

DEER SUBMISSIONS

EMAIL: deermanagement@crd.bc.ca

IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL

November 13, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Corey Burger

From: Jimm [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 7:50 AM
To: Deer Management
Subject: Deer in Oak Bay

To Mayor and Council of Oak Bay, I am opposed to a deer culling plan that lets many drivers off the hook. The problem as I see it is exasperated by impatience speeding drivers distracted by cell phones and texting while at the wheel. If they drove more carefully and looked for hazards, fewer accidents would result. Oak Bay police should crack down on these drivers by writing up more tickets. Less deer would be involved in traffic accidents and less property damage would result.

J. R. Smith and L Groves,
[REDACTED]

Corey Burger

From: Jeff Weightman
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 10:36 AM
To: Deer Management
Subject: FW: suggestion re deer cull

From: Sue Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 7:56 PM
To: Mayor Nils Jensen
Subject: suggestion re deer cull

Dear Mayor,

I do not personally like the idea of a cull, but if it must be done may I make a suggestion. Would it not be easier and more to the point to just cull the males? This would obviously need to be done by shooting, rather than trapping, but would surely be a quicker and less stressful method to the animal. If the males were to be culled on an ongoing basis, I am sure the females would eventually move on, at the very least the population would diminish gradually over time. I hope you will give this idea some consideration.

Thank you for your time,

Sue Thompson
Cadboro Bay Rd

Corey Burger

From: Nancy Besharah [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 23, 2013 8:05 AM
To: Deer Management
Subject: (CRD Website Submission)

The following message was received through the contact form at www.crd.bc.ca. Neither the name or e-mail address can be confirmed as accurate.

.....

Your Name:
Nancy Besharah

Your E-mail Address:
[REDACTED]

Subject:
Deer Management

Message:

I am an Oak Bay resident and strongly oppose the proposed cull. It strikes me as an extremely cruel solution that is not sustainable over the longer term.

I would appreciate updates on the further development and implementation of the CRD deer strategy.

Submitted at: 11/23/2013 8:04:30 AM
Submitted via: <http://www.crd.bc.ca/contact/default.aspx?r=811>
User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPad; CPU OS 5_1_1 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/534.46 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/5.1 Mobile/9B206 Safari/7534.48.3
IP: 24.69.87.251

Corey Burger

From: Feedback [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2013 11:25 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Deer in Oak Bay and surrounding areas

Dear Oak Bay Mayor and Council:

We ask you to cancel any plans to exterminate deer in the Oak Bay municipality.

As we move towards the Christmas Season, it is good to reflect upon the spirit and true meaning of Christmas, and to honour messages of compassion towards all animals as practiced by the earliest Christian communities (during the time of Christ) and other compassionate communities, not only at Christmas, but always.

We are disheartened that Oak Bay has decided to implement copycat measures that are being used throughout North America to exterminate wildlife from urban and agriculture, and indeed most, areas without regard to larger global implications in doing so.

Deer are not creating problems for humans. It is just the opposite: humans are creating problems for deer. It is a human culture that is completely disconnected from nature that is causing a tragic and completely unnecessary loss of deer habitat, forcing the deer into peoples' gardens to avoid starvation. Approaching this problem with compassion will generate ethical solutions for a harmonious relationship between deer, other wildlife and people. Anything that involves violence is not ethical.

I offer reasons for developing a compassionate approach which involve higher thinking than the current extermination approach. I also offer some multi-faceted solutions that, together, will shape a more positive attitude towards living with deer and wildlife over time, and thus tolerate sharing space with them and respecting their right to coexist in their way.

REASONS

1. Our world is devastatingly violent, in part, because of how we view and treat animals. Once we have become desensitized to disrespecting and maltreating animals, who are fully sentient and, contrary to religious and scientific and corporate teachings, were NOT "put" on this earth to serve humans, the path has been paved to treat humans worldwide with incivility (noteworthy example: the Holocaust as practiced by Hitler's followers in WWII). Cultivating a cultural lack of empathy for other life forms directly leads to increasing incivility and hostility among people.
2. Our environment is in peril on all fronts: land, water, and air. This is in part because of our profound disconnection from nature, and our self-oriented lifestyles which consume much more of the earth's resources than we need for comfortable survival and fulfilling and enriched lives. Our culture has caused many of us to lose the ability to share and leave resources for others (including wildlife).
3. People who love wildlife and nature, including children, become deeply and systematically traumatised when violence is practiced towards nature and wildlife in our communities. The views of this peace-promoting group of people should not be trivialized or marginalized, because it is their ideas within which hope resides for the evolution of a more civilized and ethical culture in our world.

4. The weapons industry and gun lobbyists have joined forces to push for wildlife exterminations across North America. This generates good profits for industries that sell weapons. We oppose supporting weapons industries and violence promoted by hunting lobby groups in our communities. Our communities should have a culture free from violence towards animals and people.

