

Two sex offenders live in Acton...

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federal statutory release. An inquest into Christopher's murder recommended convicted Canadians serving in-custody sentences in provincial and federal in-

stitution for sex crimes, and those serving out-of-custody sentences on parole or probation, as of April 23, 2001, should be required to register with the Ontario Sex Offender Registry. The Registry includes

the offender's name, date of birth, current address, current photograph and sex offence convictions. It also provides computer access to details of the offender's sex crimes and requires offenders to renew their registration annually, and inform police within 15 days of moving.

Broughton said one of the key aspects of the Registry is its ability to carry out a radius search, allowing police to enter any address and have the locations of all registered sex offenders in an identified area pinpointed on a map to help in an investigation.

Outside the council chambers, Broughton described how the registry helped police quickly narrow a sex crime investigation in Burlington, when it was learned that a

resident in the house where the crime occurred, was a registered sexual offender.

Asked about a recent Toronto case where residents learned that a sex offender was being moved into their building and successfully rallied to keep him out, Broughton said he was sure the information did not come from police, adding if the public had access to the registry it could drive convicted sex offenders "underground."

"The main goal of the registry is to get compliance so police know where the offenders are," Broughton said, adding

Halton was told by the Ontario registry recently that it has a 98.1 per cent registration compliance rate.

Broughton said there are drawbacks to the Ontario legislation including the inability of police to arrest sex offenders who don't register - they can only charge them - and the fact that Young Offenders convicted of sex crimes are not required to register.

He said the federal government is also working on a national registry, but it will not have the capability of a radius search or require a photograph, and

Halton will continue to use the Ontario registry while feeding data to the federal one.

Those convicted of sexual assault with a weapon, sexual assault causing bodily harm and those with multiple convictions are on the registry for life, while others with just one conviction for less serious offences are on the registry for 10 years.

"The registry is a valuable tool for police," Broughton said, adding that time is of the essence when tracking sexual offenders and investigating crimes they commit.

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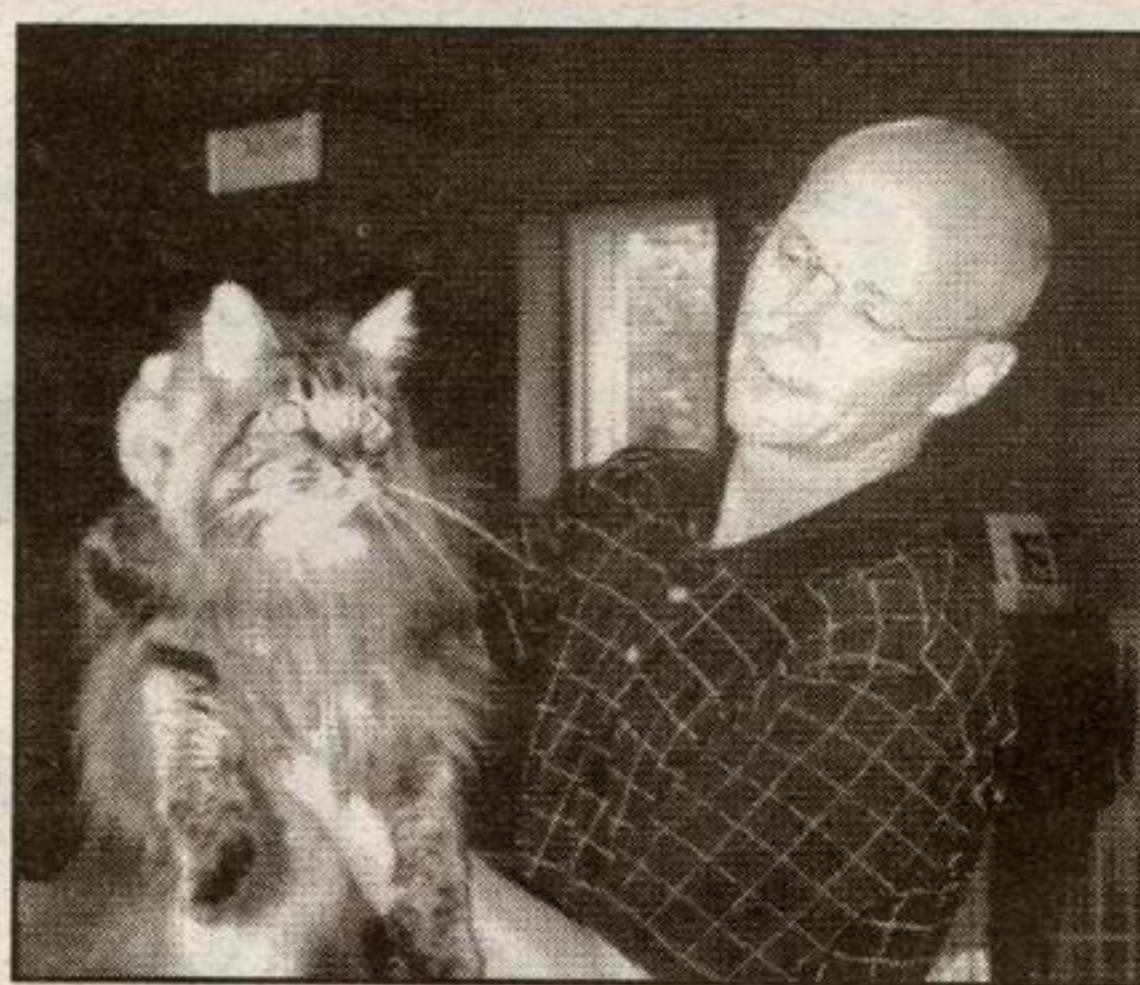
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SHILOE SUBMITS: Judge Mike Bowra gave Shiloe, a male Maine Coon cat, a careful going over during competition at the 7th annual Good Mews Cat Show on Sunday at the Acton arena. - Frances Niblock photo



CUTE KID & CAT: Buddy, a six-year-old non-pointed Himalayan, got a huge hug from his owner's niece, Kate-Lynn Nye, 11, of Georgetown, during the 7th annual Good Mews Cat Show at Acton arena on Sunday - Frances Niblock photo

Council approves leathertown...

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4,000-square-foot "won't really have an impact" on other Acton stores.

Outside the Council Chambers after the approval, co-owner Massimo Rovazzi, said it looks good that the deal will close.

"A condition of the (purchase) agreement (with Bower Street Investments) is that the zoning be approved, and it looks like we're well on the way now," Rovazzi said, adding they became interested in Acton because of its location.

"The Town is growing and there's a market so we took an option on this land, thinking about this particular tenant - Shoppers Drug Mart - and we were right, they're interested," he said, adding construction could begin in October.

Acton's Doug Fread, one of the principals in Bower Street Investments that purchased the property in 1994, said they intended to develop the site themselves, but it didn't happen.

"To get financing, they wanted people that had experience in development, so we couldn't get financing, and also the big players, like Shoppers Drug Mart, don't really want to talk to anybody that hasn't got some experience in this end of it," Fread said on Tuesday, adding they had three previous conditional offers for the property, all of which expired, mainly due to delays in getting the rezoning.

Town staff said residents' concerns about potential problems with traffic, noise, food smells and a suggestion of access through the LCBO property, will be addressed during the detailed site plan process.

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