

Volume 11 / Issue 30

All your Bow Valley news and information — in one place

www.rmoutlook.com

Thursday, September 22, 2011

2011-2012
SUNSHINE SEASON PASS
SALE!
SUNSHINE
VALLEY
MOUNTAIN
PASS

ADULT 18+

\$799

Call 403-762-4754

Rocky Mountain OUTLOOK

CAREERS	69
COMMENTARY	14
EVENTS	9
LOCAL CLASSIFIED	76
MOUNTAIN GUIDE	39
SPORTS	59

SPECIAL 10th ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE INSIDE

WISHFUL THINKING? An electronic road sign sends an amusing message to Canmore motorists as they approach the Bow River Bridge construction zone Saturday (Sept. 17). A mysterious tech-savvy person has been adding comical text to the signs over the past couple of weeks.

CRAIG DOUCE/ARM'S PHOTO

WISHFUL THINKING



A-95

The Canmore Leader

[« Back](#)

Canmore rabbits decision in October

Updated 1 year ago

By Hamish MacLean

Canmore Leader

Canmore's rabbits' fates will be known in October.

The Town did not back away from its stated intention of eliminating the rabbit population in the community, but did vote to allow the future contractor more options once the trapping of the feral animals was started.

It was a full house at the July 5 council meeting which saw council pass two important amendments as it approved administration's feral rabbit management plan.

Nevil Stow said he spoke on behalf of his 10-year-old girl who could not be in attendance for the meeting.

"Is there any way we can get rid of them and not kill them?" he asked on her behalf.

The crowd was, at times, disruptive council was informed by the gallery that without trapping on privately owned land the program would be ineffective but the mayor and council did consider the inclusion of an option that would not see the rabbits euthanized after being trapped on Town lands.

A group named Save Canmore Bunnies submitted a letter for council consideration at the July 5 meeting, which read, in part: "We ask that Council provide the leadership to follow a humane path that will provide a solution to unite the entire community. You could satisfy all taxpayers by developing a non-lethal feral rabbit removal program, which would entail trapping the rabbits, then spaying/neutering, and relocating to a sanctuary. We desire the opportunity to work in partnership with the Town to implement such a program."

Mayor Ron Casey introduced an amendment to administration's recommendation, which would allow for such an outcome for the rabbit population. He said, "There are options here now that were not here a week ago."

Councillors though were divided as to the impact an amendment would have for the Town and for the rabbits.

Coun. Hans Helder kept his eye on the \$50,000 budgeted for the feral rabbit program, adding the words, "at their expense to the mayor's amendment which would allow for a contractor to include the option of sterilizing the rabbits and transferring them."

"It's always easy to come up with schemes and ideas when you have no accountability," Helder said. "The majority of the costs associated with this program is in the trapping."

"It isn't about the rabbits themselves."

He reiterated the concern that the animals are not a natural part of the area's ecosystem and said that they do create an unnatural conflict.

He said that with the Town expecting to see bids again in the fall for winter trapping, Save Canmore Bunnies had months of opportunity to raise funds for the more costly alternative.

Coun. Jim Ridley took exception with the intent of the option provided by Save Canmore Bunnies. He questioned whether the trauma inflicted on the animals through the proposed neutering and transfer would be more "humane" than euthanasia.

"Sterilization is not a pleasant thing for a living creature," he said.

Coun. Ed Russell agreed.

He said it was commendable to look for a "win-win" solution but said the surgical trauma made the amendment unsupportable from his perspective.

Coun. Gordie Miskow too said he would not support an amendment that was to put 1,000 rabbits under the knife.

Coun. Joanna McCallum said she thought giving Save Canmore Bunnies the "opportunity to work with the contractor" towards another end for the rabbits was "an important option" for the Town.

Casey said that the real issue was one for the community as a whole.

He said the issue was "no different than garbage, no different than birdfeeders."

Casey noted that if Calgarians were to hear of Canmore's birdfeeder bylaw, they would think, "We're nuts."

"In Canmore it makes sense," he said.

"Nobody wants to be in this situation but we all know we have to do something about it."

The amendment to include neutering and the transfer of rabbits to a sanctuary as an option for contractors passed in a 4-3 vote.

