

Turkey vulture crashes through window of home

Hefty bird amazingly unhurt in violent, and bizarre, entry

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF



Oakville and District Humane Society animal protection officer Bonnie Isenberg holds the turkey vulture that made its way into a Milton home last week.

Talk about an unusual intruder. While not subject to criminal charges or a place in the *Champion's* police blotter, a turkey vulture caused quite a stir in a Maplewood Crescent home last week — with one of Milton's most bizarre break-ins ever.

Both returning from their respective jobs at about 8:30 p.m., Glen Parker and 18-year-old son Sean met trusty bulldog Sasha in the front entrance — and were immediately curious when she bolted upstairs rather than waiting for a usual warm greeting.

"I went upstairs and there was glass everywhere and a noise coming from the spare bedroom. At first I shut the door and when we looked again there was this big bird behind our TV cabinet," recalled Glen.

Turns out the bird of prey had somehow broken through the double-pane window and — likely stunned from the violent entry and no doubt frightened by Sasha — taken refuge behind the entertainment unit.

"There was glass in the hallway and even a few shards in the living room. It must have been like an explosion when he came through," said wife Joanne, who came home from work a short time later. "Even more strange was that there was no blood and only a few feathers lying around."

Said Joanne, "Yeah, I guess you could say that." Getting the number from a friend, the Parkers called the Oakville and District Humane Society. Animal protection officer Bonnie Isenberg was quickly on the scene and wrapped up the 30-to-40 pound vulture in a blanket.

No sooner did she take the Parkers' surprise guest outside and give him a quick exam than he flew off, apparently no worse for wear.

"I've been working with birds for over 10 years and never seen anything like this. It's very unusual," said Isenberg. "But he was perfectly fine, which was great to see."

Added Glen, "It didn't seem hurt at all. Must be one tough bird."

The motive behind the vulture's entry possibly centred around Dusty, one of the Parkers' two cats.

Suggested Joanne, "We figure Dusty was lazing in the window or on top of the wall unit and the vulture decided to have him for dinner."

That would explain Dusty's demeanor over the next few days.

"He was totally spooked out, while Sasha kept creeping around trying to see if there was anything in that room," explained Joanne. "Meanwhile our other cat, Crackles, was oblivious to the whole thing."

Of course the household's four-legged dwellers weren't the only ones impacted by their recent visitor.

Quipped Joanne, "Glen said 'I'm scared to go to bed now', but I think it's a once-in-a-lifetime thing. It was definitely an amazing experience."

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The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Tax Notice

Ratepayers of the Town of Milton are reminded that the 2nd installment of the 2008 interim Tax Bill is due on Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

If you require information about taxes, please contact the Corporate Services, Tax Division at (905) 878-7252 ext. 2193, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Tax payments must be received in the Corporate Services Office on or before the due date to avoid penalty. A late payment charge of 1 1/4 % will be charged on the first day of default and on the first day of each calendar month in which the default continues.

It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to ensure that the taxes are paid by the due date, even in the event that the bill is not received as mailed.

Taxes may be paid: (cheques made payable to The Town of Milton)

- By mail: Corporate Services, Tax Division, 43 Brown St., Milton On. L9T 5H2
Cheques post-dated to the due date are accepted and encouraged.
- Telephone or Internet banking (check with your financial institution for details)
- Between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Corporate Services (Tax Division), Town Hall, 43 Brown St. Milton. (Cheque or money order preferred rather than cash). Direct Debit also accepted.
- Please contact our office for details regarding the Pre-Authorized Tax Payment Program.

* Due to the construction at the Town Hall, the after hours drop box has now been moved to the front of the building to the left of the main doors at Victoria Park.

