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GIRL'S BEST FRIEND: Summer Nevins, 9, gives a big hug to her three-year-old Shih Tzu, Bandit, who just returned home after a stay at the veterinary clinic for kidney problems. Nevins' mother, Seana, suspects the dog's illness is connected to the recent massive pet food recall.

Dog owner loses one pet, others sick

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It's every animal lover's worst nightmare — the sickness or death of a beloved pet. Milton resident Seana Nevins has experienced both of those scenarios firsthand in the past couple of months.

In February, Nevins had to put down her 14-year-old dog Sadie, an Austrian/shepherd/collie mix. She had been sick since January, Nevins said, with symptoms of renal failure — she had to urinate and drink a lot. She also began falling down the stairs.

"We just thought she was old," Nevins said.

Around the same time, her three-year-old Shih Tzu, Bandit, started showing similar symptoms.

"He was lethargic and not eating well since February," Nevins said of the nine-pound dog, adding, "I thought he was depressed because the other dog had been put down."

But after hearing about the recent massive pet food recall, Nevins said she knew she had to get Bandit to the vet right away. Sure enough, after some tests, Bandit was brought to the vet for a five-day stay.

It was a difficult week for both Nevins and her nine-year-old daughter, Summer.

"I was scared he was going to die," Nevins

said. "He's a member of our family."

On March 16, Mississauga company Menu Foods announced the recall of 60 million cans and pouches of 95 brands of "cuts and gravy" style pet food manufactured at two of its U.S. facilities between December 3 and March 6.

This recall came after dogs and cats began dying of renal kidney failure.

In light of the recall and the fact she was feeding her dogs one of the affected brands — she matched the serial codes on the packages with the ones on the recall notices — Nevins can't help but strongly suspect it's to blame.

Fortunately, Bandit returned home Tuesday and it looks like he'll be okay, his relieved

• see CAT on page A4

Council says no to review

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Town won't be conducting its own review of an environmental report on the power plant planned for local lands now that a motion to do so lost in a tie this week.

In a 5-5 vote Monday night, council ultimately defeated the resolution that called for the municipality to contract a law firm and environmental consultants for up to \$50,000 to assist staff in assessing the environmental review document from TransCanada Energy (TCE) — the company that put the \$750-million plant plans forward.

TCE was awarded a 20-year contract by the Ontario Power Authority
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