The amendment that saw council approval of the final award of the request for proposal and the program by October 2011 was passed unanimously.

hamish@canmoreleader.com

Copyright © 2012 Canmore Leader

News Sports Arts/Life Contact Us

Archives

Home Archive Supporters rally for rabbits

Supporters rally for rabbits

By Corrie DiManno

Posted 1 month ago

By Corrie DiManno

Canmore Leader

"Come on people, save the bunnies!" a woman wearing a headband with felt rabbit ears shouted toward passersby. "Keep on fighting, OK?"

She was one of the several Save Canmore Bunnies supporters armed with signs, literature, and rabbit ears atop their heads who took to Main Street over the weekend to raise awareness for their cause. Spokesperson Kyndra Biggy said the rally was used as an opportunity to remind Canmorites and visitors alike that the town's feral rabbit population could be facing a potential cull, but there are non-lethal alternatives available for solving the rabbit problem.

"I think for Canmore, it would be quite sad to see (the town) known as killing a thousand animals for a little inconvenience and for not seeking out other possible options," Biggy said during Saturday's rally.

Ideally, Biggy said Save Canmore Bunnies would like to see the rabbits live-trapped and then spayed and neutered and sent to a sanctuary.

"If they really want the bunnies gone, there's a non-lethal approach available. It's touchable and it's something that we need to go for," she said. "It's possible and they deserve it. They don't want to die."

The town is currently looking at several proposals to deal with the feral rabbit population, including both lethal and non-lethal solutions, said Mayor Ron Casey, who hopes to have a solid option in place by early November.

"We've put a tremendous amount of work into living with wildlife and continue to put funds every year into living and working around wildlife and trying to have as integrated an approach to living here as we possibly can," Casey said.

"And the rabbits are simply just another piece of this whole living-with-wildlife puzzle, so it's no different than having garbage laying out or bird feeders in the summertime. It's a wildlife attractant."

However, Biggy believes the rabbits are receiving negative attention surrounding the issue of wildlife attractants.

"We do live in a concentrated valley here and there's quite a bit of wildlife that we do deal with on a day-to-day basis, so to just draw all the attention to the bunnies is a little bit disheartening," Biggy said.

"I do understand that they're a decent food source for some of the wildlife, but to go as far as to say that they're drawing in all this wildlife and people are at risk, I think that's something that people just need to be aware of anyways in the valley," Biggy said.

She said it's about education and knowing how to coexist with wildlife and knowing how to encounter them.

"If it's not the bunnies, it's going to be the deer and the elk — they can be quite damaging here. If you want to be in this valley, you've got to really be one with the wildlife."

Biggy said Saturday's rally reached "a few people and that's what counts."

"From the feedback that I've got, there is a great majority of people that don't mind the bunnies," she said. "It's a small percentage of them that say 'just kill them.'"

Casey said he doesn't believe his town is that divided on the matter. Most of the emails he has received complaining about ridding Canmore of its bunny problem is actually from places far from his community.

Town administration will present the most feasible proposals to council at the first meeting in November, with the best one expected to be put in play over the winter.

— with files from QMI Agency

corrie@thecrag.ca

A-98

about
OCT 30

Ne
Archive

The Canmore Leader

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Arts/Life](#) [Contact Us](#)

Archives

[Home](#) [Archive](#) [Potholes more common than rabbits](#)

Potholes more common than rabbits

Potholes more common than rabbits

Posted 4 years ago

Please can we put rabbits to bed? You can take a photo of First, Second, Third or Fourth Street or Fourth or Third Avenue almost anytime and there?s not a rabbit in sight.


Sometimes you?ll see three or four, maybe six, but the ground is not covered in them. They may be quite common in south Canmore but they?re definitely not abundant and definitely not an infestation.

If I went out and counted the potholes, cracks, six inch high humps and six inch deep hollows in the road surfaces of those streets and avenues, there?d be far more of those than there

That?s where I?d like my tax dollars to be spent (along with snow, ic

Advertisement

Article ID# 1994697

Tools 

Archives [Arti](#)

Census shows more dogs than kids in Canmore

TANYA FOUBERT/CANMORE

As it turns out, Canmore really has gone to the dogs.

According to results from the 2011 Municipal Census, the number of children in the community has been surpassed by the number of four-legged friends.

