

Hunting and Trapping Summary



*Prince
Edward
Island*

CANADA

2008

Environment,
Energy and Forestry

Accessing Public Lands

While most of Prince Edward Island is privately owned, there are areas of forest and wetland which are available for public use - the Island's 33,000 ha of public land. In general terms, these properties are classified as Natural Areas, Ponds and Wetlands, Provincial Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas. They are managed for a variety of public values and benefits such as recreation, wildlife habitat, protection of unique or rare species, high-value timber and non-timber forest products, forest/wildlife research, and outdoor education.

The signs listed below identify public lands which are open to the public for uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, bird watching, tours and outdoor education. However, some uses such as off road vehicle (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) are only permitted on certain properties and open fires are not permitted at all. Prohibited uses are listed on the signs. As well, please do not litter or smoke on these properties.

Many of these properties are working forests, so as conditions dictate, forest harvest and management operations may occur. In all cases, harvest sites on public land are quickly renewed to forest cover.

You can access more information on the location of public lands on-line at www.gov.pe.ca/gis or by purchasing a Public Land Atlas at any Forests, Fish and Wildlife office.





This booklet contains a summary of the hunting and trapping regulations and other information for those who plan to hunt or trap in Prince Edward Island.

In an effort to improve the service it provides to Islanders, the Department is now providing the option of purchasing a hunting license online. To access this service, visit our website at www.gov.pe.ca/enveng/

Enjoy a safe and successful hunting season.

George Webster, *Minister*
Environment, Energy
and Forestry



Summary of Hunting Regulations

Guides and Outfitters

Hunting Guides and Outfitters are now licensed by the province.

Non-resident hunters must be accompanied by either a licensed resident hunter or a registered hunting guide while hunting in Prince Edward Island.

A resident of PEI who has a valid hunting license may accompany up to two non-resident hunters but they may not accept payment or other compensation for these services.

A registered guide may accompany up to four non-resident hunters. Registered guides may not actively hunt while guiding but may kill an injured bird for a client if necessary.

**Use “1-800-327-BAND”
to report Waterfowl Bands**

Hunters can now report bird bands (bands on ducks and geese) by dialing this toll-free number: **1-800-327-2263**

You should have the following information available before you call:

1. the band number; and
2. where and when you shot the bird.

Chasing Wildlife

No person shall use any air, land or water vehicle to chase, pursue, worry, molest, take, hunt or kill any wildlife or wilfully destroy wildlife habitat.

Attention Rabbit Snarers

Everyone who snares rabbits (snowshoe hare) must purchase a **Snowshoe Hare Snaring Licence**. See summary for regulations and snaring season.

Summary of Hunting Regulations

A **resident** is a person who has taken up permanent residence in Prince Edward Island six months prior to purchasing a hunting licence.

All other hunters are not considered to be residents and require a Non-resident Hunting Licence.

Non-resident hunters must be accompanied by either a licensed resident hunter or a registered hunting guide while hunting in Prince Edward Island.

Youth (under 16 years of age) require a Youth Hunting Licence. No youth shall use or carry a firearm **except** in company with a parent or guardian, subject to the provisions of the *Firearms Act* and *Criminal Code*.

Assume every firearm is loaded.

Licences and Fees

Provincial hunting licences can be obtained from authorized vendors around the province.

Resident Hunting	\$10
Non-resident Hunting	\$75
Youth Hunting Licence (under 16)	No Charge
Resident Hunting Guide Licence	\$30
Non -resident Hunting Guide Licence	\$50
** Wildlife Conservation Fund	\$20
Senior	\$13
*** Permit to Hunt Raccoon at Night	\$ 7
Snowshoe Hare Snaring Licence	\$ 5

(Above fees include GST)

** Charged once annually with first fishing, hunting or trapping licence purchased.

*** Available only at the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Office or from any Conservation Officer listed in this booklet.

Note: Youth who acquire a Youth Hunting Licence are NOT required to purchase a Wildlife Conservation Fund Licence.

***Control the muzzle by pointing it in
a safe direction***

Hunting Season Dates and Bag Limits

The open season, bag limits and possession limits for taking and shooting of game are as follows:

Hunting Seasons and Limits

Game	Open Season	Daily Bag	Possession
Pheasant	No open season	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	Sept. 29 to Dec. 31	3	6
Hungarian (Grey) Partridge	Oct. 20 to Nov. 15*	3	6
Snowshoe Hare*** (Rabbit)	Oct. 1 to Feb. 28	5	-
Fox	Nov. 1 to Jan. 31	-	-
Raccoon	Oct. 15 to Jan. 31	-	-
Coyote	Oct. 1 to Mar. 31**	-	-

* There will be no open season for Hungarian (Grey) Partridge in Lots 1 to 10, inclusive, and Lots 43 to 47 inclusive, in 2008/2009.

