

Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop 24-28 July, 2010



Coordinated by:



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Introduction

Opportunities to develop and explore interests in wildlife-related pursuits are limited for many youth. This has resulted in a substantial decline in youth participating in wildlife-related activities (e.g. hunting, fishing, viewing, etc.), with a corresponding increase in time that adolescents spend pursuing “indoor” activities (e.g., television, video games, and computers). For example, the number of Canadian duck hunters has declined 73% from 500,000 in the late 70s to 135,000 today, partially due to the lack of youth replacing passing generations. This decrease in outdoor involvement has also caused a reduced appreciation and understanding of the natural world and the importance of hunting in wildlife management and conservation.

Several conservation organizations have responded to declining youth interest and participation in outdoor activities by implementing programs that encourage young people to take a more active role in the outdoors. For example, Long Point Waterfowl, along with the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters consider youth mentorship and education a key component of wildlife conservation and management as well as to the future of our hunting heritage. Thus, Long Point Waterfowl initiated the Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop (YHWHW) in 2009 to instill in youth a keen interest in our hunting heritage and a passion for wildlife conservation and management.

Program Objectives:

The program objectives are to provide youth with:

- 1) a greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of wildlife conservation and management and the contribution of hunters to these initiatives;
- 2) Hunter Education and Firearms Safety training, mentorship, and certification;
- 3) opportunities to participate in many hands-on activities including taxidermy, dog training, decoy placement, and the cleaning and cooking of wild game;
- 4) knowledge about the historical and contemporary importance of Canada’s hunting heritage and wildlife management and conservation;

- 5) basic knowledge about biology, wildlife ecology, and wildlife habitats;
- 6) future opportunities for mentorship toward a career in the field of wildlife biology.

YHWHW participants & fees:

Long Point Waterfowl is happy to offer the YHWHW during 24-28 July, 2010. The YHWHW is open to 12-16 year old Ontario youth, with enrollment open to 20 individuals. Applicants are asked to fill out a questionnaire about their interests in wildlife management, conservation and hunting (see below). Workshop participants will be selected based on their response to these questions. The YHWHW is offered at a very affordable rate as it is subsidized by several local interest groups. The total cost to participants will be \$250 which includes:

- Ontario Hunter Safety Certification
- Firearms Safety Certification
- All food
- Accommodation at the Long Point Waterfowl Research and Education Centre
- A one-year membership with the Delta Waterfowl Foundation
- A one-year membership with Ducks Unlimited Canada
- A one-year membership with Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Field supplies
- Various other gifts donated from contributors.
- Hands-on training by various hunting/wildlife professionals
- Lots of fun!

One parents/guardian of each participant is encouraged to attend the hunting and firearms certification sessions and are welcome to participate the entire week. Cost to parents/guardians will be \$200 (\$250 if they wish to take the hunting and firearms certification).

Workshop structure and activities:

The YHWHW's activity structure will follow a combined inside and outside classroom approach. Participants of the YHWHW will be taught by mentors during several hands-on activities. Daily activities will focus on aspects of hunting and firearms training, our hunting heritage and wildlife biology that YHWHW participants will use throughout their lives and can share with their family and friends. The following is a list of the types of activities and demonstrations that students will be participating in throughout the week:

- Ontario Hunter Education and Firearms training and certification
- Wildlife identification
- Boat tour of some of Long Point's coastal marshes
- Canada's waterfowling heritage
- Retriever training
- Field demonstrations on wetland and waterbird conservation and management
- Field presentations on being a waterfowl/wildlife biologist
- Presentations on being a Conservation Officer
- Being a marsh manager and the importance of hunting for conservation
- Taxidermy demonstrations
- Hunting demonstrations (duck/goose calling, decoy placement, etc)
- Decoy carving demonstration
- Wildlife cooking (and eating)

Long Point Waterfowl would like to thank the following organizations for their support:



Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop

Application Form

Closing date: 15 June, 2010

Please return this completed application form and all accompanying documents to:

Ted Barney, Biologist
Long Point Waterfowl
P.O. Box 160
Port Rowan, Ontario, N0E 1M0

Candidates chosen will be notified by mail by 1 July, 2010. At that time, a more detailed list of activities and additional information / forms will be sent for completion by candidates and parents/guardians. All course participants will be required to fill out a detailed Emergency Information Form and an Assumption of Risk Form. Course fees of \$250.00 (cheque payable to Long Point Waterfowl) and completed Emergency Information and Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Forms should be mailed to Long Point Waterfowl at the above address.

