

**From:** Areez Remtulla  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 3:41 PM  
**To:** Clerks Public  
**Cc:** Valerie Burke  
**Subject:** Written Submission By ACC for Item 7.1 at GC Monday Nov 29, 2021

See below for the written submission by the Animal Care Committee in response to the Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy to be discussed at General Committee Meeting, Monday, November 29, 2021 at 9:30 am, Item 7.1

To the Members of General Committee:

The Animal Care Committee (ACC) fully supports the Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy. This positive strategy provides an excellent action plan to help Markham's residents coexist with coyotes. It is consistent with Markham's Greenprint Sustainability Plan and Markham's Official Plan's goals to enhance biodiversity and wildlife in its natural ecological systems.

The ACC greatly supports the focus on educating residents about not feeding coyotes, which is crucial in reducing conflicts and ensuring appropriate responses based on interactions. We are pleased that this document will be updated in future as more information becomes available.

We commend Christy Lehman, Animal Care Service staff and Council for their tremendous efforts to help residents and wildlife co-exist harmoniously.

Best,  
Areez Remtulla  
B.A. J.D.

**From:** Valerie Burke  
**Sent:** November 24, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Clerks Public; Gold, Laura; Mayor & Councillors  
**Cc:** Lehman, Christy  
**Subject:** Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy - General Committee

## Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy

General Committee, Monday, November 29, 2021 at 9:30 am

### Item 7.1

To the Members of General Committee:

Please support the Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy. This fulsome strategy provides an excellent plan to help Markham residents coexist harmoniously with coyotes. The plan is consistent with Markham's Greenprint Sustainability Plan and Markham's Official Plan's goals to enhance biodiversity and wildlife in its natural ecological systems.

I am very pleased that there is a strong emphasis on educating residents about the importance of not feeding coyotes. This is crucial in reducing conflicts and ensuring appropriate responses based on interactions.

Coyotes are important apex predators. They help keep our ecosystems balanced and healthy. It is incumbent on us to be good stewards of our environment, including coyotes.

We commend Christy Lehman, staff and Council for their tremendous efforts to help residents and wildlife co-exist harmoniously."

Valerie Burke

From: Kaushik Roy  
Sent: Thursday, November 25, 2021 9:14 AM  
To: Clerks Public  
Cc: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham  
Subject: deputations for November 29th - Coyote

To,  
The committee,

Thanks for organizing this discussion.

I live in Cornell village and have a small dog and our family routine has changed due to fear of Coyote's walking around in the neighbourhood. Earlier they were visible after dark but now they are visible throughout the day and getting very accustomed with people around them. It's its becoming very challenging for us to go for outdoor walks specially with my small dog. Now, we are very fearful have to complete our walk late in the morning and and in the evening before the sun goes down. Incidentally we cannot allow out dog to go out in

In the communication it says that coyotes are in Swan lake area but they have a den in Black Walnut park also (behind St. Joseph Catholic Elementary school) and city has even put notice at the park that Coyotes are present in the park. Also, on a particular day in November (cannot recall the exact date) Bill Hogath Secondary school where my younger son goes has to cancel morning recess and keep the students indoor as there was Coyote roaming in the playground.

I personally have coyote sightings in -

Crossing of WhiteHills and Buroak  
Crossing of Country Glen and Almira Avenue  
Crossing of Bur Oak and Almira avenue  
Crossing of Colchester and Gas Lamp Lane  
Blake Lazenby park  
Chippenham park

I would really appreciate if we can find a sustainable salutation to this problem which allows us to enjoy outdoors without fear. Would appreciate if I can get a link to the virtual meeting which will be hosted on November 29 as I am very eager to attend it.

Thanks,

Kaushik

**From:** gina creta  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** Clerks Public  
**Subject:** coyote

Representatives,

I have been a resident in the Greensborough neighbourhood for 17 years. I have always felt safe and enjoy living here.

I walk 4-5 times a week in the morning before work. I have a back disability and find this form of exercise the only thing that helps me keep fit and mobile.

Since the first I heard of the coyote sightings, I have stopped my morning walk. I have never been around animals and I know, generally, coyote fear humans but I am fearful that they have begun to be our new urbanites. I usually take the GO train in the winters for my drive to work in downtown Toronto but now am fearful for my 8 minute walk home.

