

## HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION

The Ontario Hunter Education Program has been in place for over 40 years and has graduated more than one million new hunters since its inception. Hunter education across North America has contributed to a steady decline in hunting-related incidents resulting in injury, making hunting today a safe outdoor recreational activity.

Ontario's Hunter Education Program is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). It is delivered by approximately 300 certified instructors across the province. For a list of hunter education instructors in your area, please contact a local ministry office or the OFAH at (705) 748-5785 or visit its website <http://www.ohep.net>. To purchase Ontario's Hunter Education Manual, contact the OFAH.

Two classes of Ontario Outdoors Cards and Hunter Apprenticeship Cards are available after January 1, 2006 – one for gun hunters and one for non-gun hunters. This will improve access to recreational hunting for bow hunters, falconers and other non-gun hunters because they will not have to take extensive gun related training.

### **Class H1 Outdoors Card**

A H1 Outdoors Card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. Applicants for this version of Outdoor Card will have to provide documentation that they have passed both the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam and the Canadian Firearms Safety Course exam. These courses are normally delivered in a "One-Stop" combined course; however, both courses are available independently if desired. Graduates will meet provincial training requirements to hunt and the federal training requirements for firearms for possession, acquisition and ownership.

Any Ontario resident with an Ontario Outdoors Card, Ontario hunting licence or Hunter Education Exam Report indicating the applicant has passed, issued after January 1, 1968, and before January 1, 2006, will be eligible for a H1 Outdoors Card.

### **Class H2 Outdoors Card**

A H2 Hunting Outdoors Card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act except guns. Applicants for this version of the Outdoors Card will have to provide documentation that they have passed the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam.

**Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Cards**

Similarly, two types of Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Cards will be available after January 1, 2006. The A1 card permits the holder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. The A2 card permits the holder to hunt with all methods permitted under the act, except guns.

For more information on the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program, see the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program Backgrounder. You can also visit OFAH's website <http://www.ohep.net> for more information.

For information on the federal Firearms Act, contact the Canadian Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000 or visit <http://www.cfc.gc.ca>.

–30–

Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources for more information.

*Disponible en français*

[www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)