

At DeBruyn farm

Newfoundlands—Canada's oldest breed of dog

by Jennifer Barr
The farm of Martin and Angie DeBruyn on Third Line north of Acton boasts of fine Holstein milking cattle, chickens, pigs, rabbits, cats, a raccoon, a peacock - and a yard full of huge black teddy bears.

Mrs. DeBruyn owns and operates Mariner Kennels, breeders of fine Newfoundland dogs, one of the largest dogs in the world and Canada's oldest native breed. The huge Newfoundland, weighing up to 140 pounds and covered with dense black curly hair, originated in the island of the same name centuries ago probably from imported fishing dogs used by the Vikings or other fishermen. From the Newf came the Labrador Retriever and the Chesapeake Bay. The Newf is a water dog possessing a waterproof two layer coat and the size to haul in the fishing nets. He also has a strong instinct for life-saving, as any family with a swimming pool and a Newf can attest to.

Angie DeBruyn, now vice president of the Newfoundland Club of Canada, became interested in Newfoundland dogs several years ago when she and Martin were living in Georgetown. Martin was then a welder with American Motors and Angie was—and still is—a teacher at Stewar-town Senior Elementary School.

Angie was fascinated by the "big black things" and a



AN ARMPFUL of teddy bears for Angie DeBruyn means two of her Newfoundland dogs. Big Judy, foundation mother of Mariner Kennels, outweighs puppy Sarah by a hundred or so pounds. The DeBruyns farm and run their Newfoundland breeding establishment on the third line north of Acton.

male puppy came to live with them. Unfortunately that puppy suffered from a problem very common to many large dog breeds - hip

dysplasia. A second dog, a female, also exhibited the same disease. It was several years before the DeBruyns found their

foundation female, "Judy", a dysplasia free animal. Now Mariner Kennels boasts a line of dysplasia free Newfs. Describing Newfoundlands

as "super family dog" who love people, Angie is most enthusiastic about the breed and she's never sorry she started breeding them. Not only do the DeBruyns show their dogs but they are used for charitable causes. Martin has built a charming cart reminiscent of mail carts the big dogs used to pull around Newfoundland. All the DeBruyn dogs are trained to harness and make appearances at money-raising functions for such worthwhile causes as the Crippled Children's Centre, the Camp for Retarded Children and the Christmas Tree Drag, an annual event taking place at the tree lot of Murray Dryden, proceeds going to Sleeping Kits for underprivileged children.

Georgetown residents will remember the big Newfoundland and cart appearing around Delrex area and in many Santa Claus parades. Showing takes up a great deal of Angie's "spare" time. Of the four females and one male currently on the show lists of Mariner Kennels, two have their Canadian Championship and one has an American Championship. Christie sells beer.

One female, Christie, won reserve winner's bitch over 88 females at the Rockton Illinois (near Chicago) show and was only a year old when she beat 31 bitches for best dog opposite sex at a specialty show. Christie has also had the distinction of doing a Mol-

son's beer commercial - unfortunately it's only seen in Newfoundland, stretched in front of the fire - "wall to wall dogs."

Even the boarders become house dogs and even share the DeBruyn beds.

But king of them all is the original family pet, a small mongrel "Mickey", whose ambition is to "outlive every Newf on the place". At 15 years of age, he may just do that.

Although Angie hasn't had facilities for many boarding dogs up until now, she hopes to enlarge the runs and accommodate more dogs by the summer.

Home of teddy bears
Right now Angie spends a great deal of time grooming, preparing and showing. She travels from Montreal to Windsor, from Ottawa to Chicago, campaigning her dogs. The dogs have to be washed every six weeks during show season and considering this is done in the family bathroom, it's easy to see why total family involvement is necessary for the hobby. Martin used to do all the showing and Angie the preparation. However, now that Martin is a farmer and has no time, Angie does most of the showing herself carting as many as three crates

Newfs, grooming table, equipment, and lunch to the show in her truck. If only one dog goes, it usually rides in the passenger seat. Angie's ambition is to improve her present stock and one day, hopefully, win top Newfoundland of all Canada. Martin and Angie are also renovating their farm house with help from sons Jeffrey 14 and Trevor 9 and learning to become as self-sufficient as possible on the farm they love.

The Newfs overflow the house and greet visitors driving in the lane, a formidable welcoming committee although Angie vouches for their dispositions and claims them to be very gentle and placid.

Mariner Kennels - home of the teddy bears and perhaps, in the future, of top Newfoundland of Canada—a nice place to visit.

Heart fund near goal

The heart fund is close to its target, with about 30 canvassers yet to be heard from, says organizer Vic Bristow. The goal this February was \$3,000 and there were about 100 canvassers involved.

We got a great response from the people, industries and businesses, Mr. Bristow says. "I'm quite confident we'll reach the goal."

