



The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
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[www.notl.com](http://www.notl.com)

April 8, 2022

**RE: Coyote Sightings**

Hello Everyone,

This letter is to advise you that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has received reports of coyotes in your area. Staff is working diligently with community partners to try to resolve the issue and protect the community.

We can certainly appreciate how unsettling and frightening this situation is. Public safety is of the utmost importance to the Town, and Staff is taking these reports very seriously.

Town Staff continues to work with and defer to the expertise of Coyote Watch Canada and the Lincoln County Humane Society, among other community partners, to address ongoing concerns of coyote sightings and encounters raised by Niagara-on-the-Lake residents.

Searching the area for food is a common reason why coyotes venture into the urban area, and experts suggest that coyotes return to areas where a food source is present. Therefore, the best way to ensure that coyotes move on and do not return to your neighbourhood is to remove all potential food sources.

This is why we are asking residents to please adhere to the following tips:

- Put garbage out after 6 a.m., rather than the night before (many species are nocturnal and forage for food at night);
- Secure composting containers (click lid closed);
- Clean grills and cooking areas, leaving no food items behind;
- Remove fallen and/or rotting fruit beneath trees;
- Ensure all livestock and outdoor pets are in safe and properly constructed enclosures;
- Don't feed coyotes. Bird feeders, overflowing garbage bins and outdoor pet food bowls may attract coyotes to your yard; and,
- Obey leash laws. Don't allow domestic pets (dogs and cats) to roam freely without supervision.

For more information about co-existing with coyotes in Niagara-on-the-Lake, or to report a coyote sighting, please visit [notl.com/coyotes](http://notl.com/coyotes).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Warm Regards,

Betty Disero  
Lord Mayor

Marnie Cluckie  
CAO



## COYOTES IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

The Town understands there has been concern about coyotes in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Public safety is of the utmost importance to the Town, and we take these concerns very seriously. Staff has taken several steps to investigate these concerns, including but not limited to reaching out to community partners such as:

- Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS),
- Lincoln County Humane Society,
- Municipal partners
- Trapper, and
- Coyote Watch Canada.

**Emergency Situations** - It is vital that anyone in an emergency situation with a coyote, such as a coyote cornering a human, call 9-1-1 immediately. Police are authorized to handle these situations and frequently engage the Humane Society when they attend the call.

**The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake continues to respond to coyote concerns through the following processes:**

- Launched internal recording and mapping of reported coyote sightings and incident information
- Engaged Coyote Watch Canada regarding general information about coyotes, including prevention measures, behaviour analysis, and hazing techniques
- Lincoln County Humane Society may attend door to door in hotspot areas to provide education and address escalated concerns on coyote behaviour or pet attacks
- Lincoln County Humane Society and/or Niagara Regional Police Services are responding to calls in the field for coyote sightings in public areas involving bold behaviour, injury, illness, or pet/human attacks
- Educational information has been and will continue to be distributed to communities
- Lincoln County Humane Society and Coyote Watch Canada have and will continue to conduct patrols in identified areas to monitor for bold coyote behavior and intentional wildlife feeding
- Information sharing with the community regarding the use of aversion conditioning (hazing) to make the environment uncomfortable to deter the coyote activity
- Installation of temporary caution signage in areas where sightings are reported (i.e., parks)
- Planning for public education sessions
- Communication and awareness through social media, the Town's website, and local newspapers

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Provincial Law prohibits the relocation of wildlife beyond a 1 km range. Therefore, coyote(s) relocated 1 km away often return to the area where it feels most comfortable.



**Lincoln County Humane Society**

- 905-682-0767 or 1-800-263-2469 (after hours, press 1 for emergencies)

**Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake**

- 905-468-3266 ext. 0 | [info@notl.com](mailto:info@notl.com) | [notl.com/coyotes](http://notl.com/coyotes)

**In the case of an immediate threat to personal safety, please call 911.**

## TIPS FOR AVOIDING COYOTE CONFLICTS



### DO NOT FEED COYOTES - FEEDING COYOTES CAUSES AGGRESSION TOWARD HUMANS

- Educate and/or report people leaving food or attractants outdoors



### PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

- Store garbage indoors until collection day
  - As per Niagara Region's By-law, garbage is not permitted to be put out by the curb before 5:00 p.m. the evening before your collection day.
- Secure garbage and compost in durable plastic or steel containers with locking lids
- Remove bird feeders and seed spillage that attracts rodents and their predators
- Feed pets indoors and always keep all pet food indoors
- Clean BBQ grills and tools after each use and keep them indoors where possible
- Trim shrubs and remove rodent habitats such as rock piles or woodpiles from your yard
- Wildlife proof gardens, pick ripened fruit, and clean up windfalls
- Install motion sensor lights or sprinklers
- Install a 6' solid fence and extend with mesh underground to prevent burrowing
- Install coyote rollers on fencing
- Enclose crawl spaces beneath decks and sheds



### PROTECT YOUR PETS

- Keep cats indoors
- Keep dogs on a short 6' leash when out for a walk
- Do not allow your dog to chase wildlife
- Check your property for wildlife before letting your pet outside
- Do not house rabbits, fowl, or other pets outdoors
- Vaccinate your pet against rabies
- Follow property standards tips



### PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

- Never leave young children unattended
- Teach children not to approach or harass wildlife
- Avoid walking alone in areas with coyotes
- Avoid walking at dusk and dawn or after dark in areas with coyotes
- Carry protection such as a personal alarm, umbrella, flashlight, and a cell phone to call 911 in case of an emergency



### IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE

- Stay calm and wait until they move away
- Do not turn your back or run
- If approached, stand tall, wave your arms, and make yourself as large as you can
- Clap, yell, shout, make startling movements, and throw an object toward the animal
- Try startling the coyote by opening an umbrella, using a flashlight, or activating an audible alarm