

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 wreckless 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://urbancoyotereseach.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.

TO: Markham City Council-General Committee Meeting- Monday, November 29th, 2021

RE: COYOTE PROBLEM at Swan Lake Village

I am writing in regard to the aggressive actions of the coyotes in and around Swan Lake & Swan Lake Village where my husband and I have lived for over 10 years. We have a dog, a miniature schnauzer, which we walk 3-4 times a day around the pond or within the village. I walk her every evening before bed between 10:00 — 11:00 p.m.

One evening in mid October at the beginning of our evening walk I spotted a coyote several hundred yards down the street obviously hunting for prey so I quickly reversed my route but within seconds he was behind us, staring at my dog. I screamed, screamed, & screamed while waving a walking stick at the coyote — these actions saved my dog — the coyote was definitely after her, but he stopped, stared at me in the eyes and then reluctantly retreated.

This event has traumatized my pet and I — we can no longer have a peaceful short walk before bed — I now carry a golf club for protection and we have a one minute walk. I don't think I should be afraid to walk in our community, close to home, petrified that I will be accosted by a wild animal looking for food. Two dogs have already been killed by coyotes in our neighbourhood, so the fears of residents are not exaggerated or unfounded.

Hopefully you can reach a compromise to send the coyotes north where they can hunt and survive in peace in their natural habitat.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Wilson

From: John Yeung
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2021 1:22 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Deputation - Coyote Strategy Report

Hi,

I believe part of the problem is people illegally dumping their household garbage at the park's garbage bins and beside the garbage bins daily. This attracts the coyotes and other animals!

I have talked to the city garbage collectors and they are frustrated also. They also expressed that there is nothing that they can do unless the person is caught red-handed and paid a fine.

Thanks,

--

John C.Y. Yeung

November 26, 2021

Dear Mr. Keyes,

Thank you for your service within the Markham community and particularly for your attention to the problem of coyotes in our neighbourhoods. This issue has been and continues to be of great concern to me and over the past year I have frequently encouraged my fellow residents to voice their concerns to our elected officials. I have communicated on two occasions with Ms. Rea and wrote one letter to the Mayor respectfully requesting their help with this problem. I received absolutely no reply from the Mayor which was very disappointing. Ms. Rea kindly did respond which I greatly appreciate but unfortunately little was done and in the weeks ahead coyotes continued to roam freely and harass residents and their pets. I voiced my concerns several times on the Nextdoor forum but eventually stopped as some of those who are animal activists were very intimidating and insulting in their remarks. We are all entitled to our own opinions but I believe we should be expressing them in a respectful manner.

When I read your concerns about the problem I was so thankful that finally someone in office was demonstrating some compassion for those of us who have become fearful to walk or bike in our own community. I stopped walking alone or with our dogs many months ago. This year 3 dogs were snatched and killed by coyotes within easy walking distance of my home. One coyote has frequently been seen on our front porch and sitting area sniffing the furniture and my three year old granddaughter's rocking horse. One afternoon last fall I was on our front lawn with my little granddaughter when a coyote trotted up the sidewalk and passed our house, fortunately on the opposite side of the street. One of my neighbours was approached by a coyote in the park behind E.T. Crowle School one evening last summer. He recorded the encounter and the coyote came within about 5 feet of him. Fortunately, he was able to scare it off but it continued to stalk him until he was out of the park.

Putting up signs is only a small response to the problem by perhaps educating those persons who have either fed or left garbage out attracting wildlife. However, that does not solve the problem. Unfortunately, at this point, these animals have been conditioned to associate humans with food and have lost all fear of them. From my research I've learned that this trait is impossible to reverse once established.

There are those who vehemently propose that we have taken their space with development over the years and that we need to learn to coexist. I have lived here since 1994 during times of great development and have never seen a coyote until now. They were always heard at night in the Conservation Area but never seen because they were shy of people. As far as I am concerned they are taking over OUR homes at this point. Ontario has thousands of square miles of natural environment well-suited to the survival of coyotes. Now, they brazenly patrol our neighbourhoods day or night which is a cause of fear and concern for many. Some schools in the area have had to keep students indoors at recess because a coyote has been on the property. These same students have to walk home or wait for a bus with a potentially dangerous predator in the vicinity.