Enumerators counted 1,913 dogs in the community compared with 1,774 children.

Mayor Ron Casey said anyone who has lived in Canmore for any length of time would intuitively know the census numbers to be true.

"There is no question that dogs are certainly a way of life in Canmore," said the mayor.

"Canmore is an easier place than a lot of others to own a dog."

Access to the outdoors, hiking trails and love of animals, both domestic and wild, factor into the reasons people choose to live here, said Casey.

Mut Hut Pet Emporium owner Charlene Cherniowchan agreed, saying lifestyle plays a part when people choose to live or visit Canmore.

"That doesn't surprise me the least bit," she said. "We have been aware of the trend in higher dog populations here."

"As well, our customers often say to us how pet friendly this town is and they keep coming back for that reason."

Cherniowchan said in 2005/2006, when re-

searching where to open her business catering to pets, the population of dog owners factored heavily into the decision to be in Canmore.

"People are drawn to Canmore because of the dog friendliness of the community," she said. "Year-round you can take your pet out and have fun."

Demographics also play a role, added the mayor.

"The truth is the number of young people is on a steady decline," he said. "What we have seen is that number level off and start to decline in some age categories... and part of it is a result of an overall shift in the last 10 years in the population."

That shift has seen older age categories increase, meaning numbers of retired, semi-retired and empty nesters are rising.

Shirley Ketterer, with Big Shoes Social Enterprise which conducts the census, went over a number of significant results in the data collected earlier this month.

All populations of dogs and cats have gone up considerably, said Ketterer.

Cats in 2011 were at a population of 1,335, up from 1,030 in 2008, a 30 per cent increase.

Dogs, meanwhile, were at a population of 1,537 in 2008 and increased by 24 per cent to the 2011 population.

With respect to children in town, those under the age of 15 represent 14.4 per cent of the total population compared to the provincial total of 18.3 per cent or the Canadian total of 16.5 per cent.

A-100

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Arts/Life](#) [Contact Us](#)

Archives

[Home](#) [Archive](#) [Letters to the editor](#)

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor

Posted 4 years ago

Headlines on national TV, front page of national newspapers and phone calls from the far reaches of the world.

Do we really want to be known as the small town that killed the bunnies?

If we can spend over \$40,000 on a piece of playground equipment, the Head, why can't we put up some prize money for the best innovative idea of saving the bunnies whilst protecting homeowners properties?

Frances Robinson,

Canmore

People who purchase or adopt domesticated rabbits and then turn them loose to run free in their neighborhoods are doing the rabbits a great disservice.

These gentle creatures have been domesticated for nearly 3,000 years and are not the same as wild rabbits.

In their attempts to defend themselves, they fall short and become the victims of predators, humans, and mass exterminations.

Please encourage people not to set domesticated rabbits free. Find a shelter so a responsible caregiver can adopt.

Melody Hoffman,

Canmore

I have always owned rabbits as pets and am appalled to see that rabbits are treated so inhumanely. They make wonderful pets, just like dogs and cats.

An effort should be made to to rescue them, bring them to a no-kill shelter where they have a chance to be adopted.

Patty Yee,

Middletown, N.J.

Advertisement

Article ID# 1994663

Newspaper
Archive Informal

~~A-100~~
A-101

A-102



Quiet on the rabbit front

In the lead-up to its possible approval, the Town of Canmore's rabbit plan attracts little feedback online

By Canmore Leader
Posted 4 months ago

The town's rabbit population's days could very well be numbered.

Canmore's council is set to debate Town administration's recommendations as to how to "ultimately eliminate feral rabbits" from Canmore.

The Town's website reads that rabbits "are a wildlife attractant because population control is an issue."

Canmore.ca also details further why it is considered a necessary step to remove the rabbits.

It reads: "According to our research, female rabbits can give birth every 31 days with up to 7 bunnies in each litter. The population can jump from two to 70 within one year. In addition, they cause damage to public and private property, have ample shelter and food sources from spring to fall, and leave a significant amount of feces."

X

Administration is recommending hiring a contractor to live trap and euthanize the rabbits.

The Town's Feral Rabbit Management Plan on canmore.ca does offer the chance for visitors to give feedback to the plan.

