









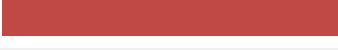


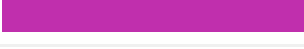

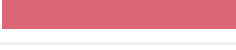






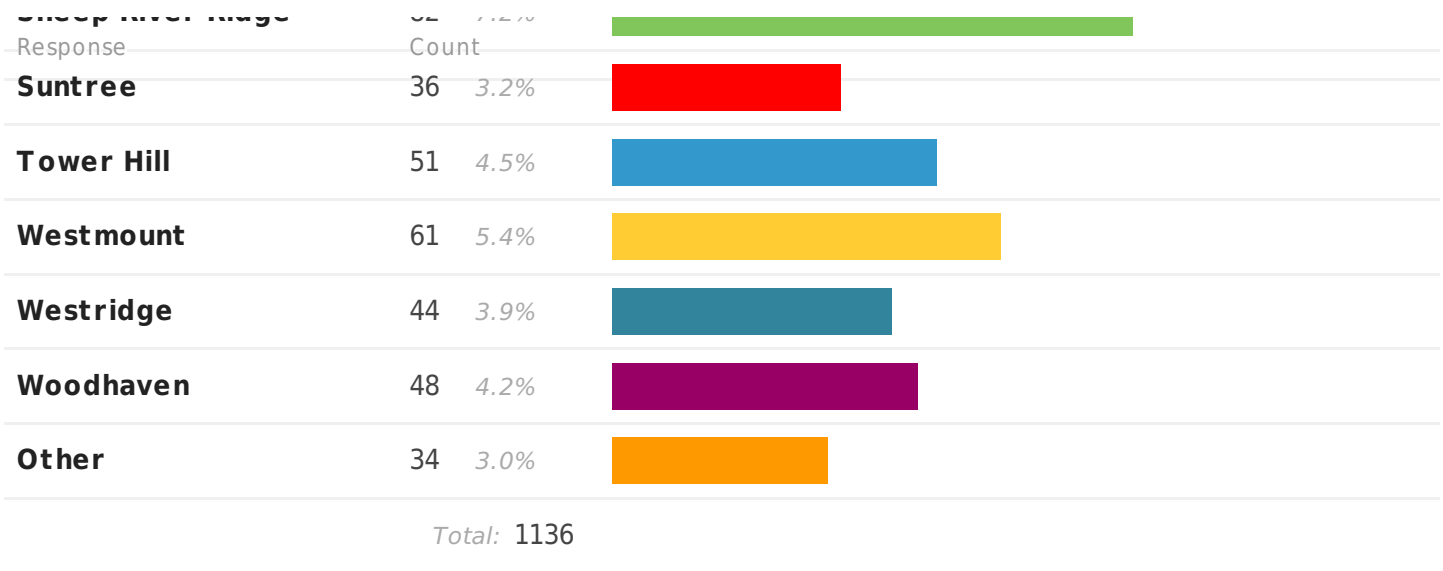


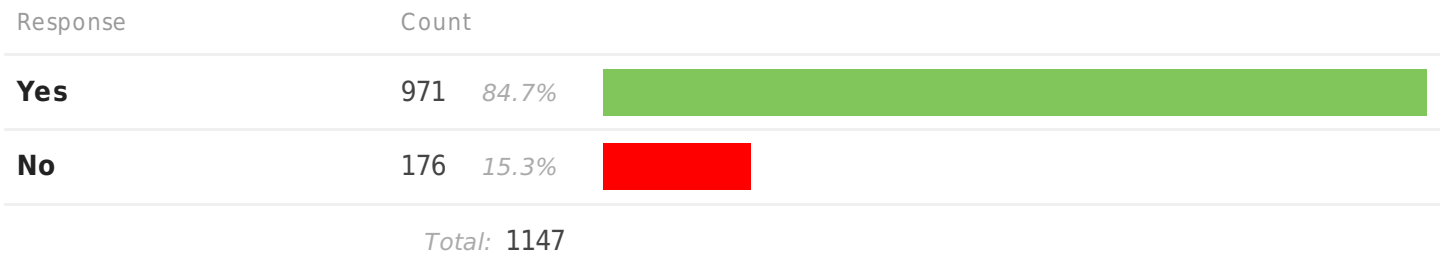
# Deer Survey

1. In what community do you reside?

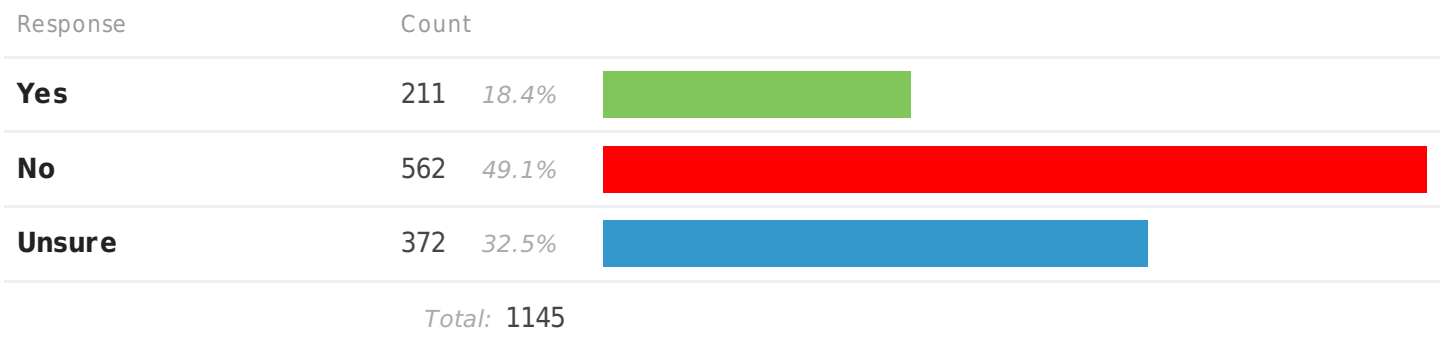
Response	Count	
<b>Air Ranch</b>	32 2.8%	
<b>Central Heights</b>	31 2.7%	
<b>Cimarron Estates</b>	21 1.8%	
<b>Cimarron Grove</b>	35 3.1%	
<b>Cimarron Hill</b>	22 1.9%	
<b>Cimarron Meadows</b>	37 3.3%	
<b>Cimarron Park</b>	30 2.6%	
<b>Cimarron Springs</b>	17 1.5%	
<b>Cimarron Vista</b>	23 2.0%	
<b>Cornerstone</b>	2 0.2%	
<b>Crystal Green</b>	53 4.7%	
<b>Crystal Shores</b>	101 8.9%	
<b>Crystalridge</b>	74 6.5%	
<b>Downey Ridge</b>	48 4.2%	
<b>Drake Landing</b>	128 11.3%	
<b>Heritage Okotoks</b>	37 3.3%	
<b>Hunter's Glen</b>	13 1.1%	
<b>MD of Foothills</b>	24 2.1%	
<b>Mountain View</b>	22 1.9%	
<b>Rosemont</b>	22 1.9%	
<b>Sandstone</b>	8 0.7%	
<b>Sheen River Ridge</b>	82 7.2%	



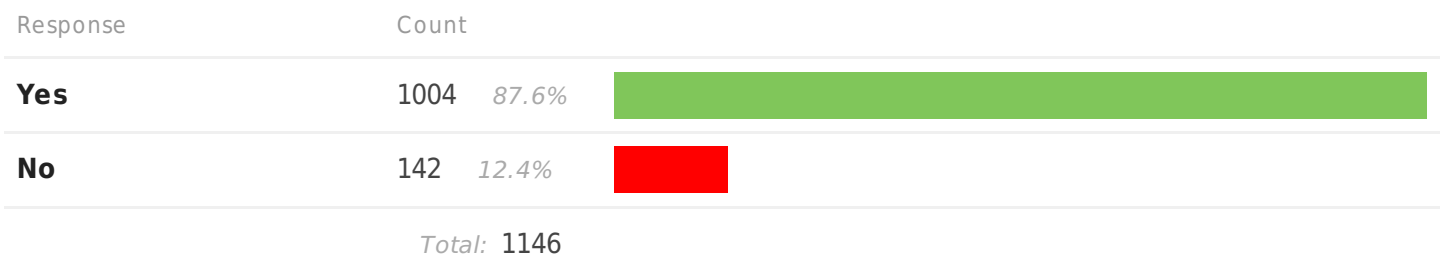
2. Are you aware the Town of Okotoks has a bylaw that prohibits feeding wildlife?



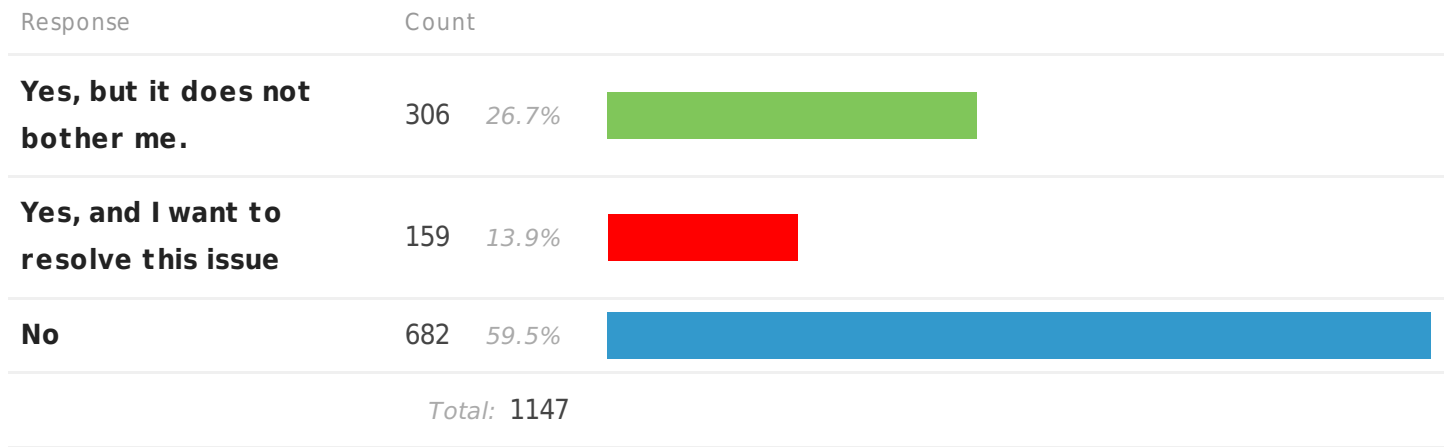
3. Do you think feeding the deer is a common issue in Okotoks?



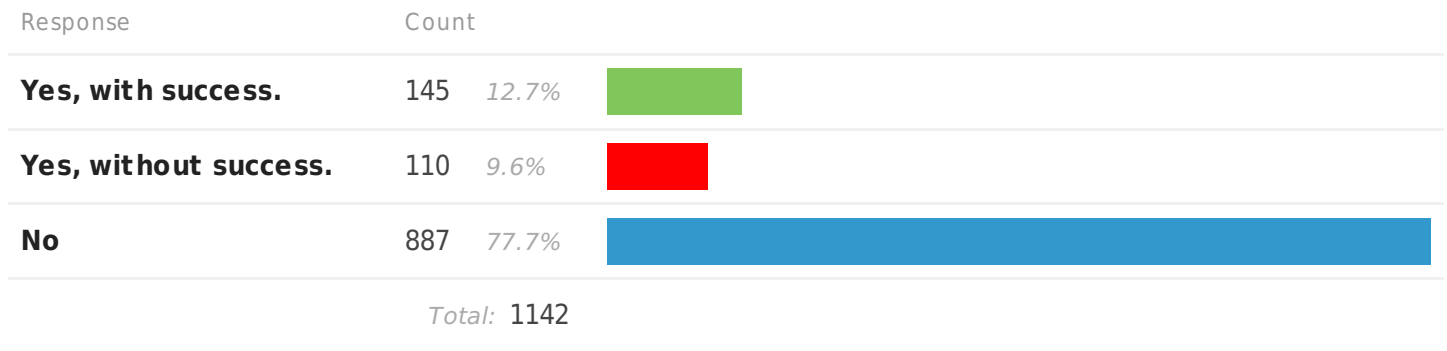
4. Do you feel safe outside in the presence of deer?



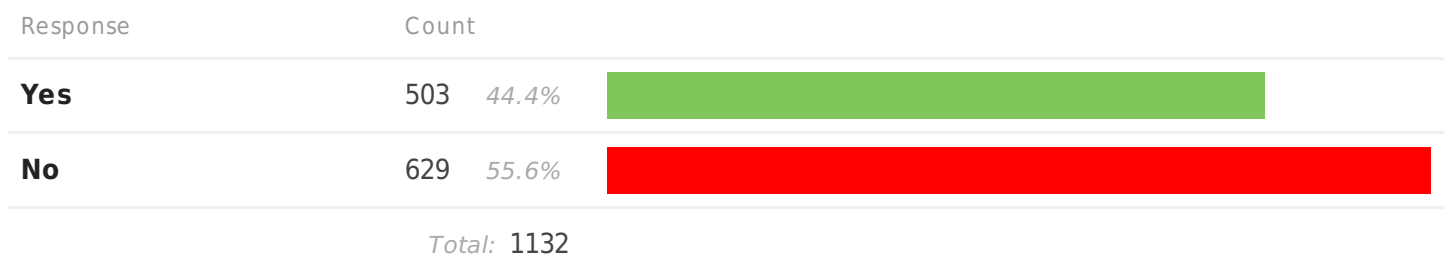
5. Are the deer damaging your yard and/or garden?



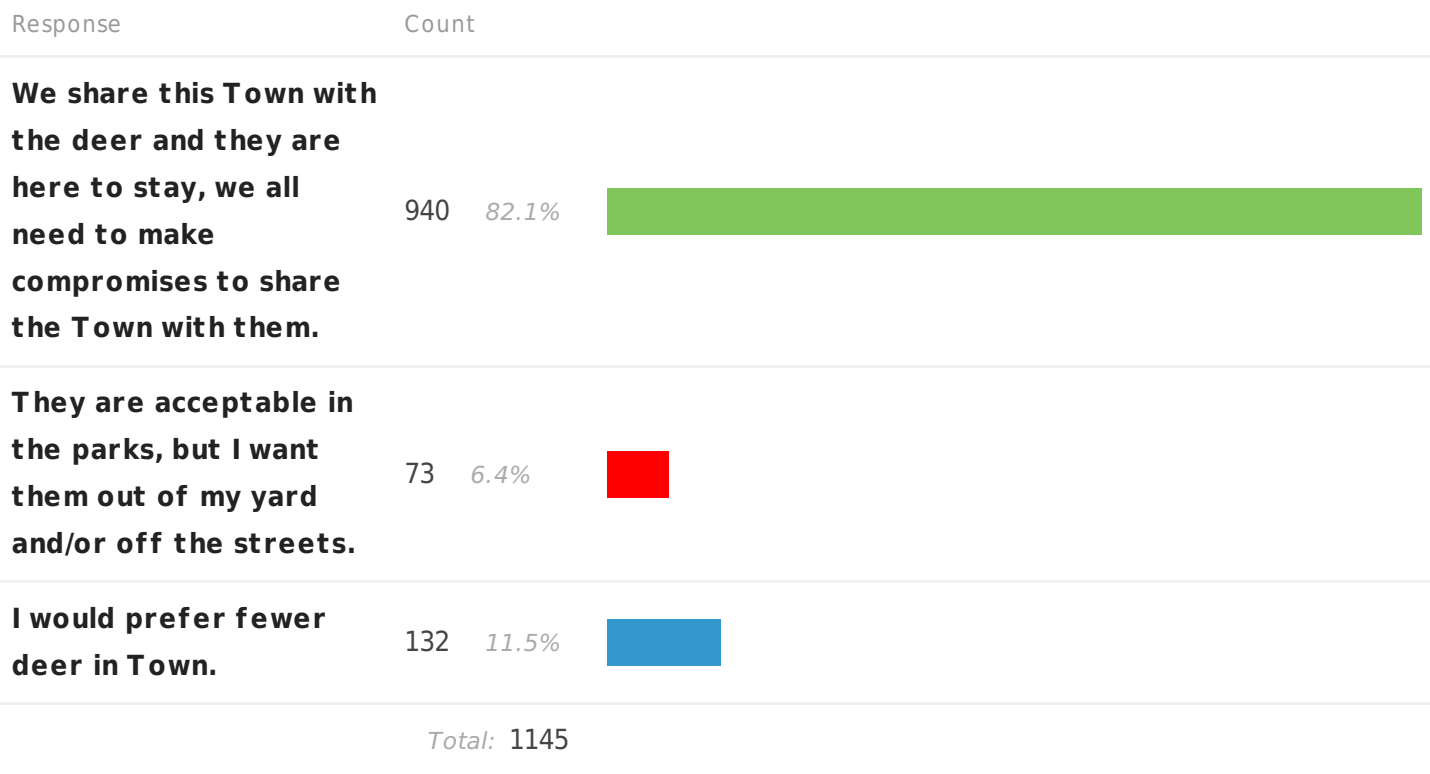
6. Have you used deer deterrent strategies in your yard such as chemical repellents, fencing, deer-resistant plantings, motion sprinklers, etc?



7. Would you be willing to participate in a community wide deer count? It's expected to require 1-2 hours of time per volunteer in the fall of 2015.



8. What is your general attitude towards deer?



9. Please provide any additional comments you'd like to share:

Response	Count
	673 responses

We love the deer and welcome them to come in our yard it's great to so nature up close

We LOVE the deer that appear frequently in our front yard. They will often nibble on our plant life however we would NOT consider their late night feasting as damaging our yard or plant life. We are also more than happy to clean up any droppings that they may leave behind. The plant life that they do nibble on is abundant and existed before we moved into our home in 2008. Any annual plants that we choose to plant, we deliberately select those that are deemed to be non appetizing to the deer and they do not feast on them. We have our backyard fenced in such a manner that deer cannot access for we do have a large garden. We have never fed the deer nor would ever consider doing so but I do know of a lady who lives in the downtown area that does regularly buy food and leaves water out for them. I was not aware of the bylaw but it makes sense and I will share the fact with her. Side note: We had relatives visiting from Australia a couple of years back. They landed in Vancouver and drove to Okotoks. Along the journey they never say any large wildlife until they reached our home. When they pulled up, to their delight, there were multiple deer in our front yard. They still talk about it and I am sure they have told many stories to others around the world about their great wildlife experience in Okotoks. We also have a neighborhood fox that is a delight to see when he/she allows us to. We live in AB, close to the rockies, we share the area with wildlife. To see deer often in the streets makes us aware of this shared experience. Citizens can slow down driving, be aware of surroundings walking, etc. All things that should be happening anyways. The presence of deer makes us

more alert and aware. All good!

We often have the deer sleeping in our front yard. My family enjoy their visits. The four years we have lived here we have never felt harm from the deer. We have walked past them and respected them. I think it is outlandish that people want to cull the deer. The more we develop in their natural habitats the more we are going to see them in our neighbourhoods. It is outlandish to expect them to stay in the parks. We all need to learn to respect the deer.

For number 6 above, I would have preferred an option of "yes with limited success."

The deer use my yard as a through-way to get from Crystalridge Drive to the open space by the pond at the back - I can tell this by the tracks in the snow. They do eat my plants, but I have compromised over the years - I now plant daffodils and alliums instead of tulips, I wrapped a young tree this winter, after they stripped another young tree and killed it last winter, I have just got my husband to build a mesh cover for my raised vegetable bed, after I discovered a very handsome young buck lying in the middle of my yard last summer having a rest after clearing everything out of the veg bed (based on the footprints in the raised bed, he even had the cheek to stand in the bed whilst doing it, instead of just standing at the side!). I noticed last week that this winter they have completely stripped a Birds Nest Spruce, which has been in my yard for six years - and which they have never touched at all in the past. To me, the most annoying thing is the deer poop everywhere in my yard - but it doesn't take too long to clear up a "winter's worth" in the spring. I find that the deer don't come into the yard anywhere near as much in the summer as in the winter, so that isn't quite as much of an issue in the summer. In my opinion, we should share our space with the local wildlife.

I believe we are lucky at this point - to live in a small enough community that we can still share our town with nature - living in the country, and in a town - it is only natural that we will have deer and other animals coming through and/or living here. I back onto the Crystal Green golf course, and we love that we can look out our back window and see deer coming through. They are not harming anyone, they are peaceful and beautiful. Please leave them be.

Leave the deer alone, nature does a fine job of regulating itself; control the stupid people that are creating the problems. The deer come into our yard and do a little grazing from time to time (primarily on the plants/grasses that are native to their environment), but there is no harm in that. They even pay us back for the bit of food they eat by providing free natural fertilizer to make our grass a little greener. We even had a doe birth and shelter two fawns in our yard last year until they were strong enough to follow her around. We can live together; if the deer are smart enough to adapt, surely we can train our stupid people how to adapt as well.

The deer have as much right to be here as we do. They are an attraction for the town. Maybe the creation of a 'Deer Park' could serve to centralize the population and provide an educational facility where people can feed and observe the animals. They could also serve to slow traffic down in community areas.

More lighting along 32nd and perhaps Elizabeth street going towards 32nd to help see the deer better  
More education about when the deer become dangerous - mom with babies and rutting season

The deer have just started coming to my area on Cimarron Drive in the last year so we haven't tried any

strategies to keep them away. This year I planted deer resistant plants but they aren't up yet so haven't started working. My teenage daughters are scared to walk some places because they're scared the deer will chase them. I think something should be done to move the deer out of town because I feel although they are nice to look at they're still wild animals and are unpredictable. Having the deer wander around town through yards and on busy streets is a danger to the deer as well as the citizens. We aren't a national park and don't have the speeds or slower paced lifestyle to accommodate wildlife in town, nor do I think we should be/act like a national park.

I have lived in Okotoks since 1998 and love the feel of the town with the deer population. There is something wonderful about seeing them wander around the town. Sharing with them speaks volumes about who we as a community are. Go to the city and see all the plastic deer people use as lawn ornaments I am happy to have the real thing. Leave them alone - live and let live. We don't have a right own everything.

please let them be, they were here before us. Thank you

I presume the Deer were here first, so we should understand that we are invading their space and learn to live with them. If residents have issues with garden/plant destruction, perhaps they should be responsible for taking measures to protect their property - netting, fencing etc. There must be plenty of deterrents out there for those who don't enjoy seeing these animals around. If the deer become aggressive, then they should be dealt with accordingly, not just because they are trying to survive. Maybe look at setting up designated feeding stations where they could go in areas where there are most deer, which may entice them out of gardens?

