



NORTHERN LIFE.ca



6°C | Newsletter | Tip line: 705-673-0123



News Police Sports Lifestyle Opinions Business Obituaries Weather Events Video Classifieds More

| HOME | SUDBURY NEWS |

Expanded spring bear hunt a boon for northern economy, says analyst

By: Jonathan Migneault - Sudbury Northern Life | Oct 31, 2015 - 1:36 PM | 10



The province's announcement it will reinstate the spring bear hunt across the province, through five-year pilot program, should be an economic boon for the north, but won't do much to address the nuisance bear issue that plagued Sudbury and other communities this past summer, says an analyst with the Northern Policy Institute. File photo.

Like {76} Tweet {4} G+ {0} Print Email

But hunt won't have big impact on nuisance bear issue

The province's announcement it will reinstate the spring bear hunt across the province, through five-year pilot program, should be an economic boon for the north, but won't do much to address the nuisance bear issue that plagued Sudbury and other communities this past summer, says an analyst with the Northern Policy Institute.

"Hunting is certainly an integral part of black bear management, but in terms of reducing human-bear conflicts government studies and other scientific studies have shown there is no correlation between the spring bear hunt and the reduction of human-bear conflicts," said Mike Commito, who wrote a paper in August advocating the spring bear hunt be expanded, based mainly on economic grounds.

The province canceled the spring bear hunt in 1999 after years of protests that focused on the ethics of baiting, and concern over orphaned cubs due to the illegal shooting of lactating sows.

But the province reinstated the spring hunt on a trial basis in eight of Ontario's 88 wildlife management units in 2014 and 2015. Commito said the new expansion represents a good step that reflects many of the recommendations he made in August.

Before the spring bear hunt was canceled in 1999 it generated an estimated \$30 million in economic activity from local and visiting hunters each season - in conjunction with the fall hunt. The expanded spring hunt will once again allow non-residents to participate in the hunt, as long as they do so through a recognized outfitter.

Article Tools

- Report a typo
- Contact the Editor
- Sign-up for our Newsletter

The Latest

- One injured in Penage Lake Rd. bungalow fire
- Believe it or not, most Sudbury gas below a buck
- Warm weather in the forecast until the weekend
- Dispelling myths, raising awareness about Down syndrome
- Ottawa scores three times on the power play, beat Sudbury 6-3
- It's crime prevention

How much would my car insurance cost?

Postal code **Calculate >**

belairdirect.
car insurance

Greater Sudbury Weather



Now	Tue	Wed	Thu
6°C	13°C	14°C	15°C

Hourly Forecast | 14 Day Trend | Alerts & Warnings



- MON 2** **Opera Gala... Opera for a Cause**
St Andrews Place | Sudbury, ON
(http://www.sudbury.com/details/OPEF-GALA-OPERA-FOR-A-CAUSE/1777170/2015-11-02T00)
- MON 2** **Daily Drink Specials at The Horse T...**
The Horse Tavern | Sudbury, ON
(http://www.sudbury.com/details/DAIL-DRINK-SPECIALS-AT-THE-HORSE-TAVERN/1449539/2015-11-02T00)
- MON 2** **Open Mic at the Speakeasy**
Speakeasy | Sudbury, ON
(http://www.sudbury.com/details/OPEN-MIC-AT-THE-...)

Local Business Directory

But it could take several years before non-resident bear hunters – primarily from the United States – return in large numbers.

“When you lose a market you're not necessarily going to recapture it with the same numbers as in the past,” Commito said.

As for reducing human-bear encounters in cities like Sudbury, Commito said reducing bears' access to garbage in communities has proven to be a more effective form of prevention than the spring hunt.

He said Sudbury's new bylaw, that will require people to wait until morning before they put their garbage out to the curb for pickup, is a “positive step forward.”

But Mark Ryckman, a senior wildlife biologist with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, said the spring hunt is an important tool to prevent human-bear encounters, but it must be used in conjunction with other initiatives.

