

# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

**PRESENTATION TO BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COUNCILS ON THE  
ADOPTION OF  
STRICTER AND AVERSIVE COYOTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT**



Burlington & Oakville Coyote Management

**February 2022**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ..... 2

BACKGROUND ..... 4

MAGNITUDE OF THE ISSUE..... 5

CREATION OF BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”) ..... 5

RESEARCH ..... 7

LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 8

SUMMARY ..... 14

APPENDIX A – INADEQUATE SIGNAGE..... 16

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The recommendations contained in this report reflect the research and perspective of the Burlington and Oakville Coyote Management association (“BOCM”). BOCM is a voluntary organization comprised of citizens in both Oakville and Burlington that was formed earlier in the year to address a perceived lack of leadership on the issue of coyote management and resident alarm over the dramatic increase in sightings and attacks over the last two years.

BOCM maintains that measures introduced since 2015 have been largely ineffective. An inordinate emphasis has been placed upon citizens to manage this problem as evidenced by countless appeals to restrict feeding of wildlife. We also contend that too much attention has been given to special interest groups in the formulation of public policies relating to coyote management. We believe the dynamic needs to shift dramatically, and that increased emphasis must be given to the protection of children, seniors and pets.

This report details a set of recommendations in several areas. Some of these proposals are quite new, and have been utilized in other jurisdictions across Canada and the United States. While a detailed costing of proposals has not been undertaken, we suggest that what is proposed will not unduly strain municipal budgets or result in substantial outlays of public funds.

It is estimated that there is at least six sightings per week and about 300 annually in both Oakville and Burlington. BOCM has tracked as many as eight pet deaths in the past two years, but anecdotal information leads us to believe the number is considerably higher. Many of these deaths occurred in the pet owners’ backyards. There have been so many postings of missing cats, and there is a strong likelihood that most of these have been killed by coyotes. Many homeowners have had their dogs attacked while walking on the street. Locally, a young girl was bitten in Bronte a few years ago.

Within our vicinity, the City of Mississauga reported 1,232 coyote sightings in 2020, a 56% increase from 788 in 2019. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 a woman was viciously attacked by a coyote. It bit her legs causing her to fall and break bones. She was hospitalized as a result of her injuries:

[https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/10440638--it-wouldn-t-go-away-mississauga-family-reeling-after-nightmare-coyote-run-in/?s=n1?source=newsletter&utm\\_content=a01&utm\\_source=ml\\_nl&utm\\_medium=e](https://www.insidehalton.com/news-story/10440638--it-wouldn-t-go-away-mississauga-family-reeling-after-nightmare-coyote-run-in/?s=n1?source=newsletter&utm_content=a01&utm_source=ml_nl&utm_medium=e)

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

[mail&utm\\_email=730A99D1DABC18C937F4B9CE017CEFAF&utm\\_campaign=ihhp\\_103190](mailto:730A99D1DABC18C937F4B9CE017CEFAF&utm_campaign=ihhp_103190)

Mississauga has proposed a tripling of fines from \$100 to \$300 for those caught allegedly feeding wildlife. The City is now considering trapping and removing coyotes if they are aggressive or in case where they bite humans. Mississauga has also taken the proactive approach to installing large billboards along Highway 403 with a photograph of a coyote and the caption “Please do not feed me, let me be wild”.

The last two years has seen an alarming increase in the number of coyote sightings across Canada. For instance, in Toronto, the number of coyote sightings in 2019 1,261 compared to 1,777 in 2020. As of the end of July in 2021 there had already been 1,389 (See Toronto Star, August 2, 2021, article by Emma Teitel, page A3).

On November 21, 2021, two people were bitten by coyotes in North York. On November 22, 2021 Toronto Police shot a coyote before further injuries could be inflicted on residents.

See: <https://toronto.citynews.ca/2021/11/21/police-warn-of-aggressive-coyote-attacking-citizens-in-north-york-park> and <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/coyote-shot-1.6258119>

Additionally, in July, 2021 a 10-year old Scarborough girl was chased by a coyote while walking her dog who was attacked. In Oshawa, also in July 2021, a 6-year old girl was bitten by a coyote.

In Vancouver, there have been a number of attacks upon children in places such as Stanley Park. There has been at least one serious attack earlier in the year involving a cyclist in Milton. Clearly, coyotes are no longer afraid of humans, and their increasing numbers coupled with urban intensification means that opportunities for interaction have increased dramatically.

