

Local adoption leads to 'royal treatment' for Guy the beagle

STEVE LEBLANC

sleblanc@metroland.com

Dolores Doherty fondly recalls her brush with soon-to-be royalty.

Not that the Oakville-based A Dog's Dream Rescue founder had any clue who Meghan Markle was when the two first connected more than three years ago.

"I had never seen 'Suits' so I didn't know who she was," recalled Doherty Sunday afternoon at Milton's Pet Valu (890 Main St.) - the site of what's now her most well-known rescue in March 2015. "She was very low key and just said she worked on set (of the show)."

Eager to find a companion for her pooch Bogart and coming across A Dog's Dream Rescue online, Markle initially expressed interest in adopting another beagle via email with Doherty.

"I told her 'great, but you need to fill out an application'. She sent one back in 10 minutes."

Markle then made her way to Milton for an already planned adoption by Doherty's group - which specializes in beagles and hounds - but the intended adoptee and Bogart just didn't gel.

Waiting a few feet away was Guy, a shy but loveable pup found in Kentucky's Appalachian Mountains who would have been euthanized if not taken in by A Dog's Dream Rescue.

"It was obvious right away that this was a good fit (between Guy and Bogart)," said Doherty, whose group enjoyed one of its biggest adoptions ever Sunday - with 25 of 28 dogs finding forever homes. "I had planned to do a home visit to check out her fenced-in backyard but that never happened, which I regret. But I had such a level of confidence (in adoption) after speaking with her and seeing her post a bunch of photos of Guy on Instagram."

"I just got a good feeling from her. She's such a likeable person. She asked good questions and really listened to the answers. She was so sincere, no star power or ego. She really stood out to me."

Fast forward three years, and Guy is now embarking on a shelter-to-castle fairy-tale, having recently been moved to the U.K. and about to take up residence in Kensington Palace's Nottingham Cottage.

"You could tell she (Markle)



Graham Paine/Metroland

A Dog's Dream Rescue founder Dolores Doherty holds Robin, a beagle rescued from Kentucky, as two other pooches in need of forever homes look on during an adoption event at Pet Valu in Milton.

was a dog person. It's unbelievable," said Pet Valu franchise owner Steve Pearson, who was working during the now much-publicized adoption, which came to light publicly just last week as the royal wedding draws near. "It's just a dream come true and

it's been great sharing the story."

Quipped Pet Valu Canada marketing manager Alison Preiss, "We need to get the movie rights."

Doherty echoed those sentiments.

"He (Guy) was in a dire situa-

tion and now he's prince of the castle. People who've heard the story are saying 'Wow, you're famous'."

Having had more than 300 dogs rescued at the local Pet Valu now - with the ones not adopted Sunday set to be taken on a shopping spree this week - Doherty is certainly grateful for the exposure Guy's rags-to-riches story has created for her organization.

But what's most important is that the long, downy eared fella is well cared for - whether in downtown TV or amidst royalty.

"Beagles are pretty adaptable," she said, referring to Guy's major change of scenery. "Just give them a belly rub and they're good."

While no doubt getting a kick from the buzz of her celebrity association, Doherty takes great satisfaction from every successful rescue - her heart swelling from one particular union that's still quite new.

"About three weeks ago a family with three autistic children adopted one of my beagles. One of the kids has always been quiet but is now making sounds to the dog."



Indira Naidoo-Harris
MPP, Halton

A strong
voice in
Halton.



