

# Information Byway



NORTH WESTERN ONTARIO  
TOURISM ASSOCIATION

[www.nwota.com](http://www.nwota.com)

December 2004

Phone (807)488-5514

e-mail: [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

Vol.11 No.4

Fax (807)488-5514

*Wishing you all  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

## North Western Ontario Tourism Association Annual Spring Meeting



Thursday, April 28, 2005  
Emo Legion, Emo, Ontario

### BORDER ISSUE

NWOTA with help from NOTO/KDCA has just finished the 2004 survey. The data is being compiled by in TGD Consulting. Preliminary information indicates an 11.6% increase in loss's per business since 2003, which amounts to a fourteen million dollar loss to NW Ontario. NWOTA and the business groups of NW Ontario (KDCA, NOACC, NOMA, NODN) will be meeting with Mr. Ken Boshcoff MP Rainy River/Thunder Bay for January 20<sup>th</sup>. A meeting is being scheduled with Mr. Roger Valley in February.

The NWOTA Web site has a lot of information to aid your customers on border issues. If they have a DWI and are having troubles they may want to ask for help from Lucy Perillo, Border Crossing Services, Ph. 204.488.6350 or 800.438.7020 (anywhere in the U.S.) or [www.bordercrossing.ca](http://www.bordercrossing.ca). If any of your guests have any issues at the border please use the incident report on the web site to document the problem. It will go directly to the NWOTA office.

Canadian citizens entering the U.S. as tourists are rarely, if ever, checked for criminality. There is a list of offenses that U.S. officials have that can deny a person entry into the States. D.U.I. is NOT one of these items. If a Canadian is denied entry they may apply for a waiver which can take up to a year to process and cost UP TO \$200.00 depending on the individual's record or offense. This information comes

from an operator's phone call to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

We are also trying to determine the statistics on the DUI issue at Lester B Pearson and Vancouver International airports, to see if DUI is an issue at all ports of entry.

We are also exploring a joint effort with other provincial outfitters groups to identify the issue and the financial impact to Canada.

If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

### NWOTA SPORT FISHING SYMPOSIUM

We are working on two symposiums for 2005. The objective of the symposiums is to increase the awareness of conservation issues and their benefits to all resource users. The first will be in the spring, and will focus on local (Fort Frances/Kenora) issues. The second is in the planning stages. We are working with NOTO to hold it the day before the 2005 NOTO Convention. It will be coordinated by NWOTA, KDCA, and OFAH and will be dealing with regional issues. Contact Geoff Gillon or Jerry Fisher if you have any comments. [percid@jam21.net](mailto:percid@jam21.net) or [jfisher@morsonoutfitters.com](mailto:jfisher@morsonoutfitters.com)

### KDCA AND NWOTA JOINING FORCES

KDCA/NWOTA is in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This will allow both organization, wherever possible and mutually beneficial, to collaborate on research and planning activities and share where appropriate, facilities, personnel and financial resources. This will raise the profile of our projects and allow tourism in NW Ontario to have a greater impact on its efforts. After our first meeting we have chosen three projects to work together on, 1) The Border Issue. 2) Water Issue and 3) Commercial Guide Boat Regulation. A plan will be developed for each of these projects and will include deliverables, timing and costs. The plans will be brought back to each organization (KDCA and NWOTA) for approval. More information will follow. If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

## **NWOTA Cookbook**

*We need your favourite recipes to produce the best cookbook the area has ever tasted!*

Submit your recipes to the NWOTA office. Include your name, business name and location.