This report provides eleven different recommendations which, we believe, would have a significant and beneficial impact on this issue. The recommendations range from changes to fence by-laws through to aversive conditioning, better signage, heavier fines for feeding of wildlife, and increased patrols in “hot spot” neighbourhoods by by-law enforcement.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

The ideas detailed in this report are, we believe, a starting point for further discussions with civic officials. BOCM is willing to meet with elected and civic officials to discuss our concerns and proposals to address this problem in greater detail.

## BACKGROUND

The issue of coyote management has become a significant problem throughout Halton Region in the past ten years. As urban development intensifies and previously undeveloped lands are re-zoned and developed for residential or commercial purposes wildlife habitats are being eradicated. Consequently, many animals are moving south towards the lake along established creeks and tributaries in search of shelter and food. This migration has meant that coyotes and humans are in closer contact.

Prior to 2012 coyote sightings in both Oakville and Burlington were infrequent. Since then, the number of encounters with wildlife has steadily increased. More recently, these interactions have resulted in vicious attacks on pets and, in a few cases, upon residents.

For instance, in February 2015, a public meeting held at Tansley Woods Community Centre by then Ward 4 Councillor Jack Dennison attracted barely twenty-five residents. By contrast, a similar Town Hall meeting in June 2017 at Mainway Arena attracted over 200 people. A March 2021 teleconference organized by Oakville Councillor Sean O’Meara and Burlington Councillor Paul Sharman attracted well over one hundred citizens. In February 2021, an online petition issued by residents addressed to Mayors Burton and Meed Ward on our coyote issues garnered almost 800 signatures.

The previous responses by Burlington and Oakville officials to citizen concerns and sightings has focused on three elements:

- (a) Recording sightings and interactions with coyotes on the Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington’s respective online databases;
- (b) Imploring citizens to refrain from feeding wildlife;
- (c) Encouraging citizens to actively haze coyotes and wildlife in an effort to deter them from neighbourhoods.
- (d) Asking residents to not leave garbage out.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

It is BOCM’s contention that these measures have been an abysmal failure, and have significantly failed to limit interactions with wildlife, and most importantly, to protect citizens and their pets. It is BOCM’s contention that much more proactive, varied and aggressive measures are needed.

## MAGNITUDE OF THE ISSUE

A review of sightings listed on the City of Burlington and Town of Oakville websites would infer that coyote sightings and interactions have either plateaued or waned. This data stands in sharp contrast to the experiences of many of our members who report that coyote sightings and interactions have steadily increased.

Our suspicion is that many residents who have seen or interacted with coyotes don’t bother using the online reporting tools. We maintain there are two reasons for this:

- (a) Neither the Town of Oakville nor the City of Burlington have demonstrated the requisite willingness to personally investigate these incidents;
- (b) There is a strong suspicion reinforced by residents’ personal experiences that reporting will not yield anything in the way of a definitive response by civic officials.

## CREATION OF BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

In response to growing dissatisfaction with the proliferation of coyote sightings and attacks on pets a group called Burlington & Oakville Coyote Management (“BOCM”) was created in April 2021. BOCM’s mandate is to *“Promote strong, definitive and effective measures to ensure residents, children and pets are safe and protected at all times”*.

The following is an excerpt from BOCM’s June 22<sup>nd</sup> Press Release announcing the creation of this organization:

*This association was created following a successful online petition through Change.org earlier in the year that garnered almost 800 signatures. Over 200 residents attended a subsequent online meeting in early March with officials from both Oakville and Burlington. Unfortunately, many in attendance came away from that meeting feeling frustrated and upset at the lack of a coordinated response from the*

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

*government and repeated platitudes from Coyote Watch Canada to what has become an escalating problem in recent years. In the past, numerous residents have appealed to the government on an individual basis resulting in a continued lack of response. This is the first time an official association has been formed to take on this important issue.”*

The following outlines the key principles of BOCM:

- **Safety is Paramount** - We believe the safety, security and well-being of our residents takes precedence over the rights of wildlife.
- **Public Education** - We are committed to educating the public on the dangers presented when wildlife encroaches on residential areas.
- **Strong and Definitive Measures Are Needed** – We believe our public officials have, in the past, abrogated their responsibilities on the issue of wildlife control. We believe municipal officials must take decisive and necessary action to control animals that pose a significant risk to the health and safety of residents and their pets.
- **Municipal Action is Necessary** – We strongly reject the false narrative that the onus is upon ordinary citizens to deal with threats posed by wildlife.
- **Public Interaction** – We will work directly with different government departments and officials to support, promote and encourage and promote measures to enhance public safety.
- **Control measures** – We will support all reasonable measures to control wildlife including hazing, restrictions on feeding, elimination of garbage, investigation of public complaints including coyote hotspots, and additional enforcement measures.