This summer, while sun-bathing in my back yard, a racoon climbed my fence and literally walked under my chair. When I opened my eyes after feeling something under the chair, I saw 1 raccoon behind me who had crawled up the fence and A SECOND ONE on top of the opposite side. I can't even relax on my day off! I keep no food outside. I do not take my green bin food out until morning of pick up. I don't understand how this is happening.

I will support any plan and plea with the city to come up with a plan to take these animals or at least the coyotes out of our neighbourhoods, I have heard of at least 2 families who have lost their dogs to the coyotes. Will it take something happening to our children or any of our residents to react??? I would rather not wait for this!

Concerned Greensborough resident,

Gina Lucia Creta

**From:** Michelle Chin

**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 1:29 AM

**To:** Clerks Public

**Subject:** Deputation for General Committee Meeting (Nov.29, 2021)

In response to the issue with the coyotes wandering through the Cornell Rouge community, I would like to voice my concern about how there seems to be an increase of residents dumping their trash bags into the public parks and overflowing the waste bins, resulting in an increase of coyotes being attracted to the food waste. Our neighbourhood feels that the residential trash is now attracting the coyotes even more into these public spaces and parkettes. We hope that there are plans to have stricter enforcement and penalties for public dumping to help stop these reckless individuals from attracting more wildlife into our neighbourhood and making nearby residents feel uneasy and unsafe.

Some public spaces where there is continuous public dumping and also where we've noticed an increase of frequented coyote sightings this past year:

- **Black Walnut Park Playground** ([map](#))
- **Hawkins Parkette** ([map](#))
- **Wilmot Parkette** ([map](#))

Thank you and appreciate the opportunity to voice my concern.

Cheers,

Michelle Chin

**From:** Jin Shen

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 8:24 PM

**To:** Clerks Public

**Subject:** General Committee Meeting Nov 29 2021 9:30am, Coyote Strategy Report

Hello

I received an email from Councillor Andrew Keyes on this topic, I like to write my concerns here on this topic and I also like to attend the meeting, how do I attend the meeting virtually? I don't need to speak in the meeting but if you like me to, I can.

I live in Ward 5 of Markham, the upper cornell area. Recently I have seen coyote twice within 200m of our house. 1st time was in an afternoon, we came back from shopping in our car, and we saw one coyote walking on our side walks. It is about 10 houses north of our house, the coyote walked towards north, but it must just past our front door. The 2nd time was when we had a walk after dinner one day, it was dark already, and we saw two coyotes crossing the Bur Oak Ave in front of us, and there was a car had to slow down to avoid the coyotes.

This is a very concerning matter. Our child is only 21 months old, and we have another child to arrive in less than 3 weeks. We also have two seniors live in our house, we are all very concerned about the coyote situation. I hope the city can resolve this matter.

Jin Shen

Ward 5 resident

**From:** Emily Guest  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2021 6:25 PM  
**To:** Clerks Public  
**Subject:** Deputation - Coyote Strategy Report

Hello,

I would like to first thank you for reaching out to citizens about their concerns and asking for their feedback. I have views concerning the coyotes that have been sighted more frequently that may not mirror those of the majority and so I am writing to voice those views.

Those who are not familiar with coyotes and their behaviours may instinctively react with fear upon seeing them, especially when sightings become more frequent, and it's of course understandable that those with children or pets would have greater concerns. Coyotes are very reactive and mainly respond to human behaviour. An increase in residential sightings could be caused by an increased food source (e.g. unsecured compost), being driven out of prior homes (often by development) or possibly just by fewer people being out and about to discourage their presence which may have happened due to lockdowns earlier in COVID.

Before any drastic measures such as relocation or anything that would harm coyotes is taken, first steps should be adjusting human behaviours. I would like to direct your attention to the Urban Coyote Research project here <https://urbancoyoteresearch.com> , a study which has excellent information on how to coexist and prevent conflict with coyotes through basic methods such as properly dealing with compost, not letting pets wander unsupervised, etc. Coyote Watch Canada here <https://www.coyotewatchcanada.com/site/coexisting-with-coyotes> is also an excellent resource.

