

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Report

The 9th Meeting of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
October 7, 2021
Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting - during the COVID-19 Emergency

Attendance PRESENT: M. Blosch (Acting Chair), A. Hames, and M. Toplack;
A. Pascual (Committee Clerk).

ABSENT: W. Brown and P. Lystar.

ALSO PRESENT: O. Katolyk, M. McBride, and B. Westlake-Power.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM; it being noted that the following members were in remote attendance: M. Blosch, A. Hames, and M. Toplack.

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 8th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 8th Report of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on September 2, 2021, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Sub-Committee Update

That it BE NOTED that M. Blosch provided a verbal presentation with respect to the Sub-Committee Update.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Removal of Deceased Animals from Streets and City Property - M. McBride

That it BE NOTED that M. McBride, Animal Welfare Coordinator, provided a verbal update with respect to the removal of deceased animals from streets and City property.

5.2 Recycling Depots and Fishing Line

That the following actions be taken with respect to the recycling depots and fishing line:

- a) the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to obtain recycling receptacles for used fishing lines and hooks and install signage related to the proper disposal of these items and the proper use of the recycling receptacles; and,

b) a member of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee BE GRANTED delegation status at the Community and Protective Services Committee, when the above-mentioned matter goes before the Committee, to provide additional information related to the recommendation;

it being noted that the attached information, with respect to this matter, was received.

5.3 Budget Expenditure Requests

That the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to review the coyote signage in City park amenities, in comparison to the related signage posted in Environmentally Significant Areas, with an aim to providing consistent educational signage with respect to coyotes to the public;

it being noted that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee would be interested in funding any changed or additional signage;

it being further noted that the attached information, with respect to this matter, was received.

5.4 Fireworks and Impacts on Wildlife and Pets

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) held a general discussion with respect to fireworks and the impacts on wildlife and pets; it being further noted that the Sub-Committee will report back to AWAC about possible recommendations for awareness and education materials for pet owners.

5.5 Zoos and Mobile Zoos

That it BE NOTED that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to zoos and mobile zoos.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.

AWAC Recommendation for Fishing Line Recycling

Improperly discarded fishing line pose a significant problem for fish, wildlife, humans, and the environment. Wildlife ingest, or become entangled, and injured in fishing line and can cause unnecessary messes and pollution. Monofilament fishing line can take 600 years to decompose.

Recently, here in London an osprey was found ensnared and hanging from a bridge. These large birds of prey use our waterways to capture fish, and as is the case with many other birds of prey and song birds, are known to bring non-natural materials such as plastic bags, balloons and fishing line to their nests. The AWAC believes we should take steps to protect these remarkable birds, and all wildlife flora and fauna that call our river home. The incident was shared on social media and many of our Londoners provided comments that reflect observations of an overwhelming problem with discarded lead sinkers and fishing line for wildlife and for humans along our waterways.

“Clear Your Gear” [www.clearyourgear.ca] is Canada’s national fishing line recycling network established in 2016 to reduce the amount of fishing line and gear left in the environment. They have provided fishing line recycling receptacles at hundreds of outdoor locations, as well as in Bass Pro Shops, Cabela’s, and other retail stores, and municipalities throughout Canada.

“Clear Your Gear” has agreed to send free receptacles for the City of London, as well as free shipping of the collected line to be recycled. They have asked for a formal response that outlines how we intend to meet the following two requirements:

1. Secure local permission/approvals and develop a local network to maintain/empty the units, prior to the units being shipped, and
2. Install the units, take a photo and share the details with the program.

AWAC appreciates and thanks Orest Katolyk for responding to AWAC’s recommended informative signage for anglers on strategic spots along the Thames River as well as interest in working with community partners and AWAC to motivate Londoners to clean up, and properly dispose of fishing line.

We look forward to your consideration, and to making the “Clear Your Gear” fishing line recycling initiative a success in London. The Clear Your Gear Fishing Receptacle is depicted below (left) and the newly installed Anger’s Alert Signage along the Thames River in strategic locations in London Ontario (right).



