



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, August 24, 2026, 9:00 AM
Village Office, 495 Hot Springs Road,
Harrison Hot Springs, BC V0M 1K0

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Councillor Schweinbenz, Chair.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Acknowledgement of Sts'ailes traditional territory.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- (a) THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting minutes of June 23, 2026 be adopted.

Page 1

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Canada Goose Management
- (b) Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026
- i. Public Engagement Ideas
- (c) Miami River Health
- (d) Fireworks Alternatives
- (e) Committee Terms and 2026 General Local Election
- (f) Next Meeting Date: TBD

Page 5

Page 21

7. ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
Environmental Advisory Committee
Minutes**

DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2026
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mark Schweinbenz (Chair)
John DeMartin
Susan Galvao
Paul Kandt

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schweinbenz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Schweinbenz acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Paul Kandt requested to add "Fireworks" as Item for Discussion 5(e).

The Corporate Officer advised that due to an administrative error, the agenda that was posted on the notice boards had the previous meeting date of May 26, 2026 at the top. The agenda posted online had the correct date.

Moved by Paul Kandt

Seconded by John DeMartin

THAT notice of this meeting be waived due to an administrative error.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-06-01

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Paul Kandt

Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the agenda be approved as amended with the addition of the late item.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-06-02

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Paul Kandt

Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED
EAC-2026-06-03

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Wildlife Society Conference Attendance

The Committee discussed schedules and budget, and it was determined that John DeMartin and Susan Galvao would be registered for the Wildlife Society Conference in Harrison Hot Springs in September.

(b) Letter to Council dated June 5, 2026 re: Civic Campus

Chair Schweinbenz provided an update from the June 15, 2026 regular Council meeting, indicating that Council had requested an assessment of Fire Hall Park and had voted against proceeding with a MOU with School District No. 78. The Committee discussed its role in any environmental assessments of the area, with staff noting that there are budgetary considerations and it's likely that a plan for assessing the area will take several months.

(c) Cosmetic Pesticide Use Update from June 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting

The Corporate Officer reported that the Committee's recommendation to Council regarding a Cosmetic Pesticide Use Bylaw was supported and that staff are working on a draft to bring forward to Council. The Committee discussed provincial legislation and regulations regarding cosmetic pesticide and herbicide use, noting that local governments have specific authority to regulate pesticide use for certain purposes.

(d) Miami River Health

Paul Kandt presented his findings after conducting research on the history of the Miami River (or Miami Creek). In 2019, the Miami River Streamkeepers participated in a think tank with several other environmental groups and presented a report to Council on tree and riparian area stewardship, making several recommendations. Despite development pressures, the community has made efforts over the years to follow riparian area and streamside protection and enhancement area regulations, and to change pumps, ditches, and culverts to maintain the health of the Miami River. Paul also noted that he reviewed an Environmental Overview Assessment Memo that was produced as part of the 2025 Highway 9 drainage project and the report speaks to many of the same impacts and qualities of the Miami River. Since 2010, the pH has dropped from 6.5% to 6%. Contributing factors are local housing developments, agricultural inputs such as manure, fertilizer and farm run off, and severe weather such as atmospheric rivers. What

remains unclear is how big of an impact agricultural inputs have on the river. It seems that agricultural discussions have fallen off. There was previously an Agassiz-Harrison Mills Drainage Committee but it is not clear whether that Committee is still active. Additional research is required in this area, but the pH level being low is concerning.

Chair Schweinbenz requested that the Committee be notified of the date that the Miami River Streamkeepers would be painting the fish markings on the storm drains in case any Committee members want to assist.

CARRIED

EAC-2026-06-04

(e) Fireworks

The Committee discussed the impacts of fireworks in environmentally sensitive areas to both the environment and to animals. Several alternatives including laser shows and drones were mentioned. The Committee expressed a desire to advocate for the Village to transition from fireworks to a different, more environmentally friendly alternative that still attracts visitors during events like Canada Day. Costs for alternatives are unknown, and the Committee agreed to do research on possible options and discuss this again at a future meeting.

(f) Next Meeting Date: August 24, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Susan Galvao
Seconded by Paul Kandt

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

CARRIED

EAC-2026-05-05

Councillor Mark Schweinbenz, Chair
Environmental Advisory Committee

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

File No: 5280-09
Date: August 10, 2026

To: Mayor and Council
From: Christy Ovens, Community Services Manager
Subject: Geese Management Update

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council write to the Minister of Environment and Minister of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship enclosing a copy of the 2026 Canada Goose Nesting Survey - Harrison Hot Springs Results Summary and outline concerns regarding water quality due to goose populations in crown areas up the lake and requesting that the province address this issue in crown land areas or partner with the Village to address it; and

THAT staff request a meeting with these ministry staff at UBCM about this issue; and

THAT staff coordinate with the Environmental Advisory Committee and local environmental organizations to recruit volunteers to learn about the permit application and egg addling process in a facilitated workshop provided by EBB Environmental Consulting.

