

Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

Report

3rd Meeting of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee
March 7, 2024

Attendance W. Brown (Chair), M. Blosh, K. Coulter, A. Hames, N. Karsch and M. Toplack and H. Lysynski (Acting Clerk)

ABSENT: H. Duhamel, J. Higgins and S. Ryall

ALSO PRESENT: O. Katolyk, M. Pineda and M. Szarka

The meeting commenced at 3:05 PM; it being noted that W. Brown, M. Blosh, K. Coulter, A. Hames, N. Karsch and M. Toplack were in remote attendance.

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

None.

3. Consent

3.1 2nd Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee

That the following actions be taken with respect to the 2nd Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on February 1, 2024:

a) the 2nd Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) BE AMENDED to indicate that N. Karsch was absent; and,

b) the revised 2nd Report of the AWCAC BE RECEIVED.

3.2 Municipal Council Resolution – 1st Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on January 23, 2024 with respect to the 1st Report of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee, was received.

3.3 Community Contributors article – “A Closer Look at the Wildlife In Our Neighbourhoods”

That the Mayor's Office BE REQUESTED to write a letter to the Pearce family thanking them for the contributions of Johnny and Gabrielle Pearce for their actions relating to wildlife; it being noted that the attached Community Contributor article entitled "A Closer Look at the Wildlife in Our Neighbourhood" was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Goose Management and Coexistence Strategies Draft Recommendations

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to goose management and co-existence strategies.

4.2 Use of rodenticides and impacts to wildlife, effective rodenticide free strategies for Awareness and Education

That the Civic Administration BE INVITED to discuss the use of rodenticides and potential impacts to wildlife to a future Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) meeting; it being noted that the AWCAC held a discussion with respect to this matter.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Bird Friendly Display

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee held a discussion with respect to finalizing the Bird Friendly displaying panels for displaying at local libraries.

5.2 (ADDED) Go Wild, Grow Wild

That the following actions be taken with respect to a potential Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC) display at Go Wild, Grow Wild on May 4, 2024:

- a) the Civic Administration BE ASKED if the AWCAC can join the City of London booth; and,
- b) the Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee BE ASKED if they are interested in attending with the AWCAC and potentially the City of London booth;

it being noted that W. Brown, A. Hames and M. Toplack volunteered to be present at the booth.

5.3 (ADDED) Banner

That the discussion of an Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee banner BE DEFERRED to the April 2024 AWCAC meeting.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:12 PM.

By Johnny & Gabrielle Pearce - Junior Members of the Broughdale Community Association | Photos by The Pearce Family

A Closer Look at the Wildlife in Our Neighbourhood



Our neighbourhood is more than a collection of houses and streets; it is a vibrant ecosystem filled with beautiful wildlife. In this article, we'll take a closer look at some animals that share our space along the Thames

River and explore the joy of observing them in their natural habitats.

To begin, we acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Indigenous Peoples who have cared for this land and water since time immemorial. We also appreciate being able to consult with local flora and fauna enthusiast, Laurent Ruffo-Caracchini, and the support we have received from Mike Bartlett of the Broughdale Community Association.

Some of the more common animals in the neighbourhood include squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, groundhogs, beavers, muskrats, possums, hawks, stickleback fish, crayfish and clams. It's not unusual to see deer, coyotes, foxes, snapping turtles, or wild turkeys. Animals more challenging to detect include opossums, porcupines, minks, and stoats.