2019-2021 Progress Report



Steve Loney
Community Relations Volunteer

Clear Your Gear Inc.
(A Non-Profit Organization)
www.clearyourgear.ca

Cell: +1-204-869-7594
Email: steve@clearyourgear.ca

Clear Your Gear Inc. 2021



Our Mission

- ▶ Reduce the impacts of poorly discarded fishing line on wildlife, people & the environment.
- ▶ Educate the public on the impacts of poorly discarded fishing line
- ▶ Expand our network of fishing line recycling receptacles to make recycling easy & convenient.



Background

- ▶ Clear Your Gear is Canada's national fishing line recycling network was established in late 2016. Initial prototypes were built and deployed throughout 2017 with the [official launch](#) taking place in the spring of 2018. Clear Your Gear was quickly adopted by community groups such as the [The Women That Hunt](#). We are 100% volunteer based and provide FREE volunteer-built fishing line recycling receptacles to retailers, community groups, marinas, lodges and camps. Paid for by sponsors such as Bass Pro Shops Cabela's Outdoor Fund and Build Films. Prepaid shipping boxes are also provided to send the collected line to the recycling depot courtesy of [Berkley](#) Pure Fishing.
- ▶ Requests for FREE recycling receptacles can be made at [ClearYourGear.ca](#). Potential partners must secure local permission to install the receptacle and have volunteers or staff to empty them prior to shipping. We also sell advertising on the bottom of the receptacle for a onetime fee of \$250 (Lifetime Location Sponsorship). *Clear Your Gear currently has over 750 locations in 10 provinces. The Clear Your Gear volunteer network of outdoor and retail locations continues to grow. Our goal is to be in every province and territory by 2022.*



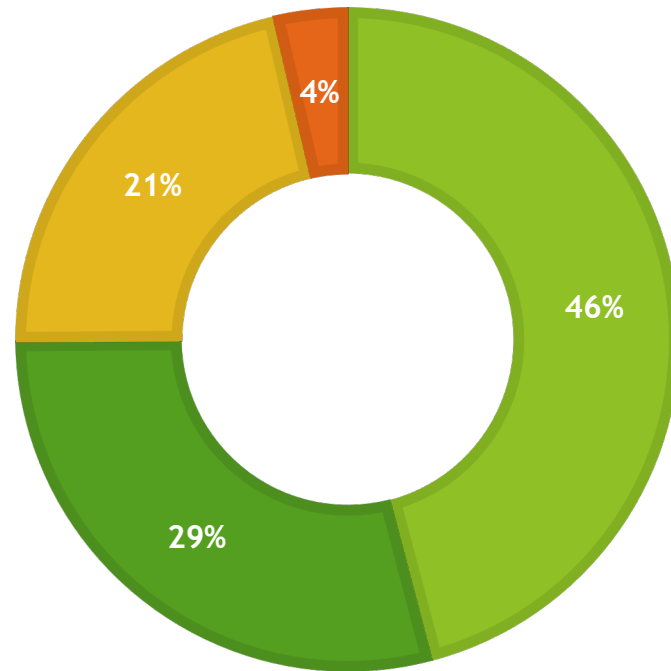
2019-2021 Impacts

- ▶ Clear Your Gear manufactured and delivered over 600 recycling receptacles to community groups and retailers since March of 2020 across 10 provinces.
- ▶ British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland & Labrador were added to the Clear Your Gear volunteer fishing line recycling network.
- ▶ The Bass Pro Shops Cabela's Outdoor Fund, TC Energy, Build Films, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Alberta Conservation Association, EMCO Supply, IPEX Canada, Tofino Marina & Resort, Radka Construction, Enbridge, Cypher Environmental and Cabela's Canada were our top sponsors.
- ▶ We have gained significant interest from communities on the east coast of Canada in recent months.