Background information:

Candidate's name: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ **Province:** _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Birth Date and Age: _____ **Grade (present / last completed):** _____

How did you find out about this workshop?

How did you become interested in wildlife, conservation and our hunting heritage?

List your specific science and/or wildlife-related interests:

List your hobbies and/or extracurricular activities:

List any nature, conservation, or outdoor recreation organizations to which you currently (or previously) belong:

Describe any volunteer/community service work that you have been involved with:

Do you plan on attending college or university? If so, what field of study currently interests you most?

How much experience do you have with hunting and do your parents/guardians hunt?

Report Card:

Please attach a photo copy of your most recent report card to this application form. This information will only be viewed by the YHWHW Selection Committee and will remain confidential.

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Parent/guardian: _____ Date: _____

Essay:

We require that candidates write **a one-page essay** to help us gain a better understanding of your level of interest and commitment to learning about wildlife biology, resource management, conservation, and our hunting heritage. The essay will be very important in allowing the YHWHW Selection Committee to score and rank each candidate's application. Thus, it should be well-written and reflect your own thoughts and ideas on the topic below (please attach essay on a separate piece of paper):

“Why I want to participate in the Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop”

Letter of Support:

Please attach one letter of support from an adult reference (for example, a teacher, scout leader, leader of an outdoors club, etc) to this application. This letter should attest to your interests, skills, and outdoor-related experiences. References may be contacted for further information regarding candidates.

Reference Contact Information (return with completed application form)

Reference name: _____ **Position:** _____

Relationship to candidate: _____ **Phone:** _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ **Province:** _____ **Postal code:** _____

Emergency Information Form - Confidential:

Medical Insurance:

Health Card # (or equivalent): _____

Name of other insurer(s) and policy numbers:

Name of Policy Holder (if not candidate): _____

Policy holder guarantees that additional insurance is in effect for the duration of the Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop, 24-28 July.

Signature of Policy Holder: _____ Date: _____

Health Information:

Please list any allergies, drug sensitivities, regular medications and other information that might be of significance to a physician or hospital treating you during an emergency:

Please also list any dietary needs or concerns (e.g., vegetarian, lactose intolerant, etc):

Emergency Contact:

Please provide contact particulars for someone that can be reached in an emergency, during the workshop, 24-28 July.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Acknowledgement & Assumption of Risk Form

Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop – 24-28 July, 2010

Candidate name: _____

I am aware that during field trips, exchanges or other excursions in which I am participating under the arrangements of Long Point Waterfowl / Bird Studies Canada (LPW / BSC), certain risks and dangers may occur, including but not limited to the hazards of traveling, accidents or illness in remote places without medical facilities, the forces of nature and travel by air, train, automobile or other means as well as exposure to customs and practices of societies different from our own. Accordingly, I understand that despite its efforts, LPW / BSC may not be able to ensure my complete safety at all times from such risks and dangers.

More particularly, I appreciate LPW / BSC does not carry accident or injury insurance for my benefit and also that there may be certain matters for which I could be at fault personally if the accompanying circumstances do not relate to or arise from my education or if my activities or conduct fall short of what would be considered a reasonable standard for an individual in my position. In these cases I agree to be accountable in all respects for my own actions and not to ask the LPW / BSC or its employees to accept the consequences thereof; further, I agree to be responsible for any claims made against the LPW / BSC in relation to such actions.

I acknowledge that I will be living in a rural setting, that I understand the threats associated with contracting Lyme disease, and that I have read the attached information sheet on the prevention and medical treatment associated with Lyme disease.

I acknowledge that I have been advised by LPW / BSC of such risks and dangers as well as the need to act in a responsible manner at all times. My signature below is given freely in order to indicate my participation in the “Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop”.

Candidate signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Youth Hunting & Wildlife Heritage Workshop Document

Check-list:

Please ensure you have included the following items in your application package for the YHWHW:

- Completed and signed YHWHW Application Form
- Photo-copy of most recent report card – to remain confidential
- Essay on “Why I want to participate in the YHWHW”
- Reference Contact Information
- Letter of Support

To be eligible, application must be post-marked by 15 June, 2010 and sent to:

Ted Barney, Biologist
Long Point Waterfowl
P.O. Box 160
Port Rowan, Ontario, N0E 1M0

For additional information or questions contact:

Ted Barney, LPW Biologist: 519-586-3531 ext. 151; tbarney@bsc-eoc.org

Note: Candidates will be notified of acceptance by 1 July, 2010. Additional instructions and forms / documents will accompany the Letter of Acceptance.

