



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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TOWN ISSUES TICKET TO RESIDENT FOR FEEDING DEER

A local property owner has been issued a \$233.95 ticket for violating the Town's *Feeding of Wild Birds and Animals By-law*. This By-law prohibits the feeding of deer or other wild animals where doing so might cause an unreasonable interference with another persons use and enjoyment of their property or a public place. Individuals who contravene the By-law may face fines of up to \$1000 or imprisonment of up to 30 days.

The Town has received numerous complaints from residents in the Mount Pleasant Boulevard and Westwood Drive area concerning a resident who has been feeding deer over the winter months. A large group of deer now frequents the area and has been causing property damage in the neighbourhood. In most instances the By-law Officer is able to resolve these issues by visiting with the resident and informing them that they are in violation of the By-law. In this case the By-law Officer met with the resident and a family member on four separate occasions and advised them that feeding the deer was not permitted. Despite the Town's efforts, the feeding of the deer continued and a written warning was issued by the Town's By-law Officer on April 17th. The feeding continued even after the written warning and the By-law officer had to resort to issuing a summary offence ticket on April 29th.

"While I do empathize with the property owner and understand that they really value being able to interact with the deer and believe they are helping the animals, the By-law needs to be enforced. Feeding the animals doesn't contribute to a healthy deer population and it puts both the animals and humans at risk" said Labinot Shala, By-law Officer for the Town of Truro.

The *Feeding of Wild Birds and Animals By-law* has been in place since 2006 when it was adopted to address issues arising from human interference with wild animal populations. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources generally discourages feeding deer because it disrupts the animal's natural foraging patterns and exposes them to greater risk from disease, predation, and vehicle collisions. Also, feeding wildlife can pose a health risk to residents since deer act as hosts for Blacklegged Ticks, carriers of the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. Furthermore, Town Officials are concerned that by feeding the deer, residents are unwittingly attracting large numbers of deer to the Town which may force Council to consider more drastic measures to control the deer population.

The Town will consider further legal action against the individual if they continue feeding the deer. "If the feeding of the animals continues, we will consider issuing additional tickets and we have the option of applying to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia for an injunction to have the individual cease feeding the deer" said Mr. Shala.

For more information you may contact:

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