In closing I would just like to remind you that coexisting with wild animals is possible if we make an effort. Their homes are often destroyed by the building projects that create the houses we live in, we don't need to further drive them out or harm them if there are steps we can take to adjust some of our behaviours instead.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Emily Guest, wildlife lover and resident of Markham

**From:** Mark Petit  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** Clerks Public  
**Cc:** Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham  
**Subject:** Swan Lake Village Deputation re: Coyote Response and Co-existence Strategy

Board of Directors

Swan Lake Village

Markham, Ontario

November 25, 2021

General Committee

Markham City Council

Dear Members of Council,

We are writing on behalf of the 1000+ seniors who reside in Swan Lake Village regarding the Proposed City of Markham “Coyote Response and Co-existence Strategy” which is being presented to General Committee on Nov. 29, 2021.

We very much appreciate the support of Councillor Keyes and we hope that you too will support the concerns of our residents.

While we agree with many of the Report’s recommendations, the Report does not address one very important variable; namely, aggressive coyotes in a seniors’ community where most residents are over 65, many of whom are elderly and frail, and many who have mobility challenges requiring walkers, canes, and wheelchairs.

Seniors in Swan Lake Village cannot “co-exist” with coyotes. Residents are afraid to go for a walk in the village, with or without pets. A few have told us that they have been living in fear for months. Many are also very angry because they think that the City protects coyotes more than seniors and won’t do anything to solve the problem.

The Report addresses the general public, but vulnerable groups like seniors are not addressed by the proposed Coyote Strategy. Many seniors in a community like Swan Lake Village cannot defend themselves against an aggressive coyote.

A number of full-grown coyotes have wandered freely around our village for months. It won’t be long before someone or their pet will be attacked and either injured or killed. The Coyote Strategy



that Markham Council adopts must take into consideration the protection and personal safety of the general public, but especially of vulnerable people such as seniors.

Attached for your information is a Message our Board of Directors sent to residents in September 2021 describing what we have tried to do over many months to deal with the coyote problems in Swan Lake Village. We have been doing and will continue to do as much as we can, but now we need the City to do their part as well.

We hope that you will consider the safety concerns of Swan Lake Village seniors at the General Committee meeting on Monday.

Thank you very much,

Dave Burrows, Bill Ferguson, Ed Freeman, and Mark Petit

Members of the Swan Lake Village Amenities Committee

Doug Fleming

President of YRSCC No. 1217 Board of Directors

**ATTACHMENT:**

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM VAC:  
The Coyote Problem in Swan Lake Village**

**What we've been doing so far:**

- For a few months now, VAC, the Property Management Office (PMO), and many residents have been trying to solve the coyote problem in Swan Lake Village
- Our strategies have included reporting coyote sightings and encounters to Security, the PMO, Markham Animal Services, Councillor Andrew Keyes, Coyote Watch Canada, and the media

- VAC and the PMO have also tried to hire licensed trappers, hunters, and pest control officers but to no avail
- VAC has sent out eblasts and posted warning signs throughout the village advising residents about how to deal with the coyotes
- These strategies have not yet solved the coyote problem in the village which, unfortunately, has now become more serious for residents, their pets, and possibly even small children who are visiting and playing outside
- As a result, we are now suggesting that everyone try a few other strategies that will require cooperation from all residents

### **What we need to do going forward:**

- A few residents have been trying a strategy called **“Coyote Hazing”**, which involves standing tall, making yourself big, waving your arms, shouting, and blowing whistles or other noisemakers while approaching a coyote until it runs away. This is a method that has been successful in other communities, so residents could use it as much as possible when outside
- VAC will provide all residents with loud whistles, a pamphlet on “coyote hazing”, and a copy of this important message
- To support this strategy, we have hired a security guard to patrol the village to haze the coyotes in the morning and in the evening. We will try this for 10 days and hope that it will help to discourage the coyotes from coming to the village to hunt for food
- All residents who go for a walk or who walk their pets could use coyote hazing for as long as needed
- We are asking all residents to continue reporting coyote encounters to Security and to the PMO so that we have a factual record of all incidents occurring in the village
- Finally, we will be asking our local Councillor to meet with us to understand the urgency of solving the coyote problem before anyone gets hurt. The coyote den is on city property, so the city should take responsibility for the coyotes who come into our village to hunt for food and thereby threaten our residents who are seniors, their pets, and visiting children
- We hope that these new strategies in conjunction with the other strategies we have already tried will finally solve the coyote problem in our village

