may accompany up to four non-resident hunters. Registered guides may not actively hunt while guiding but may kill an injured bird for a client if necessary.

Those applying for a Registered Hunting Guide License must meet the following criteria:

- 1. They must be 19 years of age or older;
- 2. They must have a valid PEI hunting license;
- 3. They must have a valid firearm safety certificate;
- 4. They must pass a registered guide competency test;
- 5. They must have a valid emergency first aid and CPR certificate;
- 6. The must not be prohibited from owning or possessing firearms.

#### **FEES**

A Registered Hunting Guide License is \$30 for PEI residents and \$50 for non-residents.

A Registered Hunting Outfitter License is \$50 for both residents and non-residents.

For more information on the Hunting Guide Regulations please refer to the Wildlife Conservation Act, Hunting Guide Regulations on the website at **www.gov.pe.ca** or call the Forests, Fish & Wildlife Division at 902-368-4683.

## **Licence and Permit Regulations**

#### Hunting

#### It is unlawful to:

- carry a firearm in game habitat or hunt any game unless you are in possession of a Firearm Safety Certificate;
- 2) hunt any wildlife for which an open season has not been prescribed;
- without a shipping coupon take, or ship out of the province any game or parts thereof;
- 4) ship any game from Prince Edward Island without a shipping permit. Non-resident licence holders are advised that their valid non-resident hunting licence, attached to the game being exported, is a shipping coupon authorizing them to export game without a shipping permit in accordance with possession limits;
- 5) disturb, molest or take the nest or eggs of any game bird;
- 6) hunt any game birds by means of any trap, cage or snare;
- hunt game birds with a rifle or other firearm loaded with a bullet or bullets;
- 8) use a shotgun that has a capacity of more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined, while hunting game;
- possess more than one shotgun, unless each shotgun in excess of one is unloaded and disassembled or unloaded and cased, while hunting game;
- 10) hunt on Sunday;
- 11) shoot at any game within 200 metres of any school, church, meeting place or any dwelling, farm building, or livestock, without the owner's permission; or shoot any game within 300 metres of a location where migratory birds are kept under permit;
- 12) while in or on any vehicle or horseback, discharge or have in personal possession a loaded firearm;
- 13) use any air, land or water vehicle to chase, pursue, worry, molest, take, hunt or kill any wildlife or wilfully destroy wildlife habitat;
- 14) discharge any firearm in any locality where game is usually found between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise;
- 15) take beaver, mink, or muskrat by any means other than trapping;

- 16) loan or borrow another person's licence. Each licensee shall carry his or her licence when hunting and shall produce same when requested by any officer authorized to enforce the Game Laws;
- 17) wilfully allow the flesh of any game suitable for food to be spoiled or destroyed;
- 18) hunt raccoon at night unless he is the holder of a permit issued by the Minister specifically authorizing him to do so;
- hunt waterfowl within 400 metres of an area baited with grain or other food;
- 20) ship or take out of the province, snowshoe hare, raccoon, fox or coyote without a Game Export Permit. If pelts are held by the hunter longer than 10 days after the close of the open season, a Possession Permit is required;
- possess or use shot other than non-toxic shot for hunting ducks, geese or snipe;
- 22) be in possession or under the influence of an intoxicant while hunting;
- 23) possess a firearm that is not cased one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise unless authorized by a permit;
- 24) hunt or shoot at waterfowl, including all ducks and geese, from within the highway right-of-way;
- 25) hunt any game birds, crows or ravens with shot size larger than BB (lead shot) or T (non-toxic shot);

#### 26) New Regulation

- (a) snare snowshoe hare without a valid Snowshoe Hare Snaring Licence.
- (b) set a snare for snowshoe hare made of materials other than single strand brass wire of 22 to 24 gauge, or
- (c) set a snare for snowshoe hare with a wire loop greater than 10 cm. (4 inch);
- 27) **Note:** If you are in possession of migratory birds belonging to or taken by another person, each bird must be tagged with:
  - (a) the name and address of the owner,
  - (b) the number of the migratory game bird permit under which the bird was taken, and
  - (c) the date the bird was taken and signed by the person who killed the birds.

## **Firearm Safety Certificate**

**Everyone** hunting in Prince Edward Island is required to be in possession of a Firearm Safety Certificate. ALL PERSONS wishing to acquire a PEI hunting licence are required to exhibit a Firearm Safety Certificate to the licence vendor. Vendors are prohibited from issuing a licence to any person who does not possess a certificate. **All hunters, including those persons who are exempt from purchasing a provincial licence**, are advised that *it is illegal to hunt without a Firearm Safety Certificate* in their possession.

Firearm Safety Certificates are available, *free of charge*, from the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division as follows:

- All first-time hunters and all individuals born on or after September 1, 1968, are required to successfully complete a Firearm Safety Course before being issued a PEI Firearm Safety Certificate.
- 2. All individuals who were born before September 1, 1968, and who have hunted previously can apply for a PEI Firearm Safety Certificate by signing an affidavit.

Changes of address or lost or stolen cards should be brought to the attention of the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division (902) 368-4683.