It has been suggested now that we should carry air horns, golf clubs, canes or umbrellas. We should not have to arm ourselves to enjoy a walk, a bicycle ride or for our children to play in the park. That is absurd, especially if the Town chooses to take no action. We are also told that our children and pets are not safe in our own fenced backyards because the coyote can jump high enough to gain entry.

I read on the Ministry website:

"However, when prevention fails, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act allows municipalities to protect their property by harassing, capturing or dispatching a variety of wildlife species, including coyotes, or to hire a licensed hunter or trapper to do so on their behalf. Municipalities may also take action to address human-wildlife conflicts on private property with the permission of the landowner. No approval or authorization is required from the province in these cases."

Markham does have options.

Finally, I have to say that seeing one particular sign, "Quiet please, coyote family living in the area" along with "information on how humans and pets can safely coexist with coyotes" is an absolutely cruel slap in the face to those families who have had their children traumatized and pets killed along with anyone else who has had or fears to have an encounter with these animals. That sign suggests the city's lack of empathy or concern for their citizens in favour of protecting what has sadly become a dangerous predator.

Mr. Keyes I am so grateful for your obvious concern for the welfare of the citizens of Markham. It is my hope that with your help we might finally find a solution that restores safety to the community. We should not be held hostage by these wild animals who have taken over our neighbourhoods chasing terrified children,

harassing seniors at Swan Lake, pursuing cyclists, stalking adults and killing pets. What more will it have to take before Markham puts forth serious action to make our neighbourhood safe for all again?

One last perspective. If it were a human being who had killed those 3 dogs in front of their owners, who had stalked and terrified both children and adults, pursued cyclists and harassed the seniors at Swan Lake..... would the City of Markham simply post warning signs and allow the culprit to prowl the streets? Or tell us to arm ourselves outside of our homes? I don't think so.

Please Mr. Keyes, I am imploring you to do whatever you can to urge the City of Markham to take appropriate and decisive action. Please help us so that we may finally feel safe and secure to walk and play and enjoy the outdoors in our beautiful neighbourhood once again.

Thank you very kindly for your attention to my concerns and your efforts in this matter.

Respectfully,
Jan Pinsonneault

From: Louis Mayrand
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Cc: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham
Subject: Written Deputation - November 29th General Committee Meeting - Coyotes

This is a written deputation sent to you ahead of the General Committee Meeting to be held on November 29th, 2021 at 9:30am regarding coyotes.

I would like the Committee to consider the following points:

1. Markham's Animal Protection and Services By-law 2018-91 states that:
 - a. Section 3.2 (1):

"No owner of a dog shall cause or permit the dog to be at large in the City"
 - b. Section 3.3 (1):

"An Animal Services Officer may seize and impound any dog which has been found at large"
2. The Committee should ask itself why the by-law has those requirements for "at large dogs". Presumably:
 - a. At large dogs can disturb the quality of life of the city's residents;
 - b. At large dogs can be a threat to other pets;
 - c. At large dogs can be a threat to the city's residents.
 - d. In my opinion, ditto with coyotes (let alone the fact that coyotes are more acquainted than domestic dogs to killing other animals, and probably more inclined than domestic dogs to behave aggressively when in close proximity to humans).
3. The Committee should contrast why "at large dogs" should be impounded but not "at large coyotes". Let alone that "at large coyotes" have the luxury of public signs currently posted on Markham streets asking residents to be "quiet" so that they do not disturb "at large coyotes".

Please, stop the absurdity of this double standard before someone gets hurt. Treat "at large coyotes" just like "at large dogs".

Louis Mayrand

From: Patty Kruka
Sent: Saturday, November 27, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Subject: Deputation - Coyote Strategy Report

Dear Councillors ,

During the past 6 months we've had 4 frightening encounters with coyotes . All of these encounters have been reported to local , regional and provincial officials . Near our home two small dogs have been attacked and killed by coyotes . We have been residents of Swan Lake Village for over 11 years . During the first 10 1/2 years we have never encountered coyotes . That 's what makes this situation so alarming . Even more alarming to us as residents and tax payers is that none of our pleas for help have been met with any constructive action .

