

Information Byway



NORTH WESTERN ONTARIO
TOURISM ASSOCIATION
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Presidents Message

Hello everyone, on Friday, August 20th I was invited to a luncheon with Mr. Gary Doer, the Canadian Ambassador to the US. After the delivery of his speech where he talked about trade and tourism, borders, etc. there was a question period. Border concerns were one of the first issues mentioned and it wasn't even me that started the border talk; someone from MN stood up and asked him directly about the problems at Fort Frances. CBSA were there and were very quiet. Mr. Doer said that he was well aware of the issue, although he talked about DUI and I corrected him and called it Minor Criminality and explained that it is for all minor offences. I then asked him about the delays in rehabilitation at Canadian Embassies for those who are trying that route. He agreed and said he would look into getting them done faster. Border was 2 out of every 3 questions. Mr. Doer then ended it, and most of the room came over to introduce themselves and wanted to help. Senator Bob Lessard was the most vocal. He said he has been talking to Doer about it for a couple of days. There was quite a bit of media attention; Duluth TV, papers, radio etc. Except the Fort Frances Times who seemed to think it was not a problem. Jim Cumming made that perfectly clear to me. I was actually amazed that the most concerned people about the border where the US people at the meeting, I Falls chamber etc. International Falls is losing big time with the drop in tourism going to Canada. It very quickly became the talk of the room, CBSA left very quickly, and Gary Doer definitely heard from everyone. He "said" he got the message and was going to talk to Minister of Safety. I provided him with as much information from NWOTA as possible.

Over all, I really think he got the message. Media was very interested in talking to me. This was a major issue for most of the Minnesota politicians as well and I did have the opportunity to be introduced to some of them. So, we will see



And on that note; Cheers, now a beer, to relax and get rid of my headache funny how politicians and headaches go together ☺

Harmonized Sales Tax (HST)

Info taken from www.cra.gc.ca and www.rev.gov.on.ca

The [Harmonized Sales Tax \(HST\)](#) will take effect in Ontario on July 1, 2010 replacing the existing provincial Retail Sales Tax (RST) and combining it with the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The move to HST means you will now only deal with **one set of forms**, one payment and one point of contact for audits, appeals and taxpayer services. This checklist is a general guide of what you need to know as the July 1, 2010 implementation date approaches.

- The HST is basically the GST with a provincial component added to arrive at a 13% rate. If no GST applies now, no HST will apply after July 1, 2010. Provincial point of sale rebates mean that selected goods will only be taxed at 5%.
- If you are already registered for GST, no further registration is required. If you are not required to register for GST, you do not need to [register for HST](#).
- Your HST reporting period will be the same as your GST reporting period. You will report both GST and HST charged and

collected, and claim [input tax credits](#) and rebates in much the same way you have been for GST.

- You should modify accounting, billing and [invoicing systems](#), cash register and point of sale systems, including web interfaces and automatic payments, to switch to HST and remove RST. You should also ensure budgets remove the 8% RST cost from purchases after July 1, 2010 in accordance with the transitional rules. You should also update taxable benefit calculations.

Under the Foreign Convention and Tour Incentive Program all of the same rules that were applied to the GST rebate now apply to the HST rebate. Your packages must include overnight accommodations as well as one or more services. Eligible accommodations include cabins, campgrounds but not accommodations on a trailer, boat or houseboat. Services can include transportation (not boat rentals), guide services, fish processing, game capping, skinning of animals or plucking birds, cutting, wrapping and packaging, and also sightseeing excursions. For more information visit <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/tpcs/qst-tps/rbts/vstrs/menu-eng.html>. For specific information for Hunting and Fishing Packages visit <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/gi/gi-046/gi-046-e.html>.

Aulneau Committee Meeting

The Aulneau Committee met at the AKRC Office in Sioux Narrows on Thursday, June 17th. Due to little need to meet, this was the first meeting since spring of 2009.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved and a few reports were given. Notability, the Turtle Portage had been reported as broken but MNR had notified Docks and Lifts of the problem and it

should have been corrected in a few days after the meeting.

In addition to most regular and MNR members two Aboriginal people were present to provide input for the committee. Mr. George Kakeway, Executive Director of AKRC was present. He heard input from committee members on the positive approach the committee has taken over the past years on dealing with Aboriginal concerns about the Aulneau with little progress with usage solutions dealing with timber harvest, Native values and traditional uses. Significant value had been placed on dead or dying Jack Pine that could have been harvested but this has been lost due to economic conditions as well as the deterioration of the wood fiber as time has passed.. Attention was called to the Eco-Tourism values of the Aulneau and the possibility of identifying trails following historically significant routes being marked for visitors. Attractions for tourism bring visitors to the area for the economic benefit of all and the lake with its surrounding land and islands is a major attraction. This discussion was very positive and AKRC may provide a proposal for the committee later this summer and at that time the committee will meet to review it.