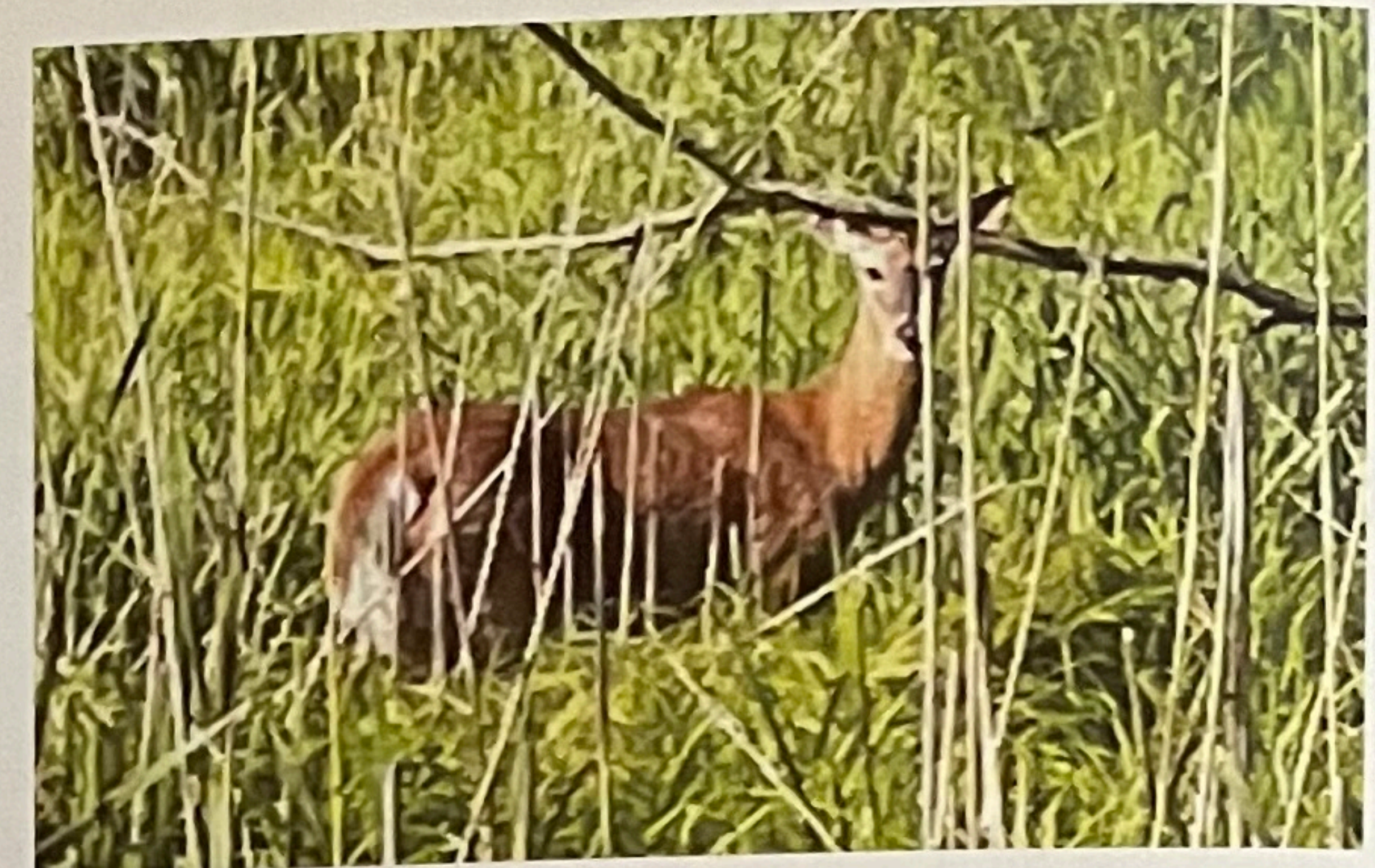
Amongst the diversity of wildlife in our neighbourhood, it is incredible to see animal superpowers in action. From squirrels that do tree acrobatics, raccoons that ninja climb, groundhogs that hibernate, skunks

that defend through their stink spray, and coyotes with keen eyesight in the low light of dawn and dusk, all animals have unique superpowers to help them survive.

Many animals have mastered the art of camouflage and are good at hide and seek. Consider the white-tailed deer, a herbivore commonly seen in spring or summer. Fawns are born with white spots on their fur, which change to reddish brown and later into grey or brown tones to blend in with seasonal earth tones. Often, a closer look is required to notice animals because what seems ordinary can really be a creature of extraordinary camouflage. Do you see a hidden animal in the photos below on the left side? The photos below on the right side are zoomed in for the reveal!



Fun facts about garter snakes are that they are non-venomous and eat insects and small rodents. Fun facts about frogs are that they hatch from eggs into tadpoles, undergo metamorphosis into frogs, and they can live for several years.



It is fun to learn about local wildlife because animals are amazing, and we have a shared environment that is important to protect. We can all do something to help, for example, disposing of garbage properly, keeping a respectful distance from wildlife, planting native plants to sustain local fauna, and preserving green space and trees...If you're curious to identify unknown flora and fauna, try using the free online iNaturalist app.

In a nutshell, our neighbourhood is a natural wonderland for all varieties of residents. So, whenever possible, enjoy the magic of observing animal friends in their natural habitat! ■

