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Three year old girl and her puppy sleep while 100 people look for her



TARA MCCOLEMAN and her dog Cindy as a trying time. She was lost for several hours Thursday night. (Photo by B. Burt)

A five hour search that involved about 100 people ended in a happy reunion of a three-year-old girl and her dog with her parents and brother and sister early Friday morning.

Tara McColeman of Five Sideroad Esqueving was reported missing at 7.45 Thursday evening. Shortly after 1 a.m. Friday, Tom Neill of the Fourth Line found the girl sound asleep in a shed behind his home. When Neill went to pick the girl up, he ran into opposition from the dog, Cindy.

Neill had to lure the snarling dog out of the way before he could return the sleeping girl to her anxious parents at their home about a mile and a quarter away.

The barking dog brought Neill back to the shed to see what was there. Police had checked the shed and the Neill property at 9.30 Thursday evening but the girl hadn't made her way through the dense bush at that time. Mr. McColeman first noticed the child missing at about 7.45. Tara and her younger sister Laura had been playing in the back yard with the dog and Mr. McColeman was reading in the living room. The father had thought both girls had gone into the house around 7.30 when Laura came in and went to the recreation room in the basement.

When he realized later both

girls had not returned, he looked around his and neighboring properties but could not locate his other daughter. Soon after he placed a call to the OPP. A dog and its master from the Oakville detachment went into the fields and dense bush behind the McColeman home and searched the creek boundaries for the child.

Help came

Word spread fast about the missing girl and soon a large crowd had gathered around the McColeman home. The anxious crowd waited for the police dog to complete his search before engaging in a search of their own.

Recent rain and a number of tracks made by people before police were called hampered the search. The dog searched the area behind Five Sideroad and along the creek first.

Once the dog was finished there it went across the road to the Merry farm where the girl sometimes went to play. At that time a massive search party including about 40 OPP from Milton, Oakville and Burlington and about 60 citizens went into the dense bush.

Fear crept through the crowd and officers who had been on similar hunts before. Several expressed concern about the proximity of the creek. While the water in the creek was low, holes in the bed provided areas where

the bottom couldn't be seen. St. John's Ambulance workers joined the search early in the evening.

Noted concern

While one officer noted concern about the creek another said "shades of Mary Anne Schuett".

That youngster was the subject of a massive hunt that lasted for several days and the case was investigated for months after but the girl was never found. The last search in this area found a youngster dead in the 16 Mile Creek near Milton District High School about two years ago.

Chased a ball

Tara had stayed outside with her dog when the younger girl went in. She became lost when she went over the crest of the ravine at the back of the lot to retrieve a ball she and the dog were playing with.

She wandered a little after finding the ball and then lost her direction. It was late evening before she spotted the light of the farmhouse and headed for shelter. Finding safety the young girl turned in for the night.

Asked the following day if she had been frightened by the harrowing experience Tara didn't answer but when asked if Cindy had taken care of her, she nodded with a shy grin.



ONE OF ABOUT 40 Ontario Provincial Police Officers is shown searching for Tara McColeman. The girl was returned to her home safely after she was found on a farm a mile and a quarter away from her home. (Photo by Bob Burt)

Stanfield is welcomed but causes no excitement

"Hi my name is Bob Stanfield," the federal Progressive Conservative leader said quietly as he popped his head over the counter at the coffee bar in the Quonset Hut Coffee House Tuesday night.

Stanfield was received by a polite quiet crowd of mostly teenagers during his coffee house visit. The P.C. boss wandered through the coffee house shaking hands with pretty well everyone and chatting with most.

His visit was somewhat unlike that of a visiting politician because he never took the stage to speak or engage in a question-answer period but simply mingled with the crowd and chatted in small groups and sometimes a one to one basis.

No excitement

While he wasn't heckled at any point during the 25 minute visit he failed to simulate any excitement. While Stanfield made his rounds adult visitors and some youngsters discussed the man and his chances in the next federal election.

"He doesn't strike me as a leader—I can't see him running the country," one observer noted and a second who obviously had very strong PC leanings countered by suggesting a prime minister shouldn't be chosen by his outward appearance alone and indicated that for those who read Hansard (the federal government's record of speeches and happenings in the house of Commons) it is plain to see that Stanfield is a brilliant individual.

