

3RD REPORT OF THE
ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on April 5, 2012 commencing at 4:29 p.m.

PRESENT: E. Gerrow (Chair), D. Fortney, D. Harris, A. Papmehl, S. C. Rans, V. Van Linden, M. Warder and J. Martin Secretary.

ALSO PRESENT: B. Bergsma.

REGRETS: M. Blosh, L. Jackson, W. MacKay, M. Shepherd, and B. Warder.

I YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

Ontario Wildlife
Coalition

1. (6) That the following actions be taken with respect to the attached communication dated March 12, 2012 from the Ontario Wildlife Coalition relating to humane resolution to human-wildlife conflicts:
 - a) the Municipal Council **BE REQUESTED** to support and implement a progressive and humane response program related to human-wildlife conflicts in the municipality; it being noted that this matter was identified in the Beaver Wildlife Management Strategy, dated December 13, 2011 and relating to the Stanton Drain Remediation and Storm Water Management Facility Construction;
 - b) that Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to refrain from further action with respect to any current beaver intervention, pending the development of the program noted in a) above; it being noted that AWAC is reviewing the environmental impact study and will submit an additional report with recommendations to Municipal Council regarding the resident beaver noted in the above-noted report; and,
 - c) a representative from Stormwater Management **BE INVITED** to a future meeting of the AWAC to discuss strategies to discourage circumstances which foster human-wildlife conflicts.

II YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

2nd Report of the
AWAC

1. (1) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received and noted the 2nd Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee from its meeting held on February 2, 2012.

Wildlife Sub-
committee

2. (C) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee heard a verbal update from D. Harris and A. Papmehl, on behalf of the Wildlife Sub-committee.

Storybook
Gardens Wild
Animal Transfer

3. (2, 4) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received a Municipal Council resolution, adopted at its meeting held January 31, 2012, with respect to the relocation of Storybook Gardens zoo animals; it being noted the AWAC received the attached report and a verbal update from V. VanLinden, with respect to the transfer of animals from Storybook Gardens.

Terms of
Reference

4. (3) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) reviewed and received a communication and a verbal update from J. Martin, Committee Secretary, with respect to the AWAC Terms of Reference, approved at the Municipal Council meeting held March 20, 2012.

Animals in
Circuses

5. (5) That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) received a verbal update from V. VanLinden, with respect to animals in circuses.

Next Meeting

6. That the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee will hold its next meeting on May 3, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

ONTARIO
WILDLIFE
COALITION



OFFICE OF THE
MAYOR

RECEIVED MAR 14 2012

Clerk, City of London,
P O Box 5035,
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9

Referred to
Subsequent Arrangements
 For Action For Report
 For Information For File

**Re: Motion to Support a Progressive and
Humane Response to Human-Wildlife Conflicts**

I am writing to ask you to circulate the attached letter to your Mayor and Members of Council and to submit the letter to the appropriate committee of Council for consideration.

On behalf of the Ontario Wildlife Coalition, I urge Council to consider a motion in support of a progressive and humane response to human-wildlife conflicts in your municipality.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Liz White, Spokesperson,



March 12, 2012

Mayor and Members of Council,
City of London,
P O Box 5035,
London, Ontario
N6A 4L9

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

Humane Approach to Wildlife

We represent a wide variety of organizations in Ontario that have a significant interest in animal and wildlife issues, including animal protection, wildlife education and environmental organizations along with wildlife control businesses.

We have learned that certain interests have contacted municipalities offering services to remove "nuisance" wildlife largely by lethal and inhumane means. We are concerned that your municipality may have received the same offer.

Our respective organizations, with many years of experience in handling hundreds of thousands of calls, can say with strong conviction that the vast majority of the public want humane solutions to wildlife problems. The success of wildlife control companies that have built their business and reputation around "humane" wildlife control measures is a further example of the public's rejection of lethal control.

As development encroaches on natural areas, not only are wildlife displaced but there are an increasing number of human-wildlife conflicts.

Our organizations have long been involved in addressing a wide range of wildlife concerns and are committed to progressive practices in responding to these concerns using education and prevention deterrents such as animal-proofing. We know from years of experience that human/wildlife conflicts can be resolved without resorting to lethal measures.