Non-residents are advised that Firearm Safety Certificates issued by the province, state, or country where they live are accepted in PEI.

Forward completed application to:

Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division Environment, Energy and Forestry PO Box 2000 Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- Is successful completion of a Firearm Safety Course recognized as a Firearm Safety Certificate?
  - **NO.** Upon completion of a Firearm Safety Course, an individual must apply to the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division to receive a Firearm Safety Certificate. Firearm Safety Certificates must be obtained by all hunters and must be presented when acquiring a hunting licence.
- 2. Is it legal to hunt with a long bow?
  - **YES.** You may hunt all game species with a long bow.
- 3. Do bow hunters require a Firearm Safety Certificate?
  - **YES.** In PEI there is also a how hunters course available although a regular Firearm Safety Certificate is valid.
- 4. May an individual use an over/under (rifle/shotgun, e.g., 22/410) for game bird hunting?
  - **YES**, providing the rifle portion of the firearm is not loaded, thus effectively making the gun a single shot shotgun. It is illegal to hunt game birds with a rifle or shotgun slug.
- 5. If an individual is under 18 years of age, can he legally carry a firearm?
  - **YES**, but only in the company of a responsible adult who is the holder of a federal Firearms Licence.

Youth under 16 years of age must acquire a Youth Hunting Licence.

**Note:** Hunters that are 16 or 17 years old can apply to the firearms office for a Minor's Permit, which may allow them to hunt alone under certain conditions. These permits take time to process and require parental permission.

6. Are cigarette butts litter?

**YES**, cigarette butts are litter and also have the potential to start forest fires. Spent ammunition shells are also litter.

7. Is it legal to hunt with a .22 calibre rifle?

YES, but only for snowshoe hare, raccoon, fox or coyote.

8. May an individual in a blind have more than one shotgun in his possession?

**YES,** providing that all guns in excess of one are unloaded and cased, or disassembled.

9. Is it legal to have a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle?

**NO.** It is illegal to have a loaded firearm in any vehicle, including boats, except if the boat is at anchor or beached or being propelled by poles or paddles. Firearms carried on ATVs and snowmobiles must be unloaded and incased.



#### **Hunting Ethics**

- Care enough about the sport of hunting to do it right. Know your quarry, know the rules and regulations and practise good sportsmanship. Insist that your companions do likewise.
- Respect private property and ask permission, close gates, don't litter.
   Remember you are on someone else's land.
- Always be courteous to your fellow hunter, the public and game wardens.
- Do not block woods, roads or boat launching areas.
- Do not destroy or damage insulators or conductors on power and telephone lines.
- Do not disturb traps or snares.
- Do not use road signs as targets.
- Identify your target and aim for a clean kill.
- Obey the rules of safe gun handling and courteously but firmly insist that others who hunt with you do the same.
- Learn to judge distances. Good waterfowl hunters do not shoot at ducks and geese out of range.
- When building blinds or setting decoys, don't crowd other waterfowl hunters.
- Control your dog and stay out of unharvested crops.



## Always Be in Control of Muzzle Direction



#### Field Care of Your Game

The opportunity to enjoy wild food is one of the benefits from hunting. Good sportsmen know how to properly handle game. Care of the carcass will prevent spoilage and greatly improve flavour.

- Clean the animal as soon as possible.
- · Keep the meat free of hair, grass, dirt and other contaminants.
- Cool the carcass at the first opportunity. Do not expose the carcass to heat from the motor, to fumes or road dust during transportation. Keep meat cool and clean.

#### **Violators**

Individuals that break hunting and trapping laws show no respect for wildlife or honest sportsmanship.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping licences that are authorized through the *Wildlife Conservation Act* are privileges – **Don't abuse these privileges**.

## Hunters are advised that seized equipment shall be automatically forfeited to the crown for the following offences:

- (1) all second offences,
- (2) taking game or wildlife out of season,
- (3) hunting while under suspension, and
- (4) possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle or boat.

An automatic one-year suspension of hunting privileges results from a conviction under the *Wildlife Conservation Act* or Regulations or the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* or Regulations.

#### Official Sunrise and Sunset for the Purposes of Enforcement of the Wildlife Conservation Act Local Time Local Time Sunrise Sunset Sunrise Sunset Date a.m. p.m. Date a.m. p.m. Dec. 1-10 Oct. 1-10 7:14 6:44 7:37 4:27 Oct. 11-20 7:29 6:27 Dec. 11-20 7:47 4:27 Oct. 21-28 Dec. 21-31 4:32 7:43 6:09 7:52 Oct. 29-Nov. 10 6:57 4:53 Jan. 1-10 7:54 4:42 Nov. 11-20 7:12 Jan. 11-20 7:50 4:52 4:41 Nov. 21-30 7:26 4:32 Jan. 21-30 7:42 5:06 Jan. 31-Feb. 9 7:32 5:22

This summary is prepared for the information and convenience of those who plan to hunt in Prince Edward Island. The original act and regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law.

These laws are subject to change at any time.

Effective enforcement relies on an informed public.

Assist enforcement efforts by immediately reporting violations to your local conservation officer.

