Information Guide for Waterfowling Practices in Rondeau Provincial Park and Rondeau Bay. Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association 18050 Rondeau Park Road Morpeth, Ontario NOP 1X0 519.674.1775 (phone & fax)

Website: www.rondeauwaterfowlers.com Revised 2024-2025 season



Information Guide for Waterfowling Practices in Rondeau Provincial Park and Rondeau Bay

The objectives of the Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association (RBWA), in co-operation with Ontario Parks, the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is to:

- 1. Provide controlled public waterfowl hunting in Rondeau Bay.
- 2. Encourage and promote waterfowl hunting and undertake operations designed to aid in the protection and conservation of fish & wildlife and their natural habitats.
- 3. Assist with park projects that will aide in the enhancement of the park environment.

Hunters wishing to hunt waterfowl in Rondeau Bay should be aware a number of specific regulations and procedures governing this area. This information guide is produced to identify some of these regulations. This guide also discusses how the hunts are administrated and the necessary procedures to follow to hunt in Rondeau Bay. This guide is a summary of the regulations and is not an exhaustive list, all general laws and regulations still apply. Specific questions not answered in this guide should be directed to the local Ministry of Natural Resource Office in Aylmer (519.773.9241).

Membership with the association may be granted upon payment of an annual fee as set from time to time by the Directors.

The affairs of the association will be managed by an elected Board of Directors. General meetings of the association shall be held the first Wednesday of each month. Newsletters and appropriate information will be posted at least four (4) times annually at our website: www.rondeauwaterfowlers.com.

An annual dinner will be in held in August to help raise funds for activities that the RBWA undertakes within the Park and the community. Please visit our website for further information. Volunteers are encouraged to step forward as our association is volunteer-based.

Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association

Yours in conservation,

Table of Contents

Section 1: General Information	4
Section 1.0 Overview	4
Section 1.1 Fees	5
Section 1.2 Dates to Remember	6
Section 2: A-Zone Information	7
Section 2.0 A-Zone Opening Day Procedures	7
Section 2.1 A-Zone Daily Blind Allocation Procedures	8
Section 2.2 A-Zone Blind Reservation Allocation Procedures	9
Section 2.3 A-Zone Second Shoot / Resell Procedures	10
Section 3: B-Zone Informatio n	11
Section 3.0: B-Zone Overview	11
Section 3.1 B-Zone Permits	11
Section 3.2 B-Zone Blind Permit Allocation Procedur.es	12
Section 4: Summary of Offences Related to Hunting in Rondeau Provincial Park a	nd/or
Rondeau Bay	13
Section 5: Rondeau Bay A-Zone Map	15
Section 6: Map of A-Zone and B-Zone Boundari.es	16

Section 1: General Information Section 1.0 Overview

- 1. There are two zones in which hunting is permitted in Rondeau Bay; A-Zone (within Rondeau Provincial Park, see Map included with this booklet for specific boundaries), and B-Zone (see Map included with this booklet for specific boundaries).
- 2. Hunters wishing to hunt in Rondeau Bay require a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, valid Ontario Outdoors Hunting Card including a small game licence, and the applicable A- Zone or B-Zone Hunting Permit. Also, hunters driving into the park at any time will be required to purchase and present a valid Rondeau Provincial Park vehicle pass (daily or seasonal) which must be displayed while the vehicle is in the park.
- 3. Hunting in Rondeau Bay is permitted ONLY on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays throughout the regular scheduled Migratory Bird Hunting Season. This applies to both A-Zone and B-Zone.
- 4. Rondeau Bay is closed to hunting Migratory Game Birds beyond 300m from shore or a natural rush bed or a water line that forms a boundary of private property. In other words, this creates a large area within the centre of Rondeau Bay which is closed to hunting, providing a resting area for the birds.
- 5. To hunt in A-Zone, a daily A-Zone Hunting Permit is required (See Section 2 for A-Zone information). To hunt in B-Zone, a seasonal B-Zone Hunting Permit is required (See Section 3 for B-Zone information).
- 6. To hunt in A-Zone, each hunter will present the current applicable licences to the attendant on duty in the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit (RWU) Office and fill out a daily hunt card. In return they will be issued a daily "A-Zone" Hunting permit; this permit must be kept on the hunter's person for the duration of the hunt. At the conclusion of their hunt, hunters must return to the Waterfowl office and present all birds for identification and statistical recording.
- 7. Any hunter(s) found to be intoxicated will not be issued a permit and will be subject to charges under the appropriate legislation.
- 8. Firearms must be encased at all times except when at the designated blind or shooting stake. Shotguns ONLY may be used.
- 9. While in the Provincial Park, dogs must be under control and leashed. This does not apply when at the blind location.
- 10. The number of hunters within the A-Zone blinds and shooting stakes are restricted. Box Blinds in Long Pond are restricted to two hunters. Box Blinds and shooting points on the Bay are limited to three (3) hunters. (Please see A-Zone Map to familiarize yourself with these locations.)

