

# Ontario government's decision based on politics



**OUTDOOR INSIGHTS**  
The Ontario government's plan to cancel its annual spring bear hunt has drawn criticism from area hunters.  
On January 16, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources announced plans to cancel the annual spring bear hunt. The reason given was that too many cubs were being orphaned during the spring season. The government claims on an average of 275 cubs are being orphaned each year as a direct result of the hunt.  
The problem is that no one seems to have any substantial data to back up that claim.  
"The government made a decision that we are going to cancel the hunt because we won't tolerate cubs being orphaned," said Brian Blomme, manager of media relations for the Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources. "We don't have exact figures, but the government feels one orphaned cub is too many."  
**Crunching numbers**  
According to Jim Graystone, executive director of the Northern Ontario Tourism Outfitters, the government reached that number through a mathematical equation.  
"The decision wasn't based on biology. It wasn't based on science or facts or data. It was based on politics," Graystone said. "We did some research and found that there is absolutely no verification of their numbers. The 275 came from a biologist who was asked to come up with his best guess using a mathematical formula."  
**Protected by law**  
Graystone feels that number is grossly exaggerated since cubs with cubs are protected by law in Ontario, just as they are here in Michigan. He points to an ongoing anti-hunting campaign in the

province as the real force behind the decision.  
"A campaign to end the spring bear hunt started four years ago. A wealthy business man, Robert Shad, formed The Shad Foundation and one of its projects is to end the spring bear season," Graystone said. "We have an election coming up and enough people in Southern Ontario, who don't have bears in their backyard, have been convinced by this campaign that we don't need a spring season. The government made a poor decision based solely on politics."  
Ontario has an estimated population of 90,000 black bears. Approximately 5,200 of the annual harvest of 8,000 bears are taken during the spring hunt. The lion's share of Ontario's spring bear harvest comes from hunters who lure bears in to a bait pile. By using such a tactic, it's easy to identify a sow with cubs.  
"I can't believe they made a decision like that," said Westland resident Bill Sutherland,

president of the Michigan Bear Hunters Association. "It's hard to believe they have that many orphaned cubs because 99-percent of the time when a sow with cubs comes into bait the cubs come in first. They smell the food and get excited and she can't control them. It's pretty easy to tell the difference between a nursing sow and a bear."  
"It seems like it's just another wrung on the ladder of the animal rightists agenda," added Sutherland. "No one is jumping for joy more than the anti-hunters."  
Troy Mike Wills, president of the Detroit Chapter of Safari Club International, is equally disgusted with the decision.  
"I think it's a shame. It makes absolutely no sense," Wills said. "It's strictly a political decision. The spring bear season is a multi-million dollar industry over there. A huge number of Michigan people look forward to going bear hunting in Ontario in May. Now you have tree huggers, who have absolutely no

clue about the biological and economic impact this will have, telling the politicians what to do."  
**30-day comment period**  
Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights calls for a 30-day period in which the government will hear public comment before the decision becomes final. It's possible the decision will be overturned if there is enough public outcry.  
If you're interested in commenting on the proposal send a letter to: Minister of Natural Resources, 8th Floor, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1W3. You must include the registry number of R9596001 with any comment. Direct phone calls to (705) 755-1902 or send faxes to (705) 755-2117.  
"I urge hunters to call and call and write and write," Wills said. "Let them know that the impact this will have will be horrible."  
**Sporting flies reminder**

The Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the fifth annual Sporting Flies Fundraising Challenge beginning at 6:30 p.m. tonight at the Southfield Civic Center.  
Open to the public, the Sporting Flies Challenge offers beginner through advanced fly anglers an opportunity to test and hone their casting skills. Participants will try their hand at casting to targets on an artificial stream that simulates different situations often encountered on a real stream. Points are earned for hitting the targets.  
Proceeds from the event will be earmarked for stream restoration projects.  
Manufacturer representatives and retailers will also be on hand with the latest in fly fishing equipment and gear.  
For more information, call (248) 694-8283 or visit the Paul H. Young Chapter web site. Go to the TU national site at TU.org, check the chapter news and input the chapter number of 022.

## OUTDOOR CALENDAR

### SHOWS

**BOAT SHOW**  
The 41st annual "All New" Detroit Boat Show will be held Feb. 6-14 at Cobo Center. Sponsored by Michigan Boating Industries, the show features more than 300 boat dealers and marine businesses, over 1,000 boats of all sizes and styles, the latest in services, accessories, engines and electronics, and one-stop-on-site financing. There will also be a boating life theater, a kids boating clinic, contests and giveaways. Show hours are noon-10 p.m. Saturdays and Wednesdays, noon-6 p.m. Sundays and 3-10 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Admission is \$8 adult and children 12 and under will be admitted free. Seniors over age 62 will be admitted free of charge on Monday. Call (800) 932-2628 for more information.  
**DEER AND TURKEY**  
The annual Michigan Deer and

