



PEACEFUL  
PARKS  
COALITION

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## ***Dalton McGuinty Plans Province Wide Deer Kill***

The McGuinty government has announced multiple deer hunts in Wildlife Management Units across southern Ontario, and new deer hunts in northern Ontario. In addition, McGuinty is giving government wildlife managers the authority to issue several deer "seals" to a hunter at their discretion. They are also poised to expand the killing of deer by farmers who experience crop damage caused by deer.

The McGuinty government claims there are too many deer. This mantra of "too many" wildlife is often used to justify expanded hunting opportunities, and is based on the economic needs of one industry or another. Never is it based on ecological principles or assessment, or even current wildlife management practices.

"Just shoot them, that's Dalton McGuinty's idea of progressive wildlife management", says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition. The McGuinty government has also authorized a bounty on coyotes in Huron, Grey and Bruce counties where hunters are paid \$35 of taxpayer's money for each coyote pelt, and is set to shoot thousands of Double-crested Cormorants beginning next week.

"The Ontario government makes money from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, thereby managing our wildlife like a business," says Valastro. "But hunting only perpetuates the problem. Natural competitors are killed off, male/female ratios are purposely altered, feeding programs are carried on, all with the intention to increase hunting 'opportunities.' The public is only told a 'cull' is needed. Meanwhile the MNR grabs more revenues from the hunting industry. The public is generally unaware that wildlife is not managed by hunting but for hunting."

While the McGuinty government canceled the spring bear hunt and expanded protection for the Algonquin Wolf, these decisions were popular and easy to make. But the McGuinty' government's overall wildlife management approach - wildlife management by the gun - is frightening, not only because it catapults us back a hundred years, but also because it has huge environmental impacts.

For more information, please contact AnnaMaria Valastro at 416.537.3212

**Note to the Editor:**

The proposal to kill deer can be viewed at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/022668er.htm>

press release

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