

November 20, 2018

Dear Magnetawan Residents,

On August 22, 2018, Magnetawan Council adopted **By-law 2018-59 to prohibit the feeding of wildlife in the urban areas**. This by-law addresses concerns with the feeding of deer, seagulls, geese, and other wildlife in Magnetawan and Ahmic Harbour, which often poses significant risks to the health, safety, and quality of life of our human and animal residents and visitors alike.

We are blessed in our community to live so close to nature. Our lakes, rivers, and forests provide clean air and water, and they support a diversity of wildlife that we are fortunate to have living in our midst. However, that wildlife may not always be so fortunate to live with us humans.

Animals like deer have evolved to eat and digest specific foods found in their natural environment. When we supplement a deer's diet with artificial food sources, such as molasses and raw corn, it can lead to severe illness and death. In addition, deer are more likely to be hit by vehicles when they are drawn out of their remote wintering yards by supplemental feed.

By-law 2018-59 prohibits the feeding of wildlife (excluding most birds but not waterfowl) in or within 500 metres of the Village of Magnetawan or Ahmic Harbour. The attached maps illustrate the approximate boundaries of these areas.

If we continue to be good stewards of the land and do what we can to ensure the livelihood of the wildlife around us, then our environment and our community may remain healthy and vibrant.

Sincerely,



Andrew Farnsworth
Clerk-Administrator
Municipality of Magnetawan

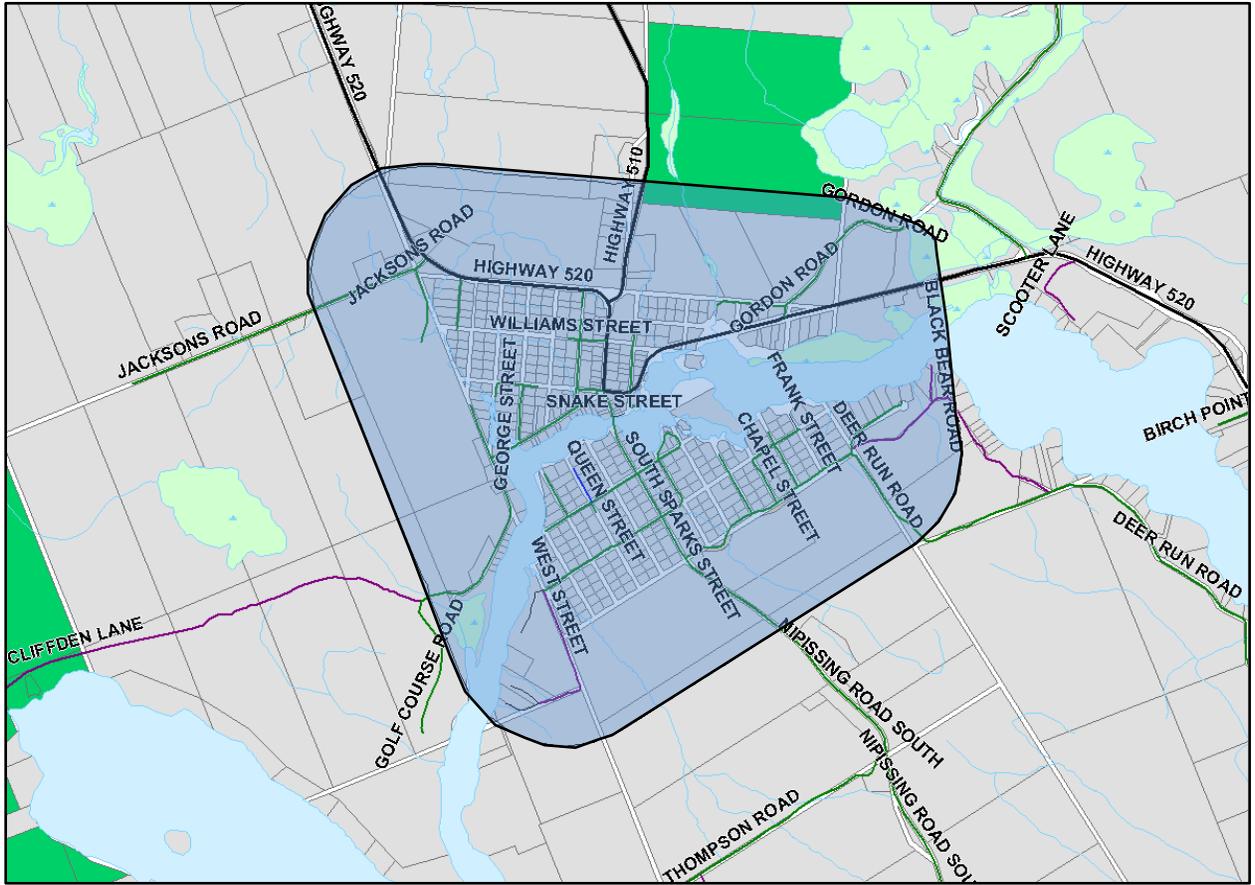
The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) identifies some of the unintended consequences of feeding wildlife:

- animals can become dependent on artificial food sources
- animals can lose their natural fear of humans and pets, becoming more prone to conflict
- artificial feed is not healthy for wildlife
- wild animals gather in large numbers when they are being fed – this concentration of animals in one place can spread parasites and disease and cause destruction of natural habitat
- feeding animals near roads increases their risk of being hit by vehicles, also increasing the risk of damage to vehicles and injury or death for people.
- feeding wildlife may attract “unwanted” animals to your property
- animals will learn to associate humans with food, and can become a problem to neighbours
- habituated animals can become aggressive

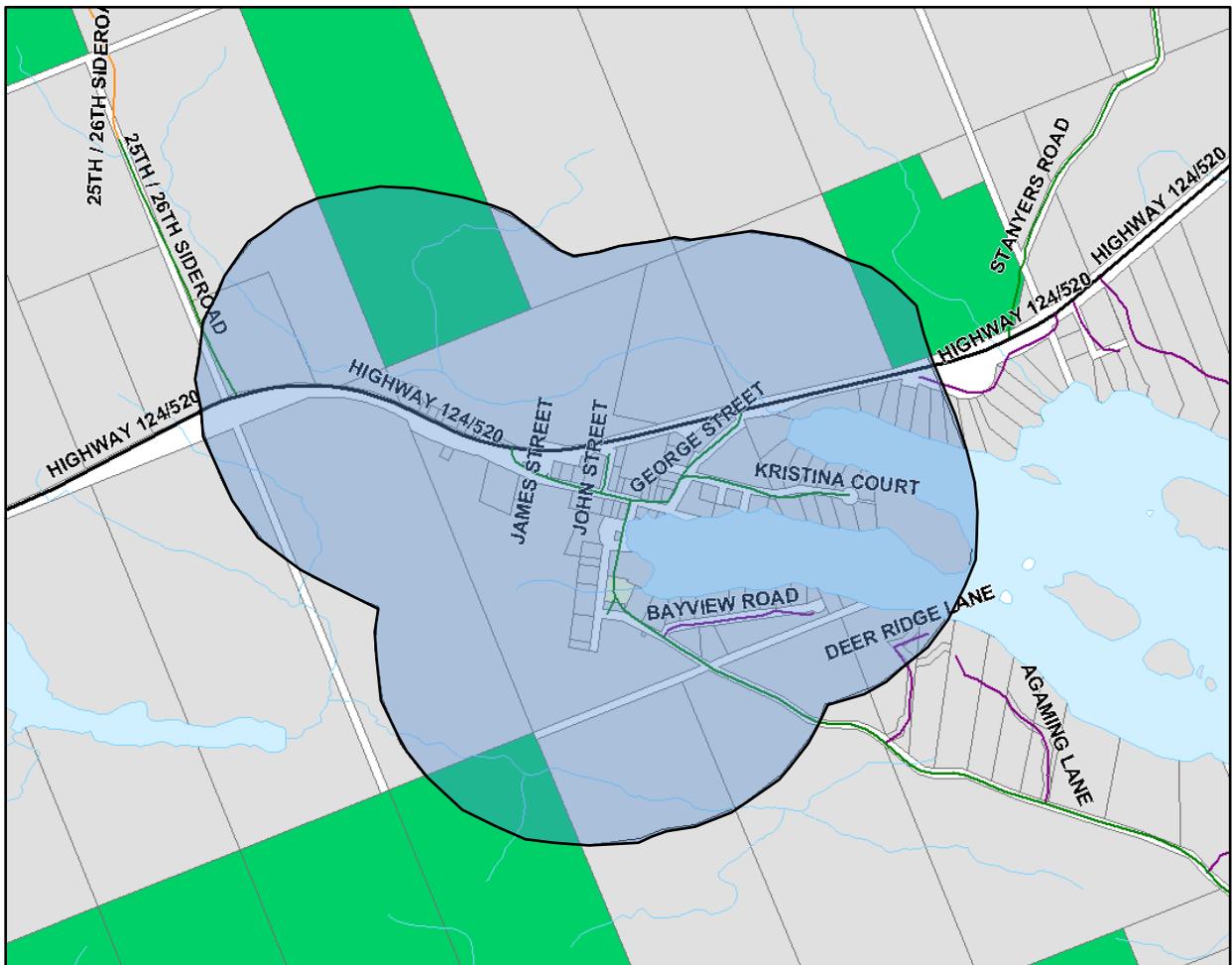
Resources

- Magnetawan By-law 2018-59 to prohibit the feeding of wildlife in the urban areas
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/feeding-wildlife-dos-and-donts>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/don-t-feed-deer-or-let-dogs-run-after-them-mnr-warns-1.2489096>

For additional information, please visit www.magnetawan.com/by-laws/ or contact the Municipal Office.



■ “Urban Area”, Village of Magnetawan: feeding of wildlife prohibited



■ “Urban Area”, Ahmic Harbour: feeding of wildlife prohibited