



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
**PROTECTION**  
of Fur-Bearing Animals

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## **\$1,000 reward offered in case of tortured muskrat**

***Wildlife protection group puts money on the line to get to the truth***

**ONTARIO** – A \$1,000 reward is being offered for information that leads to the identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the horrific treatment and death of a muskrat in Port Hope.

The Fur-Bearers, a wildlife protection group founded in 1953, is offering the reward in hopes that information will come to light to provide answers in the disturbing case.

The muskrat, since named George, was under the care of Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue. According to the rescue's social media page, a Port Hope woman alleges on May 15 she saw a group of teenagers leave the box in a creek and run away. Inside the box, she saw the injured muskrat. Soper Creek says of his injuries "the sides of his mouth had been cut, his teeth were broken and he had significant damage to his left eye."

"There is a lot we don't know right now, but the thought that someone or a group of people may have been responsible for these injuries is extremely upsetting," says Michael Howie, spokesperson for The Fur-Bearers. "The teens mentioned may have simply found the muskrat, and the injuries may have been caused by another party. Right now, we're interested in finding the truth, and ensuring the justice system can process this crime, should one be revealed."

Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue announced Wednesday morning (May 17) that George had succumbed to his extensive injuries. Soper Creek Wildlife Rescue is also in need of assistance, both in financial donations and supplies that relate to the care of George, whose veterinary bill is expected to reach \$3,000. A GoFundMe page was created by Soper Creek for those able to assist financially, and a list of supplies they need is also provided.

"We're asking anyone with information to please contact the Port Hope Police Service so they can properly investigate this disturbing incident," Howie says. "No animal should be made to suffer in such a horrible way, and it is up to all of us to make it clear that cruelty to animals, whether pets or wildlife, is never acceptable."

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The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals (The Fur-Bearers) is a non-profit society based in Vancouver, British Columbia, that advocates on behalf of fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement, and promotes wildlife co-existence.

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