

Molly Harris

From: Bruce Cuthbert [REDACTED]
Sent: December-11-25 2:47 PM
To: Council
Subject: Esquimalt Deer mgmt program

Categories: Late Agenda Item, Inputted in to Mail Log

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor and council

I just saw the article in the Times Colonist regarding the dead buck in Susan & Keith's backyard.

If the deer count is down at all, it is because of your deer management program.

We see deer, including bucks, does and fawns past our house on a regular basis for the past 10 years .. and also often on our walks around the Saxe Point area.

There is definitely still a lot of deer in Esquimalt that would be much better off in rural BC then in Esquimalt residential streets.

It is critical to keep this program running.

I believe the past CEO, Catherine Holt, of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce is now I think Chair at ICBC.

As you know, it would make so much sense to have ICBC provide funding for the deer management in urban areas to reduce the pain for the deer in car accident and also the implications for vehicles and also drivers/passengers injuries.

◆◆◆ The cost benefits should be significantly beneficial towards funding the program rather than having to have the province that has no money fund it.

15 years ago we seldom if ever saw deer on Constance Ave or surrounding streets. ◆ Something happened which has caused this increase???

On a related matter, I have asked a few times over the years and I keep being told that the deer do not carry any diseases that can be harmful here in Esquimalt.

At the same time, we see more and more information about an increase in ticks and also various tick carrying diseases.

I would appreciate an answer if possible regarding the deer situation in the Esquimalt. We are in full support of this program, continuing and actually hopefully expanding.

Regards,

Bruce Cuthbert
431 Constance Ave.
Esquimalt, BC

Estimated Annual Collisions and Costs in Greater Victoria

- **Number of DVCs:** ~300–400 per year (estimated from 2020 data showing ~375 animals struck and killed in the CRD, adjusted for deer dominance and underreporting; historical trends show a rise from ~35 in 2000 to >100 in 2010, with province-wide increases of ~28% since then).
- **Total Estimated Cost:** \$2.5–\$3.3 million annually.
 - Breakdown: ~\$1.8–\$2.4 million in vehicle/insurance claims; ~\$0.5–\$0.7 million in medical/rehab; ~\$0.2 million in other (towing, response, disposal).
 - Injuries: ~25–35 per year (proportional to island's 185 animal-related injuries, with ~7% injury rate for DVCs).

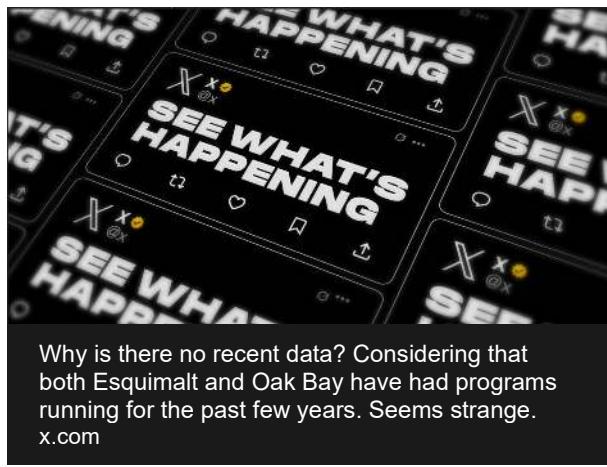
DVCs represent <1% of all Greater Victoria collisions but punch above their weight in cost due to repair needs and injury risks, peaking in 2010 at ~\$3.3 million.

Ask anything



Speak





Sent from my iPhone

Molly Harris

From: Kathleen/David Mick [REDACTED]
Sent: December-15-25 11:30 AM
To: Council
Subject: Deer problem

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the persistent deer problem in our community.

As property owners, we have directly observed the destruction the deer population is causing to the local ecosystem. The proliferation of deer has led to the disappearance of numerous native plants and animal species and actively prohibits the growth of new trees.

The problem is escalating. We currently house a herd of 3 females and have observed at least 5 offspring from this year, in addition to the visiting males. This large population also brings significant nuisance and health risks to our property, including excessive defecation, ticks, and the potential for disease transmission.

We urge you to consider decisive action, such as culling the herd, or at minimum, rigorously continuing the current birth control program.

If the birth control measure is continued, we strongly advise you to implement stricter follow-up and evaluation of the practice. We have observed instances, such as a doe with a yellow tag (#3), that appears to be struggling due to its tight collar. Furthermore, we have seen all collared does reproduce once or even twice annually, which suggests the current measures may be ineffective in controlling population growth.

Thank you for your attention to this critical community issue.

Sincerely,
Kathleen/David Mick

Molly Harris

From: Marvin Eng [REDACTED]
Sent: December-15-25 8:28 AM
To: Council
Cc: Judy Kitts
Subject: Esquimalt Urban Deer Project, Staff Report, comments for the council meeting
Attachments: CFB Camera 2.jpg; Macaulay Point Park camera.jpg; CFB camera 1.jpg; Saxe Point Park camera.jpg; CFB Camera 3.jpg

Categories: Inputted in to Mail Log, Late Agenda Item

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Your Worship and Councillors

I have some concerns about the staff report associated with this agenda item at the upcoming Council meeting.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary says:

- "The study demonstrated that IC significantly reduced reproduction and maintained low fawn recruitment . . .".

