

Horses get to know their naabaybours by taking an unescorted night tour

Although they have only been living on Winston Churchill Blvd. for a couple of months, Anna Cervo is sure all the area residents know her now after 16 of her horses decided to take an unescorted tour of the neighbourhood Friday night.

Cervo, who breeds horses with her husband Emilio, said she learned that her horses had escaped from their Brampton pasture around 10:30 p.m. when a neighbour knocked on her door and asked her if she was missing any horses.

She checked the pasture, found it empty and a fence knocked down.

"How do you bring back 16 horses?" said Cervo, after she eyed her missing herd on the neighbour's lawn. There was only herself and her husband to retrieve the horses, which had traveled to Heritage Rd. The horses had never been in a trailer and as pasture horses, many had never been ridden.

So, with the help of several Peel Region police officers and many neighbours, Anna said they led the ringleader out to Embleton Rd. and fortunately the other horses followed.

"Every once in a while they got spooked and would run into someone's field," she said. They managed to get nearly home when the horses, frightened by the traffic, took off at full gallop along 5 Sideroad heading toward Tenth Line in Georgetown.



Anna Cervo pats one of her pasture horses at her Winston Churchill Rd. farm after 16 of the animals broke free Friday night. It took Cervo, area neighbours and Peel police officers four hours to corral the horses. Photo by Ted Brown

Anna was in hot pursuit on foot.

"It was a sight for eyes to see," said Anna. "People (in cars) were just stopped. They didn't know what to say."

After about four hours she said they managed to get the herd back to their pasture but not before the horses had crashed a couple of neighbourhood parties, including one at the Croatian Centre.

She is appreciative of all the help they received from neighbours and the police.

"Thanks everyone for taking the time out and being understanding. We deeply appreciate it," she said. "I'm happy being in a community where everybody sticks together."

She doesn't think the horses will go AWOL again as the fence is being fixed and she said they have all been grounded.

She added the experience, while exhausting, has finally given them a name for their farm. They're thinking of calling it Runaway Stables.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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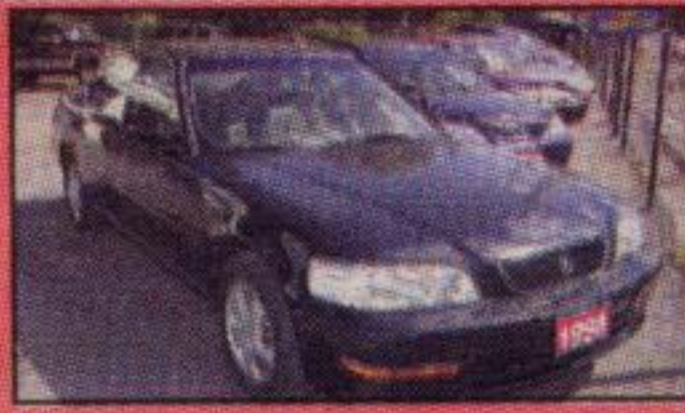
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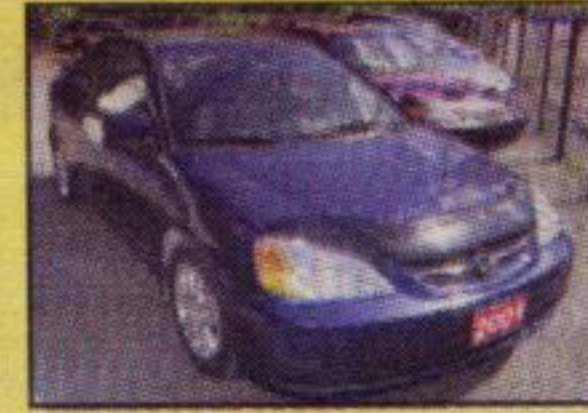
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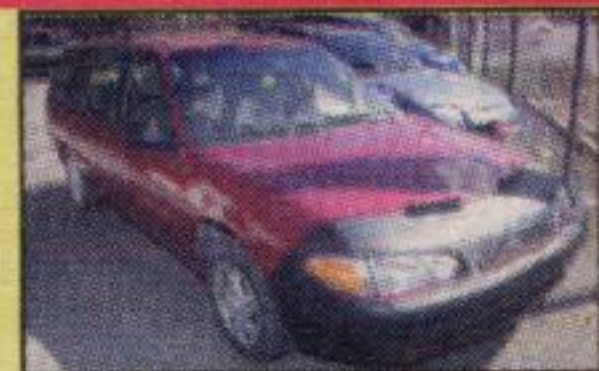
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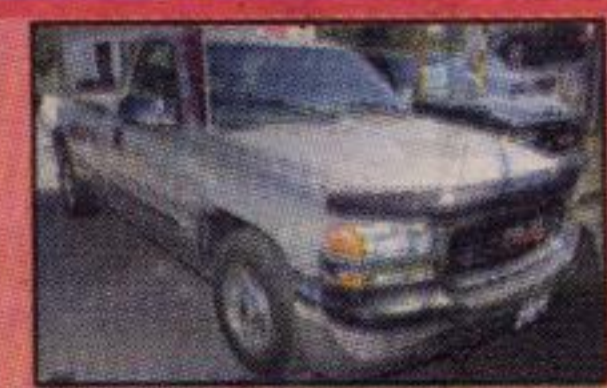
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