

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 22, 2016

37. PROCLAMATION REQUEST
STOP THE ILLEGAL AND ILLICIT TRADE OF WILDLIFE IN YORK REGION
(Addendum No. 2)

MOVED by Regional Councillor Di Biase
seconded by Regional Councillor Rosati

That the recommendation contained in the following report of the City Clerk, dated March 22, 2016, be approved:

CARRIED

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That April 4 – 17, 2016 be proclaimed as “Stop the Illegal and Illicit Trade of Wildlife in York Region” Weeks; and
2. That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page online.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s website under “Council – Proclamations” and on the City Page Online.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the Chair of Crime Stoppers York Region.

Background - Analysis and Options

Correspondence was received from the Chair of Crime Stoppers York Region in the Office of the Mayor, and forwarded to the Office of the City Clerk.

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdiction or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter”.

The illegal trade of wildlife is a lucrative criminal activity worldwide, and is a growing concern in the region. The wildlife being taken from York Region’s lakes, rivers, forests and wetlands include everything from bear and moose to rare and endangered turtles. Crime Stoppers of York Region is hoping this proclamation, in conjunction with a public symposium, will raise awareness about the illegal wildlife trafficking trade.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 22, 2016

Minute No. 37 – Page 2

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

This report supports the Term of Council priorities, as outlined in the Service Excellence Strategy Map:

- Continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable city

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that April 4 – 17, 2016 be proclaimed as “Stop the Illegal and Illicit Trade of Wildlife in York Region” and that the proclamation is to be posted on the City’s website and the City Page Online.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Correspondence from Chair, Crime Stoppers York Region

Report prepared by:

Julia Bartolomeo, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

(A copy of the attachments referred to in the foregoing have been forwarded to each Member of Council and a copy thereof is also on file in the office of the City Clerk.)

PROCLAMATION REQUEST
STOP THE ILLEGAL AND ILLICIT TRADE OF WILDLIFE IN YORK REGION

Recommendation

The City Clerk recommends:

1. That April 4 – 17, 2016 be proclaimed as “Stop the Illegal and Illicit Trade of Wildlife in York Region” Weeks; and
2. That the proclamation be posted on the City’s website and published on the City Page online.

Contribution to Sustainability

N/A

Economic Impact

N/A

Communications Plan

The Corporate Communications Department posts proclamations issued by the City on the City’s website under “Council – Proclamations” and on the City Page Online.

Purpose

To respond to the request received from the Chair of Crime Stoppers York Region.

Background - Analysis and Options

Correspondence was received from the Chair of Crime Stoppers York Region in the Office of the Mayor, and forwarded to the Office of the City Clerk.

The proclamation request meets the requirements of the City’s Proclamation Policy, as follows:

“That upon request, the City of Vaughan issue Proclamations for events, campaigns or other similar matters:

If the event, campaign or declaration is directly related to matters over which the City has jurisdiction or the City directly sponsors the event, campaign or other matter”.

The illegal trade of wildlife is a lucrative criminal activity worldwide, and is a growing concern in the region. The wildlife being taken from York Region’s lakes, rivers, forests and wetlands include everything from bear and moose to rare and endangered turtles. Crime Stoppers of York Region is hoping this proclamation, in conjunction with a public symposium, will raise awareness about the illegal wildlife trafficking trade.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

This report supports the Term of Council priorities, as outlined in the Service Excellence Strategy Map:

- Continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable city

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

Staff is recommending that April 4 – 17, 2016 be proclaimed as “Stop the Illegal and Illicit Trade of Wildlife in York Region” and that the proclamation is to be posted on the City’s website and the City Page Online.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Correspondence from Chair, Crime Stoppers York Region

Report prepared by:

Julia Bartolomeo, Administrative Assistant to the City Clerk

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Abrams



March 8, 2016

City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON

Attn: Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua

Dear Maurizio,

We are asking all York Region Mayors and Councils to support us in any way (vote in Council +++) they can to communicate to residents this dire situation. We will be sending a proclamation to your council and hopefully all municipalities will sign it. The Proclamation of Support will be read at our symposium on March 31 in Newmarket. Many politicians (municipal, provincial and federal) will be in attendance, so please let me know if you will be able to attend. Your support is much appreciated. If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Jack Hurst
Chair, Crime Stoppers York Region

Crime Stoppers Encourages Local Residents to Help Curb Illegal and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking in York Region

Monday, February 8, 2016 – Newmarket, ON — Crime Stoppers of York Region today announced that it will host a public symposium next month to raise awareness about the growing illegal and illicit trafficking of wildlife in York Region.

The Wildlife Symposium will take place at **Newmarket Theatre on Pickering Crescent on Thursday, March 31, 2016 from 6:00-9:00 pm**. Joining Crime Stoppers of York Region at the Symposium will be a number of other federal and provincial organizations concerned about the rise in wildlife trafficking, including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, York Regional Police, The Toronto Zoo, the Ontario SPCA and Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement.

The wildlife being taken from York Region's lakes, rivers, forests and wetlands include everything from bear and moose to rare and endangered turtles. Some of the turtles most frequently targeted by traffickers include wood turtles and spotted turtles. The global illegal wildlife trade, which includes elephant and rhino ivory tusks, is estimated to be worth approximately \$30 billion a year. Animals targeted by illegal traffickers include rare species prized by collectors and endangered animals killed for food.



Stop illegal turtle trade - help save a threatened species.

The trafficking of wildlife in York Region is just as illegal as these weapons and other substances, and sadly it is on the rise. Turtles, bears, moose, and other wildlife taken from the wild are part of a global illegal wildlife trade estimated to be worth as much as \$30 billion a year.

“Poaching is a serious issue which can have detrimental impacts on the sustainability of turtle populations,” says Dr. Andrew Lentini, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, Toronto Zoo. “The Toronto Zoo is proud to be a long-standing partner of the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers. The partnership between Toronto Zoo and Crime Stoppers to address the serious issue of illegal turtle and other wildlife harvest and trade provides the ideal communications network for these issues.”

“The illegal trade of wildlife is the fourth most lucrative criminal activity worldwide, only exceeded by the trade of narcotics, counterfeiting and human trafficking,” says David Forster, President of the Ontario Association of Crime Stoppers and the elected Canadian Representative to Crime Stoppers International. “Crime Stopper programs throughout Ontario, Canada and the world are assisting law enforcement by engaging the community to anonymously report these illegal activities to Crime Stoppers.”



Jack Hurst, Chair of **Crime Stoppers of York Region** and the organizer of the Symposium, adds that “people should watch for suspicious activity in natural areas, including off-trail activities, overnight parking, or anglers carrying unusual equipment such as snares or a large number of buckets. We encourage people to get involved and help prevent the trafficking of our wildlife.”

Residents who suspect poaching near their homes or farms can anonymously call Crime Stoppers toll-free at any time of the day at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or they can call the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry tip line at 1-877-847-7667.

To learn more about Crime Stoppers of York Region, please visit:
<http://www.1800222tips.com/>.

For more information, please contact Crime Stoppers of York Region at (905) 830-0303, ext. 6767.

Thank you .