Also present at the meeting was Eugene McPherson who is the First Nations Forest Fire Coordinator for Ontario. Potential forest fire conditions in the dead Jack Pine areas of N.W. Ontario remains a concern for all people, however, the rapid spread of a fire has been reduced since the needles have fallen from the dead standing Jack Pine.

Next meeting will be called when AKRC's Plan is ready for the committee.

2010 Meeting Dates

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

Dates & locations are tentative; Please check the NWOTA website for updates

NEXT MEETING: October 7, location TBA

Annual Fall NWOTA Meeting, October, date & location TBA

November 4, location TBA

December 2, location TBA

NOTO 2010 Nature & Outdoor Tourism Conference, October 27th & 28th, Dryden Ontario, Best Western and The Centre.

Important News for Safe Boating

New requirements for [safety equipment](#) and [pleasure craft licensing](#) came out on May 12, 2010. To find out how these new requirements may affect you, we recommend that you check out this information.

Minimum Safety Equipment Required for the Size and Type of your Pleasure Craft

The *Small Vessel Regulations* set out the minimum safety equipment required on board a pleasure craft according to its type and length.

To determine the length of your pleasure craft, refer to your manufacturer's product information or measure it yourself - from the forward end of the foremost outside surface of the hull shell to the after end of the aftermost outside surface of the hull shell.

To find out the minimum safety equipment requirements for your pleasure craft, either select the appropriate category or visit <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-equipment-size-menu-690.htm> :

[Human-powered pleasure craft \(including canoes, kayaks, rowboats and rowing shells\)](#)

[Personal watercraft \(PWC\)](#)

[Paddleboats and watercycles](#)

[Sailboards and kiteboards](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft up to 6 m \(19'8"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft over 6 m and up to 9 m \(19'8"-29'6"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft over 9 m and up to 12 m \(29'6"-39'4"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft over 12 m and up to 24 m \(39'4"-78'9"\)](#)

[Sail and powered pleasure craft up to 24 m \(78'9"\)](#)

[Requirements for pleasure craft involved in competition](#)

Pleasure Craft Licence

A pleasure craft licence is the set of identification numbers displayed on a pleasure craft.

You must display the licence number above the waterline on both sides of your pleasure craft in block characters that:

- are at least 7.5 centimetres (3 inches) high; **and**
- in a colour that contrasts with the colour of the bow.

The *Small Vessel Regulations* under the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001*, require all pleasure craft powered by an engine 10 horsepower (7.5 kW) or more to have a pleasure craft licence, unless they have a vessel registration.

You must carry a copy of your Pleasure Craft Licence on board.

A Pleasure Craft Licence is different from a Vessel Registration. Check the [Vessel Registration Office](#) website for more information on registering your pleasure craft.

Pleasure craft licences are free.

Recent amendments to the Small Vessel Regulations have resulted in the following changes to the Pleasure Craft Licensing Process:

- Owners of licensed pleasure craft now have up to 90 days from the date of purchase to transfer a pleasure craft licence. During which time you may continue to operate your pleasure craft with the existing licence and a copy of the transfer documents onboard.
- Pleasure craft licences are valid for a period of 10 years. If there are changes to your name or address in that time, you must update your licence by applying to Service Canada.

Service Canada delivers Pleasure Craft Licensing at all of their offices across Canada.

The Pleasure Craft Licensing system allows Search and Rescue personnel to access the information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the event of an emergency. This could mean the difference between life and death!

For more information please visit [Service Canada](#) at <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/> .



2010 NWOTA Bursary Award Recipient, Ben Lucke
On June 23, 2010, Ben Lucke was awarded the 2010 NWOTA Bursary at the Rainy River High School Graduation Ceremony. Ben is pursuing a career in Aviation Flight Management at Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Ontario and hopes to eventually pilot at a Northwestern Ontario outpost and/or for the Ministry of Natural Resources.
NWOTA extends congratulatory wishes to Ben as he begins this phase of life a College and best wishes in his future accomplishments

If you have not renewed your 2011 NWOTA membership or are not a NWOTA member; now is the time ~ a renewal form has been included in the newsletter for you convenience.



World Fishing Network (WFN) is seen by 50 million people in Canada and the United States in several different media forms, their "Canada's Ultimate Fishing Town" contest has already generated a lot of fantastic "FREE" advertizing for our area as the little town of Nestor Falls is now in a strong second place in the final round of voting and well ahead of Thunder Bay the only other regional community left in the Top Ten.