SUMMARY

To present the 2026 Canada Goose Nesting Survey - Harrison Hot Springs Results Summary report, prepared by EBB Environmental Consulting to Council and discuss potential next steps.

BACKGROUND

At the February 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

THAT Council direct staff to research the geese management strategies employed at Cultus Lake and bring a report back for Council's consideration; and

At the May 20, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, the following resolution was passed:

THAT the Village include geese management strategies as a budgetary item in the 2026 financial plan.

DISCUSSION

The Village contracted EBB Environmental Consulting to conduct nesting surveys on Village-owned lands at the recommended timeline between March and May of this year. The findings report is attached for information.

The nesting survey found few active nests within Village-owned lands, with the majority of nesting activity occurring on private properties, including marina infrastructure, private docks, and other shoreline areas. While local nesting activity was minimal, the Village continues to experience a high seasonal goose presence, reflecting the area's suitability as feeding, resting, and moulting habitat. The high numbers of geese observed in the Village during June were also seen in many other communities, as Canada geese underwent their annual moult. Moulting is a natural process in which geese shed and regrow their flight feathers, leaving them temporarily unable to fly for several weeks. During this period, geese often gather in larger numbers near shorelines and open grassy areas, using the lake as a place of safety and nearby green spaces for foraging while they rely on swimming or walking to avoid predators until their new feathers have fully developed.

EBB Environmental Consulting's report highlighted that geese management is a long-term undertaking and that no single technique will provide immediate relief. The report also noted that population management will require regional collaboration, particularly given that geese move freely between jurisdictions and utilize both municipal and Crown lands throughout the Harrison Lake area. Addressing concerns related to geese populations and the associated impacts on water quality will require the involvement and support of other agencies and levels of government.

One of the recommendations identified in the report was nest management. Through an approved nest management program, eggs can be humanely addled under authorization provided through the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* following specific protocols. As previously reported by staff, both Cultus Lake and the City of Abbotsford utilize egg addling as a tool to manage the geese population on public lands. Correspondence from Cultus Lake indicates that egg addling combined with selective hazing and public education have had a positive impact in their community.

While nest management alone is not expected to significantly reduce geese populations in the short term, it may be an effective component of a broader, coordinated management strategy involving neighbouring jurisdictions and provincial agencies. EBB Environmental Consulting facilitates training workshops on egg addling and the corresponding permit application process. In other communities, this work is typically coordinated by volunteer organizations. Staff are recommending that the Environmental Advisory Committee work with other local environmental organizations to recruit volunteers for this program.

As the deadline to request a meeting with Ministry staff at UBCM was on August 5, 2026, staff have submitted a request which may be cancelled if Council does not wish to meet with Ministry staff on this topic at UBCM.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

A cost estimate of \$1,200 was received from EBB Environmental Consulting to facilitate the training workshop on egg addling and the corresponding permit application process. It was suggested that this should take place in the fall / early winter to allow for recruitment, training, and preparation for the permit application in February. These costs could be funded through existing budgets.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

2025-2026 Strategic Plan Priorities

Healthy Livable Community – To promote and enhance a healthy lifestyle for all ages.

Respectfully submitted:



Christy Ovens
Community Services Manager

Reviewed by:



Tyson Koch
Chief Administrative Officer

Financial Considerations Reviewed by:



Scott Schultz
Chief Financial Officer, Deputy CAO

Attachments: 2026 Canada Goose Nesting Survey- Harrison Hot Springs Results Summary

2026 Canada Goose Nesting Survey—Harrison Hot Springs

Results Summary

Prepared for:

Christy Ovens
Community Services Manager
Village of Harrison Hot Springs



Prepared by:

EBB Environmental
Consulting Inc.

Table of Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.0	UNDERSTANDING CANADA GOOSE REPRODUCTIVE ECOLOGY	1
3.0	METHODOLOGY.....	2
4.0	RESULTS SUMMARY	3
5.0	DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	8
6.0	REFERENCES AND RESOURCES.....	10

List of Figures

Figure 1.	Village of Harrison Hot Spring, showing parks and waterways.	3
Figure 2.	Nest on Miami River (March 25).	4
Figure 3.	Observations of Canada goose nest and guards during 2026 nest surveys.....	6
Figure 4.	Adults and family groups in Harrison Lagoon (May 22).....	7
Figure 5.	Guard on log boom (May 22).....	7

List of Tables

Table 1.	Summary of Nest Survey Observations.....	5
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1.0 Introduction

Like many municipalities in southwestern BC, the Village of Harrison Hot Spring struggles with impacts from Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*). Part of the larger population of temperate nesting geese that established in BC in the 1960's and 70s (e.g., see Campbell et al 1990), geese in Harrison Hot Springs do not conduct natural migrations. They nest and moult locally and cause impacts such as agricultural damage, environmental degradation, and water quality deterioration from elevated levels of fecal contamination (e.g. *E. Coli*). Impacts from temperate nesting geese (also referred to as resident, urban, non-migratory) are well documented by many jurisdictions and regulators in BC. Of particular concern to Harrison Hot Springs, which relies on tourism to sustain its economy, is the amount of fecal matter in public spaces (e.g. shorelines, parks, and sidewalks), high numbers of geese (sometimes aggressive) in public areas, and water quality advisories that prevent the use of the beaches for swimming (FVNN 2025).

