

ITEM	1
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	9
COUNCIL MEETING 93/02/09	

TO : CITY MANAGER 1993 FEBRUARY 04

FROM : DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

RE : EVALUATION OF THE CANADA GEESE POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM CARRIED OUT IN CENTRAL BURNABY

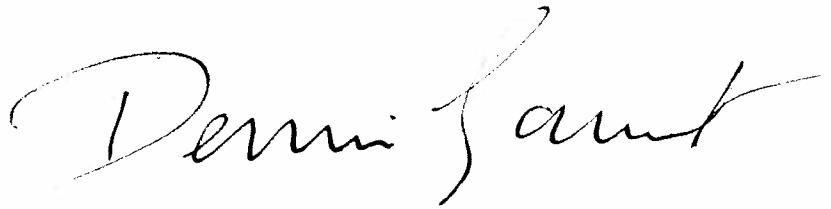
PURPOSE : To inform Council of the evaluation of the Canada Geese Population Control Program carried out in Central Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1993 February 03, the Parks & Recreation Commission received the attached staff report on the above subject and adopted the recommendation contained therein.



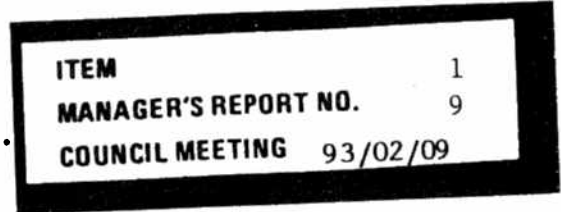
DENNIS GAUNT
DIRECTOR RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

tc
Attach.
A/1537

**RE: EVALUATION OF THE CANADA GEESE POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM
CARRIED OUT IN CENTRAL BURNABY**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to City Council.



REPORT

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1992 November 23, Council asked staff to provide a report on the progress of controlling the number of Canada Geese in Burnaby and also the results of the roundup program. The impression was that there are more geese now than in the past and a concern was that they may be coming from other areas as many of the birds appeared to be tagged.

HISTORY

The Commission approved the addling program for 1988 and continued to review the program on an annual basis before approving it for the following year. However, after reviewing the 1991 addling program, on 1991 November 06 the Commission approved the addling of goose eggs in Central Burnaby as an annual ongoing maintenance program, until a maximum of between 250 to 300 Canada Geese could be established for the area.

ADDLING PROGRAM

The addling program has been a success since its inception in 1988 in reducing the combined (Burnaby Lake/Deer Lake) potential gosling population. The success (correlation of eggs addled in March/April to goslings rounded up in June/July) of the program is tabulated below on an annual basis:

TABLE OF EGG ADDLING/GOSLING ROUNDUP

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NESTS</u>	<u>EGGS ADDLED</u>	<u>GOSLINGS IN ROUNDUP</u>	<u>% SUCCESS OF ADDLING</u>
1988	140	710	73	90
1989	96	529	34	94
1990	99	589	57	90
1991	139	844	38	95
1992	<u>123</u>	<u>692</u>	<u>145</u>	79
TOTAL:	597	3,364	347	

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The variability of nests may in part indicate the difficulty of locating all the nests, rather than any population changes. When weather conditions are good and water levels are high, it is easier to access the nesting areas. The increase of goslings in 1992 could indicate a lower effectiveness of addling in 1992, when the water level in Burnaby Lake was low, and consequently access to nests was more difficult. The lowest rate of success of addling was in 1992 at 79%. Over the five years of the program, 3,364 eggs were addled and only 347 goslings counted in the same period.

ROUNDUP AND BANDING OF GEESE

At the end of June or early July each year, during the molting season flightless geese are rounded up and relocated elsewhere in the Fraser Valley. All unbanded geese are banded before being relocated. The combined data (Burnaby Lake/Deer Lake) for the roundup for both locations is tabulated as follows:

TABLE FOR ROUNDUP OF CANADA GEESE

YEAR	BANDED	ADULTS UNBANDED	ADULTS TOTAL	% UNBANDED
1988	0	0	581	
1989	309	200	509	39.3%
1990	202	102	304	33.6%
1991	284	92	376	24.5%
1992	116	67	183	36.6%

The above table provides useful information, but should not be considered to be absolutely reliable, as a main source of error is the inability to capture all the birds in the area. In 1992 because of the low water level at Burnaby Lake, approximately half the birds escaped into the shallow and muddy areas, making the roundup more difficult than in previous years, when the water level was high. The data shows a gradual reduction of unbanded birds from 1988 to 1991. In 1991 an estimate of 24% unbanded birds were recorded during the nesting period and this reflects with the 24.5% unbanded birds captured in the roundup, which indicates there may not be a large influx of birds from outside areas.

BANDING ANALYSIS

Banding Analysis by the Canadian Wildlife Service (C.W.S.) indicates that birds banded in Central Burnaby return to the area even though they are relocated elsewhere in the Fraser Valley.

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Since Stanley Park is the major source of annual roundup and banding (apart from Burnaby), the Stanley Park birds found at Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake have been recorded by C.W.S. Apart from 1990 when 37 birds originally banded at Stanley Park were captured at Deer Lake, there has been no significant influx of birds from Stanley Park into Central Burnaby.

CONCLUSIONS

The addling program is successful in reducing the potential goslings population and Canadian Wildlife Service recommend that we continue with the program.

The number of birds unbanded has decreased gradually from 1988 to 1991. However, 1992 was not a successful year for either the addling program or the roundup.

From the annual Canada Geese counts and discussions with the agencies that assist in the addling and roundup programs, the present estimate for Canada Geese in Central Burnaby remains at between 400 - 450 birds. The fact that we are seeing more banded birds in the population is a sign that the population has a significant number of older birds.

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