

Dear Mayor and Council,

I sent an email to [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] at the beginning of December regarding an owl that was trapped in the nets at the driving range. When I got no reply I emailed again today and cc'd others that also might be interested. Cathy and Arthur suggested forwarding to Mayor and Council. Please see below for my initial letter Dec. 7 and today's follow up email. This most likely applies to the driving ranges at all three golf courses, but I've never seen the practice range at the Chateau GC.

Thanks for any help that is within your power to give.

Sincerely,
Kristina Swerhun
14-4815 Glacier Lane
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Whistler Naturalists** <whistlernaturalists@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2024 at 10:50 AM

Subject: Re: Great Horned Owl trapped by net at WGC driving range

To: [REDACTED], Arthur De Jong <adejong@whistler.ca>, Cathy Jewett <cjewett@whistler.ca>

Cc: [REDACTED] Tina Symko <tsymko@whistler.ca>, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hello again,

I never heard back regarding this email sent Dec. 7 so maybe I didn't email the correct person (or it got lost over the holidays). I'm cc'ing a few more people with the hope that somebody might be able to see that this email gets to whoever might be in the position to discuss taking down the nets at the driving range when not in use to protect birds and other wildlife. If that person would be willing to reply that would be much appreciated.

You may have also heard recently of an owl that was injured and hanging around the village. She was given the name 'Tapley' since she was often seen outside Tapley's Pub. Our volunteers managed to capture her and take her to O.W.L. Rehab (Orphaned Wildlife) ICU in Delta. She had multiple injuries, possibly from being hit by a vehicle, and would have died without intervention. There has been so much support for 'Tapley' on social media and we hope she will make a full recovery and be able to be released into the wild again. If you'd like any updates on 'Tapley' feel free to get in touch. It's great to see community support for protecting wildlife; I hope the golf course feels the same way!

Thanks so much and hope you have a great day,

Kristina

On Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 6:31 PM Whistler Naturalists <whistlernaturalists@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi [REDACTED]

My name is Kristina and I'm a volunteer with the Whistler Naturalists. On the morning of November 24th I was called out to the [REDACTED] driving range where a Great Horned Owl was trapped by the nets. It wasn't stuck in the net, but every time it tried to fly away it would fly right into the net and hang upside down and rest. I'm not sure how long it was there before it was spotted. Two photos are at the end of this email and there is a link to two short videos below. (If you have any trouble viewing the videos, you can always go to our Community Facebook page to view: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/whistlernaturalists>)



In the end, three of us helped direct the owl to an open area where it finally managed to exit the driving range, which took over an hour. [REDACTED] (cc'd) did the bulk of the work. The owl didn't look injured but it certainly was exhausted. It was being mobbed by crows the entire time, and when it finally got free it rested in a tree between the driving range and the highway and continued to get mobbed. We didn't stick around for too long afterwards, and we hope that the owl's ordeal in the nets didn't have any lasting effects.

The person who saw the trapped owl initially posted the sighting on our Whistler Naturalists Community Facebook page and that's when someone thought to call me. Since then, many people have been commenting on the post including sharing stories of many other birds they have seen trapped by the nets of the [REDACTED] driving range over the years. One concerned resident even passed the notice on to Luisa and Tina in RMOW Stewardship and it was Tina that gave me your name.

Are you the right person to ask if the [REDACTED] would be willing to take down the nets when not in use? Myself and others with the Naturalists would love to start the conversation. I'd also be happy to have a phone call, whatever works best for you.

Looking forward to hopefully having a positive outcome for our feathered friends,

Sincerely,

Kristina Swerhun
[REDACTED]





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