

The Rockwood MILLER



Humane Society to handle dog control in Eramosa

BY MAGGIE
PETRUSHEVSKY

Strays will be incarcerated in new quarters for the next two years if they get picked up in Guelph/Eramosa. Even if the cost is slightly higher, councillors accepted public prompting Monday and voted to have the Guelph and Upper Credit Humane Societies handle the municipality's animal control until the end of the existing council's term in 2003. This ends the municipality's existing contract with Arteeka, a private contractor in Fergus.

The decision followed two presentations from the public suggesting that economics were not the chief criteria for council consideration. Rockwood businessman Mike Yurek said he had been discussing the issue recently with diners coming into his restaurant. The general feeling was that people have a higher level of comfort with the way Humane Societies care for strays versus care from private pound operators. He said dividing the tender price by the number of residents in the municipality the additional cost would be \$1 or less per person. He felt no one would object to such a tax increase if they were more comfortable with the service.

"(The increase) is like (the price of) a cup of coffee," Yurek said. "Mind you, I didn't talk to the whole community. Just the people who came into my place."

Shelly Hawley-Yan, a director of the Animal Alliance, asked council to look at the issue from an ethical viewpoint. No lost pet should be sold for research, she said, pointing out that Humane Societies share the group's philosophy. She was not "recommending a service," just asking council to consider the different philosophy, she said.

She recommended council consider canine control as a "safety net" for lost dogs. Even if the cost is slightly higher residents want a more compassionate service, she said.

The Alliance annually rescues about 250 dogs and 150 cats, 40 to 50 of those dogs from Guelph/Eramosa area, she told council.

The Alliance purchases animals from operators such as Arteeka, she said, and only knows about animals when the operator calls them. They pay more for animals than research facilities do. She could make no comment about the number of animals in the facility with tags because calls are received only when no owner can be found for a specific animal.

Permanent homes are found for all the animals the Alliance rescues, Hawley-Yan said. She supports both community based operators and organizations like humane societies, because both can do a good job "if they have the compassion."

Coun. Dave McCrae repeated his previously ex-

pressed concern about needing two humane societies to cover one municipality and the potential for confusion that can cause. He asked that council only be required to deal with one body even if officially two organizations are required to handle the job.

Guelph Humane Society director Lorna Ronald said she would need the approval of her board before that could be done since the provincial body lays out the boundary lines for each society's service area.

McCrae said he has never heard any documented case of complaint from anyone in the municipality about Arteeka's service although he has heard "lots of rumours and inuendo" against the service.

Coun. Doug Breen said while the standby fee is double that of one private operator, other costs are not the same and he didn't feel money has to be an issue. If tag sales can be done properly, canine control should eventually become a user fee.

Coun. Les Foote pointed out that many of the animals picked up by canine control cannot be reunited with owners because the owners don't want them. They deliberately brought them to the country and dumped them because they want rid of them.

Foote told The Tanner he found it ironic how one of the biggest supporters of the Humane Society's more expensive service was heavily involved in presentations last fall about council's irresponsible tax levies.

Council also agreed that canine control should pay for itself and to that end will examine better methods of selling dog tags. That may mean hiring someone to go door-to-door through the municipality to sell the tags. Right now councillors estimate only 70 per cent of the municipality's dogs are licensed but that figure is only a guess.

Getting better coverage should pay for itself as well as giving council a better handle on just how large a dog population is in the municipality.

The tag sales question will be before council later this month.



FOUR GOAL GAME: This goal from Mark Hofland (stick raised) gave MacMillan's a 5-3 lead over Yourway Muffler in a Novice house league match on Saturday. Hofland had four goals and three assists in the 7-4 win. - Frances Niblock photo

Acton Figure Skating Club has competition results

By FRANCES NIBLOCK

With an impressive array of jumps, fancy footwork and solid skills, members of the Acton Figure Skating Club staged their club competition before Christmas.

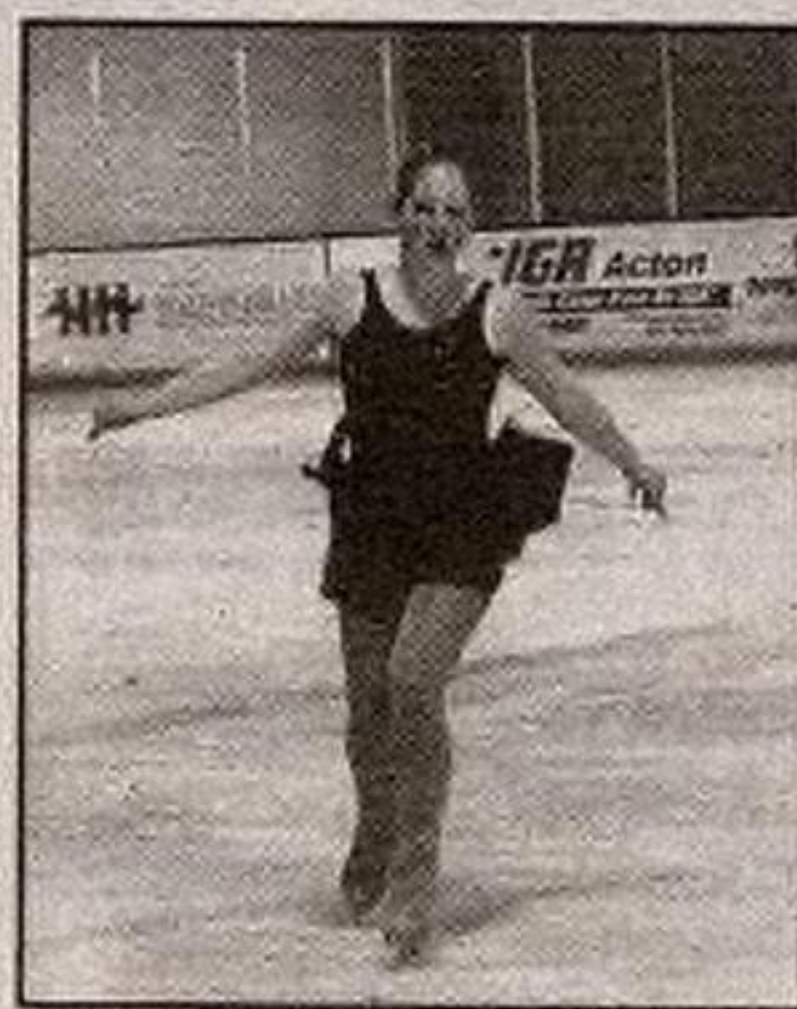
It's the event to determine who will represent Acton at the inter-club competition next month in Orangeville with the top two finishers in each category advancing.