BOCM’s organizing committee has created a Facebook Group called ‘Burlington Oakville Coyote Management’ which residents and interested persons are encouraged to join. To date, approximately 25 people have joined this association.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

## RESEARCH

Since its inception representatives of BOCM have spoken with various stakeholders across the province to identify the concerns and interests of those with a vested interest in this issue. Through our Facebook contacts we have spoken with heads of organizations in Collingwood and Ottawa to identify measures that have been undertaken in recent years to address the issue of coyote infestation.

BOCM maintains that organizations such as Coyote Watch have propagated several untruths that need to be de-bunked.

The first is that coyotes are an endangered species. This narrative fails to recognize that no one has conducted a count of the coyote population. There is no research or studies to confirm the size of the coyote population in this area. To describe a species at risk without being able to provide a reasonable estimate of the number in that species population is not only fallacious but misleading.

Second, the message spread through social media is that coyotes are docile, shy and reserved. This stands in stark contrast to several vicious and unprovoked attacks in the past year in Ottawa, Scarborough and Thornhill in which residents and their animals have been savagely attacked.

Third, the existence of coy wolves is refuted by organizations such as Coyote Watch who maintain that coyotes are comparatively small and weight less than forty pounds. Many sightings by residents and those who have been attacked would indicate that the coyotes are much larger in size than a typical coyote.

BOCM maintains that for too long Burlington and Oakville Councils have been overly dependent on the messaging advanced by organizations such as Coyote Watch. Coyote Watch is predominantly a Niagara Region based advocacy group whose real agenda is neither research nor safeguarding the public, but rather, environmental advocacy. Unlike BOCM which is comprised entirely of local taxpayers and residents whose predominant concern is public safety Coyote Watch is intent on perpetuating an outdated narrative that is both dangerous and jeopardizes the health of residents and their pets. Unlike Coyote Watch which is funded by public donations BOCM is entirely self-funded by our members. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind Councils that Coyote Watch is now three years in arrears for its Canada Revenue Agency regulatory filings:



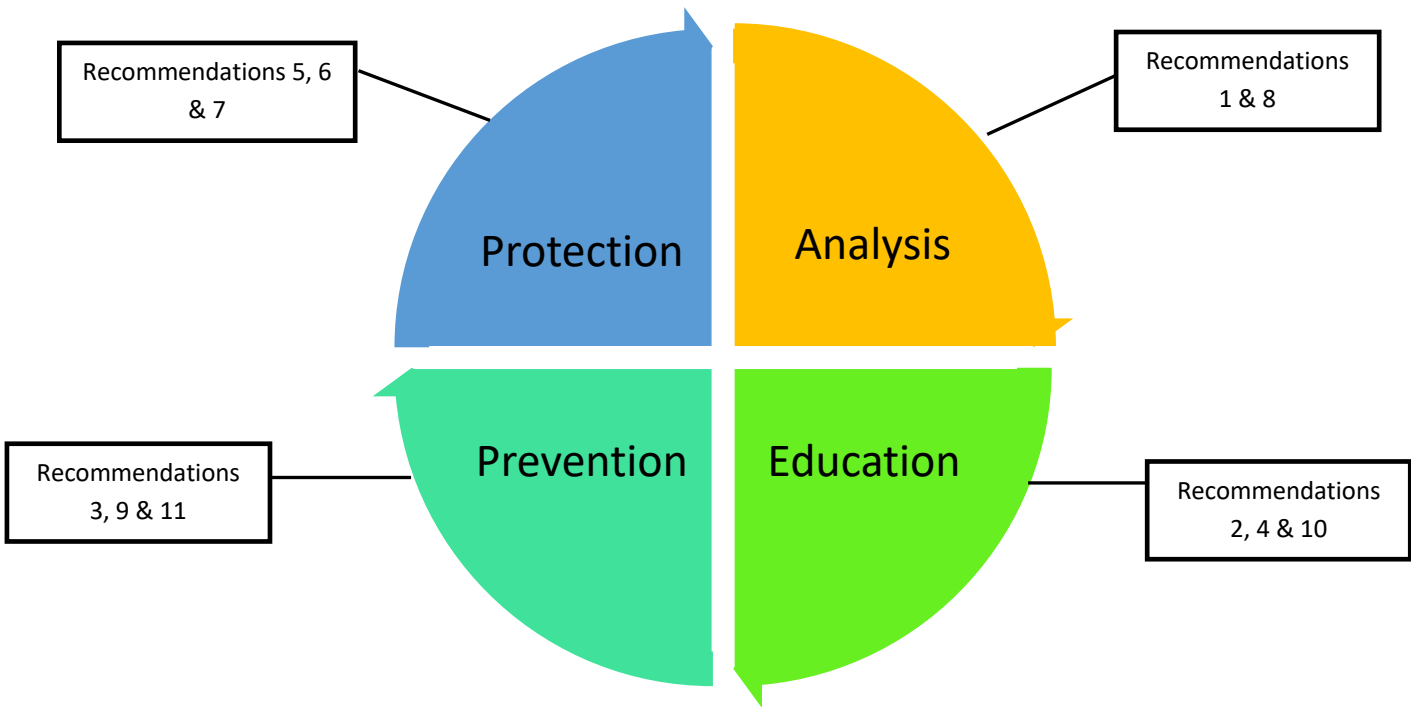
**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)**

