

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Committee of the Whole – Administration & Finance

Date: July 12, 2021

Department: Administration & Parks

Topic: Cormorant Control on OPG Lands – Licence Amending Agreement

Purpose: To recommend authorization to enter into a licence amending agreement with Ontario Power Generation to continue the Township's contractor access on OPG lands for the purpose of cormorant control.

Background: The Township originally engaged Mr. Courtney to undertake a cormorant control program along the St. Lawrence River in 2016. The program includes destruction of some birds, disturbance of their roosts and in some cases, cutting down and disposing of dead trees. Much of the program is done on municipal lands, but some of the property affected by the presence of the pest birds is owned by the Ontario Power Generation. Permission to enter onto their lands was requested and granted through a licencing agreement in 2019.

The current licencing agreement expires on July 31, 2021. As per the agreement OPG has the right to offer the Township an extension/renewal of the licence for a total of 4 renewal terms of one year each. The Township requested a renewal for the second of the four renewal terms, to which OPG has agreed to renew for an additional year, effective August 1, 2021 to July 31, 2022.

Through consultation with Mr. Courtney, he identified areas for OPG to review within the agreement under Section 4(o) of the 2019-42 agreement respecting his obligations to report to OPG. After further consultation with OPG, the Township has received the following responses:

- 1) Reporting frequency. Would OPG consider a mid-summer and final year end report excluding numbers?

An annual report submission would be okay. The report is to include the daily counts broken down by month as outlined in the template attached to the original licence.

- 2) No dispatching of Double-Crested Cormorants while in flight over water? may just need some clarity

Do not take birds if in flight over water – OPG Environmental is not sure what clarification is required on this.

- 3) no nests disturbed – if nests are not removed, they will just recolonize
Clause 4(O) (iv) reads as follows; (iv)Both before and after pictures of any and all
"roost trees" cut down to confirm and document that there were **no nests
disturbed**; and
**Roost trees with nests are not to be removed. A roost tree without nest can be
removed. Photos are required of the tree prior to removal and after removal.**

OPG representatives have noted that the agreement took considerable time and effort to arrive at the current agreement with various parties and in order not to conflict with other programs/designations OPG has with other organizations and put OPG at risk of losing those programs/designations agreement, they cannot make changes to the agreement.

Policy Implications: Authorization to enter into the licence amending agreement must be completed by bylaw.

Financial Considerations: Costs associated with cormorant control are contained within the 2021 budget in the amount of \$4,000.00. There is no fee associated with the licence amending agreement.

Recommendation: That Committee recommends that Council enter into the licence amending agreement with Ontario Power Generation for the purposes of cormorant control on lands owned by OPG.



Clerk



CAO