



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	November 9, 2017	Report No:	PW-37-17
Directed To:	Mayor and Members of Council	Attachments:	
Department:	Public Works	Policy References:	
Prepared By:	Peter Marra, P.Eng. – Director of Public Works		
Subject:	Geese Population Issues		

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council concur that all future stormwater management ponds be designed to be naturalized ponds.

That Council concur that the Sandwich West Park stormwater management pond be maintained as a naturalized pond.

That Council concur with monitoring the geese population and that administration further investigate repellent application in 2018.

REPORT:

This report has been prepared in response to a Council question regarding the geese population and possible solutions to address nuisance issues.

The Public Works department has not received many enquiries related to geese over the last 3 to 4 years. We estimate receiving about six relating to geese at the Vollmer and about two relating to geese at Sandwich West Park, these are the only two locations in Town that we are aware where geese may visit periodically throughout the year.

At the two locations the similarities are that, two things are present and those are a body of water and relatively young or manicured grass/vegetation for feeding. At both the Vollmer and Sandwich West Park, there are stormwater management (SWM) ponds immediately adjacent a park.

There was a period of time that the Town did not cut the banks of these SWM ponds. These ponds were allowed to naturalize. In those years, the geese population was down and in some cases not present. In more recent years, at the Vollmer, the pond banks have been cut more regularly to accommodate use of the SWM pond by user groups. This has now created a more inviting environment for the geese. The pond at Sandwich West Park has been let to naturalize more recently.

With the introduction of more SWM ponds in the coming years to accommodate development, this issue may become more prevalent. A solution to this will be that the Town accept the design concept that all SWM ponds be naturalized ponds, thus not creating an inviting environment for geese and as such creating a more naturalized amenity into future developments. Naturalized SWM ponds are recommended to deter geese by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and also perform better at cleansing stormwater runoff and require less maintenance.

There are a great deal of ways to deter geese and some can be achieved without a permit, some methods will require a federal permit from Environment Canada.

Non-Permit Methods

1. Deter feeding - erect signs and/or create a by-law.
2. Naturalization - by allowing vegetation to grow, this eliminate the young grasses that geese feed on and this also creates illusion of habitat where natural predators to geese can hide and geese will avoid these areas.
3. Erect barriers - erection of fences and or plant barriers that will disrupt/reduce areas for landing and take-off.
4. Geese repellent – there are also various sprays that can be applied to the surrounding areas, however, there are many products available and the results vary. These sprays, do not last for significant time, some sprays may need a permit for chemical application.
5. Hazing – hazing involves chasing the geese when they arrive and continuing this until they leave. This needs to be applied consistently every time they appear until they leave.
6. Scaring – the non-permit methods are noise-making devices, balloons/kites, flagging tapes and streamers, flashing lights and/or scarecrows.

Permit Methods

1. Scaring – use of firearms, aircrafts or raptors.
2. Physical removal/relocation
3. Any lethal/destructive method

Based on the information above, Administration feels that only the non-permit method should be explored further.

Administration is recommending that all future SWM ponds be designed and constructed to be naturalized ponds. That Sandwich West Park SWM pond continue to be maintained as a naturalized pond. That the Town explore the use of geese repellent at the Vollmer.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Marra, P.Eng.
Director of Public Works

Reviewed by:							
CAO	Treasury	Clerks	Public Works	Planning	Cult. & Rec.	Building	Fire

