

Information Byway



NORTH WESTERN ONTARIO
TOURISM ASSOCIATION

www.nwota.com

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BAN LIFTED ON RUMINANTS AND RUMINANT PARTS

The USDA has lifted the ban on the import of moose and deer meat. There will be a requirement for an import permit, and information on the permit is provided on the USDA website. Here is part of the USDA announcement:

Hunters can immediately begin bringing wild ruminant meat products intended for their personal use into the United States, but will need a "Veterinary Services Special Permit for the Importation of Hunter-Harvested Wild Ruminant Meat," along with one of the following: a valid Canadian export certificate for game meat, or a copy of a valid hunting license or a valid hunting tag. The permit can be downloaded from <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse.html> or obtained by calling the APHIS National Center for Import and Export at (301) 734-3277.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NWOTA
FOR AREA BUSINESSES TO
SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO
BETTER THE TOURISM
INDUSTRY IN OUR AREA.**

**If you have not renewed your
membership, please do so now.**

**MAKE NWOTA A STRONG
VOICE FOR TOURISM**

CONGRATULATIONS DONNA HANSON!

July 14, 2003

Donna Hanson, NWOTA Director was appointed to the board of the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation. NWOTA congratulates you and we know that the OTMPC has one of our best on their board.

As well as serving on the NWOTA board, Donna is also on the board of the Ontario's Sunset Country Travel Association and a local lodge owner. With a schedule like that we know Donna is always up for a challenge.

NEW DRINKING WATER SYSTEM REGULATION

Tourism operators should have received a copy of the New Drinking Water System Regulation. At the July NWOTA meeting, members expressed great concern for the new regulations that will be put into effect in 2005. The concern was such that the board is looking into forming a committee to investigate the issue further.

NOTO has indicated that they are willing to meet with members of NWOTA to discuss this issue and the concerns that have arisen. NWOTA has invited Bill Murdoch, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Environment to visit the area and possibly a few local lodges. The New Drinking Water System Regulation was developed with input from Municipalities, however, it is fair to say that Municipal water systems will differ substantially from a water system a lodge should have operational.

Tourist Operators, please remind your guests on the appropriate manner in which to package their fish to take home.

Information Fact Sheet has been enclosed for you to post and/or distribute to your guests.

COMMERCIAL PASSENGER VESSELS

NWOTA has been informed of recent changes to the Canada Shipping Act that will affect the requirements for passenger carrying vessels not over 5 tons and not more than 12 passengers. If a guest never operates the boat in question, always has a guide or "Captain" then it is classified as a commercial vessel.

Before leaving the dock the Captain, person in charge, of the vessel must brief all passengers of the location of lifejackets and survival craft. Passengers in each area of the vessel must be shown which lifejackets and survival craft are located closest to them, the location and use of personal protection equipment, boat safety equipment and distress equipment, the safety measures to take if need be and the prevention of fire and explosions. The Captain must also demonstrate how each type of lifejacket on board is put on.

Vessel is not over 5.5 m in length

- 1) Every vessel that is not over 5.5 m in length must carry
 - a) one approved standard lifejacket or approved small vessel lifejacket for each person on board;
 - b) two oars and rowlocks or two paddles;
 - c) one bailer or one manual pump;
 - d) one Class B 1 fire extinguisher; and
 - e) one of the following throw able devises, namely,
 - i) an approved life-saving cushion;
 - ii) a buoyant heaving line of not less than 15 m in length, or
 - iii) an approved 610 mm or 762 mm lifebuoy.

- 2) The permanently fitted navigation lights must meet the requirements of the Collision Regulations.

Vessel is over 5.5 m and not over 8 m in length

- 1) Every vessel over 5.5 m and not over 8 m in length must carry
 - a) one approved standard lifejacket for each person on board;
 - b) two oars and rowlocks, two paddles, or one anchor with not less than 15 m of cable, rope or chain;
 - c) one bailer or one manual pump;
 - d) one Class B 1 fire extinguisher; and
 - e) six approved pyrotechnic distress signals of which at least three must be Type A, B or C; and
 - f) one of the following throws able devices, namely,
 - i) an approved life saving cushion,
 - ii) a buoyant heaving line of not less that 15 m in length, or
 - iii) an approved 610 mm or 762 mm lifebuoy.
- 2) The permanently fitted navigation lights must meet the requirements of the Collision Regulations.

Vessel over 8 m in length

- 1) Every vessel over 8 m in length must carry
 - a) one approved lifejacket for each person on board,
 - b) one approved 762 mm diameter lifebuoy with not less that 9 m of rope attached;
 - c) one bailer and one manual pump;
 - d) six approved pyrotechnic distress signals of any type and six approved

- pyrotechnic distress signals of Type A, B or C;
 - e) one anchor with not less than 15 m of cable, rope or chain;
 - f) one Class B 11 fire extinguisher
- 2) Every vessel over 8 m in length must be fitted with navigation lights and sound signaling appliances that permit the vessel to comply with the Collision Regulations.

