



To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: June 9, 2011

From: Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks and Recreation

File: 06-2345-01/2011-Vol
01

Re: **Snow Geese Management Program Update 2011**

Staff Recommendation

That in 2012, staff continue the Snow Geese Management partnerships with the Vancouver International Airport (YVR), local farmers, Richmond School Board, Canadian Wildlife Service, Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust, and Richmond residents, subject to available funding.

Dave Semple
General Manager, Parks and Recreation
(604-233-3350)
Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

In July 2010, Council approved the following recommendation:

“That option 2 as outlined in the staff report dated June 16, 2010, from the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, entitled “Snow Geese Management Strategy” be adopted and that funding for the first year of implementation of the strategy will be considered from the 2009 surplus funds and for the succeeding two years through the regular budget process (Attachment 1)”

The purpose of this report is to provide Council an update on the first year’s implementation of Richmond’s Snow Geese Management Program.

Analysis

As part of the 2009 Surplus budget allocation, \$105,000 was approved by Council as one time funding to implement the recommendations of the Snow Geese Management Program. Richmond’s new approach to snow geese management has seen some positive success in the 2010-2011 inaugural year of implementation in the following areas:

Snow Geese Hazing:

Coordination with Vancouver International Airport (YVR):

YVR is aggressive with their annual bird hazing program to ensure aircraft safety. In 2010, staff developed a communication protocol with YVR, ensuring a coordinated approach to management of snow geese flocks and hazing.

Dog Program:

A contractor was secured in 2010 to undertake dog management of Snow Geese in Richmond. Utilizing up to three dog teams at various times and locations, the contractor responded on demand to locations where snow geese were impacting public lands. A Snow Geese phone ‘hot-line’ was established permitting the public, schools and residents to call in and report sightings of snow geese. Public calls per day ranges from 2-5 reports daily between October and December and February to April.

The City’s contractor also collected sight specific statistical regarding sightings including: size of flocks, location, and direction of flight and percentage of young birds (Attachment 1). This valuable baseline data will assist the City in future years when targeting enforcement and estimating resources needed to manage snow geese.

Air Pistol Program:

Three air pistols were purchased by Parks and utilized to deter snow geese flocks at public spaces. Staff established a call out protocol with RCMP and notified the Schools when necessary prior to using an air pistols on school/park sites. The air pistol program is an effective way of managing flocks in the parks.

Bright Lights:

Staff purchased two five million candle power, military grade lights and three ten million candle power, military grade lights, which were used at dusk and night time by the Parks and Patroller staff. Staff have discontinued this method due to lack of effectiveness.

Lasers:

Staff secured four laser units designed for bird hazing. These units emit either a red or green light which effectively causes the geese to move from park sites. When utilized in combination with the dog program the lasers were extremely effective.

Winter Cover Crop Program:

Winter cover crops are vegetation planted in late summer and early fall to protect bare soil from rain erosion after vegetables are harvested from a farm field. The program is where farmers primarily plant spring and winter cereals as cover crops. The Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust (DF&WT) is one of the few organizations that provide this program, and Delta has found that winter cereals provide abundant food for waterfowl like snow geese, and planting these cereals can be effective in luring snow geese away from unwanted sites when combined with hazing.

Trail Cover Crop Program in Richmond/Delta:

Through the (DF&WT) and the City of Richmond Agricultural Advisory Committee, 43 Acres of covered crops were planted in Richmond through local farmers in the South Area of Richmond. In 2010, wet weather prevented any further expansion of the program; there has been interest from other farmers who indicated a willingness to participate in the future. Farms both in Richmond and Delta benefitted from this program.

Educational Initiatives:

In 2010, public education with respect to snow geese in Richmond was undertaken, programs included bird watching sessions through the Richmond Nature Park, and the Richmond School Outreach Program Board.

The School outreach program saw five elementary schools participating in 2010, classroom teacher kits were prepared for use in the classes, and all Richmond elementary schools received a copy of "The lesser Snow Goose in Richmond," teacher's resource manual. Through educational initiatives such as this, it is hoped that community awareness regarding the migratory patterns of the snow geese are understood throughout the community.

