

Township to pay for wheelchair access

BY RAY DARLING
THE COMPASS

Guelph Eramosa Township Council has rejected a proposal by the Eden Mills Community Club to deed sole ownership to the Club.

The proposal was made to clear the way for a Trillium Foundation grant, a grant that would be used to make the hall in Eden Mills wheelchair accessible.

Accessibility is an expensive venture. Because of the elevation of the main floor, an outdoor ramp is not feasible - it would have to be over 100 feet long, which is over twice the length of the hall. The most viable option is to put in a lift which will cost over \$30,000.

There were positive signs that a grant for almost \$28,000 from Trillium Foundation might be approved. The sticking point was that grants are only made to non-government organizations. The Eden Mills Community Hall is co-owned by the Township and the Club, as established under a

1994 Ontario Municipal Board Order, thus rendering it ineligible. Under the current arrangement, the Club covers all its own expenses through fund-raisers and rentals. For its part, Township waives property taxes on the Hall and covers some of the liability insurance.

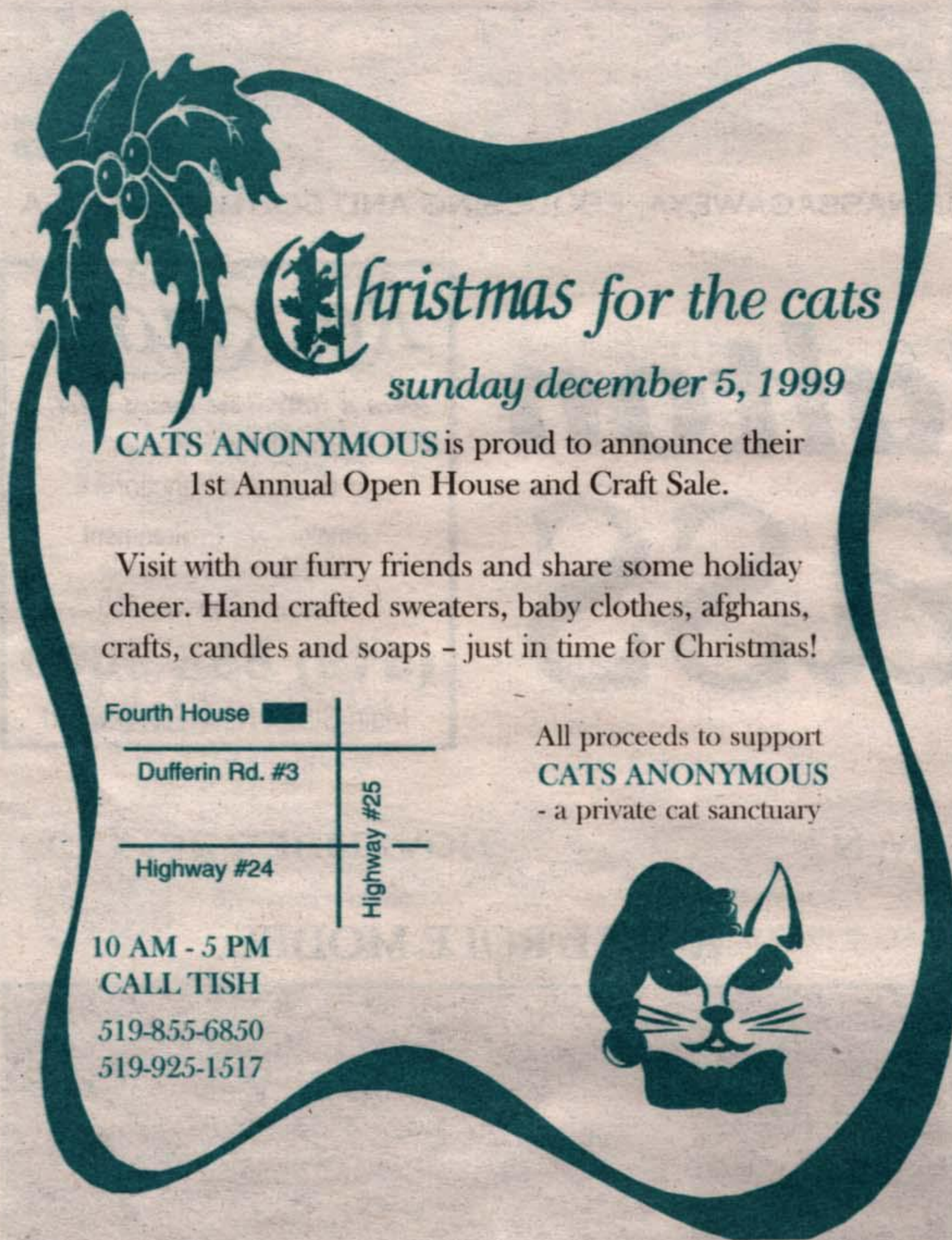
The Club proposal would have cleared the way for the application to go forward. A condition of the deed would have been that Council would have first option to purchase the hall for \$1.00 in the case of the dissolution of the Community Club.

