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## Milton-based animal shelter in the works

By Stephanie Hounsell  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Ghandi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

With that sentiment close to her heart, a Milton woman has formed a group whose goals include opening an animal shelter in Milton that's independent of the Oakville-based Oakville and Milton Humane Society.

Cathy Prenter of Milton Animal Sanctuary (MAS) — which first went public at last month's Strawberry Fair — said she believes an alternative shelter is needed to meet the needs of a town as large as Milton and that the Oakville and Milton Humane Society is too long of a drive for local residents.

Even a possible satellite location in Milton, as has been discussed, still wouldn't be sufficient, she said.

"Milton needs to stand up and say, 'We're able to run our own facility and support our own facility.'"

She believes humane societies are based on outdated models and said the MAS is investigating ways the Milton shelter would be different, including a more effectively-designed building.

"We have a unique opportunity where we can get it right," she said.

As it works toward building a shelter, MAS intends to work on a number of other projects.

This includes working to identify and then spay and neuter feral — born in the wild — cat colonies and support them until they eventually die out.

Through education, the group hopes to make people aware of the work and the money that go into having pets, so people who shouldn't get pets — and who eventually end up dumping or abandoning them — don't.

Encouraging owners to spay and neuter their pets  
• see SOCIETY on page A5



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**FEELING THE HEAT:** Jade Young (left), 9, and friend Jordyn MacWhirter, 6, try to cool off with some ice cream, but have to devour it quickly before it melts from the intense heat.

See The Centre Spread For

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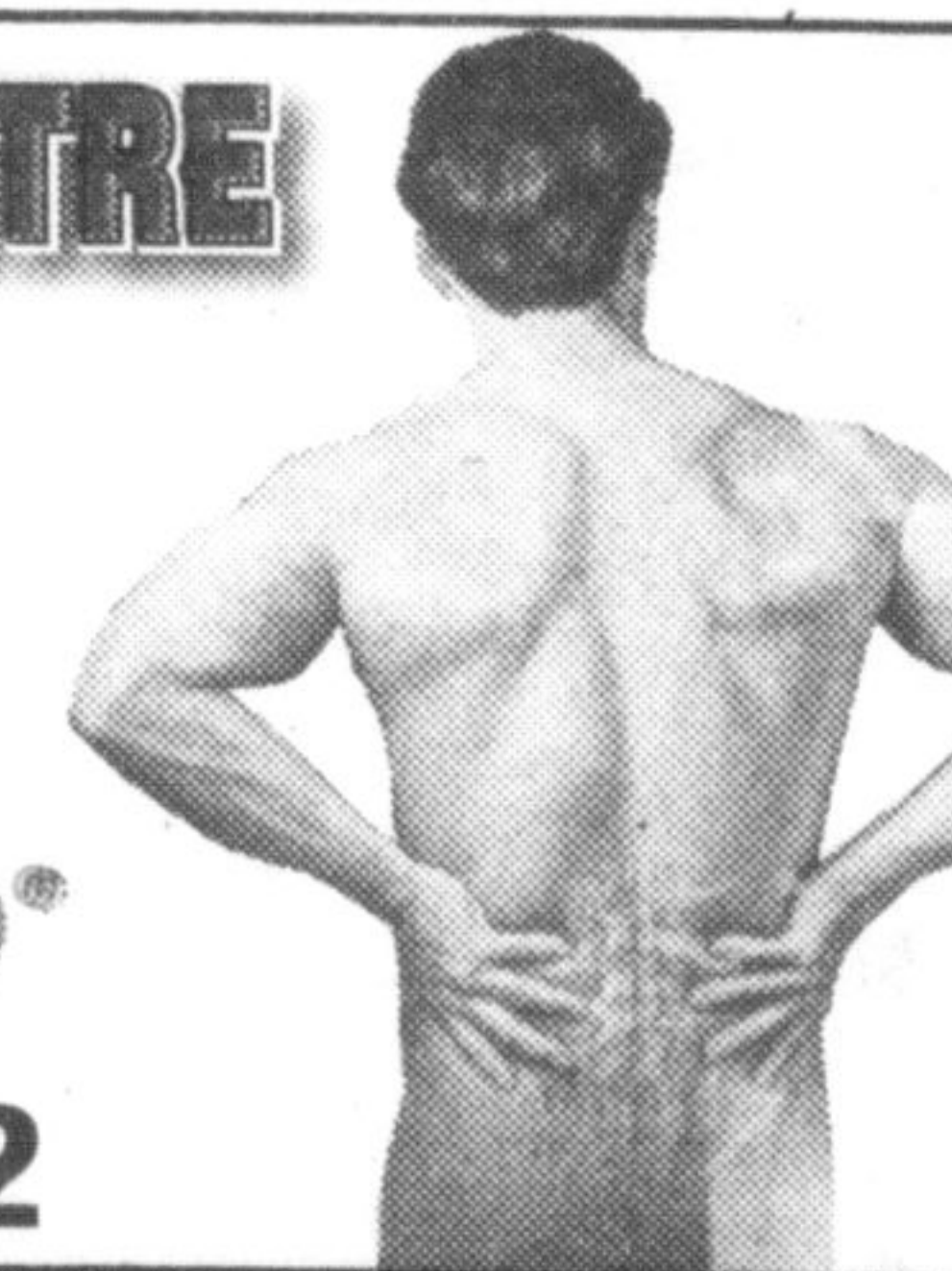
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