5. Healthy wildlife habitat is healthy human habitat. What the deer eat is indeed wholesome survival food for humans. We disagree with the position of "Friends of Animals" that our yards should not contain plants that deer eat. This is bizarre! The implications of this would be that people would be encouraged to biologically sterilize their yards (with ornamentals) so as to keep deer away, and we find this wholly unnatural! In fact, we believe that just the opposite is needed. Yes, we can fence part of our yards to preserve vegetables that we are growing (and this has worked for us), but we should also leave significant portions of our yards with edible plants growing for deer (wild and domestic edibles) for a secondary reason that if an Earthquake ever strikes Victoria, we ourselves will largely depend on these edible areas for our own sustenance, as we are biologically and physiologically designed as herbivores who can survive on leafy and root vegetables and fruits. The outcomes could be disastrous in times of emergency if biological sterilization of our communities is promoted as a measure to dissuade deer from roaming through our properties.

We would be grateful if you would find time to read the following four books, which provide deep insight into the unnecessary and needless conflicts that arise between humans and wildlife, as a result of unnatural ideologies that have been taught to us by our institutions, ideologies that are largely shaped by corporate donors that fund institutional (educational and government) programs. (This includes the views of wildlife biologists who are taught to perceive wildlife as "commercial commodities" and whose recommendations for exterminations are shaped by these views. Most university programs are funded by corporations which shape the ideologies that are taught to the students).

1. **"Dominion"** by Matthew Scully (*historical overview of human treatment of animals, including how attitudes have come about to consider wildlife as "nuisances"*)
2. **"Earth's Blanket"** by Nancy Turner (*historical overview of how First Nations wild plant-based lifestyles have been almost completely annihilated by attitudes of European settlers, who systematically removed the plants upon which the First Nations relied for sustenance, from their communities -- this systematic and extensive habitat loss of First Nations strikingly parallels how deer communities are impoverished with the same underlying mentalities of the dominant culture*)
3. **"World Peace Diet"** by Will Tuttle (*overview of the ramifications, on all life systems, of the mentality towards animals as is currently practiced by all of our cultural institutions, and how these practices have deviated from original spiritual teachings of many of the world's religions*)
4. **"Eternal Treblinka"** by Charles Patterson (*overview of how violent and insensitive cultural views towards animals shaped how people were treated in the Holocaust*)

In the meantime, some articles that summarize some issues presented in these books are at these links:

- A. **"Time to Wake Up":** <http://www.vegsource.com/dr-will-tuttle/time-to-wake-up.html> (*how human desensitization of the violence towards animals shapes our culture*)
- B. **"Why be Vegan when Nature is Predatory?":** <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/why-be-vegan-when-nature-is-predatory/> (*how biodiversity loss shapes our world*)
- C. **"Slaughterhouse Nightmare":** http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1016401 (*how the violence practiced by slaughterhouse workers becomes infused into their personal lives and into their communities - similar situation exists when hunters, who practice systematic violence towards animals are let loose in our communities - there exists no violent person who has not first practiced his or her violence on defenseless animals first*)

SOLUTIONS

- A. Zero tolerance towards speeding in our communities (as speeding and inattention to driving cause many motor vehicle accidents towards wildlife). People who are given the privilege of driving on today's crowded roadways must exercise responsible behaviour on the road. Driver's license revoked for 1 year following a first offense for speeding.
- B. Zero tolerance towards hitting people or wildlife with a vehicle. Driver's license revoked for 5 years following an incident. Extensive driver retraining prior to re-issuance of driver's license.
- C. People encouraged to purchase deer fencing for areas where vegetables are grown.
- D. People encouraged to leave the rest of their yards (the unfenced portions) for wildlife forage as they pass through the area. (This includes for deer, raccoons, geese, ducks, rabbits, snakes, birds, squirrels, etc...)
- E. Schools teach children to respect and revere wildlife.
- F. Promote educational materials, for community distribution, about learning to live harmoniously with wildlife, and to respect and revere them.
- G. Absolutely NO hunting/culling of wildlife permitted. Make this a criminal offense. Hunting license permanently removed.

H. Encourage plant-based lifestyles through public education programs. (A deep connection exists between plant-based lifestyle and tolerance for wildlife. Moreover, The Canadian Dieticians Association has recently issued a guideline stating that plant-based diets are healthy. <http://www.dietitians.ca/Nutrition-Resources-A-Z/Factsheets/Vegetarian/Eating-Guidelines-for-Vegans.aspx> .)

I. Schools teach children what wild plants are safe to eat. Educational programs on edible wild plants promoted to the adult community.

Basically, the overlying message is this:

We do not want violence towards any kind of wildlife in our communities.

We want all wildlife to be respected, revered, celebrated, protected, and nurtured.

We want wildlife habitat to be restored and protected through parks and wildlife corridors through neighbourhoods, that connect wildlife to parks where their habitat is preserved. Healthy wildlife habitat will be important to our own survival in an emergency situation.

We want ethical and gentle interactions with wildlife and nature to be taught to children and residents within our communities.

We want the idea of "sharing" and "caring" to be the guiding principles of living with wildlife in our communities.

We want people to be comfortable with the idea of being able to sustain themselves on wild and farmed plants, and to depend, in part on healthy local ecosystems to do so.

Thank you for considering our ideas.

