

Derek's gone to the dogs running kennel, classes

By Jane Muller
Derek Wood has gone to the dogs, literally. The 20-year-old began with a nine-run kennel and one purebred Giant Schnauzer in 1977 and now has a 27-run kennel attached to the rear of his parents' home in rural Milton, plus a pair of Giant Schnauzers and also runs obedience training classes.

By the end of the summer Derek, with the help of his father Doug and his brothers, will have facilities for boarding 45 animals.

"It's a lot of fun, because I love to build. The dogs like it built extra high with a lot of lighting to make them feel comfortable," Derek explains.

Derek's father sug-

gested the idea of starting a boarding kennel to him and his 18-year-old brother Dean. It was thought the proceeds could put the two youngest of eight children through university—but as it turned out Derek finished Grade 13, then took on the kennel full time.

His job is even more full time than most, as his charges need constant attention. Even while in the house he has an ear on the dogs and cats in the kennel through an intercom system.

"They are always under supervision," Derek assures.

The pens are made of cement blocks with wire mesh doors at the front and a sliding door at the

rear, leading to a long enclosed outdoor run. Each run is divided similar to the interior pens.

This kennel has special pens for cats with climbing ramps and sun decks instead of runs.

Some of the dogs at Redwood Kennels are full time residents who are visited regularly by their families. Derek explains that when a family's living conditions change and they no longer can keep the dog at their home the kennel becomes their home.

"I treat them like humans. A lot of the dogs here have been part of a family and are treated that way."

Derek had never owned a purebred dog until he bought Andrew at 7 months old. He took his

black curly-haired dog to obedience school in Milton and admits his was the worst of the bunch.

Through a lot of work with Andrew, Derek managed to earn him an obedience certificate. Now he teaches others how to handle their dogs

which is quite a challenge.

"The more you put into it the more you get out of it. It is easy to tell people what to do but it's hard to get them to do it," Derek said.

He realizes each dog is different and has its own level of learning ability.

Like humans dogs want praise but this praise should be balanced with discipline.

"You can't train a dog if he is scared, he has to be in good spirits," Derek suggests.

In some cases Derek says it is a matter of who is going to beat who in

which case the owner must stick it out, if not the dog will win and continue to be unmanageable. He stresses that all the classes in the world won't help a dog to be obedient, the owner must spend many hours with the dog going over each step of obedience

training before success is felt.

There again each dog is different. Older dogs set in their ways who have learned bad habits and whose owners have as well, are usually harder to redirect than a pup who has not had this opportunity.

Derek has been grooming dogs for a few years now and was at the top of his class at Sheridan College Grooming School. He keeps his rates low but will only groom a dog when it can fit into his busy schedule. He'll go by the book if the owner wishes, but likes to groom a dog in a way which suits the particular dog.

He had his first experience as a dog breeder recently when his female Giant Schnauzer Holly delivered a litter of seven pups at Derek's bedside.

"I stayed up all the day before and the entire night. After I went to sleep, she had the pups."

There are two 10-week-old females left for sale at \$350 each. If both parents were Canadian Champions the pups could be worth from \$600 to \$1,000 but as Andrew is a Champion and Holly is not, the offspring are valued at slightly less.

Redwood Kennels occupies most of Derek's time as he is usually on the job seven days a week. Some dogs require extra care in feeding, others need to be run outside.

It seems incredible but Derek deals with many types of dogs and seems to accept their irregularities. For example, one dog at the kennel eats rice, a half can of vegetables and a half can of meat. Dogs requiring

medication must also be attended to.

"I've only been bitten once and that was by a whippet," Derek admits.

They are a small but speedy breed of dog which can slide through a four inch hole in a cage. The whippet's owner was careful to check that the pens at Redwood were whippet tight, and they were. Maybe Derek would have been happier had they not been suitable. The dog bit his arm several times and he bares the marks to prove it.

Derek is running novice obedience training classes one night a week for 10 weeks at a cost of \$45. He tries to keep student numbers down to allow for individual attention, which is so necessary when meeting dog and master for the first time.



First family. Derek Wood operates a boarding kennel in rural Milton, offers obedience training classes for novices and recently became involved in breeding Giant Schnauzers. Holly (left) produced a litter of seven pups, her first, sired by Andrew (right), a Canadian Champion. Derek holds one of the remaining pups which is now 10 weeks old.

Health Council suggests centre

The Halton District Health Council has suggested better methods be found to get information on available health and social services, out to those who need it.

Health Council Executive Director, W.A. Leonard, said the idea began last fall when two council members started meetings with individual information services directors in the region.

