

# The Telegram

## St. John's rattled by rats

Residents unimpressed as city named rattiest in Atlantic Canada

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Published on October 10, 2017



Linda Penney woke up on Tuesday morning to four rats caught in her St. John's backyard.

**According to Orkin Canada, St. John's is the rattiest city in Atlantic Canada and people**

**of St. John's told The Telegram that they are not surprised.**

Linda Penney has been living in Airport Heights for 10 years, and just Tuesday morning, she caught four rats in her backyard.

"It's been a problem for years," said Penney. "I even got to the point where I was joking around, having competitions with my brother in law about who would catch the most per night."

Penney and her husband set up 12 traps in the backyard on Tuesday night. It's something they have been doing every night, for years.

"Last year I would say we caught about 40 rats," said Penney.

Earlier story

Rats! St. John's tops busiest rat city list in Atlantic Canada

Paula Walsh also lives in Airport Heights and says that although she doesn't have a rat problem herself, she can understand why others in her area are having issues.

She said people on neighbouring streets often have garbage outside their homes almost 24 hours before the scheduled pick up time, which can attract the rodents.

Living on the opposite end of town, Jonathan Milley says he has seen these rodents time and time again.

"We basically had to stop composting because the rats we're tearing up the bin, and creating such a mess," he said.

Others say that it is costing them an arm and a leg.

"We purchased an annual contract with pest control to get rid of them," said a resident from Cowan Heights.

The news release by Orkin hopes to remind homeowners that, as temperatures cool down, these rodents will seek shelter, food and water.

Rats are capable of transmitting a number of serious diseases and cause millions of dollars of damage to properties every year.

The rattiest cities ranking is based on all rodent treatments by Orkin Canada at residential and commercial properties within Atlantic Canada from Sept. 1, 2016 to Aug. 31, 2017.

The City of St. John's is aware that rats are an issue for both residents and business owners, but say officials have not reviewed the basis of the recent Orkin report.