



**For immediate release**

**Thursday, March 10, 2011**

---

**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.
- Shout and wave your arms.
- 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 coyotes can lead to conflicts between people and coyotes or a family pet being attacked. 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](http://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](http://www.nfhs.ca) ] and/ or Coyote Watch Canada. The “Coyote Response Team Niagara” is also supported by the Niagara Parks Police and the City of Niagara Falls By-Law Department.

### **For further information, please contact:**

#### Coyote Watch Canada

Lesley Sampson or Jim Brown

905.931.2610

[coyotewatchcanada@gmail.com](mailto:coyotewatchcanada@gmail.com)