

**More editor's mail**

**Wildlife endangered**

Dear Editor,  
Sanctuary, a place of refuge, a shelter for wildlife. Although this has been happening since the 1970s, I wasn't aware of it until spring of 1989, when my family began daily walks to the alleged wildlife sanctuary in Stouffville, better known as the dam.

Last spring we watched as the water level at the dam became precariously (to the wildlife) low. Puzzled, we watched and wondered who was controlling the tap.

Fortunately, the rains began to fall and the water level rose to the original level.

This spring, the same thing occurred. My wife and I were out with our dog for our daily walk and upon arriving at the dam were amazed to see young children slopping about in the mud.

On closer inspection, we saw that they were catching fish with their bare hands as the fish slithered along the muddy bottom, which was now almost totally devoid of any water.

Even though the kids were releasing these fish downstream of the dam, I couldn't help but think they were doomed. Also, a pair of Canada Geese who had been nesting there were forced to vacate, not to mention all the frogs that surely must have perished.

We found this situation curious, to say the least, that the wildlife in an alleged sanctuary must suffer so every spring.

My phone calls began with the town office and ended with the Metro Toronto Region Conservation Authority. I spoke with a man by the name of Don Halley who explained that the valve controlling the water level was opened in the fall and closed again on May 1.

He told me that every spring he gets numerous calls concerning the water level and its effect on wildlife. I was also told that talks have been held between the town and MTRCA about the town having more control over the fluctuating water level.

I wonder how many more years have to go by before our lesser forms of life at the wildlife sanctuary have a fighting chance to live out their lives without being imperiled every spring because we can't control the water level a little better.

Sincerely,  
Fred Libertus,  
Stouffville

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