He suggests that anyone who was missed and would like to donate the heart fund could get in touch with him.

Living in apartment

The Van Merkestains, left homeless in a recent fire, are now living in the Maria Street apartments.

Vic Bristow, who organized the Lions fund to help fire victims, says the family has already been given a few household articles to help them start again. Anyone else who wished to assist, could speak to them at their restaurant, the Chicken and Pizza Spot, or to Vic Bristow.

P.D. day

Many children were out of school Monday for Professional Development Day.

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Historical Society hopes to save old buildings

Citizens will have a better chance to save old or interesting buildings if the Esqueusing Historical Society can persuade Halton Hills council to help set up a permanent advisory board.

The historical society hopes council will assist in setting up a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC). The society will make its pitch to council in about a month.

The decision to try the LACAC route came during

the Esqueusing Historical Society's annual meeting in council's chambers February 28.

Under the Ontario Heritage Act, a town consults its LACAC prior to designating a building or group of buildings as being worth preservation.

A municipality may establish a LACAC with no less than five members. Burlington and Oakville have the only LACACs in Halton Region so far, according to Wayne McEachern of the

region's planning office.

The historical society's new board of directors will prepare a presentation to council about the LACAC. The executive will first show its presentation at the historical society's regular meeting.

The society's new executive is: Keith Barber, Shirley Cleave, George Henderson, John McDonald, Muriel Nurse, Jean Ruddell and Richard Ruggie.

Last year's chairman, John

McDonald, said the unveiling of the plaque at the Barber dynamo was the historical society's biggest project of 1977.

"It put us into the spotlight of the community", McDonald said.

The region's McEachern admitted to Betsy Cornwell the town may be obligated to provide some financial support under LACAC.

However, he pointed out some administration costs could be handled by the town. "There's no honorarium or mileage", he said.

The 30 people at the meeting saw a color film about saving buildings at Kingston, Ontario.

According to the provincial legislation, someone who wishes to object to a building being designated, has 30 days to let the town know, Tudor Beatty said.

Council may also appeal a designation once it is made, Beatty said.

A designated building may also be demolished, in time, if the owner wishes. Council can delay demolition for as long as 270 days, said Beatty.

Once a building is designated a council may give a grant or loan to help the owner make alterations, Beatty said.

Halton Hills planner Mario Venditti suggested the seven members of the society's executive use the region's background report on heritage then make a presentation to council.

There is no one on the town's staff or on council who has expertise in history or architecture, Venditti said. He also cautioned the group that council is sensitive to financial situations.

"The town would have to investigate the grant structure", he said.

The Esqueusing Historical Society covers the former township, Georgetown and Acton, McDonald said.

Committee to explore Green's allegations

Halton Region's Administration Committee has called for a full and complete investigation into allegations concerning the Land Division Committee.

The allegations were levelled by a Milton member of the committee, David Green. In a letter announcing his resignation from the committee, Green said he felt he'd reached "the level of a third or fourth class citizen" with the committee.

He claimed that a committee of three members dealt with matters relating to other departments in the region

and staff matters. "No other committee members appear to be considered," he said.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett said Wednesday he felt the committee shouldn't accept the resignation until they had asked Green to substantiate his allegations. "If there are problems, let's deal with them."

Halton Hills Councillor Russ Miller agreed. "Let's table this, pending a full report on the matter. It might be that it is a tight little group and if you're not on the inside, you just don't fit in at all," Burlington Councillor

Walter Mulkewich said the charges had to be answered.

Milton Councillor Jim Watson went along with the idea of a full report but felt Green's resignation should be accepted. He felt the committee should accept Milton Council's recommendation and appoint Lloyd Chisholm as Green's replacement in the meantime. He said Green refused to reconsider his resignation.

Chisholm was recommended to replace Green on the committee and a staff report into Green's allegations has been requested. Council will ratify that action today.

Auto rolls on 17 Sideroad

A westbound auto rolled over on 17 Sideroad around supertime Saturday.

Damage to the auto driven by Sharon Pettibone of R.R.4 Acton is about \$2,000, police estimate. The mishap occurred about a mile east of the 4th line.

Before rolling over, the vehicle climbed a snowbank, police state.

Station wagon hit

A station wagon was hit by a vehicle which failed to remain in the parking lot of the Acton Community Centre Monday evening.

Damage to the station wagon owned by Leo Duesch of 192 Elmore Dr. is about \$200, according to police. Police also say the station wagon was parked for about ten minutes. The vehicle was hit on the right front fender.

Woman hurt in collision

A two-car collision on 15 sideroad Saturday resulted in slight injury to a Milton woman.

Police state Cynthia Roesser of R.R.5 Milton, was hurt in the collision.

Damage to her car is about \$700, according to police. Police estimate the amount of damage to the auto driven by Martin Lott of R.R.4 Acton, to be \$400.

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