** Hunting with hounds is permitted from October 1 to February 28. The running of hounds for training or any other purpose will not be permitted during March 1 through March 31, except by permit. (***Please note that it is also illegal to chase or pursue wildlife with dogs during the closed season for that wildlife, except by special permit.***)

*** A Snowshoe Hare Snaring Licence is required to snare showshoe hare.

It is illegal to have in your possession, when hunting all game birds, migratory birds, crows or ravens, any shot larger than "BB" in the case of lead shot or size "T" in the case of steel shot.

Note

A shipping permit is required for all game leaving Prince Edward Island. A valid non-resident hunting licence, attached to the game being exported, is a shipping coupon authorizing the export of game from the province by the license holder in accordance with possession limits.

Most birds are completely protected throughout the year, including eagles, hawks, owls, seagulls, cormorants and non-game migratory birds.

Migratory Birds

Only the following migratory game birds may be killed: ducks, geese, woodcock, and Wilson or common snipe. Both a Provincial Hunting Licence and a Migratory Bird Hunting Permit are required. Seasons and bag limits are established by the Federal Government. A Migratory Bird Hunting Permit can be obtained at your local post office and most provincial licence vendors for a **fee of \$17** plus GST.

Open Seasons – Both Dates Inclusive	
Woodcock	Sept. 29 to Dec. 13
Ducks, Geese and Snipe (other than Harlequin Ducks)	Oct. 6 to Dec. 13
Waterfowler Heritage Day* Ducks and Geese (other then Harlequin Ducks)	Sept. 20

Note: No open season for Harlequin Duck

**A special day for youth ages 12 to 17 to hunt with a licensed adult mentor before the opening of the regular waterfowl hunting season. The mentor is not permitted to carry or shoot a firearm but is there to provide a safe hunting environment and offer guidance on hunting skills, conservation and the ethical aspects of hunting. A license from the Forest Fish and Wildlife Division is required at no charge.*

Bag and Possession Limits

Game	Daily Bag	Possession
Ducks	6*	12**
Geese	5	10
Snipe	10	20
Woodcock	8	16

* Except that not more than four may be Black Ducks or Black-Mallard Hybrids, and not more than one may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

** Except that not more than eight may be Black Ducks or Black-Mallard Hybrids, and not more than two may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

Non-game migratory birds are all protected under the *Migratory Bird Convention Act*. It is illegal to shoot such non-game migratory birds as yellowlegs, shorebirds, plover, curlews or any of the smaller non-game birds.

Hunters are reminded that a permit is required to hunt **raccoon** at night.

Because raccoons are traditionally hunted after dark, hunters should be aware that their activities (dogs, lights, etc.) may alarm uninformed members of the public. Hunters should make every effort to advise local residents before they hunt in that area.

Landowner permission should be obtained prior to accessing private property for the purpose of hunting.

Hunting

It is unlawful to:

- 1) carry a firearm in game habitat or hunt any game unless you are in possession of a Firearm Safety Certificate;
- 2) hunt any wildlife for which an open season has not been prescribed;
- 3) without a shipping coupon take, or ship out of the province any game or parts thereof;
- 4) disturb, molest or take the nest or eggs of any game bird;
- 5) hunt any game birds by means of any trap, cage or snare;
- 6) hunt game birds with a rifle or other firearm loaded with a bullet or bullets;

- 7) use a shotgun that has a capacity of more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined, while hunting game;
- 8) possess more than one shotgun, unless each shotgun in excess of one is unloaded and disassembled or unloaded and cased, while hunting game;
- 9) hunt on Sunday;
- 10) shoot at any game **within 200 metres** of any school, church, meeting place or any dwelling, farm building, or livestock, without the owner's permission; or shoot any game within 300 metres of a location where migratory birds are kept under permit;
- 11) while in or on any vehicle, discharge or have in personal possession a loaded firearm;
- 12) discharge any firearm in any locality where game is usually found between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise;
- 13) sell fox, raccoon or coyote to anyone other than a licensed fur dealer or fur auction house representative;
- 14) wilfully allow the flesh of any game suitable for food to be spoiled or destroyed;
- 15) hunt waterfowl within 400 metres of an area baited with grain or other food;
- 16) ship or take out of the province, snowshoe hare, raccoon, fox or coyote without a Game Export Permit. If pelts are held by the hunter longer than 10 days after the close of the open season, a Possession Permit is required;

