

Coyote reported at Island Lake Conservation Area

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is advising area residents and visitors of Island Lake Conservation Area that a potentially aggressive coyote was recently reported on the Baker Link Trail, connecting the Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail to the Town of Mono. Visitors of the park should avoid the Baker Link and use the Island Lake Trail as an alternative route to connect to the lakeside trail, said Bill Lidster, operations manager for the north zone at CVC. We have posted signs at the Baker Link to alert visitors of the alternate route. It's very important that people remain aware. Coyotes are generally afraid of humans and will usually avoid contact.

If you encounter a coyote, keep your distance and the animal will likely avoid you. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry offers the following tips if you encounter an aggressive animal:

- ? Never approach or touch a wild animal;
- ? Do not turn your back or run from a wild animal;
- ? Back away from the animal while remaining calm;
- ? Stand tall, wave your hands, and make lots of noise;
- ? Carry a flashlight at night.

If a wild animal poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 9-1-1.

CVC reminds visitors to conservation areas to keep pets on a leash of six feet (1.8 metres) or less at all times. Off-leash dogs are at risk of coyote or other wildlife attacks. Conservation areas are natural spaces and coyotes can be present, and encounters can potentially occur. Be aware of surroundings when enjoying the outdoors.