- 11. In A-Zone, hunters must be within 10 metres / 33 feet of Shooting Stakes or Points. Hunters must hunt from the Box Blind provided as identified on the supplied Map. As a convenience Box Blinds may be offered at Shooting Points. They are not mandatory for the hunter(s) to use in these locations.
- 12. During the regular waterfowl season, hunting is permitted Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset, according to the regulations governing waterfowl hunting in the province of Ontario.
- 13. As a point of courtesy, it is suggested that you call into the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office (519.674.1775) when vacating your blind so anyone interested in hunting that particular blind for second shoot / resell can begin to make arrangements for their hunt.
- 14. Rondeau Provincial Park is a multi-use park and hunting is just one of the many activities permitted. Hunters are requested to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of other visitors.
- 15. Please remove all garbage and empty shotgun shell hulls (casings) from your hunting location and dispose of them in an appropriate manner. Failure to do so is an offence under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act and the Public Lands Act.
- 16. It is also suggested that you check blind locations and conditions prior to the opening day lottery to avoid any possible disappointments. Weather conditions and water levels may have an impact on certain blinds.
- 17.Decoys and canoes are provided to hunters by the Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association for certain blind Please see A-Zone Map to familiarize yourself with these locations.) Please return all decoys to their bag and leave them in the blind for the next hunter. If the decoys are damaged please return them to the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office and inform the attendant on duty. Please leave the canoes and paddles at the appropriate trail, out of the water, flipped over to prevent rain and snow from filling the canoes.

Section 1.1 Fees

- 1. Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Association Memberships fees are as follows:
 - a) Adult Membership: \$70 (OFAH + magazine incl.)
 - b) Adult Membership: \$50 (OFAH without magazine)
 - c) Family Membership: \$80 (OFAH immediate family + magazine incl.)
 - d) Family Membership: \$60 (OFAH immediate family without magazine)
 - e) Youth Membership: \$42 (OFAH included 16 years if age and under)
 - f) RBWA adult only: \$20 (must provide proof of OFAH membership)
 - g) RBWA family only: \$30 (must provide proof of OFAH membership)
 - h) RBWA youth only: \$5 (must provide proof of OFAH membership)

2. A-Zone Daily Hunt Permit: \$15.00 for member / day

\$25.00 for non-member / day \$75 for 5 hunt pass for members \$150 for 10 hunt pass for members

\$25.00 (valid to match migratory bird season) 3. B-Zone Seasonal Permit:

4. B-Zone Blind Permit: \$25.00

5. Reservation Cancellations or No Show Fee: \$25.00 charged to all & must be paid prior to next hunt

Section 1.2 Dates to Remember

1. On the third (3rd) Saturday of

September 12:30 pm until 2:00 pm; the A-Zone Blind Lottery sign – up will take place.

b. At 2:00 pm sharp the A-Zone Blind Lottery for opening day will begin.

2. On the first Wednesday of each month the Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association will

meet

at 7:00 pm at the Rondeau Rod & Gun Club. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

3. B-Zone blinds must be removed from the waters of Rondeau Bay as soon as possible but no later than the March 15th, following the end of duck season. For more information see Section 3.0 B-Zone Information, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources or the Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association.