Sincerely,

Christine and John McClarnon

Corey Burger

From: Marilyn Erickson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 1:32 PM
To: Deer Management [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Deer in Oak Bay

Regarding the controversial deer cull proposed for Oak Bay, as residents we have a problem with the lack of information forthcoming since this was announced and respectfully request that the cull be put on hold until these questions are answered.

We have never had a problem with the 8 or so deer, including 2 families of them, that visit our large yard at [REDACTED], a busy intersection, nor have we witnessed a deer hit anywhere nearby. We have a small fenced vegetable garden, and the deer nibble away at our shrubs and potted plants, never sufficient to bother us or other tenants here. If a geranium, rose or hydrangea bush lose their blossoms it is small compensation for the beauty these urban deer bring to us, and I find that the idea of culling a wild animal over the loss of a replaceable bush is poor reason indeed to demand the execution of 35 of them each year! Particularly when a natural cull is occurring anyway with death by vehicle! There is absolutely no speedzone anywhere in the municipality where a deer could be hit at high speed resulting in loss of life to the occupants of the car, and I challenge you to show otherwise. In fact, if a map were to be shown of where these traffic accidents occur, then perhaps we could zero in on a migratory route or natural crossing and provide safe deer sanctuary or warning signs in the area, as is done in Banff and other high wildlife locations, before we shoot them for insufficient reason!

We residents have no idea how many complaints have been lodged, by whom, or from where, or how the cull will unfold; which deer will be chosen...will it be females only, will they have fawns, will they be traumatized in traps before death, will a troublesome area be targeted, and if so, have other remedies been considered? It is this total lack of information and poor communication by OB Council that lends an air of high-handed authority to Mayor Jensen and the Capital Region's decision. This whole issue has been handled poorly and there is a great deal of resentment and protest happening that will only escalate when the cull begins. In order to prevent this can we not as taxpayers demand accountability, a referendum and at the very least a great deal more information please? Our urban deer have been calling this area home for many centuries and lived peacefully among us until now. Please do not let a handful of residents who feel they are entitled, and council who have been pressured, determine this sensitive outcome that is as disturbing to families as it is to us.

Sincerely

Marilyn Erickson
Bevin Bigalky

Corey Burger

From: Jeff Weightman
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2013 2:12 PM
To: Mike S. Webb
Cc: Deer Management
Subject: RE: Deer population-control

From: William Bailey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2013 9:01 PM
To: Oak Bay Council
Subject: Deer population-control

I understand from articles that have appeared in the Oak Bay News that you are looking for properties to begin culling our local deer population. I have been concerned about the damage and added costs these animals are causing me to suffer

for the past 6 or 7 years. Last winter I had 6 animals visit my yard at one time at least twice a week. My lot, like the 6 adjoining lots are without fences and these six deer ran in a large oval pattern that covered our six lots, with mine being their resting spot. More recently, on Nov. 7, I had five bucks lock horns to determine which one would win the right to serve this area of Oak Bay. It is not often that I've seen even one buck on this property, but to have a crowd like this which lasted 3 hours (I have reliable proof of this incident) was astonishing. I didn't dare interrupt their actions but I had no idea it would take them so long to determine a winner!

An option that you might consider is to have a good marksman shoot down on them from my backdoor patio which would give no danger of missed shots going any further than the ground beyond the animal and the target generally within 75 feet. I would be pleased to have a member of the control team look at my situation as one of the sites selected for the program.

I live at [REDACTED] and my phone number is [REDACTED] I hope to hear from you soon. William Bailey.

Corey Burger

From: Jeff Weightman
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2013 10:50 AM
To: Deer Management
Subject: Fw: Contact Us - Submission

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2013 12:58 AM
To: crdreception
Subject: Contact Us - Submission

The following message was received through the form at '<https://www.crd.bc.ca/contact-us?r=crd-reception>'. Neither the name or e-mail address can be confirmed as accurate.

.....

Your Name:
Lynsey Wells

Your Email Address:
[REDACTED]

Message:
As a resident living in the Capital Regional District, I was shocked and appalled to learn that the Capital Regional District is sanctioning the clover trapping and killing of deer in local municipalities in the apparent hope of controlling the deer population. Every minute spent trapped is a terrifying eternity for these easily frightened prey animals, who can badly injure themselves in frantic attempts to get free. Video footage of a panicked deer caught in a clover trap can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XezJJNzg3nY>. Lethal initiatives also tear families apart, leaving young or weak animals vulnerable to starvation and dehydration. Residents who consider deer a nuisance can safely and effectively deter them by using repellents and barriers to keep them out of gardens, by growing deer-resistant vegetation, and by never feeding wildlife. Without abundant food sources, unwanted deer will move on.

Please halt the cruel deer culls and instead focus on humane, tried-and-true deer-management options that everyone can live with, including the animals!

Submitted at: 12/14/2013 12:58:00 AM

Submitted via: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/contact-us?r=crd-reception>

User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPad; CPU OS 7_0_4 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/537.51.1 (KHTML, like Gecko)

Version/7.0 Mobile/11B554a Safari/9537.53