



THE CORPORATION OF THE
Township Of Pelee
HUNTING AND FISHING COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Tuesday June 18, 2024, 4:30 pm

Meeting at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 403

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Amendments to the Agenda**
- 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**
- 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**
 - A. Hunting and Fishing Committee Meeting–February 20, 2024.**
- 5. Reports/Discussions**
 - A. Township Administrator & Clerk – Kristine Horst**
 - i. Report 2024 – 02 KH: Pelee Island Hunting & Fishing
 - B. Administrative Assistant – Cassie Hamill**
 - i. Report 2024 – 03 CH: 2024 Pheasant Hunt Update
 - C. Township Administrator & Clerk – Kristine Horst**
 - i. Report 2024 – 04 KH: 2022 Pheasant Hunt Survey Results
- 6. Notices of Motion**
- 7. Recognitions and Announcements**
- 8. Adjournment**



HUNTING & FISHING COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

4:30PM

VIA ZOOM

Members of Committee: Councillor Stephanie Briggs-Crawford
Councillor Michelle Taylor
Martin LaCroix
Cindy Osadzuk
Sondi Ryersee
John Sim - ABSENT

Members of Administration: Administrative Assistant Cassie Hamill

Others Present: Members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Stephanie Briggs-Crawford called the Hunting & Fishing Committee Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with all members but one present.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

3. DISCLOSED OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Resolution 2024-HF01

Moved By: Councillor Michelle Taylor

Seconded By: Cindy Osadzuk

That the December 5, 2023 Hunting and Fishing Committee Minutes BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

A. 2024 Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings

Resolution 2024-HF02

Moved By: Sondi Ryersee

Seconded By: Cindy Osadzuk

That the report from the Administrative Assistant – 2024 Annual Schedule of Regular Meetings Report Number 2024-01 CH BE ADOPTED.

B. Hunt Sale Update

Cassie Hamill gave a brief update on the licence sales

C. No Hunting / No Trespassing Signs

Cassie Hamill discussed and showed the committee what the signs looked like and the current plan for the signs.

D. Property Owner Education Open House Discussion

Stephanie Briggs Crawford asked the committee members what they want to see discussed in the open house as well as location and time. Members were asked to bring back information for the open house to the next meeting.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

7. RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Stephanie Briggs-Crawford thanked the municipal office staff and the pheasant farm staff for dealing with the hunts in a positive fashion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Hunting & Fishing Committee Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

**Stephanie Briggs-Crawford,
Councillor**

**Cassie Hamill,
Administrative Assistant**

 THE CORPORATION OF THE
Township Of Pelee
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PELEE
REPORT 2024 – 02 KH

Author's Name: Kristine Horst	Report Date: June 10, 2024
Resolution #:	Date to Council: June 18, 2024

To: Hunting and Fishing Committee

Subject: Pelee Island Hunting & Fishing

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The Hunting and Fishing Committee receive this report as information.

2. BACKGROUND:

The role of the Hunting and Fishing Committee is to support and advance responsible hunting and fishing activities as a major economic driver of shoulder season tourism on Pelee Island.

The responsibility of the Committee is to provide recommendations to Council and support as required to improve visitor and resident experience relating to hunting and fishing.

3. DISCUSSION:

Fishing on Pelee Island

Pelee's Fisheries Management Zone

Ontario is broken down into 20 Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ). These FMZs help the province manage the individual needs and nature of each one by customizing catch limits and seasons in order to allow more fishing in thriving fisheries, protect vulnerable fisheries, re-establish fish populations, and adjust fishing seasons for different climates. Each one of the 20 FMZs have their own rules that must be followed. Pelee Island is part of FMZ 19 (Lake Erie). This FMZ is the shallowest and most productive Great Lake, has a large and valuable commercial fishery for walleye and yellow perch, and is important recreationally for walleye, yellow perch, rainbow trout and bass. Specifically, on Pelee, walleye, perch and bass are most popular.