Section 2: A-Zone Information

Section 2.0 A-Zone Opening Day Procedures

The following procedures are for the opening day allocation of the "A-Zone" blinds at the Rondeau Waterfowl Management Unit. Prospective opening day hunters should note the following:

- 1. Opening day blind allocation will be conducted by the means of the traditional lottery draw to be held at 2:00 pm sharp on the Saturday prior to opening day. The draw will take place at the Rondeau Waterfowl Management Unit office within Rondeau Provincial Park.
- 2. Prospective hunters may make an application to enter the blind allocation lottery draw between Noon (12:00pm) and 2:00 pm on that Saturday. Application forms will be available at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office. Applicants will be required to enter names, addresses, licences and permit numbers, and the number of hunters.
- 3. In order to be eligible for the lottery, applicants must be prepared to show possession of a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and an Ontario Outdoors Hunting Card including a small game licence.
- 4. Upon completion of the application form, a number will be issued to the applicant. This is the number that will be used in the lottery draw.
- 5. After 2:00 pm sharp on Saturday of the draw, no additional applications will be received. At this time the lottery draw will begin. No duplication of applications / names will be accepted (meaning two different names of same party hunting together on the opening day) and any such misuse of the system will result in the application(s) being removed from the lottery.
- 6. At 2:00 pm sharp on Saturday the lottery draw for the opening day blind allocation will commence. The first party selected will be given the first opportunity to choose an available blind; the second party selected will be given the second opportunity and so on until all available blinds are allocated. The parties will be able to select either a morning hunt or an afternoon hunt. Morning hunters SHALL be back to the Waterfowl Management Unit office by 2:00 pm the day of the hunt. Afternoon hunters MAY NOT depart from the Waterfowl Management Unit office for their blinds before 1:30 pm. Once a blind has been allocated, an A-Zone daily waterfowl permit will be issued to each
- 7. person who was successful in obtaining a blind for the initial hunt on opening day.
- 8. The reselling of blinds for opening day will be allowed on a first come first serve basis after the first hunt is complete. Hunters expecting to participate in any resale opportunities must notify the waterfowl unit office upon their arrival on opening day and be in the immediate vicinity of the waterfowl unit office at the time of resale

- 9. The reselling of blinds will follow the lottery ranking of those who are present and the ranking of the party will not be affected by passing / rejecting or missing any particular resell opportunity (you don't lose your place in line if you don't want to hunt the blind up for resale).
- 10. There will be no first come first served hunting on opening day until all lottery participants have been accommodated.
- 11. All hunters must return to the Waterfowl Office at the conclusion of their hunt and present all game for identification and statistical recording.
- 12. The Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Unit Office will be open at 4:30 am on opening day.

Section 2.1 A-Zone Daily Blind Allocation Procedures

The following procedures are for the allocation of "A-Zone" blinds, at the Waterfowl Unit, excluding opening day (see Section 2.0 for opening day procedures).

- 1. The Rondeau Waterfowl Unit office will open at 4:00 am on each hunting day. (This is subject to change and it is the hunter's responsibility to check any postings that may affect the operational hours of the RWU office.)
- 2. Present hunting parties are able to make an application to participate in the lottery draw before 4:30 am for a blind allocation choice. This procedure, combined with reservation holders, which are also present (see Section 2.2 for A-Zone Reservation Information), will provide the blind choice standing for the initial hunt.
- 3. Allocations of blind choice for the initial hunt will proceed according to the following system:
 - a. Blind Choice:
 - i. #1 First Lottery winner
 - ii. #2 First Reservation
 - iii. #3 Second Lottery Winner
 - iv. #4 Second Reservation
 - v. #5 Third Lottery Winner
 - vi. #6 Third Reservation
 - vii. Etc.

*Reservation holders not personally present at the time of allocation will be considered "no shows" and will be removed from the initial allocation and will be charged the registration fee. All reservations behind the "no show" will be moved up one position in the ranking. (I.e. If #2 Reservation is a "no show" then #3 Reservation moves into the #2 Reservation spot and so forth.)

4. The assigning of blind choice standing by lottery will continue until all hunters present at the time of the lottery have received a choice standing. In the event that the number of

hunters present exceeds the number of blinds available for the initial shoot, the blind choice standing will be used to determine order of allocation for any subsequent hunt opportunities as blinds are vacated.