\$103,749.38 Raised 2019-2020

DONATIONS BY CATEGORY

■ Corporate Sponsors ■ Foundations ■ Fundraising ■ Online



Sponsor Assets 2019-2020

- ▶ Recognition on [Website](#)
- ▶ Logo on recycling receptacles
- ▶ Logo on promotional trailer
- ▶ Logo on promotional tent
- ▶ Featured in radio advertising
- ▶ Social media and video mentions
- ▶ Recognition in appeal letters and welcome packages sent to sponsors and volunteers



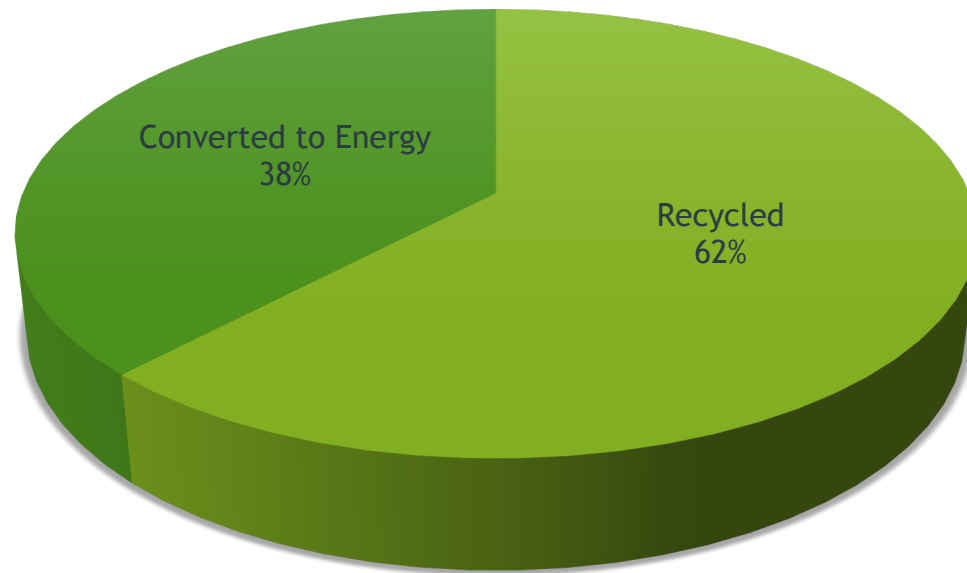
Volunteers

- ▶ Over 200 volunteers across Canada are currently hosting, maintaining, promoting, and delivering Clear Your Gear recycling receptacles at over 750 locations.
- ▶ 5 volunteers in Manitoba safely assembled 5,100 components into 300 recycling receptacles during the pandemic in 2020.
- ▶ 4 volunteers in Edmonton built 55 units, and 5 volunteers in Winnipeg built 295 units in 2021.
- ▶ Volunteers travelled over 24,000 Km (14,900 miles) to support Clear Your Gear during the 2020-2021 season.
- ▶ Translated our first French language units in 2021.



