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Cc: [gerrym](#); [diane hawes](#)
Subject: Sunday hunting
Date: February 27, 2024 6:10:18 PM

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To Annilene, Mayor, Members of Council

I wish to make comment regarding the discussion of Hunting on Sunday in Minto.

Let me introduce myself and give you some background on me. Full disclosure.

My name is Art Hawes. I have been a certified firearms safety instructor for restricted, nonrestricted firearms and a hunter safety for the past 30 years.

I was raised on a farm and am now a Senior Citizen. I acquired my first gun when I was 10 years of age. It was legal at that time (with my Dad's permission). When I was in my early teens due to an automobile accident resulting in serious injury to my father we lost almost everything paying medical expenses. All the livestock and one half of the farm. During my early to mid teens, I spent most of my time when not in school hunting to supply food for my family. You can possibly appreciate hunting has a special place in my culture and heritage. Hunting was a family expression of our heritage, including my mother who, at that time was a rare individual as "women did not do such things". Now In my classes women usually make up 25% to 50% of my students. Hunting has become more and more a family activity.

Farming did and still requires long hours of work, especially in the fall. Back then and still today, farming especially in the fall harvest time, which coincides to the Hunting season, was the most work intensive period.

It is common, if possible, weather permitting, Sunday is a time for a break from the hard work and spend time with family. Many farmers and others may use this time to engage in Hunting with family.

Times have changed. In my youth many things on Sunday were forbidden due to the Lord's Day Act.

You could not partake in most of the things we can do today, only necessary chores, family and church. No purchase of alcohol, no going to the theatre, no golfing, baseball, hockey, tennis, shopping, hair cuts, beauty salons or bars, and certainly no hunting.

So Hunting is the last or one of the last remaining ruminants of the Lord's Day act. It's time to end that unfair restriction.

I believe it is totally wrong to forbid Farmers and others to pass on their hunting culture/heritage. This is the opportunity to teach the value of conservation, understanding and appreciate the natural world to their children and family. By forbidding Sunday hunting, you are preventing the full use and enjoyment of the property they own to the fullest possible extent. Land owners have, or should have the right to enjoy their property with their family and friends for the continuance of their heritage. Those land owners have the right, or should have the right, to decide what activities and who are allowed on their properties.

All landowners can make these decisions and forbid or allow access and activities as they see fit.

You should also note this is not limited to farmers. Many occupations work various shifts. For example Police Officers, Firefighters, Doctors, Nurses, First Responders, various civil servants such as snow removal, Pilots, Flight Attendants and the list goes on and on.

I do think it discriminatory that everyone can pursue any and all sports and hobbies of their choice, at a place of their choice, except a person who wants to pursue his own heritage (incidentally hunting is recognised as a heritage activity by the Province) on their own property, or with permission from another landowner, with family and friends on Sunday.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Art Hawes

Addendum to my note

Usually the opposition raises the issue of safety. My response is:

1. People are not less safe on Sunday than the other 6 days
2. Cost for me to purchase \$5,000.000 (that's Million \$) liability insurance to cover my hunting/shooting activities PER YEAR is \$12.95. It just went up from \$9.95. Obviously hunting is a VERY SAFE activity.