



---

# **News Release    Communiqué**

---

CPXXXX-XXXXXX

**THREATENED RATTLESNAKE KILLED IN NATIONAL PARK - UPDATE  
MIDLAND MAN BANNED FROM NATIONAL PARK FOR ONE YEAR AND TO  
PAY \$3,000 TO EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE RECOVERY TEAM.**

**HONEY HARBOUR, Ontario, February 17, 2005** – In June 2004, an Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake was deliberately killed in the Honeymoon Bay Campground on Beausoleil Island within Georgian Bay Islands National Park. In August 2004, following an investigation by the Georgian Bay Islands National Park Warden Service, a 32-year-old man from Midland Ontario was arrested by park wardens and charged with poaching in the national park.

On February 3rd, 2005, the accused agreed to pay the sum of \$3,000 to the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Recovery Team and was banned from the national park for one year. The \$3,000 will be used by the Eastern Massasauga Recovery Team to assist with further Eastern Massasauga conservation efforts and public education about the species.

The Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake is at risk of becoming endangered in Canada. This species is officially designated as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and receives the highest protection status under the Canada National Parks Act (CNPA) and the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

-30-

**Information:**

Gary McMillian  
Superintendent  
Georgian Bay Islands National Park of Canada,  
Central Ontario Field Unit  
Parks Canada  
(705) 526-9804

(Also available on the Internet at [www.pc.gc.ca](http://www.pc.gc.ca) under **What's new.**)