



PETE FISHER/NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY

Cobourg Police Constable Marc Bellemere will be competing in the North American Emergency Services Games July 14-15.

WILDLIFE

MNR captures cougar in bear trap

Continued from A1

It was to be taken to the River-view Park and Zoo on a temporary basis until officials decided whether it is a wild animal, or, as a number of residents and officials suspect, it is a domestic cougar that escaped from a compound.

Ministry of Natural Resources official Lorraine Norris said earlier Friday, "typically cougars are very shy. They don't want to be around human's if they don't have to."

"This cougar has been exhibiting some behavior that it looks like it may be somewhat accustomed to being around humans which may indicate it was once a captive cougar."

Residents along Cranberry Lake Road said it is well known that an area man is suspected of having a number of wild animals including, possibly, cougars and one resident even reports seeing the man walking along the roadway walking a Siberian tiger.

"Over the years I've actually seen him walking his Siberian tiger with a logging chain," said the woman.

"The Siberian will usually lay at the end of our driveway and not go any further. I don't go out of the house, I make sure all the pets are in and stay inside until he disappears."

The resident said the man has three types of hunting dogs, two male and one female, a male and

female trumpeter swans, (at least one) cougar, a Siberian tiger, and other wild and exotic birds from around the world.

But Norris refused to comment on whether the ministry is aware of what the man has in the gated compound.

"I can't tell you because everything is under investigation. I can't comment," she said.

Norris did state, "the cougar is listed under the Endangered Species Act so there are some rules and regulations if somebody could keep that and the purpose as to why they would want to keep it."

On Thursday, the man - who would only give his name as Caygon - described himself as a "very

private person."

His driveway is fenced off with signs warning of 24-hour video surveillance, private property signs and one sign stating the property is called the Cranberry Lake Game Sanctuary.

The sign states, in part, "we have found it necessary to take extreme measures to protect this location. Do not attempt entry for any reason. Failure to heed this warning will place offenders at extreme risk and danger. There will be no exceptions."

Caygon stated he has "numerous cats," and raises all sorts of different animals, but wouldn't elaborate on what types and how many.

He said he told police the cou-

gar did not come from his land and speculated the cat may have come into the area as a result of another cougar being in heat.

As for people in the area who are concerned about what he may, or may not, have in his compound, he said, "I can't help what people are going to think. If people want to jump to conclusions they can jump to their own conclusions."

The neighbour sums it up.

"It's been a roller coaster of a ride. You never know what's going to be over here."

See Page B1 for more photos from the cougar's adventure.

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SUGGESTIONS: Consider beach in waterfront proposal, committee urges

Group proposes upgrades to Port Hope's West Beach

VALERIE MACDONALD
Northumberland Today

PORT HOPE — The Committee to Restore Port Hope's West

Beach will take proposed beach upgrade plans to Port Hope's waterfront working group late Monday afternoon, says spokesperson Lisa Beatty.

"What we are trying to do is have council consider the West Beach in its Waterfront proposal," she said in an interview.

At this time there are just extensive plans for the east beach and harbour, Beatty added.

The longtime resident remembers when the area was the central draw for the community with families like hers packing up their suppers to eat at the West Beach and socialize there. There was a pavilion and a nearby ball diamond, and it was "like the centre of town" between the 1950s and

nic tables, a parking lot and closer drop-off area for those less ambulatory, plus a gazebo, pavilion or other structure(s) to accommodate events regardless what the weather is like, Beatty said. The municipality only has plans for a boardwalk or path, parking lot and children's playground, she added.

Four plans are available for the public to view on the committee's website (www.facebook.com/restoretheporthopewestbeach), she said. Plans for the 3,100 feet of municipally owned shoreline will

into the town."

In addition, the Port Hope Area Initiative is moving ahead with its clean-up, which includes the West Beach, while Cameco has committed to reducing its "footprint on the waterfront," Beatty said.

To shine a light on the West Beach and raise awareness, the committee has launched a photo contest focusing on the West Beach.

"The photo contest will have two categories: Nature and people at the beach," states a media releases

Financial report