THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMBINED MEETING AGENDA

November 24, 2016
7:00 PM
Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

5. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS ON THE AGENDA

7. PRESENTATIONS

   (1) Mike Baskerville Top soil

   (2) Impact of Emeral Ash Borers – presentation by Linda

   (3) Invasive species updates – presentation Mary Mallany

8. COMMUNICATIONS

   Pages 1 - 4
   (1) Minutes from 2015 joint meeting, to be received.

   Page 5
   (2) hunting the hunters

   Page 6
   (3) Wolf Control measures are working

   Page 7 - 9
   (4) Black bear sightings on the rise in the GTA

7. OTHER BUSINESS

   (1) GEAC year in review

   (2) GAgAC year in review

(3) GAgAC and GEAC Combined Annual Report to Council.

8. 2017MEETING

(1) November 9, 2017

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMBINED MEETING AGENDA

November 12, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

2. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The following Environmental Advisory Committee members were in attendance:
Mary Mallany
Bill Horrocks
Amanda Bacci
Tricia Richens

The following Agricultural Advisory Committee members were in attendance:
Brenda Rae
Brad Smockum
Bart Johnson
James (Jim) Lockie

The following Committee members were absent with regrets:
Katie Davis
Sean O'Malley
Councillor Dave Neeson
Councillor Dave Harding
Glenda Hamilton

The following staff member was in attendance:
Sarah Brislin, Committee Services Coordinator

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Tricia Richens, Seconded by Amanda Bacci

GEACGAgAC - 2015-0001

That the November 12, 2015 agenda for the annual joint Georgina Agricultural Advisory and Environmental Advisory Committees meeting be approved as presented.
Carried.

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - *none*

5. COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) General Information:

(A) Invasive Species Legislation Receives Royal Assent

(B) Protecting the Lake Simcoe Watershed: Environmental Practices are a Win-Win for Farmers and the Land

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/facts/jewell.htm

(C) Organic Foods

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/organic/faq.htm

http://www.drweil.com/drw/u/ART02984/Foods-You-Dont-Have-to-Buy-Organic.html

http://www.drweil.com/drw/u/VDR00022/Dr-Weil-EWG-Shoppers-Guide-to-Pesticides.html

http://www.drweil.com/drw/u/ART02985/Foods-You-Should-Always-Buy-Organic.html

(D) Neonicotinoid and bee hive management

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/_fact-fiche/neonicotinoid/neonicotinoid-eng.php

http://www.ontario.ca/page/neonicotinoid-regulations

(E) Farmers as stewards of the land.

http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/facts/jewell.htm

Moved by Mary Mallany, Seconded by Amanda Bacci

GEACGAgAC - 2015-0002

That items 5(1)(A) to (E) be received as information and that Committee Services Coordinator Follow up with Operations regarding town processes for handling invasive species and report back to both Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee and Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee.

Carried.

(2) Matters for Disposition

(a) Invasive Species, Mary Mallany to present.

On October 13 and 14, 2015 GEAC member Mary Mallany attended an invasive species workshop hosted in Hamilton. Mary discussed with members of GEAC and GAgAC various methods being used for various types of invasive species; the early detection mapping system; and Royal Botanical Garden's invasive plant Strategy.

6. STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS

(1) GAgAC and GEAC Combined Annual Report to Council.

Members suggested the report include

- Recommendations to Clip weeds in June not August
- Education and awareness of invasive species including identification, prevention, and treatments is a priority to both committees.
- Recommendations to Council to establish best practices for dealing with invasive species.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. 2016 MEETING

(1) Date to be determined.

Moved by Tricia Richens, Seconded by Bart Johnson

GEACGAgAC - 2015-0003

That the 2016 Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee and Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting be held on November 24, 2016.

Carried.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Tricia Richens, Seconded by Bart Johnson

GEACGAgAC - 2015-0003

That the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee and Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting of November 12, 2015 be adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Carried.

Hunting the hunters

Livestock producers say wolf populations are growing and moving into new territories

BY ROBERT ARNASON
BRANDON BUREAU

ROBLIN, Man. — Gary Fletcher looks exactly how a cattleman should look.