Harrison Hot Springs sits at the southern end of Harrison Lake. Harrison Hot Springs and Agassiz, within the District of Kent, are the last water/agricultural interfaces in the Fraser Valley before heading east to Hope where terrain along the Fraser River becomes rocky and mountainous. The area acts as natural funnel for geese looking for staging and foraging areas. Harrison Lake provides security for moulting geese that may undertake a protracted migration to protective water. During moult geese replace flight feathers unable to fly for up to 6 weeks. They form large flocks on open water for security, preferring areas with forage (e.g. lawn, fields) and a clear sightline to water to evade predators.

Harrison Hot Springs identified goose issues decades ago. Media articles reference Council concerns in the early 2000's and discuss problems with geese in nearby Cultus Lake, Harrison Hot Springs and other Fraser Valley communities (e.g., Giesbrecht 2025). A Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) Technical Report (Breault and McKelvey 1991) identified Harrison Hot Springs as one of several communities in the Fraser Valley with problem flocks.

In 2025, Harrison Hot Springs Council voted in favour of including goose management in the 2026 budget (Harrison Hot Springs 2025). One of the first steps in effective goose management is defining the issue so that resources are targeted at the correct locations and times of year. This document summarizes surveys conducted during the spring nesting season of 2026 to identify if nesting occurs in the Village of Harrison Hots Springs and to determine if nesting geese can be managed to help control the local goose population.

2.0 Understanding Canada Goose Reproductive Ecology

Canada geese usually build nests within sight of water. Preferred nesting locations are islands, including tops of beaver lodges and floating mats of vegetation (Elphick et al. 2001, Environment Canada 2003). In rural and urban environments, EBB has observed nests built from scrapes in flower planters; depressions in sagging boat covers; conifer needle debris on roof-tops; osprey nesting platforms; ripped stuffing from patio/houseboat furniture; and other materials. Nests are generally simple, constructed of weeds, twigs and other local vegetation. Females will use their bodies to make a depression in the vegetative mound and insulate it with their own down. First-time breeders exhibit high natal fidelity and will attempt to nest

in the same area they were fledged (Mowbray et al. 2002). Geese will return to old nest sites, or nearby locations year after year. This knowledge is helpful for finding nests in successive years.

Females are responsible for building nests and incubating eggs. During this time, males will diligently “mate guard” ensuring other geese and predators do not disturb the female. A good indicator of a nearby nest is a lone male (guard), particularly if he is in an alert posture with his head and neck held high, or as he is approached, he lowers his head and neck in a threatening stance and hisses. Guard geese are extremely defensive and may be aggressive when protecting a nesting territory or family. Our experience suggests that a male may be >100 m away from his mate and nest (i.e., across a wetland), but provided he maintains his mate within his sight line, he will remain in a vigilant stance.

The nesting season for geese is early spring--egg-laying may range from March to late May. Most nests are built in late March/early April and laying and incubation occurs during April. Females typically lay 4-7 creamy white eggs on consecutive days. They incubate all their eggs at the same time, for approximately 28 days. They may lay replacement eggs if originals are preyed upon (Mowbray et al. 2002, Environment Canada 2003). After hatching, geese do not stay at the nest but lead their goslings away to water and forage.

3.0 Methodology

Five surveys were carried out, one approximately every two weeks, from mid-March until mid-May. The survey area consisted of public areas within the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, with a focus on parks and waterways (Figure 1). Surveys were conducted on foot. On April 11 an extended survey was conducted--and kayaks were used to investigate areas just beyond the village including adjacent shorelines and nearby marinas. The team also drove along Rockwell Drive (to approximately 6969 Rockwell) to scan the shoreline for geese.



Figure 1. Village of Harrison Hot Spring, showing parks and waterways.

4.0 Results Summary

Public land was not an appreciable source of nests. Pairs of geese were observed early in the season in parks and along the lakefront, but no confirmed guards or nests were observed at these sites throughout the nesting season (Table 1).

One nest was identified on the Miami River near the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel (March 25; Figure 2). The nest failed from unknown causes and it was abandoned, although a pair of geese were observed at the site (preening, loafing) on May 15 and 22.



Figure 2. Nest on Miami River (March 25).

Guard geese, indicating nearby nesting, were observed on marina log booms and lakeside homes. Pairs and groups of geese were also observed along the shore on the extended April 11 survey.

Guard geese were not observed within the Village core. A lone goose was observed swimming on March 25, but three other geese flew in and joined it. A potential guard may have been foraging in Spring Park on April 11, but it did not defend the territory from another foraging pair in close proximity. No nests were located during a search of the park. Guards were also observed on April 11 at Ozarks and Harrison Hot Springs Marina. Nests for these guards were likely on marina infrastructure or moored boats.

