

Residents report brush with wolves in area; coyotes experts say

Wolves sighted in the Terra Cotta area in the last two weeks are likely "brush wolves", or coyotes, according to information received from the University of Guelph.

Ingrid Zorge said she spotted a male and female wolf on Sheridan Nurseries property in the Tenth Line area. She said they were the size of German Shepherd dogs and bigger than Coyotes.

Workers at Sheridan Nurseries said they spotted two wolves there three weeks ago.

Residents of Erin township have also claimed to have shot two timber wolves in the 17 Sideroad, Fourth Line district. Six others were reported sighted in another part of the township.

The two animals shot were apparently the result of a hunt by a farmer annoyed because four of his sheep had been killed by the predators. Experienced hunters, they claimed the animals were "timber" not "brush" wolves.

However, University of Guelph Wildlife experts doubt there could be timber wolves in this area. They point out coyotes or brush wolves kill sheep and timber wolves range mainly in the west where game is larger. Wolves differ from coyotes in their wider-nosepad and usually are longer and heavier in build. The jaw bone must be measured to accurately identify the animals.

While running real wolves usually

carry the tail high whereas coyotes carry the tail below the level of the back.

Prior to 1900 the brush wolf, or coyote, was restricted in Ontario to a triangle extending northward from Lake Nipigon to the Manitoba border. Since that time the species has extended its range throughout Ontario.

Coyotes require woodlots for sufficient cover in Southern Ontario. They are shy creatures and thus are rarely observed by people. Breeding takes place in February and after 60 to 63 days the litter averaging five to seven pups is born.

Coyotes howl but in built-up areas they seem to have suppressed that tendency. The sound has been rated second only to the timber wolf and loon for inducing nostalgia in nature lovers, University people say.

The major food items of coyotes are rodents (mice, groundhogs, rabbits and small birds) and even sheep raising country studies have shown less than 10 percent of the food selected was sheep. Not all coyotes kill sheep and predation usually takes place because the animals are more vulnerable than fenced sheep.

As a component of a natural system the coyote also has a role to play in nature, and university people point out it could go the way of the cougar, bobcat and timber wolf in this area if they are shot at random.

People are not endangered by "brush" wolves.

Let's talk about horses

by Jennifer Barr



Question: I've been lungeing my horse this winter because it's been too slippery to ride him. However, he does a lot of bucking on the line and I don't know how to make him stop. I'm afraid he'll get in the habit and buck when I ride him again. What should I do?

Answer: Most horses will throw a buck or two when they are first out, this is not to be worried about. It's when he bucks continually you start to worry.

Put him out for a free run before you work him. See if this lets off some of his steam. When he wants to play or back on the lunge-line, keep him moving forward at a good pace. A horse can't buck when he's at an extended trot.

As soon as he starts to drop his nose and bunch his quarters for a buck, flip the lunge rein. This sends a ripple down the line and snuffs the horse on the nose. Most effective.

When he has performed well and is going quietly, conclude the lunging period. Don't overdo the lesson or you will sicken him.

That's my motto—"quit while you're ahead."

Question: My four year old gelding suffers from girth galls, particularly in the summer. How do I get rid of them? (Note: girth galls are friction sores behind the elbow—on the horse, of course—due to rubbing of the

saddle girth.)
Answer: A great many young horses have tender skin. You can harden it by washing the area daily with rubbing alcohol or salt and water.

Your girth must be clean and seat-free at all times and very soft. It is possible to purchase or make sheepskin tubing to slip over the girth. This is marvelous as galling protection.

If you have an English saddle, try a cut-back girth. Make sure you place the saddle well back from the withers and have the girth situated several inches behind the elbow. Stretch the horse's front legs forward after girthing to release any tucked up skin. This is a must for any horse, under any saddle, any time.

Please send letters to: Jennifer Barr, R.R. 2, Acton; or the Acton Free Press.

Local men

The board of directors of the Ontario Limousin Association was expanded.

As a result of the expansion, five directors were elected at the meeting: Dennis Cluby, R.R. 1, Kincaid; Laurie Stanton, Hyde Park; Peter Richards, Rockwood; Wilfrid Rogers, Orton; Angus Campbell, Iona Station.

Region recommends grants

A total of \$109,955 in grants approved by Halton Regional Council will assist the Credit Valley Association for the Handicapped in building a treatment centre for handicapped children, sponsor a brochure being promoted by pollution control groups in the region, offset the budgets of Halton agricultural groups and assist a host of other services and programs being offered in Halton.

The Region's Finance and Administration Committee held a special session Friday to make recommendations on which groups should and should not receive public support at the regional level. The matter was handled without the emotion that has been evident in recent years and the committee was unanimous or close to it in most of its recommendations.

The CVAH got a boost with a \$20,000 grant. The grant is to be paid over two years and is subject to Peel Region granting \$30,000.

Support Others being recommended for support include: Lorne Seals Regiment, \$2,000; Salvation Army, \$2,500; Victorian Order of Nurses, \$7,500; Multiple Sclerosis Society, \$2,000; Canadian National Institute for the Blind, \$1,500; Halton Region Fire Prevention Committee, \$2,000; Burlington Youth Residence, \$3,000; Community Youth Programs (Oakville), \$2,000; Halton Helping Hands, \$8,000; Agricultural groups, \$6,000; Halton Federation of Agriculture, \$3,475; Grace House Inc., Oakville, \$2,500; Garbage Coalition, \$1,000. A request for \$2,500 from the

Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra was denied. Recommended grants include Burlington and District Association for the Mentally Retarded, \$9,600; Oakville Association for the Mentally Retarded, \$9,900 and the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, \$6,300. The committee recommended the Niagara and Mid Western Ontario Travel Association be refused financial assistance from the region.

There was considerable confusion concerning a grant request from Halton Plowmen's Association. The plowmen requested a grant of \$9,000 to set up a scholarship fund. The committee agreed not to recommend that grant. The confusion crept into the picture when the plowmen's spokesman, Jack Taylor, indicated the plowmen had paid bills for the regional exhibit at the International Plowing Match that should have been paid by the region.

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BRUSH WOLF OR COYOTE

Churchill

Visits, accident news

by Mrs. Fred MacArthur
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Binnie attended the 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday afternoon of Mr. and Mrs. James Kirkwood at the Masonic Temple at Georgetown.

A very enjoyable gathering was held on Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Hamilton when all their family, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hamilton and children, Georgetown, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith and Stephanie of Acton, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hamilton, also Mr. Robert McEachern of Orton and Mr. Ross Carroll of London enjoyed a St. Patrick's birthday dinner in honor of their mother, Mrs. Hamilton.

Holiday
Mr. and Mrs. William Dobbe arrived home after enjoying a three weeks' holiday in Puerto Vallarta in Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McDonald and little Craig of Caledon visited on the weekend with his mother Mrs. W. J. McDonald in

Acton.
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Eveleigh of Fergus and Mr. and Mrs. Grant Cameron of Branford visited on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr and children.

We are sorry to report

Seminar for valuers

Two Eramosa residents will attend the Valuers' Seminar sponsored by the Ministry of Natural Resources to be held at Cambridge on March 20.

Donald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Anderson had the misfortune to fall on his shoulder, breaking his right arm close to the shoulder. He is plucky and attending school, using his left hand when writing.

The seminar will deal largely on learning to identify the predation on livestock by wolves and predator control.

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For further information contact Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food, 181 Main St., Milton (878-2314).



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