

Information Guide for Waterfowling Practices in Rondeau Provincial Park

Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association (RBWA)

P.O. Box 2339

Blenheim, Ontario

N0P1A0

519.674.1775 (phone & fax)

Website: www.rondeauwaterfowlers.com



Information Guide for Waterfowling Practices in Rondeau Provincial Park

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 is to:

1. Provide controlled public waterfowl hunting in Rondeau Bay.
2. To encourage, and promote waterfowl hunting and the undertakings designed to aid in the protection and conservation of fish & wild life and their natural habitats.
3. Assist with park projects that will aide in the enhancement of the park environment.

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 Thursday 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.

Hunters wishing to hunt waterfowl in Rondeau Bay should be aware a number of specific regulations governing this area. This guide is designed to help inform and answer most of these procedures and regulations. Specific questions not answered in this guide should be directed to the local Ministry of Natural Resource Office in Chatham (519.354.7340)

Yours in conservation,

Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association

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Section 1.0 Basic Information

1. Hunters wishing to hunt in Rondeau Bay will need a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, Ontario Outdoors Hunting Card and a daily or seasonal Provincial Park Pass. Each hunter will deposit their Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Ontario Outdoors Hunting Card with the issuer on duty when issued a daily “A-Zone” Hunting permit, this permit must be on your person for the duration of your hunt. Your license will be returned when checking out at the conclusion of the hunt.
2. Hunters driving into the park will be required to purchase and present a valid Rondeau Provincial Park vehicle pass (daily or seasonal) to receive a daily hunting permit.
3. Dogs must be under control and leashed in the Park except when at the blind location.
4. Firearms must be encased at all times except when at the designated blind. Shotguns ONLY may be used, and these must hold no more than three shells at one time in the chamber and magazine combined.
5. Any hunter(s) found to be intoxicated will not be issued a blind permit and will be subject to charges under the appropriate legislation.
6. The only game birds allowed to be shot are ducks, geese, coots, and only in numbers permitted by the current Migratory Bird Regulations.

7. Hunting of waterfowl is one of the many activities occurring in Rondeau Provincial Park. Hunters are requested to conduct their activities in a manner that does not conflict with the Provincial Parks Act, and the enjoyment of others.
8. Please remove **all garbage** and empty shell casing from your hunting location and dispose of them in an appropriate manner. Failure to do so may result in charges being laid. (i.e. littering)
9. There are two zones in which hunting is permitted on Rondeau Bay; A-Zone (within Rondeau Park Limits, see Map page 14 for specific boundaries), and B-Zone (see Map page 14 for specific boundaries).
10. To hunt A-Zone you require a daily permit (See Section 2 for A-Zone information), to hunt B-Zone you require a seasonal permit (See Section 3 for B-Zone information).
11. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays are the only days allowed for hunting on Rondeau Bay.
12. In the month of October hunters need to be back to the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office by 2:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays as A-Zone closes in the afternoon.
*The one exception is Thanksgiving Monday; it will be an all day hunt.
13. A-Zone restricts the number of uncased guns in certain areas. Box Blinds and Shooting Stakes are limited to two (2) uncased guns, and Shooting Points are limited to three (3) uncased guns. (Please see A-Zone Map to familiarize yourself with these locations.) Hunters must be within 10 metres / 33 feet of Shooting Stake or Point. Hunters must hunt from the Box Blind provided.
14. A point of courtesy would suggest that you can 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.
15. We suggest that you check blind locations prior to the opening day lottery to avoid any possible disappointments. As you know Mother Nature is beyond our control.