Frankly the deer were one of the deciding factors for me moving here, as well as the population cap. The population cap was removed and now talk of removing the deer? My family and myself enjoy them and those who don't need to adapt. This was their land first and with the building of new homes we are talking away more of their land. We can live peacefully. Honestly the deer are some of the nicer residents I have met in Okotoks.

Watching the deer on my street is one of my greatest pleasures living in Okotoks. I love the deer!

We live in a community along in an area where deer naturally live. I believe we need to educate new citizens to that reality. Do not feed the deer, rabbits or any other wild life in town.

We need to share our town with these animals. We have encroached with our growing size and the wildlife affected need to be protected. I love Okotoks because of the closeness we can enjoy with nature - the river and its environment is beautiful. If, during a walk, we get to see deer or owls, it is all the better for it. I feel very fortunate to be able to share this with our young son just as we were able to experience nature when we were children. It is a very valuable education for our children. They need to recognize the importance of their stewardship of their environment as they also get to enjoy a great town to live it.

As the person responsible for aircraft and pilot safety at Okotoks Air Ranch Airport, the deer are a huge safety risk at the airport. The physical mass of a deer is no match for an aircraft of any size. The coulee and environmental reserve that borders the airport is a literal pathway from the airport to the river. It is perfect

habitat for the deer in terms of food source, water and safety (bedding areas).

The risks that the deer present for the airport is sizeable. A bylaw against feeding resulting in a fine, if it were to ever occur, will be meaningless to the pilot that strikes a deer that will result in massive equipment damage and perhaps a loss of human life.

The airport has a scare permit from Alberta Wildlife, but scaring and attempting to control by habitat is meaningless because of the environment around the airport (homes, residents who treat them as pets, and the land and its topography).

In our specific situation, it will require moving or culling the herd. There is no other option.

The deer have always been here, I grew up in town and I have lots of stories about the deer. I feel like we should leave them alone.

I enjoy the deer but they get a little too close. I know of 2 houses on my street that leave food out where the deer gather and when my neighbor called to report it, she was told nothing could be done unless she sees someone actually hand feeding a deer. I've had up to ten deer sleeping on my small front lawn and they do not leave if I am sitting on my deck a few feet away. I will not go to my vehicle. My husband came home from work one night and him and a deer surprised each other at the side of the house and he was rushed at by a very large one. I do love the deer but there are just too many and my front lawn is usually covered with deer droppings.

Us deer were here first. You humans moved here!

I believe we need to teach children the safety of wild life..do not feed, approach, etc...but I have absolutely NO problem with them in this town. After all, we are taking over there land. I feel if the decision is made to "kill" them or whatever the plans are, I will be extremely disgusted with this town and its actions. I can't believe people attitude towards this. A life is more precious than a bush or a flower.

I haven't seen people feeding deer, but I do see deer feeding from low hanging bird feeders. I have seen people in the Tucker Hill condos feeding the foxes.

All too often we see nature as being separate from us when, in reality, we are a part of nature. We should try to live in harmony with nature rather than view it as something we can change at will, often for cosmetic reasons.

I may reconsider volunteering depending on what the outcome is. I feel that these deer need to be left alone. I have been online and read some of the comments and so far they are all in favor of keeping them. I love having the deer around. To me, it's part of the charm of Okotoks. We are expanding into their land and they have no where else to go. Why don't we try to live WITH them instead of trying to figure out ways to get rid of them? I see no problems with leaving them here. I know when I have people come and visit they love seeing the deer. Please leave them alone. I would be so disappointed in the town if they decided to interfere with them.

I believe that the first step is to ensure that people stop feeding the deer. We lived in downtown Okotoks for a little while during the winter and there were a couple of houses who kept putting out food for the deer in

their front yard - this needs to be stopped. I also don't believe that the deer population is posing a problem; in 6 years of living in Okotoks we have never had any issues with deer. The animals were here before the town was, so we should learn to live with them and behave accordingly. Has the town actually made a proper assessment of the deer population? Has there been any study regarding how many accidents in town involve deer? Without this information it is impossible to say if the town actually has a deer problem. I also believe that the public should be consulted once these figures are available regarding a solution, if indeed there is a deer problem.

I like the deer, it still gives Okotoks a small town feel as it grows. And in my experience they have not harmed anyone or anything. I think it gives the town some character. and really, they only come out in quiet times... mostly in the night or when there is nothing around them. I say leave them be!

I agree that a plan should be in place to manage wildlife in the town and to cull the deer if necessary. A large deer population will likely attract dangerous predators.

The deer population in Okotoks is part of the deal. My kids love them, we love seeing them, they have never been a nuisance to us. Let's just let them be.

The deer have always been here, it is their home as much as ours. Okotoks is getting bigger because people want the smaller community and that is wonderful, but the deer are part of the package. If people don't like that we have the beauty of nature in a small town located in the foothills, well then they should move to a big city.

I have no problem with having deer walk through our yard.  
My family and I enjoy seeing the deer on our walks with the dogs.

I think they're fine, they were here first. Leave them be... I back on to a nature "belt" and the last two nights have had deer walking by & love it!! I think it's great that we're still quiet enough to see them often, you could live in Calgary where it's an odd site. Ppl need to be mindful that the deer were here first, that they need to garden accordingly (there are on expensive ways to garden), and watch the roads when driving... They need to take some responsibility & not waste town council time & money on something like this when there are more important & bigger issues to address.

We are invading on the deer and wildlife, not the other way around. We LOVE the deer around town. They are beautiful and peaceful and should be left alone. We are DISGUSTED that the town's focus right now is on the deer population when clearly the problems in this town are human related. Crime (theft, B&E, vandalism, violence) is skyrocketing; traffic is atrocious; kids can't get in to sports or their community schools. You know what there is an OVERPOPULATION of in this town?! Bars, liquor stores and fast food restaurants; NOT DEER.

I believe that there can be a compromise. There are many plants and bushes that are deer resistant and/or a deterrent and people should be educated about them. Maybe instead of paying money for culling or moving the deer, there could be a rebate program set up for people who deer-proof their yards. I have had deer in my front yard as evidenced by piles of poop, but it doesn't bother me that they are there as they aren't

hunting anything. Trying to mess with nature and believe that humans have any control over wild animals will

nurturing anything. Trying to mess with nature and believe that humans have any control over wild animals will always result in horrible consequences for either us or them. Please leave the deer alone and educate the humans.

Fines for feeding deer need to go up, and be monitored more closely.

My neighbours feed the deer. I feel that it is a danger to people and vehicles.

I think we should keep them, appreciate them and leave them alone. No feeding them, no bothering them...just enjoying them.

I am very frustrated that this is even an issue in the first place! The deer were here first and it is a responsibility for people to be educated on how to live in peace with the animals. Some say the bear and the cougars follow... I don't recall any recent bear sightings and the one or two cougars that have shown up here are probably not as a direct result of the deer that are here, otherwise we would have a lot more of them here. If people don't like being close to nature and wild life then get out of Okotoks!! Now can we get on to more important issues and use the tax dollars more wisely like trying to get more business to town and jobs!!

I believe the deer should be in the forest and not in the town.

Education and enforcement of bylaws regarding feeding are necessary to keep the deer population safe. Safe for the deer, people and pets who live in Okotoks. Feeding structures that are either inadvertently or purposefully meant to feed deer need to be removed, and neighbours need to have the ability to report and have resolution in regards to other neighbours feeding deer. Education and funding are also needed to help residents deer proof their yards and gardens. If the food is taken away, they will stay in the river valley and natural areas.

I love living with the deer in town. They're well behaved. They've never acted aggressively toward me or my dog. I've always found it easy to spot them when driving through. I think it would be a shame to curb their numbers. Thanks for making this survey.

While we share our space with urban wildlife (Deer, skunks, coyotes, moose, birds and others) the habituation of wildlife to humans is problematic. The deer in Okotoks seem to have little fear of humans and that can cause problems. I've witnessed deer in my area chasing house pets aggressively. Practices to reduce the amount of deer in town (not eliminate) might be a good idea. Educating the populace in practices to reduce the incidents of interaction with deer is important. A side note: I've seen our town deer make use of crosswalks and wait for street lights to change (in one case to cross and eat the flowers at town hall) and seem to have a better grasp of some of the rules for pedestrian use of roadways than some human residents in town. :)

I think it is ridiculous that energy and funds are being spent on this issue. I am a 25 year resident of Okotoks and welcome the deer.

People need to stop whining about this. The deer were here first.

Your question do not have enough choices of answers, such as do I feel safe in the presence of deer? yes/no, what about 'sometimes? Most of the time I feel safe with deer around, but when there is a buck between me and my front door I don't feel so safe!

We have a neighbour who feeds the deer using her bird feeder, hanging it so low the deer help themselves to it. We've called the bylaw and get told she isn't breaking the rules because she's allowed to feed the birds and it isn't her fault the deer can reach the feeder???. While ever there are loop holes like this in the rules the deer population will continue to come into the neighbourhoods searching for free handouts like this, instead of sticking closer to the parks and river areas.

I absolutely love when we see deer in town. It makes for a great teaching opportunity for my children

The deer population is fine, if we start forcing them out, then Okotoks loses the rural town feeling already more than it already has with all the big box stores. Honestly, if you want to focus on something important let's talk population cap! Let's talk traffic issues on Cimarron. The deer are the least of our concerns.

I encounter quite a few deer in the mornings and evenings when I take my dog for a walk. They are wary of the dog but don't bother us. I was very aware that moving into a town/smaller community, we would be sharing our lives with wildlife. My family does not wish the deer population to be culled. If the majority of Okotokians want the deer population to be reduced, I would be very much in favor of humane solutions/deer birth control.

I personally think this whole survey is ridiculous. The deer and any other wildlife were here before us. And that's that.

Why should we start controlling their population because we started invading their space?

I feel that this is a waste of tax payers dollars, and town halls time. Please find something better to do. Let the deer be. And this is coming from a family who hunts. Leave them alone.

Why are we so worried about the deer! I think we should be more concerned with the chickens that the town just approved!! Now we will have the foxes moving more into town with open prey handed to them!

The deer have been here as long as I lived in Okotoks 25 years so I don't think this is an issue. There is an easy solution and it has to do with fish and wildlife they have been making it harder for us hunters to obtain tags to hunt. Also land owners around the town do not allow hunting in there lands so unless these two things change the deer will continue to populate and with this other predators will follow ie mountain lions then a resident should worry. I have went out of my house to start my truck and deer have been in my yard and I enjoy watching them. (Identifying personal content removed).

Our only problem with the deer is the toll they take on our gardens, so I suppose you could say we are guilty of feeding them. We take a great deal of pride in our property and put a lot of effort and expense into making it look as beautiful as possible. Unfortunately, the deer see the result of our efforts as 'dinner'. We have tried everything legal to deter the animals without success. 20 years ago the deer frequented our yard only at night. Today, the animals are in our yard 24/7 and seem to have no fear of us. Though they have never been aggressive when we frighten them off they are becoming much bolder as time passes. It is not

never been aggressive when we frighten them on, they are becoming much bolder as time passes. It is not uncommon for them to continue eating if we walk quietly through the yard. They are definitely a problem that we would like to see dealt with.

I am very proud that I live in a town that has so far learned to co exist with wildlife. I think we could continue to be leaders in sustainability by using this as another example. Deer are not dangerous and with a little community education the town residents that "think they will trample our children" will understand these animals better

I have lived in Town since 1972. I've raised a family here and we like the deer in town, we let them be and it isn't an issue.

I like the "Town Deer" as we call them. It reminds me that we are all part of nature. My father at Sandstone Lodge is entertained for hours watching the deer outside his window. Great! Be careful not to run over them. They wander thru our front yard, down our driveway. No problem here. Keep our Town Deer.

The more we build the more deer are going to be in the community as we are encroaching on their habitat. We need to educate people how to act around the deer - if you are quiet and calm around them they are no problem. If people want a community with no deer they shouldn't be living in a rural town.

The deer in Okotoks are an important part of the community experience. They're on of few reasons that I live in Okotoks. Leave the deer alone and tell the deer antagonists to just shut up.

The deer have learnt to adapt to us being here and building more and more on their home as well as destroying their homes so why can't we adapt to them being around us and share the land. People also need to be more educated about the deer, for instants not to feed them.

I have no issue with them being here. Part of the reason I love Okotoks is the deer!

As the town grows we have to anticipate having to deal with wildlife - we encroach on their domain, they do not on ours. I am more worried about the odd coyote I see attacking my small dogs as opposed to the deer.

A growing town means that we are building on the land where the deer used to roam. Just because we want to grow and build, that doesn't mean we can kill or destroy what is in our path. If deer find new homes and new areas to roam as a result then we have to live with that, we are the reason they are here!

Waste of time and tax dollars to be worrying about the deer population. All the building and growth of okotoks over the last few years has pushed them out of their natural habitat. I think the community should let them be

I truly believe this is a non issue, and that the town is wasting time and our money on this pandering to a minority of people who have complained.... These animals will not cause issues with you if you move quietly and with respect... they do not attack people or other animals and on the VERY rare occasion that this may have happened is probably due to humans intimidating or scaring them.

Leave them alone and educate people more that it is harmful to feed them. Spend your time on that, if anything needs to be done. We continually build and grow with little to no regard for the wildlife around us.

As the town grows we are encroaching more on their habitat, we should learn to share. They are part of our community.

We quite enjoying seeing the deer in town, it's kind of comforting just like the train blowing it's horn on it's way through.

We've lived in Okotoks for more than 13 years. The deer have always been around. We see them in our front yard regularly and often encounter them while walking our two dogs.

We don't bother them (the dogs are always on leash) and they don't bother us.

It would be beneficial to see more community education programs around deer behaviour, safe deterrents, signage, plants and foods (bird seed) that attract deer and general safety. I think that we need to share our community with wildlife and people who feed them likely think that they are helping. Education would be a good first step. An amendment to the bylaws to prohibit the feeding of deer on private property and perhaps a suggested height to hang feeders would be a step in the right direction. This issue is a divisive one and by simply "removing" the deer is not a solution that benefits all. Just the ones that make the most noise about deer in their yard. I have lived in this community for 30 years and the deer have never been a problem for me. I hope that there are no drastic measures taken and a reasonable solution is provided for all.

The deer are better trained about road safety in this town then the kids. I say concentrate on catching the people breaking into cars stealing stuff and leave the deer alone

Like the Deer don't mind a few flowers eaten by them :)

I believe the deer should be left alone. Individuals can take measures as required to protect their yards and gardens if they so desire. I do have the deer nibbling on my lilac bushes from time to time but it does not bother me.

Having the deer in our community is a great teaching opportunity for children and adults alike to observe and learn to respect our local wildlife.

The deer to me represent oneness with nature and contribute to the friendly and laid back atmosphere of our little town.

I think the deer and any other wild animal should be left alone it is us humans that are invading there space soon there will be nothing

Please leave the deer alone.

I live right behind that big open field, and if there isn't a day that goes by where my two daughters (3 and 6) that we don't see atleast one deer were sad. My kids love to watch them new in the spring and grow as the summer passes. I think it's a part of okotoks to have them around everywhere.

I regularly ride bike along the river pathway system and look forward to seeing deer and other wildlife every time. It's one of the great pleasures of living in Okotoks.

My opinion is that if the deer are a threat to causing physical harm to people in neighborhood areas then options should be reviewed that humanely reduce the likelihood of an encounter. If, however, the only problem is that the deer are eating your plants, then people should simply build a fence, stop whining or move to a concrete jungle.

Please leave the deer alone.

I have seen a deer attack a walker and her dog - totally UNPROVOKED - along the pond in Sheep River Cove area. No fawn was around either. It came up behind the person and her dog, who were walking without knowing the deer was up the hill behind them. I have been challenged by a deer as I was walking thru a park on a trail, trying to AVOID it, give it a wide berth. I do not mind some deer in town, but when they are not able to stay away from people and attack unprovoked, thats when something needs to be done to lessen the number, maybe, so they have MORE territory for each deer.

It's the small percentage about to ruin everything for everyone else.

Please leave the wildlife alone. They are wonderful to see in the town.

The deer are a part of Okotoks. If people don't want to live with them, they should move to the city.

I don't feel there is a need to get rid of the deer. We can make somethingd that make town less desirable for them, and likely some will leave. Further education regarding not feeding the deer would new good, or how to keep them or of your yard (again, making it less desirable. ..) would also be good.

My only concern with a growing deer population is ; will it increase the amount of predators to come closer to city borders

We moved into their home, they did not move into ours. Let them stay.

Wild animals just make me nervous, especially when they are bigger than me and my kids.

I think we are in their "living room". We have to make it work with the deer together.

People have to compromise, they were here before us.

We damaged this planet already enough, leave those deer in peace.

I love the deer - there's something that is so gentle about them. The deer were here long before all the development - leave them alone.

leave them alone. They were here before us.

I like having the deer in town. I don't see them as a nuisance as them as a part of Okotoks. If they became a big issue then yes I would say that there would need to be some decisions made.

I've never seen the deer going through garbage or being any trouble.

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Although the deer walk the roads, travel through parks and yards, I think its important to remember we humans have placed objects in their migratory paths and they have had to adjust to cars, dogs, and people. As our town grows we cannot expect deer to decline to suit our whimsy.

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Seriously what a huge waste of tax money!!!!!! When we moved to town our fence was not finished and the deer would sometimes come into the yard, so we closed it in and guess what? The deer don't come into the yard. I personally love to see them and don't plant flowers or plants that attract them. The people complaining need to buy houses that allow 6 feet fenced and educate themselves on what to plant.

This is a serious waste of tax dollars that could be going someplace better, I would like to know what percent of the town is complaining about the deer because the rest of us do not want to see tax dollars spent this way.

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Growing up in okotoks i love the presence of the deer in town, much of my family when they come to visit our home are amazed by their courage to come into our yard and how close we can come to them. The deer are an amazing piece of our community. I have had an agression from them, but during the months of september through december, during the rut, i keep my distance, and the community should be educated of this. Personally, i love the deer and what they bring to the community.

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We had a deer chase myself and small children, charge at my dog and at my fence. They are aggressive, too comfortable and dangerous

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The deer are an unpredictable animal. They scare my children when on the paths because my kids are taught to stay back of wild animals. The deer can prohibit where the kids can go.

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Deer cross our front lawn a few times a week. They nibble the cedars and leave a few droppings. No problem. I love seeing them out the front window.

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The wild life here in Okotoks is what makes me LOVE my community!

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I feel that we can live together. I am aware they are wild and to give them a safe distance. I think we should educate everybody on how to live amongst each other.

I feel it would be less cost and more beneficial to put up "Deer Awareness" signs and make sure everyone is knowledgeable on wildlife. This would educate the public and keep the country feeling within the community. I believe that removing the population is a short term fix for it has no guarantee that other herds will not move in later.

I feel that the deer should be left alone to live as they please. After all if I don't like my neighbour I can't remove them.

Thanks.

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The deer, at the end of the day are wild animals and could harm people at any given time. Even though it is less likely compared to other wildlife. It makes me nervous as my kids are old enough to ride their bikes around the neighbour by themselves and I would fear a deer charging them at some point

around the neighbours by themselves and I would fear a deer charging them at some point.

I would like to see some more animal control for the populations general safety.

Since there is no current tagging/marketing system in place, how many times will the same deer be counted by different people?

The deer were there before and if people stop feeding them... Having open bird feeders in their front yard need to stop.

The deer are beautiful and part of the appeal for me to live in okotoks, I will be very disappointed if actions are taken to reduce the deer population or relocate them

Maybe if the town got rid of all the crab apple trees they planted maybe deer wouldn't be in people's yards or by their properties!! Deer are harmless.... There more scared of you than you should be!!

Find something else to complain about people!!!!

I like the deer and like seeing them wandering around town. I even saw 3 of them use the crosswalk once by the fire station on Milligan. It made me laugh and I noticed the occupants of the other vehicles that stopped have a good chuckle as well. I do worry about their safety on 32nd because I see them there a lot and have even driven past one that obviously got hit on that road. It was a hard thing to see first thing in the morning with my 2 daughters in the car. I would be sad to see them go for sure. If the problem of them being here is that they annoy people then I say let them stay. I'm sure we annoy they too. If the issue is overall safety for them and us then maybe we can look into relocating a bunch of them. For the record I do like watching them as they grow and change. I like pointing it out to my children and counting how many we can see. I would miss that a lot.

I think this effort to manage the deer population is ridiculous. A great part of the beauty of our town is its proximity to the mountains, river, and upkeep of green space. You can't value these natural elements and then turn around and complain about wildlife such as the deer.

The deer are too comfortable with humans, they dont even run anymore when you chase them. Im scared someone is going to get hurt when they accidentally corner a deer unknowingly and get attacked.

The deer were here first

My answers reflect the fact that the deer don't directly effect me (eating my plants, pooping in my yard etc) but I can certainly see how that would be frustrating if it was happening all the time. It seems they are in greatest concentration in the Elma Street/Northrail Way areas and I would hope that those residents would be consulted with since they are the ones who deal with the deer daily. It is easy for someone like me, who doesn't deal with them all the time to say 'do nothing', but that isn't really fair. In the past they have been a nice addition to the atmosphere of our town, but I can see the population getting more and more unmanageable if left unchecked. It is a difficult position to be in when deciding on a course of action. Thank you for all you do.

I have deer in my backyard all the time. They eat the buds off shrubs and trees, sleep and relax. They have never needed a threat I don't feed them at all I enjoy having them around

never posed a threat. I don't feed them at all. I enjoy having them around.

There are plenty of flowers that the deer don't like. You just have to ask.

I think it is ridiculous that deer in people's yards is enough of an issue to warrant a town survey on. How about spending more money, time and concern on increasing funding to our emergency service departments such as fire and police.

Can't believe we have a survey about this. Ridiculous!

We share this earth with all sorts of creatures. Our constant building and developing is taking away from their habitat and everything they have ever known. Who are we to tell them they have to leave, or they will die? Anyone who wants them out must be from Calgary! We live in the country, so we must accept the animals..... Good and bad. ( can we cull the teenagers?? )

I enjoy seeing the deer around town. I do not agree with killing them to control the population. Please find an alternative.

