

EWAG NEWS

EWAG's Thrift Shop in Rockwood Needs Your Help

Do you have 3-4 hours per week you can spare to volunteer at EWAG? We are currently looking for volunteers to fill some spots in the thrift shop in Rockwood. If you are a people person, enjoy the idea of working in the ever changing environment of a used clothing shop, if you don't mind working independently and would like to give back to your community, here is your chance! Please call Sue at 519-856-2113 to discuss the vacancies we currently have. You won't regret it!

Last Week for BAG SALE at EWAG Thrift Shop

The winter BAG SALE at the EWAG Thrift Shop is almost over! Come into our shop and stuff 1 bag for \$6 or 2 bags for \$10. We have lots of great winter wear for your whole family – sweaters, boots, coats, hats and more. Come in soon for best selection and help us clear off the racks!

Annual Income Tax Assistance Available – If you live in a household with no dependents and an annual income of \$15,000 or less or if you live with dependents and have an annual income of \$22,500 or less, you could qualify for free assistance with your income taxes this year. We will be holding a tax clinic the first week of March. For more information please call Gillian at 519-833-9696.

Location and Hours – The EWAG Community Support Services office and thrift shop is located at 106 Church Street and is open Monday – Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Thrift Shop is also open Fridays and Saturdays from noon until 4 p.m. We offer a variety of Government forms, laminating, copying, faxing services and much more. Call for more information at 519-856-2113. We are also on the web at www.e-wag.on.ca.

Please note the office is not open on Fridays

Ban on hunting and trapping?

Animal activists, hunters and trappers tangle at Council

By Rebecca Ring

A delegation appearing before Guelph/Eramosa council on Monday, Feb. 3 to discuss trapping and hunting in the township asked for a ban or modifications on hunting and trapping in Guelph/Eramosa.

Delegates included Karen Levenson and Liz White of Animal Alliance Canada, Tara Szczgiel, whose dog was killed by a trap, and Ainslie Willock of Canadians for Fur Bearing Animals.

Speaking against a ban were hunter/trapper Rob Stark and a representative of the Ontario Fur Managers Federation, Stewart Frerotte.

Levenson told council about two recent cases where pets were killed by hunting and trapping, the first on Sunday, December 10, 2006, as Helen van Toel walked along Eastview Rd. with her four year old German Shepherd, Abby. Her husband picked her up and they headed to

church while Abby went home by herself. When they returned, they found Abby covered in blood. She had been shot through the side.

The following day, van Toel retraced Abby's paw prints and found she had stuck to her usual route along the ditch. She found a pool of blood and determined where Abby had been shot. She found a 50-lb grain sack on the other side of the road and opened it to find a deer head and hindquarters, which had been stripped of meat and appeared fresh.

In the second incident on December 13, 2006, Tara Szczgiel was walking her two dogs, Harper and Hero, along with her Aunt and her two dogs in a leash-free zone in Preservation Park near the Hanlon Expressway in Guelph. The path continues behind factories that are separated by a chain link fence. Szczgiel heard a sound and ran to find Harper, her three-year old Jack Russell Terrier,

in a conibear trap that had clamped down on his head. She struggled to free him while he choked and suffocated, dying in her arms.

The trap and three others had been set by George Ringer on behalf of PolyNova Technologies Ltd. to kill raccoons and skunks. It was tethered to the fence and a piece of wood by the parks edge, or as Szczgiel believes, on the park property.

'Unfortunate accident'

Bill Murch, Information Officer for the Ministry of Natural Resources, says the incident was a "sad and unfortunate accident." They determined the trap was legally set on private property by a licensed trapper with the landowner's permission. Adjacent landowner, the City of Guelph, did not have to be and was not notified. Murch said it is the dog owner's responsibility to control dogs in the leash-free park.

Szczgiel said she found Harper on the park side of the fence. Murch said the conibear trap is not an instant kill, although it is deemed "humane." He says the animal can spasm and react, which is how the MNR explains the terrier crawled back through the fence, several feet, with the heavy trap on his head. There is no requirement to put signs up warning the public of the lethal traps in the area, whether on public or private land. "Never in a million years," did I expect traps to be there, Szczgiel said. There are currently no restrictions on where traps can be placed, as long as the property owner permits, including parks and schoolyards.



TRAP VICTIM: Harper, a three-year-old Jack Russell Terrier, was killed by a conibear trap in Guelph in December, while walking in a leash-free public park with his owner Tara Szczgiel. The MNR determined the trap to be legal. Well-loved Harper was previously a "dog model" with his picture on Purina dog food bags.

Szczgiel told council her heart is broken and words cannot express how much she misses Harper. Walking her other dog, Hero, now fills her with anxiety. Harper's death was "far from humane," she says, declaring she wants to see "these horrible traps banned."

Levenson provided a list of other pets and humans that have been killed or injured by legal traps or hunting accidents. The group recommends that council recognize these as safety and humane issues, ban killing and leg hold traps on public land, develop non-lethal human/animal conflict resolution programmes, require notification of trapping activity and indicate locations with signs, and establish situations where a person other than the trapper may "interfere with a trap."

Szczgiel could be charged by the MNR for trying to release her dog, although there's

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Making every dollar count

The Heart and Stroke foundation, a leading funder of heart and stroke research in Canada supports hundreds of hospital and university - based research teams year after year. The knowledge gained from these investigations allow for earlier diagnoses and better treatments, while providing Canadians with critical information on how to protect their health.

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The Foundation relies on the generous donations of individuals, families and community groups to ensure vital heart and stroke research continues. Without their help, we would not be able to achieve our mission

Making every dollar count

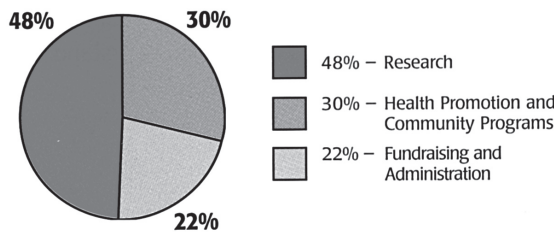
The Heart and Stroke Foundation prides itself on making every donated dollar count.

The Foundation currently funds more than 900 investiga-

tion projects in hospitals, universities and research institutions across the country. Here's a breakdown of their financial highlights:

Financial Highlights

Expenditures (%)



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Ted Arnott, MPP

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