

Investigation under way

Leg-hold trap blamed for injuries to cat

By LORI TAYLOR
Herald staff writer

A cat belonging to a Georgetown woman has been put to sleep because it was not expected to recover from serious injuries which the veterinarian who treated it said may have been caused by a leg-hold trap.

Halton Regional Police are investigating a complaint by the cat's owner, Betty Bot, that someone has been setting leg-hold traps on undeveloped land near her property at Maple Avenue. Police are not releasing details of their investigation.

Mrs. Bot said her husband and son found the cat in the house when they returned Sunday after being absent for about an hour and a half. She said they are puzzled as to how the cat got into the house, because neither of them let it in the house before they went away, and the cat wouldn't have been able to get in by itself.

Mrs. Bot said she took the cat to Dr. David McEwen at the Georgetown Animal Clinic Sunday evening, and he called Tuesday to say that the kindest thing for the cat would be to put to sleep.

VERY ANGRY

Mrs. Bot said she is very angry about the whole incident, not only because of the suffering caused to the cat, and the unnecessary veterinarian's bill, but because the trap could have injured a child.

"I don't like it and I don't want to see it happen again," she told The Herald. "There's no reason to have these traps to begin with, and I want it stopped before it happens to somebody else, or to a child."

Mrs. Bot says she believes the traps were located either on town-owned land, or on property belonging to Halton Hills councillor Mike Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong said he had not given his permission to anyone to put traps on his property, and he hadn't been aware that the traps were there.

Mrs. Bot said she believes she knows who is setting the traps, but in order to press charges under the Cruelty to Animals Act, she must be able to prove that the person who owns the traps and that he is setting them. This would also be necessary should she wish to press a civil action against the trapper to be recompensed for the veterinarian's bill.

Mrs. Bot said people who know about the incident have told her "to keep my mouth shut" and "to drop the whole thing".

"But somebody has to say something," she said. "I'm looking at a veterinarian's bill, which I'll pay, regardless, but it might have been a child who was injured in that trap."

Dr. McEwen, who treated the cat, said that there is no way of confirming that the cat's injuries were caused by a leg-hold trap without seeing the trap.

WOUNDS CONSISTENT

"The wounds are consistent with those which might be caused by a leg-hold trap, so it is a possible explanation

of the manner in which the cat was injured, but I couldn't stand up in a court of

law and say it was a trap, beyond all doubt," Dr. McEwen said.

Alex Caron, of the Wildlife Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources, describes leg-hold traps as being two jaws which spring up to clamp on the leg of the animal which triggers the trap. The jaws don't have teeth on them, as some people believe, he said. The purpose of the trap is simply to hold the animal for the trapper to dispose of in whatever fashion he chooses.

Mr. Caron said it is not the trap itself which injures the animal, unless it gets caught in a trap meant for a larger animal. It is the animal's struggles to free itself which cause the injuries.

The problem with abolishing or banning the use of the leg-hold trap is that it is very effective, Mr. Caron said. It is small, compact and easily carried, and it will work almost anywhere, in almost any kind of weather.

The ministry has a trap development program which is working on alternatives to the leg-hold trap, Mr. Caron said, and one or two of them look promising. One in particular, a leg snare trap, has great potential, he said. The trap is triggered by a pan, as with a leg-hold trap, and a snare fastens around the animal's leg, holding it more comfortably than a leg-hold trap does. This trap has been very effective in tests, Mr. Caron said, but he doesn't know how close the ministry is to insisting on the use of leg snares rather than leg-hold traps.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

At Haines of St. Alban's Anglican Church, Glen Williams admires the cake decorated to congratulate Marjorie Williams on serving as a church organist for 74 years. Mrs. Williams began playing for services in 1907 and took on the Glen Williams services regularly in 1945. (Herald photo)

Organist celebrates 74 years at keyboard

Most people make a fuss over workers who have celebrated 50 years in a job. For Marjorie Williams, organist at St. Alban's Anglican Church in Glen Williams the 50 year mark has been past long ago.

