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Animal control bylaw passes, but pit bull restrictions pending

By **MELANIE HENNESSEY**
The Champion

Milton council passed the Town's updated animal control bylaw Monday night but will soon be considering an amendment to place restrictions on pit bulls.

Wards 2 and 4 Councillor Ron Furik brought forward a request from the community services advisory committee (CSAC) that a provision be included in the bylaw stating, "that pit bulls not be allowed off secured fenced private property unless muzzled and on a leash."

"We're starting to see a track record with this type of animal and it's scary," said Mr. Furik.

He told *The Champion* that CSAC initiated the recommendation because it learned of someone in the community who owns pit bulls and doesn't have a fenced lot.

Town Clerk Troy McHarg pointed out the potential problem in defining a pit bull, since there are pure breeds and cross breeds, and recommended that the bylaw be passed as is Monday night and an amendment be brought forward to council's October 25 meeting.

"We're going to have to do some research," he said.

He added that while there hasn't been a pit bull problem in Milton, the rationale is

to get legislation in place before something happens.

"It doesn't necessarily mean that might not happen down the road," said Mr. Furik.

But, Oakville and District Humane Society Supervisor of Animal Protection Services Colleen Gyergyai said it's not just pit bulls that bite or attack.

"Every dog can pose a danger," she said. "I don't know if it (CSAC's proposal) would solve any of the pit bull problems."

She said German shepherds, Labrador and golden retrievers are the most common dogs the humane society hears of biting.

She added that this week in Oakville, the local shelter received a complaint of a small dog biting a German shepherd, indicating that even tiny canines can pose a problem.

"All dogs with mouths and teeth can bite," she said. "It really comes down to so many different factors. Breeding, ownership and training all come into play."

Pit bull ownership recently came under scrutiny around the province after a Toronto man was brutally attacked by two of the dogs, spurring talks of banning pit bulls altogether.

Mayor Gord Krantz pointed out that the Town implementing CSAC's recommendation could be redundant, considering the

• see **PIT BULL** on page 14

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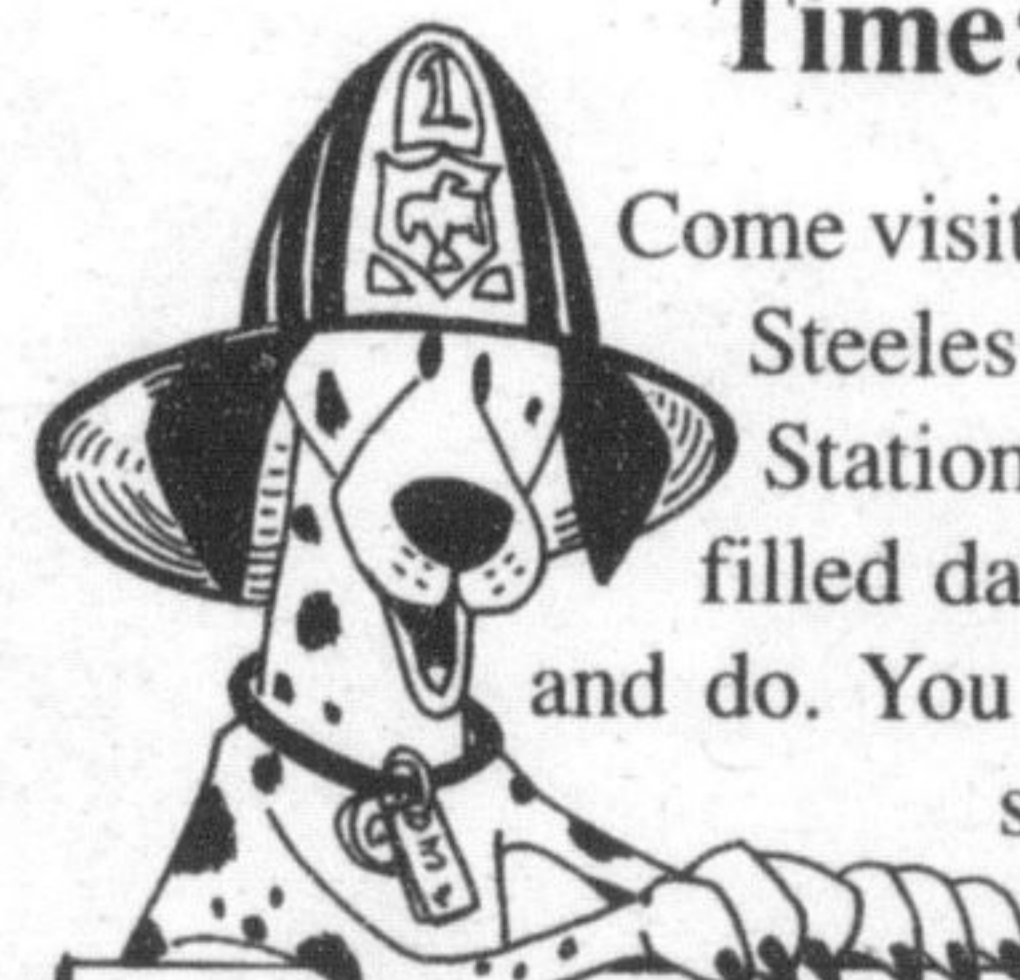
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Date: Saturday, October 2, 2004

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm



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