On April 23 no geese were observed inside Village boundaries. This was the peak of nesting season and geese were likely at or near their nest sites. Surveys on May 15 and 22 showed the buildup of goose numbers resulting from nearby hatch and failed breeders moving into the area prior to moult (Figure 4). A guard was still observed on a Harrison Hot Springs Marina log boom on May 22 (Figure 5).

Table 1. Summary of Nest Survey Observations

Date	Zone	Easting	Northing	Site	Adults	Juveniles	Total	Observations
25-Mar-26	10	588696	5462058	Harrison Lagoon	4	0	4	initially single goose loafing in lagoon (guard?); three additional geese flew in from lake
25-Mar-26	10	588946	5462007	Rendall Park	3	0	3	geese swimming about 15 m out from shore
25-Mar-26	10	588716	5461754	Spring Park	2	0	2	pair foraging on grass
25-Mar-26	10	588479	5461681	Maple Street	2	0	2	pair foraging on grass access near Miami River
25-Mar-26	10	588045	5461698	Miami River	2	0	2	nest on floating logs with guard foraging nearby in river
25-Mar-26	10	588760	5461858	444 Esplanade	2	0	2	pair of geese foraging on grass at undeveloped site west of 444 Esplanade Ave
25-Mar-26	10	589020	5462875	Harrison Lake	2	0	2	Pair of geese flying towards HHS - south
25-Mar-26	10	590546	5463998	Harrison Lake	2	0	2	pair loafing on floating dock
11-Apr-26	10	588377	5461932	Harrison Lake	2	0	2	pair flying south from the lake over the beach
11-Apr-26	10	588716	5461754	Spring Park	3	0	3	pair and a single goose foraging on grass at Spring Park; searched public land and did not observe nest; potential for nest at 410 Echo Drive?
11-Apr-26	10	589029	5462437	HHS Marina	1	0	1	guard on log boom
11-Apr-26	10	588975	5462735	Ozarks Marina	1	0	1	guard on log boom
11-Apr-26	10	588914	5462860	Ozarks Marina	1	0	1	guard on breakwater
11-Apr-26	10	590376	5463929	Rockwell Drive	12	0	12	Pairs/ small groups along shoreline. At least two guards
23-Apr-26					0	0	0	no geese observed during survey; survey did not extend north of Ozarks Marina
15-May-26	10	588365	5461524	Works Yard	4	0	4	geese foraging next to works yard
15-May-26	10	588900	5461874	Rendall Park	8	0	8	geese feeding at Esplanade Ave & Spruce St
15-May-26	10	588920	5461917	Rendall Park	2	4	6	family group foraging
15-May-26	10	588716	5461754	Spring Park	8	0	8	foraging
15-May-26	10	588716	5461754	Miami River	4	5	9	one family unit with 5 goslings and a pair of adults in Miami River near Spring Park
15-May-26	10	588020	5461725	Miami River	2	0	2	pair of geese on logs at failed nest site
22-May-26	10	588723	5462091	Lagoon	25	15	40	5 clutches of 3,4,1,3,4
22-May-26	10	588321	5461638	Settler's Pub	6	10	16	family groups with 3 clutches of 3,4,3
22-May-26	10	587903	5462000	Harrison Lake	6	0	6	hotel waterfront
22-May-26	10	588045	5461698	Miami River	2	0	2	pair of geese on logs at failed nest site
22-May-26	10	589014	5462521	HHS Marina	1	0	1	on marina boom; osprey was setting up nest on piling



