

## We can coexist with wild animals

**Re: Will Ottawa take a humane approach to urban wildlife? We're skeptical, April 10.**

It is embarrassing that the nation's capital is still killing wildlife. Other cities introduced "living with wildlife and coexistence" programs years ago.

These cities have developed a wide range of other environmentally progressive initiatives, such as sponge parks and rain gardens, wildlife passage guidelines and biodiversity strategies.

Why is Ottawa so far behind? From the good work being done in other cities, it seems to come down to vision, leadership and most important, the willingness of staff to engage the public in solutions.

The Citizen op-ed on Ottawa having shut groups out of the Wildlife Strategy consultation process should send a strong message to the mayor and councillors on what needs to change.

*Kristina Musson, Kanata*

## Bad management wastes our money

For a city facing serious financial challenges, it is disturbing to hear the money being wasted in Ottawa's outdated approach to beaver management.

Spending hundreds of thousands annually to carry out physical maintenance at the huge number of city road culverts and stormwater ponds is unacceptable when there is a proven alternative. It is to install flow devices that effectively protect infrastructure while allowing beavers to continue to provide their essential environmental services.

Flow-device technology would eliminate or greatly reduce costs to Ottawa taxpayers while benefiting the environment and providing a humane alternative to killing

beavers. Check out [www.beaverinstitute.org](http://www.beaverinstitute.org) for modern solutions.

*Robert McNamara, Stittsville*

## Beavers are allies in saving wetlands

I was shocked to learn that the City of Ottawa kills 150 beavers a year. Cities across North America are recognizing that beavers are a critical ally in protecting our shrinking wetlands, a key component in fighting climate change.

A number of U.S. states, facing floods, drought and wildfires, are reintroducing beavers. How can Ottawa have declared a climate emergency and not be aware of this fact?

It seems the bureaucracy is content to just muddle along in isolation, out of step with the rest of the universe. Where is our elected leadership?

*Eric Farrar, Ottawa*

## How we treat animals says a great deal

**Re: Will Ottawa take a humane approach to urban wildlife? We're skeptical, April 10.**

So the City of Ottawa kills 150 beavers each year — the symbol on the Canadian five-cent coin; rids the city of coyotes in an inhumane way; and kills young bears that are harming no one.

We are at least as likely, based on recent events in Canada, to be attacked, maimed or killed by a neighbour's domesticated pet dog as by a wild animal.

Humans seem to be obsessed with progress in all its forms, but in achieving it, we are becoming less human.

*Bill Reid, Ottawa*