17) possess or use shot other than non-toxic shot for hunting ducks, geese or snipe;

18) be in possession or under the influence of an intoxicant while hunting;

19) possess a firearm that is not cased one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise unless authorized by a permit;

20) hunt or shoot at waterfowl, including all ducks and geese, from within the highway right-of-way;

21) hunt any game birds, crows or ravens with shot size larger than BB (lead shot) or T (non-toxic shot);

22) set a snare for snowshoe hare made of materials other than single strand brass wire of 22 to 24 gauge, or set a snare for snowshoe hare with a wire loop greater than 10 cm. (4 inch);

Note: If you are in possession of migratory birds belonging to or taken by another person, each bird must be tagged with:

(a) the name and address of the owner,

(b) the number of the migratory game bird permit under which the bird was taken, and

(c) the date the bird was taken and signed by the person who killed the birds.

Please check your local newspaper for official sunrise and sunset times or go to Environment Canada's website at: http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/canada_e.html and click on Charlottetown.

Hunter Safety Certificate

Everyone hunting in Prince Edward Island is required to be in possession of a Hunter Safety Certificate. ALL PERSONS wishing to acquire a PEI hunting licence are required to exhibit a Hunter Safety Certificate to the licence vendor. Vendors are prohibited from issuing a licence to any person who does not possess a certificate.

Hunter Safety Certificates are available, from the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division as follows:

1. All first-time hunters and all individuals born on or after September 1, 1968, are required to successfully complete a Hunter Safety Course before being issued a PEI Hunter Safety Certificate. You can register at any Access PEI Centres in order to take the course.
2. All individuals who were born before September 1, 1968, and who have hunted previously can apply for a PEI Hunter Safety Certificate by signing an affidavit.

Changes of address or lost or stolen cards should be brought to the attention of the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division (902) 368-4683.

Non-residents are advised that Hunter Safety Certificates issued by the province, state, or country where they live are accepted in PEI.

Summary of Fur Harvesting Regulations

Trapping Seasons

Open Season

Beaver (Prince and Queens Counties)	8 a.m., October 31 - February 28*
Beaver (Kings County)	November 15 - February 28*
Mink	8 a.m., October 31 - February 28*
Muskrat	8 a.m., October 31 - February 28*
Weasel	8 a.m., October 31 - February 28*
Fox (snaring and trapping)	November 15 - January 31
Fox (modified foothold, only)**	November 1 - November 14
Raccoon	October 15 - February 28
Coyote (snaring and trapping)	November 15 - January 31
Coyote (modified foothold, only)**	November 1 - November 14
Red Squirrel	No Closed Season
Skunk	No Closed Season

Note:

* During the month of February, set traps for beaver, muskrat and mink are restricted to those set in or over water. Weasel traps are restricted to Victor rat traps.

** A “modified foothold trap” is a foothold trap that has been altered to improve the humaneness of the trap by laminating the jaws, off-setting the jaws or padding the jaws.

Licence Fees

Resident Trapping Licence (16 and older)	\$ 10
Junior Trapping Permit (under 16)	\$ 5
Permit to hunt Raccoon at night	\$ 7
Resident Fur Dealers Licence	\$ 25
Non-Resident Fur Dealers Licence	\$175

Trapping licences may be obtained from the Forests, Fish and Wildlife office, 183 Upton Road, Charlottetown, or from the Access PEI Centre in your area.

Licences

1. Any person who traps furbearing animals must be the holder of a Trapping Licence or a Junior Trapping Licence.
2. The Minister may issue a Trapping Licence to an applicant who is 16 years of age or older and has successfully completed a trapper education course. A Junior Trapping Licence may be issued to an applicant who is under 16 years of age and has successfully completed a trapper education program.
- 3. A trapper who has not held a valid trapping licence within the previous five years must successfully complete a trapper education program prior to being issued a trapping licence, unless the Minister exempts that person from this subsection.**

4. All licensed trappers are issued a permanent trapper registration number (a combination of letters and/or numbers) and the metal dies for stamping their registration number on traps and snares. No person shall set a trap or snare for furbearing animals unless the trap or snare is clearly stamped with their trapper registration number.

Foot-hold Traps

1. No person shall set a foothold trap for taking furbearing animals unless:
 - (a) the trap is set for beaver, mink or muskrat and is attached to a device that is designed to submerge the animal and prevent it from resurfacing;
 - (b) the trap is set for muskrat or mink and is sufficiently heavy to submerge the mink or muskrat and prevent the animal from resurfacing;
 - (c) the trap is set for weasel or red squirrel and is set in such a manner as to kill the animal immediately upon the springing of the trap;
 - (d) the trap is set for a raccoon and has jaws which are padded with rubber compound specifically designed to reduce injury to the animal;
 - (e) the trap is set for coyote or red fox and has been modified to improve humaneness by such means as laminating the jaws, off-setting the jaws, padding the jaws, or other similarly effective means of improving humaneness of the trap.

Body-gripping Traps

1. No person shall set a body-gripping (Conibear type) trap having a jaw spread greater than 6.3 inches or 16 centimetres (No. 220 or larger) except

- (a) in or over water
- (b) in a dog-proof box or
- (c) where the trap is set at least five feet off the ground.

2. A person may only use a body-gripping trap that is listed in Schedule C as approved as a killing trap for use on land for that species to take a beaver, raccoon or muskrat on land.

3. A person may only use a body-gripping trap to take a beaver or muskrat underwater if one of the following applies:

- (a) the trap is listed in Schedule C as approved as a killing trap for use underwater for that species;**
- (b) the trap is set for muskrat and prevents the muskrat from resurfacing.**

Snares

1. No person shall place in wildlife habitat any snare larger than single strand brass wire of 20 gauge except during the open season for snaring red fox or coyote.

2. All snares larger than 20 gauge single strand brass wire must be equipped with a self-locking device. This section does not apply to snares set under water during the open season for beaver.
3. No person shall set a snare for coyote or fox within 50 metres of a bait unless the bait is camouflaged or concealed in a manner that renders the bait undetectable from the air. This does not apply to bait placed in open fields.
4. No person shall have in possession untagged snares while in wildlife habitat.
5. No person shall set a snare within 200 metres of an occupied dwelling without the permission of the homeowner or occupier.
6. No person shall set a baited snare within 300 metres of an occupied dwelling without the permission of the homeowner or occupier.
7. No person shall set a snare for coyote or red fox unless the snare is constructed of wire cable having a minimum size of 1.98 millimetres or 5/64 inches.
- 8.No person shall set a snare for coyote or red fox within the highway right-of-way.**

General Regulations

No person shall,

1) while in wildlife habitat, possess or set a trapping device unless the trapping device is:

- (a) a box trap;
- (b) a body-gripping trap that is designed to kill quickly;
- (c) a submarine trap;
- (d) a non-powered snare; or
- (e) a steel-jawed trap that has a jaw spread of less than 19 cm (7.5 inches).

2. shall set a trap designed to hold animals alive without examining each trap at least once a day.

3. set a snare designed to kill a fox or coyote without examining each snare at least once every 48 hours.

4. set a body-gripping trap listed in Schedule C, a submarine trap or underwater snare for beaver without examining each trap at least every 72 hours.

5. set a toothed trap, a deadfall or a hook.

6. use a running pole set or a spring pole set in combination with a foothold trap.

7. shall place a trap or snare in wildlife habitat, either set or unset, before the opening of the trapping season for each species.

8. leave a trap or snare in wildlife habitat, either set or unset, after the close of the season for each species.

9. be in possession of a green hide, pelt, carcass or any portion thereof of any beaver, muskrat, raccoon, fox, coyote, mink, weasel, skunk or squirrel between the 10th day after the close of the open season and the first day of the next open season without a permit
10. cut, spear, break, destroy or interfere with any beaver house or dam, a muskrat house or den, a mink den, a fox den or burrow, a coyote den or burrow or set a trap within 10 feet of the house or den of a beaver.
11. break, interfere with, destroy, remove or otherwise disturb any trap not registered to that person. This section shall not apply to enforcement officers responsible for the enforcement of trapping regulations in the discharge of their duty.
12. during the closed season for mink or muskrat, set traps for or attempt to trap raccoon in places frequented by mink or muskrat, or at any time during the closed season for mink or muskrat attempt to trap raccoon by use of traps set in or over water.
13. take or attempt to take any beaver, mink or muskrat by any means other than trapping.
14. shall set a trap inside an active muskrat house.
15. shall ship raw furs from the province (PEI) without first obtaining an Export Permit.
16. trap on private property without asking permission.