[https://www.ic.gc.ca/app/scr/cc/CorporationsCanada/fdrlCrpDtls.html?corpld=8886156&V\\_TOKEN=null&crpNm=Coyote%20Watch&crpNmbr=&bsNmbr=](https://www.ic.gc.ca/app/scr/cc/CorporationsCanada/fdrlCrpDtls.html?corpld=8886156&V_TOKEN=null&crpNm=Coyote%20Watch&crpNmbr=&bsNmbr=)

**LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

BOCM’s Executive Committee has formulated a number of recommendations which, we believe, are crucial to improving residents’ personal safety and security. These proposals are detailed below.



BOCM’s recommendations can be visualized as a pinwheel of proposals which are intended to address the issue of coyote management with a fully comprehensive strategy.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

**1. Conduct an impact analysis by neighbourhoods to identify various controls that should be implemented to safeguard residents, children and pets from coyote attacks.**

BOCM has identified several “hot spot” neighbourhoods in both Oakville and Burlington which have shown an unusually high number of coyote sightings and incidents. These neighbourhoods are as follows:

- Samuel Curtis Estates in West Oakville;
- Wilmot Creek Park in West Oakville/East Burlington;
- Lakeshore Woods in West Oakville;
- Sheldon Creek Trail system bordering Samuel Curtis Estates & Lakeshore Woods in West Oakville;
- Shell Park in West Oakville;
- South Shel Park & Beach Trails in West Oakville;
- Burloak Waterfront Park in West Oakville/East Burlington;
- Mohawk Gardens/St. Patrick’s R.C. School in East Burlington;
- Bromley Park in East Burlington;
- Sherwood Forest Park in East Burlington;
- Pineland Public School in East Burlington;
- Paletta Estates in Burlington;
- Nelson Park in Burlington (including Shoreacres Road);
- John Tuck Public School in Burlington.

Many of these areas are adjacent to woodlots. The proximity of playgrounds to woodlots which is where coyotes den is particularly problematic. Many young children play in these areas, and the potential for interactions between coyotes and young people is extremely high. In all of West Oakville there are no coyote warning signs whatsoever.

**2. Improve both the quantity and quality of signage relating to coyotes, and ensure it offers meaningful information on what to do in the event of sightings.**

There are absolutely no coyote warning signs in Bronte and West Oakville, and the level of coyote signage currently in use in Burlington is vague and offers little in the way of useful information. BOCM believes that much more comprehensive and detailed signage is required that includes the following:

- Warning signs on the prevalence of coyotes;
- Encourage park visitors to call 911 in cases of emergencies or attacks;
- Clear prohibitions aimed at discouraging the feeding wildlife;

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

- Specific directions on what to do if a coyote stalks someone;
- Advice on how to properly haze coyotes.