Lyme Disease Fact Sheet

Last Updated: 2006-09-11

- What is Lyme disease?
- How do people get Lyme disease?
- What are ticks?
- What are the symptoms of Lyme disease?
- How is Lyme disease diagnosed?
- What is the treatment for Lyme disease?
- What precautions should you take to avoid Lyme disease?
- How prevalent is human Lyme disease in Canada?
- What is the Government of Canada doing to address Lyme disease?

What is Lyme disease?

Lyme disease is an illness caused by the bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which can be spread through the bite of certain types of ticks. Lyme disease in humans can have serious symptoms but can be effectively treated. Cases of Lyme disease have been reported in parts of Europe, Asia, and throughout much of North America.

How do people get Lyme disease?

The bacterium that causes Lyme disease is normally carried in mice, squirrels, birds and other small animals. This bacterium is transmitted to ticks when they feed on these infected animals and then to humans through the bites of the infected ticks. In British Columbia, the western blacklegged tick transmits Lyme disease while in other parts of Canada, the disease is spread by the blacklegged tick, sometimes called the deer tick. Lyme disease is not transmitted directly from person-to-person by means such as touching or kissing. Although dogs and cats can contract Lyme disease, there is no evidence that they can transmit the infection directly to humans. Pets can, however, carry infected ticks into your home or yard. Deer hunting may increase exposure to ticks due to the need to track through high grass and brush areas. However, Lyme disease cannot be contracted from eating deer.

What are ticks?

Though closely related to insects, ticks are actually a type of mite. Ticks vary in size and colour; blacklegged ticks are very small. Before feeding, adult females are approximately 3-5 mm in length and red and dark brown in colour; following a blood-meal, females can be as large as a grape. In the pre-adult stages, young ticks are smaller and lighter in colour, when unfed. Ticks are usually picked up when brushing against vegetation and once on bare skin they attach by their mouth parts.

There are established populations of the tick that transmits Lyme disease in Canada. Though *western blacklegged ticks* are widely distributed in British Columbia, populations are largest in the lower mainland, on Vancouver Island and in the Fraser Valley. Established populations of *blacklegged ticks*, on the other hand, have been found in southern and eastern Ontario, southeastern Manitoba and parts of Nova Scotia.

Research has shown that blacklegged ticks can be found in all areas of Canada, even where tick populations have not been previously identified. It is presumed that these ticks are introduced into these areas by migratory birds. About 10% of these ticks are infected with the Lyme disease agent. While it is possible to be bitten by an infected tick anywhere in Canada, the chances of this occurring are considered low in areas where populations are not established.

What are the symptoms of Lyme disease?

The symptoms of Lyme disease are often described in three stages, although not all patients have symptoms of each stage. The first sign of infection is usually a circular rash called erythema migrans or EM. This rash occurs in about 70-80% of infected persons and begins at the site of the tick bite after a delay of three days to one month. Patients often also experience symptoms such as:

- fatigue
- chills
- fever

headache
muscle and joint pain
swollen lymph nodes.

If the infection goes untreated, the second stage of the disease can last up to several months with possible symptoms including:

central and peripheral nervous system disorders
multiple skin rashes
arthritis and arthritic symptoms
heart palpitations
Extreme fatigue and general weakness

If the infection continues to go untreated, the third stage of the disease can last months to years with possible symptoms including, chronic arthritis and neurological symptoms. If contracted during pregnancy, adverse effects on the fetus, including stillbirth, can occur.

Fatalities from Lyme disease are rare. However, undiagnosed Lyme disease may develop into chronic disease that may be difficult to treat.

How is Lyme disease diagnosed?

The diagnosis of Lyme disease should be made after evaluation of a patient's symptoms and the risk of exposure to infected ticks. Blood tests may be administered in conjunction with clinical diagnosis to demonstrate the presence of antibodies to the bacteria.