Financial Impact

The total cost of implementation for the 2011 program to date is approximately \$65,000. Remaining funds from the original \$104,000 allocation will be directed towards continued implementation of the program, including securing the dog control and research program in 2011. This report does not propose any other financial implications. Staff will be requesting Council approve ongoing operational funding of \$95,000 as part of the 2012 operating budget to continue effectively managing snow geese in Richmond as detailed in the June 16, 2010 report "Snow Geese Management" report approved by Council in July 2010.

Conclusion

The Snow Geese Management Program 2010-2011 first year implementation has seen positive success in managing the presence of snow geese on Richmond's public parks school grounds, boulevards and open spaces. Continuation of the program will require dedicated resources and the development of enhanced partnerships with organizations such as YVR, local farmers, the Richmond School Board, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust, and Richmond residents. Only through a combination of education, enforcement, design and partnerships will the program be successful in the future.



Dee Bowley-Cowan
Acting Manager, Parks Programs
(604-244-1275)



Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks
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Date	Start Time	Finish Time	Location	# of Geese	% Young	Direction Flew
10/26/10	11:00:00	14:45:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	1400	25	W
10/26/10	11:00:00	14:45:00	Blundell Elementary School	0		
10/26/10	11:00:00	14:45:00	RC Palmer Secondary School	300	30	W
10/28/10	11:30:00	14:00:00	Steveston-London Secondary School	0		
10/28/10	11:30:00	14:00:00	Grauer Park	0		
10/28/10	11:30:00	14:00:00	Mathew McNair School Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	0 0 1200	0 0 25	W
11/1/10	12:00:00	15:00:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	60	20	W
11/1/10	12:00:00	15:00:00	Dover Park Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	0 0 0		
11/1/10	12:00:00	15:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	1600	25	S
11/2/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	McCallan Park	800	10	SW
11/2/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	Thompson Elementary	80	12	S
11/2/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	Steveston-London Secondary School	500	8	W
11/3/10	10:45:00	12:45:00	Thompson Elementary	925	10	W
11/3/10	10:45:00	12:45:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	1300	5	W
11/3/10	10:45:00	12:45:00	Gibbons Park	75	0	W
11/4/10	10:30:00	13:30:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	1000	10	W
11/4/10	10:30:00	13:30:00	Thompson Elementary	200	5	W
11/4/10	10:30:00	13:30:00	Steveston-London Secondary School	250	5	S
11/5/10	12:30:00	15:45:00	Gibbons Park	300	10	W
11/5/10	12:30:00	15:45:00	River Road Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	750 0 2200	5 0 5	N N
11/5/10	12:30:00	15:45:00	Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	0 200		NW
11/9/10	15:30:00	18:30:00	Terra Nova Park	600	8	W
11/12/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	R.M. Grauer Elementary School	0		
11/12/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	0		
11/12/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	Garden City Elementary School	0		
11/12/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0		
11/12/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	Errington Elementary School	80	0	S
11/12/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	Parklane Park	0		
11/12/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	Rideau Park	0		
11/12/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	South Arm Park	0		
11/12/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	McRoberts Secondary School	0		
11/12/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	0 0 500		W
11/13/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	Dover Park	0		
11/13/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	Terra Nova Park	0		
11/13/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	McCallan Park	0		
11/13/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	Thompson Elementary	0		
11/13/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	McKay Elementary School	0		

