

Furry felines purr-used in Acton

By Ellen Piehl
Special to HHTW

Furry felines of all breeds took over the Royal Canadian Legion in Acton last weekend as the No Name Cat Club hosted a championship and household pet cat show, recognized by the Canadian Cat Association.

Several Acton residents did very well in the show.

Dave Keith and his partner, Gary Sickling (who's from Oakville), had their two cats make the finals eight times on the weekend.

One of the winning cats is a seal-point Balinese and a Master Grand Premier (the highest level of competition).

"There's only one other Balinese in Canada that has that title," says Keith.

The other Acton resident who scored big in the show was Sandra Runnalls Lichty.

Here lilac Balinese kitten and Grand Premier chocolate Balinese made the finals four times.

Most of the breeders and cat owners at this show compete in various shows across Canada year-round.

Their cats are awarded points each time it wins a ribbon during competition. At the end of the year, the cat with the most points is declared the National Champion.

Here is a breakdown of the three major levels of competition:

Premier: Cat must be eight months or older and must have received four first place ribbons in the preliminary rounds during competition.

Grand Premier: Must have 70 points or more and must place in the top five in one of the final rounds of competition.

Master Grand Premier: 105

points or more plus must receive a best premier ribbon in at least one of the final rounds.

The cats are categorized into four classes: Household

Pets, Kittens, Alter (spayed), and Championship (not spayed).

The cats are judged in different ways, depending what class they are in.

The household pets class are basically judged for their temperament and condition.

The other cats are judged by written standards, e.g., body shape.

Many people may think it is easy to be a judge at one of these shows, but the truth is, it's not.

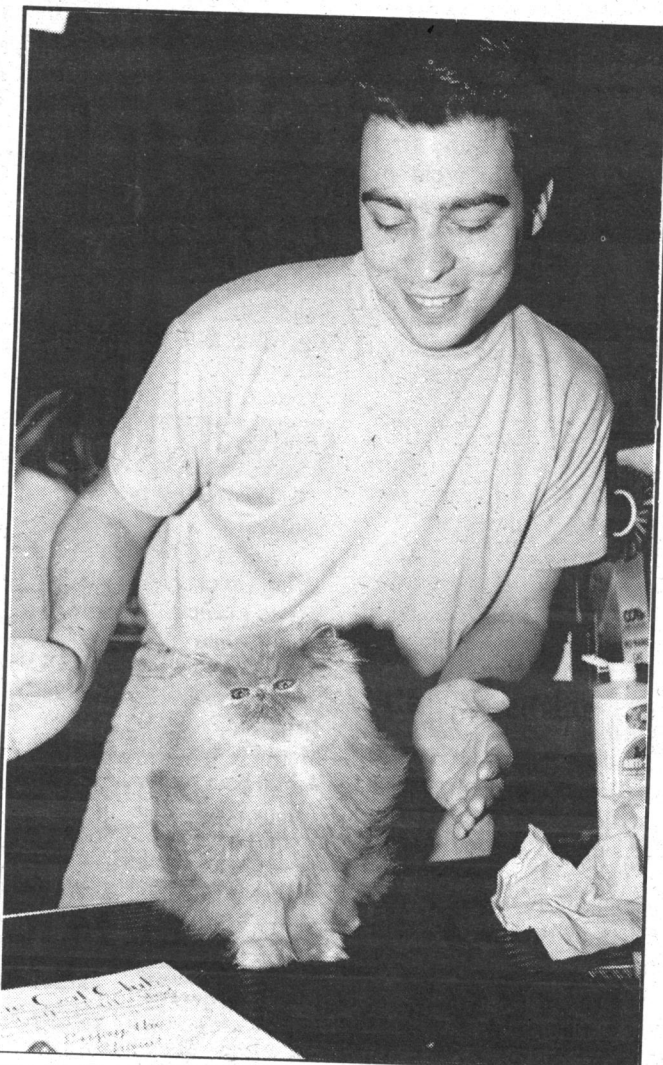
"You have to be trained to be a judge," says Elaine Gleason, one of the judges at the show.

Gleason said she had to take a course on judging cats, which included examinations.

Shows like this are becoming more common, due to the popularity of cats.

"Cats are becoming more popular than dogs," says Gleason.

Acton's first cat show seemed to be a success and organizers are hoping to come back some time next year.



The fluffiest presentation was the name of the game for Marcel L'etourneau of Magog, Quebec, as he prepared Hocus Pocus, a Blue Cream Persian, for judging at last Saturday's Canadian Cat Association Cat Show held at Acton Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion.

photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW



Georgetown Optimrs. Club annual Fall Craft Sale was held last Saturday to raise money for charitable contributions to the community. Ten-year-old Kyle DeForest and his mother Bonnie were one of many vendors selling their handmade crafts. photo by Simon Wilson/HHTW

Duplicate Bridge

Duplicate Bridge results from play Nov. 15 at the Georgetown Legion on Mill St.

- 1) Karol Tobiasz and Norma Maynard
- 2) Rene March and Mike Loruzzo
- 3) Lala and Mike Ranosz
- 4) Wyn Lansdell and Earl Ryder

Remember to play Duplicate Bridge Monday afternoons at the Georgetown Legion - partners available. Please come before 1 p.m.

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Learning to cope

ASSIC Alert

Is your partner or ex-spouse suffering from mental health or addiction problems? Are you worried about how you and your child are coping? You are not alone! A program to offer information and support may be available. The Canadian Mental Health Association is presently assessing whether there is an interest for such a group in North Halton. Participants could then get help with combating isolation and stigma, talking to their kids about the problem and taking care of themselves while taking care of others.

If you require more information, call (905) 681-6776 or to state you are interest-



ed, call 853-4477 and leave a message.

Support Groups

There are a variety of support groups in Halton Hills. If you are interested in receiving support to cope with difficulties, perhaps one of the following groups will be of some help.

Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group - Once per month. 853-1756. Free
Attention Deficit Disorder Support - Once per month. 853-0530. Free

Handling Unemployment Group - Every Wednesday, Jan. 5 - Feb. 23. 877-6915. Free

HIV/AIDS Family Support - 3rd Friday of month. 853-3310. Free

Bereavement Resource Centre - Call for info. 873-0111. Free

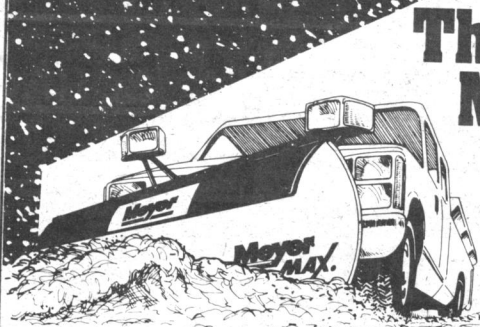
Parents of Children with Cancer Self-Help - Last Wednesday of month. 878-1206.

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