## **What we need to continue doing:**

- We need to continue reporting coyote encounters to all of the following people (resident's name, date of encounter, description of the incident, location of the incident, and any action taken):  
**The Security office** 905-472-6878  
**Markham Animal Services** 905-415-7531  
**Councillor Andrew Keyes** 905-948-5105 or akeyes@markham.ca
- We need to be careful when we are outside, especially if we have children and pets with us
- We need to carry whistles, horns, walking sticks, etc to scare away any coyotes that we see or encounter
- We need to educate ourselves about "coyote hazing" so we know what to do when we see or encounter a coyote
- We need to keep pets on short leashes and pick up after them
- We need to remove any birdfeeders or any other types of food that will attract birds, squirrels, mice, rabbits, raccoons, and coyotes
- We need to walk in pairs or groups especially in the morning or the evening when the coyotes are more active
- Just like Neighbourhood Watch, we need to work together to solve the coyote problem so we can have a safe village once again

**From:** Gail Lavery  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** Clerks Public; Gold, Laura; Mayor & Councillors  
**Subject:** Markham's Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy

To the Members of General Committee:

I am writing to ask you to please support the Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy.

Coyotes are magnificent animals, and as with all wildlife, it is imperative to educate the public on how to coexist in a safe and respectful manner. It is encouraging to see the importance being placed on educating residents, and I commend the City for this plan.

It is imperative that we protect our natural environment as well as our ecological system; not only for today, but for generations to come, and Markham has the ability, foresight and knowledge on how to achieve this.

I therefore urge you to please support the Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy.

Thank you,  
Gail Lavery

**From:** jo.honsie@jo.honsie

**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 11:47 AM

**To:** Clerks Public; Gold, Laura; Mayor & Councillors

**Subject:** Item 7.1 Coyote Response...General Meeting Nov 29th.

Dear Sir and Madam,

I would like to register my concerns re: coyotes. I believe that they are a part of our communities and they regulate nature as nature regulates them.

I personally have seen them in my garden a couple of times. One time it had a black squirrel in its mouth and another time I saw it chasing a rabbit. That is nature in action. What I did not appreciate was seeing a large beef bone in my backyard that was brought by the coyotes to my yard. (I have not eaten beef on the bone for months) So that means a neighbour is feeding them.

What I would love to see is more information out about controlling human behaviour and not culling coyotes!

Many thanks

Joan Honsberger, Thornhill, ON

From: Margery Brown  
Sent: Thursday, November 25, 2021 12:47 PM  
To: Clerks Public  
Subject: Growing Population of Coyotes

As well documented, coyotes in the region of Swan Lake Park multiplied rapidly this year, posing a risk to small dogs, even when being walked on a leash.

As reported, I believe the animals became increasingly aggressive. I left a 'walker' (walking aid) outside overnight and it was attacked by a coyote; the seat punctured, leaving paw and claw prints too large to be from a raccoon, and one of the rubber tires wrestled off.

Margery Brown

**From:** John Ho  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 6:03 PM  
**To:** Clerks Public  
**Cc:** Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham  
**Subject:** Deputation - Coyote Strategy Report

Hello,

I'd like to address recent sighting today on November 25, 2021. At around 11:45am one lone coyote going south on Cornell Rouge Blvd. almost reaching Riverlands Ave. As I am aware it also was roaming around in the laneway between Cornell Rouge Blvd and Harlan St. around the same time and then head south again.

I have attached video for your reference.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

John

**From:** Nadine Ellul  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 25, 2021 8:53 PM  
**Subject:** Coyotes in Markham

Good evening,

I have been a resident of Markham Village since 2017 and have loved living here from the moment we joined this community.

My husband and I now have a dog which has been a welcome distraction since the onset of COVID. I enjoy walking our pup 2-3 times per day and taking him to the park to play with his ball. However, since the increased presence of coyotes in the neighborhood, I have become more scared to venture out during the day and never walk my dog in the evening.

My pup and I were approached by a coyote in May 2021; I had stopped to let my pup sniff and relieve himself when I was warned by a driver passing me by, honking the car horn feverishly. When I turned around, there was a fair sized coyote right behind me showing its teeth.

