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*Animal
Protection
Through
Education &
Advocacy*

Bulletin Sifton Bog Deer

Deer-car collisions: Statistics don't support cull. Prevention is the solution.

One argument used by the Conservation Authority to justify the killing the Sifton Bog deer is that a reduction in the number of deer will result in a reduction in the number of deer/car collisions.

Statistics don't support Conservation Authority's assertion:

The Management Plan asserts that an increase in the number of deer will result in increased deer/car incidents and deer deaths. However, the data presented in the Sifton Bog ESA Conservation Master Plan, 2009 – 2019, shows exactly the opposite occurring. Here are the stats:

1. The London City Police Department recorded 205 deer/car occurrences in 2004 and 149 in 2007.
2. In 2004, when 26 deer counted were counted in the bog, the number of deer/car occurrences numbered 205.
3. In 2007, when the deer population doubled to 52, the number of deer/car incidents fell by 27% to 149.
4. The London police found only 11% or 16 deer/car incidents occurred within a kilometer of the Bog and provided no evidence that the Sifton Bog deer were involved in the 16 incidents.
5. In addition, police found that 89% of all the deer/car occurrences were elsewhere in London, leaving the question, why shoot deer in the Sifton Bog when the vast majority of deer/car incidents occur outside of the Bog area.
6. Finally, the Plan does not provide any information about the incidents, including the circumstances, the seriousness of the collisions to the drivers and deer or the extent of damage to the vehicles.

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The assertion by the Authority that the Sifton Bog deer must be culled to reduce deer/car collisions is simply not substantiated by the City police deer/car collision incident reports and demonstrates that killing all but 3 Sifton Bog deer will not address 89% deer/vehicular incidents in London.



Prevention reduces deer/car collisions:

Prevention is the key to reducing conflict between vehicles and deer. The Canada Safety Council pitches prevention on its web site and the City of Ottawa found that its "Speeding costs you deerly" campaign, resulted in a significant drop in the number of deer/vehicle collisions and a significant cost savings.

In describing its receipt of a Ministry of Transportation of Ontario award, the City of Ottawa wrote, "An extensive communications campaign was undertaken in the fall of 2006. The focus was to increase awareness among drivers of the high incidence of deer-vehicle collisions. Drivers were educated about the importance of reducing speed, being alert, staying in control and understanding deer traffic patterns as ways to reduce the number of collisions. The award winning program committee included members from Ottawa Police, the City's rural health team and Public Works and Services, community residents, MTO, OPP, CAA and Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. The fall campaign reduced deer-vehicle collisions by 13 percent, as compared to 2003-2005 figures, a cost savings of approximately \$420,000."

http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/onthemove/driving/road_safety/integrated/mto_award_en.html