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Western Wheel



Priddis resident calls for action on cougars

By Tammy Rolлие
 Staff Reporter



WHEEL FILE PHOTO

A priddis-area resident is raising concerns about cougars in the area.

Cox encourages residents to keep pets in a secure location as officers monitor the situation and patrol the area.

"As people continue to phone in, that helps officers determine their next course of action," he said. "The more calls that we get and the more information we have the more readily available officers are to make a determination as to whether they are dealing with one or more cougars and what an appropriate response is."

Cox said rural foothills residents can expect encounters with wildlife.

"This kind of activity is not something that is totally uncommon for this area," he said. "It's a part of living in the area. We encourage residents to understand there are wildlife that live in the area and there are precautions that every resident needs to take."

MD of Foothills Coun. Suzanne Oel has put together safety information to distribute to about 500 people through the High Country Rural Crime Watch Association. She's also planning to help organize a wildlife behaviour and defense course for area residents in the coming weeks.

Oel said she's had animals hunted and killed by cougars before and wants to provide information on removing attractants, building better fences and choosing different behaviours to deter predators.

"We have to pen our animals differently," she said. "We have to look at not leaving them out in the open - even a dog on a deck is an attractant, not only to a cougar but a bear hunting for meat or a coyote. Our dogs, if they are small, are dinner for them. One of the realities of living in the area we live in is it's got a fairly high population of all of these predators. It's about prevention and awareness and protection measures that are reliable."

For more information go to <http://aep.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict/cougars.aspx>.

To report an incident involving a cougar can call 1-800-642-3800.

trollie@okotoks.greatwest.ca

Priddis residents are banding together as fear mounts over cougars targeting pets in the area.

The community has recently created a Facebook page and community directory. Residents have also contacted their MD of Foothills council representative about the situation that has been a concern since September.

"The number of neighbours that didn't know this was going on in our own back yard was very shocking," said Tina Hayhurst, who's lived in the area for almost a decade. "Our community is a mile radius with about 47 homes and 24 children under the age of 10. Should anything happen we can't notify those people speedily."

Fish and Wildlife has received six reports of suspected cougar incidents involving pets in the Priddis area since the beginning of September. Unless they can prove there is a problem cougar, there is little they can do, said public affairs officer Brendan Cox.

"Officers aren't looking to go out and hunt down any cougars at this time," he said. "If there is a cougar or cougars in a particular area, they can be readily located that is proven to be a continuous public safety concern to people and/or their pets officers will remove them from the area."

Hayhurst said action should be taken.

"This is definitely not just a general cougar awareness situation," she said. "This is a very dangerous, bold cougar situation. We have numerous young families in our community and the fear of human harm is heightening with each encounter this animal is having with us directly. These things do happen, but when it's happening to this extent and more frequently it's an issue."

Hayhurst said a cougar(s) attempted to attack her Siberian husky Shadow on their front deck the late evening of Oct. 20 and early morning of Aug. 13. She and her husband frightened the cougar away both times and the dog wasn't harmed.



PLANNING NOTICES

Notice is given pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26.1

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Take notice that the following Development Permit(s) have been approved and are intended to be issued on the Validation Date. Any person, who deems to be affected by the following, may appeal the decision to the Okotoks Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (S&DAB) by filing an appeal with reasons by 4:00 p.m. the day PRIOR to the Validation Date. Appeals must be forwarded to the address provided at the end of this advert.

Validation Date: **November 24, 2016**

- > **CRYSTAL SHORES: DPA 165-16 - 73 CRYSTAL SHORES CRESCENT**
 A 71.44m² Studio Suite at 73 Crystal Shores Crescent in the Residential Studio Suite (R-1St) District with the following Variance(s):
 - To Section 9.25.1(a) [Studio Suites] of the Town of Okotoks Land Use Bylaw to permit a Studio Suite within the standard basement of a single detached dwelling where the regulations allow suites in a bi-level, split level, or walkout basement only.

CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE

Take notice that the following Certificates(s) of Compliance have been approved and are intended to be issued on the Validation Date. Any person, who deems to be affected by the following, may appeal the decision to the Okotoks Subdivision and Development Appeal Board (S&DAB) by filing an appeal with reasons by 4:00 p.m. the day PRIOR to the Validation Date. Appeals must be forwarded to the address provided at the end of this advert.

Validation Date: **November 24, 2016**

- > **DRAKE LANDING: 101 DRAKE LANDING COVE; Variance(s)**
 - To Section 9.1.3(b) of the Town of Okotoks Land Use Bylaw to allow the unenclosed deck located at the side and rear of the principal dwelling to have a 2.04m side yard setback where 3m is the minimum setback required, a variance of 0.96m.

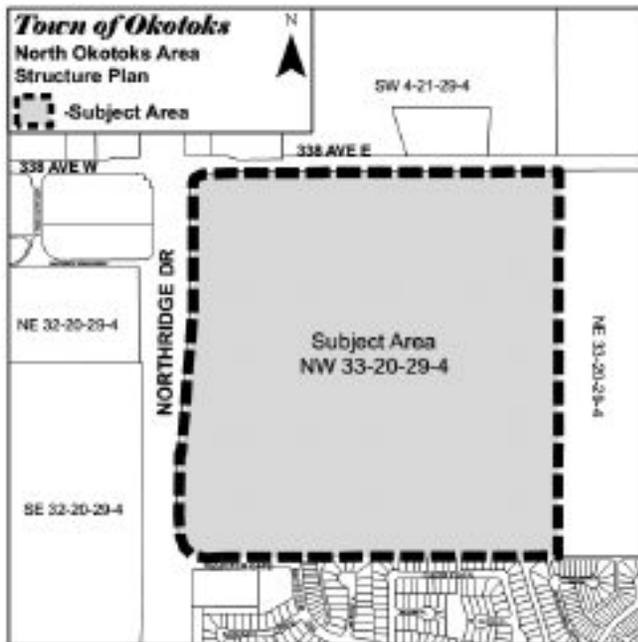
PUBLIC HEARINGS

Take notice that Council of the Town of Okotoks intends to consider the following bylaws. The date, time and place at which Council will hear representation regarding the proposed bylaws is indicated below.

Oral and written comments and suggestions are invited and shall be addressed to the point of the proposed Bylaw(s). Any person or group of persons, or person acting on behalf of anyone who claims to be affected by the proposed Bylaw(s) may make representation. Submissions mailed to the Town should be typewritten and must be received at the address provided at the end of this ad by 12:00 noon on the WEDNESDAY before the Hearing. Eighteen (18) duplicate copies should accompany any written submissions received at the Hearing. Oral presentations may be made at the Hearing whether or not the presenter has submitted a written presentation. Oral presentations are subject to a five (5) minute time limit.

Date: **November 14, 2016**
 Time: **7:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter as Council may decide**
 Place: **Council Chamber - 5 Elizabeth Street**

- > **Bylaw 24-16** - The Purpose of Bylaw 24-16 is to adopt the North Okotoks Area Structure Plan to provide a framework for future urban development of approximately 62.43 ha (154.28 ac) of land within NW-33-20-29-W4 (north of Smtree and Tower Hill, and east of Northridge Drive), commonly known as the Wedderburn Lands.



This concludes the summary of Bylaw 24-16.

Copies of any of the above are available for inspection by the public at the Town of Okotoks Planning Services Office during regular office hours. Please feel free to call **403-995-2760** for further information. Appeals and correspondence related to the above must cite the relevant file and be forwarded to:

Planning Services, PO Box 20 (5 Elizabeth Street), Okotoks, AB, T1S 1K1
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