With a greying mustache and the eyes of someone who has spent countless hours peering into the distance looking for cattle, Fletcher wore cowboy boots, spurs, chaps, a black hat and a scarf on a stormy afternoon in late May.

Fletcher, manager of a community pasture near Roblin, Man., chooses to dress in the customary cowboy gear, but he also carries a traditional tool for the job: a rifle.

The gun isn't a decoration. He has used it more than 20 times to shoot wolves that attacked cattle in Manitoba's Parkland region.

Fletcher was a pasture manager near Ethelbert, Man., for 17 years before taking a position at the Roblin community pasture this year. Standing by a corral at the pasture, Fletcher said there's been an upsurge in wolf attacks over the last five to 10 years near Manitoba's Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

"There was the odd kill (17 years ago, but) it gradually started increasing.... This past season there were certain areas of the (Ethelbert) pasture where we were having one kill a week," Fletcher said inside a shed next to the corral as hail hammered down on the metal roof.

"That's a 350 to 400 pound calf on a weekly basis until we were able to target that one (wolf) and got him."

However, the increase in wolf attacks isn't limited to cattle ranches adjacent to Duck Mountain and Riding Mountain National Park. Wolves have also moved well outside their traditional range and now populate southern and western parts of Manitoba, Fletcher said.

"You talk to other (pasture) managers in different areas, like Spy Hill (at the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border) or Gardenton south of Winnipeg, areas where we've never seen wolves before, all of a sudden there are wolves everywhere."

Fletcher estimated that he or employees had to kill about 100 troublesome wolves during his 17 years as pasture manager at Ethelbert.

Len Angus, who raises purebred Limousin cattle north of Roblin, has also witnessed the recent change in wolf behaviour.

Moose and elk have migrated out of Duck Mountain Provincial Park over the last decade, and the wolves followed their natural prey. They begin to target cattle once outside the park, Angus said.

"A wolf takes its lunch wherever it's easiest. They're finding out that cattle are easy," said Angus, whose home is only 1.6 kilometres from the park boundary.

"Not just in Roblin. Anywhere you go in the province, people are having trouble with predators. And they're having trouble with wolves, not just coyotes.... One guy down there on the edge of the park (Riding Mountain), three years ago, he lost 19 calves to wolves."

Wolves have killed seven calves and attacked one cow on Angus's ranch over the last couple of years.

Mark Angus, Len's son, said the province does compensate ranchers for livestock predation, but it only covers a fraction of the financial loss.

For example, the loss can be substantial if wolves kill two purebred calves.

"(If) those two cows because of the stress (of predators) ... come in void, then we're out two calf crops," Mark said.

"Say a low dollar value, $4,000 a calf, we're out $16,000. How many businesses can cover $16,000 worth of loss?"

Angus said there's an obvious solution to the problem: cull the wolf population outside of the parks.

"If they (the government) would pay a $400 bounty on wolves, we probably wouldn't need to worry about them," he said.

"It's just an overpopulation of the wolves."

There are other ways to prevent predators from attacking livestock, such as using dogs, donkeys or llamas to protect the herd. Those prevention strategies might work with coyotes but not with wolves, Angus said.

"A coyote and a wolf, they're totally different animals," he said.

"They talk about Great Pyrenees dogs, but (a neighbour) had two Great Pyrenees and the wolves killed them."

Fletcher agreed that guard animals don't always work with wolves.

"Around Valley River, closer to Dauphin, there was a farm that had two donkeys, three horses and a llama," he said. "The wolves came in there and killed the llama and two donkeys."

In 2011, the provincial government introduced an incentive program to reduce the wolf population in the Duck Mountain Provincial Park and other hunting areas in the region. The province offered $250 per trapped wolf because the moose population in the area was declining.

Angus said the program hasn't been effective.

"It obviously hasn't worked for us because everyone around the park is still having problems (with wolves)."

Angus said cattle producers and government wildlife experts recognize that a wolf cull is necessary, but policy makers are dancing around the obvious solution. Politicians know that placing a bounty on wolves is risky because the wolf is an iconic species.

