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44 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



Hockey greats

Former Maple Leaf linemates and Hockey Hall of Fame inductees Darryl Sittler (left) and Lanny McDonald show their old jerseys, which were among the items up for grabs during the live auction portion of the evening at the third annual Milton Chamber of Commerce Sports Celebrity Dinner at Glencairn Golf Club Tuesday night. The two served as co-keynote speakers. See stories and related photos of the event on pages 5 and 21.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Committee moves to kill appeal fee

But other user fees poised to rise

By MELANIE HENNESSEY
The Champion

Local dog owners against the Town's proposed \$501 fee to appeal an interim muzzle order breathed a small sigh of relief Monday night after committee endorsed striking it from the user fee list.

While it will have to get final approval from Milton council, the administration and planning committee's move still encouraged pitbull

owner Julie Goodman, who attended the meeting with other canine lovers.

"I'm glad to see that those on the committee saw the sense in doing away with this outrageous user fee," she said. "I don't think the average person has \$501 to file an appeal. It's just crazy."

Interim muzzle orders were recently approved in the Town's animal control bylaw and can be issued to owners of dogs that have bitten or attacked a person or other domestic animal.

"This is not just pertaining to pit bulls," Town Clerk Troy McHarg

said. "This is a cost to appeal an interim muzzle order than can be put on any dog."

He told the committee that staff was recommending the fee to recover costs associated with an appeal. He noted if the Town was actually going for full cost recovery, the fee would be about \$545, but that number was reduced to be consistent with other appeal costs.

This reduction brought little solace to Ms Goodman or others concerned with the proposed fee.

"Don't think for one minute that the dog-loving public will feel any better knowing that the fee was reduced," she said. "This is an issue

near and dear to many pet owners' hearts."

Ward 2 Councillor Mark Curtis got the discussion going around the committee table on the muzzle appeal fee, saying it's a lot of money for a dog owner who may not be financially prepared to pay \$501.

"I have a real concern about the amount of money," he said. "It seems very steep."

Ward 3 Councillors Jan Mowbray and Cindy Lunau echoed similar thoughts.

"It is a horrible thing to levy on somebody," Ms Mowbray said. "I think it's really unfair."

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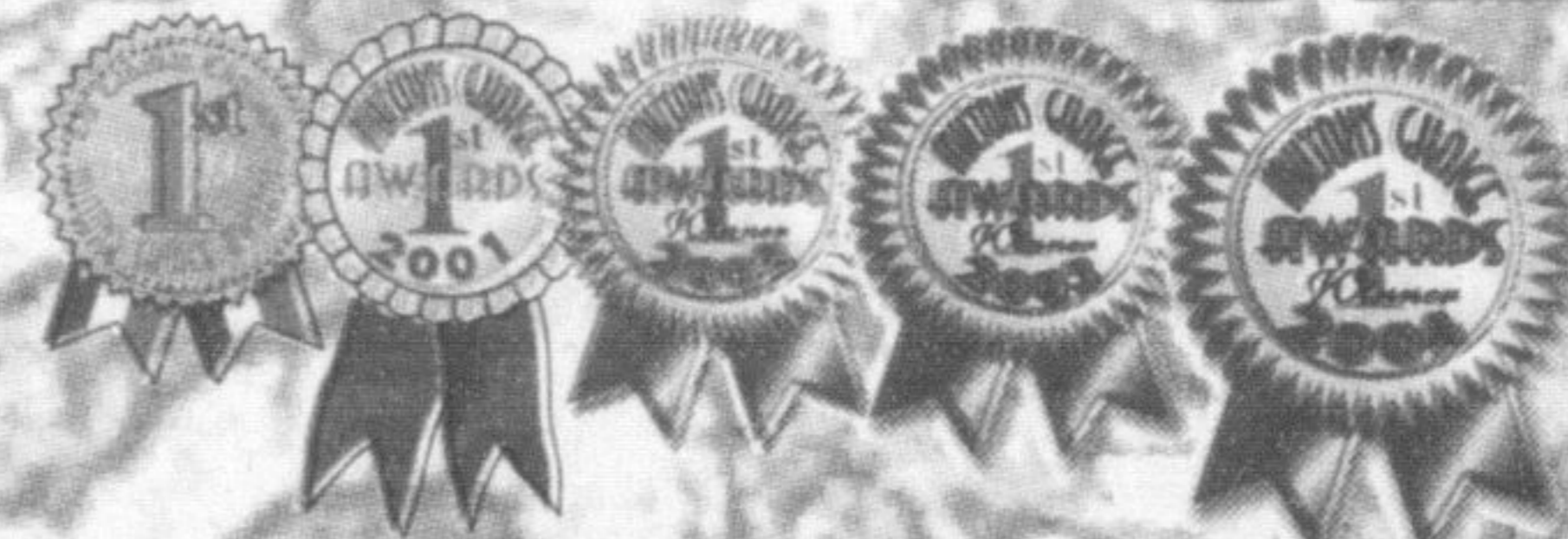
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