

OPINION

It's about time

Queen's Park has introduced the Provincial Animal Welfare Act but our enthusiasm for this new animal welfare legislation is muted because it's so long overdue.

That fact that these are the most significant changes to animal welfare legislation in this province since legislation was first passed might be impressive if it wasn't for the sorry fact that animal abuse laws were first adopted in 1919. It has been nearly 90 years since a provincial government has given animal abuse legislation more than a passing glance.

Under the proposed legislation animal abusers could be slapped with jail time, banned from owning pets and fined up to \$60,000.

Veterinarians will also be required to report suspected abuse or neglect.

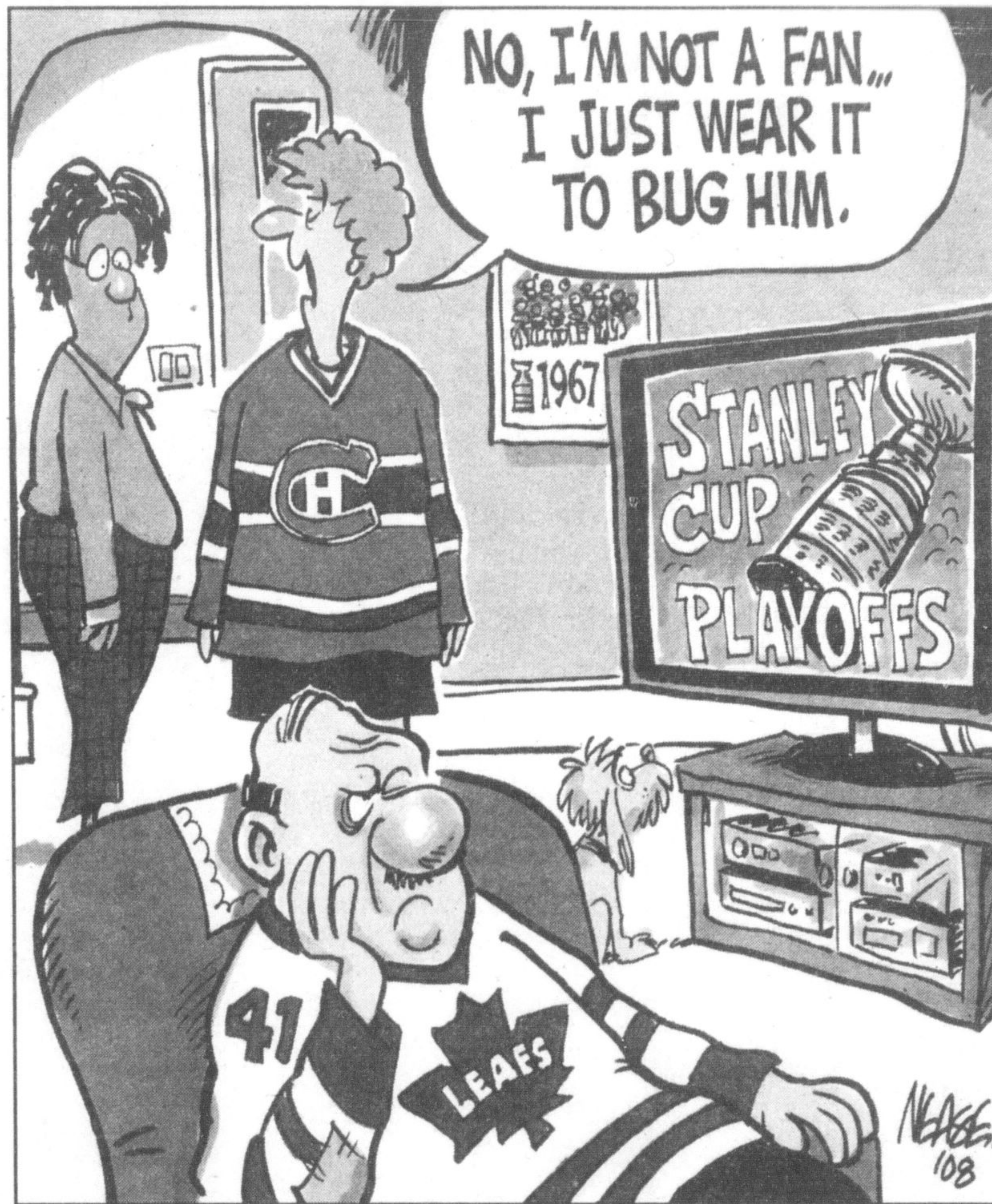
Under the proposed new law, animal protection officials will no longer have to prove

intent in cases of cruelty but only evidence of ownership and that the animal was mistreated.

