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## NEWS

# WHOOO'S YOUR HERO?

## ACTON MAN RESCUES INJURED OWL

HERB GARBUTT  
hgarbutt@metroland.com

Vas Fodor was driving home from work just outside Guelph when his headlights illuminated something on the road ahead of him. At first, the Acton man thought it was a chocolate milk container in the middle of the road, but as he passed by, he could see it wasn't.

He turned around, drove back and got out of his truck.

As he approached it, he realized his intuition was right. It wasn't litter, it was an owl.

Fodor picked up the lifeless bird and carried it back to his truck. He placed it under his seat and continued his drive home. About five minutes later, Fodor was shocked when the owl suddenly emerged from under the seat and began flying around the cab of his truck.

"Holy smokes, this guy's still alive," he thought.

Fodor pulled over. The Eastern screech owl settled on his dashboard before moving over to the passenger side window. The owl spread his wings and fluffed his feathers. He moved to the dashboard, just to right of the steering wheel, about a foot away from Fodor.

"I wasn't sure what he was going to do," Fodor said. "I knew he wasn't going to attack, but I wasn't sure if he might panic and start flying. He was pretty calm, though. He was pretty content just sitting there."

The owl moved around the dashboard, at one point spreading his wings over the heater vent.



Vas Fodor photo

An Eastern screech owl keeps a close watch on Vas Fodor after the Acton man rescued the bird from the road.

**"I knew he wasn't going to attack, but I wasn't sure if he might panic and start flying. He was pretty calm, though. He was pretty content just sitting there."**

**- Vas Fodor**

After calling his girlfriend, Fodor decided to take the bird to a vet. With his new feathered friend perched on the dashboard and keeping a close eye on his rescuer, Fodor drove for about 20 minutes to a clinic.

The veterinarians examined the owl. Apart from some bruising behind its eyes, it appeared to be in good health.

The owl had likely flown into the side of a car and was stunned. Lying in

the road, though, it may have only been a matter of time before it was hit again had Fodor not stopped.

The vets asked if Fodor could take the owl back to where it was found, so he drove back to the site. He was told to release it on a branch, but when he tried to place it on a branch, it flew off into the night.

"I was really happy when it flew away," Fodor said. "That told me there was no question that it was OK."



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