



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the Committee of the Whole

**From:** W.H. Jackson, Director of Utility Services

**Meeting Date:** August 31, 2015

**Subject:** Report USPW15-011  
Update Council on the Goose Control Program

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## **Purpose**

A report to update Council on the Goose Control Program for the control of Canada Geese in the Little Lake and adjacent shoreline areas.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report USPW15-011 dated August 31, 2015, of the Director of Utility Services, as follows:

That Report USPW15-011 updating Council on the Goose Control Program be received for information.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

There are no budgetary or financial obligations as a result of this update report. The current budget (approximately \$20,000) for the Goose Control program is contained within the Parks Maintenance operating budget for contractual services.

## **Background**

City Council, at its February 2, 2015 meeting requested staff to provide an update report on the Goose Control Program.

### **Brief History of the Program**

In 2007, Council asked staff to look into the issue of Canada geese and related concerns with their establishment in the Little Lake and Del Crary Park area as a result of complaints about their droppings and the destruction of the grass areas around Little Lake. Growth in park use, partnered with the popularity of community events in Del Crary Park has resulted in increased public demand for continued action with respect to the geese issue.

In 2007 staff initiated a pilot project, with a contractor experienced in goose control, to deter the geese from inhabiting the areas as described. The contractor used known deterrents and a pilot relocation of resident geese as their chosen methodology. The trial proved successful and the first RFP was developed based on the results and was released in 2008.

A second RFP (for a 5-year period) was issued in 2013 as a result of continued successes and the knowledge that if the program was deferred, all of our recent gains would be lost as the geese would re-inhabit the area. The City has been fortunate to be working with the same firm for an established period of time with successful results at a competitive price.

### **Goose Control Program**

The goose control program utilizes a variety of industry established best practices. These practices include harassing the geese with deterrents such as dogs, pyrotechnics, falconry and watercraft. In the spring of each year, the contractor patrols the shorelines of the control area and deters the nesting of any geese by using harassment techniques to make the areas unappealing. In June/July of each season, when the geese are molting, any birds that have resided in the control area are rounded up and relocated to a migratory bird sanctuary located in south western Ontario. The ultimate goal of any control program is to make Little Lake and Del Crary Park a non desirable place for habitat establishment.

The City holds a valid Canadian Wildlife Services permit for this program. The program is authorized under the authority of Environment Canada and the Migratory Bird Regulations.

Although some geese are still observed in the area, total prevention would be extremely expensive.

### **Goose Control Relocation Data**

Chart 1 below illustrates the relocation numbers since 2007. The decrease is a result of fewer geese finding the subject area a desirable habitat.

**Chart 1 – Geese Relocation Data**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Relocation Number</b>	264	115	162	141	60	67	89	51

**Summary**

A Goose Control Program to minimize the impact of geese in the area of Del Crary Park and the Little Lake shoreline has been in effect since 2007. This program has been shown to have had a positive effect on the control of geese in the subject area both by measurement of the number of geese that need to be relocated and by empirical information.

Submitted by,

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Director Utility Services

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