I really like the deer being around town. I think it gives Okotoks a nice country feel.

Stop worrying about the deer....they cross the streets better than most adults.....find some actual problem to deal with and put your time in efforts into that

I love seeing the deer around town and in my yard. I am cautious of which plants I place in areas the deer can access to avoid damage. We are responsible to share the earth with the animals not run them out of town.

I love seeing the deer. It makes me feel like it is still a small town however I fear for safety of drivers and the deer. If they can stay off the roads it would be nice. I don't have a problem with them in the Cimarron area however I do know others have problems in yards and such and it wrecks their property.

More education may be helpful - on the website, the town pages, maybe interpretive signage at major entrance points to trails in natural areas. Issues like bylaw on feeding wildlife - potential conflicts in rutting season, effective environment-friendly deterrents

I live very close to Okotoks ( south 3km). I like to see the deer it's part of the town's atmosphere. I think barking dogs is a bigger issue.?

I love the deer . I moved here FOR the deer. When people do the speed limit, the deer on the road should not be a threat.

Perhaps posting some signs not to feed them would help, however, I have never witnessed people feeding them myself.

If the Deer go, I will go!!!!

Very upset !!!!

We have invaded their space and we need to acknowledge their presence as being our neighbor and friend.

I love the deer being here and it is one of the reasons I relocated to this area.

Our neighbourhood teems with deer, rabbits, squirrels and kitty cats. It is a joy to see them walking through town and a privilege to share our space with them. To quote Gandhi

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

What about the greatness of a town. My family picked this town to move to, to raise our children and put down our roots because we were proud of what we saw in its practice, mandates and citizens. The mixture of small town community with growth and ingenuity. Please keep the goodness, the heart and kindness and dispel with the impatience and disrespect. Everyday is a new opportunity to rise above.

I prefer less deer in town. It's only a matter of time before something bad happens. And it is hard to see deer bubbling around with broken legs or they have been fed something bad and are sick and ready to die in your yard explain that to your kids when they see that happening in your yard. Wait till someone gets to close to a cute little deer and doe is perfecting her offspring and hurts someone not a pretty site then.

let them be, its a great thing to have

I chose Okotoks to be in the nature and I knew there will be wildlife as well. Wildlife was here long before we came and it has the same right to be here.

I graduated last year from Holy Trinity Academy and soon after moved to Calgary but I have always loved the beauty of Okotoks and believe the deer add to it. I think we should let the deer be as they are harming nobody.

if the town wont do anything about the deer maybe they should offer poop a scoop service for free as iam sick and tired of picking up a bag of deer poop every spring .also the deer stand in the driveway without moving .and with young ones they are ready to protect them.....thanks

They were here first, they should stay ;) Thanks!

The deer add a sence of peace and calmness to a otherwise busy life. I love having the deer around.

The manner in which this issue is being handled is a complete waste of my money. Contact SRD to address this. Forget the vet.

If people don't like deer they are welcome to leave and head to downtown Calgary.

Stop pillaging the land - town is big enough. It's starting to look junky & trashy & ugly urban sprawl. Let's work on what we have right now & improve it - not just continue to build more. Westmount Centre is atrocious example of concrete jungle. Not a tree or plant or bit of nature left for any deer or anyone to enjoy. Make these builders responsible to put nature back into their designs and turn down the lights and signs and polluting our dark skies. Yuck. #deerstay #stopUrbanSprawl

My concern with the deer, is there lack of fear of humans. Will there be a point where this will become dangerous?

I enjoy seeing deer in town and am not bothered by them at all. I was pleased to finally see deer crossing

I enjoy seeing deer in town and am not bothered by them at all. I was pleased to finally see deer crossing signs posted at Centre Avenue and 32nd Street but feel that more is needed specifically due to the increase of deer and frequency of sightings.

More signage in the downtown core would be beneficial to both deer and drivers. Specifically on Elma Street, McRae, North Railway and Elizabeth. There have been several deer deaths in the alley parallel to Glorond Place likely due to commercial vehicles delivering to local businesses on McRae Street near the new outdoor performance area. Also public signage regarding the bylaw regarding unlawful feeding of deer would also be beneficial.

I have been diagnosed with Lyme disease. Yes it is rare but some of the deer in Alberta are carrying the ticks. It is an awful disease and more and more are being diagnosed with it. It has definitely changed my family for the worse. I would like to see the deer gone as that's why we moved into town away from wildlife. Lived in the country for 18 years and there are a lot more deer in town than there. Before more people suffer from this disease please do something about the deer. I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy. Thanks for listening

I love watching the deer eat the berries from my tree in my front yard. They actually help with the clearing up of fallen berries. They are such beautiful animals and do not pose a threat or issue to our town as far as I can see. They do no harm and should be left alone.

My dog was attacked by a female deer while we were walking in Drake Landing. My dog did not provoke this. Hundreds of dollars of my tulips have been destroyed. I hope the deer like the taste of antifreeze this year.

They're around and we have them walking around our front yard and the park across the street. It's really not that big of a deal. It would be horrible to get rid of them. We can't sterilize our town of all wildlife just because some people don't like them wandering around.

Part of the beauty of Okotoks is the wildlife, especially the deer.

We have a group of 11 deer that can be seen almost daily in our neighborhood and we love it. They don't cause any problems and the kids love watching them. It's nature, we have to respect it.

We are in their space and keep taking more of their space. Let them be.....

Part of the charm of our town is the proximity to Kananaskis country and with this comes an increased likelihood of wildlife. Deer are living creatures who should not be seen as pests that need to be dealt with. If you hate wildlife, perhaps you should live on the city. Okotoks is a special place. Don't make it a place that becomes known for pushing away nature.

As per typical, humans keep encroaching on wild spaces, basically taking their habitat over without consideration. And since deer deserve to thrive as we do, town planning and building needs to start considering what effect we are directly causing to them BEFORE any more building continues.

Please just leave them alone. How many towns in Canada can boast that they have deer that use crosswalks? They are part of the "Environmental Charm" of the community. People can become educated about deterrents rather than elimination. The Deer are also a natural speed reducer!

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People need to be educated about deer. They were here first and are part of our community. They are one of the reasons we love Okotoks so much.

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The deer are a tough issue. They are beautiful and they were here first, but, they are also destructive and its a lot of time and money cleaning up after them. Also, I'm surprised there haven't been more accidents involving the deer. They are so 'tame' they don't even move for vehicles and at dusk or after dark, particularly in my area, I'm amazed there haven't been more hit. At least once a week, 'my' herd of 6-8 are sleeping/eating in my back yard.

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I love the deer they are always in my back yard I love being able to share my space with them... Please leave them be.

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I like deers

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I have lost hundrends of dollars in damage to my trees because of the deer. I spend \$75 a year on deer repellent that has very limited success. Please, get rid of all of them!!!!

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How can you keep them out of yards and streets, but keep them in parks!!!!!!! Every spring we see 2 or more sets of twin fawns. While very cute, they grow up. You have bylaws re: not feeding deer. Do you enforce them? The deer don't read, they don't know what they should eat. I have a large front yard and have tried many deer resistant plants and they eat anything if they're hungry. I am unable to have any kind of garden. They even eat the tops of potatoes. I do not plan on fencing my front yard. I think they should be culled. They lay in my yard, and people are afraid to go by them. They have become aggressive towards dogs. People who move here because of the deer, need to have heads shaken. They don't think of the consequences and are definitely not gardeners. We are constantly picking up deer droppings. During mating season, the bucks are very aggressive and protective of their intended mates. This has happened in our front yard. I love nature and wildlife, and yes they were here 1st, but we are a civilized town now. They also attract predators. We've always had deer( been here since 77), and could put up with a few, but now there are too many.

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I don't see anything wrong with them maybe you spend your time on crime prevention something that is a better use of your time the deer should be left along

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I like the deer. It makes Okotoks different. People from other places always comments about the deer.

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This is a non issue, council should be not be spending out tax dollars on things that are this small. It is disappointing in this economy we are wasting precious dollars on things like a deer population survey.

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Only in Okotoks do you find traffic jams caused by ducks from the river and deer crossing the roads. Okotokians are aware and sensitive to the wildlife around here. It is what makes this town so unique and I am proud that we are gentle enough to stop for the wildlife.

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With the huge increase in Lyme Disease I think it is prudent from a health point of view that the town of Okotoks take a stand on reducing the number of deer in our town. Just talk with the vets in town regarding the increase in the number of ticks found on dogs and if they are on dogs they are on humans too. Lyme

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the increase in the number of ticks found on dogs - and if they are on dogs - they are on humans too. Lyme is a very complex and often debilitating disease. Deer are wild animals - not pets - and need to be treated as such.

This is one reason why we moved to a smaller community and love sharing the area with them. We are taking their homes, we need to share

I love the deer here -

People just have to be aware (like children) of them on streets.

Slow down!

I wouldn't mind some to. Dollars spent on educating people what to do about them ruining yards etc.

Stop wasting money! Spend this money/time on serious resources such as providing quality school space for the ALL the children in the town. I am disgusted that you think this is a bigger issue than each child getting a quality education in the town where they live.

I've never had a problem or issue with deer in town. I have lived in Okotoks for 9 years and really enjoy seeing them, I think it adds to the appeal of living in Okotoks.

Love the deer. Like to watch the deer and the antelope play!

The deer are in their natural habitat, we just happen to have built a town in their home. Having deer in Okotoks is a gift from nature that should be nurtured not eradicated nor controlled. We moved from Calgary to be closer to nature & we love seeing deer in our neighbourhood. We humans are supposed to be an intelligent species. So it's time we used our intelligence by putting aside our arrogance & selfishness over other species and instead show tolerance & understanding toward them including the deer. Please leave the deer alone. (Identifying personal content removed).

The deer are nice but they bring hazards with them - aside from being potentially dangerous to pedestrians and to motorists, they also bring predators in to the town and further endanger the lives of citizens which is not okay.

I have lived in Okotoks for 25 years. The deer were here when I moved here and I don't notice them being any more of a problem now than 25 years ago. The town is about 5 or 6 times as big now as compared to then and I expect we may have a corresponding increase in deer population arising from our development of their previous natural habitat. I like them; they add a peaceful ambiance to the community - part of what sets Okotoks apart from the big city. Leave them alone. Put in plastic flowers, watch how you drive. They aren't out to do any of us harm.

I love seeing the deer here and it makes me smile when I see them crossing at the crosswalk by the fire station. Having the deer in our parks, river valleys, golf courses, and occasionally on our lawns is part of our Town being at one with nature and protecting the environment. If we are going to call ourselves environmental and continue to seek environmental rewards for our town than that means peacefully sharing the environment with the wildlife. Fertilization or a cull is not right in my opinion and I would be disappointed if the town took that action. Education is key.

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Keep the deer, they are part of our community. Let's learn to live cohesively together with them.

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I live near a park and have watched the deer take a raid at the trees there. They are on the road and do not move out of the way causing accidents that could be prevented. They come into my yard often and as soon as the perennials start greening they chew them of. Also they damage the trees with there front hoofs-standing on there hind legs and reaching higher up the trees.

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They were here first. Leave them alone. There are noticeably fewer around due to the large amount of construction, etc.

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I treat the deer with respect. I don't confront them at anytime and they have NEVER confronted me or anyone I know. Please live & let live. I am also aware of other forms of wildlife in my area ( Tucker Hill ) and love to see them when I can. It doesn't matter who was here first, we're all here now, what a great town !

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They are dangerous on the 32 ave hill. There should be fencing added to the road since they often just jump out onto the road. I've had at least one near miss. Sooner or later they are going to cause a major accident. They are often on the roads in my neighbourhood and the pathways. I feel safe enough as an adult, but they can be aggressive and there are a lot of young children around.

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I've grown up in this town since i was 6 years old. The deer are a part of mine and many other peoples lives. They are no issue and really just wonderful to see. They never harm us or chase at us they usually just walk quietly away. I hate how Okotoks is becoming just as unpleasant as Calgary as it grows bigger and removing the deer would just make me and others upset because the deer keep the town a town and keep natural and alive. It reminds me why my family moved out here in the first place. If they removed the deer my family and others would move to other towns such as black diamond, turner valley where we can go back to nature.

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I have lived in Okotoks for 24 years now and I love the deer.....as someone else stated, they do love to eat certain plants.....I don't plant those plants! They come in my yard almost nightly and I cherish seeing them.....they are not aggressive and they do not do that great of damage to anyones yard around here anyways. I would be so sad if they were driven out of this town!! If people want to live in a "non wild animal environment.".....THEN MOVE BACK TO CALGARY!!! This is NOT the place for you!!

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Last spring we were blessed to have 2 fawns born close by, one in the green space adjacent to our house, and the other in the next-door-neighbour's back yard. For 2 weeks we had the joy of watching a mother deer nurture her 2 babies, whom she kept well hidden (but in full view from our ensuite window). Mother deer ate all my petunias, and spent most early mornings and late afternoons in our yard, just meters (and a fence) away from her babies. I think that the sacrifice of a few seasonal plants was well worth the experience of seeing those wee babies go from barely able to stand, to rough-housing in the neighbors yard. Once in a while I see a pair of young deer down at the river and wonder if they are "our twins"? I came from the big city 8 years ago, and consider the deer of this town a minor inconvenience compared to the joy they bring me. We have a dog and are careful to check outside before we let him out, and he seems to have a mutual respect for them. Live-let live. By the way, one night I was unable to sleep and decided to check the yard

next door at 2 am. Not only was mother deer there nursing one of her babies, but there were at least 4 baby bunnies frolicking in the yard at the same time. There were also 3 robins' nests fully active at the same time. It was like a scene from Bambi. I like living here, and am of the opinion that a part of sustainability is sharing the space we live in. I have also been down at the river park in the winter and have seen fresh cougar tracks. Healthy respect is important, but I think that unattended cats probably lure more predators to the area than the local deer population. If you don't even know how many deer there are, how do they constitute a problem? The biggest problem I see around my neighborhood is vandalism and traffic violations.

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We are continually building and developing so much land. Animals need somewhere too. They are continually getting driven out of their habitat. We need to compromise and share the land.

In town, if speed limits are followed and drivers are not distracted there would be less deer/vehicle collisions.

They are a beautiful addition to Okotoks.

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I just heard of someone being chased by the deer, all it is going to take is some kid being kicked by a deer and then the town will be sued. There is also the concerned of cougars coming into the town because of the deer. I have lived in Okotoks for 27 years and there have been no deer here except for the last 5-7 years. It's great to see wildlife but we live in a town and not the wilds. I am so very tired of trying to chase them away from vegetation in my yard and trying to keep up my yard and replace things . Are we not entitled to some rights as we pay good taxes

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I often walk through the cemetery with my dog and have been intimidated by a doe and her young on a couple of occasions. It's only a matter of time before an incident happens.

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We love seeing the deer

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I love seeing the deer. That's why I live here.

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If you remove the deer other deer will come in to replace them. We have taken over more and more of their habitat so we need to stop being so self centered and start trying to live with the wildlife not destroy them

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The deer are lovely, they make living in a town like Okotoks feel like you are in the middle on the country.

They are graceful and beautiful. I saw a group of 18 on the golf course - absolutely stunning!!!

People should not feed them and not put their garbage out overnight if this exacerbates a problem - people need to use their common sense.

There are bigger issues to worry about, drinking /drugs and driving, speeding, drug selling & buying, house break-ins, domestic violence/ - rather than a few deer wandering around.

The deer were here first, we and builders are encroaching on their environment, stop the building, Okotoks is getting overdeveloped and has reached its full potential. Any more houses and people we will need more roads etc, no one wants that

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I love the deer, but I don't think they belong in the town, they carry ticks and they are food for larger animals like cougar's and bears.

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I love the deer! It makes for a great small town feeling. It is so exciting to look out and see the deer in my

yard or see them when out for a walk. Better education and enforcement of the no wildlife feeding bylaw is required if the town thinks it is a problem.

Around April 1, 2015, counted 13 deer in & around Cassie's Ravine & walking path area. Very intimidating to walk medium sized dog, who does not bark. Deer are not afraid of people, dogs, loud noises, cars, or anything; they don't move off paths if you're walking towards them. Stressful to have to be on guard when walking every day, never quite sure what they're going to do; especially when a Doe & fawn(s) present. Also frustrating to have to inspect back yard for deer every time dog needs to go outside to make sure its safe.

The deer past thru our front year most evening spring, fall and winter. They only touch a flowering cherry/apple (same tree Okotoks have on some of the boulevards. We have planned shrubs, other trees and pernnials that they don't like so have no problem with them. Our yard is fenced (Cedar) and have a dog so know they have never been in the yard.

I DO NOT think the deer are a problem in the Town of Okotoks, as the Deer where here first and we moved into the river valley and the town keeps spreading into their territory.

We love having the deer in the neighbourhood and pointing them out to our kids (6 and 3) as we drive around town. It's nice to remind ourselves that we are in a quiet rural area when we are at home (we work in Calgary during the week). The deer rarely get in to my yard, but I have also planted deer-resistant shrubs etc. so they don't find anything tasty if they do get in. I think it is one of the perks of living in Okotoks.

Forget deer-proofing strategies - I have a book on these and they simply do not work on a permanent and effective basis. The only plants they don't seem to eat are my irises and maybe beans. They even eat my junipers and tamarack. As Lyndon Penner (CBC gardening columnist) says "deer proof plants are just the ones they eat after their preferred foods are largely gone".

Fence height needs to exceed 6 feet to keep deer out and such high fences violate development guidelines in many parts of town. The 4 foot high chain link fences we commonly use in Okotoks can be jumped with ease by even the smallest deer.

Every spring I typically have to pick up 8-10 gallons (two large pails) of deer feces from my lawn which has an area of only about 300 square yards. (Suggestions as to where the town wants me to I put this would be welcomed!) I continue to have to deal with the problem throughout the sumer and fall, and our grass is never safe for bare feet.

Surely we can learn from the experience of towns such as Invermere, BC. After years of debate they have finally concluded that a cull is the only solution. Deer are not completely stupid - they have figured out that there are few to no predators in town and lots of food. Until they again learn to fear us, the problem will not go away. As the folks in Invermere will tell you, over time the problem only gets worse as the deer become emboldened to the point that they start to attack small dogs, children and even a few seniors.

Dave Eastham

112 Cherry Blossom Drive

We love the wildlife in Okotoks. If they were removed in any way we would also find another place to reside. We feel very strongly about living with or in conjunction with wildlife not removing them for the sake of a few.

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ONLY repellent that works on trees ,flowers etc where I do not want them Deerskyde \* and bone meal in bags on trees. Tell the complainers they are better than some of the human kind. The senior patients in lodge stand by window in awe-- the little children watch quietly and watch. SLOW down on streets and treat them like unpredictable children in the playground zones Get the horrid chickens out of town- filthy critters noisy and they are agriculture and belong on a farm Go and cull them we moved here for deer not for chickens And the complainers tell them to move to Calgary where they belong. That would kill 2 birds with one stone .

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I live in Mountain view and there are so many deer. I do not feel safe walking with my children when the deer are out. Although I drive slow they are always all over the roads. No one around here feeds the deer they eat the grass. They are constantly in my yard eating my plants and leaving droppings which then pose health risks for my children. We have used deer deterrents and maybe they work but the deer still come in my yard. I do like nature and the deer but I have lived here since 1986 and never seen the deer this bad. They are far too comfy with humans and I've seen them aggressive. I lived for 16 years on an acreage just south of Okotoks (dump road) never did we have deer like we see now in town. You would have thought the more country you get the more deer.

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leave the deer alone, we coexist in this world with all kinds of wildlife, we need to get used to it and figure out other strategies rather than "killing" when something becomes "inconvenient" for us. We were put at the top of the food chain because we have a brain and a conscience; we need to start using that brain to figure out how to coexist with nature and wildlife. Again, let the deer be.

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i love Okotoks and seeing the Deer makes me smile, i walk the Dogs and see the Deer near the Escarpment where i live, we keep away from them, they don't bother us just watch us,i love them.

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We love having deeds around.

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I posted this on my facebook for world to see ---

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Can you believe that in our small town by the river and trees that some people complain about deer damaging their flowers or trees. There are sprays to keep animals away from things . People complained they are on road - well so do kids run onto roads -- The complainers want to reduce amount of deer we have -- Maybe the complainers should be reduced by moving somewhere else -- you KNOW WHEN LOOKING TO MOVE HERE -that a river and trees has animals and birds -- And yet the town council has passed a law saying you can raise chickens in your back yard -- Filthy noisy chickens for those of us who have allergies to feathers --- --IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY THINKING . GET ALONG WITH ANIMALS WHO WERE HERE FIRST?? And forget about getting 3 eggs a day other than a store.

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I love the deer. I believe it is one of the things that makes Okotoks so special.

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The deer were here before us and they will be here after we have gone!

The deer reminds me that we don't live in a concrete jungle.

As far as I am concerned we have to live with the deer, maybe we should think of controlling the population of people!

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Further to Question #8, the growing attitude of "I am here, keep them away" is not sustainable, if I may use that term. Nature wins. Always has and always will. It is not sustainable if this council adopts any new or extraneous measures to see that deer do to not infiltrate Okotoks beyond what the natural population is doing.

After all, what is the joke about the deer crossing sign on the side of the road? Deer cannot read, right? What is to happen at the town borders? Deer can be left 'free' on the east side of 48 Street, but not on the west in the Air Ranch and Drake Landing? Come on. This issue is absurd and a waste of my tax dollars.

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The deer were here first, we provided no suitcase for them to leave with, so just accept their beauty or pack up and go elsewhere- we have suitcases!

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I love seeing the deer everywhere. Let them be.

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Deer are a wild animal, we do not need them to become domesticated, (nor do we need chickens domesticated). Deer ticks are a terrifying thought as Lyme disease is on the rise, their droppings are dirty, and they are a nuisance! They are becoming very use to people and come extremely close to homes, doors and seem less and less afraid of people.

