



Committee Report

To:	Warden Matrosovs and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	January 9, 2025
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CW-04-25
Title:	Non-Resident Trapping Request
Prepared by:	Sarah Johnson
Reviewed by:	Scott Taylor
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-04-25 be received; and
2. That residency exemption under By-law 3274-91, as amended, be approved for a five-year period from 2025 to 2029 for Jack Durant; and
3. That the exemption also be applied retroactively to any unpaid claims from 2024.

Executive Summary

The County has received a request from Jack Durant to trap within Grey County. Mr. Durant was previously granted an exemption to trap within Grey County, but that request has since lapsed. This exemption is needed because the County's Nuisance Beaver By-law 3274-91 requires trappers to be permanent residents of Grey County. Mr. Durant is not a permanent resident of Grey County. Staff are recommending support for this request.

Background and Discussion

A request has been received from Mr. Jack Durant for a residency exemption from Section 1 (c), By-Law 3274-91, as amended, being a by-law to Provide for the Removal of Nuisance Beavers. In order to be eligible for claim payment under the by-law, this section of the by-law requires trappers to be permanent residents of Grey County, unless otherwise exempted. The County previously had authorized Mr. Durant to trap within Grey County from 2007-2012, but that exemption has since lapsed.

Mr. Durant has continued to trap in Grey County, working in both Town of The Blue Mountains and Municipality of Grey Highlands, where the number of other licensed trappers is minimal. He continued to apply and receive payments based on an administrative error (i.e., staff not realizing his previous exemption had expired). Staff recently noted that a new exemption is needed, when beaver claim applications were received in Blue Mountains and Grey Highlands and his residency was noted to be outside the Grey County.

Mr. Durant currently owns property in Grey County, however, his primary residence is outside Grey County. Mr. Durant currently holds a current Ontario trapping license and has done so for many years. Trapping services are in demand, notably in the above-noted municipalities, in culverts and ditches to avoid flooding hazards, on both public and private lands.

Since 2012, Mr. Durant has made 301 claims, which averages about 25 per year.

Staff are recommending an exemption be granted for a five-year term from 2025-2029. Based on the above-noted administrative error, staff are also recommending that this exemption be applied retroactively for any previously submitted applications in 2024 where the claim has yet to be approved (e.g., a claim submitted in 2024 which has yet to be paid).

Financial and Resource Implications

Mr. Durant would be compensated as per the Nuisance Beaver By-law 3274-91 at a rate of \$25 per beaver. As noted, Mr. Durant has averaged 25 claims per year since 2012 which would be \$625 annually. The payment of nuisance beaver claims is included in the 2025 budget.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Legal, Finance
- External: Jack Durant

Appendices and Attachments

None.