

Residents can report unusual coyote encounters

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intentionally feeding the coyote in the area.

A coyote that becomes accustomed to receiving food from humans, Pipasio said, will begin approaching all humans and may become aggressive if it is not given what it expects.

Another part of the initiative is a coyote reporting system.

Residents can now visit www.oakville.ca and complete a coyote reporting form so that Town staff can be made aware of unusual coyote encounters.

Unusual incidents would include a coyote that approaches a person, interacts or attacks pets that are on-leash or a coyote that is displaying bold behaviour.

The reporting system can also be used to report people who are directly, or indirectly, feeding coyotes as well as garbage left in neighbourhoods or overflowing Town garbage cans.

The reporting system is expected to give Town staff the ability to address issues regarding coyotes before conflict situations arise.

"The Town of Oakville continues to take a leadership role in creating a comprehensive coyote education and conflict reduction program to address public concern over coyotes," said Oakville Mayor Rob Burton.

"This new reporting system will give the Town information on coyotes in our community and manage risk."

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Mayor Rob Burton

Cindy Toth, the Town's director of environmental policy, said these are just two initiatives being taken to ease resident concern about coyotes.

Other actions include:

- partnering with Oakvillegreen to provide workshops in schools. These workshops provide basic coyote information and safety measures to students in Grades 1-12

- training Town staff on coyote safety and awareness

- partnering with the Stanley Park Ecology Society (that runs an internationally recognized 'living with coyotes' program for the Greater Vancouver Regional District) to develop a coyote management plan and initiatives under the Town's Oakville Wildlife Strategy

- posting signs in parks and along trails coyotes are known to frequent — and installing additional signs as needed.

- Installing wildlife-proof lids on garbage cans in high-risk trails and parks. These cans are labelled with the Town's phone number and residents are directed to call if garbage is

overflowing.

Concern over coyote management in Oakville reached a boiling point back in January after an eight-year-old girl was bitten on the leg by a coyote as she played in a friend's backyard.

Halton police shot and killed a coyote

believed to be the offending animal and deemed a public safety threat a short time later.

Oakville's coyote reporting form can be accessed at <https://secure.oakville.ca/FormLibrary/eForms/CoyoteReportingForm.aspx>.

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