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Living in this gorgeous rural town for over 15 years, has given our family many, many positive environmental experiences. Deer are a wonderful part of these experiences, a good reminder to slow down on our busy family streets and a very good reminder that humans were not living here first !! It would be a very sad reflection on the integrity and attitude of care by humans in this town if deer are not allowed to continue to live here. We humans need to alter our behaviour and attitude to be flexible and caring, it was no problem and actually quite lovely to put lavender in our garden, deer still came but didn't eat any flowers this time. Family and friends who visit us from UK, Italy, USA, other provinces and from larger towns/cities admire that Okotoks reflects diversity and respect for all living animals/birds and promotes water conservation, recycling etc. Please do not allow Okotoks to become a town of "those with heighten sense of entitlement and low tolerance" for all that is natural, next it will be "no children allowed" :(

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Absolutely love to see the deer in and around my yard. So they eat a few plants -- who cares. Just to have nature so close by is wonderful. I have also seen coyotes, rabbits, prairie chickens (?) -- does the town want to get rid of those also??? If some deer become a problem, drug them and take them to "bad deer valley"! Keep the deer in Okotoks, is my opinion.

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I do not think that the current population is a burden. As the Town continues to grow the deer population and other wildlife will probably be pushed more to the outer limits of the community.

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The deer , are a part of this unique town.

Bees stings hurt more humans than the deer, ask kids at kindergarten what they prefer, they are our future custodians of nature.

The deer add to the unique, natural character of our community of Okotoks! The enjoyment we get in watching them from our window or balcony far outweighs any inconvenience they may cause.

Deer are a nuisance and a danger to children - they are wild animals who have no business in town where they cause damage, leave feces, attacked my dog and caused a 2 inch cut which needed stitches (and it's only a matter of time until some child is seriously hurt). If you follow other towns the next phase is we have predators coming into our neighbourhoods as well and because the deer are now far removed from their natural ability to survive "in the wild" we have not option to relocate them. Significantly reduce the population!

I think the deer should be removed from town limits for reasons (running out in traffic etc).

I love seeing them. It's one of the many reasons I live in Okotoks. We need to share this beautiful town with them. As they were here first

Move to the city if you don't like wildlife! The wildlife is so beautiful here and the only thing really enjoyable here,if anything is done to hurt any deer in town I will go to P.E.TA and national news. What an absolute waste of MY tax dollars!

This is getting to be a bigger problem (health, safety - children and pets, damage to property and vehicles) and must be addressed. The population should be reduced, the deer should be deterred from entering or staying in town and considered a problem when generations of deer know no other life.

We have lived here 19 years and moved to Okotoks originally because of the back to nature feel of the Town. We are out with the deer everyday as we walk our dog 3 times a day in the Cimarron area and have never had an issue. The deer frequent the park in our circle during the winter months in the late evening and no one even knows that they are there!! We certainly are not over run with deer and of course they mainly venture into neighbourhoods during the cold winter months; spring, summer and early fall you are lucky to even see a deer as they stick more to the river bed and surrounding area. I truly hope that the deer can just be left alone as they have gone through enough change, as well, over the years with all of the development in Okotoks. It is more our fault than their's that we have displaced them at such a quick rate with the boom of population; they do not have as many open areas to congregate in anymore, just like the humans!!

I like the presence of the Deer. They provide a touch of nature that is lacking in most urban areas in our land. If there are pockets of property destruction, owners need the support of the town and wildlife officers to find adequate solutions. Resources of that type would need to be provided based on frequency and severity. As the town grows, the deer will naturally be further out. Even Calgary gets deer populations, as there exists extensive parkland. Living with the deer does require some management as the town grows, but culling should not be on the list. As far as vehicle encounters go, there should be no reason for any altercations if drivers would stay within the posted limits and not become distracted with activities such as

texting.

I choose to live in a community where deer live, they were here before I came along and should be here long after I am gone. Unless they are harming humans through unwarranted attacks then they should be left alone. If they are eating shrubs and plants in gardens and causing damage by doing that then those affected should read up on the types of plants and shrubs that deer do not like and plant those instead. We need to take a breath and enjoy the wild life around us and respect the fact that we are continuously encroaching on their environment and not the other way around. For those that want to get rid of the deer all I can say is move to the concrete jungle of Calgary, you'll be a lot happier

What a waste of tax dollars! Parks should be out cleaning up the disgusting amounts of garbage rather than worrying about a few deer! If this goes through I would probably consider moving out of this town!

Embarrassed to be an Okotokian if this happens!!! Shame on you town for wasting my tax dollars!

The town and MD are taking over the deer's habitat. Where else are the deer to go? If people do not want deer in their yard or gardens they can take appropriate measures such as fencing to keep them out. If people drove the speed limits in town they would not need to worry about hitting deer on the road. The deer have more right to this space than the people who are consuming their environment.

I encounter them almost daily while walking my dog along the walkways in my neighbourhood and have never encountered any issues.

People need to quit speeding through town and need to pay more attention to the road. As well as deer, there are also young children and pets that are at risk. Also, people need to quit letting their dogs off leash and chasing the deer. If people prefer city life, then, they have the option of living in Calgary. This is a rural setting with wildlife. Isn't that one of the reasons why people prefer to live in Okotoks and not Calgary.

I love seeing them. It's one of the many reasons I live in Okotoks. We need to share this beautiful town with them. As they were here first

I have lived in drake landing for the past six years, and this is the first year that I have had them damaging my garden and yard. Sightings in my area were few and far between, and now it seems to be a nearly daily occurrence.

I love watching the deer, people should not live here if they don't like the wildlife!!! If Okotoks does something so stupid as getting rid of the deer then I would leave this town for another that isn't so ridiculous.

As my husband and I are seniors, sorry we can't do the count. We think it's great to see the deer walking about, all our visitors from other places think it adds to the town. Would be so unhappy if you removed them.

(Personal identifying content removed).

We encroached on their land, not the other way around. We need to find a way to co-exist. We need to remember how lucky we are to live in a place that we can learn for our surroundings

I like the deer here. Perhaps we should ask if they like us here since it is their space first. We have to learn to live with wildlife as we are quickly eroding their habitat. If we want them to live we have to live with them. What gives us the right to control populations of living creatures. Ah yes, we're humans....we like to control things that annoy us. Leave the deer alone and learn to live with them.

Don't waste my tax dollars!

Why must we mess with everything? The deer have caused much less damage than the Voles all along Cimarron Way. If you don't like the deer move to a high rise in downtown Calgary. I don't like the crows and magpies predated all songbird nests and pooping on my car, lets blow them out of the sky. I wonder if the town has not set aside 100G for a study group, action plan complete with steering committee ect. ect. Lets hire a family planning specialist to teach wayward does...or... dart them all and spay them then watch the PETA groups spring into action. How bloody stupid .

I like the wildlife.. Keep Deer here

The wild life was here first. We have taken away their Habitat now they are adapting to what we have done The Town is allowing Chickens what will we do if this attracts more wild life , Coyotes, foxes etc.

We love the deer. Okotoks would not be the same without them. We'd rather go deer watching than flower watching. Keep them here.

I love seeing the deer - they are part of the community, part of its charm, part of the natural beauty we work so hard to preserve (e.g., leaving green spaces in new development areas, creating wetlands, and planting trees. )

I love deer

I live backing onto a green space and see deer very regularly, I have taken time to educate myself in deer resistant plants and feel education on steps to minimize deer intrusion into yards should come above physical action.

Born and raised in Okotoks. 35 years now. My family has been here for over a hundred years(PERSONAL IDENTIFYING CONTENT REMOVED) obviously we have a problem whether or not we've created it, it's still a problem.

My biggest issue is with the fact that I have deer literally 10' from my front door. I have 1&3 year old children that I don't think would be safe venturing into my yard or left alone in the yard while I ran inside. I've also lived on crescent rd west in the past where I had real problems with the deer. At one point I counted 17 deer in my yard I had strangers pulling into my yard to snap photos. It also created problems with my dog. I have video of my dog and 4 deer in my yard which ends up being one aggressive deer with a page wire fence between them. It has caused my dog to jump a 5' high fence now twice and once I was charged. I explained the scenario but wasn't given any sympathy because the fact that my dog wasn't wearing a collar. Deer suck!!

What can be done to lessen the population. I just had a \$5,000.00 plus, fence installed, because I can no

longer tolerate them. If you don't grow anything in your yard that matters, you don't care about the deer. When you try to make a beautiful yard with annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. It is impossible, they come to the yard that has all those things and just eat everything in sight that has anything green on it. In the middle of winter they work on the trees and shrubs (bark). I am sick of it. Please do something about it, if possible. I have also decided not to plant anything new, because I would just be feeding the deer. Crap

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I have a dog but I clean up more deer poop than dog poop. They are always in our yard sometimes in the daytime. I can be sitting on my front porch at night with my dog and they walk between the house. Our neighbours have two dogs and the deer are not bothered by them either. Our neighbour 3 houses down sometimes has 7 in the yard she also has two dogs. I was told deer do not like dogs, maybe it's the other way around that they do like them

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I love seeing the wildlife as they pass thru my yard, whether it is the deer, fox, squirrels, or birds. That is why we chose Okotoks to live in, and why we go to the mountains for a drive - to see wildlife. It horrifies me to think you would even consider removing the wildlife.

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The deer, fox, birds, etc were here long before people. This is their land, and if you don't want to live with them, leave. Why are we trying to get rid of deer and other animals, but accepting and encouraging chicken farms. Where is common sense

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We find the deer add to this "country" community and have no issue with them. We do see them in yards and park areas but have had no problems even when there were several deer within 5 feet of us. People with issues need to take the preventative measures the Town of Okotoks has advised us of.

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I'm fourteen years old and I love the deer. I see them a lot and they have never hurt or bothered me.

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Please Please let them stay.

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Canada is in and of itself natural. To take all the nature away makes no sense.

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I feel it is part of the charm of living in Okotoks. Last night I came home to a deer chomping on my bushes in the front yard. Although I was a bit miffed, I would rather my children have the experience of seeing deer in their community than living Calgary with the craziness. My tulips and bushes are their tulips and bushes. Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

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It's important to find out why people are complaining and develop proactive strategies to combat specific problems and concerns with community involvement and a transparent process.

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Awareness and education are important as well. Since moving to Okotoks last year from Calgary SE, I am struck by the beauty of the community and close proximity to nature. I love going for walks and seeing deer grazing or just resting. My main concern is for the safety of the animals, and domestication because people feed them without understanding the implications of their actions.

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The deer are so comfortable that they are not afraid of any of us. They jump our fence, have tried to strike our dog, ruin our lawn. Last year we had serious damage done to our pine trees and had to trim them up

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very high. The deer eat our plants and trees and I wonder if it is silly to plant my garden this year. Because the town does not enforce clean up of weeds etc. we have 2 lots with no buildings and they are dense with growth. We think the deer have their babies on these lots. It is an continual problem at the Air Ranch and we can have 6-8 in our yard at any given time -- you can imagine the deer poop we have everywhere!!!

I love the deer ! I think we should respect and protect the Nature and the animals that live in it. We should share the land with the deer- they were probably here before the people anyway and are sharing it with us.

ENJOY SEEING THE WILDLIFE,INCLUDING THE DEER

(Personal identifying content removed).

This issue is a waste of time and money. People in this town are too self absorbed and need to get over themselves.

LEAVE THE DEER ALONE! They were here before the Town of Okotoks and were a positive factor when we made our decision to move here some years ago.

Those who don't like the deer/nature, etc - move somewhere else!

And I'm serious.

This issue is a waste of time and money. People in this town are too self absorbed and need to get over themselves.

TIME TO CUT THE HERD DOWN .THEY DO NOT BELONG IN TOWN .DEER HAVE BECOME AGRESSIVE BECAUSE OF THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.THESE ANIMALS ARE WILD LIFE THATS WHERE THEY BELONG IN THE WILD.FEEDIN G THEM JUST SO THEY HANG AROUND SO THEY CAN GIVE YOU A WARM FUZZY FEELING ISNT DOING ANYONE ANY GOOD ESPECIALLY THE DEER

The Deer are pests who have relieved themselves in many locations on mu yard. I am tired of picking up Deer poop and trying to sanitize the affected areas. I do appreciate wildlife and have respect for their protection but it is also not good for the Deer to be living in town. Aside from the injuries to Deer from collision with vehicles eventually we will have conflicts with people and their pets as has happened in mountain towns such as Waterton. Deer are wildlife. I would like to see them removed from town and relocated to a proper wildlife habitat. They would have my best wishes!

Our household enjoys having deer around.

I have used the presence as a teaching tool for our kids.

Seems to me they were here loooooooong before Okotoks came into existance so I'd suggest just leaving them alone.

I love seeing them around.

We like having the deer as part of the landscape.

If I am in town at the time the head count is held this Fall, I would gladly participate.

It's my understanding that a neutering procedure of bucks has been successful in this region. I would be in

It is my understanding that a neutering procedure of bucks has been successful in this region. I would be in favor of this to avoid overpopulation. I experienced a \$4250.00 damage to my car last November which was totally unavoidable on my part during rutting season on Southridge Drive at Sheep River bridge.

We counted 27 deer as one herd coming out the ravine behind Crystal ridge Terrace crossing 32st eastbound last December. They show aggressive attitudes to dog walkers on the pathways. My concern is an unsuspecting mother with her young children walking their pets.

We live across a park on Westfall Green. The most deer I have counted at one time is 11. I am not afraid of the deer as I know better than to get too close. However, if I happen to open the front door as they are standing in my yard they just glance at me and continue doing whatever they are doing. I do think there are too many deer in town and they certainly are not afraid of us.

I am not aware of any REAL issues concerning the deer within the town limits - have never heard of any concerns from any of our familys circle of friends.

In the years we have lived in town, I sure have randomly heard some of the most nonsensical reasons why the deer should be removed.

The thoughts from our house - leave the deer alone.

I would hate to see a no feed of all wild life as we get a lot of birds coming to our feeders. I have put my feeders up so that the deer cannot reach them. So far this has worked. I also plant what they do not like and this has worked for me.

I have lived in the same house in Okotoks for 27 years. Each year there have been three to five deer that pass by my front yard on their way to the river, sometimes both early morning and evening. Sometimes they stop for a peek through my front window! I love them and would really miss having them around. We share the neighbourhood with them and are happy to do so.

I think we should all appreciate that we live in an area where we are going to have nature in our back yard. I like seeing the deer around and would hate to see them disappear. I don't beleive in feeing them....for their health (as some people feed them people food) and for the safety as they are a wild animal.

I have a couple tulip plants in my front yard that the deer have trimmed down many times. I just put another small fence around one plant so that it can bloom out and it will be done in a couple weeks. Not a big deal. I clean up the deer droppings in my yard on a regular basis. Once again no big deal. It is wonderful having them around. Wild life is beautiful. Leave them alone.

I have been born and raised in Okotoks, and growing up one of my favourite things about being in a small town was seeing the baby deer and their families around town. They feel like part of the community and it would really upset me to see them go. I do not think that they should be fed, however I don't think they should be harmed in any way. Please save our deer.

While I kind of enjoy the presence of the deer and have had no issues it seems like their numbers are growing. I can see the potential for issues in the future and recommend monitoring at this time plus

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consideration of management strategies.

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I am concerned with the volume of deer wandering the streets. they seem to become comfortable with vehicles. traffic has increased in recent years and people are not always looking for deer . I get that we need to cohabitate the space, however, I am concerned about public safety too

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When we moved to our home in the 80's deer were not a problem, during the last 10 years this situation has changed drastically. Many of our lovely rose bushes been destroyed and as well they eat our garden. I cannot keep flower pots on the front step without them eating them and I have tried to find flowers that are suggested to use where deer are present - no luck.

We are aware of the bylaw however we have two neighbors that supposedly feed the birds but we see the deer on their hind legs eating from the feeders and one even keeps water heated with an element on the front porch during winter for the deer.

We would not put up with the youth in Okotoks destroying our yards like the deer do.  
It is time to take action.

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Personally, I found it extremely preposterous and horrifying when I first read that one of the 'suggestions' of dealing the deer was to cull them. It made me physically ill and to be frank, embarrassed to be part of a town that would even deem this a possibility. We moved to Okotoks almost 6 years ago and back on the nature preserve off of 32 street. The deer are more than welcome in our yard and are a joy to watch on a regular basis (I cannot tell you the number of photos I have of these amazing creatures - mostly eating and sleeping in the preserve). These deer were here first. It is us who have impinged on their habitat. Shame on anyone for thinking that we have the 'right' to kill or remove these creatures from our town because WE deem THEM a nuisance. The deer are constantly hopping into our yard in the summer. While we don't allow them to stay for the sake of our trees, having them visit regularly is a VERY small price to pay to live copacetically amongst these beautiful creatures. To remove them from our town is ridiculous. It would only be a short matter of time until another herd took their place. And cost the tax payers how much money? Are we going to do this every time we have a herd of deer move into the town. I certainly hope not. If so, I am living in the wrong town! Obviously I am very passionate on this topic. For those people who don't want deer in this town, then I politely suggest that they move out and go back to the city.

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The deer are a welcome sight on any given day. They are part of what makes this town so great.

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Deer are a nuisance and can be frightening. But even more worrisome is the population of bears and cougars that will come to this area seeking out "deer" food. This is not safe for the people who live here.nor the surrounding area.

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People are the Town's worst culprit. Whether directly or indirectly- feeding wildlife is UN-Natural. The Deer have no fear to humans, and becoming dependant on handouts. These handouts include birdfeed that the deer can reach. But my concerns are the children in the community, if spooked or scared, the deer may exhibit aggressive behavior.

Rather than read about this in the paper, lets be pro-active and perhaps return SOME of the deer to the wild. Thus they have natural predators out there, helping complete the natural food chain.

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The deer keep to themselves and they were here first! Who cares if they are in the town, they are beautiful creatures and gentle souls. They mean no harm and they are peaceful...leave them be! The only people that they bother are old birds that have nothing better to complain about. We love the deers!!!! They can't help it that we keep building on the land they live on....we are the problem! Nadine Gyug

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I love seeing the deer, and aren't causing that many problems.

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They were here first. It's part of this town's charm. I don't want to live here without the deer. It's so nice looking out of my window and seeing baby deer prancing in the grass. If you think the deer are a problem you can leave.

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Keep the deer! It's their home too!

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PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE - leave them alone. They were here first, we moved into their habitat. If my cousins in Perth, Australia can share their environment with snakes and spiders (and recently sharks at their local beach) I'm damn sure we can share our town with deer.

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Are the deer forming gangs and attacking people? No! Are the deer trampling people or pets to death? No! Are the deer taking jobs from Okotoks residents? No!

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Please, for the sake of being decent human beings, leave them alone, or never call your yourself a 'green' town again, because green means more than just recycling.

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Controlling deer birth population is a MUCH better way than culling them. There are current, effective birth control vaccines that can be injected into females which is a humane way of controlling the population growth. Oak Bay, BC, is conducting this approach currently.

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Part of the beautiful part of living in Okotoks is the nature and wildlife that surrounds us. Living here, means living along side the deer. It is a part of the appeal to being in southern Alberta.

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Culling deer is simple and cheap. Be smart and consider the alternatives and repercussions on the community and perception of the Town's decision to do so.

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Culling deer is not a solution nor should be an option. It's disappointing to see the Town support an initiative or though such as this.

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I adamantly disagree with this movement.

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We love the deer! I wake up some mornings and they are sleeping in my back yard. This is one of the many reasons why we love living in Okotoks. Our neighbours call them the Crystal Shores Deer Family, they move from yard to yard. They don't eat our trees or cause any issues. If anyone says they feel unsafe - that is crazy!! The deer are so use to people, they just keep on walking right by us, not once have I felt scared for myself, my kids or my dogs. PLEASE LEAVE THE DEER ALONE!!!!

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They are all little unnerving she. I'm walking to school, and people's property has been damaged, but I see no reason to kill them. Maybe just something to scare them back to the wilds or parks.

The deer were here before us. We built our town around the wildlife and with that comes the deer. Find a new place to live if you can't deal with the deer. They aren't a problem, they just run around eating grass minding their own business.

one of the reasons we moved to Okotoks was because of the beauty and nature of Okotoks, the Deer are wonderfu

i think the Deer are lovely, maybe use a contraception for a five year cycle then have a 5 year breeding cycle and so on and so forth, we should not deliberately kill these animals, if they are bothering you, ruining your garden then make it more secure, get higher fences, higher gates so that they can not come in

If the decision to get rid of them is made, relocation is the best way. Do not kill them.

I think the deers aren't a pest and if we were to get rid of them Okotoks wouldn't be the same.

Deer are beautiful, but they attract other predators like cougar. Also deer in rutting season are dangerous to children and other that encounter them on the walkways. They have become domesticated through generations of deer in town. They do damage property, and when they get wasting disease they are not so beautiful. These things have to be looked at with some sense of reality. Cutting the deer population in town is best for the deer and Okotoks. Thanks

Okotoks is the deers home just as much as it is ours. People need to learn to live with them. I find them adorable and love to walk out on my lawn and find them laying down relaxing.

We destroyed their habitat to live here. We have created the so called "problem" and now we're complaining that they're here? They're deer. They're fine. Let them be.

I love the deer. They were here first and should be left alone.

we built here knowing this was right by a river, okotoks has wildlife because of this and it gives our community a natural atmosphere. Taking away the deer will create an imbalance in our ecosystem and will result in only negative outcomes.

Deer on the roads could keep drivers more alert, plus they fertilize our lawn. We haven't had greener grass in years.

Because everyone knows that there are deer in town, I would hope it makes drivers slow down... on second thoughts, some don't even do that for children!

The deer are beautiful, it's one of the only things left to make this town a "small town". We are blessed to have wildlife surrounding us.

The only reason I cannot help with the counting of the deer is because I will have a newborn at that time.

When we are walking our dog the doe can come across a bit aggressive to us when she has her young with her. We have tried to go a different route, only to come across another herd.

We are developing in their shared environment. Really enjoy having the deer in Town. I am careful to drive slow on roadways that I know they frequent (i.e. Crystal Ridge Drive).

Only concern from a safety perspective is the potential frequent presence of larger predatory animals such as bear or cougar. Understand that this potential may or may not be linked to our present deer populations.

it's not the population of deer that has me concerned. The town deer are street smart and even use crosswalks, but the tick population is exploding right now. I'd never seen a deer tick in town until last year when I found 4 trying to climb on me. The population should be thinned, but the deer deserve to stay. I just don't want lyme disease.

We have been here 15 years and have never been bothered by deer. We started as a rural community, wildlife was here before we were.

The deer are part of the charm of Okotoks and should be left alone. Maybe the complainers should move into downtown Calgary and enjoy the cement jungle there.

