

For Immediate Release
BC Deer Protection Coalition

City of Cranbrook puts a whole new meaning on Valentine's Day



Picture this beautiful deer with her brains blown out with a dead bolt gun.

February 14, 2013:

Today on Valentine's Day, Cranbrook City Council will decide whether to proceed in the next few weeks with a cruel and regressive deer cull.

Cranbrook voted to conduct a second cull in the spring of 2012 but in October Cranbrook officials announced that the cull was on hold pending the Invermere court challenge.

In the Vancouver Sun (October 6, 2012) Mayor Stetski expressed concern about repercussions if the court finds fault with Invermere's methods since Cranbrook relied on the same public involvement process.

<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/sun/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=24bf2502-8839-4732-839b-5c7b2f937a54>

Now, despite the Mayor's concerns, rumour has it that Cranbrook Council plans to cull deer over the next few weeks. To confirm the rumour of a pending cull, members of the BC Deer Protection Coalition (BCDPC) sought confirmation from city and provincial staff.

"We asked a very simple question – will the City of Cranbrook be culling deer this spring," said Colleen Bailey, spokesperson, Humane Treatment of Urban Wildlife (HTUW), a member of the BCDPC. "It is either yes they will or no they will not. Why can we not get a simple answer?"

According to Mayor Stetski, Cranbrook Council will be meeting behind closed doors and away from public scrutiny to decide how to proceed and what to tell Cranbrook residents and the broader public about a deer cull.

"Perhaps we will have our questions answered tomorrow after the secret council meeting," Bailey continued. "But given how City officials have refused to answer our questions, I would not assume anything."

"The more important question remains unanswered," said Devin Kazakoff, spokesperson for the Invermere Deer Protection Society (IPDS) and a member of the BCDPC. "Why was the Mayor worried about Invermere's court case in October 2012 and not in February 2013? Nothing has changed. Our case is moving forward. We will likely never know because Cranbrook has discussed this controversial cull behind closed doors and without taxpayers oversight. Cranbrook residents will be footing the bill. They deserve to be part of the discussion."

The BCDPC has taken out a full page ad today in Cranbrook Daily Townsman and Bulletin seeking help from Cranbrook residents should the cull proceed.

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For further information:

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