“Hunting and the Bear Wise program and associated bylaws with respect to garbage, those are all individual management tools that can be used in concert to minimize human-bear conflicts,” he said.

Ryckman said he does not expect a big influx in new bear hunters with the expanded spring bear hunt, but many hunters – who will mostly receive only one bear tag for the season – could switch from the fall hunt to the spring.

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters has advocated for the full reinstatement of the spring hunt since it was canceled, and Ryckman said Friday's news was a “very positive step in the right direction.”

But he said the federation is still waiting to hear details around baiting rules, and how those could impact its members.

Like what you're reading? Click here to make us your homepage today!

76 4 0

Like Tweet G+1 Print Email



Jonathan Migneault
Staff Writer
@jmigneault

Reader's Feedback

NorthernLife.ca may contain content submitted by readers, usually in the form of article comments. All reader comments and any opinions, advice, statements or other information contained in any messages posted or transmitted by any third party are the responsibility of the author of that message and not of NorthernLife.ca. The fact that a particular message is posted on or transmitted using this web site does not mean that NorthernLife.ca has endorsed that message in any way or verified the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any message. We encourage visitors to NorthernLife.ca to report any objectionable content by clicking the "X" on the top right of the comment in question. Comment Guidelines

6 Comments

Sort by **Newest**

Add a comment...



Mike Archibald
<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB.../searchComment.do...>

Theres the link again.
Like · Reply · 15 hrs



Mike Archibald
A comment disappeared for some reason, but it had information worth keeping here, namely that Elliot Lake had numerous bear issues this year and the claim that hunters are responsible and don't shoot mother bears.

Hunting organizations themselves admit that 30% of bears shot during the spring hunt were females back when there was a spring bear hunt. The estimates were that AT LEAST over 200 bear cubs are orphaned, and being orphaned in the 'semi wild' is far different than being orphaned in the city in June

week in Ontario

Dealing with the sleepy fallout of Daylight Saving

Nickel Capitals still on top despite 3-2 loss to Midget Wolves

Minor injury following Dowling fire

Discover your passion, Johanson tells LU grads

Roy's FURNITURE
Roy's Furniture
Visit our website today!

SBC SUDBURY BOAT & CANOE
Lifestyle, Leisure, Fun
Visit our website today!

KIA
Kia Sudbury Motors
Visit our website today!

AUTO BUFF
Pre-owned Vehicles
Visit our website today!

Sudbury Fine Cars Ltd.
Visit our website today!

expanded in the city in some.

And people can look at Mr. Davison's comment (which I agree with) about ho... See More

Like · Reply · 15 hrs



Michel Bourget · Nerd at Retired Federal Employee

I for one was a hunter and gave it all up, morally I just couldn't stomach it anymore..they should publish a picture of a skinned bear! It looks so human..turned me off killing anything..baiting bears is wrong, to easy...I've witnessed Americans shooting bears that would walk right up to them for food..now let's make it fair for the bear hunters can only use bird shot! Lol that would curve the braveness right out of them? I for one will clad myself in orange and go to baiting station and do some target practice to scare the Bears away...

Like · Reply · Nov 1, 2015 3:02am



Mike Archibald

To make it fair they shouldn't be allowed to use ANYTHING. I suspect you aren't serious, because that would be horrific. In a news report from a place in the states they killed a bear (I forget why) but they found over a dozen wounds in its body, including three broken arrow tips.

In the states even with bear baiting they are having a hard time because the hunting population is declining so fast. I wouldn't even call this 'hunting'. When I was a kid we were taught to 'hunt', it requires actually 'hunting'. I call this the same as people who sit in deer stands and duck blinds-'waiti... See More

Like · Reply · Nov 1, 2015 5:34am



Brad Anderson · Sudbury, Ontario

Arch!...different story!...same old crap!...Basically whatever the Article is... you have the same reasoning to critique it!...It doesn't benefit this one....it doesn't benefit that one!...The stats say this!...This the stats say that!...Down in New Brunswick where I come from!...The Media isn't doing their Job!...The Media is doing their Job!...I think the Ministry guys that say Hunting multiplies the Population!...(I hate to say it are right) If your not able to shoot an Impregnated Female! or one with Cubs!...I would think the population will grow!...I think the Tables should be turned... shoot the Females...nothing for the Males to play with!..Therefore they move on Looking for Females...They'll probably die of "Lovers Nuts" thus you have a Very reduced Population!...Then we all can put our garbage out at any time we want!