Canmore's communication coordinator Sally Caudill said that the Town has not received much direct feedback to their plan thus far, but added that in less than two days after posting the plan online the website received 41 hits. A number she said was a spike from normal visitation numbers.

In 2007, the Town did a rabbit survey that asked Canmore residents whether the Town should take action to deal with the rabbits. At that time the survey showed a split in town.

X

"We got a lot more feedback then — even though we were just considering it — , than we are now," Caudill said.

"And I would say now that the feedback is still split.

"We haven't over the last several years done any kind of formal education."

X

She said that as the Town has not surveyed the town since 2007, but that if there has been a shift in attitudes towards whether the Town ought to take action on the rabbit population, it would be due only to people's experiences with rabbits.

The Town's website details a short history of animal control in Canmore.

Actions include: in 1997, bear-proof garbage bins were introduced; in 2001, waste control bylaw passed to prohibit residents from placing or storing animal attractants outside, placing or storing birdfeed outside between April 1 and Oct. 31, and operating outdoor kitchen waste composters; in 2005, Bow Valley Wildsmart was established; and in 2011, new animal control bylaw was passed prohibiting residents from keeping or causing feral rabbits to be on their property.

In December when council allotted \$50,000 to be spent on rabbit control, the news received international attention.

Now, emails to the Town of Canmore do come from abroad as well, but Caudill noted that unless letter writers state where they are writing from, the Town's website does not track the origin of the feedback.

Canmore Leader

Advertisement

A-103



[Login](#) | [Become a member](#)

Search ...

[Detailed Forecast](#)



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Sports](#) [Mountain Guide](#) [Tourism](#)

[Ads](#) [Contests](#) [Outlook](#)

[/ News / Local News /](#)

Canmore approves rabbit cull

Nov 01, 2011 11:48 pm | By [Tanya Foubert](#) | Rocky Mountain Outlook

0 tweets

tweet

Share

Canmore's feral rabbit population will face a cull this winter but could see a reprieve if a non-profit group with an acceptable plan steps forward to save them in the future.

The town's council approved awarding a contract to Animal Damage Control beginning Nov 14 to locate, trap, humanely euthanize, transport and deliver rabbits to a suitable end use such as a wildlife rehabilitation centre for raptors.

At the same time council left the door open for a non-profit society to propose a program to spay/neuter and permanently relocate the animals to an approved sanctuary.

Mayor Ron Casey, however, told those upset with the decision and wanted more time to propose alternate solutions that the municipality has waited long enough on the issue.

Casey said the opportunity for alternate proposals existed and still exists but has to prove itself acceptable.

"The door is wide open for anyone who wants to work with us... but we will not build the program for you," he said. "We will work with you when you come to us with a program, which you have not done."

The mayor pointed to efforts in Banff National Park to restore lake ecosystems by poisoning introduced species as an example of what Canmore is trying to achieve with the feral rabbits, which are not a natural species to the area.

In fact, said Casey, if they were the provincial government would have already dealt with the issue. Meanwhile he said Canmore has been leading the way in dealing with wildlife issues by taking actions such as banning composting, bird feeders and installing bear proof garbage bins.

Save Canmore Bunnies spokesperson Kyndra Biggy said she is disappointed with how things turned out but is hopeful the decision spurs people in the community to continue fighting to find a non-lethal solution.

"I was really hoping council would give us more time on this - it's complex," Biggy said adding the most significant hurdle was finding land for a sanctuary to permanently relocate the bunnies. "I have to move mountains for these bunnies."

Without land available within Canmore and the municipality being surrounded by provincial and national parks she had to reach out to other communities, which may not understand the issue.

"I hope this wakes people up... we need community support."

There were concerns expressed the RFP and feral rabbit management plan wording created scenario that put relocation and spay/neuter scenarios at a disadvantage and may have discouraged applications.

The mayor said Canmore has always been willing to work with all groups on the issue but acknowledged the wording, which was added in at the last minute, may not have been the best.

"The wording of the RFP may have been awkward and if it was that's unfortunate but the intention was to make sure you had a sanctuary and we were not spaying/neutering and dropping them off in someone's backyard," Casey said adding any non-lethal proposal would have to have a complete program without additional funding above and beyond the \$50,000 budgeted being provided. "There was ample opportunity to ask questions and clear up confusion about what the budget would cover."