Public invited to comment on 2009 Budget Priorities

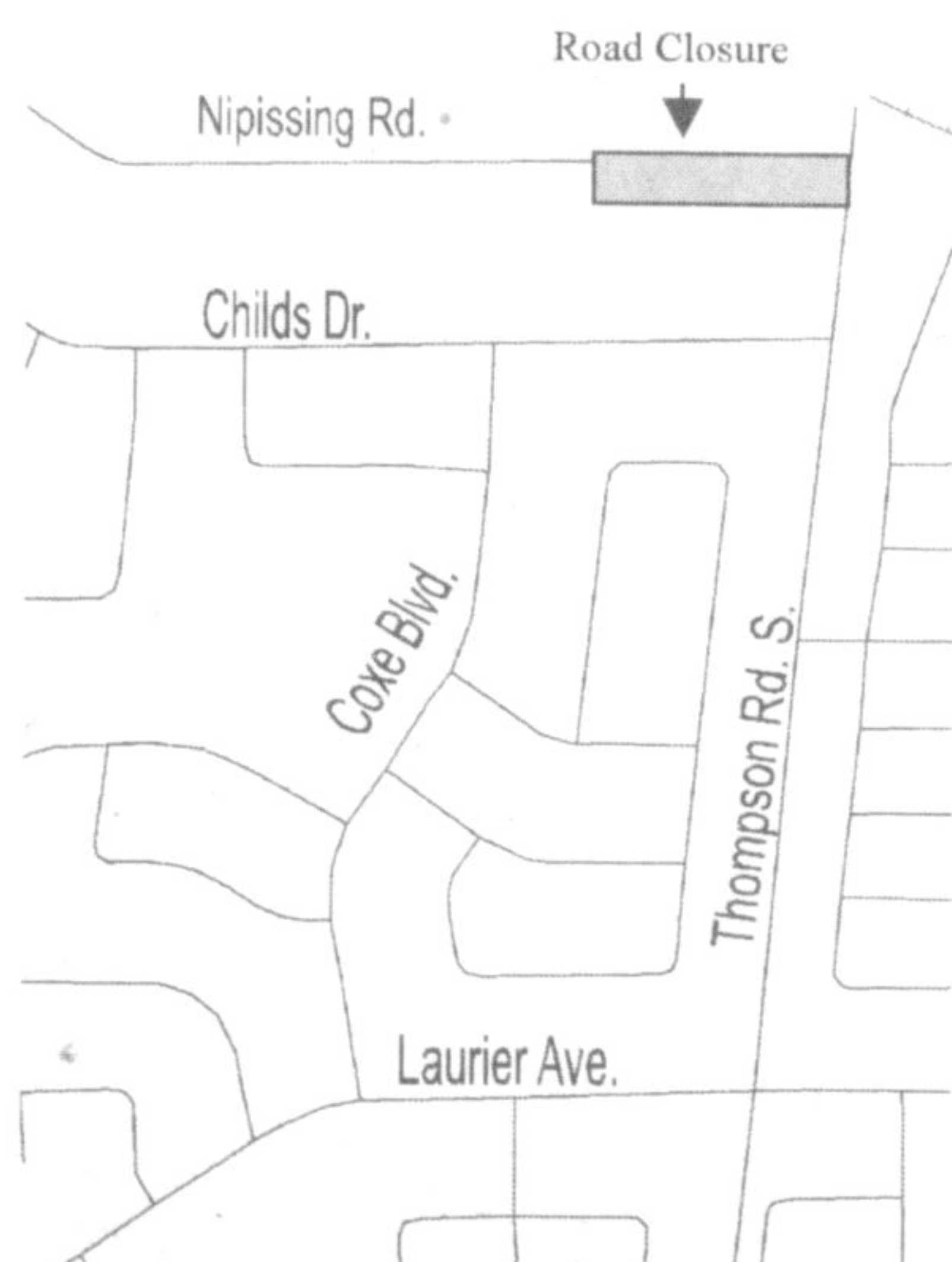
Milton residents are invited to attend the Council meeting on Monday, April 28 to provide input into the priorities for the 2009 operating & capital budgets. A presentation will be made at the beginning of the meeting to introduce the 2009 budget process.

Date: Monday, April 28, 2008
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall
43 Brown Street
Milton, ON

To provide your input, please register as a delegation by filling out a Delegate Request Form. The form can be picked up at the Clerks' Office (Town Hall, 43 Brown Street, Milton, L9T 5H2) or on the Town of Milton website, www.milton.ca. Completed forms must be submitted to the Clerk's Office or faxed to 905-876-5022 by 10 a.m. on April 28.

Comments in writing are also welcome and may be directed to Melanie Wallhouse, Coordinator, Budgets at Town Hall, 43 Brown Street, Milton, L9T 5H2, or at melanie.wallhouse@milton.ca.

Notice of Temporary Road Closures



Nipissing Road at Thompson Road

As part of the Town of Milton's continuing roads infrastructure improvement program, Engineering Services will implement a temporary road closure of Nipissing Road between Thompson Rd. and 867 Nipissing Rd. The closure is required to facilitate the road reconstruction. Access to all properties and businesses will be from Childs Dr. only. Closure will be implemented as noted below.

May 12, 2008 – July 11, 2008

For further information/inquiries, please contact the undersigned:

Rick Tipping, C.E.T., Coordinator, Infrastructure
Town of Milton, Engineering Services, 43 Brown Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 5H2
Phone: (905) 878-7252 ext. 2513 Fax: (905) 876-5029
e-mail: rick.tipping@milton.ca

Bell St. (Heslop Rd. to Meadowbrook Dr.) May 1, 2008 to July 11, 2008.

Engineering Services is issuing a public notification advising of the temporary road closure of Bell Street between Heslop Road and Meadowbrook Drive. Road closure is required to facilitate street reconstruction. Local access will be maintained for those residents within the project limits. Some delays should be expected.