

## Summary

Hamilton's overabundant deer population has led to a community consensus that supports lethal control of deer numbers by competent local archers. Maintaining this consensus will require exemplary and ethical behavior on the part of archer-harvesters, along with sensitivity to the viewpoints of community members who are less supportive or even opposed to lethal control. It is the responsibility of each participant in the 2015-16 harvesting program to exemplify these principles as specified below. Individuals who violate this code of conduct will be subject to immediate expulsion from the harvesting program. These principles may be modified by the Village of Hamilton Deer Harvest Implementation Committee as experience dictates.

## Overall Requirements for Participation

1. Applicants will be selected through an interview with Village of Hamilton Police Chief Rick Gifford. A demonstration of archery marksmanship **may be required**. Chief Gifford will also conduct a background check.
2. Successful applicants will be required to provide vehicle descriptions (make, model, color, and license plate number) for any vehicle they may use during the harvest, as well as cell phone and e-mail contact information. Cell phones must be carried during harvesting activity.
3. Participants must carry a permit issued by the village on their person during harvesting activities, as well as at least one deer nuisance tag.
4. Participants must provide their own gear (stand, steps or ladder, bow/crossbow, etc.) Screw-in tree steps are not permitted. Harnesses must be worn and fastened securely to a tree unless a ground blind or tripod stand is employed.
5. Each archer will be allowed access to a particular stand/blind that will be assigned by the Implementation Committee or by lottery. Archers may not conduct harvesting activities from any other location. Paths to blinds and stands should be identified with the cooperation of the property owner.
6. **Archers must report any shots taken and the results promptly. This includes misses, non-lethal hits, and kills. Observations about deer numbers and behavior should be submitted on the same forms.**
7. Archers who wound a deer may be excluded from further participation in the program.

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<sup>1</sup> We would like to thank Prof. Bernd Blossey for providing Cornell University's Deer Nuisance Program Code of Conduct, which helped to inform our drafting of this code for Hamilton.

### **Ethical Standards and Principles of Participation**

1. Archers must be mindful of the importance of their conduct in maintaining public support for the deer harvesting program by upholding exemplary ethical standards.
2. If a participant encounters a member of the public while walking to or from the stand location, he or she should make every effort to avoid intimidating or frightening that person. For example, camouflage headgear should be taken off and a polite greeting should be offered.
3. Shots should be limited to well within the archer's comfortable shooting range (normally 25 yards), and every attempt should be made to achieve double lung shots.
4. Shots may only be taken from stand/blind sites (except in the case of dispatching a wounded deer). No stalking of deer is permitted.
5. Participants should not shoot when a member of the public is too close (recommended guideline 200 feet) to the stand location.
6. Only antlerless deer may be taken.
7. Participants are responsible for respecting weapons discharge ordinances and for knowing which landowners have given permission for bows and/or crossbows to be discharged within closer distance of their dwellings than the standard 150/250 foot setbacks. Participants must be familiar with property boundaries and know which properties may be accessed to retrieve harvested deer.
8. Participants are encouraged to employ bait as allowed through the nuisance permit program in order to maximize harvesting success. This bait may be placed by hand or automatic feeder.
9. If field dressing is conducted on-site, internal organs and entrails should not be left on location unless the landowner has specifically granted permission. They should be bagged and taken elsewhere. Carcasses and entrails should be removed as discreetly as possible.
10. If a member of the public expresses disagreement or hostility, the harvester should maintain a calm demeanor, refrain from escalating the confrontation, and refer that person to the Deer Implementation Committee.