Also maybe tell people what trees and plants deer don't eat and maybe they could plant that instead.

They should be left alone. We enjoy them as part of living in this Town.

Considering I can't even drive down my street or back out of my driveway or walk my dog without fear of getting attacked or hitting one of them is getting out of hand, I want them gone.

Keep the deer! It's their home too!

I love dear

They are part of Okotoks character and we are encroaching on their habitat not the other way round. If town folk don't like the deer then they should move to Calgary. Our house backs onto the nature reserve in Drake Landing and they are frequently here. They have not caused any damage to my garden in six years and they are not hostile even when I walk past them with my dogs. If a cull is used to control the numbers it will be a complete waste of tax payers dollars. I would prefer my town taxes to be used in a way that benefits more people than the few gardeners that have lost the odd plant. For example; perhaps the town could employ a part time dog warden to police the one and only dog park and enforce the regulations as the peace officers have more pressing traffic matters to deal with.

Deer deterrent strategies are not going to work as these deer have become extremely habituated to humans. They barely even run away when confronted. Children are at risk if accidentally caught between a doe and her fawns. Damage to cars is happening as they are being hit in the middle of town.

Opening up a bow management zone on the outskirts of town would dramatically cut the population down. Thunder Bay, Ontario has successfully implemented such measures to extreme success the past few years.

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I have deer on my front lawn eating berries from the Mountain Ash. They are not bothering me at all. I see it as entertainment. All natural

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Firstly, when you search Deer Survey, the first item that comes up is "Deer Management Survey" which has absolutely no link to the actual survey. Therefore it is misleading and some people may not choose to search further to find that the survey link is actually under "Deer Population in Okotoks", a heading which does not even mention the word survey.

The question of do I feel safe outside in the presence of deer, is quite generic and I chose yes but with the qualifier in my thoughts of "because I respect the fact that they are a wild animal and not to be approached".

It is very exciting for my grandchildren to be able to look out our window and see deer in the adjacent green space, and also a good opportunity to teach them about how to behave around wildlife. My husband and I also love to look out and watch them as they graze and marvel at the grace of these animals. We have never seen anyone try to feed them. Nor have we seen them have any reaction to people showing up on the trail, other than to run away into the woods.

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My house backs onto green space and I love the wildlife we have: deer, rabbits, weasels, ducks, hawks, coyotes (not this last winter, though, they may be gone). Removing animals from our immediate environment would be inhumane and would destroy one of my favorite aspects of Okotoks and destroy part of the town's natural beauty. We live in Okotoks, not Calgary...let's keep Okotoks, Okotoks!

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A effective way in reducing the population is to cull the animals. They gotten used to humans and their natural fear is no longer working

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I moved to Okotoks for the deer & local wildlife. This is a part of what makes Okotoks a beautiful town & not a city. They make the town feel small, homey, and connected to nature. Deer have a place in Okotoks & we are lucky to share it with them.

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My house backs onto green space and I love the wildlife we have: deer, rabbits, weasels, ducks, hawks, coyotes (not this last winter, though, they may be gone). Removing animals from our immediate environment would be inhumane and would destroy one of my favorite aspects of Okotoks and destroy part of the town's natural beauty. We live in Okotoks, not Calgary...let's keep Okotoks, Okotoks!

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Love seeing the deer in town - in the park across from our home and in our yard - God created them - they are beautiful and we are blessed to have the opportunity to see them up close

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Educate the people first. Then hold the people accountable for feeding the deer.

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People who do not want the deer in their yard, should put up higher fences.

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I believe the deer add to the great feeling of Okotoks. It's disappointing to see money spent to have to develop a survey like this. I find the deer relaxing and peaceful. I love looking out my door and see they have been in our culdesac. People need to learn to live with nature, especially with how green okotoks

wants to be

I believe that it is a waste of taxpayer money firstly to conduct this survey and secondly to remove a species of animal because a small portion of the population sees them as a nuisance. The deer are a wonderful addition to our town. I have never heard of one single person in this town who thinks that these animals should be subject to removal, or heaven forbid, a culling.

Deer are wild animals. They are not pets. It is inappropriate to treat them as we do our dogs and cats. We need to find ways to make them people adverse.

I see deer in Crystal Shores on a regular basis. I enjoy seeing them and have never felt threatened in their presence. Any talk of a cull makes me sick. These are beautiful animals that we share this fantastic community with.

They were here long before us.

Keep the deer. They do no harm to the people of our town and we are the ones who invaded their homes.

My worries are that one day a deer will charge or kick someone. Old or young a deer attack can be deadly. Its uncommon as deer tend to flee. With an increase in urban deer population, the likelihood of this happening increases.

I operate a business on Elma St., backing onto the natural reserve. I have deer through my yard on an almost daily basis, and many of them choose to rest under the trees in my backyard. I have occasional visitors in the course of my business, all of them are charmed by the comfortable presence of the wildlife, and I am proud of the fact that I work in a community that is definitely not the 'city'. I live in Turner Valley because of the proximity to the wildlands and I'm pleased that my place of work has a little taste of that as well. Okotoks is in a river valley, which means that it has been a migration route for wildlife for many times longer than people have been around here, to expect them to stop would be unnatural, and it would be a losing battle.

One of the charms of living in Okotoks is the close proximity of wildlife. I know deer can be destructive, but I simply do not plant things that will attract them and I don't mind raking up deer droppings in the spring, it's not a hardship. Having deer sightings is a welcome relief from the otherwise lifeless landscape in the winter. There are so many of us and we are taking up their natural habitat, and I think being tolerant of their presence is the least we can do. Definitely, Okotoks is not over-run with deer as some people are trying to claim!

Feeding occurs regardless of the bylaw, which causes the deer population to stay and grow. In turn wrecking yards and making roads unsafe for driving sometimes.

We're just waiting for someone to get injured. We back onto Kinsman park. One year during the easter egg hunt we watched a dad and his 3yr old child approach a doe and her fawn. Creeping up to within 10 yards. Fortunately the doe and fawn took off. Also had a situation last year where a neighbour was going through our gate to walk his dog in the park. The dog went ahead of him and all of a sudden a doe jumped our fence to go after the dog. The neighbour..(short and round) jumped the chain link fence to help the dog. The dog

got clipped by a hoof with little damage. I went around the end of the mobile to see what was happening and lo and behold, a newborn fawn started following me. The doe was still keeping an eye on the dog and I couldn't see her. I scrambled up on the deck and waited. The doe came back and went south down the Stanley Ave with her fawn. I went around back to see how the neighbour fared and we spotted a brand new fawn sheltered under our air-conditioning cover. We left it and the doe came back during the day and we watched the doe and her twins all summer. Yes the deer are nice to look at. They are also very destructive! I do not feed the deer....they feed themselves with anything and everything in my garden. I no longer put out bird feeders as they come up onto the covered porch and eat the seed from there.

With the bucks around...we've seen them...there will continue to be an abundance of deer. Their natural predators (coyotes) have moved further east so they don't cruise the park like they used to. This is good as I have watched a coyote track a person on the path through the park. Also, one person had his dog torn up by a coyote a few years ago.

Granted, they were here first. However, they are not the cute little bambies many people think they are. Their hooves are extremely dangerous, they have no fear of humans, and their instincts outweigh any possible "thought process" as to maybe these humans are not a threat.

Time to do something before a nasty accident occurs. Then, of course, the hue and cry will be heard round the globe!

Let's get smart before someone gets badly injured.

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Please leave the deer alone. Thank you.

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There are many deterrents available for people who are worried about their flowers. We are lucky to have wildlife close enough to either hear at night or see wandering around our town, it is very much part of the charm of living in Okotoks. People need to develop more tolerance and part of the reason they come into town is people driven - hunting season. Deer seek solace here from being shot. If people do not want to live among the beauty of nature in a rural community maybe the city is a better choice for them. Why do we cater to the people who don't want the deer in our town - what about the people who do want them here?

---

We moved here from BC 6 1/2 yrs ago. We picked Okotoks as we fell in love with the small town, wildlife and friendliness

It really upsets our family (5) that others move into town and want to treat it like a city. If you want the city feel, please do not move to Okoroks. Let the deer be. Don't feed them Don't bother them.

Honestly the deer are so beautiful to see and watch. When we takeout dogs our for walks neither bother each other. They come into our yard and it does not bother us.

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the deer should be reduced in numbers before they get diseases amongst themselves and cause more concern from residents; ie dead carcasses, pets contacting deer sickness or coyotes being attracted by dead animals. If people start reducing food sources now I think the deer are going to get aggressive as they

will get hungry, not leave the area as hoped. we have let them get too domesticated. A count is not necessary as I have seen the herd in our area grow and it is obvious there are more complaints about the deer population which brought on this survey. Fish and Wildlife should be brought in to initiate culling, even bow hunting by license and reporting might help.

Having wildlife in the area is a sign that we as humans can co-exist with nature instead of eliminating it- travelling to other countries where wildlife is now mostly in zoos makes me hope our community does not become so.

To the people who are complaining about the deer in Okotoks, stop feeding them, don't grow plants in your yard, and when driving your car slow down more so at night any where in the foothills. The deer is part of Okotoks live with them or move out.

The deer were here long before all of these communities were built, if people don't like the wildlife they should live in the city.

I would like to see the town prevent the same situation as in Waterton where the deer have become aggressive and attack people and pets.

1. Deer cut through my yard and poop on the grass
2. I have come really close to hitting deer on Milligan Drive and on 32nd Street
3. Deer can be dangerous if they feel threatened. Deer belong in the country.
4. The deer over population can attract big predators. This is also dangerous.

Could we please get deer proof....if people want to see deer they should go to a Provincial Park.

My allow for the damage deer may cause. After living in this town for 25 years it is still exciting to see the deer in our front yard. We will be truly sorry if this changes.

I love seeing them around the neighbourhoods in town. I always look for them on my way to and from work. I do worry about them getting hit as they cross the roads and think that we should always be aware of them. It makes Okotoks feel like a small country town.

Leave them alone. They are part of small town country living.

We have been in town for 25 yrs and have learned to live with them. They were here before us and the town has expanded into their space. They are not a threat to human's personally and as human's we are smart enough, if not too lazy, to protect any thing you do not want them to eat. Over the years they have bedded down in our back yard in the winter, they walk along the front yard. Any thing that needed protecting has been. We have a river riverine and there will always be deer around so live with it. Even the larger cities have deer and wildlife around. I am sure the town can use our Tax dollars for more important projects than a few deer.

One of the things that I find so charming and special about living in the town and not the city is the wildlife. I love to see deer and the fact that my son gets to experience that growing up on a fairly regular basis is

wonderful. We live in the country and with that comes things like wildlife. I know the deer like garden items such as tulips, they use to eat them when I was younger, every year we planted the tulips and normally had headless ones by the the end of May, but we chose to plant deer loving plants and expected it as a possibility. Honestly, if someone doesn't the special things that town life brings then they have the choice to move to the city; I guarantee they will very rarely see a deer (I can't guarantee their tulips though, I grew up in Calgary - my tulips here have always remained untouched.)

When we moved to Okotoks, hearing about all of the deers was a huge draw for us. The kids love seeing them as do my husband and I. If they end up in our yard we consider that a bonus. I think it would be really sad to reduce their numbers because some people want their flowers untouched. This is their natural habitat and if people don't want deers around then they should move to Calgary.

I enjoy the deer and wildlife in the town. I will not support any effort to cull them and I will strongly oppose spending my tax dollars on this issue.

We are one of the only yards that does not have a fence backing on to crocus park, in the winter clan of deers sleep and eat crab apples in our yard- it's beautiful to have them part of our scenery.

We back onto Crystal Ridge golf course, and have seen individual herds of up to 20-24 deer at a time on the course, and as many as 10 deer on our own properties and on our cul-de-sac. They are proving to be a nuisance in our yard (destroy plants etc.) and present a hazard on the road. I leave early in the morning when it is still dark, and have narrowly missed a number of the deer with my car. They show no sign of being afraid of people, and in fact, approach you when they come near, a sign that folks in the community are likely feeding them.

I would support a regular culling of the deer population, since they are increasing in number every year.

I would rather have deer in our back yards than neighbors having chicken coops, chickens and the smell - which will lead to issues in the future

I don't want my taxes wasted on this issue. The deer were here first. We need to learn to live with them.

Deer should not be allowed in towns/cities, deer belong in the wild. No different than bear or cougars , its only a matter of time before someone gets hurt by a deer. Lets be proactive and not reactive to this.  
Thank you .

I think that the town looking at deer management is a waste of taxpayers money. Aren't other branches of government responsible for wildlife management? Having said that - the deer are a beautiful benefit of Okotoks living. We have out of town visitors who are amazed with the wildlife and we need to find ways to coexist. I will not be happy to see the town use our property taxes to address deer populations.

I love to see the deer in my yard. They are very gentle animals and they were here long before we were. It is the human population that is causing the problems! Leave the deer alone.

I would be willing to participate in a deer count, but I feel its unnecessary. I think its ridiculous that this survey

is felt necessary to begin with . We live in a town, not a city and a river runs through it, so of course we can expect wildlife. Of course you should never feed wildlife, and its sad that people with common sense dont know this. In summary, if you want to feed wildlife, you will live with wildlife, as humans we continue to build in there territory, so we will have wildlife, if you dont want any wildlife in your community, live in the city!

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As the town boundaries change and grow we encroach on their territory. The migration patterns through town I've been here long before homes and businesses were that is not the Deers issue. I've heard people complain about dear getting hit in town but again that's not the deers issue people need to slow down and be Aware of specific Deercrossing areas. As a community who apparently prides itself on sustainability we should be working to protect wildlife and make this community a place that both supports nature and the people living in it.

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My family and I love seeing the deer!!

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Love the deer. We built on their land they belong here. I back into the park in Drake Landing and they eat in the hill behind my house nearly daily. I would be sad if they were forced out.

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I have lived in the Sheep River area of Okotoks since 2001. There are more deer in this area than in the past. They used to keep to themselves, but in the last few years they have flourished and are not scared of people or dogs.

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When I walk my large dog daily along the pathways, they walk toward you & are verging on being aggressive. When I come across deer I now turn and walk the other way as I am nervous that they will attack.

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I have heard that people in Sheep River are feeding them, which does not benefit the deer or humans.

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Compromise is the key word and need. I do not want to see our deer shot/killed, etc. There must be other options to persuade/deter the deer from wanting to live in the town limits. Other options such as some way to keep the deer from multiplying - some way to perhaps "lace" some deer food with birth control hormones?? Please - COMPROMISE is the key,

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I have had good success with planting stuff they are not interested in. They wander through the yard in winter nibbling on a few things, but this is their territory that "we", the town people, have moved into. I find it ridiculous that it has come to this point of having studies and surveys about the deer. Someone take a stand once and tell the complainers to move out if they don't like the wildlife!

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Lived here for over 30 years and LOVE having them around. Have been within 4 metres of them when walking my dogs and they have never threatened me. If people are against them so much either plan your garden differently or move!

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I believe the deer population to be equal in deservance of the land as any person living in the vacinity. I think it is inhumane and deplorable to even concider the action of forcefully removing deer for the sake of convenience. The consideration itself is a relatively mute point as they pose far too little of a threat to be requiring of such immediate and acrimonious reaction. Essentially, no, I do not believe action should be taken against the deer population of Okotoks

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taken against the deer population of OKOTOKS.

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This was and is the deer's habitat they were here before the town. We (the town) are invading their space, not the deer invading the town.

If the people moving out here from the city don't like the deer, they can move back to the city. Nobody is forcing them to stay here. I would have to ask the question, "If you don't like the country the way it is, why did you move to the country in the first place?"

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They ate my tulips. Not a big deal as I know they will grow again next year. I purchased a windmill from the Dollar Store and put it in my garden to deter any further munching.

Need we remember that we are encroaching on their land - not the other way around! If you don't like the wildlife (fox, coyotes, deer, etc) then move to a condo downtown.

If people are complaining about possibility of hitting a deer in their car then they should slow down and quit speeding and pay attention!

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Re #8 - would also prefer fewer deer in town.

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We have had minimal issues with deer nibbling on trees in our yard and some garden plants. Fencing and replanting deer resistant varieties of plants has helped curtail the issue. We feel strongly that the deer in town do not present a problem, but rather are a part of the unique natural beauty here that should be preserved.

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This is one of the things we like in Okotoks, is being close to nature, park, rivers, wild life...Ect

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Okotoks council should have better things to do with taxpayers money than this. The deer were here before any people were. It is they that have to put up with humans. If residents don't like the deer please remind them that they are welcome to leave.

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The deer are absolutely delightful and add ABUNDANTLY to our daily life in Okotoks. All members of our family (Husband, myself, teenage boy, teenage girl) comment routinely on how wonderful it is to see the activity of the deer - we LOVE them!!!! Although we don't often have deer in our yard, we would not be disgruntled in any way if they chose to snack or trample through our property!!! I would be glad to support any initiatives that are required to keep our town deer roaming at large!!! Thanks:)

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There needs to be more awareness that even though the deer here seem "more civilized", they still are wild animals and can do major damage to you, your children, or animals if you provoke them. Keep your distance and they'll keep theirs

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The deer are a pest in town now. They have found refuge in town and are making this their home. Their true home is in the wilds and not in town. Effects should be made to keep them out of town and/or culling them.

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My house I don't have a problem with deer coming into my back yard because I have a nice high fence. I really dislike the trend of the black chain link fence that most new communities have. They are easily jumped by deer, and with the extra yummy flowers and grass and human food scraps people leave out I don't blame them for wanting in there. Make fences higher to allow for more privacy in general, and deer will have less places to go in town to get their meals

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places to go in town to get their meals.

The deer have significantly increased in numbers. We will not be planting our garden this year because of them, and have given up trying to salvage our shrubs and trees. A deer has attacked our dog in the past.

Leave the deer alone. It is one of the best things about Okotoks.

I moved to Okotoks because of the wildlife, if anything is done to harm the deer I would be extremely disappointed! If people don't like deer don't move to Okotoks, simple as that.

I see deer almost on a daily basis. Driving, we just need to slow down and watch out for them. Have not had a problem with them in my yard. I live right on the river and I think I have only found them a couple of times in my yard. I like them.

My family has lived in this hilltop neighbourhood of natural green spaces for decades and we have always felt privileged to share the habitat with the wildlife that also resides in this area. We have taken what steps we can for many years to mitigate the property damage the deer cause, through the use of fencing, deer repellent plantings, sprays, etc. However, the population of deer that resides here is now overwhelming this habitat. The does we commonly see in our neighbourhood are each routinely producing two and even three fawns every spring, we are seeing injured deer much more often after collisions with increased traffic as the town grows, and most recently there has been a very obvious and distressing increase of visible disease in the deer population. When the number of deer was smaller there seemed to be no occasion for fear. Over the past few years, however, as the herd has grown we have begun experiencing visits to our yard in the fall from numbers of aggressive and antlered bucks that are chasing the does, physically challenging each other, and are much less timid around people and pets. In addition, the concern exists that large predators will source this greater supply of prey animals and will become more than occasional visitors to the town. Of the alternatives suggested, controlling reproduction in the deer herds may be the most sensible and sensitive means at this point of keeping the numbers in check, populations healthy, and both the two- and four-legged residents safe. Although ideally we would like to continue to make compromises and to coexist with the wildlife, it is no longer realistic to think that the developing urban sprawl of Okotoks is an acceptable environment to contain an uncontrolled and burgeoning deer population, or that the town can do this without significant cost. Thank you for the opportunity to have input regarding this issue.

I think the deer are part of what makes Okotoks so neat to live in. The speed limits are such that they shouldn't be a danger for driving and as far as yards check out what Waterton does.

While I support deer sharing as stated... I do feel that the town needs some strategy to wild life manage its neighbourhoods when over population or dangerous animal life exists... this should be developed in conjunction with Fish and wild life.

I also feel that while there is a by law re feeding wild life there should also be one for stupidity... well for endangering wild life... I have neighbours who chase deer by pound on pans and waiving things at the deer to scare them off.. this should be stopped.

I don't agree with spending my tax dollars on a useless survey. How are you going to prevent them from coming into the town? Are you going to do the same with the crows, rabbits and others???? I would much

rather the town do something about the dandelions in the parks etc. many people spend a lot of monies and effort trying to control the weeds in our lawns. Weeds that are as a result of the town "not" controlling them.....

There should be NO deer what so ever in the town limits. They leave piles of droppings in my yard, eat my cherry tree and they have no fear of people, you shoo them away, and they come back. I also think the deer are an attraction and easy prey for cougars and if they keep coming up the river valley, which has already happened, and a child is killed or hurt, that would be the absolute worst thing to happen.

This is one of the thing we like in Okotoks, is being close to nature, park, rivers, wild life...Ect

We license our pets and are required to control them. If the town chooses not to address the problem of the deer, is the town then responsible for their actions such as property damage, vehicle accident or harm to an individual? The town knows there are far too many deer in Okotoks. You need to take action to remove them or accept the responsibility of allowing them to stay in our town. As a resident I am limited as to what I can legally do. I see no benefit of keeping wild animals within town limits. Eventually larger prey animals will make their way in to town and then there will be an even greater cause for concern. Thank you for looking at the deer population problem.

I live on Elma Street, my back yard is the hill. They were here first, they do not present any danger and are a part of our community. Common sense (not feeding, following speed limits) will mitigate most issues.

If people don't like deer maybe they should consider living in a more urban or suburban setting.

If you live in Okotoks you should expect the beauty of wildlife, especially the deer.

I think the deer should be left alone, it's part and parcel of living in Okotoks and I think it adds to the ambiance of the town. The kids are so excited to see them and besides vegetation damage, I don't see them hurting anyone.

We don't see them as a nuisance ! They are smarter than a lot of people around here as they carefully cross the streets! It's the drivers that speed and hit them that cause the problems.

I think it would be in fair to do anything about the deer. this is there space too! It adds to the charm!

I think that fruit trees planted in the street boulevards contribute to the problem with deer going to the middle of the street to eat the fruit. Perhaps there should be a more practical choice of trees. We have deer on our street every fall/winter to eat crab apples off the tree in the neighbours front yard as they do not pick the fruit. If the fruit was not there, I'm not sure the deer would bother coming into our neighbourhood. A bylaw to compel residents to pick the fruit so it does not attract deer may make sense. The choice of low fences on properties backing onto green spaces do not keep deer out of their back yards. Perhaps a more practical choice of fencing should be allowed for these residents if they need to protect vegetation in their yards. I think the town is too concerned with aesthetics and pleasing developers than practical responsibility to residents (as evidenced by the grossly irresponsible lack of space allocated for schools in town). A step

in the right direction would be to reduce food availability (fruit trees and gardens not properly fenced).

