

FREE TAKE ONE

SERVING ERICKSON, ONANOLE,
SANDY LAKE, ELPHINSTONE,
WASAGAMING, ROLLING RIVER,
KEESEKOO WENIN & SURROUNDING AREA



HELPING HAND

DARRELL NESBITT/SOUTH MOUNTAIN PRESS

A boat owner called on Julie McIntyre, an Aquatic Invasive Species Inspector, at the Sandy Lake Pier, to assist with the off-loading of a boat on Friday, July 15, as youth enjoyed splashing in the swimming area just a stone's throw away. Lakes are known as community jewels, offering not only summer recreation in terms of a slow boat cruise, fishing, and kayaking, but also in the winter with layers of ice also beckoning an angler.

Chronic Wasting Disease being monitored in area

RACHEAL FLINTOFT
South Mountain Press

Updated actions by the province have been executed in response to the probable spread and future prevention of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) across Manitoba.

These additional actions include the expansion of the mandatory sample submission zone for harvested cervids (deer), as well as a newly established mule deer hunting season in defined areas along

the western and southern borders of Manitoba.

"Manitoba has instituted a mule deer season whereby licensed hunters can harvest up to three mule deer with a very reasonable fee of \$5 per tag, and with the purpose being able to significantly reduce the numbers of mule deer," explained Robert Sopuck, a wildlife specialist, and retired Member of Parliament (MP) for the constituency of Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa. "Mule deer are especially suscepti-

ble to CWD and are fairly recent arrivals in Manitoba."

A cervid population program was put into place last fall, after CWD was first identified in Manitoba following the testing of a mule deer near Dropmore. After the initial findings, at the time there was a temporary hunting ban initiated in GHA 22 zone, as well as ongoing sample collections. Since, there has been four more mule deer test positive for CWD along the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border.

"I was very heartened to hear about the cooperation from the entire hunting community, including licensed and rights-based hunters," Sopuck said. "This is yet another example of hunters stepping up to the plate when it comes to conserving and protecting our precious wildlife resources."

The reduction in the population of all cervids – deer, elk, moose, and caribou – as well as the overall health of the cervid population, has been priority for Manitoba Natural

Resources and Northern Development (MNRND), who initiated the additional CWD measures.

Game hunting areas along the Saskatchewan border will require hunters to submit samples of all deer taken, including white tails, for testing, Sopuck said.

"This testing will determine whether the disease is spreading and the location of pockets of infection."

SEE **FALL SAMPLING**, PAGE 2



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