Zone-Wide Seasons and Limits

A full list of zone-wide seasons and limits can be found at Ontario.ca, below is a list of seasons and limits for the most popular fish on and around Pelee Island:

- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass
 - Season: fourth Saturday in June to November 30
 - Limits: Sport = 6, Conservation = 2
- Walleye and Sauger
 - Season: open all year
 - Limits: Sport = 6, Conservation = 2
- Yellow perch
 - Season: open all year
 - Limits: Sport = 50 in one day (possession limit of 100), Conservation = 25 in one day (possession limit of 50)

Fishing Licences

On Pelee Island, licences can be purchased online (Ontario Fish and Wildlife), by phone, or at the Municipal Office. As a licenced issuer, the Township of Pelee does have the ability to issue Outdoors Cards and one- and three-year sport and conservation fishing licences as well as one day fishing licences.

Fish for Free

Four times a year, Canadian residents can fish in Ontario for free. This means residents do not need to buy a fishing licence to fish during the following dates:

- Family Day Weekend (February 17 – 19, 2024)
- Mother's Day Weekend (May 11 – 12, 2024)
- Father's Day Weekend (June 15 – 16, 2024)
- Family Fishing Week (June 29 – July 7, 2024)

These free fishing dates are promoted by Ontario Fish and Wildlife, the Township of Pelee, through the tourism Pelee Island social media pages, has begun promoting these events and will continue to do so in the future to increase promotion of fishing on/around Pelee Island.

Hunting on Pelee Island

Pelee's Wildlife Management Unit

The province of Ontario is subdivided into 95 wildlife management units (WMUs). Pelee Island is WMU 95, which is made up of only Pelee Island, the surrounding waters are part of WMU 94A.

Migratory Birds

To hunt migratory game birds in Canada you must possess a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp on the permit. Both of these documents are issued by the federal government and are valid in all provinces and territories.

Pelee Island forms part of the Southern District for the purpose of migratory bird hunting, which includes WMUs 60 to 95.

Pelee Game Seasons

A full list of seasons for all game can be found within the 2024 Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary and Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations. Below is a list of seasons for some of the most popular game on Pelee Island.

- Spring Wild Turkey
 - Season: April 25 to May 31
 - A hunter may purchase a maximum of two spring wild turkey tags (only valid for bearded turkey)
- Ring-necked Pheasant
 - Season: September 25 to the last day of February (Township of Pelee licences further restrict this season)
 - Daily limit of 10 and possession limit of 10
- Cottontail and European Hare
 - September 25 to the last day of February
 - Daily limits of 5 and possession limits of 15 (Township of Pelee licences further restrict this season)
- Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks)
 - September 23 to January 7
 - Daily bag limit of 6
 - Possession Limit of 18
- Canada Geese and Cackling Geese
 - September 7 to 17 (10 bag limit)
 - September 23 to December 27 (5 bag limit)
 - No possession limit

Hunting Licences

Similar to fishing licences, on Pelee Island, most licences can be purchased online (Ontario Fish and Wildlife), by phone, or at the Municipal Office. As a licenced issuer, the Township of Pelee does have the ability to issue Outdoors Cards, Small Games, and other hunting licences like turkey tags. Licences for Pheasant and Rabbit are municipally issued licences and must be purchased from the Township of Pelee. To hunt migratory game birds in Canada you must purchase a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit through the Government of Canada.

Spring Turkey Hunt

The spring turkey hunt ran from April 25th to May 31st on Pelee Island. From a Township perspective the hunt appeared to be well received by local and visiting hunters.

Several hunters throughout the turkey season utilized their ability to purchase a hunting licence at the Municipal Office, purchasing a second turkey tag after a successful hunt.

Increased marketing and promotion are planned for the 2025 turkey season to both encourage turkey hunting on Pelee Island and highlight opportunities such as purchasing a second tag at the Municipal Office.

6. CONCLUSION:

The report has been prepared for information to provide basic information on Fishing and Hunting on Pelee Island.

Kristine Horst
Township Administrator & Clerk

KH

Attachments:

None

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:

Name:

Title: Email:



THE CORPORATION OF THE
Township Of Pelee
 THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PELEE
 REPORT NO. 2024 – 03 CH

Author's Names: Administration	Report Date: June 3, 2024
Resolution #: 2024-	Date to Committee: June 18, 2024

To: Hunting and Fishing Committee Members

Subject: 2024 Pheasant Hunt Update

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The report from Administration dated June 3rd, 2024, regarding the 2024 Pheasant Hunt **BE RECEIVED** as information.

