

# Cougar may have lived in captivity

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"I don't think any one agency has the whole picture," she said.

If there is a Siberian tiger on the property, Bellamy said, the Ministry of Natural Resources wouldn't know.

"Our legislation doesn't him require him to tell us if he has a Siberian tiger, but there maybe other legislation that does.

"Some of the exotic creatures are governed by import and export rule, so there could be some type of federal legislation that applies."

Bellamy said she understands why the neighbours would want to know what animals are on the man's property.

"It's a good question. I think if I lived next door to somebody like that I'd want to know," she said. "But I don't know who you'd ask that to. We honestly don't have that information."

The Ministry of Natural Resources has not been on the man's property in at least a week, she confirmed, but has spoken with the owner.

Witnesses and officials who have dealt with the captured cougar said it has never displayed any aggressive behaviour.

"Based on our opinion this cougar very likely came from captivity," Bellamy said. "The way it behaved, from all I've heard, all of it seems very consistent with a cougar raised in captivity."

"I don't care what the origin of that animal that size is, none of them could be trusted reliably," she continued.

"The likelihood of it being a wild cougar when the last confirmed

wild cougar in Ontario was in 1884 - it's pretty unlikely."

Bellamy also put to rest a widely circulated rumour that Ministry of Natural Resources officials have released cougars in the province previously.

"We are not releasing cougars in Ontario, nor have we ever released cougars in Ontario," she said.

She also explained why it took approximately seven hours for Ministry of Natural Resources to get to the location where the cougar was spotted on Thursday.

By the time MNR arrived the cougar had wandered away from police who had been keeping a close eye on it with long guns.

"Part of it is our person with the expertise on trapping an animal like that was out in the field," Bellamy said. "She was out in a boat on the lake and we couldn't get her that easily. She was hours away."

And capturing a cougar was something that's never been done in Ontario.

"The good news is we had the trap and not much more than 24 hours later and we had it," Bellamy said.

A tranquilizer gun did arrive on Thursday with MNR officials, but because the cougar had left the immediate area, it wasn't used at that time.

"A tranquilizer gun is much more risky than trapping the cougar in that: do we have experience tranquilizing cougars in a natural setting? No. Would we have attempted it given the right circumstances? Yes. But everything would have had to have been right. The live trap was by far the best outcome for everyone," Bellamy said.

Asked what animals are on the property being investigated by the MNR, Alnwick / Haldimand Township Mayor Dalton McDonald said, "I don't have a clue what he has."

The Township is currently looking into an exotic animal bylaw which was passed in 2001 stating owning those kinds of animals, including cougars, is not permitted in the township.

"We took that out Friday and today (Monday) we're trying to see if we can use that in some respect," McDonald said.

"It's fair to say we will investigate it further. It warrants more investigation."

"I would not be totally enthused about living on that road or anywhere in that area if there's more of that situation out there," he continued.

"We have to protect our residents. I'm not sure what we're going to do. We're not just letting it go."

As yet, there is no confirmation the cougar came from the property on Cranberry Lake Road, but McDonald said, "it is very suspicious."

"I think it looks pretty fishy to me," he said.

McDonald wasn't sure how authorities could even check to see what types of animals the property owner has if he doesn't allow them entry.

"That's the problem with our country. It always protects everybody and sometimes it makes it very difficult to get where you want to go," McDonald said.

Northumberland OPP have confirmed they are no longer involved in the investigation and have turned it over to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

NORTHUMBERLAND: Black Dress Catering to create meals

# New provider of Meals on Wheels

NORTHUMBERLAND TODAY JULY 16/14

CECILIA NASMITH  
Northumberland Today

COLBORNE — Community Care Northumberland is pleased to announce that their Colborne office has a new provider for the hot meals delivered by their Meals On Wheels program throughout Cramahe Township.

These delicious, nutritious meals are now prepared by Donna Rusaw of Black Dress Catering, to be made available to seniors and adults with disabilities who cannot cook for themselves or easily shop for groceries.

Volunteers deliver meals to client's home during the noon hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a fee of \$6. Special diets can be accommodated.

Among the specialties Rusaw will provide for these meals are:

- Assorted made-from-scratch soups and salads.
- Entrees of beef, chicken, pork, ham, salmon, meatballs and assorted pasta dishes.
- Accompaniments to the entrees such as various styles of potato, rice, quinoa and vegetables.

• Desserts such as fruit, cakes, pie, trifle, cookies or squares.

"I am very pleased to be assisting Community Care Northumberland with their meal program," Rusaw said.

"This will give Black Dress Catering another opportunity to service our community, one meal at a time."

Community Care Northumberland executive director Trish Baird said the agency is pleased with its new local partner.

"If you know of someone who would benefit from this service, please call your local Community Care Northumberland office," Baird added.

To get the available meal-option schedule for Colborne or to register for this service, please contact program assistant Brenda Chapman at 905-355-2989.

For more information about the Meals on Wheels program or volunteer opportunities with Community Care Northumberland, please visit [www.commcare.ca](http://www.commcare.ca).

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Community Care Northumberland Colborne program assistant Brenda Chapman and volunteer Brenda Dolha pick up a Meals On Wheels delivery from Donna Rusaw of Black Dress Catering, along with volunteer Ted Pedlar.