

# Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop 18-22 July, 2009



Coordinated by:



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## **Introduction**

Opportunities to develop and explore interests in wildlife-related pursuits are limited for many youth. This has resulted in a substantial decline in youth participating in wildlife-related activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, viewing, etc.), with a corresponding increase in time that adolescents spend pursuing “indoor” activities (e.g., television, video games, and computers). This change has contributed to declining participation of youth in hunting and other wildlife-related activities. For example, the number of Canadian duck hunters has declined 73% from 500,000 in the late 70s to 135,000 today, partially due to the lack of youth replacing passing generations. This decrease in outdoor involvement has also caused a reduced appreciation and understanding of the natural world and the importance of hunting in wildlife management and conservation.

Several conservation organizations have responded to declining youth interest and participation in outdoor activities by implementing programs that encourage young people to take a more active role in the outdoors. For example, Long Point Waterfowl, along with the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters consider youth mentorship and education a key component of wildlife conservation and management as well as to the future of our hunting heritage. Thus, through a collaborative effort to coordinate the Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop (YHWHW), the aforementioned organizations wish to instill in youth a keen interest in our hunting heritage and a passion for wildlife conservation and management.

## **Program Objectives:**

The program objectives are to provide youth with:

- 1) a greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of wildlife conservation and management and the contribution of hunters to these initiatives;
- 2) Hunter Education and Firearms Safety training, mentorship, and certification;
- 3) opportunities to participate in hands-on activities related to wildlife and habitat monitoring or management;

- 4) knowledge about the historical and contemporary importance of Canada's hunting heritage and wildlife management and conservation;
- 5) basic knowledge about biology, wildlife ecology, and wildlife habitats;
- 6) future opportunities for mentorship toward a career in the field of wildlife biology.

### **YHWHW participants & fees:**

The YHWHW will be offered 18 - 22 July, 2009 to 12-16 year old aged youth from Ontario; enrollment will be open to 15 individuals. Potential participants are asked to fill out a questionnaire about their interests in wildlife management, conservation and hunting (see below). Workshop participants will be selected based on their response to these questions. The YHWHW will be offered at an affordable rate and will largely be subsidized by local interest groups. The total cost to participants will be \$250 which will include:

- Ontario Hunter Safety Certification
- Firearms Safety Certification
- All food
- Accommodation at the Long Point Waterfowl Research and Education Centre
- A one-year membership with the Delta Waterfowl Foundation
- A one-year membership with Ducks Unlimited Canada
- A one-year membership with Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Field supplies
- Various other gifts donated from contributors.

One parents/guardian of each participant is encouraged to attend the hunting and firearms certification session and are welcome to participate the entire week. Cost to parents/guardians will be \$200 (\$250 if they wish to take the hunting and firearms certification).

**Workshop structure and activities:**

The YHWHW's activity structure will follow a combined inside and outside classroom approach. Participants of the YHWHW will be taught by mentors during hands-on activities that highlight the interesting and exciting aspects of our hunting heritage and wildlife biology. Daily activities will focus on aspects of hunting and firearms training, our hunting heritage and wildlife biology that YHWHW participants will use throughout their lives and can share with their family and friends. The following is a list of the types of activities and demonstrations that students will be participating in throughout the week:

- Ontario Hunter Education and Firearms training and certification
- Wildlife identification
- Boat tour of some of Long Point's coastal marshes
- Canada's waterfowling heritage
- Retriever training
- Field demonstrations on wetland and waterbird conservation and management
- Field presentations on being a waterfowl/wildlife biologist
- Presentations on being a Conservation Officer
- Being a marsh manager and the importance of hunting for conservation
- Taxidermy demonstrations
- Hunting demonstrations (duck/goose calling, decoy placement, etc)
- Decoy carving demonstration
- Wildlife cooking (and eating)

# Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop

## Application Form

**Closing date: 1 June, 2009**

Please return this completed application form and all accompanying documents to:

Ted Barney, Biologist  
Long Point Waterfowl  
P.O. Box 160  
Port Rowan, Ontario, N0E 1M0

Candidates chosen will be notified by mail by 15 June, 2009. At that time, a more detailed list of activities and additional information / forms will be sent for completion by candidates and parents/guardians. All course participants will be required to fill out a detailed Emergency Information Form and an Assumption of Risk Form. Course fees of \$250.00 (cheque payable to Long Point Waterfowl) and completed Emergency Information and Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Forms should be mailed to Long Point Waterfowl at the above address.

