



**TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL
ACTION ITEM**

Committee: Regular Council

Date: February 24, 2025

Department: CAO

Topic: Cormorant Control License Renewal

Purpose: To renew the agreement with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) to grant a license to the Township to perform Cormorant control.

Background: The cormorant is a type of aquatic bird commonly found near coastal areas and inland waters. The St. Lawrence Seaway, a system of locks, canals, and channels that allows ships to navigate from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, provides a suitable habitat for various bird species, including cormorants. Cormorants are often seen in and around bodies of water, where they hunt for fish. The St. Lawrence Seaway, with its diverse ecosystem and abundant fish population, can attract cormorants for feeding and nesting. These birds are skilled divers and swimmers, using their webbed feet to pursue and catch fish underwater.

Edwardsburgh/Cardinal notes that the general bird presence is not an issue. Only nesting and roosting birds in concentration that are causing property damage need to be addressed by trappers. This approach has been publicly vetted and approved as it ensures the birds are disposed of safely as per regulation. In addition, it recognizes Cormorant benefits (eating round gobies) and does not require a change to the protected status for Cormorants. It should be noted that there are no natural predators in the area to help cull the population. The only intervention available is by trapper.

By employing a trapper to act on behalf of the municipality, this allows for a targeted response specific to the protection of property and the health and safety for Canadians, wildlife, domestic animals and possibly poultry

Policy Implications: N/A

Strategic Plan Implications: Strategic plan pillar 6.1 – Protect and manage tree assets and conservation applies to the Cormorant Control program.

Financial Considerations: Trapper John Courtney has overseen the Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Cormorant control program since 2016, and the municipality has spent approximately \$50,000 to date on this program.

Recommendation: THAT Council approves the Mayor and CAO to sign the 5-year license with OPG to perform Cormorant control.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. A.', located above a horizontal line.

CAO