

Municipality has in place a Coyote Response Strategy

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be handled in a different manner."

Dennison said this idea was rejected by then Natural Resources & Forestry Minister Kathryn McGarry who allegedly told him the ministry had recently invested significant resources in urban coyote research in Oakville and Mississauga and it was unlikely a Burlington study would reveal new information.

Dennison said the Jan. 30 meeting was something specific residents asked for and which he promised they would get.

He said the meeting went well with at least 40 people in attendance.

The meeting was closed to the general public and the email invitation stated "Trapper John" would not participate if there were members of the media present.

sent.

Those who attended were also asked not to take photographs or shoot video.

While Dennison said it was only an information meeting he noted some people did ask "Trapper John" for contact information.

When reached for comment Dennison noted that if any coyote trapping did take place in Burlington it would only be on private property and no taxpayer money would be involved.

He said if the process moved forward the trapper would make use of soft leg traps to catch the coyotes, however, he was unclear as to exactly what would happen to the coyote after that.

One thing that is clear is that in Ontario it is illegal to relocate a coyote.

"Trapper John" was not immediately available for comment.

"The ministry says that private property owners are allowed to hire a licensed trapper if they wish if they think there is a problem coyote frequenting their property," said Dennison.

While Dennison used his city email, which featured city letterhead, to send out invitations he emphasized the Jan. 30 event was not a city meeting and said no taxpayer money was spent to hold it.

"This is a meeting specifically of people who have had issues, lost dogs, lost puppies and who have been concerned about the safety of their family. People who have had significant issues with coyotes over the last three years," said Dennison.

"There is nothing wrong with me as a city councillor arranging

a private meeting with my constituents."

Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring said there were no city staff in attendance at Dennison's meeting and noted the city does not endorse the trapping of coyotes or the contractor present at the meeting.

He also noted that while the city's Coyote Response Strategy does preach coexistence for the most part there are circumstances where a different approach is permitted.

"We do have a protocol that states that if coyotes become very aggressive and there is more than one sighting of a coyote being aggressive in the same area we can take lethal action," said Goldring.

When asked about the closed-door nature of the meeting Goldring noted there was nothing stopping Dennison from doing that.

"It is up to each councillor to decide who they want to meet with and certainly it is up to each councillor to decide the form of meetings they have with residents," said Goldring.

"That's his call."



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

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Sports Hall of Fame accepting nominations

The Halton Hills Sports Museum is looking for athletes, teams or builders worthy of being inducted into the annual Halton Hills Sports Museum Hall of Fame in 2018.

The museum, located in the Mold-Masters SportsPlex, is seeking nominees for the gala induction ceremony on Thursday, June 21 at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown.

Tickets for the gala are \$30 each. The evening begins with a reception at 6 p.m. and the formal awards ceremony begins at 7 p.m.

Special guest speaker for the evening is Canadian thoroughbred racing legend Sandy Hawley.

Any person or team who is, or has been distinguished as an athlete, executive member or coach, or, who has brought honour to Halton Hills, will be eligible for election, provided he or she was a resident of the Town of Halton Hills at the time of the achievement, which is the basis for his, her or their consideration. Builder candidates may be either active or inactive at the time of their consideration.

Deadline for nominations is Feb. 28. Drop off, mail or email nomination forms to:

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