

# Joseph Gibbons School warns parents of coyote sighting

Parents of children attending Joseph Gibbons Public School in Georgetown received notification on Monday that a coyote had appeared on school property.

According to a parent letter sent by the school, Animal Control officials said the animals are common in wooded areas and ravines but are typically shy and on the hunt for food or garbage.

Anyone who intentionally feeds

coyotes could make the animal lose their fear of humans, causing them to become aggressive.

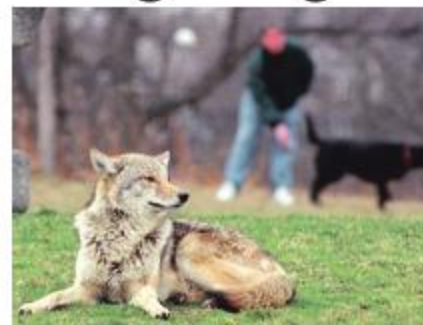
If you encounter a coyote, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) says to avoid approaching or touching the animal, do not turn your back or run from it, but instead calmly back away. At night, carry a flashlight to scare them off. If a coyote poses an immediate threat, call 911.

Always keep your dog on a leash and never let your dog chase a coyote as it could result in injury to your pet. Homeowners should not leave their dog or cat unattended in their yards, especially at night.

The Town of Halton Hills advised residents to report a coyote sighting or if a resident observes an overflowing trash container in a park or along a trail, which could be a potential food source for the animals. Resi-

dents are encouraged to advise the Town at 905 873 2601, ext. 2603.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is responsible for the management of wildlife in urban areas and their website offers valuable information for residents wishing to become more aware of how to deal with coyotes. Residents are encouraged to visit the Living with Coyotes site at [www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-forestry](http://www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-forestry).



Coyotes are becoming a common sight in urban areas. *File photo*

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