



## The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Legislative & Clerk Services

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Laura Moy, Director Legislative Services & Clerk

**Date to Council:** May 24, 2022

**Report Number:** LCS-2022-17

**Subject:** Rodent Abatement

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### Recommendations

It is recommended:

**That** Report LCS-2022-17 entitled “Rodent Abatement”, **be received**;

**And that the** Pilot Rodent Abatement Program for Residential Properties concept set out in Report LCS-2022-17 **be approved** for the remaining 2022 calendar year to provide a partially subsidized rebate to assist property owners with rat eradication, under funding approved in the amount of \$10,000 in the 2022 annual operating budget;

**And further that** an Informal Quotation process **be authorized** to contract a licensed extermination company for rodent abatement at a fixed rate per property.

### Background

Rodents, such as rats and mice, are pests that are found year round and typically live outdoors and then migrate inside when cool weather approaches. They are found around buildings, in gardens, near garbage containers or composters, and within homes, including in the roof and in drains. While nocturnal animals, rodents will become active during the day if food and water sources are scarce.

Concerns regarding the presence of rats within the Town, primarily in residential areas, have been raised over the last four to five years.

An informational report, [Corporate Services & Clerks Report No. 27/17 entitled Rodent Control](#), and [Attachment 1](#) to the report was presented at the September 12, 2017 Regular Meeting of Council whereat Council approved an enhanced education campaign to assist residents in identifying and protecting their property from rodents and greater property standards of enforcement. The Town also mandated that refuse be placed in hard sided containers for collection in the urban areas.

On the Town's website, there is a [dedicated webpage](#) regarding wildlife control and a [fact sheet](#) on rodents. This information has been promoted on the Town's social media, in the annual EWSWA Collection Calendar, and as an education tool to residents expressing rodent concerns.

Two Public Information Centres were held in 2018 and 2019 on urban wildlife with representatives from local pest control companies to provide information on their services and how to deter wildlife from living on residential properties.

At the January 26, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council (RCM), motion (RCM -28/21) was passed directing Administration to review the recently approved rodent control subsidies in several Ontario municipalities and to report back on the outcomes and deliverables of these subsidy programs.

Subsequently, [Report CAO-2021-11 Rodent Control Subsidy - Summary of Municipal Programs](#) was presented at the June 22, 2021 Policies & Priorities Committee (PPC). Delegations were also heard detailing residents' experiences with rodents on their respective properties. At the meeting, Administration was directed to draft a framework of potential options for a rodent control subsidy program and funding for Council consideration (PPC-06-21).

[Report CS-2021-32](#), presented options for rodent abatement measures at the November 9, 2021 RCM, with direction for pilot program funding referred to the 2022 budget deliberations. At the November 16, 2021 Special Council Meeting, Council approved funding in the amount of \$10,000 for a Pilot Rodent Abatement Program for 2022.

## Comments

### Pilot Rodent Abatement Program Regulations

The Town of Tecumseh's (Town) Pilot Rodent Abatement Program for Residential Properties (Pilot Program) proposes to offer a rebate, up to 50% of an established limit per property, to residential property owners to assist with the cost of utilizing a licensed pest control company to assist with removing rats from outside their residential property.

Based on research undertaken and consultation with local pest control companies, the proposed Pilot Program for the Town is similar in nature to the Cities of St. Catharines and Welland.

To initiate rebate assistance, the property owner must first complete and submit electronically, on the Town's website, a [Residential Rat Control Rebate Program Intake Form](#) identifying the location of rat sightings on the property and suspected origin of the rat(s). Financial details, including the rebate allocation and established limit will be reflected on the form once a licensed pest control company is appointed.

Following Administration's review of the Intake Form for completeness, a pest control technician from the appointed licensed pest control company will attend the property to inspect where the rodents are originating from and other notable attributing concerns. Should the pest control technician find concerns relating to property standards, By-Law Enforcement will be apprised for appropriate action(s).