2. BACKGROUND:

The 2024 pheasant hunt licences opened for purchase on December 20th, 2023, with main hunt licences selling for \$285 (plus tax) and clean up licences selling for \$142.50 (plus tax). Licences were available online at pelee.org through PayPal, by phone or by mailing/emailing an order form to the Township. Similar to 2023, sales for all 2024 pheasant hunt licences are final, with no refunds or transfers outside of 2024 available, however transfers between hunters and between same year hunts are an option for an additional fee of \$25 (plus tax). To promote and encourage sales, mass reminder emails were again sent on multiple occasions to all former patrons of the hunt, and information was posted to our municipal website and social media feeds throughout the sale period. Sales for the 2024 Main Pheasant Hunt closed on April 1st, 2024, with sales for the cleanup hunts continuing until November 28th, 2024.

The Township has ordered full size birds based off of the number of main hunt licenses sold as of the April 1st deadline. These birds will be delivered to the island in October and November; generally, on the Monday and Tuesday prior to each main hunt.

2024 Pheasant Hunt Information

MAIN PHEASANT HUNTS				
HUNT	DATES	TIME	LIMIT	LICENCE PRICING
1	October 24 th – 26 th , 2024	8am – 5pm daily	10 birds	\$322.05 Tax Included
2	October 31 st – November 2 nd , 2024			
3	November 7 th – 9 th , 2024			

PLEASE NOTE: MAIN HUNT LICENCES MUST BE PURCHASED BY APRIL 1ST, 2024.

CLEAN UP PHEASANT HUNTS				
HUNT	DATE	TIME	LIMIT	LICENCE PRICING
1	November 14 th – 16 th , 2024	8am – 5pm daily	5 birds Maximum 2 licences (10 birds) per hunter	\$161.03 Tax Included
2	November 21 st – 23 rd , 2024			
3	November 28 th – 30 th , 2024			

PLEASE NOTE: CLEAN UP LICENCES WILL REMAIN AVAILABLE UNTIL THE END OF SEASON.

2024 Pheasant Hunt Sales

Main Hunt Totals	
Hunt 1	272
Hunt 2	278
Hunt 3	302
TOTAL	852

Clean Up Hunt Totals		(as of Jun. 03/24)
Clean Up 1	18	
Clean Up 2	2	
Clean Up 3	0	
TOTAL PAID	20	

2023 Pheasant Hunt Sales

Main Hunt Totals	
Hunt 1	157
Hunt 2	315
Hunt 3	299
TOTAL	771

Clean Up Hunt Totals	
Clean Up 1	89
Clean Up 2	64
Clean Up 3	10
TOTAL PAID	163

3. DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the hunt sale numbers presented above, main hunt sales have increased by approximately 10% from 2023 to 2024. Though clean up hunt sales as of June 3rd represent only 20 licences, it should be noted that most clean up licence sales do not occur until fall.

Based on main hunt licences sold for 2024, this year 12,000 adult pheasants have been ordered. This is an increase of 1,000 birds from what was purchased in 2023.

Pheasant licences will be ordered in July and mailed out to party leaders in mid to late summer. This mail out will include the annual hunt package. Committee Members can review the attached 2023 hunt package and provide input and suggestions on updates and changes for the 2024 hunt package for Administration's consideration up to July 1st, 2024. Suggestions from Committee Members can be submitted by email to clerk@pelee.ca.

Tax Inserts included with Interim and Final Tax Billings have previously included the dates for the annual pheasant hunts for property owner awareness. These tax inserts provide an opportunity to relay important information to all property owners, however there is limited space. Committee Members can review the attached January 2024 Tax Insert and provide input and suggestions on pheasant hunt related information for Administration's consideration up to July 1st, 2024. Suggestions from Committee Members can be submitted by email to clerk@pelee.ca.

Information Sessions will be held Wednesday evenings prior to each main hunt. Representatives from MNR, OPP and Township of Pelee staff will be present. In 2023, approximately 20-25 people attended each week's information session. Administration is exploring potential ways to encourage attendance.

6. CONCLUSION:

The 2024 main pheasant hunt sales concluded on April 1st, 2024, with a total of 852 licences sold, up approximately 10% from 2023. Adult birds have been ordered for 2024 hunts and will be released the Monday and Tuesday prior to each main hunt (pending any unforeseen circumstances).

