

[canoe.ca](#)
[cnews](#)
SEARCH:
[CNEWS](#)
[Canoe.ca](#)
[Google](#)
[GO](#)

[Inside CANOE.CA](#)

BREAKING NEWS
Skier accused of urinating on girl

cnews AcrossCanada

> HOMEPAGE

July 28, 2011

VIDEO GALLERY
PHOTO GALLERIES
COMMENT ON A STORY

ROYAL VISIT New

ACROSS CANADA

WORLD WATCH

LATEST BREAKING NEWS

WEIRD NEWS

CRIME

POLITICS

FEATURES

MEDIA NEWS

SCIENCE

GREEN NEWS

GOOD NEWS

TECHNOLOGY

Sun Papers

Columnists

Lotteries

Weather

RSS Feed 

poll

Has Lady Luck ever visited you?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ I'm not sure

SUBMIT

[Results](#) | [Story](#)

photo OF THE DAY



Break-in bear had sweet tooth

By ELIZABETH BOWER, QMI Agency



[Recommend](#)

44 recommendations. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends recommend.

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. - Rev. Harry A. Elliott III locked himself in his Kawartha cottage bedroom early Tuesday after waking up to loud crashing noises and finding a large black bear in his kitchen eating chocolate chip cookies.



The chocolate chip cookies in an Ontario cottage proved too tempting for a hungry black bear. (QMI Agency file photo)

But the American minister, who has been cottaging on Jack Lake, south of Apsley, Ont. in North Kawartha Township, for nearly six decades, said his real fear was for his elderly mother who was asleep in another bedroom, not knowing the bear was only a few feet away.

Elliott spoke with QMI Agency about his ordeal on Griggs Island, describing a night of fear and of dashing to his 86-year-old mother's bedroom and carrying her into his bedroom during the few minutes that the bear had left the cottage.

He then tried to scare off the bear by banging frying pans together before the OPP eventually showed up at dawn and secured the area.

He also spoke about how the bear came back the following night but couldn't get into the small cottage, which Elliott had reinforced and protected with "spike strips" — pieces of wood spiked with nails — along the doorway and window sills.

Elliott said he didn't know if the bear would show up Wednesday night but he was told members of the Ministry of Natural Resources were staking out the cottage and would shoot the bear if it returned.

"I just thank God everyone is OK," Elliott said.

Elliott, who is from Connecticut, said he has been coming to the Apsley, Ont., area to cottage for 57 years — since he was a baby.

This summer had been as good as all the others, he said, with great weather, swimming and fishing since arriving July 9.

But Monday night, after locking the front door of his cabin, he awoke at 3 a.m. to what he thought were the sounds of a raccoon: Crashing and smashing of pans and dishes.

"Raccoons are pretty common here," he said.

Elliott said he grabbed his flashlight and shone it directly on a big bear

standing three metres away in front of his fridge.

"My mother was in the other room behind the refrigerator," Elliott said.

Both he and the bear stood there, somewhat frozen, looking at each other, he said.

The bear had smashed through the locked front door, he said, and pulled out frozen chicken and fish from the freezer, and tossed around bags of pretzels.

The bear seemed non-plussed, he said, as if to say, "Yah, what are you going to do about it?"

The tension was "unbelievable," he said.

"I was just trying to think of a plan," Elliott said. "My big concern was that my mother was going to walk out smack-dab into that bear."

Elliott's is one of about 20 cabins on the small island, but they're so spread out he said he doesn't think anyone else heard the commotion.

He called 911 and was told OPP would be there as soon as possible.

Things got quiet at one point so Elliott dashed through the wreckage, woke up his mother - who had so far slept through the whole thing - and carried her to his room where he and his wife were holed up.

As he was closing his bedroom door, he said he saw the bear come through the front door again.

He said the bear, which he estimated weighed up to 200 pounds, was not aggressive.

"It just had this air of total superiority," Elliott said.

Elliott had called the two cabin owners earlier in the night and he said they eventually showed up on a boat, blowing whistles and banging pans trying to scare the bear away.

It got quiet again so Elliott said he ran to the kitchen area and grabbed two pans and started banging them together.

Between the two noisemakers, the bear took off, he said.

The ruins of his food supply were left behind. The bear had ignored the chicken, fish, potatoes, bread and cereal and focused on the cookies and chocolate frosting.

The OPP showed up at about 5 a.m., he said.

Officers told Elliott the bear would likely be back, so he fixed the front door, installed motion-detecting spotlights and put in spike strips along the door and windows. He also reinforced the windows with two-by-fours.

It was tough to get to sleep that night, he said, but sure enough, at 11:30 p.m., just as he was dozing off, he heard thumping and banging.

The spotlights lit up.

He said he saw the bear looking at him through his bedroom window.

Elliott said he opened the window and blasted a compressed-air horn, making the bear grunt and run away.

The family had a hard time falling asleep again but did so at about 1 a.m.

"Then the bear showed up at 3 a.m.," Elliott said.

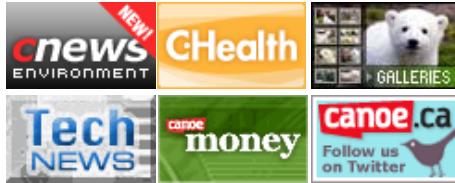
Elliott said he banged on the walls of the cabin and the bear ran off.

When he woke up Wednesday morning, he saw the bear had rummaged through his garbage, which he said contained no food.

Elliott said he'd update QMI agency about whether the bear came back Wednesday night and, if so, what happened.

Elliott said he has three dogs — two black labs and a mutt — who slept through the bear intrusion.

ebower@peterboroughexaminer.com



Across Canada

Sun News stands by interview with dancer
 Fake serviceman fakes cancer: Cops
 Southern Ontario Shell stations out of gas
 Third suspected war criminal deported
 French language complaints on the rise in Ottawa
 Man charged following wife's suicide
 New info postpones Turcotte evaluation
 It's either layoffs or major tax increases: Ford

Good News

Hero couple foils robbery attempt
 Cats at overcrowded shelter receive reprieve

Science

Juno robot to explore Jupiter
 Experts grow mouse sperm to help with human infertility

Environment

Asian carp could invade by truck
 EU challenges Canadian green power rules

Crime

Third suspected war criminal deported
 Toronto cops hunt serial sex attacker

Sun Papers

- Calgary Sun
- Edmonton Sun
- Ottawa Sun
- 24 Hours

World Watch

British police out in force to deter riots
 Pregnant woman killed by pit bull
 Skier accused of urinating on girl
 Casey Anthony ordered back to Florida
 Palin creates a mob scene at crowded state fair
 Obama, CEOs talk global economy woes
 Ex-con caught allegedly trying to break back into prison
 U.S. Postal Service looks to cut 220,000 jobs

Media News

Sun News stands by interview with dancer
 HuffPo loses editor: Is culture clash to blame?

Weird News

Judge rules U.S. inmate has no right to matzoh
 Ex-con caught allegedly trying to break back into prison

Politics

It's either layoffs or major tax increases: Ford
 2011 Ontario election timeline

Photo Galleries

Cool pictures from our world
 Images: Famine in Somalia

- Toronto Sun
- London Free Press
- Winnipeg Sun

CANOE home | Terms of Service | Need assistance? Visit our **Help Desk**.
Copyright © 2011, **Canoe Inc.** All rights reserved.