



PEACEFUL
PARKS
COALITION

For Immediate Release - July 29, 2004

Ontario Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission: Now Open For Business

While in opposition, Dalton McGuinty supported a Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission with broad representation including First Nations and scientists. Instead we got a commission of anglers and hunters.

The first item of business for the commission is to advise the Minister of Natural Resources, David Ramsay on ways to promote hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing and appreciation, especially through tourism and youth participation.

"Asking hunters to make recommendations on how best to promote wildlife viewing and appreciation, is equivalent to asking the logging industry to make decisions for wilderness enthusiasts," says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition.

"Naturalists have a completely different perspective on wildlife viewing and appreciation than do hunters and anglers," says Valastro. "Wildlife viewing is not about viewing animals through the scope of a gun or mounting their heads on a wall."

"I operate a wilderness retreat, and we do not accommodate angling or hunting," says Gus Zylstra of the Pinecone Forest Nature Sanctuary near Boulter Ontario. "My clients do not consider killing wildlife for sport wildlife appreciation. Hunters and anglers have no place making recommendations to the Minister regarding my business."

There is no reason why hunters and anglers should have a direct hotline to the Minister's office. Therefore, the Peaceful Parks Coalition has listed below the contacts for the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission and is encouraging individuals to pass along their thoughts on how best to appreciate wildlife in Ontario.

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Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission

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press release

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