

# Council considers dog hunt to halt attacks on livestock

Serious consideration to allowing open season on loose dogs in the rural area was given by Milton Council Monday night, as a result of an increasing number of incidents of wild pack dogs attacking and killing sheep and other livestock.

The matter came to a head when David Yemm of Kildriddle filed a damage claim with the town as a result of dogs attacking and killing over 600 mink on his property. The damage was valued at \$3,885 by the town's evaluator but Mr. Yemm is entitled to damages from the town in the amount of \$16,273.52.

Council Monday night was faced with the option of either appealing the verdict, or paying the money. Some councillors expressed willingness to pay, but many were angered by the town's insurance agents, who have refused to cover the liability. Council eventually decided to pay the claim, but at the same time, conduct an inquiry into the matter.

Further complicating the matter is the fact that, to date in 1978, only \$6,500 in dog tag fees have been collected, far short of the \$16,273.52 that will

be spent by the town to honor the one claim. Consideration was given by council to increasing the pound fee, and it was suggested a \$100 pound fee be levied against the owner of any dog caught loose in a rural area.

Halton Agricultural Representative Henry Stanley cited statistics that show 107 sheep have been killed in Halton in the past year, and the average compensation paid to farmers suffering these losses is \$38 per sheep. The law provides a maximum payment of \$100 per sheep when a more realistic value,

according to Mr. Stanley, is \$200 or \$300.

He urged steps be taken to eliminate the serious problem, and from that, the idea of a hunt was born.

The Livestock Act states that a farmer may shoot on sight a dog of other predator on his property, but it was noted that there are problems in doing that because it is extremely difficult to get close enough to a wild dog to use a shotgun. A Hornby area sheep farmer, Peter Branch suggested to council a better idea would be to use a rifle with a telescopic sight but

this is too dangerous in some areas. This prompted one observer to comment sarcastically "Why not just use a hand grenade and be done with it."

Councillor Russ Powadiuk agreed the hunt was necessary because of the heavy losses these pack dogs inflict on local farmers. He told council he has had to shoot predators on his property, and knew of one farmer who bagged 31 dogs.

Clerk Campbell Thompson noted that the Ministry of Natural Resources should be contacted about the matter

for their input and advice.

Mr. Branch pointed out that there is also a serious after-effect among animals who have survived a predator attack, as they tend to abort their young and not be as prolific in breeding of new stock.

The matter of an increased pound fee was objected to by councillor Krantz, who pointed out that it would almost certainly happen that "a little old lady on a fixed income will lose her little chihuahua as soon as we raise the fee, and there is no way she can afford to pay \$100 to get it back."

Discussion centred around advising and petitioning the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their advice on the matter. Clerk Thompson said the town knew of only one case similar to this, in which the town of Newcastle was faced with a claim of \$8,000. Officials there said they paid the bill without appealing to their insurance company or the county judge.

Councillor Powadiuk said he knew of only one way to solve the problem: "Shoot 'em. When dogs are in a pack, it's not nice. Dogs who are normally quite friendly and will come up and let you pet them will become dangerous and predatory when they are in a pack. There's only one way to deal with them, and that's to shoot them, and if someone's pedigree dog gets shot, that's too bad. Once dogs get the taste of blood, that's it. There's nothing you can do."

It was pointed out it will be necessary to extensively publicize the hunt well in advance if a mass hunt is held. Council decided to refer the matter to their technical staff, who will draft a proper resolution on the matter, which will be dealt with by council at their next meeting.

# Seeking more entries for Santa parade here

Over 10 floats are already committed for the Santa Claus parade here on Nov. 25. Four schools, two service clubs and one business are among the entries.

Enthusiastic organizer Rick Coe is looking for more entries, especially from the churches and businesses. There are five top prizes of \$30 each for five categories, schools, service clubs,

churches, commercial and a catch-all category called miscellaneous.

New this year will be a shiny trophy for the best all-around float.

Santa will of course be in the parade as usual, and will visit with friends in the Y afterward.

The parade will disband at Knox church, and chilly marchers will all be wel-

comed into the scout hall to warm up with hot chocolate.

Judges named for the parade are Laura Dittich, Les Duby and Pierre Pilote.

Anyone who has float entries or suggestions, or who would like to help, is asked to phone the Community Services Centre in the Y, 853-3310. The messages will be passed along to Rick Coe and his committee.

## Estate homes

# Council defers request by developer

A request by a developer that Halton Hills propose removal of part of the proposed Acton East development from the Niagara Escarpment Commission's (NEC) control area was deferred by council Monday.

Goldfan Holdings Ltd. of Toronto has proposed the development of about 132 expensive homes on about 70 acres of 165 acres it owns north of Given Road. However, part of the land is under NEC control development.