We are strongly opposed to lethal and inhumane control practices in dealing with wildlife. It is not only ineffective in that it is reactive and repetitive but it always

prompts significant public controversy, taking up councillors' time and wasting tax dollars. It is much more cost-effective to use education and prevention strategies, as is happening in a growing number of cities and towns across the country.

We have asked that your Clerk place this matter before the appropriate committee of Council and request that a Motion be considered that confirms support for progressive and humane approaches to wildlife concerns in your municipality. We look forward to your response and would be happy to provide additional information should you require it.

Sincerely



Liz White, Spokesperson,
101-221 Broadview Avenue,
Toronto, ON M4M 2G3



Brad Gates, President
AAA Gates' Wildlife Control
445 Midwest Road, Unit 10,
Scarborough, ON M1P 4Y9



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Barry MacKay, Director
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ANIMAL
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OF CANADA



Donna Dubreuil, President,
Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre
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Ottawa-Carleton
Wildlife Centre

News Updates and Reports/ Wild Animals and Birds from Storybook Gardens.

April 5, 2012

All of the wild Birds (Raptors,) one Porcupine, two Beavers and one River otter from Storybook Gardens have been successfully re-homed to their new facilities.

The 2 Lynx, and the 4 Harbour seals are waiting for the international permits to be completed for their transfer to facilities in the USA. These permit processes are lengthy, but it is only a matter of time before these animals will also be moved to their new homes.

The Lynx will travel to California by air, and should be re-homed by late May of 2012. The Harbour seals will most likely travel by land and should be re-homed by late May or very early June of 2012. Their spots in this new pool are secure as the St. Louis Zoo awaits the completion of the permit process.

Below is information from the two facilities that have accepted the animals that have left so far.

In the update from the *Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre*, you will read that the Raptors from *Storybook Gardens* will be given the opportunity to help rear orphaned young that come to this wildlife rehabilitation facility.

This is a very positive opportunity for these birds. Captive wild animals are forced to sacrifice so many of their natural instincts and behaviours, which causes them increased stress. Every instinct and evolutionary behavior that is denied makes the captive life more unrewarding. Yet, allowing captive animals to breed and thus create more animals that will be forced to live entire lives in captivity is not an ethical way to address this either.

Happily, this is not a concern in the Sandy Pines situation. The people at Sandy Pines are skilled rehabilitators, and by encouraging these captive birds from London to help rear orphaned birds, the 'foster-parent' bird will have an opportunity to fulfill an important part of their natural lives. And, the young will be released under the expert direction of Sandy Pines staff, so more birds will not be added into captive populations.

It will be a great development if some or all of these birds are able to re-awaken that part of their innate behavior.

At present, the Raptors from London are living in the enclosures that are generally used for rehabilitation. They will soon be moved into new flight enclosures that are being constructed now. These new flight cages, that allow these birds to fly horizontally (their natural behavior) are being constructed, thanks to Zoocheck Canada and Bob Barker. These well-designed cages with natural features, plantings, and nesting boxes will allow for the best kind of captive life possible. Captivity is always a hardship for animals, but the closer that the natural environment can be duplicated, the better.

Vicki Van Linden,
on behalf of: FOCA – *Friends of Captive Animals*.

Update on one River Otter, and two Beavers/ Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary:

<http://www.cottagecountrynow.ca/news/article/1327111--television-icon-funds-enclosure-for-aspen-valley>

>See pic of Wilder, the River otter from Storybook Gardens at above link.

Mar 30, 2012 - 2:32 PM

Television icon funds enclosure for Aspen Valley

ROSSEAU – The price is right. Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is getting two new enclosures thanks to Bob Barker and national wildlife protection charity Zoocheck Canada. It's part of the charity's larger project to find homes for animals from a small zoo in southwestern Ontario.

Bob Barker, legendary star of one of television's longest running game shows, The Price is Right, is contributing to the initiative.

