

September 28, 2009
For Immediate Release

Make this hunting season safe and legal
O.F.A.H. and O.C.O.A. urge hunters to know the law and follow it

Fall is one of the most anticipated times of the year for hundreds of thousands of outdoors enthusiasts living in Ontario. As the season moves into full swing, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.) and the Ontario Conservation Officers Association (O.C.O.A.), are partnering to urge licensed hunters to plan for a safe and enjoyable season by knowing and following the regulations, including respecting private property.

"Hunting on private property is a privilege that Conservation Officers and law-abiding hunters take seriously," says Mike Reader, O.F.A.H. Executive Director. "The vast majority of hunters in Ontario ask for permission to hunt on privately owned land, but there are a rare few that choose to violate the law and in doing so, put every hunter's privileges at risk. The O.F.A.H. and O.C.O.A. strongly encourage hunters to build good relationships with landowners, and to show their respect and appreciation for having the opportunity to hunt private property."

One of the primary roles of Conservation Officers (C.O.'s) during hunting season is enforcement of safety regulations. The O.C.O.A. and O.F.A.H. remind hunters who will be heading out onto the water to be aware of the risks of hypothermia as water temperatures drop. A PFD or survival suit should be worn, and care should be taken not to overload the boat with gear. Boaters should always check weather forecasts prior to leaving shore, and be aware of changing conditions during the hunt to ensure a safe return trip.

"Maintaining a safe hunt is key for Conservation Officers," says Dan VanExan, O.C.O.A. President, and a field conservation officer himself. "Our members enforce boating safety regulations while conducting their regular duties, and we will be ensuring that hunters are complying with the rules as they enjoy their time in the outdoors."

Anyone with information about a wildlife or public safety related crime is encouraged to call the 24-hour violation reporting line at 1-877-TIPS-MNR or contact their local C.O. or call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

For more information about natural resources regulations and enforcement, please visit the O.C.O.A. website at <http://www.ocoa.ca> or contact your local Conservation Officer.

With over 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 660 member clubs, the O.F.A.H. is the largest nonprofit, charitable, fishing, hunting and conservation-based organization in Ontario, and the voice of anglers and hunters. Visit www.ofah.org for more information.

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