

# Hunters to be hired in wake of attacks by wild dogs

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 17, 1990—2

By ROB KELLY

A tough, aggressive cross-breed of dog and coyote is being blamed for several attacks on rural area dogs over the last few weeks and Ministry of Natural Resources experts plan on hiring professional hunters to cut the animal population in Nassagaweya.

Ministry wildlife management officer Bruce Buckland said he does not foresee any dangers to humans from the animals at this point, however.

Ward 3 councillor Barry Lee raised the matter at municipal council Monday night. One of Mr. Lee's pet

dogs suffered 40 puncture wounds in a lopsided tussle with the animals.

Mr. Lee said three of his constituents have complained to him of similar attacks in the last three weeks, with one incident resulting in the death of the dog.

## 'Getting bold'

"My concern is that the population of these things is increasing and the nature is changing," councillor Lee said. "They are getting that bold that (attacks) could involve people."

Mr. Buckland said if cornered the animals would probably "run right

over you" in a bid to escape, but could not recount a single incident in which the so-called coy-dogs had attacked people. "If you see coyotes be on the cautious side," he warned, however.

The MNR officer said the animals are larger than true coyotes and can reach a weight of between 65 and 80 lbs.; about half the size of a large timber wolf.

They "don't seem to be as timid" as coyotes or wolves, Mr. Buckland acknowledged.

"They come near buildings and are attacking dogs in their back yards,

probably because the dogs have free reign."

The coy-dogs will challenge domestic dogs wandering onto their hunting territory. Mr. Buckland pointed out, because they view the domestic animals as "competing with the coy-dogs for the same food source," such as rabbits.

Mr. Buckland said it is "difficult to put a finger on" how many of the coy dogs there are in western rural Milton.

## Growing

But he indicated the population stands every chance of growing because there are plenty of dogs, both domestic and wild, in the area for the coy-dogs to mate with.

Indeed, he pointed out, sometimes the larger wild dogs force themselves into the coy-dog pack to mate. At present "we're moving into the breeding period for coyotes."

There is an open season on coyotes. Anyone who sees a coyote on his property can kill it "anytime he wishes," Mr. Buckland said.

The ministry has in fact relied on area landowners to help control the animal population, in much the same manner as they rely on the short seasonal deer hunt to control that population in Halton.

But given the current activity MNR believes further measures are necessary, Mr. Buckland indicated. The ministry is contacting professional hunters, who will use hounds to



Barry Lee

track the animals and then shoot them. As well, the ministry is looking into having trappers work with the hunters. Mr. Buckland said the hunters make money on the coy-dog pelts, so the expense to government for the activity, if any, is minimal.

## Carnival prince, princess sought

Milton Mall is seeking local royalty.

The mall, in conjunction with the Town of Milton, is organizing the annual Milton Winter Carnival Prince and Princess Contest.

Boys and girls aged 5 to 10 years as of December 31, 1989 are eligible to enter.

Registration forms are now available at the Milton Mall office and at the Town of Milton Leisure Services Department.

Forms must be returned by January 30 at 12 noon. Interviews will be held Saturday, Feb. 3.

The winners will be crowned Tuesday, Feb. 5, just in time for the carnival Sunday, Feb. 11.

## Sunday shopping

# Stores to close until Peel decision

from FOOD STORES on page 1

that make up the fair shopping committee closed pending the "disposition of the Peel injunction proceedings before Mr. Justice Saunders of the Ontario Supreme Court on March 19."

Mr. Meneray said when the grocery store chains agreed to the "temporary injunction" there was no need to proceed with the full hearing.

The committee however, had a different perspective. "We publicly volunteered to close our stores in Halton Nov. 17, in return for a commitment to fairly enforce the law," said Jonathan Wolfe, Group Vice-President, The Oshawa Group, in a press release.

"We are pleased Halton has accepted our proposal."

"They (The Committee for Fair Shopping) say a lot of

things," said Regional Chairman Peter Pomeroy.

Mr. Meneray said fair enforcement of the law has always been the case. He said the region has been consistently applying for injunctions against all flagrant offenders charged by police.

It was a gentleman's agreement when the committee first promised to close on Sunday, back in November, he said, adding that "it wasn't worth the paper it was printed on." However, now that the agreement has been struck before the courts, he said they disavow it "at their own peril."

The Committee For Fair Shopping is an ad hoc coalition of grocery retailers and distributors fighting what they term as the "inequities established in the Retail Business Holidays Act."