Suffice to say that a picture of a coyote may provide a warning but it offers no viable information as to what to do when one is sighted or attacks. Oakville/Burlington need to follow the lead of Mississauga and install billboards, or at the least temporary mobile signs warning people of coyotes in hotspots and what to do.

Appendix A includes a cross-section of different pictures taken recently throughout Oakville and Burlington that clearly demonstrates either the lack of proper signage or a lack of relevant information.

#### **3. Current municipal by-laws should be amended to permit the laying of charges and assessment of fines for persons who feed coyotes.**

Current direction from civic officials places an onus upon residents not to feed wildlife. Unfortunately, this advice is not reinforced with appropriate fines that act as a significant deterrent.

It is our understanding that the City of Burlington By-Law 083-2015 enacted September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 provides for a fine of \$100 for any resident found feeding wildlife. In the case of the Town of Oakville we examined By-Law 2018-006 and were unable to find any fine for feeding wildlife. The fine in the City of Toronto is \$365.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2022/01/14/toronto-wants-people-to-stop-feeding-coyotes.html>

BOCM maintains that a \$500 fine should be imposed upon any resident or person who is identified feeding wildlife. We believe that a similar fine should be assessed in cases where residents carelessly discard food waste and scraps that become a food source for coyotes, raccoons, etc.

#### **4. Provide appropriate coyote management education in schools and parks that border creeks.**

We believe that more prescriptive and defined education messages should be used to communicate the potential threat caused by coyotes. We believe that By-Law Officers should be routinely tasked with visiting schools in “hot spot”

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

neighbourhoods to educate teachers, students and administrators about the threats posed by coyotes.

As coyotes are no longer afraid of us hazing must be taught to residents and children. Furthermore, flyers must be sent to every household in high density coyote areas instructing what to do, how to haze, and what to carry as a deterrent.

**5. Change municipal by-laws to permit residents to increase fence heights in order to deter coyotes from entering residents’ properties.**

Our review indicates that in the City of Burlington the maximum fence height is 2 metres. In the case of the Town of Oakville there is a similar provision, although in certain circumstances it can extend to 2.2 metres.

BOCM believes the current height restriction on fences is inadequate to protect residents from coyotes entering the backyards. We have several reports where residents’ pets in fenced backyards have been attacked by coyotes that have scaled wooden and wire fences.

We believe that in cases where properties are adjacent to “hot spot” areas an exception should be made, and that fence heights should be changed to 3 metres. This would provide a strong deterrent to coyotes from entering properties adjacent to parks while providing protection to homeowners whose pets are in enclosed areas.

**6. Permit residents’ whose properties back onto wooded areas to place an awning structure at the top of their fence to prevent coyote jumps.**

As was noted in point #5 above, coyotes have the ability to scale fences up to nine feet high. We believe residents whose properties are adjacent to “hot spot” locations should have the ability to erect awnings at the top of their fences to prevent coyote jumps.

**7. Request more frequent and nightly bylaw officer visits to wooded areas known to have coyote dens.**

BOCM maintains that Animal Control By-Law Officers have a low visibility and profile in the community. We believe that greater efforts should be made to provide nightly patrols in “hot spot” areas where coyotes pose a significant hazard and risk. Increased visibility will reinforce public safety and demonstrate concern for the needs of residents. In particular, better training for animal control and bylaw officers on how to be more empathetic and understanding when dealing with distraught pet owners reporting attacks and killing of their pets would be helpful.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

As well, it is important to clearly articulate to residents who to contact in the event of an attack, kill or sighting. Residents are currently confused.

Several schools in Oakville and Burlington have woods that are adjacent to known coyote dens. Below are pictures taken at St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic School on Kenwood Drive, and Pineland Public School on Meadowhill Drive. In these photographs you can clearly see that playgrounds and soccer fields are within close proximity to wooded areas and ravines.

#### **8. Scientifically measure the size of the coyote population in West Oakville, Bronte and Burlington.**

Much has been made about the fact that the coyote population is threatened by urbanization. While this may be true, at no time has scientific data been adduced to confirm the actual size of the coyote population in this area.

Until the 1800’s coyotes lived only in the southern prairies of North America, and the southern United States to Mexico. By the late 1800’s they expanded west to the Pacific Ocean, and by the 1900s they had advanced to the Maritimes, the eastern seaboard in the United States, and north to Alaska. Their rapid population growth is a testament to their hardiness and adaptability.

