

Angry with raccoon runaround

Demands Mayor 'do better' for animals and humans

Thanks to warm-hearted Erin animal control officer Lester Hogan, a raccoon that worried an Acton neighbourhood for three days was captured, treated and released on Friday.

Until Hogan stepped in, Acton's Danielle-Bedard Hogue was ready to pay approximately \$225 to ICE, a private contractor in Norval, to capture the animal, which she said was "writhing in pain, holding its paw in the air (with) a gash on its head," on Friday, near a school bus stop in the Kenney Street/Rachlin Drive area in south-east Acton.

In an e-mail to the Mayor detailing three frustrating days of searching for help dealing with the raccoon, which went from a neighbourhood novelty to a confused and distressed animal in three days, Bedard-Hogue said the Town must do better. "We need better resources for these animals as we encroach on their space. We need better communication with the residents as to what to do in situations like this..." she wrote in correspondence shared with The New Tanner.

Bedard-Hogue's initial call to the Town last Wednesday, was forwarded to the Town's canine control contractor – it does not handle wildlife – who directed her to a private animal control company,

ICE) of Norval which said it would charge \$225 to catch the raccoon. "This wasn't a raccoon tipping over my garbage cans – this animal was on a public street, a safety issue," Bedard-Hogue said in a telephone interview on Friday, adding the Town shouldn't have to rely on the goodwill of a neighbouring municipality to deal with its own wildlife issues.

Until December, Erin Township's animal control officials – contracted to the Upper Credit Humane Society – responded to wildlife calls in Halton Hills, but dwindling dollars stopped the service – some 15 calls per week, according to Hogan, an Upper Credit Humane Society volunteer who was moved by Bedard-Hogue's distress and concern.

After repeated calls to the Town for help from several neighbours, in desperation, Bedard Hogue called police on Friday morning, worried about the raccoon's erratic behaviour near a school bus stop. Police, advised by a supervisor that it was a Town matter and they could not act, although officers threw snowballs near the raccoon

to make it retreat until the kids were on the bus.

At this point, Bedard Hogue was ready to pay ICE to capture and assess the raccoon so the suffering would end, but Hogan called and agreed to help. As neighbours wielding hockey sticks helped corral the 50-pound raccoon which was on top a fence, Hogan, waist-deep in backyard snow, got a noose on the raccoon. It was assessed by a rehabilitator,



treated for an eye problem, given an antibiotic shot

and released within one-kilometre of where it was caught as required by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Hogan said Halton Hills is "too cheap" to offer wildlife services and Erin and the Upper Credit Humane Society can't afford to do it any longer. "We notified the police were weren't answering wildlife calls in Halton Hills any longer, we notified the Town and yet people keep calling us for help," Hogan said on Friday, adding he captured the raccoon on his own because no animal should have to suffer.

Upper Credit Human Society animal care supervisor Jody Collicutt

said they get "dozens" of wildlife calls weekly from Halton Hills, but they can't afford to respond to them any more, and only answered this raccoon call as a "courtesy" because many people were very upset about safety. The Society, a not-for-profit organization, will cover the cost.

Collicutt said if an animal is acting erratically, police should be called to shoot it, and if it is not acting strangely, it should be left alone.

Upper Credit Humane Society shelter spokesman Gary Beck said "it pains me/us to be unable to offer help," and was glad to hear that residents had called or written to Halton Hills to complain that they had no wildlife service.

Bedard-Hogue is unhappy with the Town referral to a private company. "When an animal is in distress, its disgusting to me that I'm given the run-around, and then I have to go into my pocket because I can't stand to see this animal suffer," she said, adding helping this raccoon was a neighbourhood effort, she was just the "loud mouth."

She said the Town's animal control services should not depend on animal-lovers like Hogan. "Thank goodness, the man's heart is the size it is, or (the raccoon) would still be lying there now."

Mayor Rick Bonnette shared his response to Bedard-Hogue with The New Tanner

Dear Danielle,
Thank you for your email regarding your recent experience with a raccoon. As an avid animal lover, I have provided a home for rescued Greyhounds for over 21 years; I do take an interest in the well-being of animals in our community.

The Town does have a contract with a Canine Service provider who also responds to calls regarding distressed wild life. In fact in 2012 they responded to about 30 such calls. When staff followed

up to your complaint it appears that the answering service was for forwarding call of this nature from the Town appropriately. The provider has a long history of excellent service to our community and was upset to hear that they were needed and didn't receive the call.

We have requested that steps be taken to ensure that this does not happen again and based on our past experience are confident that this will occur.

Regarding the Upper Credit Humane Soci-

ety, I understand they still have a presence in town raising funds and collecting donations. The last official communications we have received from them dating to March 2011 indicated there would be no change in service to Halton Hills. You may have been speaking to volunteers. As recently as two weeks ago, members of the UCHS board did come in for a meeting with staff. That dialogue is still continuing. I also understand the topic of distressed wild life was

discussed at last week's rural Community/Police meeting.

I would to again thank you for sharing your experience with me and your compassion for animals. I am confident that however unfortunate the incident was, it was isolated and steps have been taken to minimize the risk of something similar happening again.

Regards,
Mayor Rick Bonnette

See page seven: Raccoon debate continues

Advertorial

Making Sense of Women's Health



NATURALLY SPEAKING

with
Louisa McCarley
RHN, ROHP/RNCP

is a comprehensive guide for women of all ages. The author, Dr. Marita Schauch, BSc, ND, offers information on complementary therapies (herbs, vitamins, diet etc.) to help women with everything from PMS, menopausal symptoms, fatigue and more. In the following article she touches on how important adrenal support is.

Why am I always tired?

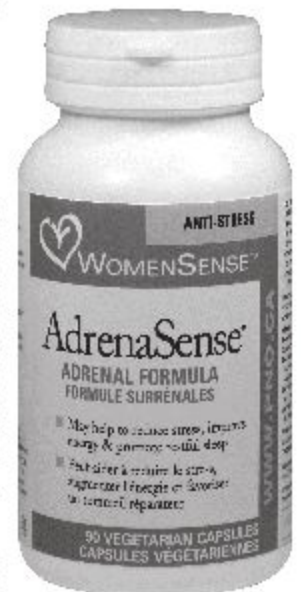
Every day in practice I see patients who complain of unrelenting fatigue. They wake up unrefreshed and drag themselves through each day. These patients feel unmotivated and irritable. Activities that once gave them pleasure do not anymore and most feel inundated with the slightest amount of stress. It is as if their body's coping mechanisms are completely exhausted. These patients also have an incredibly hard time losing weight. Even though they may exercise vigorously and eat healthy, they just can't seem to shed a pound!

Do these symptoms sound familiar? If so, you might have what's called Adrenal Fatigue.:

- Fatigue
- Depression
- Dizziness
- Sweet cravings
- Hormonal imbalances
- Irritability
- Headaches
- Skin problems
- And more...

The adrenal glands are two small glands that sit on top of each kidney and are the body's main stress responders. When we trigger the stress response too often, problems arise as the stress hormones are continuously pumped out and the body becomes depleted and exhausted.

The good news is that there are steps that you can take to optimize your adrenal function to prevent the deteriorating affects of adrenal fatigue including exercise, relaxation techniques, restoring sleep and reducing refined sugars, caffeine, alcohol and processed foods. Also look for AdrenaSense®, an adrenal gland supporting formula with Rhodiola, Suma, Siberian ginseng, Schisandra and Ashwagandha to help reduce stress, improve energy and promote restful sleep. I recommend AdrenaSense to patients in my practice suffering from Adrenal Fatigue.



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