



STATEMENT ON HUMANE BEAVER MITIGATION STRATEGY

**For Immediate Release
May 8, 2021**

“When the issue of beaver trappings was first brought to my attention, we asked staff to immediately discontinue the practice. We also directed them to look at alternative, more humane measures that would allow us to continue to fulfil our legislative responsibility of protecting our infrastructure from potential flooding due to damming. Alternatives that were in addition to our existing humane methods of diverting beavers away from our storm water management infrastructure – from wrapping trees to specialized tree plantings. Residents should be aware that relocating beavers is not an option. They are extremely territorial and rarely survive the move. It is why MNR specifically does not recommend it as a mitigation option.

Staff investigated water level control and flow devices used in a few other municipalities such as London and Ottawa; measures that allows for harmony between the natural environment and our infrastructure.

As Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority (LSRCA) has legislative authority in matters as they relate to storm flow and capacity in our storm water management systems, staff brought forward the suggested alternative management practice to LSRCA.

LSRCA would not approve the use of alternative flow diversion measures.

This unfortunate decision leaves us with only 3 choices: do nothing, continue with trapping or continuously remove the dams.

As we do not want to return to the proposed last resort measure of trapping the beavers, I have immediately put forward a motion to Council to direct staff to discontinue the return to trapping and instead implement dam removal, as it is the only humane beaver mitigation option available to us. This option comes with added costs and may see some trees being removed by the beavers as they look to rebuild their dam. But as the other option is untenable, I believe it is the right thing to do.”