Mayor Dave Adsett met with the Club Executive to discuss the proposal. He subsequently solicited comments from the residents of Eden Mills and arranged for a Public Meeting on November 8th. There were ten letters of support for the proposal received by Council. There was also one letter in opposition to the proposal signed by 17 Eden Mills resi-

dents. Many of the proponents showed up to the public meeting and voiced their support for the Community Club and the accessibility project.

The proposal killer was Council's refusal to continue to waive the property taxes and assist with the insurance - an expense of \$5,000 a year. Council's lawyer indicated that the Township was bound by municipal law. The Club cannot cover this expense with their current budget and even if they could, the ongoing costs would soon outweigh the benefit of the one-time grant.

In response to the rejected proposal, Adsett indicated that the Township would include the project in next year's budget. The good news is that the hall will be made wheelchair accessible. The not-so-good news is that the taxpayers of the township will pay for this rather than the Trillium Foundation.



Christmas for the cats

sunday december 5, 1999

CATS ANONYMOUS is proud to announce their 1st Annual Open House and Craft Sale.

Visit with our furry friends and share some holiday cheer. Hand crafted sweaters, baby clothes, afghans, crafts, candles and soaps - just in time for Christmas!

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Dufferin Rd. #3
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10 AM - 5 PM
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Happy Holidays