"Council's interest stemmed from a decision which concluded that for the present Halton did not need a formally and centrally established placement co-ordination centre to assist our residents with information and placement in health care institutions and agencies," he said.

Since that time, the health council has concluded information about services being offered is "very limited" and the result has been the preparation of seven recommendations.

Not only is the health council suggesting co-ordinators of information centres meet on a regular basis, but it believes the

health council should "offer any assistance possible to information centres in making their services known throughout the region."

The health council is prepared to set up a data bank and make it available while trying to keep information gleaned up to date and accurate.

The health council has also suggested the existing centre "consider extending their hours of operation to include evening and weekend services."

Also designed to help this move is the recommendation that if a single regional telephone number is developed sometime in the future, the possibility of adding regional distress centre services to it "be investigated."

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Gravel talks continue

Halton will continue to negotiate with the Halton Aggregate Producers Group over prime gravel areas in the Halton Official Plan the region wants to protect from quarry extraction.

The aggregate group has objected to a number of conditions of the official plan and is considered not to be in favor with some subsequent minor changes in it presented by the planning staff.

The aggregate industry is on record as supporting the concept of taking gravel and road building materials from the Halton area as it is close to the Metropolitan Toronto area where most of the work is being done.

Milton is considered one of the prime locations for pit and quarry extraction.

Regional Council has supported a recommendation that the planning staff continue discussion with the aggregate group of Halton and report back on "preferred modifications to the regional plan" to the Planning and Public Works Committee.

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<p>ST. JOHN'S Nassagaweya (Guelph Line, N. of 401) 9:30 a.m. - Holy Communion</p> <p>Church School</p>	<p>BOSTON and OMAGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES Rev. Larry A. Welch 878-3888</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81</p> <p>BOSTON 3rd Line, Halton Hills 9:30 a.m. - Church School and Divine Worship</p> <p>OMAGH Britannia Rd. West 11:00 a.m. - Church School and Divine Worship</p>	<p>THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX, MILTON 170 Main St., E., 878-6066 Rev. Trevor J. Lewis, Minister</p> <p>Organist-Choir Director Mr. Brian Stoll</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81 9:45 a.m. - Senior Church School 10:00 a.m. - Adult Bible Study 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p>Adult Supervised Nursery All Welcome</p>
<p>ST. GEORGE'S Lowville (Guelph Line and Derry Rd.) 11:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer Nursery and Church School Rev. Charles Masters Rector, 878-4384</p>	<p>CHURCH OF CHRIST 1412 Britannia Rd. West Minister: Brian Cox 878-5696</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81 10:00 a.m. - Bible School Class for all ages. 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship and the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m. - "Preaching of the Gospel"</p> <p>Thursday 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study "The Church of Christ salutes you." Romans 16:16</p>	<p>EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH 245 Commercial St. Pastor: Dr. J.R. Armstrong 878-3908</p> <p>Associate Pastor Dr. Ken Campbell 878-6600</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes 11:00 a.m. - Assembly & Worship. Sermon By Pastor Campbell "The Heart Cry of a Barren Christian"</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Evening Praise and Bible Study. Sermon By Pastor Armstrong. "How one may find the Lord"</p>
<p>HIGHWAY GOSPEL CHURCH Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Corner of Wakefield and Ontario Sts. Pastor: Rev. M. Christensen 878-2064</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship</p> <p>Also: Children's Church 6:00 p.m. - Family Prayer 7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship</p> <p>On Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. - Ladies Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>EPHAPHY LUTHERAN CHURCH Robert Baldwin Public School 180 Wilson Dr. Rev. Thomas Prachar 878-2562</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81</p> <p>9:30 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - Family Worship Listen to "The Lutheran Hour" on Sundays. 8:00 a.m. - CKOC, 1150 12:30 p.m. - CHIN, 1540 "Come and Grow With us!"</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY 7:30 p.m. - Meeting for Prayer and Bible Study. Nursery provided at all Sunday Services.</p>
<p>ST. PAUL'S OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Main St. at James St. The Rev. E.T. Jack Birch Christian Family Sunday</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81</p> <p>9:45 a.m. - Family Worship 11:00 a.m. - Sermon: "Community Accord"</p> <p>11:00 a.m. - Church School All Welcome Nursery Facilities</p>	<p>MILTON BAPTIST CHURCH Pastor: Kelvin F. Mutter 878-0035</p> <p>Sunday, May 31/81</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Sunday Worship Location: Auditorium of The Halton Centennial Manor.</p> <p>Wednesday Evening 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study Call 878-0035 for more information.</p>	

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