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Assess the situation first

Recent incidents of animals in obvious distress — like a grebe discovered with a fish hook stuck in its neck in Oakville and a goose shot with an arrow found at a Burlington waterfront park — were disturbing, to say the least.

In both cases, residents took action in reporting the injured birds to authorities and, in one case, even assisted with the rescue.

In these instances, residents used due diligence, watching, observing, monitoring and contacting the appropriate authorities. However, for others who may come across wildlife in need, the Ministry of Natural Resources warns in some situations, people should be careful in their approach to avoid potentially doing more harm than good.

According to a fact sheet provided by the ministry, if you see what you think might be a sick, injured or abandoned animal, don't be too quick to remove it from its natural habitat.

It may not need assistance and you may complicate the situation in trying to help.

The ministry states some species leave their offspring alone temporarily, especially during the day.

For example, deer and cottontail rabbits spend much of the day away from their well-camouflaged offspring to minimize the chance of predators finding them.

To determine if a young animal has been abandoned, check it periodically for 24-48 hours to see if it's still around.

Keep your distance and keep cats and dogs away from the area.

The adult animal may not return if it's noisy or if predators or people are close by.

However, if you believe an animal is ill or injured, look for these signs:

- Blood, wounds or swelling on the body;
- Body covered in fleas;
- Unusual or uneven loss of fur or feathers;
- Substantial hair loss or with visible winter ticks;
- Difficult or raspy breathing or sneezing;
- A dangling leg or wing;
- Closed eyes and head tucked under wing.

In figuring out what to do with a wild animal that you believe is sick, injured or abandoned, the ministry recommends contacting a wildlife rehabilitator who can help assess the situation and provide advice.

A list of wildlife rehabilitators is available on the ministry's website at www.ontario.ca/ministry-natural-resources-and-forestry.

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Letters to the editor

Park early at Glen Williams

As the population of Halton Hills has increased year over year, so has the number of people attending Canada Day festivities in Glen Williams.

Unfortunately, what has not increased is the number of parking spaces available. In fact, there seems to be a few less each year, so we are offering the following advice to all Halton Hills residents planning to join the Glen celebrations this year:

1. Car pool — put the whole family in one vehicle. Add some neighbours if you have room;
2. Come early — the earlier the better. Between 8 to 10 a.m. parking is readily available;
- Between 10 to 11 a.m. parking becomes scarcer;
- After 11 a.m. parking is pretty much non-existent.
3. Please note that after 11:30 a.m. no vehicles will be allowed to enter Glen Williams until after the parade is over at

approximately 1 p.m.

4. Alexander, Beaver and Erin Sts. are reserved in the morning for mustering the parade. Please do not attempt to park on these streets in the morning. (Parking is available on these streets in the afternoon).

We thank everyone for their co-operation and look forward to welcoming the community to Glen Williams bright and early on Canada Day.

Colin Hoare, co-chair,
Canada Day committee

Lawn bowling is multi-generational

The Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club wishes to express our appreciation for your promotion of our Club's Open House via *The Independent & Free Press's* article and in *The Sideroads' Calendar*.

The May 23-24 weekend weather was cooperative and we had many brave souls come out and try their hand at our sport. There was a broad range of ages in this group which supports the claim that this is indeed an inter-generational sport. A lot of fun was had by all and from

this event we were able to sign up 15 new members.

The winners of our fundraising raffle were drawn on Sunday, May 24 and congratulations go to:

- ticket #0109 Karen Atkinson of Georgetown was first prize winner
- ticket #0211 Janie Cunningham of Georgetown was the second prize winner
- ticket #0433 June Lenz of Georgetown was the third prize winner.
- ticket #0254 Gord Inglis of Georgetown won the consolation prize.

Our thanks goes to all those who donated to the prizes, sold and bought tickets making this such a successful fundraiser for us.

Frank Anthony -president
Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club

Letters policy

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