



PEACEFUL
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COALITION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 13, 2006

The Most Terrifying Event In Ontario – The Deer Hunting Season

Toronto, November 13, 2006- What other event can you recall that is so frightening that you are afraid to go for a walk in the woods on a beautiful autumn day, keep your children from playing outside on your own property, or cause such a rash of car collisions that driving becomes much more dangerous.

This is the deer hunting season. Not only is it the single largest mass slaughter of wildlife anywhere in the province, it literally holds people hostage in their homes until the deer hunting season is over.

An estimated 200,000 deer will be killed over the next four weeks in Ontario. The chaos caused by this mass removal of wildlife on the ecology has never been investigated, but the impacts on rural residents and outdoor enthusiasts is evident everywhere.

"I can't leave my property for the entire deer hunting season because of the dogs running deer off my property, trespassing and possible vandalism," says Gus Zylstra, a property owner near Bancroft.

"I know what sport hunting is. I've lived in this bush for 31 years, and can testify there is nothing intrinsic about sport hunting. It is just race to kill deer," says Zylstra.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources staff are mostly sport hunters themselves, including conservation officers, and have traditionally ignored the concerns of rural residents who do not hunt. They tend to dismiss their complaints as "anti" hunting.

"It is not only the sounds of guns close to their homes that are at issue but also the very notion that wildlife are being killed all around them," says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition. Most people in Ontario do not hunt, this includes rural residents, but little consideration is given to their needs or worries, or their concern for wildlife welfare.

The final slap in the face by the McGuinty government was the expansion of the sport hunting season for all game species to include Sunday. Now in most regions across Ontario there is not one day free from sport hunting anytime of the year.

For more information, please contact Gus Zylstra at 613.332.3651 or AnnaMaria Valastro 416.785.8636

Note to the Editor:

The Ministry of Natural Resources estimates there are 170,000 deer hunters in Ontario, with a current average success rate of 80%. But because most hunters can purchase several deer tags, in some areas as high as seven tags per hunter, the number of deer killed every year is likely to be much higher than the number of hunters.

press release

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