



May 6, 2013

City Council Committee Report

TO: Mayor and Council

FR: Kevin Robertson, By-law Enforcement Supervisor

RE: Urban Deer – Additional Tags for the 2013 Deer Hunting Season

Recommendation:

That Council hereby seeks the support and partners with the City of Thunder Bay and the City of Dryden in requesting the Ministry of Natural Resources allocates additional deer hunting tags to municipalities to help control their increasing urban deer population/problem; and further

That the Councils of the City of Kenora, City of Dryden and City of Thunder Bay petition the Ministry of Natural Resources for a quota of the additional deer hunting tags available in the management unit to be allocated to each municipality at a reduced price of \$10.00 for use within municipal boundaries, in conjunction with, and specific to their applicable by-law/s.

Background:

To address the Urban Deer Population; Kenora in 2011 amended its Discharge of Firearms By-law 148-2010 to allow deer hunting for a trial period being from October 1, 2011 up to and including November 15, 2011. With other conditions the amendment allowed hunting south of the bypass with archery equipment on parcels of land five (5) hectares or greater. In 2012 the by-law was further amended to allow a longer hunting period being from October 1, 2012 up to and including December 15, 2012 and a decrease in required land area to four (4) hectares. The recommendation is based on feedback from previous years which indicated that additional tags at a reduced price would encourage more hunters to be involved.

It should be noted that the number of additional tags available is determined yearly by the MNR for each management unit.

Preliminary response from Thunder Bay and Dryden based on the following request;

Hi Bob and Ron

Re; urban deer

Kenora has had a brief discussion with the Ministry Natural Resources regarding our urban deer population/problem; Kenora suggested a special tag allocation. The Ministry official was interested but indicated that he was looking for a solution that would also include Thunder Bay and Dryden, hence the following questions;

- Do your municipalities have similar issues
- Would your municipality support a resolution to have additional tags issued to deer hunters, hunting (where permitted) within municipal boundaries; subsequently the three municipalities could partner in petitioning the MNR.

The resolution will likely suggest a reduced fee for additional tags.

Kevin Robertson, CBCO
CBO, By-law Supervisor

Thunder Bay

I would absolutely support this. We are presently trying to set up a system to monitor the success of the hunt this fall in Thunder Bay. Having our own Thunder Bay tags sold with personal information of the hunter would allow us to contact them at the end of the hunt and find out how they did. A website link would be also considered for them to report their hunt.

Also, if sold at a reduced rate and additional tags provided as required would encourage more hunters to be involved.

Please keep me informed.

Thanks
Ron Bourret
Manager - Licensing & Enforcement

Dryden

The City of Dryden is experiencing similar issues with the urban deer in our area.

I would support a special tag allocation within municipal boundaries and agree that if additional tags at reduced fees were offered such action would encourage more hunters to be involved and should reduce the number of deer in the area.

Please keep me informed.

Regards,

Bob

Bob Cunningham, C.E.T., C.B.O.
Community & Development Services Manager
City of Dryden.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Resolution required.

Distribution: K. Robertson, C. Caron, R. Perchuk, Dryden City Clerk, Thunder Bay City Clerk