

Lorrie Miller

London, Ontario

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Mr. Paul Hubert

Councilor Ward 8

300 Dufferin Avenue

London ON

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Dear Paul Hubert and Council members,

On behalf of myself and my fellow neighbours in the Thames Valley Golf course area, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and comment on the recent discussions around the growing concerns about the feeding of wildlife. I was pleased to see the idea of a full ban raised.

If the health of wildlife and managing their increasing numbers in the city are critical, then it ONLY makes sense to prohibit the feeding of wildlife on all fronts. The UTRCA and the MNR have a multitude of documents to support the fact that wild life benefit by being left on their own, since they are in fact, wildlife. All research shows that this behavior produces a significantly high rate of unhealthy animals, contagious diseases, overcrowding, a lack of fear of humans as well as an abnormal dependence on humans. Lastly, predators are encouraged to move in due to the abundance of prey.

As an example, we have an individual in our neighbourhood, who provides bread, kitchen compost, cat food and dog food on a regular basis on his property. As a result, we have raccoons begging at our doorsteps, animals fighting and screeching at night, skunks in our yards throughout the day, and geese and ducks wandering about. Garbage out on waste management day is a challenge, and more importantly, allowing our pets and children outside are a serious safety concern.

I know that the Enforcement office has heard from many of us, and is acutely aware of our concerns, but sadly their hands are tied, and the problems only get worse.

It is an illogical to think that city enforcement can manage measuring various quantities of food,

i.e. a cup and so on, and will they also be determining what foods are healthy for each species? That would mean that one would literally have to catch someone in the act. For those individuals that like to feed birds, there are many enclosed-style feeders that significantly limit access to seed by wildlife. Perhaps this could be a small compromise.

Like many of you, I love and appreciate the natural areas and the wildlife that exist in the city of London. If we are serious about the taking care of the environment, our forested areas, our waterways, and our wildlife, then a full ban is the best solution.

Paul, please feel free to share or forward to committee or council member. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, and with gratitude,

Lorrie Miller