The top finishers have also been invited to skate solos at the Acton club's annual skating carnival on April 6 and the second and third place finishers will be featured in special numbers.

"The kids have been training quite hard - this is the biggest event - other than carnival - that we hold during the season," said club president Bev Bailie, adding the younger skaters would hold their in-club competition next month.

Three skaters, Jesseca Brake, Holly Bailie and Jennifer Roskam received byes to the inter-club event and used the club competition to polish their performances.

Jesseca Brake has a bye in the junior silver freeskate and senior silver dance and Bailie said her natural talent shows with her athletic double jumps and artistic grace.



POWER & POISE: This performance earned Acton Figure Skating Club member Holly Bailie a first place finish in the Senior Bronze Dance at the club's recent competition. It also earned Holly (and all other first and second place finishers) an invitation to an inter-club competition next month. - Frances Niblock photo

Jennifer Roskam, 13, will have three opportunities to represent the Acton club with byes for the junior silver dance, bronze artistic and junior bronze freeskate.

"Jennifer has expanded into the artistic area this year - she's a tall and graceful skater," Bailie said.

Holly Bailie's rapid progression this year was evident as she captured the senior

bronze dance with a solid performance and received a bye in the junior bronze freeskate.

In just a short period, Bailie has advanced from landing an axle (one-and-a-half revolutions) to landing double jumps.

Medal Winners

The club competition medal winners include:

Pre-Preliminary Dance: 1 - Kate Livingston, 2 - Ashley MacPherson, 3 - Kayla Turco.

Preliminary Dance: 1 - Maja Vermeulen, 2 - Baillie Marshall, 3 - Lindsay Finnie.

Junior Bronze Dance: 1 - Emily Vickery, 2 - Ashley Sill-Stone, 3 (tie) - Emily Bent and Keria Britton.

Senior Bronze Dance: 1 - Holly Bailie, 2 - Aiden Stanley, 3 - Samantha Mills.

Junior Silver Dance: 1 - Jennifer Roskam.

Senior Silver Dance: 1 - Jesseca Brake.

Bronze Artistic: 1 - Jennifer Roskam.

Pre-Preliminary Freeskate: 1 - Ashley Burke, 2 - Kayla Turco, 3 - Keira Britton.

Preliminary Freeskate: 1 - Emily Vickery, 2 - Tracey Schrempf, 3 - Katie Laton.

Junior Bronze: 1 - Holly Bailie and Jennifer Roskam.

Junior Silver Freeskate: 1 - Jesseca Brake.

Wellington OPP asks residents to memorize 911 Locator

Wellington OPP is reminding area and especially rural residents to memorize their 911 Emergency Locator Number as well, have it readily available near all residential and business telephones.

Dispatchers continue to receive emergency calls for assistance from the public who are only able to provide a "rural route" number. Due to the vast area that any given rural route covers, this information is too vague to be helpful. Other callers give

"historic" information, i.e., "it's beside the Joe Smith property ... you know the place... his house burnt down 2 years ago." This type of information is of limited value.

Some home and business owners have replaced their residential phones with cellular phones. When someone calls in an emergency on a cellular phone, the home address is absent. Once again, the 911 Locator Number is required.

It is imperative that all residential and business owners know their Emergency Locator Number from memory, police say. It is equally important to have the number clearly posted beside all telephones so that anyone can access the information quickly when needed.

Committing the 911 Emergency Locator Number to memory could mean the difference between life and death, the OPP warn.

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EWAG NEWS

Welcome to the New Year from EWAG Community Services in Rockwood. We have some great new things coming up in the New Year so stay tuned.

I would like to send out a huge thank you to all the churches, groups, individuals and especially Eramosa and Rockwood Public Schools for all the awesome food dona-

tions that were donated to the food bank. We were so amazed at the amount of food that came from the community this year; we had to weigh it all and are pleased to report that over 1200 lbs worth of food were received!!!! I know we will put all that food to good use because our shelves were bare before Christmas.

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