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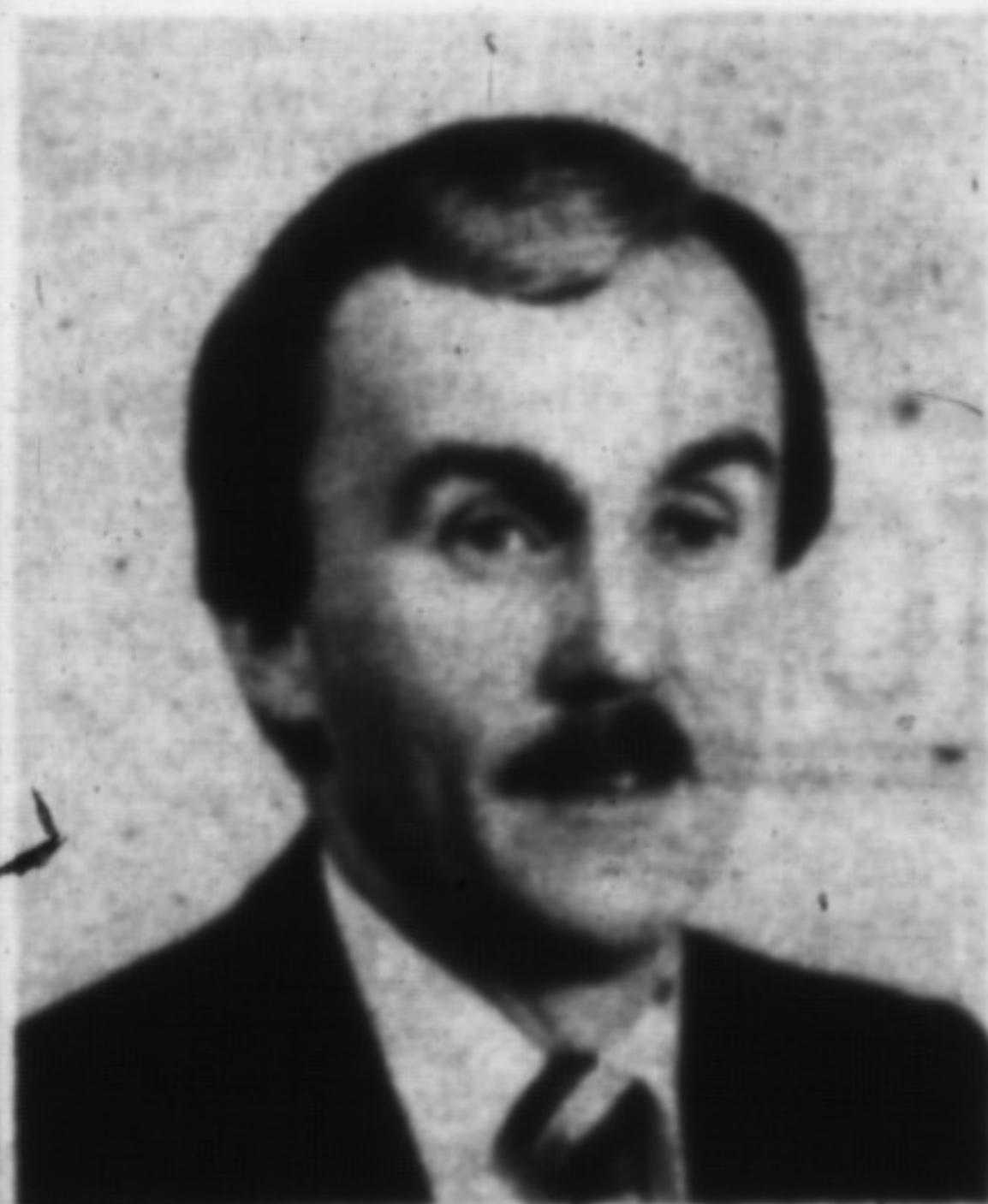
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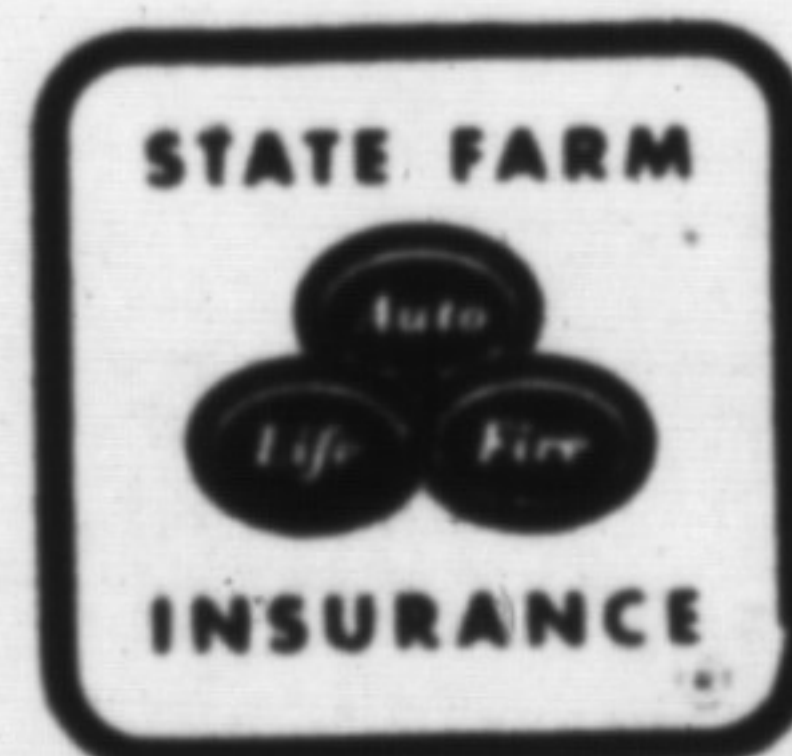


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