I am concerned because the UVic report does not contain any evidence to support this statement. I will address this at the meeting during my opportunity to be heard.

Background

The last sentence of paragraph 3 says:

- "Research indicates that IC is most effective when immigration is minimal and 60-80% of resident females are treated."

The staff report should be clear that this sentence is referring to other people's research, not the study conducted for Esquimalt. Based on the references cited in UVic report (page 10 at the last 4 lines). This line should be replaced with:

- Three other research groups have used computer models to show that IC can, in theory, be effective when immigration is minimal and 60-80% of resident females are treated.
- One other group showed that it was possible to treat "about 70% of a suburban white-tailed deer population" but provided no results on the effectiveness of the treatment.

In the last paragraph (**Key Findings**) the first finding says:

- Fawn detections declined by 28% in 2022.

This statement is wrong. This incorrect statement also appears in the UVic report: "28% decrease in fawns in 2022" (page 21, line 9). It should say "in 2023", not 2022 (see the 4th row in Table 3 of the UVic report). Note that we did not get any estimate of 'fawn detections' in 2021, prior to IC treatment, so they cannot make any statements about changes in 2022.

The second key finding that reads:

- Low reproductive output was sustained through 2024

It should read "Fawn detections remained low in 2024"

Analysis and Options

Both sections say that the cameras have been removed but there are at least 5 cameras that have not been removed; 3 on the eastern section of CFB Esquimalt, one in Macaulay Point Park and one in Saxe Point Park (see attached photos).

Marvin Eng











Molly Harris

From: R B EVANS [REDACTED]
Sent: December-14-25 7:03 AM
To: Council
Subject: Contraception program for deer

Categories: Inputted in to Mail Log, Late Agenda Item

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Council

I was just reading that you are going to vote tomorrow as to whether to continue with the program. As a longtime resident, who has lived here when there were no deer other than on the base, I hope you vote in favour of continuing the program. In my opinion anything that will help keep the deer population down is very worthwhile.

Thank you for your hard work,
Mary Evans
Rockheights homeowner
Sent from my iPad

Molly Harris

From: Yvonne Noullette [REDACTED]
Sent: December-15-25 11:50 AM
To: Council
Subject: Please vote to continue the deer contraceptive program !

Categories: Late Agenda Item, Inputted in to Mail Log

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Township of Esquimalt Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor and council,

I saw the article in the newspaper regarding the vote tonight about the deer contraceptive program - to continue or not.

As an Esquimalt resident, I strongly support the continuation of this program for many reasons, including:

- deer especially in rut season represent a danger to pedestrians, dogs, cars and especially cyclists who are the most likely to be physically hurt falling from a bicycle if they make contact with or try to steer clear of a deer that suddenly appears. Any impact results in pain and possible expense from doctor visit, vet visit, automobile repair and possible loss of work due to injury.
- it is undeniable the damage deer cause to gardens, including municipal gardens. They eat plants, they trample them and damage branches and tree trunks when rubbing their antlers in the Fall. This is an expense to home owners and also to the municipality when required to repair or replace plantings. This cost should be considered against the cost of continuing the program.
- the higher the population, with no predator to weed out the weak and diseased, the more unhealthy the population becomes, especially when their diet is what we plant in our gardens, not what nature intended them to eat in the forest. When the municipality needs to dispose of a dead animal, there is a cost involved. The higher the deer population, the higher the instance of dead animals.
- it is absolutely a humane way to control the population. While there may be some short term fear during tranquilizing, it is nothing compared to facing a predator, which would happen every day if they lived in the wild, or being hit by a car and wandering around for weeks with broken, dangling limbs, which we have witnessed.
- as a gardener, I now am constantly looking around when I am in the garden, to make sure deer are not approaching me. We are on a regular path for them as the property next door is the yearly birthplace of fawns, and their home base continues to be next door. I was in my garden, and a full grown female approached me from behind. I turned around it was uncomfortably close. If it had been closer and I startled it, what may have happened??
- any hunter will tell you deer are tick carriers. This is a serious concern to humans regarding Lyme disease, and for dogs and cats.

And from a financial standpoint,

- it is always more practical and cost effective to maintain something than to let it slide then try to bring it back. If the program lags, there will be multiple births with each female born potentially doubling its number every year, exponentially!

These are LARGE (full grown males are scary large) , wild and sometimes unpredictable animals who with each generation become less fearful of humans, dogs, bicycles and cars.

The only choice is to continue this humane deer contraceptive, population control program. It is the right decision for Esquimalt residents, for overall long term municipal budget and to reduce further decline in deer health.

I ask you to vote "Yes" to continue this program.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Noullette
1205 Rockcrest Avenue