



An alligator was allegedly sighted in the Stirling Mill Pond last Friday.

Megan Abraham Community Press

Stirling 'alligator' remains elusive

Many rumours circulating through town

Megan Abraham
Community Press

Stirling — Reports of an alligator in the Stirling Mill Pond have Stirling residents John and Phyllis Sheridan cracking up.

"I think it's a little silly," John said in an interview.

The Sheridans live at 88 East Front St. — right beside the infamous pond where an alligator was supposedly spotted last week and was reported to police.

The couple say they've seen all kinds of wildlife in their more than 50 years living by the pond, including otters, blue herons, ducks and

muskrats.

But an alligator? Not once.

"I'm not convinced," he said. "We haven't ever seen what they think they've seen. I think there's something wrong with their eyesight."

The Sheridans have, however, heard some people talking about the story around town.

"I was talking to one lad the other day who said 'well, I guess I won't be swimming in the pond anymore,'" John joked.

The Sheridans aren't the only people hearing 'gator tales.

At Jenny's Country Lane, a local coffee shop on Mill Street, the alligator has been a topic of interest.

Jenny's employee Nicole Haggerty said she's heard a few people discussing the phantom reptile.

"Most of the people in here think it's a big hoax," she said. "I've only had one person who fully believes it."

While most customers are brushing the story

off, Haggerty said, there have also been some rumours flying.

"People have said they spotted it and it's four feet long," she said. "Some people think it was just a kids' floaty toy."

Police Chief Brian Foley may have an explanation of what actually lurks in the pond.

"It could have been a gar pike or a turtle," he said. "There are lots of fish in there and lots of large pike."

While Foley said it's possible someone could have released a pet alligator into the pond, the likelihood of it surviving is slim.

"Where did it stay all winter?" he asked.

Foley said he's received numerous calls from news agencies wanting the scoop on the story, but there's very little to say.

"We went looking for it and public works looked for a few days," he said.

In the end, nothing was found, he said, adding the person who called in the sighting left no real description of what they saw.