Section 1.1 Fees

1. Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Association Memberships:
 - a. Adult Membership \$43.00
 - b. Youth Membership \$20.00 (O.F.A.H. included 16 years of age and under)
 - c. Family Membership \$55.00 (immediate family)
 - d. Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Association ONLY \$15.00

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|----|--|---|
| 2. | A-Zone Daily Hunt Permit: | \$10.00 for member / day
\$15.00 for non-member / day
\$90.00 for 10 hunts during the season (members)
\$130.00 for 10 hunts during the season (non-members) |
| 3. | B-Zone Seasonal Permit: | \$20.00 (runs from Jan. 1 thru Dec. 31.) |
| 4. | B-Zone Blind Permit: | \$15.00 |
| 5. | Cancellations or No Shows:
(For Reservations) | \$15.00 will be charged to all & must be paid prior to next hunt |

Section 1.2 Dates to Remember

1. On the third (3rd) Saturday previous to opening day:
 - a. From 8:00 am until 12:00 pm will be scheduled for work parties to finish up any work needed on the blinds in A-Zone.
 - b. From 12:00 pm until 2:00 pm the A-Zone Blind Lottery sign – up will take place.
 - c. At 2:00 pm the A-Zone Blind Lottery for opening day will begin.
2. On the second (2nd) Saturday of the season A-Zone is shut down to the general public and used for a Youth Hunt. A-Zone re – opens in the afternoon (2:00pm) to the general public and blind allocations are processed by the traditional lottery. (For information on the Youth Hunt please visit our website www.rondeauwaterfowlers.com .)
3. On the first Thursday 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.
4. Our fundraising dinner is on 4th Saturday of August.

Section 2.0 A-Zone Opening Day Procedures

The fourth (4th) Saturday of September is traditional opening day for the Rondeau waterfowl hunting season. 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 previous to opening day. The draw will take place at the Unit office within Rondeau Provincial Park.
2. Prospective hunters may make an application to enter the blind allocation lottery draw between Noon and 2:00 pm on this Saturday. Application forms will be available at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office. Applicants will be required to enter names, addresses, licenses and permit numbers and the number of hunters.
3. In order to be eligible for the lottery, applications must be prepared to show possession of a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and your Ontario Outdoors Hunting Card.
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 on Saturday of 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, and all parties represented in the lottery have received a blind choice standing (either through initial allocation or for the resale of blinds <the blinds that become available after the initial hunters have vacated the blind>).
7. Once a blind has been allocated a daily waterfowl permit will be issued for each person who was successful in obtaining a blind for the initial shoot on opening day.
8. The reselling of blinds for opening day will be allowed for those who where not successful in obtaining a blind allocation from the initial lottery. 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. Any blinds not occupied because of 'no-shows' for the initial shoot will be resold no sooner than 8:00 am on opening day.

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. The Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Unit Office will be open at 4:00 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 2.1 for opening day procedures).

1. The Rondeau Waterfowl Unit office will open @ 4:00 am on each hunting day. (This may change and it is the hunter's responsibility to check any postings that may effect the operational hours of the RWU office.)
2. Hunting parties present will make an application to participate in the lottery draw @ 4:30 am for a blind allocation choice. This procedure, combined with reservation holders present (see section 2.3 for 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
 - #1 – First Lottery winner
 - #2 – First Reservation
 - #3 – Second Lottery Winner
 - #4 – Second Reservation
 - #5 – Third Lottery Winner
 - #6 – Third Reservation
 - Etc.

*Reservation holders not personally present at the time of allocation will be considered 'no shows', and will be pulled from the initial allocation and will be billed for the registration fee. All reservations behind the 'no show' will be moved up one position to make up for the 'no show' gap. (I.e. If #2 Reservation is a 'no show' then #3 Reservation moves into #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.