Arnold Wise, spokesman for Goldfan Holdings Ltd., asked council to pass a resolution that would exclude the lands in question, about

1,000 feet north of Given Road.

Wise said the NEC had discussed the proposal last month and will not oppose the development on table lands. However, "they say they won't act until Halton Hills decides."

Andy Derkowski, director of planning for R. V. Anderson Associates Ltd., said three points came out at the NEC meeting, Oct. 19.

Derkowski said the line on the NEC maps showing escarpment "isn't really escarpment at this point." It is only a "mild hill" and the NEC planners recognized

there is no escarpment in the area.

At the NEC meeting, it came out that the goal to establish a continuous belt cannot be achieved in the area which is a branch of the main escarpment, he said.

The NEC also recognized that the line in the area map should be looked at again and the NEC planners propose to review it, Derkowski said.

"The line to the south is clearly logical," Derkowski said. "The proposed line is the limit of table land in the defined area."

Mario Venditti, planning director, told council that there is no defined scarp in

some areas because it has either been mined or is buried. The NEC has no policy on buried or undefined areas of the scarp but are addressing themselves to the situation, he added.

Venditti said town staff put together a map but the town's select committee on the NEC's preliminary proposals requested a more detailed map.

However, councillor Roy Booth, the town's representative on the NEC, said that the commission staff came up with a new map late last week that deals with Goldfan Holdings Ltd. and other holdings.

Booth suggested that Goldfan Holdings Ltd.'s request be deferred until there has been a chance by the select committee to compare the NEC map with theirs.

"Basically, it is new evidence," Booth said, "although it's merely a staff recommendation at this point."

Asked by councillor Garnet (Pat) McKenzie whether the final recommendation would be of more benefit to Goldfan Holdings Ltd. if they wait, Booth replied, "Yes... it's not bad in that area."

"When you see that map you won't be all that disappointed," Booth said.

Councillor Les Duby agreed with Booth's call for deferral. He said he was concerned with growth eastward from Acton. He wants to see growth from the town generally and "not in a satellite area."

Councillor Peter Marks said he was concerned that the developer's representatives may walk away with the idea that council is endorsing the project in the control area. "But studies are needed before a council decision on the area."

Booth said the NEC has approved maps in the Niagara peninsula. He wants to take back to the NEC this week the decisions from Milton and Burlington. The NEC's final decision, however, is subject to hearings and public input, he added.

"The map tonight is an example of the kind of input you get from the people."

"There appeared to be some confusion on the town's map. Venditti said he understood that the town's definitive map was to be received by the NEC late in November or early in December.

# Region gets \$7 million from Canadian syndicate

A Canadian syndicate successfully tendered to issue Halton debentures totalling \$7 million.

The announcement was made by regional treasurer D. W. Farmer at the region's meeting at Halton Manor Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Farmer said this was the first time the region held

debentures out to tender.

Although bids were received from American firms, he said given the fluctuating fortunes of the Canadian dollar, accepting American money was not a good policy compared to having a Canadian firm lend the money in Canadian dollars.

The syndicate which secured the tender is composed of Burgess Graham Securities Ltd. and Associates, the Bank of Nova Scotia, Burns Fry Ltd., Equitable Securities Ltd. and Greenfields Ltd.

Farmer said there are currently about \$10 million debentured from the region to American firms.

The debentures with the Canadian syndicate are up to 20 years with an annual interest charge of 11.25 per cent.

The money is to cover a variety of regional spending:

- \$116,500 in debentures to Milton;
- \$250,000 in debentures to Oakville;
- \$1,350,000 in debentures to Burlington; and
- \$5,283,500 in debentures to regional projects.

# Food commission needs volunteers

A public information meeting is scheduled for the Acton Library November 15 at 7 p.m. for those interested in forming a local group of the People's Food Commission.

Currently in the forming stages, the People's Food Commission will be an independent commission which will listen to the concerns of people affected by the food system. It will hopefully answer and investigate questions asked by consumers, food producers, etc.

The Commission is not a government inquiry, but is made up of concerned volunteers across the country. The government, the group claims, has had several inquiries into the subject with reports "gathering dust on the shelves".

"We believe that the people directly involved in growing, processing, transporting, selling, cooking and eating food should ask the questions. In the sharing of our experiences, we might find ways some of us have coped with our problems that could lead to new solutions. At hearings to be held across Canada, in rural areas and cities, the People's Food Commission will provide an opportunity for us to learn from one another," says a pamphlet put out by the commission.

At the Acton meeting, Mike Carr, a commission staff member, will speak on the commission and present a short film. He will also be able to answer any questions.

So far, there are seven volunteers in the Halton-Peel area for the commission.

J. Kohari D.T.      J. Novak D.T.

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