[info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com) or (807) 488-5514

**NWOTA is currently making updates to our website**  
[www.nwota.com](http://www.nwota.com).

**We will be posting the minutes of meetings, calendar of events and Information ByWay newsletter on our website for members to print &/or browse through.**

**If you are unable to download newsletters from our website and would like to remain on the mailing list via Canada Post, please make sure you indicate this when renewing your 2005 NWOTA Membership.**

**Dates to mark on your calendar:**

### **Sunset Country**

### **Annual General Meeting**

Thursday, April 21st, 2005

6:30 PM at Forest Inn and Conference Centre  
Sioux Lookout, Ontario

### **NWOTA Annual Spring Meeting**

Thursday, April 28, 2005

9:00 AM at Emo Legion  
Emo, Ontario

### **NWOTA Monthly Meetings**

January 12th, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon, Emo Inn, Emo, ON

### **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

NWOTA will implement a new committee to insure that we can continue our lobbying efforts especially now that we are joining forces with KDCA. The committee will be looking at ways to increase our financial reserves for future work. Contact Cathy Mosbeck if you have any comments or suggestion.

[fish@tno.on.ca](mailto:fish@tno.on.ca)

### **ANISHINAABEG OF KABAPIKOTAWANGAG RESOURCE COUNCIL (AKRC)**

Bob and Peg Hunger represented NWOTA at a meeting with MNR, AKRC & NATIVE LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE NW REGION held at Onegaming First Nation on October 7, 2004. This was a sharing of concern opportunity of those attending and opened a dialogue related to commercial and subsistence fishing on Lake of the Woods. Items discussed included operation, goals, and progress to date of AKRC. Acceptance of the yellow commercial net markers was noted and the program will be expanded lake-wide for 2005. Native employment opportunities and policing of nets and quotas were discussed and are things of concern for the future. About a week later Bob and Peg were given a tour of the AKRC office and lab south of Sioux Narrows by Ryan Haines. Ryan was invited to make a presentation at the fall meeting and continued contact is recommended. If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NWOTA  
FOR AREA BUSINESSES TO SUPPORT  
OUR EFFORTS TO BETTER THE  
TOURISM  
INDUSTRY IN OUR AREA.**

**If you have not renewed your  
membership, please do so now.**

**MAKE NWOTA A STRONG  
VOICE FOR TOURISM**

### **AULNEAU WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD**

Bob and Peg Hunger are the NWOTA representative to this committee. Randy Hanson is alternate. The committee is being re-established to assist MNR'S management. Procedures have been determined and Bob and Peg represented NWOTA at the first new Kenora Forest Management public input meeting at Sioux Narrows on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Wildlife management area, reserve area, harvest areas, and wild fire options are among items being addressed by the Advisory Committee. Next meeting will be held in early February with Trust Joist and MNR presenting the first draft of the new forest plan to members. If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

### **KDCA, NOMA, NOACC, NODN NWOTA MAY BE JOINING FORCES ON THE WATER ISSUE**

NWOTA and KDCA are exploring the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding with three other NW Ontario business groups, NOMA, Municipal leaders, NOACC, Chambers Of Commerce, and NODN Community futures. The objective again will be to raise the profile of issues each group decides to work on together. This group is already working together on the border issue. We are talking about adding the water issue. More information will follow. If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

### **COMMERCIAL GUIDE BOAT REGULATIONS.**

Jim Ticknor, Exec Director of Manitoba Lodge & Outfitters Association, made a presentation at the AGM on the new Small Vessel Regulations and its impact on our operations. Jim sits on the Minister of Transport Recreational Boating Advisory Council and we will be working with him on this issue. As it now stands our guides will be required to be licensed when using our boats and guiding our guests. They will require special equipment like running lights, radio equipment; Transport Canada approved life jackets. (Not Canadian Coast Guard PFD's) KDCA/NWOTA has made this one of its top priority issues. If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

### **FOREIGN WORKERS PROGRAM**

Peter Burns of McAuley and Parners, Barristers and Solicitors in Dryden sent a letter outlining the issue of work permits for non-resident camp owners and what will be required in the future. We will try to have more in next month's By-Way. As soon as we get the information it will be posted on the web site. If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