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:

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 RBWU Office or mailed.
2. Hunters should ensure that all information requested on the reservation application is completed. Incomplete application will not be accepted.
3. Reservation applications must be received at the Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Unit Office no 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 \$15.00 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).
6. Hunters must report to the issuer on duty at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office by 4:30 am on the day of the hunt in order to ensure their reservation choice. Hunters will be considered 'no shows' and their reservation cancelled if they are not present at the time of blind allocation (4:30 am).
7. A confirmation reservation guarantees the applicant(s) a blind selection standing. It does not guarantee the reservation holder any particular blind. Please refer Section 2.2 Daily Blind Allocation A-Zone Procedures (pages 3 thru 5) for an explanation on how blinds are allocated.
8. Any hunter with three (3) or more cancellations will be disqualified from any further 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 no longer wishes to hunt the blind) it will become available for second shoot or resell. The following will outline the procedures for second shoot / resell:

1. The individual working the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office will keep a written 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

from the 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. A hunter in the marsh may not change blinds by means of sending back word through a third party in any circumstances. (Hunt the blind you chose.)
9. Registered hunters in the marsh may switch blinds by contacting the office via cell phone or radio only if hunters present on the second shoot / resell list decline the blind in question.
10. 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

B-Zone Blind Permits are required to set up your own fixed blind in the B-Zone Area. (Please see Section 3.1 B-Zone Blind Permit Allocation Procedures for information on obtaining this permit.)

Section 3.0 B-Zone Waterfowl Permits

The area in Rondeau Bay described as 'B-Zone' is for the use of hunters wishing to hunt and / or erect their own blinds for waterfowl hunting during the regularly scheduled hunting season. Hunting is only permitted on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays one half hour (1/2hr) before sunset and one half hour (1/2) after sunset.

1. Seasonal B-Zone Waterfowl Permits are required to hunt this area and are available at Barney's Boats, RWU Office, or the Rondeau Park Office. Hunters wishing to purchase this permit must have a valid Outdoors Card along with a valid Migratory Game Bird Stamp and Permit.
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. 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 blind permit and until after the Tuesday after Labour Day.
3. Much of the 'B-Zone' water is adjacent to or over private land. Hunters are encouraged to co-operate with landowners.

4. Hunters entering the park are required to have the appropriate vehicle entry permit. (See Section 1 General Information on Hunting in Rondeau Provincial Park)
5. Blinds must be removed from the waters of Rondeau Bay by March 15th.

Section 3.1 B-Zone Blind Permit Allocation Procedures

The procedures for acquiring a B-Zone Blind Erect Permit are as follows:

1. On the first Saturday in September at 8:00 am the staff at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office will issue erect permits in order of the individuals / parties position in the line up.
2. The line up may begin on the Friday 12 am (Thursday Midnight) before the first Saturday in September.
3. Upon arrival at the line up outside the RBWU Office each individual intending to purchase an erect permit must sign in with the attendant. You must have proper vehicle permits for the duration of your line up stay.
4. The person must remain within the immediate vicinity of the RBWU Office until he/she purchases their erect permit on Saturday, failure to remain in line will result in movement to the end of the line.
5. Every person in line may only purchase one erect permit, if you would like a second permit you must return to the end of the line.
6. Once issued a permit to build a blind the individual / party will be required to indicate where they plan on positioning their blind on the B-Zone Map located at the Rondeau Waterfowl Unit Office. No blind may be erected before obtaining the blind permit and until after the Tuesday after Labour Day.
7. Hunters wishing to purchase this permit must have a valid Outdoors Card along with a valid Migratory Game Bird Stamp and Permit.

Section 4.0: Summary of Some Offences Related to Hunting in Rondeau Provincial Park

There is one basic rule in Ontario Provincial Parks: *Have respect and consideration for your fellow visitors and the park environment.* The Provincial Parks Act and other legislation governing behaviour in provincial parks, are enforced by Park Wardens, Conservation Officers who are Peace Officers defined under the Criminal Code of Canada and have the same authority as a member of the Ontario Provincial Parks Police Force in a Provincial Park.