The technician will advise the homeowner on rodent control prevention based on their observations on the property such as removal of food sources, standing water, clutter that provides a living space for the rodents, etc. which the property owner would need to ensure all preventative measures are undertaken in order to participate in the Pilot Program.

Subject to identifying rat burrows and/or evidence of rat activity, the pest control technician will lay regulated bait station blocks (a tamper-resistant container designed to hold block bait on a rod that rodents gnaw) in strategic locations on the property, conduct follow-up inspections and remove the bait stations at the end of the contract timeframe, as agreed upon when appointing a designated pest control provider.

The property owner will be responsible for remitting evidence to the Town detailing the pest control company has been paid in full, similar to the requirements of other Town programs such as the Backwater Valve Installation Subsidy Program.

The appointed pest control company will submit a report to Administration outlining the work/measures undertaken and the results of their efforts at each respective property, together with the fees charged to the property owner, before a 50% rebate (up to an established limit) will be refunded to the property owner.

It is recommended that the Town's Pilot Program be for the balance of 2022, or until the funding allocation is exhausted, whichever comes first. Only one rebate per property will be accepted in the 2022 calendar year.

While the measures in the proposed Pilot Program are anticipated to assist with eradicating the rats, full eradication may vary depending on the property and neighbourhood situation, as noted under prior reports.

In addition to the proposed Pilot Program, the Town would continue established education campaign efforts to assist residents on how to identify rodents on their

property, how to protect their property from rodents and how to remove rodents from their property, together with property standards enforcement, as previously directed.

## **Pest Control Service Provider**

In accordance with the Town's Purchasing Policy No. 17, the procurement process would be followed to contract an extermination company for rodent abatement at a fixed rate per property.

While not a requirement of the policy, based on the approved pilot program funding allocation, it is recommended that the Informal Quotation process be followed to secure a competitive and fair price to engage a licensed Ontario exterminator with a valid Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation & Parks licence.

The Informal Quotation will outline the relevant specifications including the minimum number of follow up inspections per property and use of bait station blocks to ensure loose bait, like pellets, which can be accidentally eaten or tampered with by children, pets, or unintended wildlife are not utilized.

Following receipt and review of bids, the contract shall be awarded to an extermination company for the remaining 2022 calendar year.

The Pilot Program will be evaluated and a course of action with respect to the continuation of the Program, or not, will be reported out to Council in early 2023.

## **Consultations**

Community  
Financial  
Area Pest Control Companies

Safety  
Services

## **Financial Implications**

Funding for the Pilot Program has been provided in the 2022 Animal Control Budget (2620) in the amount of \$10,000 under Contract Services, funded from the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve.

As will be established through the procurement process, the Town will partially subsidize up to 50% of an established limit, one application per property within the allocated 2022 funding. Based on the local pest control companies' advice, the average household abatement program cost would be in the range of \$300 to \$400. It is anticipated funding will provide for approximately fifty (50) residential properties to partake in the Pilot Program, however this will not be determined until following receipt of the Informal Quotations.

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2019-22 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make the Town of Tecumseh an even better place to live, work and invest through a shared vision for our residents and newcomers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that Tecumseh's current and future growth is built upon the principles of sustainability and strategic decision-making.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Integrate the principles of health and wellness into all of Tecumseh's plans and priorities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steward the Town's "continuous improvement" approach to municipal service delivery to residents and businesses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate the Town's leadership role in the community by promoting good governance and community engagement, by bringing together organizations serving the Town and the region to pursue common goals.

## Communications

Not applicable

Website

Social Media

News Release

Local Newspaper

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

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Manager Committee & Community Services

Reviewed by:

Nicole Fields  
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Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm  
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Reviewed by:

Jennifer Alexander, MPA  
Deputy Clerk & Manager Legislative Services

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP  
Chief Administrative Officer

<b>Attachment Number</b>	<b>Attachment Name</b>
None	None