Inspectors with the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) will be allowed to inspect non-residential premises where animals are kept for entertainment, exhibition, boarding, sale or hire.

The OSPCA could also seek custody of seized animals while the courts deal with their owner — a marked change from the current law where a person charged with abuse can retain care of the animals by cleaning up the conditions and paying any bills owed to the OSPCA for interim care.

While these changes are welcome, we're disappointed it took so long for lawmakers to protect man's best friend and all the other creatures that enrich our world.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to miltomed@haltonsearch.com.

Daffodil Days support was truly heartwarming

DEAR EDITOR:

During four days at the end of March, the Canadian Cancer Society ran the Daffodil Days sale of fresh flowers to support cancer research.

Milton raised a record amount of money for this cause, which has touched most families.

I would like to thank the local businesses — including A&P, Canadian Tire, Cristello's Market, Food Basics, FoodPort, Home Hardware, the two LCBOs, Loblaw Superstore, Milton Mall and Wal-Mart — for giving the volunteers space and a warm welcome

to their premises.

As well, the Maple Avenue Beer Store was gracious enough to allow us to store our boxes of daffodils in their cold room. And all 110 volunteers deserve a big hand for giving their time and effort to sell the flowers.

Finally, to the citizens of Milton, thank you for your generosity, both in purchases and donations. Every penny brings us closer to a cure.

Milton is still a small town with a big heart.

JENNIFER MIROSOLIN
DAFFODIL DAYS CONVENOR

Thanks to all who helped with book sale

DEAR EDITOR:

The Canadian Federation of University Women, Milton and District's 35th annual book sale was a great success.

Thanks to the *Champion* for its publicity so that people could find us in our new location, to Zellers and Milton Public Library for being the collection locations, to the high school students who earned community service hours while sorting and organizing the books and to the donors and purchasers of these books.

The funds we raise are directed to educational endeavours. Annually, we

present scholarships for post-secondary education to students attending Milton high schools, including E.C. Drury School for the Deaf. We also assist a mature woman returning to post-secondary education.

Our members work hard collecting, sorting and organizing the books because we believe that besides raising funds for scholarships, the book sale encourages reading and the reuse of books.

Thank you, Milton, for your support.

JEAN LILLIE
CFUW BOOK SALE COMMITTEE

Too many irresponsible dog owners out there

DEAR EDITOR:

It was a pleasant surprise to read the April 1 letter to the editor from Lisa Bilton entitled 'Please, keep your dog on a leash.' I have to totally agree with her.

I reside in the Laurier Park area and am totally disgusted at the irresponsible owners who let their dogs run free and who don't pick up after them. I'm tired of having to constantly keep an eye on the ground in order not to step in a pile of poop.

It's true, Laurier Park isn't a leash-free park nor is it a training facility to teach your dog how to play fetch. It seems that there are more dogs off their leashes than are dogs who are kept on their leashes.

On April 3 for example, within a 15-minute time frame three dog owners came to the park and not one of them had their dog on a leash.

I too don't appreciate someone else's dog running up to me and not only frightening me but my dog as well. This park is also full of children. God forbid something happens to a child.

The Oakville and District Humane Society is responsible for enforcing Milton animal bylaws, and I encourage everyone who's fed up with seeing dogs off their leashes to call and speak with an enforcement officer and arrange for an enforcement officer to pay a visit to the park. I also understand that if you have the dog owner's address, an enforcement officer will pay the dog owner a visit at their home.

The humane society number is (905) 845-1551.

I don't encourage anyone to confront any of the dog owners, as I made that mistake one time and had obscenities hurled at me.

SABINE DOBELL
WHITE DRIVE

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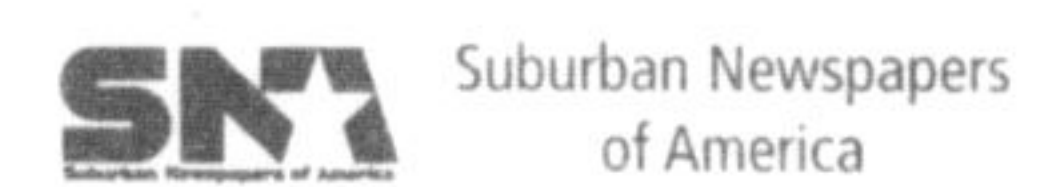
Sandy Pare

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