Woman finds homes for abandoned dogs

'We saw her and

we just fell in love.'

-Belinda Migue about

rescuer on her mission

India who started the dog

BY LISA TALLYN Staff Writer

n area woman is working locally with a Toronto organization to try and find loving homes for dogs that have been abandoned. Belinda Migue of Halton Hills is a volunteer with Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life, a registered charitable organization that has saved thousands of dogs from death in municipal animal pounds in the Toronto area.

Migue came across the group by accident when she was scanning the dog ads in the classified section of the Toronto Star a couple of years ago.

Her beloved dog Humphrey, whom she had adopted from the Humane Society 14 years earlier,

had recently died and she was considering getting another dog.

She came across the Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life ad for a lab/great dane cross, like Humphrey, called the number and hooked up with Grace Hall who for several years has spent a large part of her salary and her spare time saving dogs from death. She launched the Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life group in 1980 and since then she and a hand-

ful of volunteers have placed more than 6,000 dogs. Hall told her that the dog she was calling about had been up for adoption for more than a year and probably needed a home more than any other dog she had available.

She told her the dog had been abused for the first year of her life and ended up on death row at the pound before Hall rescued her.

Migue and her husband Hubert went to a Brampton kennel to see the dog, who was extremely

malnourished and weighed only 52 pounds.

"We saw her and we just fell in love," said Migue. She said the dog was so beautiful, but also sad. They took her home, where she immediately fit right in, and named her India.

"She's a great dog. She's fantastic with Jack (their infant son), he's her little brother."

Today India is 20 pounds heavier, healthy, and a beloved member of the family.

Migue said India is not the typical dog available for adoption.

"She's an extreme case, not the norm," said Migue. Because of the abuse, India required some extra work, including obedience training, but she said most of the dogs available have not been abused.

She said the average dog available through

Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life would be one whose owner decided they didn't want a dog anymore, or whose owner may have suffered a stroke or illness and couldn't care for a dog any longer.

Migue's role is to visit the homes of people interested in adopting a dog after they have been screened over the phone by

"You don't want to take a dog out of one bad situation and put him into another," she said.

She ensures the dog won't be chained outside but will be a well loved house pet before she gives her approval. Hall said they prefer the adoptive families not have very young children. Migue will also do a follow-up visit once the dog has been placed.

Hall said Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life usually has about 30 dogs available for adoption on any given day. Foster parents for the dogs until they are adopted



Belinda Migue (with Jack) shows off India, a dog she rescued from a pound. Migue now volunteers with Adopt-A-Dog/Save-A-Life.

are desperately needed.

The organization is also in need of donations as they have to pay to get the dogs out of the pounds, spay and neuter them, provide veterinary care, and feed and board them until they are adopted. Hall, who runs a daily ad in the Toronto Star classified section under dogs, said people who adopt are charged a \$175 adoption fee.

For more information or to adopt a dog call (416) 787-3862, Migue at (905) 877-5582 or visit the website www.adoptadogsavealife.com.

Councillor wants 'derelict' areas cleaned up

ummer's the time for gardening, and Councillor Ron Chatten thinks some businesses and developers are lacking in landscaping efforts.

He pointed to the Falling Waters subdivision, which abuts Hwy. 7 from Norval to Hall Rd. in Georgetown.

"It's a disgrace coming into town," said the Ward 4 councillor at a council meeting recently. He said grass and shrubs haven't been trimmed and dead trees have fallen down.

"I'd like some action taken on that. Let's get it cleaned up and make it look like we're proud of this town. The developer is getting away with not coming back doing their (landscaping)."

Chatten was also disgusted by the number of realty signs propped in front of the gardens in Cedarvale Park (the corner of Maple Ave. and Main St.) every weekend. He suggested town staff should go out and "throw them onto the truck, just like they do with our election signs, and take them out to town yard. You can't see the flower beds. It's

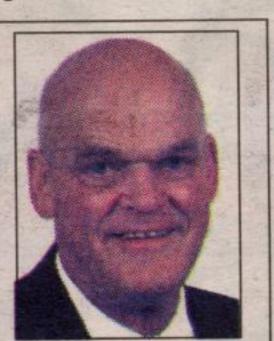
absolutely disgraceful."

"If I was one of the volunteers that planted them, I wouldn't volunteer to do it again," said Chatten.

His long list of landscaping complaints also included businesses which he said have left lots looking derelict (weedy and long grass) such as the

'It's a disgrace comng into town.'

> -Ward 4 Councillor Ron Chatten



former Wendy's Restaurant lot and the Beaver Lumber lot.

Chatten requested staff get in touch with the owners to get the sites cleaned up. He also asked staff to contact Home Hardware in Georgetown to ensure that some of their sales items are not located on town property.

"It would certainly look a lot bet-

ter if we can get some of that stuff cleaned up," he said.

Chatten also wanted assurances that a top soil pile near St. Brigid School in Georgetown South was going to be removed soon. He said he's received numerous complaints from consitutents that bikes and four-wheel all-terrain vehicles have been using the pile.

Recreation and Parks Department Director Bryan Shynal said the developer has told him the pile will be removed by July 13.

Chatten was impressed with some landscaping efforts in town. He asked Mayor Kathy Gastle to write a letter of appreciation to Watch Tower and to the developers of Stewart's Mill subdivision for their newly created landscaping around their entrances.

"I think when we see something like that we should drop them a line," said Chatten. He also acknowledged the efforts of the Georgetown Marketplace, Canadian Tire and Neilson's.

-By Cynthia Gamble, staff writer

Rabies concern:

Woman seeks dog that attacked pet

Georgetown woman would like to hear from the owner of a dog who A was seen running loose in the Chelvin Dr., Delrex Blvd., Regan Cr. and George Kennedy School area Sunday night.

Fran Herbert wants to know if the dog had recently had its rabies shot as it was involved in a confrontation with her pet Labrador, Cody, at the corner of Chelvin Dr. and Delrex Blvd. about 10 p.m. Sunday.

She had spotted the animal earlier in the evening while walking with a friend in Joseph Gibbons Park.

While her dog has had its rabies shot, she is concerned for herself and others who came in contact with the stray dog's saliva.

She said the dog was black and brown mixed breed that looked like a German Shepherd-cross and was seen in the area between about 8 and 11 p.m.

Anyone with information should call Fran Herbert at 905-873-6034.

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