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I believe the majority of the deer population lives in our area. We see them almost daily & they bring a sense of peace with them. We walk our dogs and keep a respectful distance as do the deer. They feed off of our trees and shrubs which causes little to no harm. I think it would be a disgrace if the town removed them - it is part of the charm of living here.

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I have lived here 21 years and the deer have been a staple of this town since I arrived. My children grew up enjoying them around town and in our own front yard and now our Grandchildren are doing the same. It is not every where that you get to experience nature that close and in harmony with us humans. There is something to be said of the serenity that you get from watching them go about their day amongst all the hustle and bustle of life.

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I feel it would be a huge loss to not have them here, they are woven into the fabric of our town.

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I do feel for people who are experiencing major damage to their yards. The deer have only ever nipped off the tops of our tulips here. I would rather see time, energy and money being put towards deterrents for those who need them and education of the public on living together with the deer.

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As for the "big city people" who have moved here in search of "small town living", the deer are part of that experience and if they don't like it, the city is only a 20 minute move away!

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I am a senior living at Sandstone Lodge and really enjoy "deer watching".

The deer have been here for many generations, we need to look after this "gift of nature"

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My issue is mostly when I'm walking my dog on a leash and we encounter deer that have no fear of us . and may even threaten us. I also don't like to see the mama deer walking their babies down the sidewalks and streets in broad day light. they are raising the next generations to think this is a normal life for a deer.

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when your survey says there is a Town of Okotoks bylaw prohibiting feeding wildlife. is that recent ? when I reported a household doing this , I was told they couldn't do anything if it was on private property... so what good does that do??

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Wildlife is what makes okotoks different from any other City. Move to Calgary if you don't want the small town charm which includes the deer:) They were here first.

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People who don't want deer in their yards need to learn how to deter them by planting deer resistant material, putting up fences or moving out of town. I enjoy nature in Okotoks. We chose to live here because of Okotoks green spaces and the fact that wildlife live here suggests we live in a healthy community. Having green spaces and wildlife is good for our mental health as we can feel connected to nature right here at home.

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We need to accept this is the deer habitat that we have taken over. They don't understand that we have a yard which we have cultivated. Other measures should be considered where necessary and population

reduction only as a last resort.

Deer are an asset to Okotoks as it promotes the image of Okotoks being a town nestled in the Foothills with the Sheep River running through the town.....which the epitome of country living

We are currently using an electronic deterrent device (in the front yard). It seems to be working. We've only had it up for a short time.

Also we added height to our chain link fence around the garden to keep the deer out.

Deer are also a traffic hazard - causing accidents due to people slamming on their brakes to avoid hitting them.

Also predators like cougars are attracted into town by deer.

Deer are part and parcel of country living. We need to respect that we share our surroundings with them and we are lucky to be able to do just that. If we can accept backyard chickens then why not deer which an enhancement to our community.

We do have too many deer in town. A few are just fine, but when they chase people on the pathways, it is obvious they are too comfortable.

Cats and dogs have an exponentially greater negative impact on the community as a whole. What I mean is: people love THEIR pets but no one really appreciates other people's pets barking all night or killing song birds by the dozen. Deer are wild animals. We need to adapt to them.

Pretty sure there are much more important issues than this to deal with. Leave them alone.

I had two deer in my yard all winter.I have cleaned up this spring between 2 to 4 lbs of deer residue.

Having the deer is part of the beauty of living in Okotoks. As for being worried about hitting one in town I am not concerned, as watching for deer is no different than watching for a child running out into the street. We shouldn't be driving that fast! We also have foxes, coyotes and weasels, etc. Are you going to get rid of everything??

I am more concerned with the welfare and safety of the deer than the damage they do to ornamental shrubs and plantings

Urban management of wildlife is an increasing problem. The Town of Okotoks has a large mule deer population which is apparently growing. The deer are already causing significant damage to individual property and to Town landscapes. We need to take steps now to determine what numbers are there, how rapidly they are increasing and what steps we can take to manage and control them.

Deer are a part of rural life and we do not live in a city.

I agree that they should not be encouraged by feeding although they eat berries from trees which have been planted.

I strongly disagree with any kind of deer cull should it be considered.

If people don't like deer, then don't move to okotoks!

Drive more carefully.

Drive more carefully.

Deer are meant to live in the wild and people are meant to live in towns .

I have some concern for the safety of children, people walking dogs, etc. The potential for harm from naturally protective deer is something which is always in the back of my mind.

Overall I think it's nice having deer wandering the town and they contribute a little to traffic calming in some cases as people (usually) slow down for them.

I could see them being a slight threat in some cases - while walking the dog I've had a mother deer take a slightly aggressive stance but it was just warning me to keep a respectful distance from her young. We regularly have them in our yard but they don't do any real harm (we've never fed them but they have cleaned up dropped apples from the tree).

It's all part of learning to live with them and respect wildlife. If we wanted to live in a nature-free area we wouldn't have moved to Okotoks.

We live in a rural community and not the City. The deer are a large part of what makes it special to live here. We've had visitors from out of town who are enthralled by the presence of the deer. We've never seen any sign of the deer attracting wild predators...the only predators that we see are people, their dogs and vehicles. If people are concerned about the deer destroying their gardens then use deer resistant plants...we have, with excellent results! If people are concerned about deer causing car accidents then I'd suggest that people drive the speed limit and drive with caution (which they should do anyways!). Even Calgary has their issues with deer, and moose and bear and cougars! and they don't seem to be over reacting and wanting to kill everything. Let's use some common sense, be humane and co-exist with nature.

I love the deer. It always brings a smile to my face when I see them and I enjoy showing them to my grandchildren when they are at my house. They can watch them through the window right on the front lawn and the kids are fascinated by them. They are the best thing about this town and I am angry that it is even being considered to get rid of them. It doesn't surprise me, though, that this is happening but it does make me sad that nature again is being ruined by people and just confirms my feelings about the people that run this town.

I love the deer. I think we can live comfortably with them. We see them often on our walks and it's something we love.

People encroach on wildlife habitats all the time. I think that we as a community should find a way to co-exist with the animals, rather than find new and improved way to keep them away from our yards. I see deer on my street all the time, my kids have grown up with them, and we would miss them if they were gone. I have not found them to be particularly destructive, but I would happily sacrifice a few tulips for them.

I went for a run early Saturday morning in the trails off of 32nd and was chased by a young deer. My fault I surprised them. Luckily there was a man that started yelling - the little guy stopped chasing me. Scarv at the  
47 of 75

surprised them. Luckily there was a man that started yelling - the male guy stopped chasing me. Scary at the time.

Generally speaking, I feel safe around the deer. However, during rutting season, and when the fawns are very young, the deer can be quite aggressive.

The deer were here before us and it is us that have encroached on their territory. I moved to Okotoks because of the small town feel and the ability to be close to nature. This survey is a complete waste of town taxpayer time and money. For those that think the deer are a problem, move back to Calgary.

I think many more important issues should be taking priority over the status of deer in town. If it were Cougars or coyotes that were killing children and pets it would be more important.

I think it's sad and selfish that people are whining about the deer. Move to the city if it's an issue. It's a pathetic waste of taxpayers money to deal with it as well. But then again this town is famous for that. Don't like nature? Move!

We love the deer. Its so incredible to watch these beautiful animals. They often sleep behind our house in sheep River cove. We love living with nature!

The deer are inviting other, more dangerous, animals such as cougars into town. The cougars hunt deer and follow their prey into town. Because of this, I believe we should have much fewer deer in town. Deer are harmless, sure they mess up your gardens, or you can hit them with your car if you aren't paying enough attention, but they are essentially harmless. However the other animals that follow them are not.

Had one deer actually damage our fence just to get into our back yard. My husband has also found a tick on him so I suspect that the deer are carrying ticks as well. I think that is becoming a health issue.

I feel we need to share the land with the deer; but would appreciate changes to keep them safer and to keep them out of the community parks as interactions between deer and children can result in injury.

My only problem with the deer is the large amount of droppings they leave on my lawn. I later find out my neighbors leave bird seed in their tree within reach of the deer. If there isn't any law there should be one for how low you're allowed to place your bird feeders.

wildlife is a natural occurrence and we should be proud that our town is green and clean enough that they do pass through.

Having local wildlife is part of the attraction to Okotoks. They deal with much worse in Banff for example. People need to learn we are building and living in their area, and besides extreme circumstances, we should leave well enough alone.

My family and I enjoy the deer a lot. They are in our yard almost every day for hours and are very much a part of our community. My sense is there are years when the deer are more numerous than other years. These past 2 years have been years with more, but I would be willing to bet that in another two years this will change again and perhaps be a smaller population.

I do love the deer, but I believe one of the biggest problems is residents who do not understand that these are wild animals, not pets, and they need to be left alone. If they are fed in owner's backyards it only encourages them to wander and become less self sufficient. A bigger problem is the predators of deer who can pose another real danger. Many people do not realize that deer can become very aggressive, especially around dogs. An ideal situation would be if the deer could be localized in the river valley, but I don't think this possible.

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Common sense and respect for wildlife required. Nothing more

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I love seeing the deer

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As Okotoks grows with more houses and businesses the deer become a problem and inconvenience in a busy life

People forget they moved for the small town country appeal and the deer were here. more community awareness and conservation support should be encouraged instead of accommodating busy life&box stores!

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In my opinion the deer were here long before us and this is their land. It doesn't bother me that they are around. I enjoy seeing them. I live in a very common route the deer have traveled for many years. And never had a problem with them. I'm also very aware that they walk around town so I keep an eye for them. I don't just assume that they are going to stop just because I'm driving there. I think it would have a big impact on the Eco-system of the town if something was done to eliminate the presence of them. As for number 4 I feel safe when they are outside but I won't put myself in a situation where I corner the deer and feel unsafe.

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People should leave the deer alone, they are beautiful creatures! I love seeing them sleeping on my lawn. I think some of the people living in town should be relocated, or move back to the city. Or maybe they should just stop complaining about nature, live and let live.

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The deer were here first!

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I think the deer in Okotoks have become a part of our community and everyone I have talked to think they are lovely!

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The deer were here first and I really enjoy watching them. It is nature and that is why we moved out of the city. It makes my whole families day if we are out walking and see them. Please leave them be, Thank you

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The deer were here before and its the residents that need to adapt to the surrounding wildlife. A cull is not an acceptable action. We are encroaching on their land, not the other way around.

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One of the reasons we chose to live in Okotoks was its small town feel and the wildlife that would pass by, we love it with the deer in our community, please don't get rid of these beautiful creatures.

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I think that at present, deer are not considered a nuisance, however increasing population of deer within town limits is associated with the possibility for predators to also impede town limits exists. This is a MAJOR concern, especially for pet owners and their pets. A proper protocol and procedure must be identified on

how to handle this very real situation.

I love having the deer around. I understand that they cause problems, but they are not over populated, therefore should not be "dealt with". Please do not take measures to remove them from Okotoks.

Leave the deer alone. They are part of what makes Okotoks the great town that it is.

The only time I've ever heard of deer being "unsafe" is when someone's dog gets it all riled up.

The deer are a health and safety hazard for both people and small animals. They are aggressive when approached and have been the cause of countless vehicle related incidents. As well their presence in town limits encourages predators such as Cougars to venture in.

The deer have virtually destroyed our garden - eaten our plants and all of our flowers. As well they have irreparably damaged some of trees.

They should not be encouraged to be in town.

This is Okotoks we've always had these deer , why get rid of them if the a select few residents can't handle it then they need to move back to the city!!!! I'll be very disgusted by this town if you get rid of the deer

I agree is preserving wildlife and try to keep deer at bay. I don't mind if they pick at my trees or eat my tulips. But I am concerned about how they act and react to residents and pets. I think they could be dangerous if provoked accidentally.

I really enjoy the deer. Having them around makes it feel like we are living with the resident wildlife rather than forcing them out like other municipalities. The deer were here long before we settled anywhere in this country and I think that counts for much more than the handful of grumpy residents whose petunias became an appetizer.

Also, whoever is reading these surveys I would like you to keep in mind that the angry residents tend to be more outspoken than the passive ones. Please don't let the disgruntled okotokians skew your vision about the impact the deer have on the residents of Okotoks.

It is a honour to share this space with our fellow creatures. To loose this privilege by banning them would we a very sad day. They have had to alter their way of life to accommodate us as we moved into their habitat. Perhaps its time that we do the same.

No cull, we are invading their spaces, not the other way around.

My family loves seeing the deer in town, reminds us we aren't in the city. We have fencing and that keeps them out as our back yard attaches to green space and see them constantly. We stay away from planting tulips and flowers we know the deer like because they could easily jump our chain link fence but don't. It's nice to sit outside and see them walk by knowing they are safe and part of the community. They were here

first, we have to live with them. If people took a few actions to prevent them coming into their yards it wouldn't be a problem but they would rather complain then have to actually take some responsibility for their property because complaining is easier.

My responses seem to support the idea that I want to run the deer out of town. I don't. I like deer. It reminds me, and teaches my kids, that we share this land with other creatures and they deserve space too. However, the growing population of deer in town concerns me because they are obviously finding food and are attracted to something substantial to choose to live here rather than outside of town. I plant deer resistant shrubs and trees in my front yard, but they still eat the majority of them. I won't go out of my way to stop them though or suggest that the town does something drastic either; they live here too and we can all get along. However, it does worry me that they seem to be coming closer than they use to and they don't run away when I am near. I don't like seeing deer comfortable with humans around, it makes me nervous for their own health and for potential conflict in the future.

If people wouldn't put feeders out, there wouldn't be so many! Lived on a farm for many years, hung Lifeboy soap chunks in baggies with holes, on the lower branches, didn't like the smell!! So if homeowners would try this instead of feeders, maybe worth a try, worked for us. Just my opinion, thanks!

Having the deer in town is a wonderful addition to our community and I would hate to see them go. Both my children and I light up every time we see them. To have an opportunity to have first hand experiences with wildlife and teach our children how to safely co-exist with them is very important.

I think that the problem of youths going around vandalizing and stealing out of cars and such should be a bigger issue to pursue than deer population.

I think that a lot of people don't realize how dangerous the deer are, especially if you are walking your dogs and they bark at the deer.

As long as you are not speeding you will see the deer in plenty of time. My own children and my dayhome children love seeing the deer.

I don't think there is anything wrong with having the deer in town. My family and I enjoy seeing them in our yard from time to time. I hope the town doesn't do anything drastic to get rid of them.

If people don't like the fact that Okotoks has such remarkably well-behaved deer (we've all seen them stop and wait for traffic to stop before crossing politely) they can move somewhere else because THEY, the complainers, are the problem. I moved here because the town is so carefully engineered for "community" and "peace" while working through some trauma. The flight animals are all calm, curious and at peace with most of the locals right across the town, that speaks volumes for the long-standing local residents. If the deer were sickly or there was a predator boom, or a significant number of collisions caused by deer, that would be one thing, but this is a bunch of ignorant and whiny morons who want the deer culled because "they don't like them" and "they eat things outside so the garden isn't 100% perfect". Take care of your speeding and vandalism problems first before you start shooting the peaceful deer. Please.

The deer aren't an issue. I love seeing them around town. The real issue is all the crime that has been

The deer aren't an issue, I love seeing them around town. The real issue is all the crime that has been happening lately, forget about the deer they're not hurting anyone. I don't feel unsafe at all in the presence of deer, I feel unsafe with all these criminals around!

The deer are part of the Town's charm. We need to be more caring and share the area....after all they were here first anyway.

The deer aren't hurting anyone. They have been around before the town was even established so we have to live with them, not control them. Let them be.

The deer are one of my favourite things about living in this town! :) There are MANY more important issues, like drug dealers which I see more often than deer. The town needs to get its priorities straight!!!!

I like the deer, they get in our yard and eat certain plants and my bird seed from the feeder but we love watching them. Makes me feel like Okotoks is still just a small country town not far from mountain wilderness. There are so many choices for deer repelling plants. I think we should educate the public more, especially kids about how the deer are not playful like bambi but are wild animals who deserve respect. Educate, don't eradicate.

Leave the deer alone, they were here way before us

The town may want to crack down on the people over behind the rec center putting out salt licks and hay for the deer

I love the deer! It will never get old to come across them, the kids get so excited!

The deer are one of my favorite things about living in beautiful Okotoks!

im not the survey type. I used to not mind deer, but I actually now hate them. They are like overpopulated rats. I see them every morning taking my kids to school and daycare. Going down Fountain Tire hill there are usually about 10 and when they cross the road they walk slower than teenagers with their pants around their feet. They are not scared what so ever. Someone has to take care of this situation. Gross

I think it's wonderful to have the deer in town and have not found them to be an inconvenience. To stop to let them cross the road occasionally is one of the benefits of country life. if you don't like them live in the city.

I am outside on the pathways exercising on a regular basis and have had many close encounters with deer. I have never felt threatened or in danger, even when just running several feet from them. I've also walked out my front door and had them standing on my lawn (and the occasional pile of deer droppings in my flower bed).

I feel that we need to find a way to live cohesively with the deer in town. This is their natural habitat, and we (residents) are as much to blame for the 'issues' we have as anyone. They are also part of our small town charm and part of what separates us from larger urban centers, and I personally love seeing the deer around town.

What is the real issue with the deer in our community? If the deer are legitimately posing safety concerns to people (or themselves) then a plan to help alleviate that definitely needs to be implemented. However if the issue is that the deer are an irritant to residents or are inconvenient - i.e. eating flowers or droppings in yards, then it is a non-issue and nothing needs to be or should be done.

I definitely do not support culling or hunting them. Relocation or some other means should be used to reduce the population if that is a necessary step.

I enjoy watching the deer and it is one of the benefits of living in a community like Okotoks. I would like to see them left alone and not have some do-gooders interfering with nature.

I am originally from England and I love coming home to see the deer right outside my house they are beautiful living creatures! If people don't like what Canada's nature brings them then get out of here!

Wildlife problems are not real problems.

I personally enjoy having the deer in town, but I am concerned about their growing population and the possibility of them attracting predators into town.

people need to stop complaining about the wildlife!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I love driving to work and seeing deer grazing in nearby parks. As long as we are responsible drivers and aware that deer are always nearby then there should not be an issue. The wildlife in town is one of the reasons we moved to the town and out of Calgary.

My family and I love seeing the deer around town.

My children get excited every time they see them it never gets old. I believe we should embrace the deer and be grateful we get to live in a town where we can see such beautiful animals on a daily basis.

The deer were here before us. We can't and shouldn't remove native wildlife because they are seen as an inconvenience to few.

The amount of damage caused by deer in my front garden is minimal, almost unnoticeable.

Biggest problem with deer/vehicle incidents is the fact people are speeding, if people would slow down to the speed limit there would much be less of these problems.

Only time I see pedestrian/deer problems is when people insist on walking dogs off leash inside town of Okotoks limits, (illegal), this also goes back to the vehicle/deer collisions, in the seven years I've lived in Okotoks there have been two incidents which I personally witnessed at the Lions campground beside the bridge, both times deer were struck and killed, no one noticed the deer ran into traffic because they were being chased by off leash dogs. After one incident the owner of the dog discreetly put their dog back on it's leash under the bridge and then started jogging down the trail as if nothing happened.

Deer are not the problem, people and their behaviour are the problem. If people don't like deer they should live elsewhere.

It's like saying we need to get rid of birds. This is the deers home too and they aren't hurting anyone. I see

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deer around my house all the time and you can never get near them. It's not like they're attacking people.

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I quite honestly really enjoy having the deer around as it is one of the many things that makes Okotoks unique. It is part of our character. It also in my view helps to retain the feeling of a smaller community.

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Due to the rapid expansion of Okotoks the deer seem to have less places to go. We back onto greenspace and a lot of deer eat/rest on our hill especially in the winter months. They are not bothersome what so ever as our property I'm sure used to be theirs. If there is a plan to reduce the amount of deer the deer should be rounded up and relocated vs killing them. Okotoks has taken away their space so they are simply adpating.

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I have lived in Sheep River along the across the street from the river valley for 15 years. We have a beautiful landscaped yard and over the years I have learned which plants the deer like and those they don't. Therefore I have planted perennials that they do not eat. All my annuals (for color) are in hangers that the deer cannot reach or in big planters that they stay away from unless there is something planted that I was not aware they liked. We enjoy the deer in our yard and have even witnessed them playing with our toy poodle on occasions

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I am also happy to see rabbits, foxes and a variety of birds (at a distance) in our community provided that people respect that they are wild animals and are being sensible & safe. The deer eat our apples, the birds eat our cherries. And we are very happy to have them all. I think if people don't want to see wildlife, they should probably not live in a small town outside of the city.

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I don't find the deer to be a nuisance. Along 32 street, they don't run into the road much. There have been instance around town where I have seen them cross at cross walks.

The deer we have are very tame, and seem to be comfortable among us. I don't think we should be spending town resources to take any significant action on deer, when they don't affect everyone equally. If people have a problem with deer in their yards, it should be up to them to control it.

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I believe the town could survey more important items such as the increase in break-ins or theft in the Okotoks area. Additionally opinions about garbage disposal or actually following an 11pm curfew.

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I don't agree with spending my tax dollars on a useless survey. How are you going to prevent them from coming into the town.? Are you going to do the same with the coyotes, rabbits gophers???? I would much rather the town do something about the dandelions in the parks etc. many people spend a lot of monies and effort trying to control the weeds in our lawns. Weeds that are as a result of the town "not" controlling them.....

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We have lived in this area for 5 years and really like Okotoks as a whole. The deer population has increased considerably since then. If they continue to feel comfortable around people, the numbers will continue to grow. There could be issues with animal and people safety, as well as the growing dislike for their roaming and ruining peoples' gardens. Having tried several recommended deterrents unsuccessfully, I do not look forward to their daily visits.

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I love the deer in town! They're one of my favourite things about Okotoks.

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The deer were here first. I think they add beauty to our quaint little town. They are in my yard at least once per week and I love it. I never feed them. Maybe we need to look at enforcing our bylaws. The deer aren't doing anything wrong!

