

A Closer Look at the Wildlife in Our Neighbourhood



River and explore the joy of observing them in their natural habitats.

To begin, we acknowledge that we are situated on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Indigenous Peoples who have cared for this land and water since time immemorial. We also appreciate being able to consult with local flora and fauna enthusiast, Laurent Ruffo-Caracchini, and the support we have received from Mike Bartlett of the Broughdale Community Association.

Some of the more common animals in the neighbourhood include squirrels, chipmunks, raccoons, skunks, rabbits, groundhogs, beavers, muskrats, possums, hawks, stickleback fish, crayfish and clams. It's not unusual to see deer, coyotes, foxes, snapping turtles, or wild turkeys. Animals more challenging to detect include opossums, porcupines, minks, and stoats.

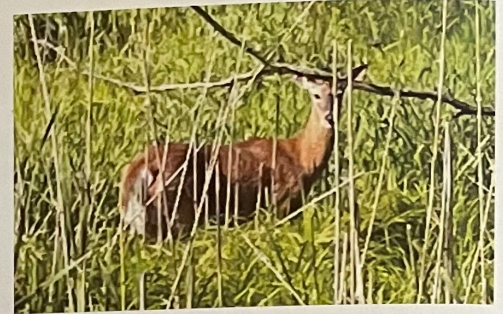
Amongst the diversity of wildlife in our neighbourhood, it is incredible to see animal superpowers in action. From squirrels that do tree acrobatics, raccoons that ninja climb, groundhogs that hibernate, skunks

that defend through their stink spray, and coyotes with keen eyesight in the low light of dawn and dusk, all animals have unique superpowers to help them survive.

Many animals have mastered the art of camouflage and are good at hide and seek. Consider the white-tailed deer, a herbivore commonly seen in spring or summer. Fawns are born with white spots on their fur, which change to reddish brown and later into grey or brown tones to blend in with seasonal earth tones. Often, a closer look is required to notice animals because what seems ordinary can really be a creature of extraordinary camouflage. Do you see a hidden animal in the photos below on the left side? The photos below on the right side are zoomed in for the reveal!



Fun facts about garter snakes are that they are non-venomous and eat insects and small rodents. Fun facts about frogs are that they hatch from eggs into tadpoles, undergo metamorphosis into frogs, and they can live for several years.



It is fun to learn about local wildlife because animals are amazing, and we have a shared environment that is important to protect. We can all do something to help, for example, disposing of garbage properly, keeping a respectful distance from wildlife, planting native plants to sustain local fauna, and preserving green space and trees...If you're curious to identify unknown flora and fauna, try using the free online iNaturalist app.

In a nutshell, our neighbourhood is a natural wonderland for all varieties of residents. So, whenever possible, enjoy the magic of observing animal friends in their natural habitat! ■

