

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, May 23, 2014				Report Date	Friday, May-02-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
#28/03/14/1201 – Migratory Bird Management Plan									

Subject:

Council Approval of the 2014 Migratory Bird Management Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the attached plan.

WHEREAS various techniques are required to assist in eliminating the goose problem at Old Mackey Park as reliance on cull activities are not prudent or permitted over the long term;

AND WHEREAS evidence of the creation of and adherence to a Migratory Bird Management Plan is a requirement for obtaining a cull permit from Environment Canada;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby adopt the plan attached;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes staff to procure various articles to be used to continue to deter the geese from frequenting Old Mackey Park such as plywood silhouettes, rope barriers, introduction of shrubs or grasses and other deterrents to maximum cost of \$500 which funds will be obtained through the audited surplus.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Goose cull activities have commenced. The permit allows for two geese to be taken per week and to be used as deterrents for others.

An activity log is to be kept and submitted to Environment Canada 15 days after permit expiry in September.

In order to possibly obtain permission for similar activities in the future, we do need to develop a Migratory Bird/Goose Management Plan and use other tactics during the year to deter the geese from coming back as well. The attached is for your amendment and/or approval.

As well, other efforts are still required to deter geese from Old Mackey Park. We have residents who have suggested other methods which have worked elsewhere and are willing to provide us with research time and information. Solar powered strobe lights were one such suggestion. The creation and installation of plywood silhouettes of dogs, moved on an at least weekly basis might

work. Planting tall grasses and shrubs along the new rock border might help. Different fertilizers applied to the grass have worked elsewhere.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Funds are available through the audited surplus reported by Peter Harrington at last meeting.

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

Environment Canada permit, websites, documents, rules and regulations. Al Line, Jim Longfield. Ken Giroux.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk





THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF
HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

**MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
NUISANCE MIGRATORY BIRDS**

1) PERMITTEE INFORMATION

- a) Legal Description of Property:
 - i) 644 Jennings Road, Mackey, Ontario, K0J 2B0
 - ii) Lot 14, Concession A, Head Township, Roll number 4798 0000 010 08815
 - iii) Lat. 46.1928; Long. -77.8147

2) NATURE AND SCOPE OF CONFLICT

- a) Species involved in Conflict – Canada Goose
- b) Property Type – Government – Municipal Park
- c) Specific Location Where Conflicts are Occurring
 - i) Waterfront, lawn
 - ii) Known attractants – water, feeding area
 - iii) Brief Description of location – Municipal Park approximately \times km² of cut grass on a point with water access from 90% of the area. Brushes, weeds and grass have been allowed to grow in all but approximately \times feet of waterfront which is to provide beach access to the public as well as small boat launch activity. Due to our location along a creek adjoining the Ottawa River, there are numerous locations for nests not within our property. The birds nest and sleep elsewhere.
- d) Timing and Duration of Conflicts
 - i) Time of year – May – September;
 - ii) Time of day – all day; birds move to other sites to nest, sleep; Damage occurs due to feeding.
- e) Number and Age of nuisance birds using the property
 - i) Adults, Young
- f) Use of the property by Birds
 - i) Feeding, loafing;
 - ii) Known attractants include the mowed lawns
- g) Nature of the conflict
 - i) Aesthetic/nuisance – droppings decrease enjoyment of park by residents and visitors
 - ii) Physical Danger – birds have confronted individuals and vehicles

3) LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a) The goals and objectives of our management plan are simply to reduce the number of geese frequenting the municipal park as feeding grounds preferably to zero.
- b) The management techniques utilized in the past include:
 - i) Human scaring with horns, sirens, etc. visiting the site at least twice every day.

- ii) Ropes surrounding the waterfront on pickets with Mylar reflective attachments to physically and visually scare and deter.
- iii) Reflective materials hung in trees and installed on posts to visually deter birds.
- iv) Brush and grass has been allowed to grow up along water's edge.

4) PROPOSED MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND STRATEGIES

In an effort to avoid having to resort to lethal techniques or relocations in the future we will pursue the following methods.

- i) 2014 – Kill and scare – as per permit.
- ii) 2014 and beyond. Creation and installation of silhouettes of dogs to visually deter geese.
- iii) Visitors will use noise and motion to help chase geese off property while in attendance.
- iv) Possibility of installing strobe lights to act as visual deterrents.
- v) Possibility of utilizing harm free but unpalatable fertilizers for grass.
- vi) Planting of shrubs, along the newly remodelled beach area to prevent passage. The challenge is that we need to ensure that passage is not impeded for human users.
- vii) Potential of using dogs to chase geese.