

Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners



Issues / Opportunities Advisory



Prepared: May 25 2011

Issue: *Wildlife at the Cottage and at Home*

Background to the Issue:

- Wherever we live, animals whether birds or mammals are present in our environment. Animals are not exclusive to cottage areas but they are frequently more numerous in cottage areas.
- Many animals live in urban areas and can be a source of pleasure for many people.
- Interaction or confrontation with wildlife can result in serious disease or personal injury from an animal attack.
- In most cases the wildlife was here first and become a problem only when they take advantage of situations we have created.

Cautionary Notes:

- Dealing with wildlife in our environment requires an understanding of dangers that wildlife can bring to humans.

Budget Implications:

- Prevention and protection from possible damage to life and property from wildlife will usually be less than trying to correct the damage caused by wildlife.
- Repairs to damage caused by wildlife can be extensive for property owners. Costs to all levels of government cannot be ignored.

Policy or Program Implications: What is current Policy or Program for this issue?

- To encourage property owners to learn how to attract desirable wildlife such as birds.
- To discourage the presence of undesirable wildlife such as bears, foxes, skunks and racoons.

Action Taken by MACO:

- Promote and communicate educational opportunities to membership to learn about wildlife.

MACO's Recommendations for the Future:

- Continue to find and make available information on this issue.
- For further information see the following websites:

Manitoba Conservation at www.manitoba.ca/blackbear

Fort Whyte Centre at <http://www.fortwhyte.org/>

Manitoba Wildlife Federation at <http://mwf.mb.ca/>

Position of MACO

- To promote the coexistence of cottage life and wildlife.