Turkey Spectacular will be held Feb. 12-14 at the Lansing Center. The show features some 300 exhibit booths, trophy deer, bear and elk costumes and displays, live animals, wild game cooking school, archery trick shot specialist Byron Ferguson, a free instructional archery range for children, an outdoor skills demonstration center, an outdoor photo center, over 40 instructional seminars and more. Show hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14. Admission is \$8 for a one-day adult ticket, \$14 for a two-day adult ticket, \$3 for youths ages 6-14, and children under six will be admitted free. Call (800) 324-3337 for more information.  
**CAMPER AND RV**  
The annual Detroit Camper and RV Show will be held Feb. 13-23 at the Novi Expo Center. The show features all types of 1999 recreational vehicles including folding campers, motor homes,

travel trailers, truck campers, fifth wheels. Over 300 models will be on display ranging in price from \$3,000 to over \$200,000. There will also be RV and campground information, family entertainment, family entertainment and more. Show hours are 2-9 p.m. weekdays, noon-9 p.m. Saturdays, and noon-6 p.m. Sundays. Admission is \$6.50 for adults and children under 12 will be admitted free. Two-for-one coupons are available at participating RV dealers. Call (617) 349-8881 for more information.  
**BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING**  
The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing Show will be held Feb. 17-21 at the Silverdome. The show features fishing seminars, outfitters, 100 merchandise booths, over 400 trailerable boats and much more. Show hours are 3-9:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 17-18; 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19; 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20; and

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. Admission is \$6.50 for adults and \$3 for children. Children ages five and under will be admitted free. Discount tickets are available at participating Marathon Stations and Elias Brothers Restaurants.  
**SPORTFISHING EXPO**  
The 10th annual Greater Detroit Sportfishing and Travel Expo will be held March 4-7 at the Palace of Auburn Hills. The show will feature a special appearance by national walleye angling champion Ted Takasaki on Friday, March 5. Other speakers of national renown scheduled to speak at the show include walleye pros Mike McClelland and Keith Kavajecz, bowhunting expert Chuck Adams, In-Fisherman Magazine editors Dave Casanda and Matt Stewar, and Michigan's own Tom Huggler.  
**OUTDOORAMA**  
Outdoorama '99 Sport and Travel Show will be held Feb. 26-March 7 at the Novi Expo Center. (800) 777-6720.

**SPORTING FLIES**  
The Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting its fifth annual Sporting Flies Fundraising Challenge beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, at the Southfield Civic Center. Individuals and teams can try their hand at casting to targets on an artificial stream. Admission is free and the cost to walk the course is \$5 per person. Proceeds from the event will be used by the Paul H. Young Chapter for stream restoration projects in Michigan. Call (248) 694-8283 for more information.  
**ISLAND LAKE HIKE**  
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a long (six-eight miles), fast-paced hike through the Island Lake Recreation Area on Sunday, Feb. 7. Interested participants should meet behind Old Dispatch on the southwest corner of Middlebelt and I-96 in Livonia. Call (313) 684-5361 or (734) 421-4397 for more information.

counties in the northern Lower Peninsula.  
**CROW**  
The late crow season runs Feb. 1-March 31 in the Lower Peninsula.  
**COYOTE**  
Coyote season runs through April 15 statewide.  
**FOX**  
Gray and red fox season runs through March 1 statewide.  
**GOOSE**  
A special late Canada goose season runs through Feb. 7 in the southern Michigan Goose Management Unit. Check the 1998-99 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide for specific boundaries.  
**RABBIT/HARE**  
Rabbit/hare season run through March 31 statewide.  
**STURGEON**  
Sturgeon spearing season is Feb. 1-28.

### METROPARKS

**METROPARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks toll free at the following numbers: Stony Creek, (800) 477-7768; Indian Springs, (800) 477-3192; Kensington, (800) 477-3178.  
**SNOWLAKE ARTISTRY**  
Learn about snow and make a lovely take-home-and-hang-up picture during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at Kensington.  
**ICE HARVESTING**  
Learn about the history of ice harvesting by helping to cut blocks of ice from the Huron River using antique ice saws during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 6-7, at the Kensington Farm Center.  
**BEGINNER ICE FISHING**  
Learn the basics of ice fishing then wet a line in Kent Lake during this program, which begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 7, at Kensington. Ages 17 and older must have a valid Michigan fishing license.  
**1999 PERMITS**  
The 1999 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (\$8 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching permit is \$18 (\$9 for senior citizens). Call (800) 47-PARKS for more information.

### COUNTY PARKS

**COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS**  
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.  
**STARLIGHT SKI TOUR**  
Take an evening cross country ski tour during this program, which begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at Independence Oaks.  
**TUNING YOUR TOT INTO WINTER**  
Ages 3-6 will tune-in to the outdoors through songs, stories, a short hike, a craft and a snack during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 and Thursday, Feb. 11, and again at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at Independence Oaks.



## PISTONS FAMILY NIGHT

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### CLASSES

**FLY TYING**  
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tiers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

### ACTIVITIES

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT**  
ATTENTION PASSENGERS OF NORTHWEST FLIGHT 1851 AND OTHER FLIGHTS FROM MEXICO, PUERTO VALLARTA, CANCUN, ETC. OF JANUARY 5 OR 6, 1999:  
please be advised that a class action lawsuit has been filed pertaining to the above flights and for which this law office is currently pursuing claims and will continue to pursue claims where there have been substantial injuries or damages incurred. If you qualify, please contact:  
Byron E. Siegel  
3000 Town Center, Ste. 2120  
Southfield, Michigan  
(248) 354-2500  
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