

TO: Mayor J. Lehman and Members of Council

FROM: K. Bradley, B.A., MLA, Manager of Parks & Forestry

NOTED: D. Friary, Director of Roads, Parks and Fleet

R. J. Forward, MBA, M.Sc., P. Eng.,
General Manager of Infrastructure & Growth Management

Carla Ladd, Chief Administrative Officer

RE: 2015 Goose Management Pilot Program Update

DATE: February 8, 2016



The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update on the success of the 2015 goose management program that commenced in April 2015 and the plans for the continuance of the management program into 2016 based on its success to date.

The Objective and Key Features of the Program

The objective of the program is to implement a management program that discourages resident, local, and migratory goose populations from congregating in primary (Heritage Park, Marina, Centennial Beach, Minet's Point Park) and secondary (Allandale Station Park, GO Transit turf areas) waterfront parks, with an overall goal of significantly reducing the amount of droppings on each site. Estimates vary, but each adult produces between 150 and 900 grams of feces a day which can carry E. coli and salmonella.

The program uses an integrated approach that employs a number of control techniques and tools designed specifically to respond to the behavior of the geese in the waterfront area. These features include:

- Integrated tools such as marine and shoreline control units, egg oiling, dog patrols, predator decoys, and laser lights
- Observation of goose behavior prior to, during, and post controls, and
- Data collection, weekly monitoring, and bi-annual reporting of success of measures and program

The City's pilot program also used a 24 hour cycle, not restricting controls to daytime, to disturb the full patterns and comfort that the geese have with feeding, resting, and nesting on the City sites. This forces them to find this same habitat in more natural environments outside of the public areas on the waterfront where goose presence will not be an issue.

2015 Results

Monitoring and data logging were a key feature of the 2015 program providing the City with measurable results as to the success of the control techniques and the success of the overall program objectives. The 2015 results are compared to 2014 baseline measurements for the four months of 2014 for which we have baseline population data.

Table 1 below illustrates the reported results and success of the program with a significant reduction in total goose population year over year for the program since initiated across all of the control sites. It should also be noted that staff did not receive any negative feedback about the program and control measures from the public and only one enquiry was recorded requesting information regarding the dog patrol. Roads, Parks and Fleet and Marina staff also received very positive comments from residents in

the fall of 2015 about the noticeable reduction in goose droppings and the improved condition of the boardwalk, waterfront pathways, and greenspace as a result.

Table 1. Monthly Average Goose Population Across All Control Sites

MONTH	2014 Monthly Average Goose Population (Rounded to Nearest 5)	2015 Monthly Average Goose Population (Rounded to Nearest 5)	Reduction in Goose Population from 2014 to 2015 During Program (Rounded to Nearest 5)
April	NA	40	NA
May	NA	35	NA
June	NA	50	NA
July	NA	60	NA
August	175	20	(155)
September	160	25	(135)
October	140	40	(120)
November	320	210	(110)

The results should be reviewed on a year to year basis, and not month to month within a year. The increase in the population for example in November is a natural pattern and is due to the influx of transient geese, but the average monthly number in November 2015 is 110 below that of 2014.

2016 Program

Staff in Parks & Forestry, based on the success of the program will be issuing a Request for Proposals to the open market in early February 2016 to continue the service for a three year term. This service provider will be required to provide regular monitoring and reporting through the program that staff will use to continually assess its effectiveness and provide updates to the public and Council. The cost of the program will be funded through the Roads, Parks and Fleet base budget and no additional funding was requested through the 2016 Business Plan.

Staff and the successful service provider will also be reaching out to local landowners (e.g. waterfront condominium management) regarding partnering in the program to provide a holistic control program for the City's waterfront.

Parks & Forestry staff will also be investigating no-cost changes to existing turf management practices in the City's waterfront parks that deter goose populations. For example, marginally increasing the mow height from 75mm up to 100mm during the months of April and May makes the turf bitter to geese and assists in deterring them during the critical spring control period from nesting in those areas due to a lack of suitable food.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at extension 4825 if you need any further information.



K. Bradley
Manager of Parks & Forestry