Figure 3. Observations of Canada goose nest and guards during 2026 nest surveys

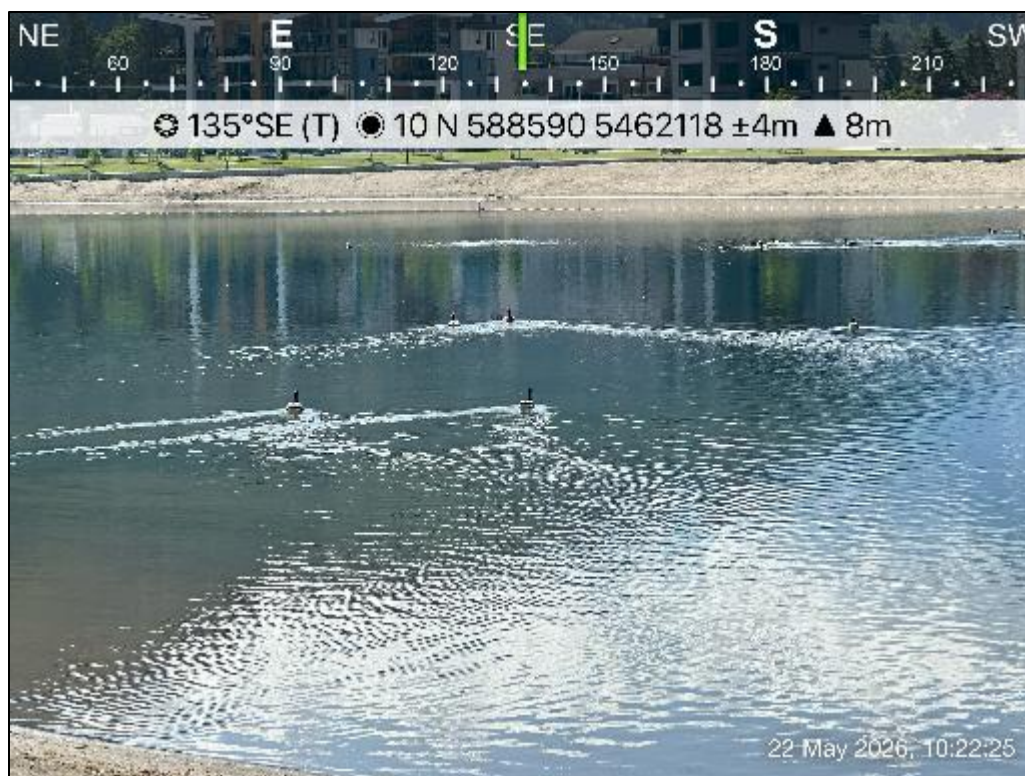


Figure 4. Adults and family groups in Harrison Lagoon (May 22)



Figure 5. Guard on log boom (May 22)

5.0 Discussion and Recommendations

A key challenge for goose management in Harrison Hot Springs is that few Canada geese appear to nest within Village boundaries, and those that do are not nesting on public lands. Observations of guard geese indicated that most nests were located north of the Village, on marina infrastructure, private docks, and other shoreline features. Following hatching, geese moved from nesting sites to the relative safety of the Village, where extensive lawn areas provide abundant forage. This nesting and brood-rearing pattern is common with geese and has been observed by EBB at similar locations throughout British Columbia.

The increase in goose numbers observed during May also suggested that local nesting birds represent only part of the issue. Harrison Hot Springs appears to support moulting geese from a much broader region during the summer months. Consequently, effective management will require cooperation among the Village, private landowners, marina operators, and neighbouring jurisdictions to address both nesting and moulting populations.

Goose management is a long-term undertaking, and no single technique will provide immediate relief to reducing conflicts. A management program must utilize a range of techniques, seasonally timed to humanely and effectively control geese and their impacts. Like all waterfowl in Canada, geese are protected under the federal *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and pursuant Migratory Birds Regulations. Harrison Hot Springs should be aware of mitigation techniques allowable and suitable under the regulations. The Handbook, *Canada and Cackling Geese: Management in Southern Canada* outlines techniques allowable in Canada. A list of recommendations appropriate for Harrison Hot Springs is provided below.

1. Regional Partnerships

Geese that seasonally use in Harrison Hot Springs appeared to be from a broader geographic area. Collaboration with private landowners, marina operators, and adjacent jurisdictions will allow for a larger-scale, more effective approach to management. This will be key to success in Harrison Hot Springs.

2. Public Education

Effective communication is a critical component of goose management. Many residents and visitors may be unaware that temperate-nesting Canada geese result from introduced populations (Campbell et al. 1990). As a result, the public may not fully appreciate the environmental, recreational, and public health impacts associated with high goose densities.

Harrison Hot Springs should provide consistent messaging regarding management objectives and activities while promoting a humane, science-based approach. Public education initiatives should discourage feeding waterfowl, interfering with management activities, or treating goslings as pets. Educational materials should be reviewed periodically and updated to reflect current management practices and regulatory requirements.

3. Habitat Management

Habitat modification and exclusion measures are an effective means of reducing issues at high-conflict areas. For example, installing shrubs, vegetation buffers, or fencing between shorelines and maintained lawn areas can discourage geese from accessing parks and recreational spaces. Designating alternative areas where geese are tolerated may also help direct birds away from priority public-use areas.

4. Scare Program

Harrison Hot Springs should examine the feasibility of hiring a contractor to haze geese at peak conflict sites prior to moult to prevent geese from establishing at key sites in the summer. Hazing could include dogs, trained birds of prey, noise, laser lights or windmills. As with habitat management, some areas could be left so that geese learn which areas are safe.

5. Nest Management

Part of working with regional partnerships is the ability to coordinate nest management across a region. Establish a nest management protocol so that when nests occur, eggs can be humanely added. This is a long-term approach to population control i.e.; nests must be treated each year as long as nesting geese are present. Adding must be done with authorization under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* following specific protocols (CWS 2011b).

6. Population Management

There are several forms of population management available to assist with Canada goose management, they are:

- a) Round-up and relocation—the collection of all geese when they are in moult and cannot fly. This is typically mid-to late June each year. Relocation is a temporary measure to alleviate pressure in the summer and prevent goslings from imprinting on the moult area. Relocation is suitable provided a site can be found that will accept the geese and must also be done with authorization under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (CWS 2011a).
- b) A last option is for geese to be rounded up in moult and killed. CWS, of Environment and Climate Change Canada may consider offering authorization for this option if other management options have been tried and repeatedly failed.

