

Charges up



Hamilton Township raises development fees. Page A3

Playing at Games



Constable Marc Bellemarre is representing the Cobourg Police in competition. Page A2

Online news POLL

This week's question: Did you watch any of the World Cup soccer coverage?



WILDLIFE: 150-pound cat was at large for several days

See also pg 24+25

MNR captures cougar

PETE FISHER
Northumberland Today

GRAFTON - It was a happy ending on Friday evening for both a cougar on the loose east of Cobourg and the residents who live nearby.

The 150-pound cougar that had been spotted numerous times in the area of Cranberry Lake Road, approximately one kilometre north of Highway 401 in Grafton since the beginning of the week was captured in a bear trap Friday evening in the yard where it was last spotted, in the yard of Jean Wilson.

The cat had been spotted by family members roaming the yard, resting under the deck of the home, going through a vegetable garden and eventually settling in by a shaded area of the backyard.

Ontario Provincial Police were called and contained the area where the cougar was resting waiting for Ministry of Natural Resources officials to arrive.

Police stayed at the scene with long guns in case the cougar made an aggressive move, but it appeared to just be taking in all the action around the area.

During the time, Wilson's husband even went out in the afternoon to pick some peas from the garden.

Ministry of Natural Resources arrived in the early Thursday evening with a bear trap. It was the first time ministry officials can recall using a bear trap for a cougar.

It was set up in the back yard complete with a t-bone steak and a raw chicken. It was a wait-and-see game to learn if the cougar would take the bait and the metal door would close, trapping the cat.

Nothing happened through Thursday evening and Friday a number of people visited the home, including OPP members, Ministry of Natural Resources officials and two members of the Riverview Park and Zoo in Peterborough.

This time, MNR officials came prepared with a tranquilizer gun in case the cougar didn't end up voluntarily going in the trap.



DAVID HOWARD PHOTO

A cougar that had been spotted in the Cranberry Lake Road area north of Grafton for several days last week sits in a bear trap set by the Ministry of Natural Resources Friday. See more photos on Page B1.

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY JULY 14/14

The cat wasn't spotted all day, even when zoo officials along with an armed ministry official searched area barns for any sign of it.

It was around 8:30 p.m. on Friday evening when Wilson and others at the residence spotted

the animal.

"The cat was around this evening and it eventually wandered down to the trap and, of course, I imagine it was hungry and went in after the meat and the trap came down," Wilson said late Friday night.

Ministry officials were notified

and immediately came to pick up the cage and animal.

"We stayed away from the trap and let the cat stay as calm as possible," Wilson said.

"It must have been around somewhere. We heard the bang and the trap was down."

Wilson said the cougar was banging around in the cage for a while, trying to get out, but when officials removed the cat from the property it seemed to have calmed down.

See WILDLIFE | Page A2

PTO