from your friends at

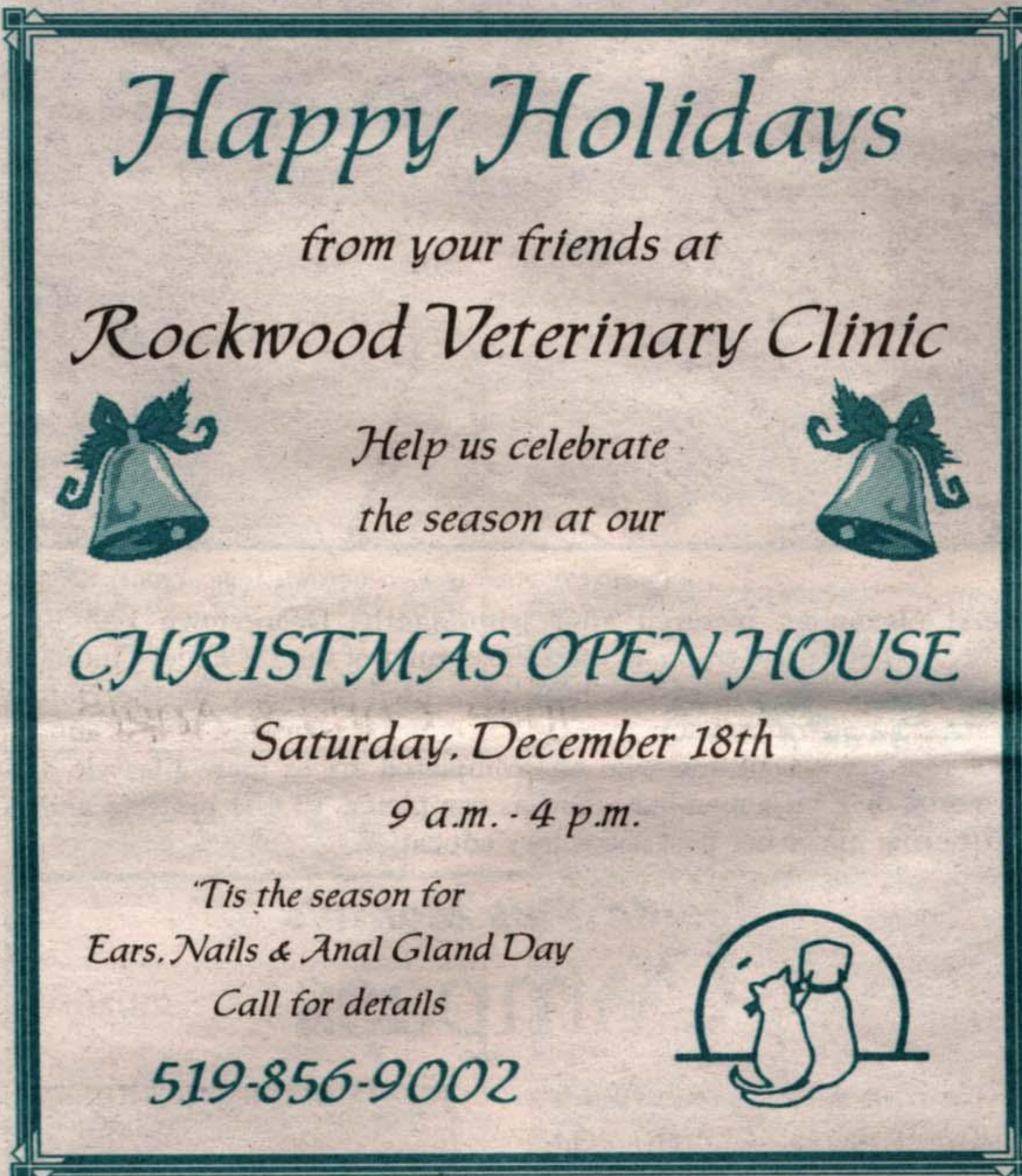
Rockwood Veterinary Clinic

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CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 18th
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

'Tis the season for Ears, Nails & Anal Gland Day
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25% off all stock including new items

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Be early for the best selection of jewellery, angels, candles, pottery and inspired stocking stuffers
Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Evening hours by arrangement. Call 856-9110
160 Main Street South, Rockwood
Note: Full Circle will be closed after Christmas for renovations

Early date for Farmers' Parade of Lights

BY DEBORAH QUAILE
THE COMPASS

Rockwood's version of Santa doesn't exactly fit the typical Claus stereotype.

In our town, Santa and his wife like to ride on their Case IH combine. Joining the jolly couple in the 7th annual Parade of Lights are many area farmers aboard modern and antique farm implements and tractors, dressed for the Christmas season.

As with previous parades, this is strictly for fun with no advertising. The parade is organized by "The 3rd and 4th Line March Blahs Committee and Friends," who have built community spirit throughout the years with many successful events.

The Parade of Lights is earlier this year, on Thursday, December 9, 1999, beginning approximately 7 p.m. Santa and his friends will arrive just north of Rockwood and will proceed south on County Road 27 (Main Street North) to the stoplights, turn west on Highway 7 (Alma Street), and continue north on Fourth Line (Concession 3-4 or the Guelph Line extension). After that, the Clauses will leave for last minute toy making at the North Pole, so be sure not to miss them!

Parade fanatics can view the brand new Parade of Lights website at www.blahs.on.ca/willoa.html
Please note that Highway 7 will be closed for 1½ hours for the parade. Many thanks to the OPP and local fire fighters for their assistance with the event.

Saturday, December 4
9:30 to 2 p.m.
Rockwood Nursery School's Annual Christmas Craft & Bake Sale
Lots of goodies, Penny Table
Santa will visit in the afternoon - bring your letters!