CWS Permit Officers, when considering applications for nest and population management options, prefer to see a well-thought-out management plan with specific objectives. CWS provides a template in their document *Best Practices for Management Plans* (CWS 2011c). The plan can be prepared following the CWS template or by a professional biologist. References and additional resources are listed in Section 5, including links to permit applications and management protocols.

6.0 References and Resources

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<https://www.harrisonhotsprings.ca/village-office/public-notices/may-20-2025-regular-council-meeting-highlights>

Humane Society of the United States. 2009. Canada Goose Egg Addling Protocol, the Humane Society of the United States Wild Neighbours program. Humane Society of the United States, Washington, USA.

Mowbray, T. B., C. R. Ely, J. S. Sedinger, and R. E. Trost. 2002. Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*). In The birds of North America, no. 682. A. Poole and F. Gill, editors. The birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Smith, D.W., G. White and G. Grigg. 2005. A Handbook for the Control of Problem Canada Geese, Revision 2005. Environment Canada Canadian Wildlife Service Pacific Wildlife Research Centre, Delta BC.

File No: 3900-02
Date: July 13, 2026

To: Mayor and Council
From: Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Subject: Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026 be introduced and given first reading;

THAT Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026 be given second reading; and

THAT staff be directed to conduct public education and engagement regarding the draft bylaw and report back to Council with the results prior to consideration of third reading and adoption.

SUMMARY

To present a draft Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026 for Council's consideration.

BACKGROUND

At the June 1, 2026 regular Council meeting, Council approved the following recommendation of the Environmental Advisory Committee:

THAT Council direct staff to research a bylaw prohibiting certain herbicides for cosmetic purposes.

RC-2026-06-09

Herbicides are a type of pesticide. The term pesticide is used in provincial legislation and defined as a material intended to destroy, repel or mitigate a pest. For consistency, staff have used the term pesticide which captures a wide range of products including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides.

Section 8(3)(j) of the *Community Charter* grants Council the authority to regulate, by bylaw, the protection of the natural environment. Section 9(1)(b) of the *Community Charter* further specifies that bylaws of this nature are also a matter of Provincial interest. Accordingly, a bylaw adopted under this section must be either in accordance with any applicable regulations, in accordance with an agreement between the Village and the Province, or approved by the appropriate minister. In this case, there is an applicable regulation that addresses pesticide use bylaws.

Section 2(b)(ii) of the *Sphere of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation* allows a municipality to regulate “the application of pesticides, except excluded pesticides, for

the purpose of maintaining outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers, other ornamental plants and turf on a parcel or a part of a parcel if the parcel or part is used for residential purposes, or on land vested in the municipality.”

Excluded pesticides are defined in Schedule 2 the *Integrated Pest Management Regulation* which contains a list of 51 pesticides that Council may not regulate. These range from vinegar-based herbicides for weeds and insecticidal soaps for aphids, to swimming pool algicides and zinc strips to control moss growth on roofs. Council may regulate any pesticide that is not included in Schedule 2. Further, Council may only regulate pesticide use for the specific purpose of what is commonly referred to as “cosmetic” or “non-essential” use on residential or public land.

Section 2(2) of the *Sphere of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation* further restricts Council’s ability to regulate pesticides by explicitly stating that a Council may not regulate the use of pesticides “for the management of pests that transmit human disease or impact agriculture or forestry, on the residential area of farms, to buildings or inside buildings, or on land used for agriculture, forestry, transportation, public utilities or pipelines unless the public utility or pipeline is vested in the municipality”.

Several local governments throughout the Province have enacted bylaws to regulate cosmetic pesticide use within the framework allowed by the provincial legislation. As pesticides are regulated both federally and provincially, and the Province has very narrowly defined local government authority on this matter, local government bylaws tend to be similar in content in structure.

DISCUSSION

Attached to this report is a draft Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026 for Council’s consideration. The bylaw restricts the use of pesticides, other than excluded pesticides. It provides for exceptions that align with provincial legislation and allows for the use of pesticides by the Village to protect infrastructure or for public safety purposes. The bylaw permits pesticide use to control noxious weeds or alien invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan blackberry, Yellow flag, English ivy and Scotch broom. This also aligns with the Village’s Property Maintenance Bylaw No. 1072, 2015 which requires property owners not to allow the accumulation of noxious weeds or invasive plants on their property.

A final exception is the use of pesticides by a certified person or company for the purposes of addressing an infestation. For example, the Japanese Beetle was the subject of a recent pest alert by the Province¹ and an infestation might require the application of a larvicide (which is a type of pesticide) by a certified applicator. An infestation is defined in the bylaw as a condition that poses the risk of significant loss to plants, property, health or safety. By defining infestation and restricting the use of pesticides to only a certified person or company, the intent of the bylaw is to prevent a property owner from using a product such as glyphosate to treat common lawn weeds such as dandelion or clover.

If adopted, this bylaw would impact all residential properties and public lands in the Village. The bylaw is technical and refers to several different pieces of legislation and regulations. While the proposed bylaw established clear restrictions, enforcement may be challenging in practice.

