



VANCOUVER  
BOARD OF  
PARKS AND  
RECREATION

May 2, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Canada Goose Egg Addling Program – Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform you about the Park Board's annual egg addling program to manage the population of resident Canada geese in Vancouver parks.

Resident (non-migratory) Canada geese are a common sight in many of our parks, beaches, fields and boulevards, and have very few predators in urban areas. They prefer shoreline parks with large areas of grass because they provide feeding areas in proximity to the marine shoreline. Canada geese damage grass due to foraging and fecal contamination, and add to the fecal coliform count in small bodies of water such as Trout Lake and Lost Lagoon. Large flocks of Canada geese can denude grassy areas, including parks, pastures, golf courses, lawns, and other landscaped areas where the grass is kept short and where there are ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water nearby, necessitating expensive turf-management activities. They can also cause traffic and safety risks when they cross busy roads.

In 2016, Vancouver's Canada goose population was estimated to be about 2,270, and it is expected to reach 5,900 by 2025 without population management. In order to keep resident Canada goose populations in check, during the spring nesting season Park Board staff addle eggs, which is a humane population control method recommended by both BCSPCA and PETA. It involves oiling eggs to prevent airflow, or shaking them to stop embryo development. The Park Board receives a permit from Environment and Climate Change Canada for this activity.

This program is carried out by the Park Board's experienced Wildlife Specialist who identifies active nests and shakes eggs, wipes them with vegetable oil, or replaces them with sterile previously frozen eggs; all these methods are used to stop the development of the embryo and prevent hatching. The Canada goose population has still risen slightly in recent years because resident Canada geese also lay eggs on private property that is outside the City's jurisdiction, and in areas such as tall tree stumps that are inaccessible for addling.

Park Board staff will continue to monitor the resident Canada goose population and identify other actions to reduce damage and other concerns in parks.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Bromley'.

Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

gt/ess/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB Communications