



THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF OAK BAY
MUNICIPAL HALL – 2167 OAK BAY AVENUE – VICTORIA, B.C. V8R 1G2
PHONE 250-598-3311 FAX 250-598-9108 WEBSITE: www.oakbay.ca

May 4, 2010

Henry McCandless
877 Newport Avenue
Victoria, BC V8S 5C8

Dear Mr. McCandless:

Deer Population

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2010 regarding the above noted subject, which has been copied to each member of Oak Bay Municipal Council.

As you will know, the Ministry of Environment is responsible for deer under the *Wildlife Act*. I have contacted the office of the Ministry of Environment's Fish and Wildlife Branch Regional Headquarters regarding the issue of deer in urban areas and received a fair amount of information in this regard. The issue, of course, is not only regional by any means, and apparently is North America wide.

In essence, as was relayed to me, the Ministry has three options available to it for managing deer in the Province. The first is to address the deer population through regulated hunting. This, of course, is not an option in Oak Bay or other urban areas.

The other option the Ministry has is to, through the Conservation Officer Service, eliminate deer where there are extreme situations that impact human safety. From what I understand, the types of issues experienced in Oak Bay are not unique, and are being experienced in many areas.

The third option is to provide public education regarding dealing with deer in urban areas, including discouraging feeding them. The Ministry website has information for residents in this regard, and can be accessed at the following address: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fw/>.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above with Ministry staff, you can contact the Fish and Wildlife Branch Regional Headquarters in Nanaimo, BC at 1-250-751-3100.

On behalf of Council, thank you for taking the time to write regarding your concerns.

Yours truly,

Lorraine Hilton
Municipal Clerk

cc: Oak Bay Municipal Council