Constituency Office

450 Bronte St. South, Suite #115, Milton ON, L9T 5B7

Tel: 905.878.1729 | Fax: 905.878.5144

Email: inaidoo-harris.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

Web: indiranaidoo-harris.onmpp.ca

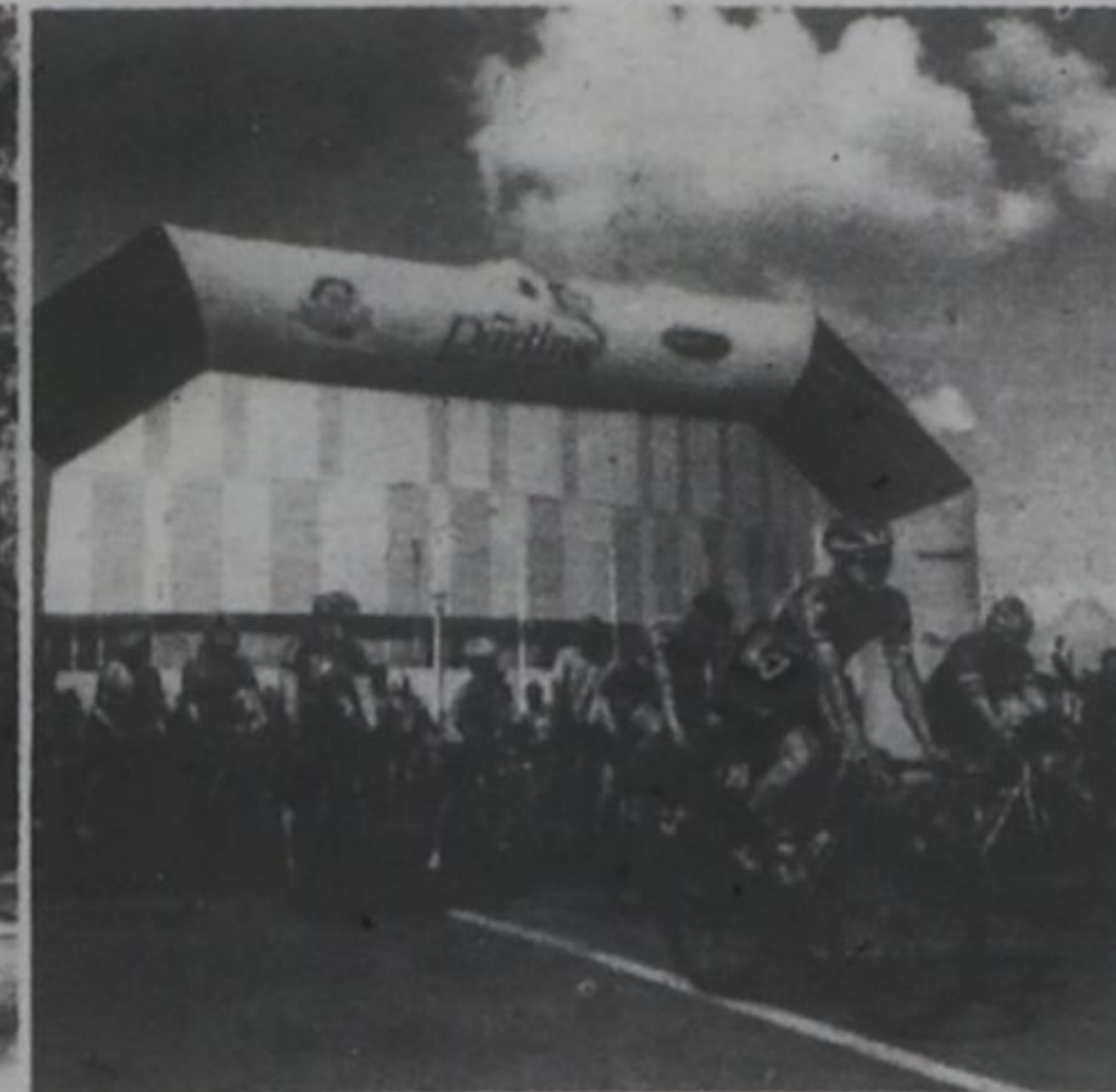
SUNDAY, JUNE 24TH 2018

Start/Finish: Mattamy National Cycling Centre, 2015 Pan Am Blvd., Milton

WHEELS
Benefitting The Darling Home for Kids

ATTENTION ALL CYCLISTS!

- Choose your distance and experience the stunning views of the Niagara escarpment: 100 km - 50 km - 25 km
- Free lunch and refreshments for all registered riders.
- Tons of prizes, sponsor *swag* and gifts!
- PLUS... Meet the pros and our special dignitaries, including olympic cyclists Dede and Michael Barry



Presenting Sponsor:

mattamyHOMES

Volunteer Sponsor:

Dufferin
Aggregates

Sanctioned by:

oa
Ontario Cycling Association

REGISTER TODAY AT WWW.RIDewithWHEELS.CA