17. anyone who buys the pelts or hides, either skinned or unskinned, of wild furbearing animals in PEI must be the holder of a valid Fur Dealer's Licence.

18. everyone is guilty of an offence who sells furs to a resident or non-resident who is not the holder of a Fur Dealer's Licence.

General Information

Hunters and trappers are advised that seized equipment shall be automatically forfeited to the crown for the following offences:

- (1) all second offences,
- (2) taking game or wildlife out of season,
- (3) hunting while under suspension, and
- (4) possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle or boat.

An automatic one-year suspension of hunting privileges results from a conviction under the *Wildlife Conservation Act* or Regulations or the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* or Regulations. A trapper will be required to take a trapper education course after the date of conviction before purchasing another trapping licence.

Schedule C

List of Approved Body-gripping Traps (Certified under the Canadian Trap Certification Program and Approved for use as killing traps for beaver, muskrat and raccoon in Prince Edward Island)

Beaver

Traps approved for use underwater and on land:

Bélisle Classic 330	Rudy 280
Bélisle Super X 280	Sauvageau 2001-11
Bélisle Super X 330	Sauvageau 2001-11F
B.M.I. 330 Body Gripper	Sauvageau 2001-12
Bridger 330	Species-Specific 330 Dislocator
Duke 330	Half Magnum
LDL C280	Species-Specific 440 Dislocator
LDL C330	Half Magnum
Rudy 330	Woodstream Oneida Victor
	Conibear 280
	Woodstream Oneida Victor
	Conibear 330

Traps approved for use on land only:

LDL C330 Magnum

Traps approved for use underwater only:

B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper	Sauvageau 2001-8
	LDL C280 Magnum

Raccoon

Traps approved for use on land:

Bélisle Classic 220	LDL C 220 Magnum
Bélisle Super X 160	LDL C 280 Magnum
Bélisle Super X 220	Northwood 155
Bélisle Super X 280	Rudy 160
B.M.I. 160 Body Gripper	Rudy 160 Plus
B.M.I. 220 Body Gripper	Rudy 220
B.M.I. 280 Body Gripper	Rudy 220 Plus
B.M.I. 280 Magnum	Sauvageau 2001-6
Body Gripper	Sauvageau 2001-7
Bridger 160	Sauvageau 2001-8
Bridger 220	Species-Specific 220
Duke 160	Dislocator Half Magnum
Duke 220	Woodstream Oneida Victor
LDL C 160	Conibear 160
LDL C 220	Woodstream Oneida Victor Conibear 220

Muskrat

Traps approved for use on land:

Bélisle Super X 120	Rudy 120 Magnum
B.M.I. 120	Sauvageau 2001-5
B.M.I. 120 Magnum	Sauvageau C120 Magnum
B.M.I. 126 Magnum	Sauvageau C120 "Reverse Bend"
Bridger 120	Triple M
Duke 120	Woodstream Oneida Victor
Koro Muskrat	Conibear 110
LDL B120 Magnum	Woodstream Oneida Victor
	Conibear 120

This summary is prepared for the information and convenience of those who plan to hunt or trap in Prince Edward Island. The original act and regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpreting and applying the law. These laws are subject to change at any time.

For the complete regulations please refer to the *Wildlife Conservation Act*, Regulations available on request from the Forests Fish and Wildlife Division or online at:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/law/regulations/index.php3>

For further information contact the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, 183 Upton Road, PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8 or phone **368-4683**.

For enforcement of any of the environment acts or regulations during regular working hours, telephone a Conservation Officer at any of the following locations:

Alberton	853-8622	Sandra Keough Access PEI Alberton
O'Leary	859-8800	Aaron Waddell
Wellington	854-7250	Roland Richard <i>(bilingual officer)</i>
S'side	888-8000	Roland Richard <i>(bilingual Officer)</i>
Ch'town	368-4808	John Clements <i>(Chief Conservation Officer)</i>
	368-5000	Wade MacKinnon
Montague	838-0600	Locke Jones
Souris	687-7000	Trevor MacKinnon

For environmental or enforcement emergencies after normal office hours, telephone **1-800-565-1633**.

Personal Hunting Record

Date	Species	Number Harvested

Personal Hunting Record

Date	Species	Number Harvested