11/13/10	11:00:00	14:00:00	Morris Park	0		
11/15/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	1500	10	W
11/15/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0		
11/15/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	Parklane Park	0		
11/15/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	Errington Elementary School	0		
11/15/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	South Arm Park	0		
11/15/10	10:00:00	12:00:00	Maple Lane Elementary School	0		
11/16/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	950	5	
11/16/10	13:00:00	15:00:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	0	0	W
11/17/10	09:30:00	12:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	1200	6	W
11/17/10	09:30:00	12:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0		
11/17/10	09:30:00	12:00:00	Parklane Park	0		
11/17/10	09:30:00	12:00:00	Errington Elementary School	0		
11/17/10	09:30:00	12:00:00	South Arm Park	0		
11/17/10	09:30:00	12:00:00	Maple Lane Elementary School	0		
11/18/10	09:45:00	11:45:00	Dover Park	600	3	SW
11/18/10	09:45:00	11:45:00	Thompson Elementary	0		
11/18/10	09:45:00	11:45:00	Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	0		
11/18/10	09:45:00	11:45:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	400	8	ESE
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	Menoah Steeves	4000	3	NW
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0		
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	River Road	0		
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	0		
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	McCallan Park	0		
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	0		
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	Thompson Elementary	0		
11/18/10	13:00:00	15:10:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	0		
11/19/10	12:45:00	14:45:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	2000	5	W
11/19/10	12:45:00	14:45:00	Menoah Steeves	1000	5	NW
11/23/10	09:45:00	13:15:00	River Road	300	7	SW
11/23/10	09:45:00	13:15:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	108	0	SE and N
11/23/10	09:45:00	13:15:00	River Road	250	4	S
11/23/10	09:45:00	13:15:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	400	0	SW
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	Terra Nova Park	1000	3	N and SE
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	500	na	N
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	Dover Park	0		
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	Terra Nova Park	0		
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0		
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community Centre	0		
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	Thompson Elementary	0		
11/24/10	10:00:00	13:00:00	McCallan Park	0		
11/26/10	10:00:00	12:30:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	2000	4	

11/26/10	12:30:00	14:30:00	McKinney Elementary School	300	2	W and SE
11/26/10	12:30:00	14:30:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	600	6	S
11/26/10	12:30:00	14:30:00	Errington Elementary School	0		
11/26/10	12:30:00	14:30:00	South Arm Park	0		
11/26/10	12:30:00	14:30:00	Diefenbaker Elementary	0		
11/26/10	12:30:00	14:30:00	Parklane Park	0		
11/27/10	14:45:00	16:45:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	950	5	S
11/28/10	11:30:00	13:30:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	600	5	SW
11/29/10	09:10:00	11:10:00	Diefenbaker Elementary	400	5	S
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Quilchena Elementary	0		
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	1600	2	W
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	McKinney Elementary	300	2	W and SE
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	800	3	SW
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	McKinney Elementary	500	10	SE
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	600	2	W
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Maple Lane Elementary School	500	12	W
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	200	10	S
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Maple Lane Elementary School	400	2	W
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Diefenbaker Elementary	600	8	SW
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	60	8	S
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Errington Elementary School	0		
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	South Arm Park	0		
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	0		
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Parklane Park	0		
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0		
11/30/10	09:30:00	16:00:00	Dixon Elementary	0		
12/1/10	11:00:00	13:00:00	Palmer Secondary School	800	5	W
12/1/10	11:00:00	13:00:00	Garden City Elementary School	0	0	
12/1/10	11:00:00	13:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	0	0	
12/1/10	11:00:00	13:00:00	South Arm Park	0	0	
12/6/10	12:00:00	13:00:00	Burnett Secondary School	0	0	
12/6/10	13:00:00	14:00:00	Terra Nova Park	0	0	
12/6/10	13:00:00	14:00:00	Thompson Elementary School	1	0	
12/6/10	13:00:00	14:00:00	Quilchena Elementary School	0	0	
12/6/10	13:00:00	14:00:00	Palmer Secondary School	800	20	W
12/6/10	14:00:00	15:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	0	0	
12/6/10	14:00:00	15:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0	0	
12/6/10	14:00:00	15:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	0	0	
12/7/10	13:00:00	14:30:00	Palmer Secondary/Garden City Elementary	600	20	W
12/7/10	14:30:00	15:00:00	Ferris Elementary School	0	0	
12/7/10	14:30:00	15:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	0	0	
12/7/10	14:30:00	15:00:00	Grauer Elementary School	0	0	
12/7/10	15:00:00	16:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0	0	

