

HALTONHILLS HOTLINE 877-2201



THE HERALD, - Page B11

Wednesday, November 21, 1990

Program

discontinued

By CHRISTINE MASON

Wildlife Coordinator

Ontario Humane Society

Herald Special

tario S.P.C.A.'s . wildlife

rehabilitation programme four

years ago at its Newmarket

facility, there has been a steady

and dramatic increase in the

number of wild animals brought

to our facility for care. A large

percentage of these animals con-

sist of immature animals. These

are either brought in by animal

control facilities, or a member of

the public, with the history that

they have been abandoned.

However, on closer questioning,

we find that the adult mother has

been trapped and relocated,

without her young, and the young

discovered a day or two later. In

some instances, if a pest control

company is involved, the adult

animal is destroyed, or released

In an attempt to halt this in-

discriminate dislocation of

healthy wildlife, the Ontario

S.P.C.A. has made the decision to

discontinue its practice of loaning

out humane box traps in the

critical spring months each year.

We consider the critical months

to be from the end of February to

In 1990, the wildlife facility in

Newmarket, received 300 im-

mature raccoons, and 250 im-

mature squirrels. The majority

of these animals were removed

from their nesting site in-

discriminately. Our total to date

so far for 1990 is close to 1,000

In conjunction with this deci-

sion to discontinue its practice of

loaning out humane traps for

wildlife removal, the O.S.P.C.A.

will be launching a public educa-

tion campaign, directed towards

prevention, rather than in-

discriminate dislocation and

recycling of wildlife.

in an inappropriate area.

the end of June.

animals.

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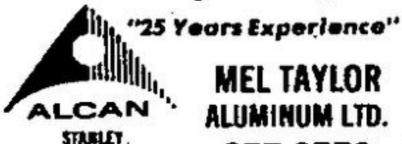
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to wildlife. Check your roof, cap chimneys,

and kitchen and dryer vents with mesh. These measures will put an end to unwelcome visitors.

In addition to the above preventative measures, we also appeal for tolerance for our wildlife. Routinely removing wildlife is not a solution, rather a band-aid approach. You are simply creating a vacancy for another animal to move in.

We have to look for a balance. While certain species of wildlife may be causing a headache, we must look at what would happen if we were to eliminate them. Many species of wildlife feed on a variety of insects and small animals. If we eliminate or significantly reduce those at the higher level of the food chain, these insects and small mammals will increase. We will then be faced with another problem, which could be more damaging. What then? If we begin to use chemical methods of control, we will be further contaminating the food chain, with dire repercussions.

Several other municipalities have already discontinued he practice of routinely loaning at humane traps for which fe the removal. In Ottawa/Carleton area for erample, several animal control facilities have discontinued this practice entirely. In other areas, such as Toronto, an inspection and assessment is carried at beforehand, to determine the true need for wildlife control.

While we will continue to loan out humane traps in situations where there is potential danger to animal or human life, it is anticipated that this action on the part of the Society, at a provincial level, will lead to a decline in the number of dislocated and "recycled" wildlife that come in-

to our care.

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