### **Background information:**

**Candidate's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birth Date and Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade (present / last completed):** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find out about this workshop?**

**How did you become interested in wildlife, conservation and our hunting heritage?**

**List your specific science and/or wildlife-related interests:**

**List your hobbies and/or extracurricular activities:**

**List any nature, conservation, or outdoor recreation organizations to which you currently (or previously) belong:**

**Describe any volunteer/community service work that you have been involved with:**

**Do you plan on attending college or university? If so, what field of study currently interests you most?**

**How much experience do you have with hunting and do your parents/guardians hunt?**

**Report Card:**

**Please attach a photo copy of your most recent report card to this application form. This information will only be viewed by the YHWHW Selection Committee and will remain confidential.**

**Signature of Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Essay:**

We require that candidates write **a one-page essay** to help us gain a better understanding into your level of interest and commitment to learning about wildlife biology, resource management, conservation, and our hunting heritage. The essay will be very important in allowing the YHWHW Selection Committee to score and rank each candidate's application. Thus, it should be well-written and reflect your own thoughts and ideas on the topic below:

**“Why I want to participate in the Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop”**

**Letter of Support:**

Please attach one letter of support from an adult reference (for example, a teacher, scout leader, leader of an outdoors club, etc) to this application. This letter should attest to your interests, skills, and experiences with hunting, wildlife, biology, and/or conservation. References may be contacted for further information regarding candidates.

**Reference Contact Information (return with completed application form)**

**Reference name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal code:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Information Form - Confidential:

### Medical Insurance:

Health Card # (or equivalent): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of other insurer(s) and policy numbers:

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Name of Policy Holder (if not candidate): \_\_\_\_\_

Policy holder guarantees that additional insurance is in effect for the duration of the Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop, 18 – 22 July, 2009.

Signature of Policy Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Health Information:

Please give any allergies, drug sensitivities, regular medications and other information that might be of significance to a physician or hospital treating you during an emergency:

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Please also list any dietary needs or concerns (e.g., vegetarian, lactose intolerant, etc):

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### Emergency Contact:

Please give the following information for a person, who can be reached in an emergency, during the workshop, 18 - 22 July, 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acknowledgement & Assumption of Risk Form

### Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop - 18 – 22 July, 2009

**Candidate name:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware that during field trips, exchanges or other excursions in which I am participating under the arrangements of Long Point Waterfowl / Bird Studies Canada (LPW / BSC), certain risks and dangers may occur, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling, accidents or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature and travel by air, train, automobile or other means as well as exposure to customs and practices of societies different from our own. Accordingly, I understand that despite its efforts, LPW / BSC may not be able to ensure my complete safety at all times from such risks and dangers.

More particularly, I appreciate LPW / BSC does not carry accident or injury insurance for my benefit and also that there may be certain matters for which I could be at fault personally if the accompanying circumstances do not relate to or arise from my education or if my activities or conduct fall short of what would be considered a reasonable standard for an individual in my position. In these cases I agree to be accountable in all respects for my own actions and not to ask the LPW / BSC or its employees to accept the consequences thereof; further, I agree to be responsible for any claims made against the LPW / BSC in relation to such actions.

I acknowledge that I have been advised by LPW / BSC of such risks and dangers as well as the need to act in a responsible manner at all times. My signature below is given freely in order to indicate my participation in the “Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop”.

**Candidate signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/guardian signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop Document**

### **Check-list:**

**Please ensure you have included the following items in your application package for the YHWHW:**

- Completed and signed YHWHW Application Form
- Photo-copy of most recent report card – to remain confidential
- Essay on “Why I want to participate in the YHWHW”
- Reference Contact Information
- Letter of Support

**To be eligible, application must be post-marked by 1 June, 2009 and sent to:**

Ted Barney, Biologist  
Long Point Waterfowl  
P.O. Box 160  
Port Rowan, Ontario, N0E 1M0

**For additional information or questions contact:**

Ted Barney, LPW Biologist: 519-586-3531 ext. 151; [tbarney@bsc-eoc.org](mailto:tbarney@bsc-eoc.org)

**Note: Candidates will be notified of acceptance by 15 June, 2009. Additional instructions and forms / documents will accompany the Letter of Acceptance.**