2019 Recycling Data

10,811 lbs Collected by Pure Fishing



■ Recycled ■ Converted to Energy

Earned Media

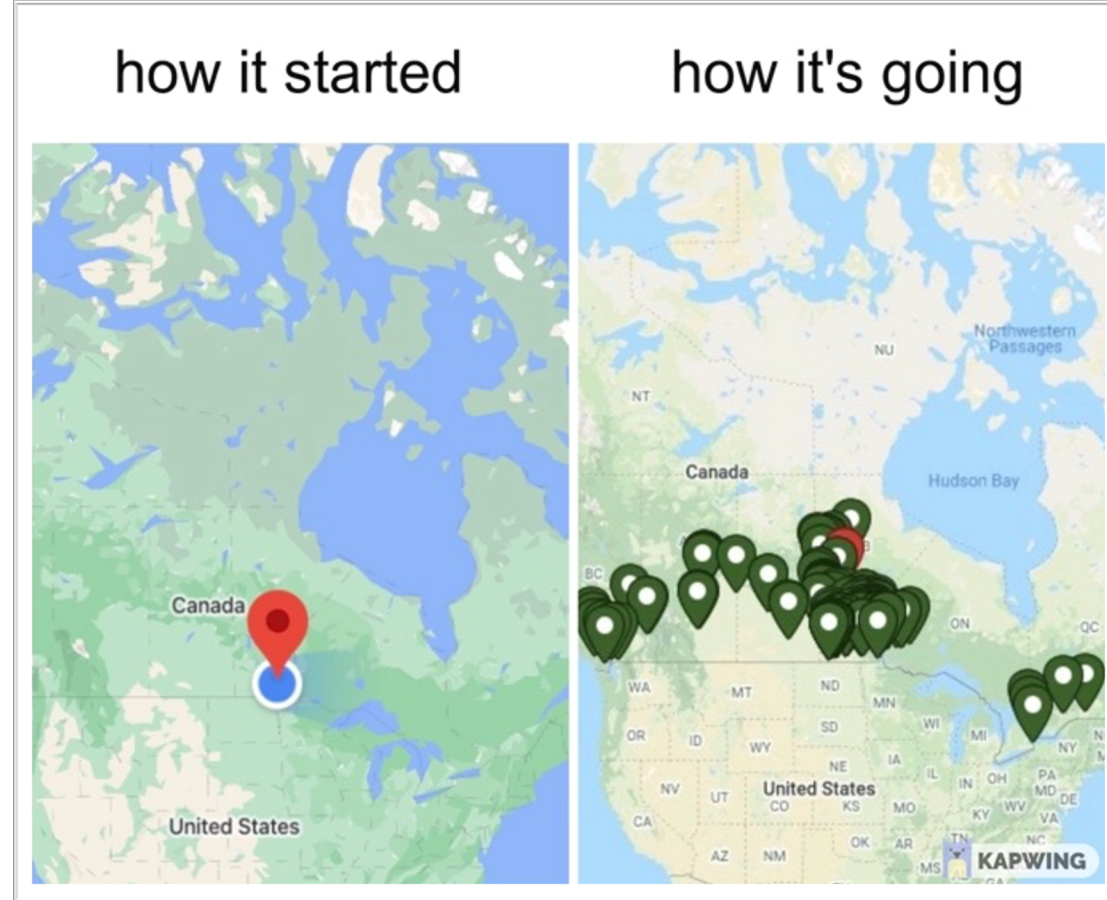
- ▶ CBC Radio Winnipeg
- ▶ [CBC Radio Thunder Bay](#)
- ▶ Clear Your Gear has been recognized as Canada's national volunteer fishing line recycling network by top fishing publications such as [bassmaster.com](#)
- ▶ [Saltwire](#) News

Social Media

- ▶ Over 327 posts across Instagram, Facebook, & Twitter.
- ▶ Animated [educational video](#) for youth.
- ▶ One of our top [facebook](#) posts reached 10,398 people.

Retail & Park Location Highlights

- ▶ **Cabela's Canada (National)**
- ▶ **Bass Pro Shops (National)**
- ▶ Canadian Tire (SK, ON)
- ▶ The Fishin' Hole (MB, SK, AB)
- ▶ Gone Fishin' Shop (BC)
- ▶ Pacific Angler (BC)
- ▶ LOTW Sports Headquarters (ON, MB)
- ▶ Fishing Tackles Store (QC)
- ▶ Wild Side Outdoors (AB)
- ▶ Lone Butte Sporting Goods (BC)
- ▶ Smoke N' Fish (MB)
- ▶ Harvester Outdoors (MB)
- ▶ Richards Bait & Tackle (PEI)
- ▶ Bobby's Sport Shop (ON)
- ▶ QSL Tackle (ON)
- ▶ Manitoba Parks (MB)
- ▶ Public Works Canada (MB)



Key Community Partners

- ▶ Backcountry Hunters & Anglers BC
- ▶ Vancouver Island Fishing for Fun Society BC
- ▶ West Coast Kayak Angler Series BC
- ▶ Tiffany Tasker AB
- ▶ Wishin' I was Fishing Events Inc. SK
- ▶ Fishing Saskatchewan SK
- ▶ Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards Inc. SK
- ▶ Saskatchewan Ice Fishing Fanatics SK
- ▶ Saskatchewan Parks SK
- ▶ Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre MB
- ▶ Manitoba Parks MB
- ▶ Public Works Canada MB
- ▶ Pembina Valley Fish Enhancement MB
- ▶ City of Kenora ON
- ▶ Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Township ON
- ▶ Antigonish Rivers Association NS
- ▶ Slate Falls Airways ON



Questions?



Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Budget Expenditure Request:

Wild canids (coyotes and fox) navigate through all of our city's parks, green spaces, and ESA's.

There are increased sightings during specific times of the year, such as when there is less foliage on trees, pup rearing season when food demands are high, and when young adults are dispersing in the fall. City staff and Animal Care and Control are frequently contacted during these times and through out the year, and as a result of chronic dogs off leash, direct and indirect feeding of wildlife, and improper food items disposal in City of London Parks.