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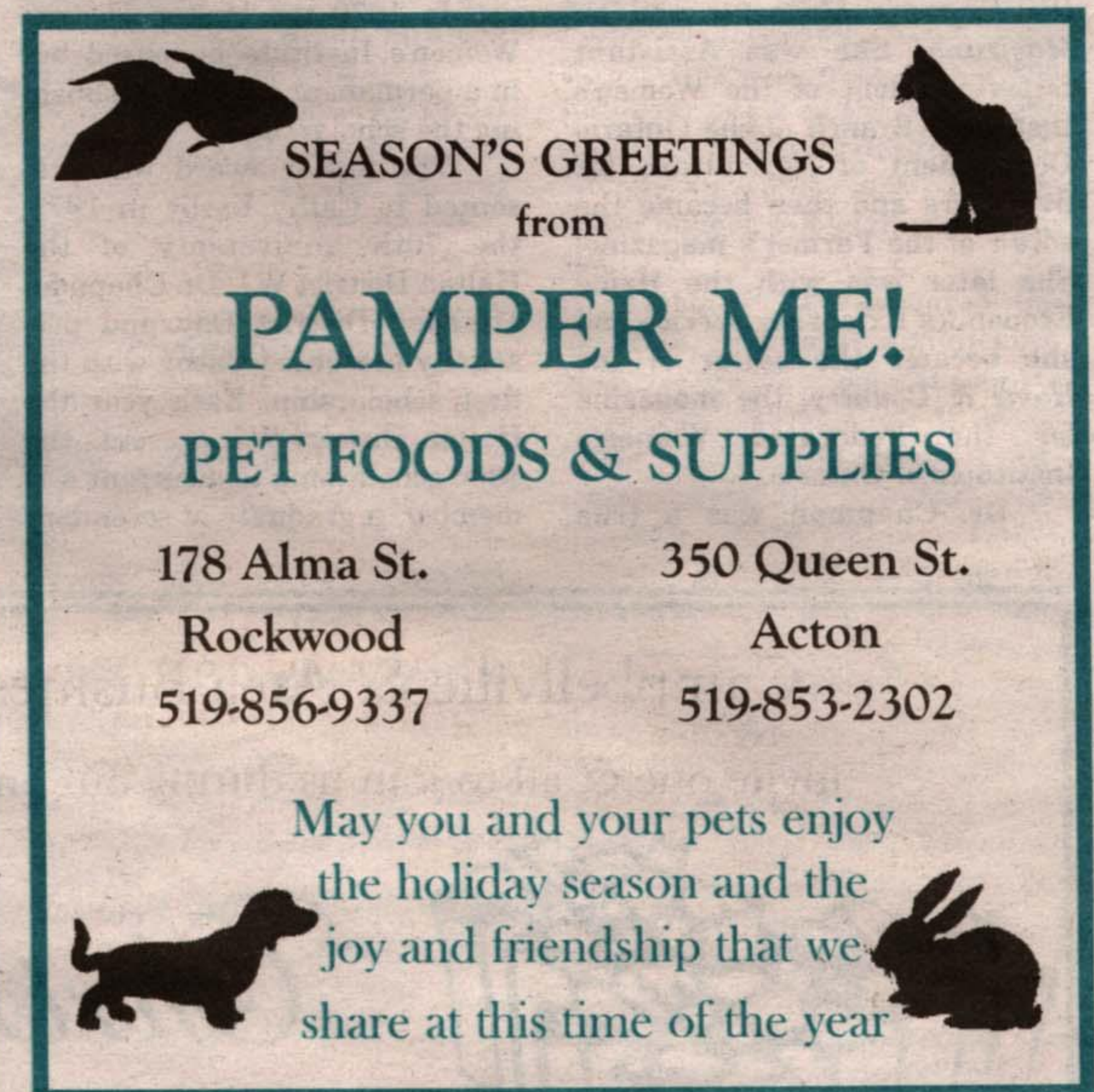


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- 4 Burritos

(choice of Chicken, Beef or Bean)

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you cook: \$15 no tax
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