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/plant-health/insects-and-plant-diseases/nursery-and-ornamentals/japanese-beetle>

Determining whether a pesticide has been applied, identifying the specific product used, and confirming the purpose of its use can be difficult unless it was directly observed or admitted to by the property owner. Even if bylaw enforcement officers were to receive a complaint, confirming that an offence took place could be difficult. For these reasons, the success of the bylaw will largely depend on community awareness and education rather than enforcement alone. Community support and understanding of the purpose of the bylaw, the potential environmental and health impacts associated with cosmetic pesticide use and the alternative methods available for managing pests will be the key factor for ensuring that this bylaw achieves its intended purpose.

Staff are recommending that the Village conduct public education and engagement prior to considering third reading and adoption, with the goal of:

- Informing the public of the purpose and proposed regulations in the draft bylaw
- Providing clear examples of what would and would not be permitted
- Assessing current community understanding and awareness of pesticide use
- Gathering public feedback on the proposed bylaw to determine whether there are any unintended consequences or limitations
- Evaluating the current level of community support
- Identifying information gaps to inform future educational and voluntary compliance efforts

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

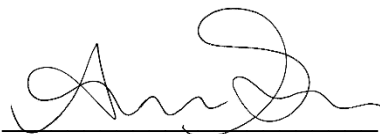
Adopting the proposed bylaw is not expected to have a significant financial impact. Any costs associated with public education or bylaw enforcement would be provided for by existing budget. If the bylaw is adopted, staff would bring forward an amendment to the Schedule of Designated Bylaw Contraventions and Penalties outlined in Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 855, 2009. Council would consider the penalty amounts at that time. Preliminary research indicates that a typical range is between \$100-\$300 per offence.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

2025-2026 Strategic Plan

Environmental Protection – To restore and protect the environment for future generations.

Respectfully submitted:



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

Reviewed by:



Tyson Koch
Chief Administrative Officer

Financial considerations reviewed by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Schultz', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Scott Schultz
Chief Financial Officer, Deputy CAO

Attachment: Draft Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026

A BYLAW TO REGULATE THE USE OF PESTICIDES

WHEREAS the Village of Harrison Hot Springs has deemed it advisable to establish a bylaw to regulate the use of pesticides for non-essential purposes in Harrison Hot Springs,

NOW THEREFORE in open meeting assembled, Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs enacts as follows:

1. CITATION

This bylaw may be cited as “Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026”.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this bylaw:

“Alien Invasive Species” has the same meaning as in the *Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation B.C. Reg. 144/2004* as amended from time to time

“Certified Applicator” means an individual who holds a valid Pesticide use certificate issued under the *Integrated Pest Management Act [SBC 2003] Chapter 58* and *Integrated Pest Management Regulation, B.C. Reg. 604/2004* as amended from time to time

“Cosmetic Purpose” means for the purpose of maintaining outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers, ornamental plants and turf

“Excluded Pesticide” has the same meaning as in the *Integrated Pest Management Regulation, B.C. Reg. 604/2004* as amended from time to time

“Infestation” means the presence of Pests in numbers or under conditions that pose a risk of significant loss or damage to outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers, ornamental plants, property, public health or safety

“Invasive Plant” has the same meaning as in the *Invasive Plants Regulation B.C. Reg 18/2004* as amended from time to time

“Licensed Pest Management Company” means a business holding a valid Pesticide use licence issued under the *Integrated Pest Management Act [SBC 2003] Chapter 58* and *Integrated Pest Management Regulation, B.C. Reg. 604/2004* as amended from time to time

“Municipal Land” means land vested in or owned by the Village

“Noxious Weed” has the same meaning as defined in the *Weed Control Act [RSBC 1996] Chapter 487* as amended from time to time

“Pest” has the same meaning as defined in the *Integrated Pest Management Act [SBC 2003] Chapter 58* as amended from time to time

“Pesticide” means a micro-organism or material that is represented, sold, used or intended to be used to prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate a Pest, and includes:

- (a) a plant growth regulator, plant defoliator or plant desiccant;
- (b) a pest control product as defined in the *Pest Control Products Act (Canada, S.C. 2002, c.28)* as amended from time to time; and
- (c) a Pesticide regulated under the *Integrated Pest Management Act [SBC 2003] Chapter 58* as amended from time to time

“Residential Property” means a parcel or part of a parcel used for residential purposes

“Village” means the Village of Harrison Hot Springs

3. PROHIBITION

Except as otherwise permitted by this bylaw, no person may apply, cause to be applied or permit the application of a Pesticide for Cosmetic Purposes on Municipal Land or a Residential Property.