- 5. Hunters arriving after the conclusion of the lottery draw will be assigned a blind choice standing in relation to their order of arrival. These hunters will not be accommodated until after all lottery participants have accepted or rejected a blind.
- 6. When initial shoot participants vacate blinds, blinds will be resold according to the blind choice standing. It is the hunter's responsibility to be personally present at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit office at the time a resale blind becomes available.
- 7. Missing or rejecting a particular resale blind opportunity will not affect the blind choice standing for any subsequent opportunities (you don't lose your place in line if you don't want to hunt the blind up for resale).
- 8. All hunters will be required to complete a registration card which requests names, addresses, licences and permits as well as presenting a valid Rondeau Provincial Park vehicle pass (daily or seasonal).
- 9. Hunters should be prepared to choose their blind quickly by referring to the location map and the registration board that indicates which blinds are already occupied. Both resources are posted in the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office.
- 10. All hunters must return to the Waterfowl Office at the conclusion of their hunt and present all game for identification and statistical recording.

Section 2.2 A-Zone Blind Reservation Allocation Procedures

In order to provide prospective waterfowl hunters with an opportunity to obtain a blind on a specific hunting day, five (5) reservation spaces are available for each hunting day except opening day. The procedures are as follows:

Note: Hunting is only permitted on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays one half hour (1/2 hr) before sunrise and one half hour (1/2 hr) after sunset.

- 1. Reservation application forms may be obtained during the hunting season from the Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Unit Office located in the park or from our website. Applications may be dropped off at the RWU Office or mailed.
- 2. Hunters should ensure that all information requested on the reservation application is completed. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
 - Reservation applications must be received at the Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Unit Office no
- 3. later than two (2) weeks prior to the requested hunt date. Applications received after this time will not be considered.

- 4. No money is to be remitted with the reservation application. Hunters whose reservations are confirmed will purchase the daily waterfowl hunting permit on the day of the hunt. After the draw has been made all "cancellations" and "no shows" will be charged The Reservation Cancellation or No Show, regardless of membership, which must be paid prior to hunting in A-Zone again.
- 5. All reservations received for a particular hunting day will be assigned a number and entered in a special lottery draw to determine the successful applications and their order of blind choice. Confirmation can be received by calling the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office (519.674.1775).
- Hunters must report to the attendant on duty at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office by 4:30
- 6. am on the day of the hunt in order to secure their reservation choice. Hunters will be considered "no show" and their reservation cancelled if they are not present at the time of blind allocation (4:30 am).
 - A confirmation reservation guarantees the applicant(s) a blind selection standing. It does not
- 7. guarantee the reservation holder any particular blind. Please refer to Section 2.1 Daily Blind Allocation A-Zone Procedures for an explanation on how blinds are allocated.
 - Any hunter with three (3) or more cancellations will be disqualified from any further
- 8. reservation draws for the remainder of the season.

Section 2.3 A-Zone Second Shoot / Resell Procedures

When a blind becomes vacant (after a hunter from the initial draw has concluded the hunt) it will become available for second shoot or resell. The following will outline the procedures for second shoot / resell:

- 1. The attendant working the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office will keep a list of hunters for the second shoot / resell. The first hunter who notifies the office of their interest for second shoot / resell will be first on the list; the second hunter to notify will be second on the list and so forth.
- 2. Every hunter waiting for a second shoot / resell opportunity will be responsible for making sure their name is on the list.
- 3. A blind becomes available for second shoot / resell when the initial hunter notifies the office that he/she is finished hunting for the day.
- 4. The first hunter on the list has the first choice on the available blind. If they wish to hunt it they may, if not, they may defer this choice while still maintaining their position on the list. The second hunter now has a choice to hunt the blind, and he/she may defer this choice while still maintaining their position on the list and so forth.
- 5. Having standing on the second shoot / resell list does not guarantee a blind choice (initial blind holders may remain at the blinds throughout the legal hunting day).

- 6. Any hunter from the initial lottery may forgo their initial choice and be added to the second shoot list. (Each hunter is responsible for making their intentions known to the office staff.) Hunters are not allowed to add their names to the second shoot / resell list until the initial lottery has finished or they forgo their initial blind choice he lottery (meaning you may not be in possession of a blind and be on the second shoot / resell list).
- 7. The hunter(s) must be personally present in the office at the time of resale of the blind. For the sake of courtesy the office area will include the washroom, or parking lot of the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office. If the hunter is not present in these areas he/ she will lose their position on the list and will have to re-register when they return. Please inform the office staff if you will be using the lavatory to avoid any mishaps.
- 8. Registered hunters in A-Zone may switch blinds by contacting the RWU office via cell phone or radio only if hunters present on the second shoot / resell list decline the blind in question. A hunter may not change blinds by means of sending a message back to the RWU office through a third party in any circumstances.
- 9. The second shoot / resell list will be kept until the end of the hunt day. When the staff in the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office changes for the day, the order of hunters waiting for second shoot / resell will remain the same.

Section 3: B-Zone Information

Section 3.0: B-Zone Overview

The area in Rondeau Bay described as "B-Zone" provides additional opportunity for hunters wishing to hunt and / or erect their own blinds for waterfowl hunting. Specific and regular regulations apply.

Note: Hunting is only permitted on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays one half hour

(1/2)

hr) before sunrise and one half hour (1/2 hr) after sunset.

- 1. A B-Zone Blind Permit is required to erect a temporary blind in the B-Zone hunting area. (Please see Section 3.2 B-Zone Blind Permit Allocation Procedures for information on obtaining this permit.)
- 2. Rondeau Bay is closed to hunting Migratory Game Birds beyond 300m from any shore, or natural vegetation bed, and/or water line that form the boundary of private property. In other words, this creates a large area within the centre of Rondeau Bay which is closed to hunting, providing a resting area for the birds.

Section 3.1 B-Zone Permits

- 1. Seasonal B-Zone Waterfowl Permits are required to hunt this area and are to be kept on each hunter's person during each B-Zone hunt. These permits are available at Barney's Boats in Erieau, RWU Office, and the Bayview market.
- 2. Anyone wishing to erect a blind in B-Zone must obtain a Seasonal B-Zone Waterfowl Permit, register the blind and obtain a permit to erect a blind (B-Zone Blind Permit). Location choices for blinds are chosen by a first come first served line up. (Please see Section 3.2 B-Zone Blind Allocation Procedures). The hunter(s) must indicate the location of the proposed blind at the time of registration. No blind may be erected before obtaining the B-Zone Blind Permit and until the Tuesday after Labour Day.
- 3. Hunters entering the park are required to have the appropriate vehicle entry permit. (See Section 1 General Information on Hunting in Rondeau Provincial Park)
 - It is very important to note that much of the land under the "B-Zone" hunting area is privately
- 4. owned. It is imperative that hunters co-operate and are respectful of these landowners as the future of erecting blinds on these properties depends on good relationships.
- 5. IMPORTANT: B-Zone blinds must be removed from the waters of Rondeau Bay as soon as possible but no later than March 15th. The rationale for this is to ensure that the blind and materials are removed from the water which could become a boating hazard. Also landowners adjacent to these blinds should not be subject to materials washing ashore after ice out.

Section 3.2 B-Zone Blind Permit Allocation Procedures

- 1. The procedures for acquiring a B-Zone Blind permit for the upcoming waterfowl season in Rondeau B-Zone are as follows:
- 2. Anyone wishing to erect a hunting blind in Rondeau Bay B-Zone must purchase a blind erect permit. The B-Zone Blind Permit Lottery will be held on Friday before Labour Day at the Waterfowl Management Office in Rondeau Provincial Park.
- 3. Applicants may register between 5:00 and 7:00 pm. Registration closes at 7:00 pm. The draw begins directly after the closing of registrations at 7:00pm. Once the draw begins, no registrations will be accepted until the draw is completed.
- 4. To be eligible for the lottery, an applicant must have a valid Outdoors Card including a small game licence, a valid Migratory Game Bird Stamp, and a cash payment of \$25.00 (non-refundable) and a Seasonal B-Zone Waterfowl Permit.
- 5. Upon completion of the application form a number will be issued to the applicant. This is the number that will be used in the lottery draw. Each applicant is only allowed one number. The first party selected will be given the first opportunity to choose a B-Zone location for their blind; the second party selected will be given the second opportunity and so on until all applicants have been drawn.
- 6. Once a blind location has been selected through the process above, a B-Zone erect a blind permit will be issued, along with a blind tag. Once issued a permit to build a blind the individual will be required to indicate where they will position their blind on the B-Zone map located at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office.
- 7. The blind tag is to be affixed to the blind in a visible location. No blind may be erected before obtaining the B-Zone Blind Permit and until after the Tuesday following Labour Day.
- 8. Applicants wishing to purchase a B-Zone blind Permit after the B-Zone Blind Permit Lottery is completed may do so at the Waterfowl Office, provided they have a valid Outdoors Card including a small game licence, a valid Migratory Game Bird Stamp, and a cash payment of \$25.00.
- 9. Applicants are reminded that they must follow the regulations as outlined in the Migratory Bird Regulations for Ontario. According to those regulations it is incumbent that blinds be set a distance apart that allows for safe hunting.
- 10. A reminder that all blinds erected in B-Zone must be removed as soon as possible at the end of the season but no later than March 15th. (Refer to Section 3.1 (5) B-Zone Permits).