I am a college professor and teach class at 8:10am on Mondays; I no longer walk my dog Monday mornings because it is too dark and I often see coyotes wandering around my neighborhood which is far too risky. I am now increasingly afraid to be outside - even in our backyard as I have been informed that coyotes have the ability to jump as high as a standard fence height. I am hopeful it won't take a significantly tragic event for the city to help its citizens out.

I realize that we are fortunate to live in an area with beautiful landscapes and forests but this is no longer a safe neighborhood with these predators lurking around. I would have no issue co-existing with them but they pose too great a risk at this point in time.

It is my hope that Markham will devise a plan that will reinstate our ability to use our tax paying areas such as trails, parks and sidewalks (not to mention our own yards) without fear of being attacked and losing our fur babies. In addition, it is my humble request that more street lights be installed on the side streets including Parkway, Paramount, and Ramona.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nadine



**From:** Michael Fitz-Charles

**Sent:** Friday, November 26, 2021 9:24 AM

**To:** Clerks Public

**Subject:** COYOTE IN MARKHAM

We are residents of SWAN LAKE VILLAGE. We have seen the Coyote walking in our back yard. Being grand parents of two three year old and a five year old the kids cannot go outside when they visit. We were so SAD to see the TOSO of a rabbit laying on our front law ,it had been attacked by The Coyote. We miss going for our daily walk. I am disable and my movement is quite slow,I FEAR being attacked. HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED ,SO LIFE CAN RETURN BACK TO NORMAL.  
THANK YOU.

**From:** Vice-President Thornhill Ward One  
**Sent:** Friday, November 26, 2021 11:52 AM  
**To:** Clerks Public; Gold, Laura; Mayor & Councillors <MayorAndCouncillors@markham.ca>  
**Cc:** Lehman, Christy  
**Subject:** Markham's Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy - GC item 7.1

## Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy

General Committee, Monday, November 29, 2021 at 9:30 am

### Item 7.1

To the Members of General Committee:

The Ward One (South) Thornhill Residents Inc support the Markham Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy.

The plan is consistent with Markham's Greenprint Sustainability Plan and Markham's Official Plan's goals to enhance biodiversity and wildlife in its natural ecological systems. In doing this, we are also protecting the Residents.

It is very important to educate residents about the importance of not feeding coyotes. We have seen this happen in Thornhill and the results are written in the Report.

Congratulations to staff and Council for their Report and their Strategy to have Human and wildlife co-exist harmoniously."

Evelin Ellison

Ward One (South) Thornhill Residents Inc.

**From:** JANET ANDREWS  
**Sent:** Friday, November 26, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** Clerks Public  
**Subject:** General Committee Meeting - November 29, 2021

Attached is a copy of the remarks I will be making to General Committee on November 29, 2021 on agenda item 7.1, Coyote Response and Co-existence Strategy. I have registered to address the Committee.

Janet Andrews

**Attachment:**

Submission to Markham City Council  
Coyote Response and Co-Existence Strategy

Good morning. My name is Janet Andrews and I wish to speak in support of the proposed Coyote Response and Co-Existence Strategy and I urge Council to adopt the strategy. I have lived in the City for 37 years and I have never seen a coyote even though I live in one of the 4 "active" areas identified in the staff report and walk my dog in Pomona Park.

It is important to note that the coyotes were here first - **we** are the ones who have invaded **their** territory, **we** are the ones who have built houses, roads and other infrastructure that interfere with **their** movement and way of life.

As many experts have pointed out, the main reason for human-coyote interactions is the feeding of wildlife, whether intentional (such as handfeeding) or not (improper storage of garbage). Remove the easy access to the food sources provided by humans and coyotes will move to another location.

As the staff report points out, the occurrence of human-coyote and dog-coyote incidents in Markham is extremely low. There has **never** been a human-coyote incident and in the last two years there were two dog-coyote incidents. In contrast, in just the last six months there have been 15 cases of dogs attacking humans and 32 cases of dogs attacking dogs. Based on these statistics, coyotes do not pose a threat to us.

Markham is a leader in the provision of animal and wildlife services and protector of our environment. The adoption of this strategy, with its emphasis on public education and outreach, will ensure that we can safely co-exist with coyotes and other wildlife.

Thank you.