Information Sessions will run similar to 2023 with Wednesday evening sessions prior to each main hunt.

Committee Members have the opportunity to submit suggestions regarding the 2024 hunt package and ideas for the July 2024 Tax Insert to clerk@pelee.ca up to July 1st, 2024 for Administration's consideration.

ADMIN

Attachments:

2023 Hunt Package

January 2024 Tax Insert

 THE CORPORATION OF THE
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REPORT 2024 – 04 KH

Author's Name: Kristine Horst	Report Date: June 11, 2024
Resolution #:	Date to Council: June 18, 2024

To: Hunting and Fishing Committee

Subject: 2022 Pheasant Hunt Survey Results

1. RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. The Hunting and Fishing Committee receive this report as information.

2. BACKGROUND:

The role of the Hunting and Fishing Committee is to support and advance responsible hunting and fishing activities as a major economic driver of shoulder season tourism on Pelee Island.

The responsibility of the Committee is to provide recommendations to Council and support as required to improve visitor and resident experience relating to hunting and fishing.

3. DISCUSSION:

Following the 2022 Pheasant Hunts, a hunter survey was provided by email to all those who attended both main hunts and clean up hunts in 2022, in order to gain a better understanding of what was going well and what required improvements moving forward from hunters' perspectives. These results assisted Administration in planning for 2023.

The 2022 survey had 182 responses.

2022 Pheasant Hunt Survey Results

Based on the results of this survey, 81% of people attending the 2022 hunts were returning hunters and a total of 65% of hunters rated their overall experience as satisfied or beyond expectations, with only 35% being neutral or less. The survey also made it clear hunters prefer their licence is sent in the mail in advance of the hunts and that the transfer process is fairly easy.

As sales are final and there is no opportunity for transfers outside of 2022, the survey asked if individuals were able to utilize their 2022 pheasant hunt licences purchased, to which 85% of people responded yes. 65% of people were also able to achieve getting 5 or more of their 10 birds, however 35% of hunters only achieved getting 5 or less – keeping in mind some of these hunters may have attended a clean up hunt where the limit is only 5 birds per licence.

When asked their opinion of bird quality, 48% of people indicated the quality was good, however 13% stated the quality was poor or very poor due to the size of many of the birds. This became a growing concern since switching from raising birds on the island to having them raised on the mainland. Regarding the island's terrain, 62% of people deemed the terrain as maneuverable or easily maneuvered, while only 18% stated the terrain is unable to be hunted or hard to hunt.

When it came to accommodations, 63% of people found it easy or very easy to book accommodations. Most of these hunters were returning hunters who have come to previous Pelee Island Pheasant Hunts, however 36% of people rated finding accommodations 3 or less out of 5 (being neutral, hard or very hard to find) which can be linked to newer individuals to the Pelee Hunts.

As part of this survey, hunters were also asked what additional amenities they wished were available on the island during the Pheasant Hunt with the most common responses being additional restaurants/food options, island attractions especially for those not hunting but travelling with hunters, firewood, ice, extended Transfer Station hours, and ammunition. Many hunters also wish to see the return of the Wednesday information sessions and additional information and rules to be clarified and available to them in advance of their arrival.

Township Actions Following 2022 Hunt Survey

As a result of this survey, the Township addressed concerns regarding the size of pheasants by corresponding with suppliers. In 2023, hunter feedback regarding bird size was more positive than that of 2022.

In terms of requested amenities by hunters, items such as access to ice and firewood were brought forward. Since 2022, the availability of ice and firewood on the island has improved, including at the East Park Campground. The Transfer Station continues with summer hours until the end of the pheasant hunt season.

Additional information requested by hunters included clarifying hunting related rules. Since 2022, the Township has brought back the Wednesday Information Sessions to provide hunters the opportunity to have their questions answered by the appropriate parties (MNRF, OPP, etc.).

6. CONCLUSION:

Results of the 2022 Pheasant Hunt survey were able to assist Administration in planning for the 2023 Pheasant Hunt.

Overall, hunter feedback was positive with the majority of responses reflecting a positive outlook on the annual Pelee Island Pheasant Hunt.

Kristine Horst
Township Administrator & Clerk

KH

Attachments:

2022 Pheasant Hunt Survey Questions

2022 Pheasant Hunt Survey Results

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:

Name:

Title: **Email:**