20 July 2020

City of Richmond: mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca

RE: Rodenticide Usage in Richmond

Dear Mayor Brodie & Council,

BC Nature (the Federation of BC Naturalists) represents more than 50 naturalists’ clubs and 6000 people province-wide. Our membership consists of dedicated naturalists and scientists who are connected to and have expertise in British Columbia’s landscapes and the diversity of organisms that inhabit them, and wishes to preserve them.

In February of 2019 BC Nature wrote to the provincial and federal governments, expressing our concern about the continuing use of bromadiolone rodenticides to control rodents. Now we wish to support the individuals and organizations wishing to ban their use in the City of Richmond.

The farmlands and marshes of Richmond support a large variety and number of birds of prey, including owls and endangered great blue herons, which can be (and have been) lethally affected by Second Generation Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). Poisoned rats and mice may continue to feed on low-dose bait, accumulating toxins in their livers. At the same time, their reduced wariness makes them more susceptible to predation by wildlife and pets. Paradoxically, the unintended consequence of this rat poison can diminish important natural rat control agents. This problem is not novel. No safe place or safe delivery system for second-generation rodenticides exists.

Recently the District of North Vancouver and the District of Saanich have enacted bylaws forbidding the use of SGARS. BC Nature asks the City of Richmond to enact the appropriate by-law to join them, and to request our provincial government to do the same.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Crosby
President, BC Nature