Bylaw manager Greg Burt said the contractor is more than willing to work with any groups that come forward with an acceptable plan to spay/neuter and relocate the feral rabbits.

While the contract begins in two weeks it only lasts until April 27 and would be subject to renewal upon review. Burt added all trapped animals will be tracked to their end use by administration.

K
K
K

A-104

Canmore clears trapping bylaw hurdle - Canmore Leader - Alberta, CA

<http://www.canmoreleader.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3365525>

Canmore clears trapping bylaw hurdle

By Hamish MacLean
Posted 16 hours ago

To smooth the way for the feral rabbit management plan, Canmore's got a new hunting and trapping bylaw.

Despite some concern over the definition of a firearm, Canmore's council passed all three readings of a new hunting and trapping bylaw for the town Tuesday, Nov. 1.

The new bylaw replaces a 1991 bylaw so that now a designated contractor can trap feral rabbits.

Under the previous bylaw trapping within the town was not permitted except in instances where "duly appointed officers of the Town" were trapping "domestic animals running at large."

While third reading passed unanimously, there reviewed by the Canmore RCMP staff sergeant

Whether a BB gun, bow and arrow, and espec was questioned by councillors Ed Russell, Gordon Miskow and Hans Helder.

Mayor Ron Casey addressed manager of bylaw services Greg Burt upon passing the bylaw saying bylaw officers should use discretion in the "to enforce hunting and trapping and not to hunt down five-year-olds."

Russell first brought the definition of firearms in the bylaw to council's attention. He called attention to sections 5 and 6 of the bylaw.

Section 5 states: "No person shall discharge a Firearm within the Town." Section 6 clarifies that this does not apply to a peace officer or one who is required to trap or discharge a firearm "to carry out their lawful occupations."

"It's got bigger ramifications," Russell warned.

Miskow worried that Canmore's youngsters would be in contravention of the Town's bylaw if they were to play with what most would consider toys.

And Ridley worried that Scouts and members of similar organizations would likewise be in contravention of the bylaw when practicing or learning how to use what are common tools for some.

Only Miskow and Russell voted against the second reading of the bylaw, before it was passed on third reading.

Coun. Hans Helder noted that there are other provisions regarding the use of firearms within the Town's bylaws.

Canmore Leader

This is Exhibit E referred to in the Affidavit of DANIEL DAVIS dated 14 day of November A.D., 2011
A Commissioner for Oaths in and for Alberta

CYNTHIA SAWYER
A Commissioner for Oaths
in and for the Province of Alberta
My Commission Expires July 30, 2012

Advertisement

Article ID# 3365525

Tools

A-105

[« Back](#)

The Canmore Leader

Canmore moves forward with rabbit plan

Posted 9 months ago

By Hamish MacLean

Canmore Leader

Canmore council approved the hiring of a contractor to begin its Feral Rabbit Control at Tuesday's (Nov. 1) council meeting.

Animal Damage Control was recommended by Town administration as the only one of five proposals that met Canmore's criteria for rabbit removal after a request for proposals was issued by the Town at the end of August.

In the contract, slated to begin Nov. 14 and end April 27, 2012, Animal Damage Control has recommended an approach that will include trapping rabbits over the winter when food sources dwindle, humanely euthanizing the animals, and transporting rabbits to an end location to be used, for example, as feed at a wildlife rehabilitation centre.

Despite some calls for more time to work out a "no kill" solution, Mayor Ron Casey told those who gathered in Canmore's Civic Centre Tuesday: "We're not going to give you more time, because we are going to deal with this issue tonight."

The rabbits are not considered wildlife and are therefore a municipal issue for Canmore.

The Town slated \$50,000 to be used to control the Town's rabbit population which has been determined to be a wildlife attractant in the 2011 budget during last year's budget deliberations.

Recently, however the plan has received increased attention: several groups have come forward arguing for a no kill policy after the Town's plan was first presented as a cull.

During Tuesday's meeting the manager of bylaw services for the Town, Greg Burt, presented a revised recommendation that included two parts. In its second part the inclusion of the possibility of spaying and neuter and relocating the animals was addressed.