### **Boating Safety**

Accidents happen quickly. To avoid falling victim to an unpleasant surprise, you must be prepared.

Each year thousands of unprepared Canadians participate in boating activities. Unfortunately, every year more than 600 lives are lost due to drowning, including hundreds of recreational boaters. Many of these fatalities could be avoided if a few rules are followed.

Most boaters never intend to fall in the water. Many, however, become victims because they forget to wear the most important piece of safety equipment used during any boating activity: a life-jacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD).

On board, wear your PFD or life-jacket at all times. Don't overload your boat. Stow gear low and distribute weight evenly. A properly balanced boat is less likely to capsize. Always sit to stop or start the motor. In fact, always remain seated in small boats. Anchor from the bow – never the stern.

If the boat capsizes or you are thrown into the water, stay with the boat unless it is in danger. Conserve your energy by moving as little as possible. Don't remove clothing. Air trapped in clothing will help you float and it will help reduce heat loss.

Keep your cap on even if it gets wet. The head, neck, armpits, sides of chest and groin are high heat loss areas. Grab a piece of equipment to help you float. Hold onto gas containers. Oars can also help. If you have only one, put it under your chin and spread your arms along its length. If you have two, roll on your back and put one oar under your knees and the other under the back of your neck. Stretch arms along its length.

Keep the toes of your boots out of the water. They will float at the toes. Float on your back, face-up and use a gentle sculling motion.

If you are wearing your PFD or life-jacket, you have a much better chance of surviving. Keep as much of your body out of the water as possible to conserve body heat (especially the head, neck and chest). If possible, climb out of the water onto the overturned boat or floating debris. If you must stay in the water assume the **help** (heat escape lessening posture) or **huddle** position to lessen body heat loss. Because 50 per cent of body heat may be lost from the head, **do not use the drown proofing technique.** 

Remember, make every attempt to conserve energy. Many "drowning" victims die as a result of hypothermia. A survival suit significantly increases your survival time in cold water.

Wait until help arrives. If you reach land, build a fire immediately and dry your clothing. Stay by the fire until someone comes or you are thoroughly dry and know you can get to shelter unassisted. All sports fishermen and hunters should take boating and swimming courses.

#### Safe Boating Equipment

Your equipment provides you with a lifeline to enjoy the best and endure the worst conditions. Think of multiple uses for your gear. Pack lightly but consider the extras required for emergencies.

#### Safety Equipment:

- \*1. Personal floatation devices or life-jackets for and fit each person
- \*2. Bailing device
- \*3. Two oars and oarlocks or two paddles
- \*4. Towline or throwing device at least 15 metres in length
- \*5. Fire extinguisher if craft has inboard motor or fixed fuel tank or is equipped with interior cooking or heating appliances
- \*6. Sound signal (whistle)
- \*7. First Aid kit
- \*8. Waterproof flashlight
- \*9. Waterproof matches

\*Department of Transportation regulated equipment for all craft up to and including 5.5 metres in length. Please note that Conservation Officers will be enforcing small vessel regulations.

Hunters are reminded that they require a pleasure craft operator's card to operate any motorized watercraft under four metres. Further details may be obtained by phoning the Boating Safety Info Line at 1-800-267-6687.



Canadian Wildlife Service canadien Service

Environnement de la faune

**Use Non-Toxic Shot For Migratory Game Bird Hunting** 

Use of non-toxic shot is required for hunting most migratory game birds in ALL areas of Canada. Subject to these regulations, no person shall possess or use shot other than non-toxic shot for the purpose of hunting a migratory game bird except a woodcock, bandtailed pigeon or mourning dove.

Within National Wildlife Areas, you must use non-toxic shot for ALL hunting, including migratory birds and upland game. Consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

Non-toxic shot approved for use in Canada:

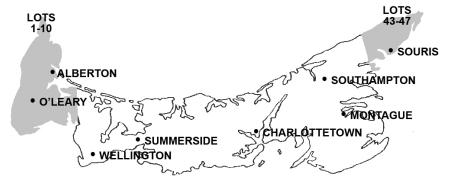
bismuth shot steel shot tin shot

tungsten-iron shot tungsten-matrix shot tungsten-polymer shot

For more information, contact your regional wildlife officer or visit the Canadian Wildlife Service website at: http:www.ec.gc.ca/cws-scf/pub/hunting/nontoxic.html

Canada

For further information contact the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Office, 4th floor, 11 Kent Street, Charlottetown or phone **368-4683**.



For enforcement of any of the environment acts or regulations during regular working hours, telephone a Conservation Officer at any of the following locations:

Alberton	853-3286	Sandra Keough
O'Leary	859-8800	Aaron Waddell
Wellington	854-7250	Roland Richard (bilingual officer)
Summerside	888-8000	Roland Richard
Charlottetown	368-4808 368-5000	John Clements <i>(Chief Conservation Officer)</i> Chuck Gallison
Montague	838-0600	Paul Walker
Souris/ Southampton	687-7000 961-7296	Wade MacKinnon

For environmental or enforcement emergencies after normal office hours, telephone **1-800-565-1633**.