BOCM believes that making unsubstantiated claims that a species is at risk without corroborating evidence to substantiate it is both misleading and untrue. The natural predator of coyotes are humans, but if there are controls on hunting and trapping then the species reproduces unimpeded. Empirically, the number of sightings and interactions with coyotes would infer that the coyote population has migrated south towards the Lake Ontario shoreline and along adjacent creeks. This would suggest that a larger number of them are living in a confined area and in closer proximity to residents.

We believe that a scientific count of the coyote population would be helpful in identifying dens and imposing reasonable controls that would restrict the number of negative interactions with residents and their pets. Recently, attempts have been made in the City of Chicago using radio tracking to determine the size of the coyote population. Estimates suggest that the population in that City is somewhere between 2,000 to 4,000 animals.

BOCM believes that similar activities should be undertaken by bylaw officers using radio control technology. Scientific evidence, not assumptions, are needed in order to develop proactive evidence-based solutions to the coyote population.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

#### **9. Institute a program of coyote contraception to limit the size of the coyote population.**

Once an assessment has been made of the size of the coyote population BOCM believes that measures should be instituted to control the size of this species.

It should be noted that in addition to the obvious threat presented by bites and attacks coyotes are also known carriers of parasites including mange and, in some instances, rabies. Sarcoptic mange is highly contagious to both dogs and humans, and there are cases where it can be passed from human to human. Rabies is a deadly virus that spreads from the saliva of infected animals. Treatment involves a series of painful shots that eliminate the infection.

Wildlife contraception is not new. It has been applied successfully in various jurisdictions in the United States to control wildlife including deer:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/06/nyregion/providing-birth-control-to-deer-in-an-overrun-village.html>

<http://www.deerfriendly.com/deer-population-control/deer-birth-control-contraception>

<https://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/wild-animal-population-contraception>

<https://theconversation.com/grey-squirrels-is-birth-control-the-solution-to-britains-invasive-species-problem-154400>

This type of program is humane, reasonable, and does not pose any direct harm to animals. We believe that both the Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington need to give serious consideration to researching, investigating and implementing these measures.

#### **10. Initiate a program of aggressive hazing to instill fear in coyotes.**

The concept of aversive conditioning has been pioneered by Collen Cassady St. Clair at the University of Alberta who has been working with the Edmonton Coyote Urban Project. This program is based on the concept of teaching wild animals to mistrust humans and fear people in order to lessen interactions that may result in adverse close contacts or attacks. Certain areas of that City, particularly playgrounds, are considered “no-go” zones, and coyotes seen in these areas are

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

aggressively hazed. One approach that is being utilized involves deploying service dogs to find coyotes, then shooting them with chalk balls fired from paintball guns. Residents are also encouraged to haze coyotes by throwing tennis balls at them.

Additional details can be found here:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-a-passive-approach-wont-solve-the-issues-with-urban-coyotes/>

Because coyotes are no longer afraid of people, we need to teach residents aversive conditioning, and providing this information both on the website and in flyers distributed to households.

#### **11. Institute a program of regular pesticide spraying of rats and other vermin consumed by Coyotes in our trail areas and known den areas.**

If the food sources for coyotes disappears, so will the coyotes. They will move to other more food abundant areas.

This will become increasingly necessary as urban development to the north of Burlington and Oakville proceeds quickly over the next few years. We will need to have plans in place well in advance to control and manage the coyote population. We all know that the coyotes will move south from Milton and Halton Hills to south Oakville and Burlington so they can be close to Lake Ontario where there is an abundance of shoreline and trail system wildlife.

## SUMMARY

BOCM maintains that previous coyote management efforts by civic officials have been both inadequate and a substantive public policy failure. Too much onus has been placed on local residents to manage this problem through appeals to refrain from feeding wildlife. While BOCM supports this measure in principle, it is our contention that this measure alone is inadequate. We strongly contend that the time has come for much more proactive control initiatives.

BOCM is not advocating the eradication of coyotes. We recognize that they exist and are in our local environment. However, our contention is that public safety and residents' security trumps any claims of co-habitation. We believe coyotes

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

can and must be controlled, and that our civic administration must adopt a more proactive, definitive and resolute approach to address this problem.