Lifejacket vs. PFD

- Any boat that is rented to a consumer without a guide can use PFD's (Personal Floatation Devices)
- Any boat that is used as a consumer rental and sometimes has a guide can use PFD's
- Any boat that is under 5.5 m. in length and is used strictly for transporting guests to and from resort or always operated by

- a guide must use Small Vessel Lifejackets for each passenger on board.
- Any boat that is over 5.5 m must be equipped with Lifejackets. *(For area lakes operators can request allowance to use Small Vessel Lifejackets for all size boats – but you must write Transport Canada (Marine Safety) for permission.)*
 - All passenger boats should have a commercial registration. You must apply for this (free registration for the time being but could change). Once registered the letter in licence # would change to a "C". ie. If current # is 12E12345, new number once registered will be 12C12345.

NWOTA members should forward any comments on these changes to NOTO, fax #:705 472-0621, address: 386 Algonquin Ave., North Bay, ON P1B 4W3 or email: todd@noto.net or doug@noto.net

NWOTA would like to welcome three members to the NWOTA board of directors. Marc Bechard, Cheryl Gauthier and Paul Trinkner have accepted their nomination to serve as NWOTA Directors for the 2003-05 term.

2003-05 NWOTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Pearson, President	807 274-2121
Jerry Fisher, Vice President	807 488-5821
Winter	262 878-7887
Peter Williams, Past President	807 482-2057
Larry Adams, Director	807 482-1048
Marc Bechard, Director	807 543-4051
Fred Dennis, Director	807 599-2705
Cheryl Gauthier, Director	807 488-1116
Geoff Gillon, Director	807 274-5484
Donna Hanson, Director	807 488-5832
Winter	807 484-2556
Wayne Helliard, Director	807 484-2400
Pat Howard, Director	807 482-2018
David Kaemingh, Director	807 482-2390
Dennis McDougall, Director	807 488-5450
Frank Meades, Director	807 274-6717
Chuck & Cathy Mosbeck, Directors	807 482-2362
Jim Rebbetoy, Director	807 226-5476
Larry Stahn, Director	807 482-3104
Paul Trinkner, Director	807 484-2332

2003 NWOTA MEETING DATES

Mark these dates on your calendar

September 4 - 12:00 noon, Emo Inn

October 2 - 12:00 noon, Emo Inn

Economic Impact Study Review

Tentatively set for October 29,
La Place Rendezvous, Fort Frances

Annual Fall Meeting

Wednesday, October 29
La Place Rendezvous, Fort Frances

December 11 - 12:00 noon, Emo Inn

GREETINGS FROM NWOTA PRESIDENT

The 2003 season has presented many obstacles for local business operators. I am hopeful that the low water, reported problems with border crossings and new regulations have not affected area businesses too badly.

NWOTA has been working on many issues through our committee structure. Committee members are to be commended for taking on all the extra work that goes with investigating issues and staying on top of what is happening.

Our Fall Meeting Committee is working on an agenda and list of speakers that will probably blow your socks off! If you have not attended a fall meeting in a while you should plan to attend this one. The Economic Impact Study Committee is in the process of reviewing the preliminary data they received from PKF Consulting and look forward to sharing all those results with you at the Fall Meeting. The Business Working Coalition continues to strive for better communication between Border Crossing personnel and business operators.

Hoping the rest of your season is prosperous, see you at the Fall Meeting.

ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

We are in the final stages of the study.

The response rate was very disappointing.

We hired a consultant to contact those who had not responded. They were sent the questionnaire again. When the consultant made another call, the response was, "I remember that questionnaire. I will not give out that information."

We could not convince them to share the information. Even after explaining that we needed the data to better defend our position on issues relating to tourism.

PKF consulting has just released an interim report on the Economic Impact of Tourism in Northwestern Ontario. Because of the low

response rate community breakdowns will be almost impossible. We did however get enough data for a look at Sunset country.

After a review with the stakeholders, the data will be sent through an Economic model called TEAM designed by the Canadian Tourism Research Institute.

We should have the data finalized by September. We are planning to hold meetings in September and October to review the information with all the stakeholders in their areas.

Any questions or comments call Geoff Gillon, RRFDC 274-5484.

BORDER CROSSING ISSUE

The Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Canada has established a help line for anyone who is concerned about whether they are admissable to Canada.

Call (807) 624-2158, and you will then be prompted through a series of questions to determine if previous criminal convictions will make you inadmissable to Canada.

The system is still being fine tuned and will change as calls are made to the helpline. The Ministry is encouraging feedback and suggestions, operators can direct their comments to Dennis Pella at Dennis.Pella@cic.gc.ca.

Bob Nault's office has indicated that there may be a meeting in Mid September. Along with, Imigrations, personel from Naults office, the business Coalition (made up of NWOTA, NOTO, NOMA, NODN, KDCA AND NOACC), Canada Customs will be asked to be an active participant in our efforts. The group have had several meetings to discuss, communications between stakeholders, sensitivity training for border personnel, and improved communications for those using the Canadian border (our guests). Nault and Coderre agreed to all three items at our Dryden meeting in October of last year.