



Graham Paine/Metroland

Residents are being urged to exercise caution around wild birds.

BE CAUTIOUS AROUND WILD BIRDS, RESIDENTS WARNED

CASES OF FLU-STRICKEN BIRDS BEING REPORTED

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is asking residents to exercise caution around wild birds due to an increase in bird flu cases in southern Ontario.

In an April 25 statement, the conservation authority, whose jurisdiction includes Halton Hills, noted the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative and the Cana-

dian Food Inspection Agency are currently responding to cases of avian influenza virus (AIV) in southern Ontario.

As such, residents are asked to exercise caution around wild birds at conservation areas, as well as in parks, neighbourhoods and yards.

The conservation authority also advises against handling wild birds and asks that residents who have bird feeders and baths follow Government of Canada guidelines at www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-game-bird-hunting/avian-influenza-wild-birds.html#toc3.

The bird flu is a naturally occurring, contagious respiratory viral infection affecting birds.

Credit Valley Conservation noted the current strain of AIV found in southern Ontario, H5N1, is known to spread quickly and cause mass bird mortality.

The bird flu can infect wild and domestic birds, but is unlikely to transfer to humans. Anyone who encounters an injured, ill or dead bird within a CVC conservation area is asked to call 1-800-668-5557. If the bird is found outside a CVC conservation area, call the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781.



DOZENS OF STUDENTS AWARDED PRIZES AT SCIENCE FAIR

More than 140 prizes were awarded to students of the Halton District School Board during the 62nd annual Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair (BASEF), which was held virtually in late March due to public health restrictions.

As a result of the generous participation of dozens of sponsors and charitable donors, approximately \$150,000 worth of cash prizes, awards and scholarships were given to students participating in BASEF 2022.

Several dozen HDSB students received prizes for their submissions.

Among the highlights was the Primary Fluid Systems Pinnacle Best in Fair, International Science and Engineering Fair Award to Caroline Huang, a Grade 11 student at Abbey Park High School.

Caroline will be attending the International Science and Engineering Fair from May 7 to 13 in Atlanta, Ga. with her project, Chaos in Cancer: Analyzing Network Morphology to Predict Tumor Angiogenesis using Chaos Theory.

Several students will also be competing

at the Canada-wide Science Fair Awards May 16 to 20 in Fredericton.

These include:

Iman Ali, Grade 8 student at Sam Sherratt Public School, for the project, Bauxite Bot: The Saga Continues.

Maya LeBlanc, Grade 9 student at Abbey Park, for the project, Carbon Capture Depletion Using Catalyzed Photosynthesis To Promote Crop Growth.

Jeffrey Klinck, Grade 11 student at Oakville Trafalgar High School, MediRecord: a Quasi-Permissioned Blockchain Medical Record Verification System.

Ariana Mehr, Grade 8 student at Chris Hadfield Public School, for the project, Bauxite Bot: The Saga Continues.

Ava Romano, Grade 8 student at W.H. Morden Public School, for the project, Can CAR T-Cell Therapy Cure Alzheimer's Disease.

Vihaan Vashishtha, Grade 8 student at W.H. Morden Public School, for the project, Using Stratospheric Aerosol Injection to Combat Climate Change.

Visit basef.ca for more information.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

In Canada, citizens have the right to request information from public sector organizations, or correct information about themselves, under Freedom of Information (FOI) laws.

The process typically involves mailing in a paper letter to the organization of concern.

However, Halton Regional Police Service is breaking with tradition and launching an online platform for making FOI requests "in an effort to harness technology, enhance efficiency and better serve members of the public," police say in a press release.

Residents can now go to haltonpolice.ca/foi to make their FOI request online. Police hope that this will streamline the process and make creating a request available 24/7.

Fees can now be paid online instead of through a cheque. "Upon completing their online application, the requestor will get an electronic confirmation that the request has been received and that it will be reviewed shortly," Const. Steve Elms said.

"The online application process is an intake process. Intake, via online or paper, will continue to be processed in the order received," he added.

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