

Milton resident questions effectiveness of Town's muzzling law

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meant by the "adequate strength" of a muzzle. Furthermore, in her letter to councillors, she suggests that the bylaw is simplistic, noting that the proper use of muzzles is not addressed. As she writes, "you are forcing people to purchase and utilize muzzles with no proper education on types of muzzles or the proper fitting of a muzzle."

Ms. Mowbray and Ms. Caldwell are waiting now to see to what degree the bylaw will be enforced by the Oakville and District Humane Society (ODHS), which has a contract to handle animal bylaw enforcement with the Town. Johanne Golder, the ODHS's general manager, says she will be discussing "the levels of enforcement" with the Town this month.

In the meantime prior to the council meeting on November 22, Ms. Caldwell is holding out the hope that she will be able to make her views known to council. Ms. Mowbray says due to a "misunderstanding," Ms. Caldwell was not given the opportunity to speak on the issue of muzzling at a previous council meeting. But a decision will be made at Milton Council's next meeting as to whether or not Ms. Caldwell can address council.

Ms. Caldwell says there are a lot of concerned pet owners in the area, and she wants council to recognize they deserve to be heard. Looking at every one of her emails it's not hard to find out where she stands. At the bottom, you'll find a phrase that she likes to refer to time and time again: "At the end of every leash is a voter."



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ENRIGHT
Carolyn Caldwell of Milton, here with her Doberman Pinscher Simon, is concerned about Milton's new rules for muzzling dogs in town. She believes there hasn't been enough public debate on the subject.

Help warm a house for the United Way

By LEILA WILLS

The Milton United Way is hosting its eighth annual Christmas house tour on November 19 and 20, and if early sales are any indication, homeowners on the tour can expect a lot of visitors. The guided bus tour, now in its 3rd year, is already sold out. But if you delayed picking up your ticket, fear not; tickets are still available for the self-guided tour.

The house tour has become hugely popular over the past eight years. The charity made over \$37,000 from the tour last year and it hopes to increase that number this year. Volunteer chairperson Christy Babcock said each house on the tour is uniquely decorated. "What we try to do is get a variety of houses so there's something for everybody."

Putting the tour together is a lot of work. The Milton United Way relies on local decorators who donate their skill and time to create professionally decorated houses. Visitors often use the ideas they see on the tour as inspiration for decorating their own homes.

Interior decorators, exterior decorators and florists all work together to create the final product. Each home is decorated by a different set of designers, ensuring a unique look and feel. While many visitors focus on the interior decorating, Ms. Babcock said the exterior decorations are equally important for creating a finished look.

Many local businesses also volunteer their services to the United Way by printing tickets, offering free advertising and even donating the plastic bags visitors use to cover their shoes as they walk through homes. Ms. Babcock said the tour would not be possible without the support of the community.

This year's event, entitled *A Town and Country Christmas House Tour*, showcases six homes in and around Milton. Tickets for the Saturday tour are only \$20, and include \$15 in coupons. For more information, call the Milton United Way at (905) 875-2550 or visit www.milton.unitedway.ca.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Pam Sheldon's living room decorated for the 2003 Christmas house tour.

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