

Town issues warning on increased coyote sightings

The Town of Halton Hills is telling residents to be cautious in natural areas such as Hungry Hollow and the Bruce Trail after an increase in coyote sightings and attacks in the GTA.

There are steps that can be taken to avoid potential conflicts:

- If you encounter a coyote while enjoying the local trails, don't turn your back and

run from a coyote, but be loud, wave your arms and scare it away.

- Whistles, umbrellas and personal alarm devices can frighten an approaching or threatening animal and flashlights are a good deterrent for night walks.

- 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 Ministry of Natural and Forestry Resources advises that coyote conflicts that they investigate are almost always related to intentional feeding of the animals.

Aggressive behaviour towards people is unusual for coyotes, but people should always exercise caution around wildlife,

especially in light of what has occurred recently in Brampton. If a coyote poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 911.

"Coyotes adapt well to our urban and rural environments, but homeowners can take some steps to make their property less appealing to these animals," said Mayor Rick Bonnette. "We are aware of the

changes observed in coyote behaviour in other municipalities and I urge residents to report any unusual sightings to the Town."

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



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