

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING EFFECTIVE WILDLIFE CONFLICT SOLUTIONS

Eastern Coyotes are monogamous when left alone to thrive in natural landscapes. Persecution disrupts family dynamics and creates voids in established territories, opening up the landscape for another coyote or two to move in. Coyotes are diligent and devoted parents. The alpha male co-parents and provides food for his mate while she is nursing the pups in the den. It is critical to keep coyote packs stable and available to defend their family territory. This encourages and sustains healthy ecosystems essential not only for pup survival but also to minimize human and coyote encounters and conflicts.

Progressive perspectives in terms of how to successfully meet the challenges of coexisting with wildlife are becoming the most popular approach to consider by many government agencies, policy makers and frontline response personnel. Although this new paradigm shift can present several initial challenges for many municipalities that relied previously on lethal actions, there is an evolving mindset across Canada. Collaboration by municipalities partnered with consultation with Coyote Watch Canada by numerous cities, demonstrates a new era of compassionate communities willing to develop and implement an effective coyote coexistence plan.

For example, the City of Niagara Falls, Ontario in partnership with Coyote Watch Canada, enacted one of the very first [Coyote Feeding By-Laws](#) for Eastern Canada. Other communities across Ontario are now following the successful model for the City of Niagara Falls by drafting their very own Comprehensive Coyote Strategy Plan including similar tools for co-existence. Government agencies and city officials considering a compassionate and non-lethal long term approach to wildlife coexistence, we urge you to take a look at the successful model for the [City of Niagara Falls](#).

Coyote Watch Canada as collaborative wildlife consultants, has partnered with the [City of Toronto](#), [Whitby](#), [Guelph](#), [Cornwall](#), Burlington, Fort Erie, Hamilton, St. Catharines and currently oversees the the Living With Coyotes programme for the [City of Niagara Falls](#). We have provided educational outreach and animal welfare support on an international level reaching a diverse audience with esteemed collegial impact.



WORKING TOGETHER

Our Coexistence Model



Coyote Watch Canada

“Building compassionate coexistence... One community at a time”

For your community consultation contact us:
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- Coexistence Partnerships
- Community Outreach
- Conflict Resolution Facilitation
- Education & Prevention Coyote Pamphlet
- Wildlife Safety Strategies
- Coyote Response Team
- Municipal Coyote Strategy Framework Model
- Feeding Wildlife By-Law
- Provincial Coyote Awareness Sign Design
- Field Investigation Training
- Hazing Pamphlet
- Wildlife Proofing

CWC *Living with Coyotes Program* is easily put into action by other communities faced with the challenge of living with coyotes. Our community education program includes hazing workshops, delivering presentations that teach **PAWS Approach** and **High Five for Safety** to schools, government agencies and naturalist organizations across Ontario.

Highlights of our program:

- Coyote Response Team Niagara (City of Niagara Falls By-Law depart., Niagara Parks Police, Niagara Falls Humane Society and CWC)
- Sighting/mapping goes digital
- Partnerships with local and national agencies
- Education outreach
- Monitoring sighting reports

- Free download PDF Coyote Brochure
- Hazing initiatives
- Community Volunteer Recruitment
- Coyote Feeding By-Law
- Investigation, prevention, education and enforcement (interviewing, field work, research)
- Ongoing field monitoring
- Research
- Documentary film work

Implementing a sustainable long-term program that adapts non-lethal solutions and educational strategies for coexistence is the most effective and humane approach. A partnership between community organizations, citizens and local agencies fosters wildlife appreciation and supports healthy ecosystems. Our coyote strategy framework also empowers every stakeholder involved with the program. When education, safety and compassion are key goals in striving to resolve wildlife challenges, living in harmony with our wild neighbours can successfully be achieved.

Email us at coyotewatchcanada@gmail.com for more information about our Living With Coyotes Program in Niagara Falls and other major cityscapes. Consider booking an appointment to learn more about how to establish and promote a Compassionate Coexistence Programme for your community.

Killing not the answer: Coyote Watch

Coyote Watch Canada speaks out about proposed ministry changes.



Killing not the answer: Coyote Watch. When it comes to dealing with coyotes, education, not killing perceived “problematic” animals, Coyote Watch co-founder Lesley Sampson says. PHOTO: ANN BROKELMAN

Proposed policy changes being considered by the Ministry of Natural Resources are the wrong approach when it comes to dealing with wildlife deemed “problematic,” the co-founder of Coyote Watch Canada says.

“It’s a dangerous place to be when your government sees killing as an answer,” Lesley Sampson said, who founded the group with Niagara Falls resident Jim Brown in 2008.

Under the current Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, municipalities require a permit from the MNR prior to hiring a hunter to kill wildlife they deem problematic. The proposals, the ministry said, are “part of MNR’s plan to modernize its business where possible, focus more closely on MNR’s core mandate, and review programs and services to become more efficient and sustainable.”

But Sampson said that making it more efficient to allow for the killing of animals misses the point.

“It doesn’t matter whether you’re in an urban or rural area, you have to be in amongst animals to see it’s truly apparent there’s a human-wildlife dynamic,” Sampson, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident said.

She said the MNR proposals fly in the face of co-existence programs such as the one developed by her group to deal with coyotes.

“Coyotes are nothing new here (in Niagara),” Sampson said.

She said city staff and residents have bought into the program, dubbed PAWS (Preservation Awareness Wildlife Safety) which relies on education about the habits of coyotes. Residents can

report coyote sightings on the city's website at www.niagarafalls.ca. All sightings are mapped and territory trends and population dispersal patterns are tracked.

The group identified areas where coyote feeding was taking place and the City, in conjunction with CWC, developed the first-ever feeding wildlife bylaw in Eastern Canada. That bylaw was approved by council in April 2011.

"Everybody is so engaged in it -- Niagara Parks, the city, the Parks Police," Sampson said. "The City of Niagara Falls is a leader in getting all these things in place."

City clerk Dean Iorfida agreed.

"We have done community outreach to educate the public on 'wildlife proofing' and peaceful co-existence with coyotes," Iorfida said. "With the urban sightings, coyotes have been in areas you would expect them (hydro corridors) or they have come to an area because their habitat has been disturbed and a food source has become available. In those instances, we have educated the residents in the area to keep pet food and water bowls indoors, keep trash cans covered and pick up ripened and rotted fruit off the ground, as these are often what attract coyotes."

It's something that just makes sense, Sampson said.

She added that residents can do their part by removing food sources, keeping small animals indoors and obeying municipal leash laws. Most of all, never provide food for coyotes.

"They're adaptable," Sampson said. "They will move on."

Iorfida, meanwhile, said that even if the proposed changes are acted upon, that doesn't mean it will be open season on coyotes or any other wild life in the city.

"The proposed regulation states that 'at the request of the landowner, licenced hunters will be permitted to harass or kill certain species of wildlife if the wildlife is damaging or about to damage the landowner's property, provided that the activity is permitted by municipal by-laws,'" Iorfida said. "The city's Firearms Discharge bylaw and Hunting bylaw restrict such activities to outside the urban boundary."

On average, the city receives about 12 claims a year, locally, under the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation program "for about 4 or 5 rural properties that have had animals (rabbits, chickens) killed by coyotes," Iorfida said. "Any of these farmers could defend their property or get a 'gun for hire' now. The proposed regulation, from my reading, makes that process simpler; however, I know of no examples where a rural property owner has gone to that step to protect their property from damage."

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati talks about Coyote Watch and the PAWS program. MAYORS TESTIMONIAL: [HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=PJEMJUDMNIW&AUTHUSER=0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJEMJUDMNIW&AUTHUSER=0)