While Peter was driving his school bus near Cornell Public School he recently saw a coyote walking freely down the sidewalk at 3 :22 PM on a bright and sunny day . We have learned from one of the parents that their children are being denied recess for fear of coyote attacks . At the same time one of our Ministry officials wrote they take human safety with the utmost seriousness . Clearly , this is not the case . The only evidence of any government official addressing the coyote situation was to erect a 2 sided sign stating the following :

QUITE PLEASE , COYOTE FAMILY LIVING IN THE AREA
PLEASE RESPECT THEIR SPACE

How does this help in any way to protect our children , seniors and our pets ??????????
We will be forwarding this letter to many other local residents with similar concerns .

Patty & Peter Kruka

Markham

Quiet please, Coyote family
living in the area

PLEASE RESPECT
THEIR SPACE

DO NOT:

- ⊗ Feed wildlife
- ⊗ Take photos
- ⊗ Approach
the family



markham.ca/wildlife

Help keep wildlife WILD

MARKHAM

From: Suzanne Gagnon-Gould
Sent: Saturday, November 27, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>
Cc: Councillor Andrew Keyes - Markham <AKeyes@markham.ca>
Subject: Deputation - Coyote Strategy Report

Please take seriously the issue of what has been noted as a change in 'coyote behaviour' in the area of Markham in which I live. Coyotes are known to be curious and at the same time shy by nature.

I have in the past years, seen coyotes in this neighbourhood, quietly and 'invisibly' walking down my street and travelling through the green spaces of Swan Lake Village. This is, to the best of my knowledge, 'normal' coyote behaviour.

However, this is not the 'coyote behaviour' I have experienced as a resident of Swan Lake Village throughout 2021.

They are aggressive and not 'invisible'. They are making their presence known, standing firm in clear sight and holding their ground.

As well, the number of coyotes in Swan Lake Village has increased.

The green space behind my home where we have cultivated a Butterfly Pathway was a killing zone in the spring (scattered with body parts of many former tiny inhabitants) before the geese started laying their eggs. Once that food source was not longer available they started moving around in search of other food sources.

I do not want to be in the situation I was in one Saturday this summer with a coyote running straight at me and my dog. It made a sharp turn about 20 feet from us and kept on running. I was holding an umbrella, a can of spray, an air horn and of course my dog's leash (not a relaxing way to walk your dog).

I still see the coyote's eyes.

I do not like to be afraid. I do not want to have another encounter with a coyote charging me and my dog in the future.

Residents of Swan Lake Village put out their green, blue bins and garbage on Friday mornings and not the night before. I walk my dog around the village between 7:30am and 8:30am on a regular basis and have noted that there are very few bins at the end of driveways, if any at that time.

If it is true that some people are feeding the coyotes, then we should have signs posted informing of the fines associated with feeding wildlife.

I hope that I have provided enough information for you to realize that there is a serious issue of coyote encounters and a serious change in 'coyote behaviour' which needs to be addressed.

We need to defend all 'wildlife' as well as the tax paying residents of Swan Lake Village and Markham Ontario.

Be the solution!

Best regards

Suzanne K. Gagnon-Gould
Markham

From: Debra Beattie
Sent: November 28, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham
Subject: Statement to be read at Coyote meeting.

Hello Councillor Keyes,

I am unable to attend the virtual meeting regarding Coyotes in Markham but I would like to take a moment to express my opinion regarding the matter. I would appreciate it if my statement could be read during the meeting.

I feel very strongly that we need to educate the public on how to coexist with Coyotes. In the north/east end of Markham we have the privilege of living near the Rouge National Urban park but it means that we have a greater chance of encountering wildlife in our community. If you live near a large greenspace you must accept that encounters with wildlife will happen, the key is learning how to coexist and what to do if you do encounter wildlife.

We need public education about how to not encourage the Coyotes to come close to humans. Ideas such as, do not leave garbage out at the curb the night before garbage day, do not leave garbage bags in public parks, keep your pets on a leash at all times and the most important thing is to NEVER FEED wild animals. Education on how to handle yourself if you do encounter a Coyote is also very important. I personally carry a loud whistle when I walk my dog at night.

