

ACTIONS UNDERWAY IN RESPONSE TO COYOTE INCIDENTS IN OSHAWA

The health and safety of our community is our top priority. In response to both the numerous sightings and interactions with coyotes, the City of Oshawa has undertaken a number of actions over the last several months.

Most recently at the Monday, October 4, 2021 Corporate Services Committee where Report CORP-21-48 Coyotes in the City of Oshawa was discussed, the Corporate Services Committee recommended that staff:

- coordinate a virtual community information session on co-existing with coyotes;

- develop a Coyote Education and Response Strategy, in consultation with the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory Committee and report back to the Corporate Services Committee; and,

- advise and consult with the school boards on Coyote Education and Response Strategy.

Given the uncharacteristic coyote behaviour recently

experienced and the concerns expressed by our community and members of Council, the City reassures that staff continue to prioritize the development of the proposed Coyote Education and Response Strategy and have advanced several actions such as:

- consulting with other municipalities who have coyote response strategies;

- drafting applicable by-laws and amendments to existing by-laws as may be required by Council as a result of due diligence and consultations;

- consulting with Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry to clarify their role, obtain information on response best practices and request their assistance;

- consulting with Coyote Watch Canada on response best practices;

- planning a virtual community information session with Coyote Watch Canada;

- meeting with the Oshawa Animal Care Advisory

Committee;

- conducting a privacy impact assessment in consideration of installing trail cameras to help collect useful data on the number of coyotes and coyote behaviour;

- implementing improvements to Service Oshawa's tracking system to provide better data on the types of interactions and encounters residents are experiencing;

- confirming with Durham Regional Police Service on their coyote response approach;

- researching the location of feral cat colonies and any potential impact to coyote behaviour; and,

increasing door-to-door communications by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers.

As this matter is a priority, it is anticipated that the proposed Coyote Education and Response Strategy will be on the November Corporate Services Committee meeting agenda.

In addition to the development of a proposed Coyote Education and Response Strategy, the City is also undertaking the following actions:

- coordinating site visits in recent common sighting areas with a Coyote Watch Canada Canid Response Team Representative;

- Coyote Watch Canada is a federal not-for-profit wildlife organization that provides educational programming, a first-response team, on-site field investigation, private, municipal- and provincial-level consultation and digital mapping programs;

- monitoring sighting locations and installing fencing and signage in affected common areas to discourage interactions;

- the community is asked to please respect the posted signage, to not approach wildlife, and to report coyote sightings to Service Oshawa;

- reducing some naturalized areas in the neighbourhood parks and locations of concern

by cutting back tall grass; and, removing community garbage containers that were frequently used to dispose of household garbage and pet waste.

How can I prevent coyotes from visiting my yard?

Remove food attractants from your yard – secure your garbage, keep pet food indoors, clean up spilled birdseed and fallen fruits.

Keep your property clean – trim back bushes and weeds, scoop your dog poop, keep your barbecue area clean.

Secure your home and sheds – seal openings into and under buildings, decks and porches.

Be a good pet owner – keep your dog on a leash and supervise them when they are outdoors.

Bring your pets in at night.

What do I do if I encounter a coyote?

If you feel your safety is imminently threatened, call 9-

1-1.

Stop and pick up small children and pets.

Slowly back away keeping an eye on the animal. Never run from or turn your back on a coyote.

Be big, loud and assertive! Yell "Go away!"

Wave your arms above your head.

Use aversion techniques such as shaking car keys, snapping a large air-filled garbage bag, popping open an umbrella, throwing an object in the direction of, but not directly at, the coyote.

How do I report coyote sightings?

Community members are encouraged to report sightings to Service Oshawa online at service.oshawa.ca, by email to service@oshawa.ca or by telephone at 905-436-3311. By reporting wildlife sightings, you are helping the City to monitor common locations.

ONTARIO CAUTIOUSLY LIFTING CAPACITY LIMITS IN SELECT SETTINGS

TORONTO — With public health and health care indicators remaining stable or improving, the government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is cautiously lifting capacity limits in select indoor and outdoor settings where proof of vaccination is required, as well as certain outdoor settings that have a capacity below 20,000. This gradual and incremental approach will continue to help protect people and ensure the province continues to cautiously lift public health measures safely.

"As we continue to see more Ontarians roll up their sleeves with over 22 million doses administered, our government

is cautiously lifting capacity limits in select settings where we know proof of vaccination requirements are providing an added layer of protection to Ontarians," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "The fight against COVID-19 is not over and we must all remain vigilant by continuing to follow the public health measures we know work and keep us safe, and receiving your first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if you have not already done so."

In keeping with the government's cautious approach, effective Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., capacity limits will be lifted to allow 100

per cent capacity in the following settings:

- Concert venues, theatres and cinemas;

- Spectator areas of facilities for sports and recreational fitness (would not include gyms, personal training);

- Meeting and event spaces (indoor meeting and event spaces will still need to limit capacity to the number that can maintain physical distancing);

- Horseracing tracks, car racing tracks, and other similar venues; and

- Commercial film and television productions with studio audiences.

To date there has been a limited number of outbreaks in

these settings. Other public health and workplace safety measures continue to remain in effect for these settings. This can include wearing face coverings, screening and the collecting of patron information to support contact tracing. In settings where capacity limits have been lifted, the requirement for individuals to maintain two metres of physical distancing are being removed, with limited exceptions. In addition, proof of vaccination will continue to be required in outdoor settings where the normal maximum capacity is 20,000 people or more to help keep these venues safe for patrons. Since the proof of vaccination requirement went into effect, the province has reached two

key milestones in its COVID-19 response, with more than 86.8 per cent of individuals aged 12 and over vaccinated with at least a first dose and more than 81.9 per cent with two doses. The majority of new cases continue to be among the unvaccinated.

"I am thankful for the continued efforts of Ontarians getting vaccinated and following public health measures and advice as we have continued to cautiously and gradually reopen the province. Our public health and health care indicators are continuing to trend in the right direction, and we are able to lift additional restrictions," said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "However, now is not the time to let our

guard down. We must all continue doing our part and continue strictly following the measures that remain in place and get as many people as we can fully vaccinated, especially as we enter the holiday season." Capacity limits will continue to remain in effect in all other remaining settings at this time. The Chief Medical Officer of Health and the government will continue to review data and trends in key public health and health care indicators to determine the necessary and appropriate measures to protect the health and safety of Ontarians.

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