Section 4: Summary of Offences Related to Hunting in Rondeau Provincial Park and/or Rondeau Bay

While in Ontario Provincial Parks there is one general concept all should abide by: *Have respect and consideration for fellow visitors and the park environment.* The Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act and other legislation governing activities and behaviour in provincial parks, are enforced by Park Wardens, Conservation Officers, and Police Officers. The following table illustrates only some of the common offences which apply to hunting in Rondeau Provincial Park and/or Rondeau Bay, it is not intended to be a complete list of laws and regulations.

*** Fines do not include victim fine surcharge ***

Please note, that you are required to comply with the guidelines and practices in the "Information Guide for Waterfowling Practices in Rondeau Provincial Park and Rondeau Bay" (the Guide). By the authority granted to the Superintendent, Rondeau Provincial Park, who is an agent of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the occupier of the said provincial park; you may be prohibited from future entrance and use of Rondeau Provincial Park for any purpose whatsoever, should you not be in compliance with the Guide. Also, be advised that the Trespass to Property Act states: "A police officer, or the occupier of premises, or a person authorized by the occupier may arrest without warrant any person he/she believes on reasonable and probable grounds to be on the premises in contravention of Section 2". Furthermore, be advised that should you enter the premises when entry is prohibited you would be guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$2000 as provided by Section 2 of the Trespass to Property Act

Section 4: Summary of Offences Related to Hunting in Rondeau Provincial Park and/or Rondeau Bay

Ontario MNR regulations

https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-03/mnrf-2024-hunting-regulationssummary-en-2024-03-26 0.pdf

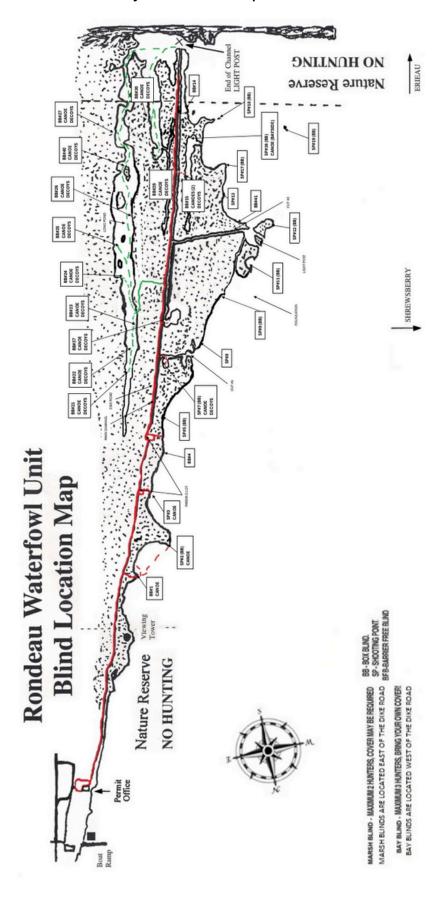
Federal migratory bird regulations

https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/regulations-provincial-territorial-summaries.html

Updates:

- 1-hunt from a moving boat increased \$250 fine
- 2-hunting outside designated area, more than 300m from shore \$250 fine
- 3-loaded firearm in conveyance(boat ,vehicle, aircraft) \$500 fine
- 4-failure to hunt from a rented site. IE: stake or blind, min \$200 fine
- 5-Liquor licence act is now "liquor licence and control act"

Section 5: Rondeau Bay A-Zone Map



Section 6: Map of A-Zone and B-Zone Boundaries

