



PEACEFUL  
PARKS  
COALITION

## For Immediate Release - August 11, 2004

### *Ontario Minister of Natural Resources: Panicked and Running Scared*

Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, David Ramsay, came out shooting in all directions this week when he announced extended sport hunting seasons for bear, deer, and wild turkey. All three animals are considered "nuisance" animals by both farmers and sport hunters. "Whatever animal the hunting and fishing lobby considers to be "vermin", David Ramsay will shoot. This is the only way he knows how to deal with it," says AnnaMaria Valastro of the Peaceful Parks Coalition. "Sport hunters are the exterminators and the Ministry can turn a fast buck to boot. If this is the best Ramsay can do, then we deserve better."

What's worse, is that while Ramsay goes on about bears, deer and wild turkeys being out of control, he continues to support wild turkey introduction programs across Ontario, funds feeding programs for deer and continues to clearcut forests that bears need to survive. "The stench of hypocrisy is overwhelming at the Ministry," says Valastro.

The extended hunt also exemplifies just how unethical sport hunting is as a wildlife management tool. Hunters will now be allowed to kill up to seven deer, most of which will probably be left to rot in fields. This is already a problem in some areas in southern Ontario.

To date, the Liberal government can boast the wasteful slaughter of tens of thousands of animals from Double-crested Cormorants, to deer, bears, wild turkeys, coyotes, moose and wolves.

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#### **Note to the Editor and Our Members:**

While the extended hunting seasons are now currently open for public comment on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry, it is clear from the Ministry press release issued on August 9, and subsequent media reports, that Minister Ramsay has already decided to move ahead with this proposal, and as such no contact person is given on the EBR notice. Therefore, we are recommending that all comments be sent to Premier Dalton McGuinty. Comments sent to the Premier's office are reviewed by political staff. Comments sent to the EBR registry are reviewed by ministry bureaucrats only.

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