



December 15, 2014

Warden Kevin Eccles  
County of Grey  
Administration Building  
595 9th Avenue East  
Owen Sound ON N4K 3E3  
warden@grey.ca

Dear Warden Eccles:

Congratulations on your election victory.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has a variety of responsibilities including: forestry, aggregates, wetlands and Ontario Parks. Today, I am writing to you to talk about one of the mandates of MNR — ensuring the sustainability of the province's wildlife population.

Ontario has a vast and diverse wildlife population. Seeing animals in the wild is a wonderful experience for many people. However, sometimes there are human-wildlife conflicts. I would like to provide you with information on how to manage these conflicts.

The ministry is committed to working with municipalities and landowners to prevent and reduce the number of human-wildlife conflicts. We do this by, among other things:

- providing information on dealing with specific species, such as coyotes or bears;
- assessing species populations and adjusting hunting numbers as necessary, for example reducing or increasing the number of deer tags issued;
- adjusting hunting seasons or limits; and
- providing advice and information to municipalities and landowners.

There are some best practices that we encourage landowners, including municipalities, to adopt to prevent and reduce conflicts. These include:

- putting out garbage the morning of pickup instead of the night before;
- not feeding wildlife;
- keeping pet food indoors; and
- putting up fencing.

Municipalities play a critical role in preventing and dealing with nuisance animals. In July 2013, our government made changes to the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* to enable municipalities to compensate hunters or trappers for the removal of coyotes and other furbearing mammals (such as raccoons and skunks), without MNR permission.

Municipalities also have the ability to:

- Pass bylaws that ensure homeowners properly secure their garbage and other wildlife attractants.
- Pass bylaws preventing the feeding of nuisance animals.

My ministry has posted information online to help landowners with nuisance wildlife. Please visit [www.ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife](http://www.ontario.ca/livingwithwildlife). Listed on that page are links for preventing and responding to problems caused by specific wildlife species.

Local ministry staff can be contacted to provide advice, explain regulations and assist in whatever way they can. I encourage you to contact your local office in Midhurst at 705-725-7500.

Public safety remains a priority to the ministry. If a wild animal poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety — call 911.

I look forward to working together on matters of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mauro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Mauro  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry