



City of Markham Coyote Response

Presentation to General Committee

May 31st, 2021

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Presentation Overview

- Legislative Framework in Ontario
- City of Markham Responsibilities
- Current Situation
- City's Response To-date
- Future Action Proposal Plan
- Coyote Watch Canada Introduction





Legislative Framework in Ontario

- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
- Removal/relocation of wildlife further than 1 kilometer is illegal
- Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF)
- Delegated Authority from the MNRF
- Lethal interjection is permitted where menacing coyotes are found - no municipality in the GTHA has done this



Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



City of Markham Responsibilities

- Delegated authority from the MNRF to monitor coyotes.
- Provide education/public outreach.
- Monitor coyote behavior.
- Intervene **ONLY** where necessary due to immediate threat--aligns with Greenprint Plan to achieve an environmentally, economically, socially and culturally vibrant and sustainable community.





Current Situation

- City is aware of following 4 active locations in Markham:
 - 16th Avenue & Alfred Patterson
 - Markham District High School
 - Swan Lake
 - John Street (Yonge Street to 404)
- City has received approximately 21 calls on the above locations.
- Markham Animal Care Officers (ACOs) are currently patrolling each area to promote responsible pet ownership & monitor coyote behavior.
- ACOs have noted off leash dog concerns as well as feeding of wildlife in the above locations & have issued approximately 45 Notice of Violations to people for these violations.



City's Response To-Date

- Website updated to include dedicated wildlife section.
- Social Media Campaign launched in Feb. 2021.
- Radio Interview (by Christy Lehman) in Feb. 2021
- Newspaper Interview (by Christy Lehman) Feb. 2021.
- Councillor Newsletter information provided for circulation
- Signage in the areas of concern.
- ACOs conduct regular patrols of the area - educating residents on the existence of coyotes in the area as well as responsible pet ownership.





Future Action Proposal

- Continue to enforce Animal Service By-law—zero tolerance approach
 - Feeding of wildlife prohibited
 - Off leash dogs prohibited
 - Leash length (2 metre maximum)
- Continue social media efforts.
- Increase newspaper awareness.
- Continue to provide information for inclusion in all Councillor Newsletters.





Coyote Watch Canada

- Coyote Watch Canada is an all-volunteer Not-For-Profit community-based, wildlife organization that advocates positive human-wildlife experiences with a focus on canids. Effective community outreach is achieved through education, research, mediation, intervention, & conflict resolution.

