

Llama drama erupts locally

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Police were called to the scene of a domestic disturbance with a barnyard twist last week after a love triangle went horribly wrong and a jilted llama decided he'd had enough.

The drama unfolded Thursday when Juanita May noticed one of the llamas at her No. 20 Sideroad property was missing. It didn't take her long to figure out what had made Bambi bolt, she said.

It seems Burt, Bambi's father, decided he was sick of Bambi trying to keep the attention of the female llamas all to himself, Ms May said.

A fight broke out between the father and son, and Bambi left, jumping over the fence to freedom.

Halton Regional Police officers showed up later that day, Ms May said. "They blocked off the road and tried to catch it with the help of neighbours," she told *The Champion* yesterday morning.

She said the many people involved in the initial attempt to capture the young animal only served to scare it, and it ran into the bush.

As neighbours kept their eyes peeled for the llama, Ms May began phoning to find out who could help with the situation.

AAA Wildlife Control customer service supervisor Duane Woods said Ms May was told to make sure nobody else chased the llama when it was found. "The llama is a herd animal. They tried to get it with 50



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Llama Bambi escaped his No. 20 Sideroad home Thursday and refused to be caught. At press time last night, a wildlife control company planned to sedate him.

people with flashlights. It was terrified," he said, adding if another chase had happened, the llama might have disappeared permanently.

He said the idea was to simply wait it out. "We tried to get it to return to the herd — that's its natural instinct," Mr. Woods said.

The llama eventually wandered back out and ended up on the front yard of a neighbour a few doors down from Ms May, she said.

And there the llama has been resting for several days.

"It's just sitting there, laying down. It's not too pleased with me. It's not pleased with anyone right now," Ms May said.

At first, it was decided a tranquilizer gun would be used, but after

consulting with vets, AAA Wildlife Control president Bill Dowd decided it would give over-the-counter sedatives a try. That was to happen Monday night.

Heather Shawcross works at an insurance office on the property the llama chose for his home away from home. She said the llama spent Thursday afternoon at the back of the property.

"Before I left work, he was corralled and off the property. By the time I left Thursday, they were chasing it off the street," Ms Shawcross said, laughing.

The llama returned to the property Friday and when she arrived at work Monday morning, Ms Shawcross said she was greeted with this message posted to the closed gate: "Heather, the llama's back."

"My friends and family all think it's a riot," she said. "They're all asking, 'Heather, who are you chasing today?'"

Ms May said her neighbours deserve a huge "thanks." As soon as they learned there was no reason for alarm, they took the situation in stride, keeping a patient eye out for their furry friend.

As for Bambi's fate, Ms May said the prodigal llama is going to be sold.

"The other llamas were happy without Bambi," she said, adding, "Hopefully I don't go through a llama drama again."

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