



January 25, 2013

City Council Committee Report

TO: Mayor and Council

FR: Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

RE: Deer Hunting Survey Results

Recommendation:

That Council received the results from the deer hunt survey for the amendment to the discharge of firearms by-law deer hunt from October 1st to December 15, 2012.

Background:

9 Survey responses were returned

22 hunting packages were picked up at City hall (including the maps)

Question	Yes	No
Did you hunt on crown land?	2	5
Did you hunt on private land?	7	2
Did you harvest ONE deer?	9	0
4 - Yes - Antlered 5 - Yes - antlerless		
If you harvested more than one deer, how many more -not including the first one?	5	4
1 - Yes - Antlered 4 - Yes - antlerless		
Did you see wolves during the hunt?	3	6
Did you encounter other hunters?	4	5

Number of Additional Hunters Seen?	1, 1, 1, 2
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Approximately how many deer did you see during your hunt in City limits?	15,7,34, 20, 10-12, 27, 25, 30, 3	Approximate Total = 173
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How many days did you hunt in the period?	1, 12, 7, 6, 4, 4, 15, 5, 3
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Additional Comments:	• I think this is a fantastic program and the fact I observed countless deer in very
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	<p>“urban” areas while exploring town I suggest the program continues. One change would be to allow hunter to bait as it is critical in keeping deer in an area long enough so they can shoot them effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great hunting opportunity for local bow hunters. Did not encounter any conflict, hunters or land owners. Very positive attitude towards the hunt. Thanks, look forward to next year. • I would like if the season would open Sept 15. • Enjoyable – Not enough deer, also saw a bobcat in the country, the season for archery start Sept 1 • I enjoyed hunting on my own property. The archery hunt could start as early as Sept 1st. Allowing a hunt on smaller parcels and city property could help control the “problem” deer herds. Thank you! • Keep the season the same. Additional deer seals for bow hunters in City limits would be an asset while being a detriment to the City deer population. Have to lobby MNR, maybe they have a special circumstances or nuisance allowance for controlling an urban deer population. One other option would be a controlled hunter numbers designation, like a lot of WMU’s have in southern Ontario. (eg. would be the controlled hunt at CFB Borden) This and others are listed in the 2012 deer hunting regulations. • Smaller areas to hunt allow properties to join in as one/not only parcel of property, encourage property owner s to join in on the hunt and allow hunters • It would be nice if there were some way to relax the hunter orange rule during the riffle season while bow hunting in town. It would draw less attention to hunting activities.
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The City received only 3 calls regarding deer during the period October 1-December 15th and 4 letters to the Editor were written.

Editorial information from the Daily Miner and News regarding deer for 2012 is available through the Deputy Clerk’s office for review.

The committee has not met to discuss the results as well as the direction for a possible exemption to the by-law in 2013. The City will continue to receive comments and feedback from the public.

Emphasis continues on public education to keep educating the public that feeding wildlife is prohibited within City limits, and doing so is in contravention of by-law number 139-2008.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

A copy of the survey results will be provided to the media.