



# Information for Waterfowlers



*It can be challenging for newly licensed hunters to find areas to go waterfowl hunting. There are public hunting opportunities in Ontario, but like all hunters before you, it is important to do your homework and put in the time and effort to locate hunting areas before the season starts. It is also important to remember that each hunting area is unique and you will need to research the federal, provincial and municipal regulations that may apply to that area. The following information can help you get started.*

**Publicly accessible waters** - in most circumstances individuals may hunt on publicly accessible waters (e.g. navigable waters, marshes, wetlands) so long as they comply with federal and provincial regulations and municipal bylaws (e.g. firearm discharge, Sunday gun hunting) for that area. It is important to check with your local MNRF and municipal office to inquire about any restrictions for your selected hunting area.

**Crown land** - discover hunting areas on Crown land in Ontario using the [Crown Land Use Policy Atlas](#) (CLUPA).

**Ontario provincial parks** - refer to the Hunting Regulations for a list of parks that allow hunting, then contact the park directly to find out if waterfowl hunting is permitted and if there are any restrictions or specific considerations for that area. Darlington, Rondeau and Long Point are examples of parks with established controlled waterfowl hunting each year.

**Provincial wildlife areas** - some provincial wildlife areas are wetlands that serve as sanctuaries and stopover sites for migrating birds. Contact the local wildlife area office directly prior to hunting. Some examples include: Hullet Marsh, Tiny Marsh, Nonquan and Gananoque provincial wildlife areas.

**Special project properties** - some agencies have purchased land for protection, restoration and multi-activity use. Ducks Unlimited has a handful of project sites in Ontario which allow waterfowl hunting.

**Conservation areas** - some Conservation Authorities (CA) allow hunting, but be sure to contact the CA ahead of time for details and fees.

**Private land** - landowners have the right to grant or deny access to their property for hunting. You must obtain permission from the landowner (written is preferred) before hunting on their land. The OFAH has developed a landowner permission form to help landowners and hunters develop an agreement. Becoming an OFAH member will provide you with \$5-million in liability insurance, which can be beneficial in securing private land for hunting.

**TIPS:** Have a specific location in mind when contacting officials (stream crossing, bays, inlets etc.). Also, keep in mind that water systems may cross various municipal boundaries.

## Important pieces of equipment and tools for waterfowl hunting \*not an exhaustive list

- duck/geese calls
- decoys
- non-toxic shot
- camouflage clothing
- chest waders
- watercraft & safety gear

## Hunting permits required

- Valid Ontario Outdoors Card
- Small game licence for Ontario
- Migratory Game Birds Hunting Permit (available online at [www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca](http://www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca))

## Familiarize yourself with the rules

- know the hunting district you will be in
- your bag and possession limits
- legal shooting times
- know your waterfowl identification
- your method of bird retrieval
- watercraft & safety gear

**TIP:** check the Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary Wildlife Management Units maps that will show detailed boundaries for waterfowl districts

## Be aware of, and consider

- proximity to other hunters and blinds, residences, public trails etc.
- being a good ambassador for the hunting community
- mentoring a new hunter

