

# Council passes revised bylaw to regulate local salvage yards

After four years of reviewing and reconsidering, Halton Hills councillors finally passed their revised bylaw for salvage yards.

Despite efforts by a couple of yard operators to have approval of the new regulations delayed, councillors persuaded each other to pass the

existing proposed bylaw to regulate pollution, noise, operating hours and assorted other facets of the salvage business which disturb neighbours.

The operators appearing before council were the responsible operators, councillors noted. The yard operators

who cause problems for their neighbours never come to council and ignore the rules in the bylaw, too.

Even if the new regulations aren't perfect, it makes a place to start and changes can be made as a result of monitoring the bylaw in coming months, council surmised.

# Letters



## Cats are important part of nature in our community

To the Editor,

In a letter to the other area newspaper a certain individual stated that free roaming cats are taking a heavy toll on wildlife. What hogwash! Cats are just as important a part of nature as any other species.

Every species preys upon another; some prey upon their own. Should we get rid of big birds that prey on smaller ones, owls that prey on chipmunks and rabbits, animals that rob birds' nests? Why does mankind continue to control and manipulate nature? What makes us think that we know more about how nature ought to be than mother nature herself?

It is really not easy for a cat to catch a bird or a squirrel. Those that they do kill are usually the weakest of the species. Isn't that how nature is supposed to work? It is

evident from the carnage on the roads that it is not cats but humans that are taking a heavy toll on wildlife.

On our street we used to see an abundance of raccoons, skunks and opossums. Each year we see fewer. This year to date we have seen none. Why? Because people trap them and take them away or kill them. Those animals are beneficial in keeping the rodent population under control. If we now do away with free roaming cats we can expect an infestation of mice and rats.

Councillor Moya Johnson reportedly fears that free roaming cats spread disease. Perhaps, Ms. Johnson could enlighten us by naming those diseases and telling us how prevalent such diseases have been within a specific time period? As for cats 'destroy-

ing' property that sounds like a gross exaggeration! If one considers cat digging a problem, a repellent will discourage the animals. Wetting down a popular cat area is also a good deterrent. A cover placed on a child's sandbox when not in use takes care of that problem.

Would it be unreasonable to expect people to try finding solutions to their own problems before they demand to put the burden on the taxpayer? In a town the size of Halton Hills, hundreds of complaints about a specific matter would be cause for action. A 'few complaints' might be better dealt with by telling the complainers to grow up and get a life. Council seems to have enough trouble living within OUR means without passing yet another expensive, useless, unenforceable bylaw. The revenue from violations of such laws would hardly pay for the policing of them.

The complaints we hear in my community about animals seem to come from former city dwellers who moved here for a cheaper, quieter, safer way of life and then demand laws to make us all more civilized. My family and many others enjoy the neighbourhood cats, especially now with so few other wild creatures roaming about. We actually manage to keep lovely gardens and stay healthy as well!

We wish those who prefer a more urbanized lifestyle would either stick to the cities or adapt to a rural environment which included free foaming animals.

Ron Millard, Acton

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