

fencing, which can be quite expensive, guard dogs, and driving sheep into the barn at night, which is hard on the sheep, time consuming, and no guarantee of working because some farmers have found sheep dead within their barns.”

As a result, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture would like to see the government allow the use of snares to trap coyotes, provide greater funding for fencing to protect livestock, and allow farmers to hire hunters or trappers to eliminate problem animals.

It should be noted that coyotes have flourished and even expanded their range in the face of human attempts to control them. Shooting, trapping, and poisoning have not been effective. In fact, some research has indicated that the persecution of coyotes may have produced a smarter and more adaptable strain— not quite what most farmers had in mind.

Also, one must recognize the valuable role coyotes play in controlling agricultural pests such as rabbits and mice.

“Coyotes fill an important predatory niche in the food chain, and without them there would be serious repercussions,” says Miller. “We need to co-exist with nature, and respect it and the role that wildlife play in our ecosystem. We’re encroaching on natural habitat for wildlife like coyotes, and as we do encounters will become more frequent. This is one of the reasons Conservation Halton wants to protect and preserve natural areas in our region, so there is habitat for wildlife without coming into conflict with humans.”

It would seem coyotes are here to stay. Like other animals that call Halton home, we must find a way to live at peace with them and learn to appreciate them for what they are.



Mississauga resident Michele Vuckovic shot these photos of a coyote she observed wandering around Port Credit recently. She watched the animal digging in a backyard garden.

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