It should be stressed that the results of blood tests cannot be interpreted in the absence of appropriate clinical information (i.e., symptoms of infection). The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends the two-tiered approach for blood testing (i.e., screening blood samples with one test and continued testing only on samples that test positive for Lyme disease) and cautions against the use of invalidated tests or interpretation of results without appropriate guidelines. Blood tests may be negative in patients with early Lyme disease or in patients who have had antibiotic treatment. However, the accuracy of blood tests becomes more reliable as the infection progresses.

What is the treatment for Lyme disease?

Although Lyme disease can have serious symptoms, several antibiotics are available to treat the illness. Lyme disease is more effectively treated if diagnosed early in the course of illness. Most cases of Lyme disease can be cured with a 2-4 weeks of treatment with doxycycline, amoxicillin, or ceftriaxone. Persons with certain neurological or cardiac forms of illness may require intravenous treatment with penicillin or ceftriaxone. Patients diagnosed in the later stages of the disease can have persistent or recurrent symptoms requiring a longer course of antibiotic treatment. Treatment failure has been reported, requiring patients be retreated; the risk of treatment failure is greater in patients with long-term Lyme infection.

What precautions should you take to avoid Lyme disease?

In areas where ticks are found, individuals should know about the risk of Lyme disease and should take precautions to protect themselves.

- Find out from your local public health office if there are ticks in your area, especially blacklegged ticks.
- Wear protective clothing to limit the access of ticks to your skin. This clothing should include enclosed shoes, long-sleeved shirts that fit tightly around the wrist and are tucked into pants, and long-legged pants tucked into socks or boots. Light coloured clothing helps to be able to spot ticks.
- Insect repellents containing DEET are safe and can effectively repel ticks. Repellents can be applied to clothing as well as exposed skin but should not be applied to skin underneath clothing (note: DEET may damage some materials). Always read and follow label directions.
- Check for ticks on clothing and skin after being in tick-infested areas. A daily total-body inspection and prompt removal of attached ticks (i.e., within 18 to 24 hours) can reduce the risk of infection.

Blacklegged ticks are very small, particularly at the nymphal stage, be sure to look carefully. Do not forget to check children and pets as well.

- Carefully remove attached ticks using tweezers. Grasp the tick's head and mouth parts as close to the skin as possible and pull slowly until the tick is removed. Do not twist or rotate the tick and try not to damage the tick (i.e., squash or crush it) during removal.
- After removing ticks, wash the site of attachment with soap and water or disinfect it with alcohol or household antiseptic. Note the day of the tick bite and try to save the tick in an empty pill vial or doubled zip-lock bag.
- Contact a doctor immediately if you develop symptoms of Lyme disease, especially when you have been in an area where blacklegged ticks are found. If you have saved the tick, take it with you to the doctor's office.

How prevalent is human Lyme disease in Canada?

Lyme disease is not a nationally reportable disease in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada surveys the provinces and territories to assess the number of cases and distribution of Lyme disease in Canada. This survey would not be expected to capture all of the cases of Lyme disease that occur in Canada, particularly cases of early Lyme disease. The data collected indicates considerable variation in reported human cases from year to year, which makes it difficult to identify specific trends.

The risk for exposure to the disease is highest in a small number of regions where the ticks that transmit Lyme disease are known to be established including parts of southern and eastern Ontario, southeastern Manitoba and Nova Scotia as well as much of southern British Columbia. Surveillance data indicates a small number of blacklegged ticks are introduced into widely separated areas of Canada by migratory birds, posing some risk that individuals in other areas may also be exposed to infected ticks.

Although rarer than Lyme disease, there are other infections that can also be contracted from blacklegged ticks. These include *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, the agent of human granulocytic anaplasmosis; *Babesia microti*, the agent of human babesiosis and Powassan encephalitis virus. The precautions outlined above will also help to protect individuals from these infections.

What is the Government of Canada doing to address Lyme disease?

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is currently funding a health research project on Lyme disease. Funding of \$820,000 over five years has been provided to study the properties of the tick. This health research project will lead to further understanding of the pathogen causing Lyme disease.

Public Health Agency of Canada scientists continue to collaborate in studying the occurrence of tick populations in Canada. These studies have demonstrated the low-risk of encountering ticks infected with the Lyme disease agent in most of Canada. Many of these findings have been published and reported at scientific meetings to help increase awareness of the potential for Lyme disease to occur in Canada.

In addition, Public Health Agency of Canada scientists are currently researching the potential impacts of climate change on the distribution of the ticks that carry Lyme disease. This research will contribute to our understanding of the occurrence of the disease.