Last week, Aspen Valley welcomed Wilder, an elderly otter, and Bucky and Brooke, two beavers, who will live out their lives at the sanctuary. Thanks to the generosity of Barker, Zoocheck is able to fund the construction of two specially designed retirement enclosures for the animals and is facilitating the relocation of Subira, the sanctuary's lone African lion to The Wild Animal Sanctuary, a 720-acre facility near Denver Colorado.

"We're pleased to partner with Aspen Valley," said Julie Woodyer, campaigns director for Zoocheck. "And thanks to the generosity of Bob Barker, we're able to build large, specialized enclosures for Wilder, Bucky and Brooke, and to also move Subira to a facility where she can live out the rest of her life with other lions."

"Aspen Valley is well-suited to care for native wildlife and we were happy to help out when Zoocheck approached us about the otter and beavers," said Howard Smith, managing director of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. "We're also very pleased that Zoocheck was able to find such a wonderful facility for Subira where she can live with other lions. We'll miss her dearly but African lions are highly social animals and it's not fair to keep her alone here."

Initially the otter and two beavers will be housed in temporary facilities until the new enclosures can be built. Construction will begin when the ground softens and the equipment can be brought in. The timing of Subira's move is dependent on acquisition of the permits required to move her into to the U.S., expected some time in June.

"We hope our donors and friends will come out to help us celebrate the changes at Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary at a fundraising event on Sunday, May 20," said Smith. "The funds raised will be used for rehabilitation programs for orphaned and injured animals to enable them to be returned to the wild."

For more information about Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary visit: www.avws.ca or about Zoocheck Canada visit: www.zoocheck.com.

Update on Birds/Raptors / Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre

<http://www.sandypineswildlife.org/News--and--Updates.php>

News and Updates

For weekly updates: We offer a free mailing list to subscribers giving a weekly update of events and admitted animals with photos. This has been well received by those who don't have time to volunteer with hands-on care, but who want to keep in touch. If you would like to receive these updates directly by email, please contact updates@sandypineswildlife.org

New Residents Have Arrived Just in Time to Help Raise Orphaned Raptors

Everywhere you go lately there is talk of an early spring; the new raptors at SPWC seem to agree. 'Scarlett' one of the Red Tailed Hawks has started to lay eggs, and her mate 'FC' is ready to defend her and their young. The American Kestrel 'Baby' has shown lots of interest in her nest box as well, leaving the staff and volunteers of SPWC hopeful that these captive birds will help rear the orphaned young raptors that are inevitably brought into the centre every spring. Previously we have either found foster homes with other captive raptors at wildlife centres elsewhere, or raised them with as little interaction as possible. There are very few wildlife rehabilitation centres with captive foster parents, and those rehabilitators eventually get full and cannot always take our orphans. The young we end up raising seem to be successful upon release; they have a sufficient fear of humans and stay appropriately away from us. However there are still many nuances we cannot teach them, appropriate behaviours and vocalizations for example.

You may recall it was Zoocheck Canada who approached SPWC and asked if we could give the birds a permanent retirement home after many years on display at a small amusement park. The construction of a new aviary fitted with nesting boxes, and designed to house multiple raptors of different species is being constructed for them now.

The Founder and Director of Zoocheck Canada has offered to do a public speaking engagement with the funds raised being donated to SPWC for the continued care of the birds of prey. The Veterinary Assistant students of St. Lawrence College are hosting the event at the school in the lecture theatre on Tuesday March 27th. Doors will open at 6:30pm. Admission is \$10 at the door. Rob will be discussing wildlife in captivity, a subject he has been educating people on for many years. In fact Rob has published three books directed towards educating children on many of the issues faced by animals. While his books are directed towards children they are equally informative to adults, and his presentation is guaranteed to be interesting and informative for all ages.

"Rob Laidlaw has been working tirelessly on behalf of animals in zoos ever since I first met him many years ago...It will help you to judge for yourself whether or not the conditions are suitable so that, when necessary, you can speak out on behalf of some unhappy animal prisoner." -Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute, UN Messenger of Peace Please see the attached event poster for more details. For more information on this event please contact Leah Birmingham at labirmingham@gmail.com or 613-354-0264.