The City of London has recognized the need to create a framework of education, enforcement of nuisance feeding and leash by-laws, and the provision of preventative strategies to empower folks to co-exist with wildlife, reduce adverse encounters, and take up one's responsibility in green spaces as it relates to wildlife, pet, and human safety.

The City of London endorsed new Wild Canid signage encompassing all aspects of safety in our ESA's with these principles in mind and in keeping with London's Humane Urban Wildlife Policy. This signage was meant to replace signage that does not assist folks to distinguish sightings from concerns, and does not contain sufficient information to empower folks to avoid, prevent, or discourage adverse encounters. The new signage assists folks to make the connection between the natural history of these species and the unintended consequences of ignoring nuisance feeding, and leash bylaws in green spaces. The signage was also intended to reduce the burden to City of London staff over time, by increasing public awareness of current bylaws, resident responsibilities, and practical tools for wildlife, domestic pet, and human safety.

Replacing the current parks signage with the new signage would bring our City Parks in line with the purpose and goal for all Londoners. Parks bordering wooded and significantly naturalized area hotspots for wildlife nuisance feeding and off leash dog infractions would benefit from being prioritized for this signage. Any additional contact information for the city's purpose could be added if necessary.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee would like to use our budget to fund this worthwhile endeavour as we strive to continue to contribute to the City of London's animal welfare and bring education, awareness, prevention, and wildlife safety tools to residents. New informative signage on right.





Photo by Rebecca Richardson

Advocating Positive Human & Wildlife Experiences

Be Coyote Aware

Wildlife Safety

Never Feed a Coyote

- **Never approach a coyote, their den or their pups**
- **Never allow your pets to chase, harass or corner a coyote**
- **Obey leash by-laws**
- **Dispose of all food items at picnic/ cooking areas in designated bins**
- **Respect and safely admire coyotes from afar**

Coyote Encounter

If a Coyote is Near

- **Pick up small children and pets**
- **Never run or turn your back**
- **Wave your arms above your head**
- **Be BIG and LOUD! Yell “Go away!”**
- **Slowly back away**
- **Use hazing techniques such as popping an umbrella, throwing an object or shaking your keys**

**For more information and to report
local coyote sightings:
www.london.ca/coyotes**

Do not feed wildlife

What is a Coyote?

While usually associated with agricultural lands, woodlands or brushy areas, Eastern Coyote is able to live in urban centres and developed areas.

Considered a keystone species, they play a vital role in maintaining the health and balance of their ecosystems. Coyotes have keen senses and are highly sociable.

Coyotes mate for life and are attentive parents. Although coyotes are wild animals, they can be curious of human activity. It's important to keep them wary of people. Never approach or attempt to tame a coyote.

What Do They Eat?

Coyotes play an important role in rodent control. With a diet consisting of a variety of foods, including meat, carrion, fruits and vegetables, coyotes feed mainly on small animals such as rats, mice and voles from spring to fall. They may also be interested in food scraps, fallen fruit from trees, or bird feed. Remember to keep garbage in enclosed trash and compost bins.

Coyote Awareness

The peak activity periods for coyote and fox are dusk and dawn, but it is not uncommon to see them during daylight hours.

Wild canids do their best to avoid humans. Coyotes and other species may perceive domestic pets as a danger to their family members, competition for resources, or potential prey.

Attracting wildlife, either accidentally by having possible food sources that are accessible or intentionally by feeding, alters natural foraging behaviours and increases encounters between people, wildlife, and domestic pets. Always clean up after your pets to avoid attracting small mammal prey species.

Ensure responsible supervision of children and pets at all times. Obey leash, garbage disposal, and nuisance feeding by-laws.

Be aware! Coyote sightings and vocalizations may increase during seasonal active times of the year such as:

**Winter during mating season (Jan to Feb)
Spring during den selection and pup rearing (Mar to Sept)
Fall during dispersal of pack members (Sept to Dec)**



COYOTE WATCH CANADA



www.coyotewatchcanada.com

**UPPER THAMES RIVER
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**



**London
CANADA**