"These answers you get from (the government), they're all scripted," Angus said.

"As long as man has been here... (we) have had to cull wolves. It's no different today."

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PREDATOR CONTROL

Wolf control measures are working: biologist

Researchers say wolf populations in Manitoba are stable, thanks to incentive programs

BY ROBERT ARNASON
BRANDON BUREAU

A provincial biologist says the evidence doesn't support the theory that Manitoba's wolf population is growing and that attacks on cattle are more frequent.

For five years, the provincial government has paid trappers $250 per wolf caught in Duck Mountain Provincial Park and other areas where the moose population is at risk.

Hank Hristienko, a big game biologist with Manitoba Sustainable Development who specializes in bears, moose and wolves, said the incentive program has cut into the wolf population in the Parkland region.

"Wolf numbers have been kept lower, over the last five years, during the term of the program," he said.

"That is one area (of the province) where wolf numbers are down compared to other areas."

Hristienko also said wolf predation claims, which compensate livestock producers for animal losses, are basically unchanged across Manitoba.

"Based on the past five years ... claims have remained about the same."

Some ranchers may assume that a declining moose population means wolves lack prey and are turning their attention to cattle.

Hristienko said there's no link between moose numbers and the likelihood of attacks on cattle because moose are a secondary food source for wolves.

Statistics may not show an increase in wolf attacks, but the province does want to mitigate wolf-livestock "conflicts" in Manitoba and is working on a predation management strategy. | FILE PHOTO

The province and the University of Manitoba conducted a joint study to evaluate a wolf's diet in the Parkland region. They found that wolves prefer to prey on elk and deer.

"The species of choice in the (Duck Mountains) is deer. The species of choice in the Riding Mountain area is elk," Hristienko said.

"Moose, on average, would be in around the 20 percent mark (of the diet), where deer and elk, depending on the area, would be closer to 50 to 60 percent."

Statistics may not show an increase in wolf attacks, but the province does want to mitigate wolf-livestock "conflicts" in Manitoba. As a result, government experts and Manitoba Beef Producers are collaborating on a predation management strategy.

"We've reviewed the best practices from around the world," Hristienko said.

"The next step is to develop a set of strategies best suited to our dynamic (in Manitoba), but the emphasis will be prevention."

The province plans to do an aerial survey next year in the Duck Mountains and other parts of the Parkland to assess the moose population and the effectiveness of the wolf-trapping program.

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NEWS

Black bear sightings on the rise in the GTA

By Samantha Edwards

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Adding a whole new meaning to “nosy neighbour,” black bear sightings in the Greater Toronto Area are on the rise. According to reports, black bears have been in close contact with humans in Aurora, Milton, and Pickering this year. The Ministry of Natural Resources says there have been nearly 700 bear occurrences and encounters this summer alone in Ontario.

Bear encounters are usually only a problem for northerners, but when there’s a bad harvest and their food sources are scarce, bears tend to

there's a bad harvest and their food sources are scarce, bears tend to migrate south towards the GTA.

Just one month ago, a 42-year-old man and his dog were attacked by a black bear while camping in an Ontario provincial park, and last year in Burlington, police shot and killed a wandering, "nuisance" bear.

New Democrat MPP John Vanthof says the provincial government should reinstate the "trap and relocate" program that was axed due to budget cuts last summer. At the moment, if a person is in danger, they're forced to defend themselves or call a 1-800 number.

Natural Resources Minister David Orazietti says the government continues to operate the Bear Wise program, which prevents contact between humans and bears, and has also extended the fall bear hunt.

To prevent bears from wandering onto your property, the Ministry recommends storing garbage in containers with tight-fitting lids and putting your garbage out on the morning of collection (because we all know bears cannot resist the wafting smell of sticky, hot garbage), clean outdoors grill after each use, and keep bird feeders up only during the winter months.

Meanwhile in British Columbia, there have been fewer problem bear calls this summer. WildSafe BC reports 24 percent fewer calls about nuisance bears and conservation officers in Kamloops and North Vancouver report they received about 50 percent fewer calls than last year. These statistics also mean that 30 percent fewer bears were shot this year.

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