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

	Offence	Section	Explanation	Fine
<i>Liquor Licence Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consuming liquor other than liquor premises, residence or private place 	31 (2)	You are permitted to consume or possess an open alcoholic beverage on a registered campsite only. You may not have or consume alcohol while at your designated waterfowl blind or while travelling to or from your blind.	\$100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intoxicated in a public place 	31 (4)		\$50
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol in vessel 	32 (1)		\$175
<i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove, damage or deface property. 	2(1)(a)	All vegetation, wildlife and natural features are protected by law in provincial parks. Nothing, including cattails, wild rice, wildflowers and dead wood, may be picked removed or damaged.	\$125
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be in park without permit 	14(1)		\$100
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturb, kill, or remove animal 	2(2)(b)		\$150
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to natural objects Unlawfully cut plant or tree Unlawfully remove natural or other object 	2(2)(a)		\$125
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter/refuse 	3(2)		\$125
<i>Migratory Birds Convention Regulations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hunting a migratory game bird from a power boat. 	15(1)(e)	No person shall use a vessel for the purpose of chasing, pursuing, worrying, molesting, injuring or destroying any bird.	\$200
<i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlawfully possess firearm in Provincial Park. 	9(2)	Unless written in regulation firearms are prohibited in Rondeau Provincial Park.	\$200
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using firearms carelessly to hunt. 	16(1)	It is everyone's responsibility to hunt in a safe manner.	\$300
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlawfully have loaded firearm in motorboat 	17(1)(b)	Except as otherwise stated in the MBCA or the regulation made under the act, NO person shall have a loaded firearm in or on or discharge the same from a powerboat.	\$200
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlawfully discharge firearm from motorboat 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlawfully hunt at night. 	20(1)(a)	No person shall hunt prior to or after posted times.	\$250
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fail to hunt from blind supplied by Ministry Possess loaded and unencased firearm while proceeding to or from blind. 	106 (2) 109 (2).	All hunting activities must be confined to designated blind as issued by person in charge. Loaded and unencased firearms are only permitted in designated blinds.	\$150	

**Section 5.0: A-Zone Blind Information and GPS Locations (*Please be aware that
the locations may vary +/- 20 yards)
Rondeau Bay Waterfowlers Association**

A-Zone Blind Information					
Blind Number	Blind Type	(Active)		GPS Locations	
		Number of Guns	Decoys Provided		
1	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 17' 55.0	081° 51' 38.0
2	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 17' 46.5	081° 51' 55.4
3	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 17' 30.7	081° 51' 52.6
4	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 17' 16.3	081° 52' 01.4
5	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 17' 06.1	081° 52' 23.9
6				Closed	
7	Shooting Point	3	TBA		
8	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 49.4	081° 52' 31.4
9	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 40.7	081° 52' 42.6
10	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 16' 48.5	081° 52' 50.5
11	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 16' 35.3	081° 52' 55.9
12	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 16' 25.0	081° 53' 09.9
13	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 23.5	081° 52' 56.0
14	Shooting Stake	2	TBA		
15	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 03.0	081° 52' 38.0
16	Shooting Stake	2	TBA		
17	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 16' 04.6	081° 52' 55.3
18	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 15' 51.4	081° 53' 03.4
19	Shooting Point	3	TBA	42° 16' 08.5	081° 53' 23.0
20				Closed	
21				Closed	
22	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 47.1	081° 52' 02.4
23	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 34.7	081° 52' 04.7
24	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 27.7	081° 52' 05.2
25	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 16' 17.2	081° 52' 07.5
26	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 15' 58.2	081° 52' 14.3
27	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 15' 47.0	081° 52' 18.7
28				Closed	
29	Box Blind	2	TBA		
30	Box Blind	2	TBA	42° 15' 45.9	081° 52' 33.2
37	Box Blind	2	TBA		
39	Box Blind	2	TBA		
40	Box Blind	2	TBA		
41	Box Blind	2	TBA		

Points of Interest

Rondeau Launch		
Erieau Launch		
(Barney's Boats)		
Shrewsbury Launch	42° 17' 37.7	081° 55' 10.5
Viewing Platform	42° 18' 13.7	081° 51' 32.3

Section 6 Map of A-Zone & B-Zone Boundaries

Place Map Here