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For Immediate Release

To: Media

From: Coyote Watch Canada

Celebrating Niagara’s Wildlife– SPRING ALERT

As the season’s change, it’s of vital importance to keep residents up to date on wildlife

behaviour. The more background we have, the better able we are to protect wildlife, their

habitat and keep our families safe and in the know. In particular, this update is focused on

coyote awareness at this time of year.

Coyotes are very active during the Spring. Choosing a mate, hunting, locating a den site and

establishing a territory are just some of the activities that keep coyotes on the move. Because

of their natural course of activities, reports of coyote sightings increase during specific times of

the year, including Spring and Fall. There are precautions we can take that minimize conflict

with wildlife and still celebrate their presence in our landscapes.

Coyotes are highly sociable and curious. They are diligent and devoted parents. A coyote

parent will consider a domestic dog a threat to their young pups if a family dog is allowed to

chase, harass or disturb a coyote or den area. Respect coyote dens and never interfere with

parents and their pups. A lone pup usually has a parent close by.

Keeping the community safe and wildlife protected is a collective undertaking and many partners

are involved. Residents have a responsibility as well. Mayor Jim Diodati urges residents to keep

informed about coyote behaviour. “It’s important that we follow the municipal by-laws set in

place to keep our neighbourhoods safe. Read this information with your family to make sure

we’re all doing our best to respect and live in cooperation with the wildlife around us.”

By taking responsibility for our own safety by following pet leash by-laws and not providing food

attractants to coyotes, we are able to keep our community members and surrounding wildlife

safe. Most of the time, a coyote will run away if a human is in the vicinity.

**What to do if you see a coyote:**

! Never run from a coyote or a domestic dog. This brings out the ‘chase’ instinct in wild and domestic dogs.

! Stop moving forward.

! Stand still.

(Then assertively respond)

! Shout and wave your arms. You can carry and pop an umbrella, shake a can, snap a large plastic bag

! Slowly back away.

! Share the experience. Encouraging thoughtful dialogue about wildlife helps us all take a closer look at what happened, learning from our experiences.

**Feeding wildlife can lead to an increase in encounters and conflicts between people, coyotes or a family pet. Leash up! This protects your family pet and wildlife.**

**Quick tips for wildlife proofing your home or business:**

! Ensure all decks, sheds and out buildings are properly sealed. This will eliminate these target areas for dens.

! Put garbage out after 6:00 am, not the night before (many species are nocturnal and forage for food at night).

! Secure composting containers by making them “animal proof.”

! Clean grills and cook areas, leaving no food items behind.

! Remove unwanted rotting fruit beneath trees.

! Ensure all livestock and outdoor pets are in safe and in properly constructed enclosures.

! Deadstock is disposed of in a timely and appropriate manner.

! NEVER FEED COYOTES. Bird feeders, overflowing garbage bins and outdoor pet food bowls may attract coyotes to your yard. Overflowing birdfeeders attract smaller mammals which in turn are a food source for coyotes.

**What else can you do?**

We encourage the public to continue to report sightings in Niagara Falls online at the City of

Niagara Falls website: www.niagarafalls.ca

If you see an injured animal please report your sighting to the “Coyote Response Team Niagara”

through the Niagara Falls Humane Society [905.356.4404 or www.nfhs.ca ] and/ or Coyote

Watch Canada. The Coyote Response Team Niagara (CRTN) is also supported by the Niagara Parks

Police and the City of Niagara Falls and By-Law Department.

For further information, please contact:

Coyote Watch Canada

Email: info@coyotewatchcanada.com

Hotline: 905.931.2610