

For Information Only

Canada Geese Control

Presented To: Priorities Committee

Presented: Wednesday, Oct 22, 2008

Report Date Wednesday, Oct 22, 2008

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendations

That a 2009 Budget Enhancement be prepared to request ongoing funding in the amount of \$100,000 to continue the Geese Management Program at existing sites and we further recommend an additional \$100,000 to expand the program to include sites in former municipalities.

Finance Implications

If approved, a budget option totalling \$200,000 will be prepared as part of the 2009 Budget process.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Kevan Moxam
Manager of Parks Services
Digitally Signed Oct 15, 08

Division Review

Real Carre
Director of Leisure , Community and
Volunteer Services
Digitally Signed Oct 15, 08

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community
Development
Digitally Signed Oct 15, 08

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Mark Mieto
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Oct 16, 08

Executive Summary

Staff will be making a presentation on Geese Management Strategies implemented this past summer.

Background

The geese population is increasing 10-15% per year on the average. City playing fields and water fronts offer protected areas with few natural predators. This problem discourages citizen activity in these areas.

As part of the 2008 budget, Council approved a one-time allocation in the amount of \$75,000 in order to implement geese management strategies and increase maintenance.

The Department issued an RFP for the development of a Geese Management Program. DST Consulting Engineers Inc. was retained to conduct the pilot Geese Management Program.

The program began in July 2008 at the following four (4) sites; Robinson Playground, Moonlight Beach, Bell Park and James Jerome Sports Complex. Different types of geese control initiatives were implemented.

The scope of work which was implemented included;

- Canine Control
 - Of all techniques utilized, canine control continues to be the most successful at all parklands included in the scope of work.
 - This technique is particularly effective, as it may be utilized in the water, resulting in disturbances of the geese from the habitat where they feel most at ease.
- Pyrotechnics
 - Auditory and hazing techniques which included blow horns, bangers and screamers.
- Habitat Modifications
 - fencing
 - tree planting
- Public Awareness Program/Signage
 - Educational signs posted at the four sites
- Record Keeping/Reporting

The department is requesting Council's approval in preparing a 2009 Budget Enhancement in the amount of \$200,000 to continue and expand the Geese Management Program.