

SEPTEMBER 26 PROCLAIMED AS FIRST PROVINCIAL HUNTING DAY

Saturday Event at Whittier Park to Celebrate Hunting As Season is Underway in Manitoba: Struthers

The province has proclaimed the fourth Saturday in September as Provincial Hunting Day in Manitoba to celebrate the role hunting plays in wildlife management and conservation, Conservation Minister Stan Struthers announced today.

Provincial Hunting Day will feature a Hunting Appreciation Day at Whittier Park on Saturday.

"Hunting is a vital part of our rich natural heritage as Manitobans and our government is committed to ensuring this heritage continues to be recognized and embraced," said Struthers. "Hunting is the foundation of wildlife management and ensures sustainable populations of game for the benefit of future generations. It is important to inform all Manitobans about the role hunting plays in wildlife management and conservation, as well as its cultural significance to Manitoba's Aboriginal people."

"Hunting is part of a healthy lifestyle for thousands of urban and rural families, and we are extremely pleased that the province has formally recognized the valuable role hunters and hunting play in wildlife management and conserva-

tion of wildlife and wildlife habitat," said Dale Garnham, president of the Manitoba Wildlife Federation. "Hunting Appreciation Day is an excellent opportunity for the public to learn more about our natural resources and Manitoba's hunting heritage."

Hunting Appreciation Day celebrates the proclamation of Provincial Hunting Day and is organized by the Manitoba Wildlife Federation with representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Ducks Unlimited, the Manitoba Lodge and Outfitters Association, the Delta Waterfowl Foundation and the Manitoba Métis Federation.

Manitobans can learn about wildlife, conservation, hunting and the great outdoors through a variety of activities at the event at Whittier Park on Saturday. Activities include seeing retriever dogs in action, learning about wildlife management, participating in wildlife identification exercises, meeting wildlife photographers and artists, and learning how to prepare, cook and enjoy wild game.

*Taken from the September 22, 2009 Manitoba News Release



MWF VP Derek Hanley visits with Lawrie Hilton and Larry Milian at the MWF Habitat Foundation booth.



Manitoba Natural Resource Officers Association exhibit manned by MNROA president Geoff Smith.



Brian Hagglund from Manitoba Conservation had the best "job" of the day, and the most popular booth—giving out samples of wild game pepperoni, jerky and sausage! For most visitors, it was their first taste of any type of game meat. Thanks to Brian and Jim Leafloor there was plenty to sample, and seconds were not out of the question!



The Ducks Unlimited Canada (Gold Sponsor) exhibit manned by Rick Wishart was kept busy providing information to visitors and "banding" youngsters.



Gold Sponsor Luke's Town Service of Elie brought lots of "big boy toys" for display, but that never stops the little ones from dreaming!



Mark Clarke manning Gold Sponsor Travel Manitoba booth.



Scott Petrowski and Mark Knutson at Gold Sponsor Cabela's exhibit.



Nathalie Bays and Fleur McLauchlan from Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre put their artistic talents to work face painting ducks and geese.