

January 2008

• Topic

Introducing Outdoors Card to Non-Resident Anglers & Hunters

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has embarked on a project to improve the way that hunting and fishing licences are sold. These improvements will mean that non-resident anglers and hunters will be able to purchase Ontario fishing licences from home, using the ministry's website or the toll-free automated telephone service. In addition, the ministry will also be developing an automated licensing system for licence issuers to improve service to both resident and non-resident anglers and hunters.

All anglers and hunters, including non-residents, will need a unique identification number for this system to work properly. For that reason, the ministry will be introducing a non-resident Outdoors Card, effective January 1, 2009. The non-resident Outdoors Card will be similar to the existing resident Outdoors Card and will be required to purchase an Ontario fishing or hunting licence, except for one-day fishing licences.

The Outdoors Card is a wallet-sized plastic card which is valid for three years. A complete and valid licence to fish and hunt in Ontario will consist of the Outdoors Card plus the appropriate fishing or hunting licence. There are two types of Outdoors Card –

- the Fishing Outdoors Card which can only be used with fishing licences, and
- the Hunting/Fishing Outdoors Card, which acts as your hunting accreditation, and is valid for fishing and hunting licences.

The new approach to selling licences will mean that non-resident anglers and hunters will be included in the ministry's angler/hunter database which will provide many benefits, including:

- The ability to purchase fishing and some hunting licences from home using the ministry's website or the toll-free automated telephone service
- More licences available over the website and through the toll-free automated telephone system
- Greater convenience because most licence issuers will be able to carry the full range of hunting and fishing licences
- Easier replacement of lost hunting or fishing licences
- Hunters will only have to present their hunter accreditation once to obtain their initial hunting Outdoors Card, which will then act as their proof of accreditation
- The option to purchase three-year fishing and small game hunting licences.