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The deer population needs to be controlled, because they have no predators in town some of the deer in our area have been quiet injured and sickly looking without anything to eat them!

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Having a vibrant city with wildlife is something many people only dream of and we shouldn't take it for granted or attempt to change it.

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I feel that the deer are a major part of this town and it would be a tragedy if they went. Please don't let this happen!!!

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Don't waste my tax dollars!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Get real!

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Weekly we see deer behind our house or in nearby yards. I do not believe that they pose a risk to the citizens of Okotoks. I do not believe in trying to control the population of the deer in Okotoks. Part of the attraction of living in Okotoks is seeing the natural wildlife share our space.

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Deer were here before we were - they cause minimal damage  
Let them be

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Honestly, it was the abundant opportunity to interact with nature that first attracted us to the Okotoks area many years ago. Perhaps we have a strong appreciation for the variety of wildlife and respect their presence here. I would be extremely disappointed if there were any form of cull or relocation.

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If recent arrivals to our fabulous town are to blame for the complaints then perhaps they should seriously consider moving back to the city where their narrow, self-serving attitude is expected. Leave our deer and wildlife population alone.

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In the winter the deer are in our yard quite frequently. They eat the berries that have fallen from the trees. They don't bother anything else. More worrisome is the speeding cars on the roads that don't slow down for them. I saw a woman stop her car on the road as deer were crossing, open her window and shout at them to get off the road ... like they could understand! If it had been a person would she have shouted at them also? Better the deer than the coyotes that used to hang around the neighbourhood and eat the cats. And what about this pesty mole population that is overtaking and digging up the hillside? Leave the deer alone, they'll move on eventually.

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I love the deer! My kids love the deer! Leave them alone!

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i love seeing the deer around town!

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The deer frequent the hill behind my place, they do stroll down to the streets once and a while but it is great to see them. In my 7 years here the population has seemed to remain steady, not increasing or decreasing. Perhaps educating the public rather than running the deer out is a better option. (Signage, flyers, something)

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I am an avid gardener and find it impossible to have a nice yard because the deer eat everything! We also have a small dog and I have to check the back yard before I let him out because the deer are so tame they challenged him. Buying flowers last year was a waste of time and money, they ate all my flowers in the front yard and the back yard which is fully fenced.

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I live on Maple street and it's highly populated with deer. They are welcome to us and I know myself and my neighbours aren't bothered. They bring character to the street.

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We moved to Okotoks 1 1/2 years ago and the deer were a huge bonus to us. We are excited to see them whenever we do.

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I grew up in this town and I love to see the deer, technically we are the ones who built on their land so I agree 110+ % that we leave the deer alone, if all these city people dont like it then move out of Okotoks the deer were here before us so leave them alone.

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I believe it is an issue as I have see deer hit by vehicles a few occasions or near misses. People do not expect to see a deer jump across the street on a residential road. They have come into our yard and walk the pathway behind our home in drake landing often and I don't think it is safe for kids playing.

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I love having the deer around the neighbourhood it's nice seeing them on walks and I don't have a problem with them being in my yard, I would be disappointed if they were entirely relocated. I notice them more in certain areas but there are less drastic changes that can be made rather than just getting rid of them.

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The deer do not bother us. We love seeing them around. Humans are invading their habitat so we all should at least let them be...

they do not damage cars etc.

we want the deer to stay , to us they are part of our town

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The deer bring a smile to my face every time I see them which is often. If people don't like the deer, then move to the city. We can live peacefully and together with the deer in this town. People need to quit complaining about the simple things in life and concentrate on their own issue at hand. If you don't like the deer in your yard, you can plant trees and

plants that deter the deer end of story.

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I love seeing the deer around the town. If they were not here they would be sorely missed. They were here

...the seeing the deer around the town... they were not here they would be sorry, indeed they were here first and should be left alone.

The Deer are not that big of a deal. We have had up to 12 in our yard at one time. They are nagwstuc beautiful animals and I would rather have deer eat my plants than but have deer at all.

The deer don't really bother me but there are getting to be too many and some of them are having fawns late so they are small and hungry in the winter - very scruffy looking. One guy on welch cres feeds them all winter (behind the mailbox)

Deer are a compliment to to the Town and add to the reasons we love to live here !

I would like to see a sign as you come into okotoks warning drivers that we have a large population of deer not just those deer crossing signs. Maybe people would slow down coming through town and be mindful of our wildlife.

Love love love the deer and sharing our town with them. They walk up our street and I take pictures every time

The deer where here before many people moved to Okotoks.  
I like to see the deer walking around in every part off the town.  
The are a part of the town.

We moved in on their territory and continue to expand. We need to accept the fact that the deer have homes within our community and live peacefully with them.

I grew up with deer in my yard in another province. They were here before us and I understand that. The problem in Okotoks is the sheer amount of deer and that they aren't skittish around people or vehicles. We need to do something to control and/or reduce the population before they start causing accidents.

Leave them alone! They are one of the beautiful unique features of our community. If they become aggressive that's a different story but that's not the case.

I live on Elma Street where the deer are in my yard every day. I absolutely love them! They are quiet, and reside mostly on the hill behind our house. It is an absolute pleasure to be able to watch these beautiful animals on a daily basis, and the small inconvenience they create is far outweighed by the pleasure of being able to share the space with them :)

Leave the deer alone. They are part of nature and if we dont learn to live with nature then get ready to die.

I believe the discussion of a deer cull is unnecessary and ridiculous. The deer were here prior to human habitation and they have justified rights to reside here, just as we do. We must respect the land and the deer come with that. If they were vicious, then the story would be different, but they are harmless, gentle creatures.

Please don't steer the deer away ... This was one of the reasons we moved here.... I have always found the deer to follow the rules like by road they never dart across they wait... I think they show us respect as we

should them.... We have built houses on there space ., why can't we share.... I think it would be selfish if we would shut them out... Don't take the small town feeling away.. Leave them alone as they do us please !

I do not agree with any killing of wildlife because humans cant handle sharing their lives with them.

If people would keep the bird feeders well within their yards and not put them by their fences which encourages the deer to feed. This changes their pathways but some people are pretty selfish and want to watch the deer.

Okotoks started as a small town and I, for one, would love to preserve that feeling as long as possible. I believe the deer are a 'small town' attraction and local residents need to respect the wildlife. Aside from the thousands of people coming to Okotoks from Calgary or other suburban areas, no one from the Foothills (originally) would be questioning the Deer population. This is a man made problem! If we stopped feeding the local wildlife as we are supposed too, we would not have as many problems such as deer destroying landscaping in people's yards. Just because select town residents are angered, it does not justify the right to take the freedoms of long standing Okotokians and their wildlife. Thank you ~ C

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Our family takes a huge amount of enjoyment out of the wildlife and deer in this amazing town! It is part of the reason we chose to make this our home when we moved from Australia 9 years ago. The town's smaller size encourages wildlife in the surrounding fields and sloughs to use us as a corridor and often as a home. In terms of limiting wildlife - I'm unsure how we could do this short of surrounding our communities with a massive wildlife fence. We live approximately one block from a field so deer will inevitably wander back into our yard each year in search of winter grazing. Realistically if we choose to live in a small urban or rural setting - how can we expect not to share our space with wildlife? Although I'm unaware of a single resident who feeds the deer, my only suggestion is to increase communication and awareness around feeding wildlife and how detrimental this is to animals themselves. Please continue working to protect all members of this community!!

I feel that we need to share our space with wildlife but the deer are not scared of people, especially the kids. This issue is a bigger problem then the deer eating the peonies in our yard. We have been trying to look for plants that the deer won't eat as much. We have taken steps to teach our kids to be careful around the deer but they have often been on the pathway walking to school and the deer do not seem to be afraid to challenge the kids.

I love the deer they make Okotoks special . I would be upset by any type of cull .I am a keen gardener and believe you have to just adapt which plants you grow .

I live down by the Sheep River and we have 3-5 deer regularly in the area. I have seen people feeding them, but that is usually during the winter months, and only when feed is scarce

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Everyone needs to relax

The deer are part of the wildlife/culture in the town of Okotoks. They are what makes this town feel like we are still in the countryside and are not doing any harm. Those that don't appreciate our wildlife and the town of Okotoks should move out.

I like being able to see deer in my neighbourhood. I wouldn't want to be over run with them by the same token. I think if they are a problem, then we should cull the females, not the males. The problem is, how do you do that in town. Perhaps in fall, pen them, dart them and move them somewhere else.

Deer is one of those things that makes this place feel like home. Don't change a thing. If you do, bring in more deer.

Love seeing the deer, personally I feel like it is more like a town when I see deer :)

I have counted a minimum of 8 deer that frequent the Crystal Shores area (to date I have witnessed at least another two sets of new born twins). During rutting and birthing seasons I have witnessed the aggressive nature of the deer and have had discussions with other neighbors where they have recounted events of being confronted by a deer. While we all understand that these are the defense mechanisms of a wild animal it is extremely difficult to avoid them when they overrun the green spaces. These deer are also causing considerable damage to trees, shrubs and gardens and are defecating throughout yards and green spaces. As chronic wasting disease is a real threat in Southern Alberta there is a significant potential to human health with this uncontrolled population. I strongly urge you to consider removing them from populated areas so this problem does not escalate.

I think efforts should be concentrated on reducing petty crime not reducing deer.

I live in a condo and often come home late at night. The deer are often in my parking stall and they do worry me in regards to getting into the building. They are not spooked at all and don't move just because you are there. This morning they were at the bottom of the stairs and wouldn't move and I couldn't get to my car. I like them, I would just like fewer of them.

Thanks for doing the survey.

I think there are bigger issues affecting our town then the deer. I know where the deer are and watch the roads. If u don't like the deer move back to the city.

I love that we have deer in town, although the deer poo in my yard can be a nuisance my kids love seeing them and we know to stay away. They were here first before we cleared their land for houses.

We built in their neighbourhood. Having deer makes us a small foothill town. If you don't want deer move to Manhattan.

To me the deer are a huge part of what makes our town special. I love them, the kids love them and I hope they remain. Anyone caught feeding them should get stiff penalties though as they will wreck it for the rest of us just wanting to enjoy the deer.

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One may go in my freezer soon

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I find the deer in town generally polite. There is a group I see almost daily on my commute by the OLD cop shop - they wait for a red light to cross. Although I would never approach the deer if they are on my street in the morning, I just get in my vehicle and watch them as I leave. They will sometimes nip at my garden, which is annoying - but I just buy new flowers as deer need food. I think the worst part of the deer has nothing to do with the deer but the fact that no one in this town can obey speed limits. If the drivers were really driving the posted 30, 40 or 50 they'd have time to stop before hitting the deer.

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I'm not sure why people are so concerned with the deer population. If we lived in Banff or Canmore, this would be completely acceptable. Why is it not ok in Okotoks? The deer are part of our natural environment, living in the foothills and along the Sheep River. I love seeing them in Town.

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I find it odd that people are complaining about these beautiful creatures residing in our "town" (city). It should be a badge of honour to have deer right within our town and a boost to a "back to nature" image away from the big city. More effort could be properly allocated towards an anti-litter program. Since we seem to have become a junk food mecca (3 Mcdonalds, an A&W, Wendy's, Fat Burger, KFC, 2 Tim Hortons, etc and we apparently have a fairly young demographic that doesn't seem to give a hoot about our environment, an aggressive anti-litter stance would be most welcome. I would rather see a few deer in my yard than my weekly collection of fast food containers, beer cans, cigarette butts, diapers, etc. or 5-6 neighbour cars parked around my driveway, sometimes partially blocking it. (but that's another story...). ;)

Kind regards,

(Personal identifying content removed).

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I am glad taxes are going to this, give me a break, can you lower our taxes before going through these silly make to do projects

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I think that the deer were probably here before us and it is our development of the town which is causing the deer to venture into more built up areas as we are taking away their environment! What right do we have to get rid of them? I love to see them in town; it reminds me that we live in this beautiful wild country called Canada!

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I love how we have deer as a regular fixture in our town.

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I think this is primarily an education issue. Town residents need to be better educated about the "dos and don'ts" for deer so we can happily co-exist with them. I LOVE seeing the deer around town (while driving, on walks and from my windows). It is one of those things that make his town special and I would hate to see them leave.

---

I think more measures need to be implemented to stop people from intentionally and unintentionally feeding deer. There is someone in my neighborhood that leaves vegetables all over the parks for the deer & it can make it difficult to walk my dog in those places because the deer can be a little aggressive. There are also lots of kids that seem to be afraid to walk near the deer on their way to school in the morning.

I don't have a problem with the deer but the dog poo around town really upsets me!

Aside from the sense of community and the great mountain view having animals to look at daily is one of the reasons I chose Okotoks and will probably live here forever.

They were here first, let them stay.

I think this is primarily an education issue. Town residents need to be better educated about the "dos and don'ts" for deer so we can happily co-exist with them. I LOVE seeing the deer around town (while driving, on walks and from my windows). It is one of those things that make his town special and I would hate to see them leave.

I love seeing them around town and in my yard I would hate to see anyone get rid of them, they were after all here first!

I reside on approximately four acres down in the Lineham area and the number of deer is just getting excessive. We love having them, but their numbers are increasing too rapidly without natural predators to keep them in check. We've had as many as fifteen in our yard at once before and it's not uncommon to have 5-8 at any given time.

i would be sad to see the numbers reduced. It fills me with pleasure to see them in the field opposite me, so many people stop to watch them or photograph them. I have never seen anyone feed them. I feel lucky to live somewhere that has natural wildlife around the neighbourhood, they are part of okotoks and we are part of their life. We need to adjust to them and protect them, slow down for them, cherish them. Please don't destroy them.

They're entitled to be here. Let them be.

I had deer regularly visit behind my first house in another province, but have lived in Okotoks for 24 years now, yet am STILL thrilled when the deer here come wandering by, or are seen anywhere in town. It's like seeing the Northern Lights -- a special, delightful surprise! No matter how close the deer have been to me (I keep a "respectful" distance), their presence has been so peaceful towards me...perhaps because mine is the same towards them. In fact, I've also seen (twice now) cats sitting meditatively, mere inches away from deer on the driveway, and both have remained calm and simply interested in each other. There have been NO "incidents" to alarm anybody. I have cherished all these moments, and without such opportunities I wouldn't be so fond of this town, since these occasions provide me respite from the insanity of this world. If I'm feeling lonely, the deer always seem to know and soon come around to brighten my day. Take that away from me and I will be very, very angry at this town.

I've also seen the odd other person (some with large dogs in tow) instead reacting fearfully towards them, yet the deer (including large, mature deer) simply backed off or ran right away. I truly think people who expect "trouble" from deer are the ones who foolishly create trouble with them. And if people are SO lazy they can't learn which plants to avoid placing in front yards (assuming they care if some go missing), or so stupid of heart they can't share a little bit with wildlife. THEY are the ones who should move to a stark.

...ing, or near any, and there are some other things, that are the ones who should move to a park, concrete jungle, and leave the rest of us and the wildlife alone! \*I\* certainly don't want to live in a place which is that animal-unfriendly.

I think people need to stop getting so irrationally hysterical or up in arms regarding deer (or other wildlife), as it has become IMPERATIVE for humans to use their brains and compassion with an eye towards learning to live \*cooperatively\* with the other animals with whom we share this world -- a world we are so busy STEALING from them -- lest we end up without any of their companionship at all. As many say nowadays, they were here FIRST, yet Nature is cyclical in keeping a good balance on things if humans just butt out and allow that to unfold naturally. Whenever we try meddling with wildlife populations, that is when things worsen for all concerned.

I have advocated for deer and other wildlife in other places and provinces and have refused to fund any place (through tourism dollars) that is insistent upon killing off the animals who draw so many of us TO such places. Forest, riverbanks, fields, without all the lovely deer? Unthinkable, lonely, barren, sad! We always muse that we drive all the way to some farther locale in hopes of seeing even MORE wildlife, including deer, that we normally get to see at home, and are invariably disappointed. So if Okotoks were to become just as callous towards deer as some other places have, and started shooting them, we couldn't move out of this town fast enough. Educate the public if you must, but do NOT make the deer scapegoats for people's ignorance or vindictiveness.

Having deer around is a privilege and a blessing, and Okotoks could be capitalizing on that as a tourism DRAW, instead of shooting itself in the foot and ruining such a good thing. Please leave the deer be!!

I LOVE watching the deer...it's part of the reason we love living in Okotoks!!!

Wildlife was here long before us.

I love the deer in town! I think it would be a shame to not have them here. I think it's our responsibility to co-exist with them- not to remove them.... Please let them stay!

The deer frequently come into my yard but they just lie around on the grass. I love seeing them around town and would hate to think they have been eradicated from their own environment.....after all, they were here first!!

We can't keep expanding and taking over wildlife habitats and expect all wildlife to just disappear unless we actually want them gone forever! Because that's what will happen if we can't make room for them.

We came into their home first, we need to accommodate to them. They are not dangerous and don't cause problems

Please leave the poor deer alone, if people don't want them in their yard don't plant things that encourages them on the property! They are beautiful to see around town and I hope to continue to see them on a regular basis!!

I don't believe "deer eating my plants" is a valid reason to even consider doing anything to harm the deer by removing them from our town or killing them. We have clearly taken over their habitat and at the very least should share the space. I think it is beautiful to wake up and see the deer grazing outside my window, truly special and one of the reasons we live here in Okotoks.

We bought our home in Okotoks to leave the big city and be closer to nature in a small "town". Deer, rabbits, cougars, birds...they all come with it and we love it! Respect for the community includes all the inhabitants, even the ones who don't pay taxes!

I love the deer - I think they are beautiful and they make my day every time I see them.

One of the most unique and special aspects of living here and SHARING what truly belongs to nature. We should ask the deer if we can stay...

I love seeing them around town.

The deer are a delight to have in the town. While out walking, if we encounter the deer, they always remain a safe distance away. We've lived here for over 20 years, and in all that time they've never been a problem. Having the deer in town is exceptional -- we've driven out to Banff hoping to see wildlife, and usually are unsuccessful. Yet, when we simply walk around Okotoks, we get to see the wildlife we hope to see elsewhere.

Other towns promote their nature and wildlife as a tourist attraction - why are there people in this town who would prefer to eradicate natural attractions? What if the same people decided that trees were a problem? what if they decided the river itself was a problem? Shortsightedness has always left communities barren and wishing their 20-20 hindsight had been foresight. Okotoks needs to avoid that scenario at all costs.

The deer, and other wildlife that do go through town should be left alone.

The Deer were here long before the Town of Okotoks was. We all live busy lives and get caught up in the big city life yet seeing a group of deer grazing or walking across the park makes you realize we live in a small town. Learn to live with them or move to a place where there aren't any deer you have a choice Calgary is only 30 mins away so start packing.

We love the deer. They don't bother us, we don't bother them. We have far bigger issues to deal with. Property damage from vandals, break and enter, and drugs in the school. I've heard kids joke about how easy it is to steal in this town. We have FAR bigger issues than the deer! They are calming and beautiful and they don't spray paint cars!!!

This winter there have been less occurrences of deer in my neighbourhood, a direct result of two different neighbours stopping their food supply.

We love the deer. We love that our children are growing up in a wildlife-friendly town and hope that if the town will continue to take all necessary actions to keep our deer population safe.

I have lived in Okotoks for 20 years and have never had any issues with the deer in town. I actually enjoy

seeing the deer around the neighborhood and would be sad if they were gone. I would rather clean up deer droppings from my yard than dog poop left by irresponsible dog owners. I hope no actions will be taken to remove the deer from our town. They give us a little taste of the country in what is becoming a city in itself.

The two deer families in the drake/Cimarron area and the sandstone family have been here forever let them be. They have as much right to be here as we do!

I don't mind the deer. I believe our time and money is better spent else where.

As the town takes up more space, more wildlife can be expected within town limits. Anyone who finds it annoying when deer eat in their yard should consider all our homes are built on their natural habitat. People should NOT be feeding the deer or any other wildlife, but I'm pretty sure we can tolerate them as members of the community and even enjoy their presence. If there is a cull on the town deer, I will be seriously disturbed at the kind of town I am living in. I will not be part of a community that values people's yards over wildlife.

They are relentless in destroying my garden. I'm tempted to park on my porch with a shotgun and feed my family venison for the winter.

Very tired putting efforts and money into beautification projects in my home and community just to have them destroyed by these pests. They are a hazard on the roadways an unwanted expense and a nuisance to community home owners.

My family love the deer and all of the wildlife here in Okotoks. The beauty and connection to nature is one of the main reasons we moved here. We need to learn to live together with nature. If the deer on your property bothers you, make a real effort to use the many safe deterrents available. Many of my neighbours use safe deterrents with great success. Please don't kill the deer!

The deer are getting less afraid of people. When we come into my yard with my 3 and 7 year old can be scary if there is a deer because they tend to charge us. We have tried to deter the deer by using many means possible and the last time a deer charged us, my husband needed to throw a log at it to deter it from attacking. Loud noises, and throwing things at them aren't even deterring them. We have contemplated moving into Calgary to get away from the problem. The deer cause damage to our property, gardening is impossible and the mess is extreme.

Coming from a city environment I feel that the wildlife attracted me towards Okotoks. I also feel that the deer are not overwhelming and if the town remove the wildlife is the next step domestic animals

They are tame and will not leave the yard or back yard for my wife and kids, they are becoming a serious problem and detriment to my property, I do not want to have to build 10' fences just so that my kids can play in their own back yard and we have tried to have vegetable gardens with no luck due to this just becoming an attraction to the deer. We have even tried several vegetables and plants that are supposed to deter the deer from yards and gardens only to find them cropped off the next morning after some growth has occurred.

I have four deer that sunbathe on my side yard - my tiny dog loves going out and plays with them in his yard

- I clean deer poop all the time - I love our deer!! I also find bringing this as an actual town topic is ludicrous and see it as a potential avenue for fiscal irresponsibility.

We regularly have deer in our neighborhood of Cimarron Circle (more so during harsher winters), and other than deer droppings in my yard, they are not an issue. There is a family across from the park that regularly feeds them all winter.

I think that having the deer in Okotoks is a wonderful thing. They help to increase the natural beauty of our town. We all try to reduce our foot print recycle more and live in harmony with nature. If we were to kill off our deer population then I feel that what we are teaching our children to be part of nature and that we can work and live in harmony with it shows that we don't truly believe this.

