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Town allowing beloved church pony to remain with family

By Graeme Frisque
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Montey the pony will be allowed to stay with his family in Acton after the Town of Halton Hills decides to allow the miniature horse to remain on compassionate grounds despite a bylaw complaint.

Photo by Graeme Frisque

A sad story which had been developing in Acton appears to be wrapping up with a happy ending.

Montey the Pony, a miniature horse who has been become a staple in Acton, has spent over a decade neighbouring and being cared for by the Bethel Cristian Reformed Church on Queen St.

Montey the pony has been a fixture in Acton for over a decade. Situated adjacent to Bethel CRC, Montey brings tons of joy to children and adults alike. He is quiet, clean, well-cared for, and much loved by all who cross his path. His stall is not visible to the street, he is not a threat to anyone's safety, and he grazes quietly while keeping an eye on the church, read a petition posted to Change.org on Saturday (March 18) by Acton resident Laura Henry.

According to the petition addressed to Halton Hills mayor Rick Bonnette, a resident complaint led to a visit from a Halton Hills bylaw officer, who informed the family earlier this month Montey would not be allowed to remain at his current home.

Recently, a bylaw complaint was made about Montey, which is strange, seeing as he is not in a neighbourhood. Bylaw officers are forcing Montey's family to evict him. This doesn't just affect his family- it affects the children of Acton, and us kids at heart who enjoy a cuddle with him, added Henry in the petition, which had gained more than 280 signatures in less than 48 hours.

Henry and those hoping to see Montey living out his remaining days where he is received good news Monday morning in

a call from the town's bylaw supervisor informing them Montey would be allowed to remain at his current home due to compassionate reasons.

They have decided to deal with Montey on compassionate grounds and will not be moving forward on the complaint to have him move, wrote Henry in an update on the petition on Monday.

Upon further review, Halton Hills CAO Brent Marshall said concerns levied about the wellbeing and care of the ageing Montey were the town's chief concern. He added while the town will continue to monitor the situation, further investigation showed no benefit to removing Montey from his current digs and will be allowed to remain.

People are very understanding and we are working with them on this, but from what we understand the pony is very well cared for and they are doing the best they can to keep it in good health as long as possible, he said.

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