I think the public also needs to know that seeing a Coyote near the Rouge park is not unusual, this is where they belong, the park is their home. We need the public to understand it is normal to see one in the area, it is not a reason to start posting photos on Facebook and spreading fear in the community. I feel that the Facebook platform has been used to heighten anxiety in our community. I have lived in this area for 20 years, the Coyotes have always been here, we have peacefully coexisted without any aggression from the Coyotes.

I hope that a sensible public education plan, signage in our community and even surveillance in our parks (to ensure people are not feeding the Coyotes) is a reasonable response to this situation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this statement,

Regards,
Debra Beattie

From: Frederick Lancelot
Sent: November 28, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham
Subject: Coyotes in Markham

Good afternoon Andrew,

I am a resident of Cornell and I understand there will be a meeting tomorrow regarding coyotes in Markham. I am not in favour of doing anything to harm coyotes. They are a part of our local wildlife and we need to accommodate the fact that they exist in the same area and enable cohabitation, not elimination or removal.

Thanks,
Fred Lancelot

From: Janice Lo
Sent: November 28, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham
Subject: Coyote Response & Co-Existing Strategy

Hello Councillor Andrew Keyes,

My name is Janice Lo and my husband, Kelvin Chun, live in the Cornell community with our Samoyed, Bruce for over 5 years.

On our many walks in the evenings, we have had close encounters with the coyotes with our medium-sized dog but they have more or less kept to themselves and left us alone.

The coyotes are currently keeping Markham's rat population down, and we are also living by a gorgeous national park, the Rouge National Urban Park, which we trust our community to continue to let wildlife thrive and the natural ecosystem without much interference.

My husband and I are in agreement and hope that the proposed Coyote Response and Coexistence Strategy will hopefully allow us to exist peacefully with the coyotes.

Thank you,
Janice & Kelvin

From: Jax Nasimok

Sent: November 28, 2021 3:45 PM

To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham

Subject: Coyotes in Markham message to be read

Dear Andrew Keyes,

I am a Gr. 12 Student at Bill Hogarth S.S. and I am in support of educating people about coexisting with Coyotes in Markham. They are part of our natural ecosystems and deserve the right to exist here in Markham, especially since they are likely living in the Rouge National Urban Park. By removing the Coyotes in Markham, Coyotes from neighbouring territories will just replace them. As you kill off more and more of them, you eventually pose a severe threat to the whole Rouge population. With proper education, Coyotes pose NO threat to the public. Coyotes are naturally wary of people. It is because of habituation by people and feeding by the public that is causing the problem. Fines should be introduced to end unethical behaviour. This will protect both the public and the Coyotes and allow both populations to co-exist safely.

Please feel free to read this message at the meeting on Monday morning.

I would have liked the opportunity to read this in person, but this meeting was scheduled during a time when the majority of residents are either working or at school.

Thank you,
Jax

From: Monica Stanciu

Sent: November 28, 2021 2:54 PM

To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham

Subject: Please do not remove/kill coyotes from our Markham neighbourhood

Dear City of Markham Animal Control ,

I add my name to the group of Markham residents who don't want coyotes to be removed/killed from our Cornell neighbourhood.

Nature has her way of self balance. By removing the coyotes, we will have a rodent problem, which is by far, worse.

I understand some people are afraid of coyotes and in some situations coyotes did harm, but this is not a reason to remove them. With better education these unfortunate incidents could be avoided.

Education starting at early age is important. Steep fines for feeding them is a good start. Foxes are protected and run wild in London, England, please protect the wild life here as well.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

MONICA STANCIU

From: Ted Nasimok <nasibeat@gmail.com>

Sent: November 28, 2021 1:46 PM

To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham

Subject: Coyotes in Markham Meeting: Please read during meeting - in support of Coyotes

Hello Councillor Keyes,

I will be working during the virtual meeting about Coyotes in Markham and unable to attend. I am very passionate about this issue and would appreciate it if my statement could be considered and read in the meeting.

