

Niagara Escarpment No Place for Animal Cruelty

I fervently hope that by the time you read this, this matter will have been resolved. If not, I'm sharing ideas for action you can take if you are moved to. In October, in the Niagara Escarpment town of Collingwood, which is at the foot of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve along southern Georgian Bay, an O.P.P. officer was caught on cellphone video, deliberately and repeatedly using his vehicle to hit and actually drive over, three times, what at first was reported to be a coyote. Utterly obscene!

Then it was revealed that the animal had actually been a domestic dog who had wandered away from home. This dog was old. And deaf! After being run over with a car, she was allegedly shot dead by the officer. Nauseating and heart-breaking.

Whether coyote or dog, this action by a police officer is so cruel that it is alarming in someone called to keep the peace. There is no excuse for such behaviour, especially in a town close to a World Biosphere Reserve, which is supposed to be an example to the world, of co-existence between nature and development.

Coyote Watch Canada (CWC), an organization we featured in the Winter 2014-15



issue, had a swift yet measured response. They suggested that people should contact the O.P.P. and ask for officers to be trained in sensitivity and proper wildlife response. CWC has done this successfully in other communities.

The group Collingwood Animals Rights Advocate Group began an online petition calling for legal action to be taken against the officer, and to establish

a wildlife management and coexistence committee. If you want to sign this petition, there is a link to it from our website.

To contact the O.P.P., you can email them at oppa@oppa.ca or write them at Ontario Provincial Police Association, 119 Ferris Lane, Barrie ON L4M 2Y1. To comment on their Facebook page, search for Ontario Provincial Police Association. It should be important for them to know that citizens are watching.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt
P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!



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Niagara Escarpment **Views**

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