The top prize is \$25,000.00 to the winning town but perhaps more importantly a show will be made to highlight the community and area and be on the WFN network.

Nestor Falls needs its friends and neighbours to help win this contest and highlight the entire region to recreational fishing enthusiasts across North America.

It's simple go to www.wfn.tv.fishingtown/Nestor-Falls follow the directions and vote using your email, better yet vote your contact list and ask your customers to do the same.



For more information and tips on how to vote your list email Maureen at barleyanna@bellnet.ca or call 807-484-2115.

Port Alberni BC is just 1600 votes ahead, Dauphin MB is 3000 behind, we can win this but we all need to work together.

Have a look at the website and please get out and vote.

DEER COMMITTEE UPDATE

For several years now NWOTA and KDCA have been actively working with regional sportsmen's groups, guides, hunters, MTR and MNR on changes to non-resident deer hunting in Northwestern Ontario. The idea is not new and Ontario is one of the few places in North America that allows a non-resident for just the price of a licence to come in and hunt anytime during open season and in any open zone. In a time when MNR and our provincial government preach "value added" products in the forest industry one has to wonder why would they would not want "value added" in the outfitting industry. Other

provinces and states have realized that they have stimulated their economies by working with their outfitting industry rather than against it and changes to ensure that outfitters can thrive have encouraged millions of dollars of new investment which in turn has increased their tax revenues far beyond the sale of a few deer licences.

As you have guessed by now there is no new news with regard to non-resident deer hunting in Ontario, the regional MNR office continues to work on it we are told but no timelines or commitments.

***Watch for more information about the
2010 Annual Fall NWOTA Meeting
In local newspapers, flyers & future emails from the NWOTA office***



On behalf of DST Consulting Engineers, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to address all NWOTA members. In an effort to help promote tourism in Northwestern Ontario, DST would like to expand on what you as Tourist Outfitters or Resort Owners can provide to the valued guests and also use, yourselves, to increase interest (especially with the youth!) in "The Great Outdoors" – pursuits that provide many of us with our livelihoods. As a concerned resort owner, have you ever wanted to know more about the health or condition of a fishery or deer population (bear, moose, etc) in your area? Information typically collected by biologists to determine the health of a fish or wildlife population includes length, weight, sex, and age data, and success or catch rates. What this means is that the answers are right at your fingertips on a daily basis. Yes, that fish in your hand or deer on your stand is more valuable than just the amount of meat that it puts on the table! We (DST) need only provide you, the resort owner, with some basic skills to collect some of those key pieces of information that, collectively, can be used to evaluate critical metrics of a fish or wildlife population and, in turn, the overall health status. This proactive stewardship approach is bound to enhance returns by both the guests of tomorrow and those of today, in addition to ensuring more timely measures by government regulators when sustainability is at risk. This is, of course, an expansion on the services we've provided for years – Environmental Assessment and Fuel Storage Tank Services. Please feel free to contact us at any of our 6 offices in Ontario, including Kenora or Thunder Bay, or our Winnipeg and Edmonton offices. DST looks forward to enhancing business, for you. Please, go to our website, www.dstgroup.com, for Contacts.

Yours truly

Ken MacIntosh

Senior Aquatic Scientist

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2011 Memberships are due soon. Invoices will be mailed out November 1, 2010.

At the 2008 Annual Spring Meeting, there was some discussion on who is eligible to vote. Memberships run from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 and to eliminate any conjecture invoices will now be due prior to the Spring Meeting.

2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- _____ **VOTING MEMBER - \$250.00 (\$200 if paid before March 1, 2011)**
Voting membership is for resorts and other businesses in direct tourism, but is available to other businesses or individuals that want full membership rights. Free listing on the NWOTA website with hotlink to your site.

- _____ **ALLIED MEMBER – \$250.00 (\$200 if paid before March 1, 2011)**
Allied membership is for businesses that supply the tourism industry, but is available to non-tourism related businesses and individuals as well. Allied members are not eligible to vote.

- _____ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER - \$100.00 (\$70 if paid before March 1, 2011)**
Associate membership is for individuals and non-profit associations.

SUMMER OR ANNUAL ADDRESS:

Contact person(s): _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____
Address City Prov. Postal Code

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

WINTER ADDRESS if different:

Contact person(s): _____

Business Name: _____

Address: _____
Address City Prov./State Postal/Zip Code

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

All NWOTA Memberships are due on or before May 1st.

“Tourism – Our Most Renewable Resource”