I believe the strongest response we can make is one of education around how to live with the urban wildlife in our area, which includes Coyotes along with all the other animals we share our community with.

I have a dog and I have been on walks and seen Coyotes. There are always one of two responses. First they simply move away. Second, they pause, look at us and then move away.

There seems to be a lot of fear around Coyotes due to a lack of education. Then on the flip side some people try to feed them, which should never happen.

Green spaces in Markham are few and far between. We are lucky to have areas around us where wildlife can still flourish and we should appreciate it.

Key elements of Education:

1. Coyotes and other wildlife are a normal part of our urban environments (particularly so close to the Rouge Park) and they should be recognized as natural inhabitants.
2. Keep your pets on a leash at all times (this isn't just about this topic, because I have seen several close calls where pets have nearly been run over by cars).
3. Never feed Coyotes. We want them to continue to be wild animals, maintaining their places in the urban ecosystem. We do not want them seeing humans as a source of potential meals.
4. If you leave them alone, they will leave you alone. Move away, or let the Coyotes move away.

Please let me know if I can contribute to the discussion in other ways, and how I can help with a resolution.

Thank you for taking the time to read this statement,
Ted Nasimok

From: Andrea Hagman
Sent: November 28, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham
Subject: Re: Coyotes in Markham

CAUTION: This email originated from a source outside the City of Markham. DO NOT CLICK on any links or attachments, or reply unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councillor Anthony Keyes,

Just a short note in support of coyotes. I believe we can exist in harmony with them and that they are an important part of our ecosystem. They help control our rat and other rodent population and are just living where they have always lived before we built homes on their land. I agree that we need to educate the community better about not interacting, feeding or leaving garbage/animal waste out that attracts them. And we need to better educate people on how to safely act when they encounter one. Please do not eliminate or kill these gorgeous creatures.

With kindness,
Andrea Hagman

From: NICOLE RAU
Sent: November 27, 2021 10:31 PM
To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham
Cc: Gibbons, Michelle
Subject: Response to Coyote Strategy for the City of Markham

Dear City of Markham Councillors,

I am writing to express my support of the proposed Coyote Response and Co-Existence Strategy presented by Christy Lehman and her team. I feel it is a well-researched and thoughtful strategy for the City of Markham and am pleased to see that it focuses on the education of residents. People fear what they don't understand.

I am a long-time resident of Cornell and a dog owner. I walk my dog a minimum of 2 hours a day, every day in the morning and in the evening and I also frequent the trails around York Region. Although coyotes have been present in our local fields for many years now, I became more interested when we started seeing them in the neighbourhood on a regular basis during the Covid lockdowns. I set out to educate myself on coyote behaviour and what to do when confronted so that I would be prepared if and when I had an encounter.

I have seen coyotes several times on my walks now and each time the coyote has never shown more than a fleeting interest in our presence. I keep a respectful distance and my dog is always on a leash. I am well aware of my surroundings and although I have had to change some of my walking routes to make sure that we stay safe (i.e. I no longer walk through the park at night and avoid the areas where I know coyotes reside) it is a small price to pay for co-existence. I am not afraid to walk in my neighbourhood.

I do agree that the community of Swan Lake poses some unique challenges and may require a more detailed strategy than what can be applied to the rest of Markham but overall the strategy presented is a solid one.

Thank you,

Nicole Rau

From: Janet Blackmore

Sent: November 27, 2021 6:23 PM

To: Councillor, Andrew Keyes - Markham

Subject: Coyotes

I don't think that the coyotes are the problem, humans need to understand that they are wild animals, and very capable of looking after themselves. Perhaps humans keep your property clean and clear your garbage!!! Also stop feeding them!!!! On my walks with my dog I see people who have left food out; for what I'm not sure, but rats eat garbage too!!!! Be responsible and learn to enjoy the fact we have an amazing community, which we share with many species of wildlife!!!! I hope that you will make the utmost effort to save the wildlife in Markham, we are all so lucky to have the green spaces around us and we need to educate people that we can co exist. Please ensure our coyotes are protected in our community

Thank you,
Janet Blackmore