

Groups Challenge Looming Deer Slaughter; Campaign Launched this Weekend

For Immediate Release

February 6, 2014 - Victoria, BC – To avert wrong-headed plans for a deer slaughter, members of several animal protection groups will be going door-to-door throughout Oak Bay this weekend to distribute 5,000 sixteen-page, full colour 'Living With Deer' booklets -- written, designed and published for the community.

"We're hoping to educate Oak Bay residents," says Dave Shishkoff, Canadian Correspondent for the international non-profit group

Friends of Animals. "The booklet is attractive and informative, and aids in educating residents about living with deer. It's not difficult to do, and we offer a number of peaceful solutions so that residents are not encouraging deer to increase, yet blood isn't spilled."

"You can't kill your way out of the situation," adds Lesley Fox, Executive Director of the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (APFA). "Deer are a natural and normal part of the Canadian landscape. While conflicts can occur, there is lots we can do to encourage coexistence. All non-lethal options must be exhausted."

The booklet discusses Oak Bay's plans to kill deer for population control, and explains why this is rejected on moral and practical grounds. As an example, vehicle collisions in Oak Bay primarily involve one stretch along Cadboro Bay Road, identified by the CRD Deer Management Strategy map. Friends of Animals has recommended reducing the speed limit, increasing lighting and erecting attention-grabbing road signs. Also, simple gardening changes can dissuade deer from properties, if desired, and the booklet identifies solutions.

One focus of the booklet is to defeat the intentional feeding of deer, the groups advise. "This is the number one problem in habituating urban deer, and unnaturally increasing species reproduction," explains Dr. Sara Dubois, Chief Scientific Officer at the BC SPCA. "Deer won't starve if we don't feed them, just ask yourself what they did before us? Once the community embraces this, deer numbers will decline naturally."

Volunteers will meet Saturday, February 8th on Cadboro Bay Road, just north of Lansdowne, from 1-4pm to distribute the booklets to households in north Oak Bay, as well as encourage traffic to reduce speeds on this dangerous street. On Sunday, February 9th, they will meet in front of Oak Bay City Hall, from 1-4pm, to cover the southern half of the district, and engage people passing by.

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Web Links

Campaign announcement: <http://blog.thevictoriavegan.com/2014/02/oak-bay-deer-booklet-distribution.html>

Info on booklet & project: <http://thevictoriavegan.com/deer/>