

Stampede

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The weekend's events will also include a re-enactment of the War of 1812 at 1 p.m. Saturday, and 3 and 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Local firefighters will get in on the action as well with water cannon fights at 3 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Barrel racing will get underway at 3:30 p.m.

The International Trick Riders have set up their "wall of death" — a 90 degree circular track — where they ride their motorcycles. The group has performed at the Canadian National Exhibition for the past six years and has also made appearances at the Calgary Stampede. They'll perform as crowds warrant.

Conklin shows, bungee jumping, and the Buckle Rodeo — a mock rodeo adventure featuring teams of five people performing various feats with stuffed toy horses and bulls — will take place daily.

A sports card show will be held Saturday and Sunday, and the OPP will perform a radar demonstration with proceeds to Halton Women's Place.

Rabid cat serves as warning: vet

A simple vaccination would have saved the life of a cat and prevented its owner from undergoing treatment for rabies.

Dr. Jocelyn Smith of Maplewood Veterinary Clinic on Main Street suspected a cat brought into the clinic last week was suffering from the symptoms of rabies. After the one-year-old pet was euthanized, tests conducted by Health of Animals, a department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, confirmed her suspicions.

The owners of the rabid cat noticed their pet had a fever and was not eating. It was also "sluggish", Dr. Smith says. After a few days it began to act disoriented and was having trouble keeping its balance.

"Rabies can go through a lot of stages. The symptoms can really vary," Dr. Smith explains.

The cat owner was eventually bitten by the sick pet. By the time the cat was brought to the vet clinic it's condition warranted that it be kept in isolation. Usually suspected rabies cases are quarantined for 10 days.

Dr. Smith said the quarantine period was waived in this case as the cat had bitten the owner and brain tissue tests were needed to confirm its condition. "It makes me wonder why people don't have their pets vaccinated. It's very important to have all pets vaccinated but people think it (rabies) won't happen to them," said the veterinarian.

She says pet owners may not want to vaccinate pets against cat and dog diseases but rabies is "a disease that is a terrible risk to humans."

Animals should be vaccinated at 16 weeks of age and every year thereafter, the vet says.



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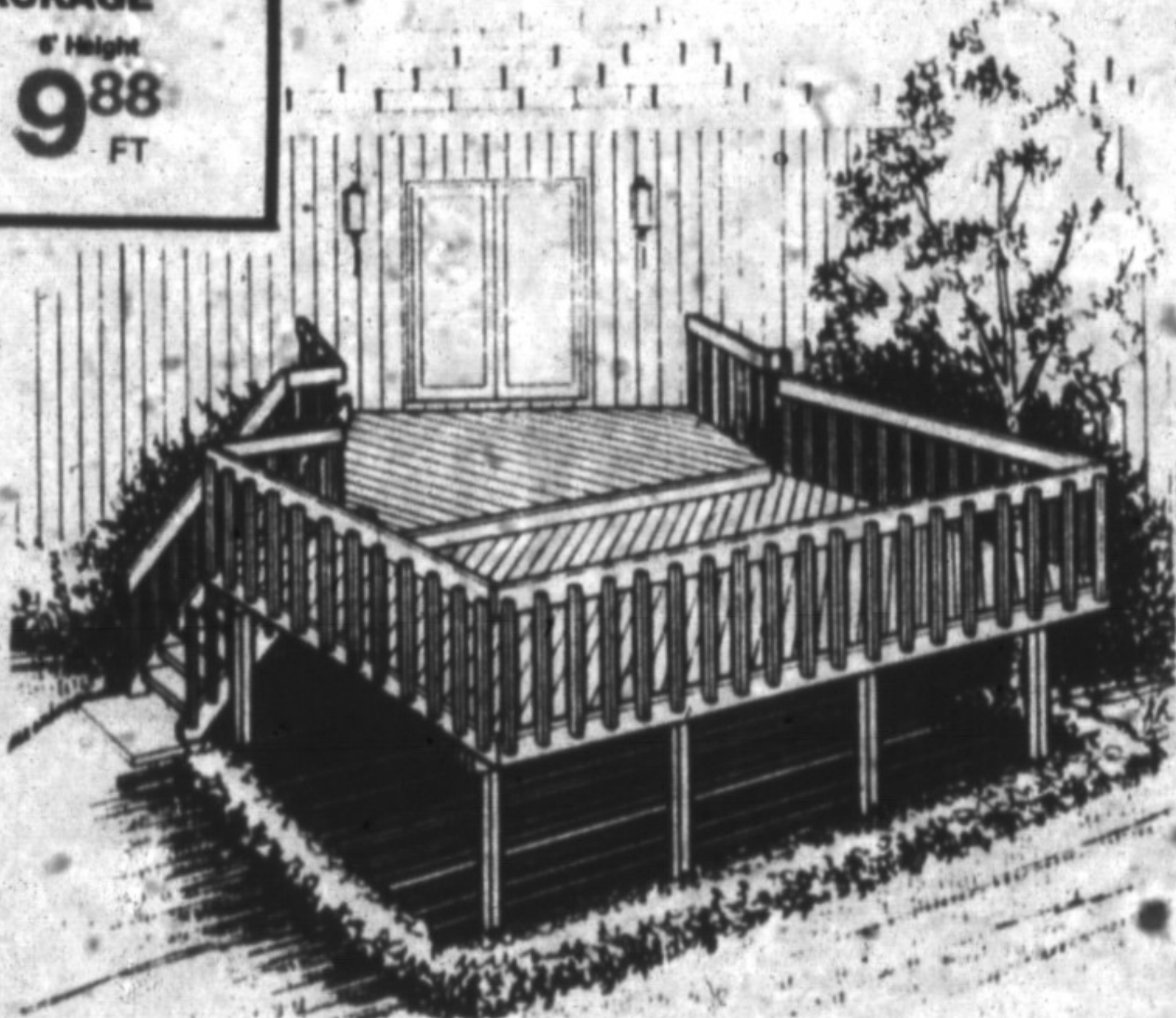
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