4. EXCEPTIONS

Section 3 of this bylaw does not apply in respect of:

- (a) The use or application of an Excluded Pesticide; or
- (b) The use or application of a Pesticide:
 - i. For the management of Pests that transmit human diseases or impact agriculture or forestry;
 - ii. On the residential areas of farms;
 - iii. On or inside a building;
 - iv. On land used for agriculture, forestry, transportation, public utilities or pipelines;
 - v. By the Village for the purposes of infrastructure protection or public safety;
 - vi. The control or eradication of an Alien Invasive Species, Invasive Plant or Noxious Weed; or
 - vii. By a Certified Applicator or Licensed Pest Management Company for the sole purpose of controlling or eradicating an Infestation.

5. OFFENCE AND PENALTIES

- (a) This bylaw is designated as a bylaw that may be enforced by means of a bylaw notice.

- (b) Every person who violates any provision of this bylaw or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention or in violation of any of the provisions of this bylaw, or who neglects to do or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence and is subject to a fine by bylaw notice.
- (c) Each day that a violation is permitted to exist constitutes a separate offence.

6. SEVERABILITY

If any portion of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed, and the decision will not affect the validity of the remainder of this bylaw.

7. READINGS AND ADOPTION

READ A FIRST TIME this ____ day of ____, 2026

READ A SECOND TIME this ____ day of ____, 2026

READ A THIRD TIME this ____ day of ____, 2026

ADOPTED this ____ day of ____, 2026

Fred Talen
Mayor

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer

Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw – Draft Public Engagement Content

Background

Based on a recommendation from the Environmental Advisory Committee, Council gave first two readings to Pesticide Use Regulation Bylaw No. 1245, 2026.

What is this bylaw and why is it needed?

- This draft bylaw aims to regulate the use of certain pesticides for cosmetic purposes on residential and public land in Harrison Hot Springs.
- Before adopting this bylaw, we are seeking community feedback.
- A cosmetic pesticide bylaw:
 - Protects local waterways from pesticide runoff which helps maintain water quality and the safety of the beaches, lakefront and natural environment;
 - Helps protect pollinators and wildlife like bees, butterflies, birds, and other species that contribute to healthy ecosystems;
 - Reduces chemical exposure to residents and pets in parks, boulevards, residential neighbourhoods and other public spaces; and
 - Supports the Village's strategic priority of Environmental Protection – to restore and protect the environment for future generations.

What is a pesticide?

- The term “pesticide” means anything used to prevent, destroy or repel troublesome organisms
- This catch-all term covers insecticides, herbicides and fungicides

What is cosmetic use?

- Cosmetic use means maintaining outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers, ornamental plants and turf.
- The draft bylaw **only applies to cosmetic use**.
- It does not apply to the use of pesticides on or inside a building, or to control [alien invasive species](#), [invasive plants](#) or [noxious weeds](#).
- It also does not apply to the use of pesticides by a certified applicator or company for the specific purpose of controlling an infestation of pests that could significantly damage or destroy gardens and turf.

Which pesticides are allowed?

- Pesticides listed in schedule 2 of the [*Integrated Pest Management Regulation*](#) can be used for any purpose, including cosmetic use.
- This includes vinegar-based herbicides, garden sulphur, insecticidal soaps, corn gluten meal and iron-based weed killers.

What pesticides are prohibited?

- If the pesticide does not appear in schedule 2 above, then its use would not be permitted for cosmetic purposes.
- This includes synthetic chemical pesticides such as glyphosate, 2,4-D, malathion, carbaryl and diazinon.
- These types of pesticides are not targeted to a specific pest and can impact other types of plants, animals and insects.

Let the Weeds Go Wild

- Dandy Dandelions: Leave the perfect lawns to the golf courses and consider letting those dandelions flourish. Dandelions provide early spring food for pollinators, like bees and small birds. Their deep roots don't only make them hard to pull – they also bring up minerals from underground contributing to soil health and break up hard soil.
- Clever Clover: Clover also provides early spring food for pollinators. Did you know that it acts as a natural fertilizer by releasing rich nitrogen into the soil? It's low maintenance – it requires little mowing, much less water than grass, and no fertilizing. It often stays green even during hot dry spells.
- Magic Moss: Moss can pull carbon dioxide from the air, filter water and provide shelter for insects.

Keep Streams and Waterways Naturally Refreshed

- This bylaw can help reduce the amount of chemical pesticides being washed into storm drains, ditches, streams and lakes.

- Less chemicals in our waterways means protecting sensitive ecosystems, like the Miami River, which has been identified as a critical habitat for endangered species like the [Salish Sucker](#)
- Our waterways are home to many diverse flora and fauna; from tiny insects, to fish, birds and mammals.

We want to hear from you

- Choosing lower risk, targeted pesticides for cosmetic purposes starts with homeowners.
- When we work together to use products that are safer for the environment, we have a better chance at making a meaningful difference in the health and wellbeing of our local ecosystems.
- We want to hear from you – take our short survey and let us know your thoughts about this proposed bylaw and other suggestions to strengthen environmental stewardship efforts in our community.

Public Engagement Options

- Survey
- Contest or recognition program
- Knowledge test
- Fun Fact Fridays
- Chart for permitted pesticides vs. prohibited pesticides
- Connecting with landscaping companies/contractors