12/7/10	15:00:00	16:00:00	McKinney Elementary School	0	0	
12/7/10	15:00:00	16:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School Palmer Secondary/Garden City	0	0	
12/7/10	15:00:00	16:00:00	Elementary Palmer Secondary/Garden City	0	0	
12/9/10	11:00:00	12:30:00	Elementary	500	20	W
12/9/10	12:30:00	14:00:00	Ferris Elementary School	0	0	
12/9/10	12:30:00	14:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	0	0	
12/9/10	12:30:00	14:00:00	Grauer Elementary School	0	0	
12/9/10	12:30:00	14:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0	0	
12/9/10	12:30:00	14:00:00	McKinney Elementary School	0	0	
12/9/10	12:30:00	14:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	0	0	
12/9/10	12:30:00	14:00:00	Maple Lane Elementary School	50	15	S
1/3/11	11:00:00	12:30:00	Terra Nova Park	3000	20	NW
1/3/11	12:30:00	14:00:00	Thompson Elementary School	100	10	W
1/3/11	12:30:00	14:00:00	Quilchena Elementary School	0	0	
1/3/11	12:30:00	14:00:00	Burnett School	0	0	
1/3/11	12:30:00	14:00:00	McCallan Park	0	0	
1/3/11	12:30:00	14:00:00	Dover Park	0	0	
1/4/11	10:30:00	11:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	1000	7	SW
1/4/11	11:30:00	12:15:00	River Road	1400	5	N
1/10/11	11:30:00	11:35:00	River Road	0		
1/10/11	11:45:00	12:00:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	2000	10	SW
1/10/11	14:00:00	14:15:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	River Road	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	Hugh Boyd Secondary School	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	Gibbons Park	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	Thompson Elementary Burnett Secondary/Thompson Community	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	Centre	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	McCallan Park	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	0		
1/10/11	14:15:00	15:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	0		
1/11/11	10:00:00	10:40:00	River Road	1500	10	S
1/11/11	10:45:00	11:00:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	1500	na	NW
1/11/11	11:15:00	01:15:00	River Road	0		
1/11/11	11:20:00	11:40:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	1000	na	NW
1/11/11	11:45:00	12:00:00	River Road	1000	na	S
1/11/11	12:00:00	12:15:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	1000	na	NW
1/11/11	12:15:00	12:45:00	River Road	600	10	S
1/11/11	12:45:00	13:00:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	400	na	SW
1/28/11	10:00:00	12:00:00	London-Steveston Secondary School	1000	5	S
1/31/11	10:00:00	12:00:00	Terra Nova Park	750	3	S

2/1/11	09:15:00	11:15:00	River Road	1500	3	NW
2/1/11	11:45:00	13:45:00	River Road	1500	na	SW
2/2/11	09:30:00	09:45:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	800	na	W
2/2/11	10:10:00	10:15:00	River Road			
2/2/11	10:20:00	10:20:00	Terra Nova Park	2000		E
2/2/11	10:45:00	11:00:00	McCallan Park	2000	4	W
2/2/11	11:20:00	11:40:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	2000	4	E
2/2/11	11:40:00	11:45:00	River Road	0		
2/2/11	11:45:00	11:50:00	Terra Nova Park	2000	4	
3/7/10	13:30:00	16:00:00	Spul'u'kwaks Elementary School	400	3	W
3/8/10	09:30:00	12:00:00	Spul'u'kwaks Elementary School	400	3	W
3/17/11	11:00:00	13:00:00	Spul'u'kwaka Elementary	750	3	S
3/18/11	09:00:00	11:00:00	River Road	1500	4	N
3/18/11	13:00:00	15:00:00	River Road	600	3	S
3/20/11	14:00:00	16:00:00	River Road	0		
3/21/11	15:30:00	18:15:00	Dover	0		
3/21/11	15:30:00	18:15:00	River Road	800	0	E
3/21/11	15:30:00	18:15:00	Dover	400	0	SW
3/21/11	15:30:00	18:15:00	Steeves	1500	2	W
3/22/11	09:00:00	11:00:00	River Road	350	3	S
3/22/11	12:00:00	14:00:00	Diefenbaker Elementary	2000	4	SE
3/26/11	11:00:00	13:00:00	River Road	500	4	SE
3/27/11	07:30:00	09:30:00	River Road	350	4	S
3/30/11	10:00:00	11:00:00	Dover Park	700	4	E
3/30/11	11:00:00	12:00:00	Thompson Secondary	700	4	E
3/30/11	12:00:00	13:00:00	Blundell Elementary School	2000	5	S
4/7/11	10:00:00	12:00:00	River Road	200	0	S
4/11/11	14:00:00	16:00:00	Diefenbaker Elementary	600	20	W