Mrs. Williams has been playing the church organ for 74 years, 34 of them in Glen Williams. She is 84.

She began playing the organ at St. Jerome's Church, Llangwm, Monmouthshire and was appointed organist at Lansoy in 1907. She and her husband, Reg, emigrated from Wales in 1927 and she was organist for the churches of the joint congregations at Sunderland and West Brock when they lived near Lindsay. They arrived in Georgetown in 1929 but Mrs. Williams didn't take over in Glen Williams until 1945. She also spent a year as organist at St. John's Anglican Church in Stewarttown when its organist resigned but had to give it up since the services in the two churches conflicted.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams moved to Stewarttown 21 years ago but members of St. Alban's congregation have been chauffeuring her to and from church every Sunday since that time.

DIFFERENT DRIVER

"I have a different driver each month," she says, "which I think is pretty wonderful. If they didn't come for me and bring me back I wouldn't be able to attend services."

Mrs. Williams is not the only musical member of her family. Her two sisters, Gwen and Chris, also played the organ in church. Gwen has died but Chris is still active. Mrs. Williams says, and adds that when she broke her hip about 10 years ago Chris was visiting her and took over her services at the Glen church until she was able to get back to them.

Mrs. Williams teaches piano and still has 10 pupils. She began teaching before she left Wales.

Mrs. Williams was widowed eight years ago. Her family consists of daughters Margo and Gwen in Toronto, and Harry in Millbrook, Jim in Stewarttown and Trevor in Georgetown. She has nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

One son and a few of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present Sunday to attend a small celebration in the church hall after the regular service in honor of her achievement. Members of St. Alban's congregation sang a song written by one of her piano pupils, Robbie Beaumont, and watched her cut a special cake congratulating her on entering her 75th year as a church organist.

St. Alban's has only had two official organists in the years since it first opened. The first was Linley Beaumont. The second is Mrs. Williams.

Superior hearing date set

The Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) has set March 20 as the date to hear charges filed by the Canadian Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal, Soft Drink and Distillery Workers on behalf of workers in Acton's Superior Glove Works Ltd.

John McNamee, education and research director for the union, said that the board has set aside only one day for the hearing at this point. Whether additional time will be required will depend on how the case proceeds before the board and also on what sort of arrangements can be reached with the company before the hearing begins.

Mr. McNamee said that in accordance with the board's usual procedure a Labour Relations Officer has been appointed to this case to meet with the Union and the company and try to reach a compromise which will be acceptable to both parties before the hearing begins.

"The officer meets with both parties beforehand and tries to resolve as many matters as possible without going to litigation," he explained.

The meeting with the OLRB officer, Mr. McNamee and Mr. Jeng, co-owner of Superior Glove Ltd. was set for yesterday afternoon in Acton.

Dissatisfaction with working conditions in the factory which makes gloves for all types of industrial uses led to an attempt to organize the plant's 30 employees under the IFCSD and a campaign has been under way for just over a month.

The union filed charges with the OLRB on Feb. 19 stating that a dozen employees had been fired since Feb. 1 "because they were members of a trade union."

Carrier of the Month



Erin McIntyre

Our Herald carrier for the month of February is Erin McIntyre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim McIntyre of Ontario Street, Georgetown.

Erin has delivered 42 papers on Ann Street and Ontario Street from Highway 7 to near the Smith and Stone property for more than five years.