I wish more drivers were aware of all the deer and slow down.

Growth of the town continues to impact the natural habitats for all wildlife. As such, wildlife have no choice but to vary their movements and find new habitats / food sources. I feel that it is necessary to accept that these animals are an important part of our ecosystem, and find a way to coexist. If that means we lose a few tulips, that's fine with our family.

They were here first, they have done no harm to my property or family, I would strongly prefer to let them be. When I see deer walk by my home, I think to myself "this is exactly why I love Okotoks."

Please leave the deer alone! They are beautiful and I love seeing them in okotoks!

This is a huge waist of our tax payers dollars. Seriously....this is over tulips getting eaten...dont plant them if you have a problem with them getting eaten. Shaking my head....

I love wildlife in my town and would be mortified to know that my town did anything to eradicate them. What a treasure it is that our children are so fortunate to grow up in a place where deer can be seen in the community. I am a wildlife artist and I think it very special that I need only look around my own town for inspiration. It's people that are the problem, not the wildlife!

Main concern is our neighbour leaving food out for the deer and attracting large numbers (have seen 13+ at a time) and instigating aggression amongst the deer as they sort out who gets to eat from the small feeder.

Was told town has a bylaw about feeding the deer in public spaces but not on private property (when we called the town). Would like to see a bylaw that included no feeding of deer anywhere within town limits, along with education for residents on risks and dangers of feeding deer, and on developing deer resistant/non attracting landscaping on private and public spaces.

Town should have non-attractive landscaping in public spaces. (May already be in place).

I like the deer and don't mind seeing them in larger open spaces but do not want to have large numbers hanging out on my front lawn, leaving lots of manure, driving my dogs crazy while the dogs are inside, and preventing us from going out our front door or walking down the street

preventing us from going out our front door or walking down the street.

Note the neighbour feeding issue is no longer happening but was a serious concern for 6+ months.

They should really stay. This is earth and we share this planet. What are the options to get rid of the deer population? I'd like to know what the plan is. Hunt them? Poison them? Capture them and move them somewhere else?

They live here. We moved here. Not them.

If knowone likes deer here then they should move out of the town to downtown Calgary. This was there place first before this town decided to move in on them

I love seeing the deer in town. It just seems like they are part of our town

The nice thing about living in the Foothills and out of the city, is the wildlife. It is part of the charm of the town. Move to the city if you don't like wildlife!

I live on Cimarron drive and have never had problems with deer...so I don't mind them.

I choose to live in a community where there is an abundance of natural areas and parks. This means we will have wildlife. I think it is important to maintain our small rural town atmosphere and to do that we have to live in commune with the animals that wander in and find habitation here. The deer are not a threat to people and with minor prohibitive measures, they are easily kept out of yards. ( we have a lovely hedge that they do not like).

Our family love seeing the deer about town, especially near our home. In my experience, they have been docile and mind their own business. They are a good educational tool as a starting point for discussion with children about wildlife, habitats and living side by side with nature, peaceably.

I love seeing the deer in Okotoks, they were here first & we should adapt to living with them as they have adapted to living with us they are gentle creatures & as long as humans respect their space there should'nt be a problem

Okotoks is known for the deer population. It is part of what makes this CITY have a small town feel. Our family loves the deer and we are excited to see them and watch them every chance we get.

We regularly have deer in our yard where we live on Westridge Close, have had for years. They regularly make the trip into our area from the wooded are across from the cemetery. We feed birds so they regularly clean out our feeders although we have tried different deterrents. What's a bother is the people that set out bales of hay and barrels of food to purposely feed them during the winter. They are hurting not helping the deer. I have been several feet away from deer in my yard between our garage and house and I don't ever feel threatened by them. To cull, relocate or anything else is a waste of our tax dollars. There are so many more ways our money can be better spent. What a ridiculous waste of time.

The deer were here first! I used to live in Deer Run (Calgary) and sadly over 15 years we grew as a city and now you'd be hard pressed to find one of them grazing in the area. I think it's lovely to see wild creatures

living and grazing so close to us, it would be a shame to lose that.

We moved into their territory. It's not right to remove them from it. My young daughter and I both enjoy slowing down for them as we slowly drive by cautiously admiring them.

Okotoks would not have the same feel without them

I find this survey a wasteful use of town time. I grew up in Crownsrst pass and Waterton where our community has come up with ways to live with the wildlife. I live in Okotoks because I wanted the wildlife to be apart of my and my families lives. They come into my yard all the time , poo and lay down in my yard at night. I welcome them. I say Leave them alone!!! Where are they supposed to go if we keep taking there homes for our homes. Who are they hurting?

Love being so close to the Deer/wildlife! first year here I took a pic of the footprints in the snow in my yard! thats why I moved out here from the Big City!! and Everytime I see the deer around my home, I feel blessed. :)

They get aggressive when I'm out walking my dog, especially at night. It's tough to avoid because you walk right into their midst and then everyone gets anxious, human, dog & deer.

It seems they are way too comfortable in our neighbourhoods. Where is the flight instinct that I see out hunting and other less populated areas. We need to deter the deer from hanging out in neighbourhoods. I get it there is a natural river valley corridor, I'm talking about in my back yard. If I didn't think it would cause too much human distress and/or a visit from a peace officer/RCMP member I'd consider carrying and using bear bangers!

We Shouldnt be just another town that shuts wildlife out. its the best part. we are sharing the world.

I think our money should be spent elsewhere like trying to catch all the the little shits that have been damaging people's properties(spray painting cars, theft etc) then deer population. The town is expanding and taking away the deers natural habitat and people think then are in the wrong by wondering through town! Get a grip! Leave the deer alone!

Capture, sterilize then release will lessen the deer population. All concerned would see the deer around however sterilization would be a long term solution. We will never run out of deer within the Okotoks area

Do not hurt these animals!

The deer belong here just as much as I do.

I think there's some need for population control, but to a very mild degree

A lot if time appears to be spent on deer. A group spend a lot of time in my yard and I have to walk past them most days. This has never been an issue.

Having the deer around is one of the things I love about living in this town. Tax payers dollars should be spent elsewhere then on trying to get rid of nature's animals.

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People who feed the deer should be charged otherwise why have a bylaw. unless we are prepared to keep numbers under control, there is no point in spending public money on town landscaping.

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They wreck my garden, I even try to plant 'deer resistant' plants. The crap on our lawn, despite the fact that we have a big dog. They don't care.

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At the corner of Milligan and ranch road there's a deer feeder on the golf course by the little pond. Absolutely ridiculous. Someone put it there for the deer. I don't need to hit them as I drive because people want to see and feed wild animals.

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I absolutely love watching deer...they are a beautiful animal and I think we have a group of sometime 7 in our neighbourhood. I have a dog and even she just walks by them...without incident...makes me feel like I am in the country.

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My children love seeing the deer out our front door and in our walks. They will run away if scared and will not cause harm-ultimately they are way safer and more friendly than most dogs in Okotoks!! I have way more issues with the amount of dog poop, and mean dogs in this town than deer! I would be saddened to see them removed...people need to learn appreciation for wildlife.

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Take care of our wildlife. It's part of why we live here.

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Town should show an example by not planting deer friendly trees and shrubs on the boulevards and streets and replace them with solid material, so deer have less reason to come in town .

I personally spend over \$300.00 to keep the deer out of our yard, but can't do anything to keep them out of our front yard. We don't spend 3 to 4 thousand dollars on landscaping our property, only to have it wrecked by deer !! Provide a corridor for them to move through and so keep them out of residential areas. You are welcome to see what we have done. (Personal identifying content removed).

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I am concerned with the number of deer due to the destruction they cause with regards to landscaping and the possible danger they cause to humans if they the deer feel threatened. We have young people playing in and travelling through parks that are built and maintained for the town residents and we should not have the landscape ruined by deer or worry about our safety.

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Don't waste my tax dollars.

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We LOVE the deer and hope they are allowed to stay.

The people in this town who complain are only complaining for something to do...the deer are NOT a problem.

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i love seeing the deer around town!

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Love the deer, kids love the deer. We are in their space maybe they should kick us out

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I love the deer and would not be pleased if there were measures taken against them.

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I like seeing the deer in town and so do my children. It makes us feel like we are still living in a small

community that is close to nature. They don't bother me or my family at all. The idea of controlling the deer population seems un-necessary.

It is scary to drive through town in the evening or at night. I don't want to hit a deer. My young kids play in the local playground. It is always covered in deer poop. I would like to see fewer deer in town.

This is their home first! We moved into their home so we need to compromise to live with them. It would certainly make me look differently towards this town if they move the deer away.

I have no problems with deer.

We love the deer in our town. Yes, they eat the tulips - whatever - you can put blood meal around them, same as we do for the squirrels. They are lovely animals and seem to be at home in our town - in fact some even use the crosswalks! (much better than most of the students here)

Residents need to SLOW down in this town - if not for the deer, then for the many children who are walking to and from school. Our town speed limits should be reduced to 40 or less in all areas to ensure the safety of all.

We lived on the Downey Ridge for 32 years and have just moved to Air Ranch. I was worried we wouldn't have the deer in Air Ranch, but was pleased to see a mother and her two fawns in our back yard before we fenced it. We lived in complete harmony with them for those 32 years, they would sleep under the spruce trees in the green belt in back of our yard and jump our fence to peek into the windows at us. We have encroached on their space not the other way around. They are a beautiful part of our town.

There are too many, a couple are cute but they are going to cause a huge possibly deadly accident on 32 st soon and then it will be too late to save a life. Nanaimo BC has the same issue and they have had several bad accidents as people come around corners and the deers are so friendly now they don't move for cars. My friend is a RCMP there and he has said that he has witness serious injuries to people because of deer's. I am an animal lover but I love people more and we need to keep people safe. 1 death is 1 too many, so thanks for being proactive and dealing with this issue, and thanks for possibly saving tax money for law suits if something isn't done and someone sues the town for not doing anything to keep them off the roads. 32nd at dusk is terrible. And drivers are even worse as they stop and swerve and are going to cause an accident just by doing that. thanks!

The deer are part of living in the Town of Okotoks. Let's slow down and enjoy the wild life and make it a place where it is safe for children, walkers and animals to mingle and enjoy each other.

We took their land to live on so i feel we should be more tolerant. Plants which are deer resistant work fairly well.

We moved to Okotoks for the "small town" feel..... the deer add to that. We understand the frustration of some town residents whose yards/gardens are been decimated by the deer, but also know that what you

plant can deter them. I live on Cimarron Boulevard and I would love to see deer rather than the speeding cars and trucks dashing past my house. That is a danger to the public particularly the children who are picked up by school buses all along the boulevard! Thanks for giving me my say! We love this town!!!

They are beautiful animals and for the most part, seem to be gentle. My concern is that they are not afraid of humans and dog, which they cause dogs to bark and then can irritate neighbors.

I have no issues with the deer in town. I do have issues with my tax dollars being spent on this issue. Is this part of the reason there is a reported 4.5% tax increase? I would prefer the issues of all of the break and enters and graffiti and damage to homes and vehicles be looked into before some deer

We back onto the Triplex arena and we often have Deer in our back yard eating the frozen crab apples off the trees in the winter or sleeping under our trees and on our flower beds. We look forward to seeing them as we have Grandchildren out from the city and this is an exciting event for them. They mostly just visit in the Fall / Winter time and early spring. We don't find they show up much in the summer, therefore have never had trouble with them eating flowers or anything. we love our "Dear Friends".

I'm not an expert but I also think that cougars and predatory animals like that are drawn into town to hunt deer. This can be a problem

I've had damage, as well as others I know, on their vehicles not due to running into deer but rather panicked deer running into or onto vehicles.

If anything, they add to the enjoyment of living in this community. It's fun to see them poke around my neighborhood in the early morning. I've never seen the being annoying, they even use the cross walks.

Our family loves the deer wholeheartedly. Please don't do anything to get rid of them!!

Deer belong here first we have entered into there territory. Please let them stay.

The fact that we live within a naturalized area, where animals such as deer are free to roam, is a huge boost for me. I love the amount of wildlife that I see around the town, and believe that it is a huge positive. There are not many places that one has the priviledge of seeing wildlife up close. It definitely has made a difference to my daughters as they have grown up here, and contributed to their quality of life.

While I do understand that some people are frustrated with the deer population due to their yards, there are many places in Southern Alberta you can live and have a pristine lawn with no wildlife, but places you can live and interact with wildlife in this manner are few and far between. If the deer are bothering residents, and eating their plants, it is most likely because the most common grass around the natural areas is brome grass, which does not have any nutritional content for the deer once it begins to die off. A containment strategy would be to introduce and encourage native natural grasses into our natural areas down by the river. That would give the deer an alternate source of nutrition during the fall and winter. I do not support hunting or culling the deer population at all.

We moved to Okotoks from Turner Valley and thought we would be missing seeing the wildlife passing by. To our surprise we see a lot more deer and hares than we did in all the years in TV. We are thrilled to share

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our space with these creatures. It makes Okotoks feel more connected to nature.

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The deer are frequently behind my house and on my street. Their presence is part of the reason that makes Okotoks great. They have never bothered nor attacked me. If one is in my way, I generally just wait for it to move on its way or I walk around it. Please leave the deer alone.

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I love the deer! My kids love the deer! Leave them alone!

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Lived in Okotoks for 50+ years, Lock Crescent for 32 years, never been issues with wild life including deer. What next, rabbits running on town roads. Coyotes howling at night outside of town or maybe the owl that hoots in the trees at night. Maybe stop the the Canada Geese from flying over town air space, honking in the evening?? Deer are a part of nature and our town area and we enjoy watching them year round. Nothing better than watching the mothers and babies in the summer as they stroll around town slowly. Do they pose a threat, No they don't. . Do the thieves and crooks that wander around town, breaking into cars, houses and business cause more of an issue than deer??? Leave the deer be, not a one of these deer broke into my car or house yet... Quit worrying about nature and get the police to get off their chairs and stop worrying about files and extra paper work, if they open a new complaint file or respond to a call. Also i don't believe the town built the new station, for them to hide in the million dollar building. Start dealing with crime, and drug smoking going on daily by Tucker Park that they see daily but god forbid, that would mean paper work and who wants to want they are paid for? . No more home movies at night in private residents while on duty may help??? Maybe by-law can stop worrying about bring a certain amount of money each month for traffic tickets and start doing public relation and use a little common sense( if they are allowed to by the town paying them? ) So let the deer roam free and if you move to town and don't care for deer, i am sure down town Edmonton or Winnipeg will be happy to have you as a resident.

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Generally I think having deer in town is nice, my kids love to see them munching on grass. However, I have had a few experiences where they have been extremely aggressive toward me when walking my dog. There have been 2 separate instances where a young buck deer has charged and me and my dog. My dog is not a barker so we did not startle them, I kept him as far away as possible and when we were passing them they began to charge at us, this continued for about 2 blocks.

Again, I love having deer in town, but something needs to be done so this doesn't happen to a child where the child may not be as equipped to deal with a charging deer and could possibly get hurt.

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We live in the foothills in a town and the town is incroching on there space. It's humans fault they are coming into the town. Live with them or go live in the city is my veiw.

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I love seeing the wildlife on the streets especially the deer, I think that it would be a real pity to see them culled.

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The only risk I see os that the speed limit on Crystal Shores Rd and Bannister Dr needs to be reduced because I have often seen deer nearly hit by vehicles. I think we have an obligation to protect wildlife and accommodate them in our town.

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We enjoy the deer and have lived here for over 15 years without any issues at all. They even camp out in one of our front gardens if it is really cold, as it is close to the house. We have planted things that the deer do not eat, and every now and then I toss in a pansy or two as they LOVE them.

Don't kill Bambi

I like the deer because it makes me feel like I still live in a small town among nature. I stopped feeding the birds because it attracted deer. That really worked. One thing we have noticed is that a lot of people walk their dogs off leash on the pathways and they often chase the deer and can cause injury or put people or the deer in danger.

The deer are in our front yard every day in winter and should be left alone. They were here before us. We just make their home smaller every year

We live on the path and have lots of deer. I appreciate the deer and love seeing them. It's us on their land actually

We are encroaching on their territory. As long as common sense is used they don't present a problem.

The deer are wild animals and should be treated as such. Don't feed the bears or the deer. My neighbour fed the deer with low hanging bird feeders with gerbil food in them, in their front yard trees during winter of 2012/2013. And since then the deer on my yard has increased then and this past winter as they keep coming by here to see if there is food in the feeders even though they were empty this recent winter. Resulting damage on my property is in damaged trees and lots of deer droppings, and they also eat my tulips that are coming up. The deer don't look healthy. I definitely believe that people should be fined if they are feeding the deer.

Keep the deer! I live right on the golf course, so lots of deer. My family and neighbours love the deer. People and children need to learn to respect nature and blocking out the deer is not going to teach anyone to respect wildlife.

I worry about them being hit by cars and their food supply. I don't have any problem with them on my property. I think we should do more to make sure they are protected

We live on the escarpment and routinely have deer behind our house. It is one of the things I love most about living in okotoks.

There are a lot sick and injured deer in town.

If you can only have a 3ft fence on your garden it will be almost impossible to keep deer out.

are we really having a survey about the deer....holy cow, put me down and not the deer.

Wildlife is awesome. We are a town that loves nature. Let's not sanitize the town of wildlife.

For some reason the deer really like our front yard. The amount of droppings we pick up is excessive and it really bothers me that I can't allow my young children to play in the front because of the constant mess.

We have returned home several times to deer in the front yard and I worry for my kids safety as the deer don't scare of humans but I don't want to be in the wrong place if they get startled for some reason. Is that what needs to happen for the Town to take action? A resident injured/attacked by a deer?

Leave the deer alone. They were here first.

With the absence of natural predators, I feel the deer population has become artificially high. My biggest concern is traffic accidents. Finally, I hope town council will also consult experts (biologists, etc.) as well as the public to make the best decision. I feel it's very important that expert opinions be consulted when making a decision like this

Any suggestion of a sterilization program is foolish. Deer are wildlife, and should be treated as such. They aren't 'pets', as some people seem to think. There is ample food supply for deer in town and they have no predators, so naturally their numbers will continue to increase. Perhaps the town should look to deer number reductions through an archery hunt within town limits, where such activity could be done safely. This would begin to reduce numbers but more importantly would prompt deer to leave the 'safety' of town.

I love the deer! They are a beautiful part of the landscape and culture of Okotoks.

The Deer are not only a nuisance they are dangerous as drivers must always be aware of their crossing the streets plus some drivers, actually numerous drivers, STOP and TAKE PICTURES of them which endangers the rest of the traffic flow. The deer have realized there are no actual predators in town and are now thriving. They do attract coyotes, though, especially when the deer are birthing or die. We have put up a very tall fence in order to prevent them from entering our yard. We need to get rid of them.

We're blessed to have a "problem" like this.  
Leave them alone.

I think it's amazing to coexist with such beautiful wildlife and love to see them around town and in my yard. They make me smile every time I see them.

We use to live in Crystal Shores and had deer in our yard on a regular basis. They did not bother us at all and we did not feel threatened by them. They are a part of the surroundings here and we are moving into their space. Unfortunately, we once had a deer pass away in our backyard. The RCMP came to remove it for us since it was a Sunday and Fish and Wildlife would not respond. The two officers tried to fit the adult deer in the back of their cruiser. It obviously did not fit through the door and it made for an interesting Sunday morning. Now we live in the MD of Foothills and we rarely ever see deer near our acreage.

These deer have been here longer than we have, let them be. They aren't bears, cougars or coyotes that could pose a threat to our safety. Even so most animals are more afraid of us than we are of them (it's no wonder considering humans are the ones destroying the earth)

We are very disappointed by the lack of action that the by-law officers have not taken in order to control this problem. This will only get worse as time goes by.

Q 4. Safe only if there's less than 4 which is when I run toward them clapping my hands. I'm almost in reach before the beggers move! Could be dangerous in mating season, but.....

Q 5/6 I have had some success with chemicals but plants are everywhere and I can't spray everything. They continue to eat in my yard.

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Written response to Okotoks'

Deer Management Survey

I reside in Suntree and I am aware of the bylaw prohibiting the feeding of wildlife. In the 3 decades plus that I have lived here, I have never seen any feed put out for deer in Suntree. However I have seen one house in Tower Hill that has consistently placed alfalfa cubes out in the winter (private land). The question that becomes important is feed by humans the only reason that deer are drawn in to the town in winter, or do they come from the rural setting anyway? The influx of deer into Suntree without feed shows the real answer to this question. The deer have created and continue to create problems of safety. Personally, I have had an aggressive deer in the winter physically attack my dog in my backyard. The dog was going to the bathroom, and the deer came from across the fence and attacked the dog with its front feet. The deer had to be chased off with a garden rake. Secondly there have been a number of times when it was unsafe to leave the house due to bucks attacking, -viciously attacking, and anything in sight. This has occurred at all hours of the day and night and has endangered children. Every year in the winter there are a large number of deer that herd together in this neighbourhood. Every winter I have had numerous encounters when the lead animal has become extremely aggressive. To date these have been deflected by yelling, waving of arms, throwing things at the deer, and by my dog. When is someone going to be surprised or who doesn't know of these defenses going to be injured? Finally, there have been a number of deaths due to natural causes of deer in the community. The Town stonewalls the removal of these carcasses— "no not us." Where is the concern for the health of humans and pets by these animal illnesses?

Our yard has had shrubs killed, ripped out of the ground, and eaten to the ground level. Our gardens have been damaged by the deer all year round. Every spring I have had a large number of deer urine burns on the lawn. Our tulips are eaten immediately upon emergence. We shroud many of our shrubs and have planted deer immune plants— they eat them anyway. The deer damage the plant tents. Fruits and berries are picked off in the fall to remove attractions. We have used motion detectors, sprays, human hair, and dog hair and all to no avail. Every spring there are large amounts of deer crap on my lawn. Last spring, there were 4 large green garbage bags. So far this spring 3 and counting.

Why are the deer being counted in the fall? The largest number of deer in this community is in late December through February. That is the time frame when they have moved in to the urban setting from the rural setting. I would certainly be supportive of counting the deer, but do it when they are here, not to "cook" the numbers when they are not.

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Just to say that I am fine with the deer even though they do come into my yard from time to time and wander on the paths and streets. It is part of the attraction of Okotoks and it will no doubt change as the town

continues to grow.

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Unbelievable waste of my tax dollars!

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