### **ONTARIO'S WATER QUALITY ISSUE**

As many will have heard, the province has proposed some amendments to the new water regulations. After intense lobbying by many groups, and a number of public hearings, the deadline for compliance for most tourism establishments has been extended. This will give the province time to consider the recommendations that arose from the consultations. The proposed extensions are as follows. The deadline for small non-municipal, non-residential systems using surface (lake) water will be extended from July 1 2005 to December 31 2006. The deadline for those facilities using a ground water (deep well) source will be December 31 2006, as before. The deadline for sign posting for small municipal non-residential systems has been extended from December 31 2004 to December 31 2005. These facilities may post warning signs in lieu of treatment, as long as they do not serve food. Unfortunately it is not clear at this time whether restaurants or American plan establishments will be included in the proposed extensions. NWOTA will be trying to determine how these situations will be dealt with, and what the date changes, if any, there will be. NWOTA has set up a joint committee with KDCA and NOMA, to lobby the government to consider the situation with respect to the unique and varied circumstances that our members face. While politicians are not likely to consider scrapping the legislation, we are hopeful that they will make changes which would make the regulations clearer and less costly, without compromising the safety of our drinking water systems. We will continue to lobby for water sample testing to be reinstated by the Health Units, and an end to the requirement that an engineer inspect and sign off of each individual system. As well, the regulation applies to all establishments "served by electricity". We are asking for an exemption for remote businesses that are off the hydro grid, but have either solar or generator power. If any members are aware of other unreasonable demands of the new regs, please contact the NWOTA office, [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com), and we will communicate these problems to the government.

### **NWOTA WILL HAVE A MEMBER ON THE LOWDPOA WATER QUALITY STEERING COMMITTEE**

Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association is assisting in the establishment of a steering committee that will be at arms length. There are two objectives, 1) work towards the development of a water quality sustainability plan and 2) to encourage and provide financial support for research focused on understanding the water quality issues. If you have any comments please send them to [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

# Northwestern Ontario Tourism Association

Email: [info@nwota.com](mailto:info@nwota.com)

URL: [www.nwota.com](http://www.nwota.com)

P.O. Box 458  
Emo, ON P0W 1E0



Ph.: 807 488-5514  
Fax: 807 488-5514

## 2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

### VOTING MEMBER (\$200)

Voting membership is for resorts and other businesses in direct tourism, but is available to other businesses or individuals that want full membership rights. Free listing on the NWOTA website with hotlink to your site.

### ALLIED MEMBER (\$200)

Allied membership is for businesses that supply the tourism industry, but is available to non-tourism related businesses and individuals as well. Allied members are not eligible to vote.

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER (\$70)

Associate membership is for individuals, non-tourism related businesses and non-profit associations.

**Please complete the following information and return it to the NWOTA office with your 2005 dues.**

### SUMMER OR ANNUAL ADDRESS:

Contact person(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Prov. Postal Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

### WINTER ADDRESS if different:

Contact person(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Prov./State Postal/Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**To assist us in keeping our records up to date, please provide the information that is requested on the back of this form.**

Approximately four times a year NWOTA sends out a newsletter to all of our members called the "Information Byway".

**How would you like to receive your copy of the Information Byway? (Please circle one)**

The NWOTA office uses Microsoft Word to create our mailings.

MAIL (Canada Post)

EMAIL(electronically)

**In which MNR District are you located?**

Fort Frances

Kenora

Other(specify)\_\_\_\_\_

**On which lake(s) are you located?** \_\_\_\_\_

*The Northwestern Ontario Tourism Association operates without funding from government. Membership fees and donations finance our work. To carry out our mandate, NWOTA needs the continued support of industry members and of those who benefit as suppliers to tourism operators. The greater our numbers, the louder our voice. We invite you to join the organization that has been working for you for more than 70 years.*

**2005 membership**

<b>2005 Voting membership (\$200)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>2005 Allied membership (\$200)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>2005 Associate membership (\$70)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Donation To the NWOTA Research Account</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

What specific field of interest/projects would you like NWOTA to consider using the research account for?

---



---



---



---



---

**Further Comments** \_\_\_\_\_

---



---