While he circled about the building Stanfield was questioned about John Munro's recent announcement about lessening the penalty for drug use for first offenders, abortion laws and the effect Paul Hellyer's decision to join the PC party would have on Action Canada and more generally the political impact of the move.

Same stand

While trying hard not to make it sound like he was congratulating or even condoning Liberal action on the drug laws he indicated their announcement followed closely a stand his party had taken a year and a half ago.

He indicated he was pleased to have Hellyer, a former liberal cabinet minister and candidate for prime minister, in the PC ranks. He noted a recommendation had been made that Action Canada disband and he explained his party was receptive to the idea of Action Canada members seeking candidacy as on a PC ticket. However the leader was certain to note it wouldn't be a party within a party situation similar to the NDP on the provincial level in Ontario.

The coffee house was the last

stop in a number of visits that saw Stanfield tour Acton, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville Tuesday. A rigorous schedule for

the rest of the week saw him visit other locations. While in Milton he visited Halton Centennial Manor and the coffee house.



PIERRE ELLIOT may have the sharpest carnation on Parliament Hill but he'll have to go some to beat Bob Stanfield's mod styled tie. Stanfield visited Halton last week and made stops in Milton and Acton. (Photo by D. O'Reilly)

Buffer strip for offices subject of OMB hearing

Differences of opinion over the width of a planting or buffer strip along the west boundary of a proposed office and apartment building at 68 Main St. in Milton forced a hearing of the Ontario Municipal Board in Milton Council Chambers Tuesday morning of this week.

After hearing evidence for over an hour, OMB member Barry E. Smith reserved his decision on the appeal. Milton Council and several neighbors objected to a Milton Committee of Adjustment decision which granted Bob Cross permission to erect a 26 by 50 foot, two storey building containing two offices on the main floor and two apartments upstairs, on the grounds the 10 foot planting strips at the rear and west side of the property were to be reduced to seven and six feet respectively.

Only one left

During the hearing Tuesday, Mr. Cross dropped his plans to reduce the rear planting strip but continued to press for a six foot planting strip at the west boundary of the property. The buffer would be six feet wide for the depth of the proposed commercial building and 10 feet wide from the building to the rear lot line. Milton's zoning by-law calls for a 10 foot buffer when commercial property abuts residential lands.

Evidence indicated Mr. Cross owns the property at 70 Main St. occupied by a dress shop, a club office and an optometrist and wants to build a new building at the west side of the lot with parking at the rear. His original proposal called for a 10 foot wide driveway separating the two buildings (which would have allowed a 10 foot planting strip at the west side of the lot) but he has decided to make the driveway 14 feet wide to allow easier access to the rear parking. This would move the proposed two storey building four feet to the west and cut four feet off the side buffer.

Both Mr. Cross and Milton's building inspector Ray Olan testified the wider driveway would permit easier access to the parking at the back of the lot and would induce customers to use

the parking lot instead of parking on the Main St. At one point in the hearing Milton's solicitor D. A. McConachie proposed a two foot "swap"—he suggested a 12 foot driveway would have the same effect and would allow an eight foot buffer strip.

Reduce building?

Next door neighbor Stanley Chisholm, 62 Main St., was one of the objectors. "I think the 10 foot planting strip should be maintained," he told the hearing. "What's the use of passing by-laws if they are not going to be maintained?" He wondered why the width of the building could not be reduced.

Mr. Cross said a narrower building would not be practical as he plans to split the downstairs down the centre into two offices and the upstairs similarly into two apartments. Reducing the 26 foot width by four feet would mean each office and apartment would only be 11 feet wide. His solicitor George Goldberg submitted such narrow apartments would not meet modern standards of living and would impose a hardship on the occupants.

The owner told the OMB that if the building had to be reduced in width he would prefer to put up a one storey, cement block store with a flat roof and large plate glass windows across the front, and drop his plans for upstairs apartments. The proposed building, he maintained, was designed to complement the existing architecture in the neighborhood and blend in with the Chisholm home and neigh-

boring properties. It was held back 17 feet from the street in order to preserve a row of maple trees across the front of the property, he added.

