

'They hit me with their hooves': Woman says she was attacked by 4 deer in yard

Jackie Dunham, CTVNews.ca

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A Vancouver Island woman says she was attacked by deer in her yard, while her community grapples to manage the area's growing population of the species.

Jan Picard said she heard a loud commotion in the backyard of her home in Oak Bay, a suburb of Victoria, on Monday. When she went outside, she saw a herd of deer trapped inside her yard. The animals had managed to barge through her back gate door to entry to the yard, but the door had swung shut behind them.

"They hit it [the gate] with their hooves. Bang, bang, bang, bang," Picard told CTV Vancouver Island on Tuesday.

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A woman from Oak Bay, B.C. says she was attacked by deer in her backyard.

Despite the cautionary advice, some residents in the Oak Bay area are fed up with the ever-present deer population.

"It's pretty scary. I come out my front door and they're in my front yard," one woman said.

"The deer in Oak Bay have to leave," Picard exclaimed.

The deer problem has even become an election issue in the upcoming mayoralty race. Kevin Murdoch, a mayoral candidate, said he's aware of residents' concerns about the growing number of deer.

"I've been in support of anything we can do to control the deer from the get go," he said.

Nils Jensen, the current mayor of Oak Bay, said efforts are already underway to control the deer population. He said the municipality is just waiting on provincial approval before they can start using darts to inject the animals with a contraceptive serum.

"If the province comes through with that document this week, it will start on Saturday," he said. "The [Urban Wildlife] Stewardship Society has the serum, they have the dart guns, and they're ready to go with the program."

In 2015, Oak Bay killed 11 deer in an approved cull.

With a report from CTV Vancouver Island's Robert Buffam

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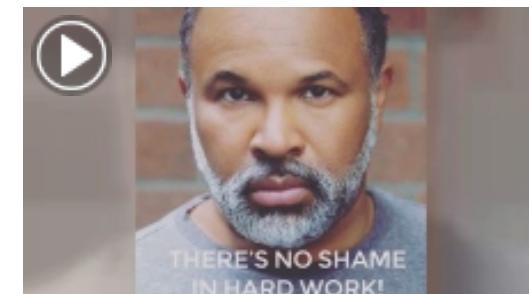
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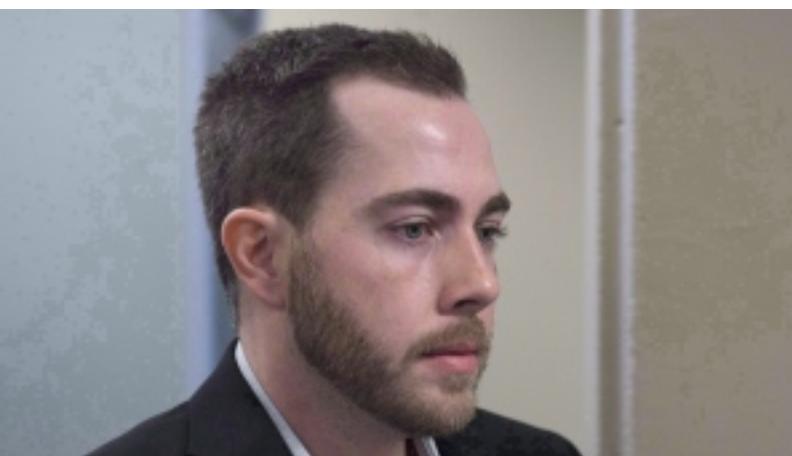


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