The measures proposed in this paper are, we believe, a starting point in the development of an effective coyote management strategy. While we welcome the opportunity for a dialogue and partnership with civic officials, we also want to reinforce the point that change needs to occur. We would like to propose a joint meeting between BOCM and civic officials from both the Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington prior to the new year to discuss this Report and our proposals, and specifically, how they can be enacted. Please note that from our perspective perpetuation of the current status quo measures has been ineffective, and our organization is not prepared to participate in efforts to “whitewash” what is clearly a significant and worsening urban problem.



## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)

#### APPENDIX A – INADEQUATE SIGNAGE

The following are a collection of photographs taken throughout the Oakville and Burlington areas that highlights the inadequate level of signage in various parks and playgrounds.

Signage is very specific on dogs on leash, no vaping and staying on the trail, but there are limited warnings to residents about the prevalence of coyotes.



**FIGURE 1 – SIGN AT ENTRANCE TO SHELDON CREEK TRAIL, THE SITE OF SEVERAL COYOTE ATTACKS. THIS IS A HEAVILY UTILIZED TRAIL AND CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND IMMEDIATELY NEXT TO TRAIL ENTRANCE. COYOTES KNOWN TO USSE THIS ENTRANCE TO LEAVE THE TRAIL SYSTEM AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE LAKE VIA WILMOT ROAD AND STEVENSON ROAD.**

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)



**FIGURE 2 – SIGN AT ENTRANCE TO SHELL DOG PARK, WEST OAKVILLE. THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO SIGNS IN SHELL PARK WHERE COYOTES AND DENS ARE PREVALENT AND KNOWN TO EXIST. AGAIN, THERE ARE MANY RULES BUT NO COYOTE WARNINGS.**

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)



**FIGURE 3 - SIGN AT ENTRANCE TO SOUTH SHELL BEACH PARK, WEST OAKVILLE. AGAIN, THERE ARE MANY RULES BUT NO COYOTE WARNINGS.**



## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)



**FIGURE 4 – NO COYOTE SIGNS WHATSOEVER AT THE BLUEWATER CONDO TRAILS ENTRANCE, WEST OAKVILLE. THIS TRAIL IS HEAVILY VISITED BY COYOTES.**

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)



**FIGURE 5 – BURLOAK WATERFRONT PARK - WEST PARKING LOT. THERE ARE 3 PARKING LOTS, 2 WALKWAY ENTRANCES, AND ONLY 1 COYOTE WARNING SIGN. THIS PARK IS FULL OF COYOTES AT DAWN AND DUSK. THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO WARNING SIGNS ABOUT COYOTES.**



**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)**



**FIGURE 6 – NO COYOTE SIGNS WHATSOEVER AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BURLOAK WATERFRONT PARK (OAKVILLE SIDE)**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)**



**FIGURE 7- ENTRANCE TO NELSON PARK IN BURLINGTON. COYOTES HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN SIGHTED IN THIS PARK AND A THE NEARBY PAULINE JOHNSON PUBLIC SCHOOL. NO MENTION OF COYOTES.**



## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)



**FIGURE 8 - SIGN AT PARKING LOT IN NELSON PARK. THIS SIGN IS SITUATED TOO HIGH. AGAIN, NO MENTION OF COYOTES.**



## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)



**FIGURE 9 - COYOTE WARNING SIGN POSTED ON GOODRAM AVENUE IN BURLINGTON, A NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT HAS EXPERIENCE MANY COYOTE SIGHTINGS. THIS SHOULD BE THE TEMPLATE FOR ALL SIGNS ACROSS OAKVILLE AND BURLINGTON IN COYOTE “HOT SPOTS”.**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)**



**FIGURE 10 - ENTRANCE TO BROMLEY PARK IN BURLINGTON OFF OF MAUREEN COURT. NO MENTION OF COYOTES.**



**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**BURLINGTON & OAKVILLE COYOTE MANAGEMENT (“BOCM”)**



**FIGURE 11 - THIS IS THE PLAYGROUND AT BROMLEY PARK IN BURLINGTON. THE AREA BEHIND IS A RAVINE AND A KNOWN HABITAT FOR COYOTES WHICH ARE PREVALENT IN THE AREA. THERE IS NO MENTION OF COYOTES. RECENT UPGRADES TO THIS PARK DIDN'T INCLUDE BETTER SIGNAGE.**