Like · Reply · Oct 31, 2015 4:44pm



Mike Archibald

Of course I have the same reasoning-look at who benefits, who doesn't, what the research says, compare it to other regions, look at the media bias. I hate to tell you dude, but thats how normal people look at issues. Get used to it (or not, I don't really care), thats pretty much how I approach EVERY public policy issue. Or you can just go by what you heard on the radio from the 'biologist from the wildlife federation' and think you are being 'objective'. Whatever floats your boat.

As mentioned on the other thread, they ARE shooting females, its only if there are cubs around that it... See More

Like · Reply · Oct 31, 2015 5:33pm



Brad Anderson · Sudbury, Ontario

Mike Archibald Arch you have a Hard>>! of hatred for the Media!..I don't have a radio (I guess your being persnickety about that!) and What makes a Biologist from the Wildlife Federation any Less knowledgeable or intelligent than a Ministry Biologist? The ones (ministry biologists) I met at that Town Hall meeting didn't seem any smarter than your (Average Bear!) Get it Arch!...Ha!...Ha!. Shooting Females if there are no cubs around...Hmmm! doesn't any Mother in the wild tell the cubs (babies) of whatever species! to climb a tree... run...or stay still?...How does an Excited Hunter tell i... See More

Like · Reply · Nov 1, 2015 2:13am



Mike Archibald

Brad Anderson

"How does an Excited Hunter tell if the Bear has Balls or not?...Does he/she really care?...Even if it's a Baiting situation! Do you think a Financially strapped Lodge owner is gonna say don't shoot that! (he may at breakfast)"

Amen. I didn't bring that up, so thanks for doing so and helping with the cause. That is absolutely true, and these are rural places so if a hunter DOES kill a mother, the lodge is just going to 'bury the evidence'. This is an industry that caters to killing, the idea that they are going to 'police themselves' is ludicrous. Thanks again for bringi... See More

Like · Reply · Nov 1, 2015 4:37am



Mike Archibald

Not a bad article, I was wondering when the "we're all gonna get rich" by Mike Commito article was going to resurface. But the comment from the 'wildlife biologist' with the federation of anglers and hunters has no place being mentioned. There is NO science which indicates a spring bear hunt has anything but the effect of INCREASING nuisance bear calls, as Commito touches on (though only gives half the story, that it doesn't decrease them).

As for the 'boon', that is just outright ludicrous. These outfitters are in remote areas, its not like Sudbury restaurants or the city gets ... See More

Like · Reply · Oct 31, 2015 1:58pm



David Burgess · Works at Mortgage Marketing

I have a theory. We have to improve the downtown core (a lot) and move out of the suburbs, thus creating an effective "bear barrier" zone. The designs for compact cities are all on my blog, in case anyone cares.
(<http://everbuildingblog.blogspot.ca>)

Like · Reply · Oct 31, 2015 10:55am

Facebook Comments Plugin

Northern Life

158 Elgin St.
Sudbury, ON
P3E 3N5
ph: (705) 673-5667
fax: (705) 673-4652
Google Places
Send Feedback

News

Home
Local News
Police & Court
Sports
Lifestyle
Business
Blogs
Letters to the Editor
Photos
Videos

Newspaper

Home Delivery
Advertise
Staff
Contact
Facebook
Twitter
RSS
PDF Edition
Newsletter
Privacy Policy

Community

Events
Obituaries
Classifieds
Community Builders
Awards
Influential Women
Awards
Northern Ontario
Business Awards
40 Under Forty Awards

Features

Feature Publications
Horoscopes
Crosswords