Council awarded the contract with unanimous approval. As they did the second recommendation, which stated that the "approved contractor be authorized to work with approved organizations that have the capacity to spay and neuter, transport and house captured rabbits in a sanctuary acceptable to the Town of Canmore."

"The goal of the feral rabbit plan is to ultimately control and eliminate feral rabbits in the Town of Canmore," Burt said. "It's going to be a controversial program, I am requesting significant guidance and support for this program."

He told council too that there were two "no kill" bids: one was a consultant offering to work with the Town and concerned groups in the community, and in the other "nothing was concrete" a sanctuary was not identified, and the bid did not meet "many of the requirements" set out by the Town.

He reiterated the message to council that Animal Damage Control is prepared to trap and turn rabbits over to a sanctuary group, should one be approved by the Town.

There was little discussion between councillors at the time of the vote, but earlier during the council meeting's question period Mayor Ron Casey fielded a number of questions from the gallery.

Although he said he would not debate the wording of the Town's request for proposals, Casey said that the

A-106

Town did not favour culling the rabbits over transporting them to a sanctuary.

He said that for a professional group to capture and a professional group to relocate the animals to come forward would be "the best option we could hope for."

To date, that has not happened.

And despite protests from the gallery Tuesday that the Town was not doing enough to enable the relocation of rabbits, he said, that it was incumbent upon proponents of a "no kill" solution for the rabbits to present a viable alternative to that proposed by the contractor.

"We are not going to build this program for you," he said. "We will work with you when you come to us with a solution."

Casey said that this will not be a one-year solution but could instead take years of work.

hamish@canmoreleader.com

News Sports Arts/Life Contact Us

Archives

Home Archive Rabbit trapping date nears

Rabbit trapping date nears

By Hamish MacLean
Posted 4 days ago

By Hamish MacLean

Canmore Leader

The Town of Canmore is expecting that the feral rabbit trapping and euthanizing that has made news for the town across the country and internationally will begin shortly.

The town's environmental care, and communications, coordinator Sally Caudill said that the expectation is still that work will begin this month.

"It hasn't happened yet, the contract is still in legal review, so there's no activity at this time," Caudill said. But she said that things are expected to begin soon.

And though there still those in town and the surrounding region who are hoping for, or working towards a "no-kill" solution to the town's rabbit problem, there have been no plans put forward to do so that work for the Town.

And though there are discussions ongoing with groups at the Town level, there is still a lot of ground to be covered by those seeking a sanctuary solution for the rabbits.

"I am not aware of any documentation coming through that demonstrate that they have enough money . . ." Caudill said.

"Clearly groups are working on it," she said. "We definitely are hearing from groups that are working.

"There's definitely conversations with groups. There's no announcement yet."

The Town's website (Canmore.ca) identifies the standards that the Town requires for any no-kill solution being put forward.

The standards in accordance with Alberta's Standards for Zoos in Alberta requires that trapped animals must be spayed, or neutered, before being delivered to an animal sanctuary. They must also be marked and therefore individually identifiable.

The proposed sanctuary would also be required to provide an annual inventory: "sanctuary operators must submit to the Town of Canmore a report listing the total number of live feral rabbits and rabbits that were deceased in their care."

The sanctuary options for the animals are included in a three-page document through the Town's bylaw services online.

And though social media channels have been filled with hopeful messages in recent days, there is nothing to report.

"If we get to a point where it's clear to us that there's a sanctuary that's ready to go and we can work with them, I will be the first to tell you," Caudill told the Leader Tuesday.

And when the feral rabbit management plan sees its first trapped rabbits, without a sanctuary in place, those animals will be killed.

The contractor will not be housing and storing rabbits awaiting a sanctuary option.

"Once the rabbits have been trapped, something will be happening with them rather quickly," Caudill said.

And there is time for a sanctuary solution to come into play once the cull has started.

"There are enough rabbits in town that if a group comes forward at any time with an appropriate sanctuary proposal, we will begin to work with that group immediately."

The approved contractor can only trap on public property unless permission from the private property owner has been obtained. Canmore residents who are willing to allow Animal Damage Control to trap on their property are asked to contact contractor@canmore.ca.

hamish@canmoreleader.com

A-107

News
Archive Info