



**SPRING FEVER:** Members of the Junior Everybody Dance Club at Robert Little School strutted their stuff and entertained a standing-room only crowd of proud parents and teachers during the school's annual spring concert last Thursday. — Frances Niblock photo

## Concerns over animal control raised

By Frances Niblock

A Limehouse woman thinks Halton Hills deserves its own humane society and not just a "dog catcher and an unrealistically short (dog) holding period."

When Jane Hyndman heard the Town had terminated its half-million dollar, five-year canine control contract with the Upper Credit Humane Society, and rumours — that turned out false — that local unclaimed dogs were being sold to the University of Guelph, she wrote the mayor to say the Town deserved better.

In an e-mail response, Bonnette, who identified himself as a dog lover who had rescued two Greyhounds, told Hyndman that the Upper Credit Humane Society is affiliated with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals, but does not have branch status.

Bonnette said the Town is responsible for canine control only, and the Upper Credit Humane Society handles rescue work for injured, neglected, mistreated and unwanted dogs, cats, birds and wildlife.

While legislation requires pound operators to sell unclaimed dogs to research facilities, Bonnette said the

Town's new contractor will continue to offer any unclaimed dogs to the Upper Credit Humane Society, which can transfer them to its Erin shelter and remove them from danger of being sold for research.

After terminating the contract with Upper Credit Humane Society in an in camera meeting in March, Council searched for another canine control officer and awarded the balance of the contract to the second lowest bidder, Halton Hills Canine Services and owner Rudy DeJong who has subcontracted work to Halton Peel K9 in Norval.

DeJong, who worked for two previous Town animal control officers for several decades, said the Upper Credit Humane Society had a response problem in Halton Hills.

"They weren't responding apparently to the calls, and if they were, it was sometimes a day late," DeJong said on Saturday, adding the contract calls for same day response and they try for same hour, when possible.

Erica Longman, manager of the Upper Credit Humane Society, which has rescued and nurtured distressed animals in Halton Hills and Erin

since 1993, said each side had "some issues," one of which was the "division of our time."

"It was mutually decided it would be better if we continue more emphasizing on our Humane Society work and have somebody else handle the actual policing job," Longman said on Friday, acknowledging loss of the

**No permit**  
Although the call came in as a structure fire, Acton firefighters found a backyard bonfire when they arrived at a Main Street North residence just after 10 on Saturday night.

The property owner did not have the required burn permit, so the fire was extinguished.

**Fireworks spark fire**  
Kids goofing around with fireworks started a small grass fire at a property on the Fourth Line, north of Highway 7 at 1:23 on Friday afternoon.

The fire was out by the time firefighters arrived at the scene, but they were able

to talk to several teens and educate them about fireworks safety.

**Treehouse burns, again**  
For the second week in a row, Acton firefighters were called to a smouldering treehouse in the woods off of Guelph Street, west of Acton.

### POLICE/FIRE REPORT

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a row, Acton firefighters were called to a smouldering treehouse in the woods off of Guelph Street, west of Acton.

The latest fire, reported at 11 last Thursday morning, burned the floor and walls of the wooden structure that kids quickly rebuilt after the first fire.

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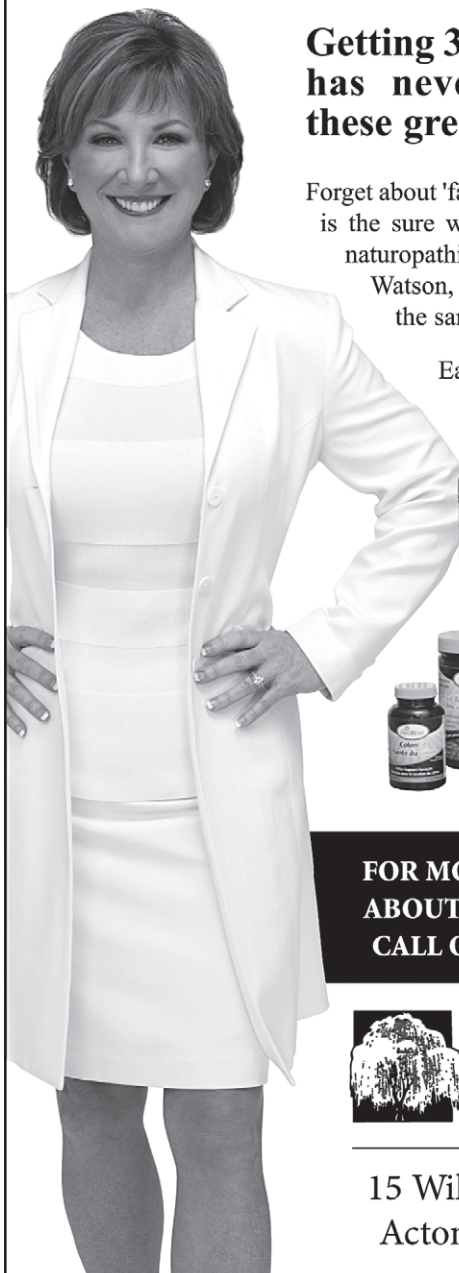


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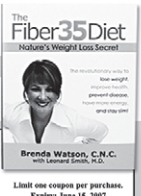
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