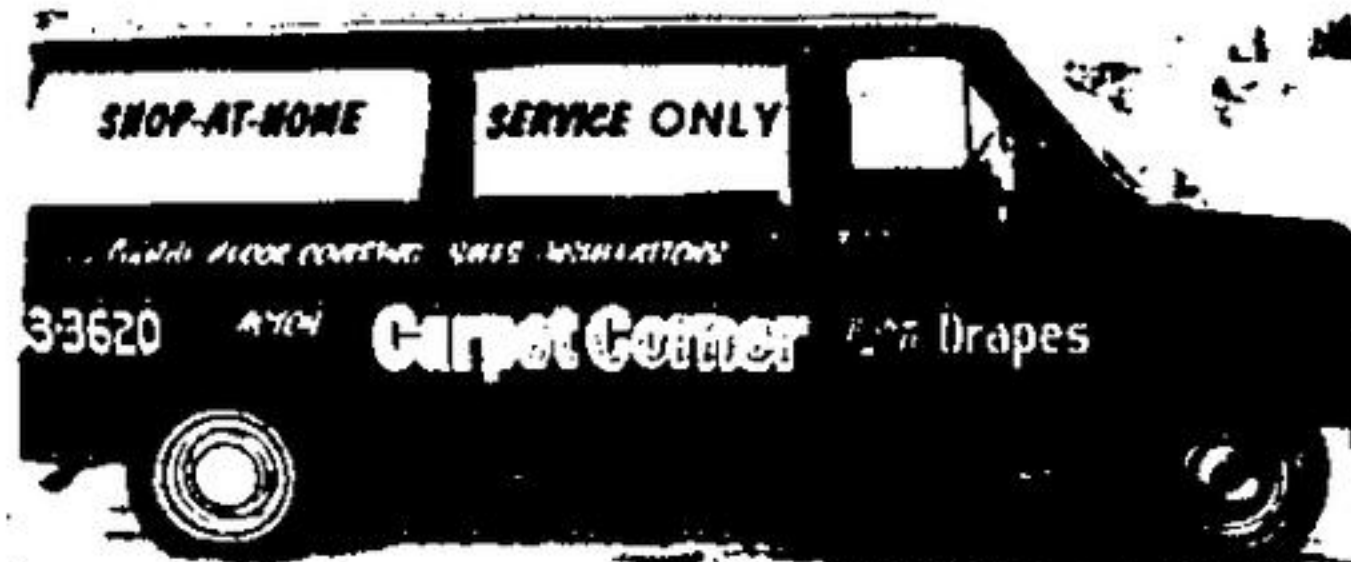
Erin is an eighth grade student at Stewarttown Senior School who likes sports as well as music and reading. She plays left wing on a girls' hockey team as well as belonging to a soccer team and playing on her school basketball and volleyball teams. She also swims and takes piano lessons.

Erin really enjoys delivering papers and has a Toronto Star route as well as her Herald route.

She has been a Georgetown resident for nine years and has one older brother and a younger brother and sister.

Erin will receive a McDonald's gift certificate for being chosen February's Carrier of the Month.

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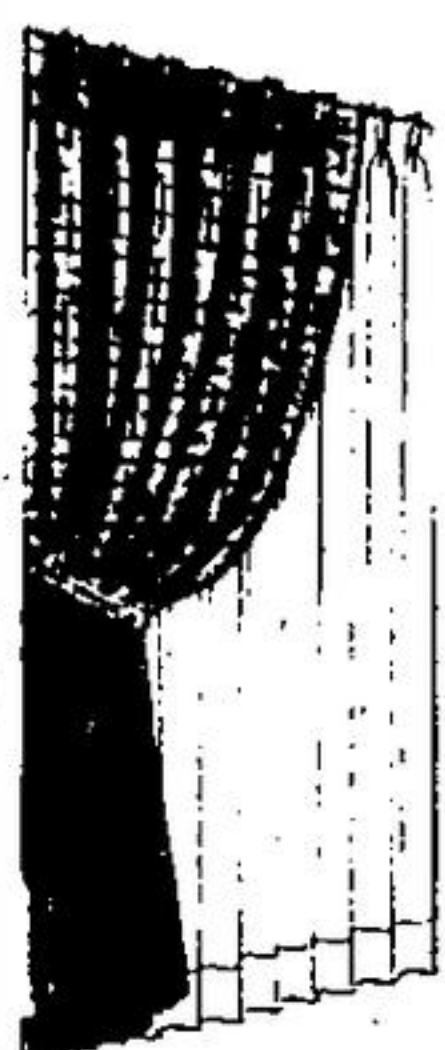
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