

Escaped elephants startle strollers in Ontario town

Two female Asian Elephants, performers at Newmarket's Garden Brothers' Circus, broke free of their pen early Thursday morning and wandered into greener pastures in the city located about 50 kilometres north of Toronto.

BY CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

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TORONTO — What happened when the pachyderm packed up his trunk and left the circus?

The punch line: Some late-night stroller had their tails scared off and the York Region Police received one freaked out phone call.

Two female Asian Elephants, performers at Newmarket's Garden Brothers' Circus, broke free of their pen early Thursday morning and wandered into greener pastures in the city located about 50 kilometres north of Toronto.

They were found around 3 a.m. nibbling on trees and foliage outside some nearby homes by a group of friends who happened to be walking a short distance away.

One elephant was munching on a tree, a witness said during an anonymous phone call to York Police.

“We just found an elephant walking down the street,” he said to a confused dispatcher. “Like, a full grown elephant!”

Ian Garden, the president of Garden Brothers’ Circus, said the electric fence around the animals’ pen became disconnected at about 2:30 a.m.

And when the elephants figured that out, they pushed down a post.

“They simply went for a walk in the neighbourhood and tasted the grass in Newmarket,” he said.

Another elephant remained asleep in the pen.

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