"This building is too costly to start cutting it down in size," said Cross. Estimated cost of the complex is \$62,000.

Town solicitor McConachie argued the town's by-laws have to be maintained and where they call for a 10 foot planting strip it should be provided. He said the onus should be on the developer to prove it was a "hardship" to conform to Milton's by-laws but the owner had not submitted such evidence. Mr. Cross's solicitor Mr. Goldberg said in his summation the Chisholm home was 25 feet from the lot line and he didn't feel a six foot buffer would present any hardship on the neighbor.

It was pointed out a small frame building at the back of the lot, presently used by Mr. Cross as a real estate and insurance office, would be converted to a two-car garage when the new building opens. He plans to relocate his office in the new building.

Only other objector at the hearing was Charles Fay of 81 Mary St., who lives near the rear of the property. He objected to the reduction of the rear and side yard buffers. When it was announced the 10 foot buffer will remain at the rear of the yard, Mr. Fay said he still objected to a reduction in the side yard planting strip.

A written decision on the appeal is expected within a few weeks.

Dairy Princess competes

Halton's 1972 Dairy Princess Karen Marshall of Milton learned this week she will be competing in the Ontario Dairy Princess competition at the Canadian National Exhibition on Wednesday evening, Aug. 23.

About 40 princesses from counties and districts across Ontario are seeking the 1972 title and 10 preliminary contests will be staged. The 10 winners of the preliminaries will enter the two semi-finals on Aug. 29 and 30 and

the final contest will be held on Aug. 31.

If Halton's Karen Marshall wins on Aug. 23 she will return to the CNE competition either Aug. 29 or 30 and if she is one chosen of the five finalists she'll be back for the Aug. 31 contest. The competition includes an interview, speeches and a milking contest. Each contest will be held in the CNE's Coliseum starting at 6 p.m.

Report increase in bicycle thefts

Bicycle thefts are increasing in Milton, according to statistics released this week by Milton Police Department.

In the four months ending July 31, there were 20 reported bike thefts in Milton. Police say 14 of the bikes have been recovered but six of them are still missing. All the missing bikes are the newer 10-speed variety.

In the same four-month period a year ago, there were 16 bike thefts and all but two of them have been recovered.

Police say some bikes are taken by "joyriders" who steal a bike to get from one place to another, then leave it unharmed. Others may be taken away by organized rings of bike thieves who transport them to other municipalities for resale. Officials say "hot" bikes can be purchased for around \$70 which cost between \$100 and \$500 when they were new.

"Bikes should be locked at all times when they are not in use," suggests Police Chief Ray Andress.

Chamber reaches all time high membership

According to president Ron Harris Milton Chamber of Commerce is at an all time high with a membership of 177. In his report to the members, the president outlined a number of activities underway and some about to begin.

He noted an estimated 1,500 persons had visited the Farmer's Market Saturday and the week before. In his monthly newsletter the president notes construction of Main St. in the core of the business section may be complete by Aug. 15 and suggests a street dance may be in order to celebrate the completion.

The \$100 draw to be held Aug. 1 had to be delayed but will be held in the near future. Meanwhile the Chamber has asked Milton Council to authorize a bike stand for use in the business district.

Will recommend

Executive member Don Smith and president Ron Harris will make a recommendation concerning Christmas Street lighting at the next executive meeting.

During the meeting the executive passed a resolution asking that a recommendation be brought forth at the next meeting concerning a fund raising project for the Chamber.

The body also agreed to sponsor meet the candidate

meetings for the 1972 elections. The Chamber agreed to donate \$15.80 to the Halton Region Conservation Authority in order to pay for ribbons to be awarded at the lifeguard competition to be held at Kelso Aug. 11.

The next General meeting of the Chamber will be held Sept. 11 at noon at the Charles Hotel.

Grant loan for Plant

Halton MP Rud Whiting announced recently that Milton would have financial assistance on the extension to sewage treatment now under construction at Fulton St.

While clerk Jack McGeachie explained assistance was based on an expenditure of \$500,000 this year it is likely the remainder of the \$1,270,000 project would be eligible for the subsidy but not until next year.

Under the terms of the CMHC grant two thirds of the project cost would be financed and 25 per cent of that is forgivable.