



INTRODUCING 'BV': Lynne Lockhurst had a hunch it was a chukar partridge, and the consensus is, she was right. The Milton resident sent in this photo — published in the *Champion* Wednesday — after spotting the unusual bird in her neighbourhood. We asked readers to help identify the bird, and we received dozens of e-mails — the majority identifying it as a chukar partridge. As Scott Lenhardt wrote, "It's an old-world species brought to North America as a game bird." Olga and Richard Laughton told us they became acquainted with the bird during their daily hikes downtown. Because the chukar inhabits the vicinity of Vanier Drive and Bell Street, they named it 'BV' (Bell-Vanier). Many readers also offered their theories on the presence of the bird, which isn't native to the area. Frank Sambells told us he suspects the partridge escaped from a local farm aviary. Joel Poloni said it probably got out of the yard of someone who was keeping it to train a gun dog. Linda Robin informed us she notified wildlife authorities about the bird and they believe it escaped from a game reserve. "As returning this bird to a gaming reserve would not improve his situation, I've let the matter lie," she wrote. Sandra Shore said she and many other residents are concerned about the welfare of the bird as winter approaches. However, it's generally believed the chukar will fare well, especially with the number of bird feeders in the area. No doubt residents will be watching over BV.

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