

OSPCA officers thoroughly inspect conditions of circus animals: Dewar

■ a right of inspection for animals used for the show. An officer is present at the time of arrival to check on the welfare of the animals and ensures proper standards of care are maintained.

To date, Dewar says he cannot recall any instances in which this circus breached any of the requirements outlined in the OSPCA Act, which was amended in 2009 to ensure all animals — not just cats and dogs — are given appropriate standards of care.

"That's been a huge change and has really helped in addressing any concerns we may have about animal cruelty," said Dewar.

These standards of care include appropriate lighting, ventilation, housing free of garbage, urine, feces and debris, food and water requirements and veterinary care in case of sickness or injury.

What is most unnerving for Piskoroski is the training tool used on the elephants — the ankus. Consisting of a hook attached to a 60- to 90-cm handle, the ankus is, by design, intended to hurt the animals, claimed Piskoroski.

Solheim was quick to point out the ankus has been used to train elephants for hundreds of years and is simply designed to be a two-foot extension on an arm that can guide the foot, shoulder and neck into different positions.

"It puts the trainers in a safe position. The el-

ephant can't hear them or take verbal cues and the trainers might be out of sight. If they are unsure of what's below them, something bad can happen. These things weigh 8,000 pounds," he added.

Removing elephants from the wild for the purpose of entertaining the masses also aggravated Piskoroski.

"They are taken from their natural habitat at a very young age and are deprived of all that is natural to them," he wrote.

But according to Solheim, the elephants were already in North America when they were acquired by the circus.

He added, elephants in captivity live well into their 70s and 80s, while those in the wild barely reach 25 years old.

"It's not like they're in the wild and having to find food and water. They have everything provided for them. They're extremely content and relaxed."

Solheim added that he's used to the criticism from animal rights enthusiasts, with protests and email blasts becoming a staple to his job.

"There appears to be a lot of vocal people involved. But in truth, there's very few. They make a lot of noise though," he told the *Champion*.

Dewar said in the 18,000 cases the OSPCA investigated last year, not one came from the

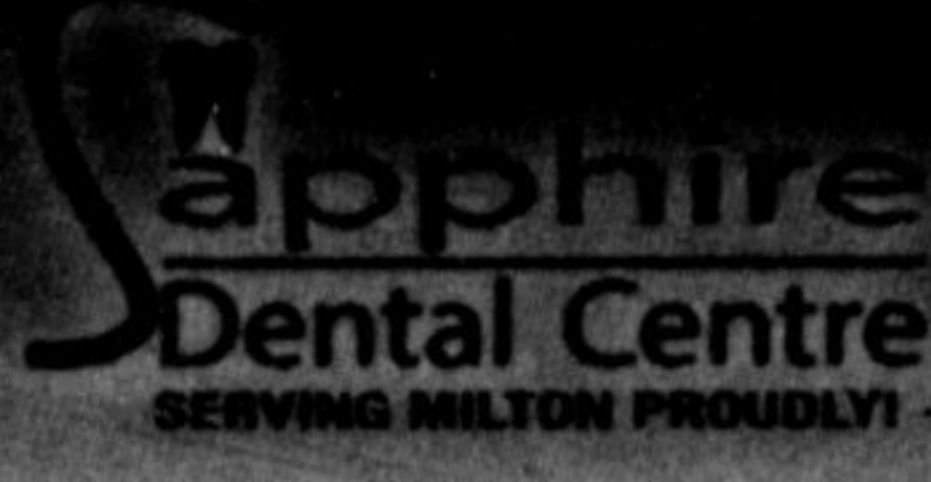
Shrine Circus.

If someone was found in breach of the requirements outlined in the OSPCA Act, and failed not to make the necessary changes to meet the standards, they could face two years in prison and a \$60,000 fine.

The circus will be in Milton all weekend, starting Friday at 4 p.m. at the Milton Fairgrounds.


...

Rachael Williams can be reached at rwilliams@miltoncanadianchampion.com or on Twitter @MiltonReports.



**Sapphire
Dental Centre**
SERVING MILTON PROUDLY!

*New Patients
Welcome!*



**DENTAL WALK IN
INCLUDING:**

- TMD • BRACES • SLEEP APNEA APPLIANCES

FREE EMERGENCY EXAMS.
COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION FOR BRACES!

**TEETH IN
ONE DAY!**
Ask for details!

PLEASE VISIT THE CLINIC FOR OTHER COMPLIMENTARY OFFERS

Dr. Nilbu Varnulose
"Your Milton Neighbour"

433 Steeles Ave E., #102 • 416-708-1047 • 905-878-8760
FAX: 905-878-8194 • www.sapphiredentalcentre.com

**MARCH BREAK
SPECIAL
20% OFF
SPORTS GUARDS!**

LIVE RICH IN GUELPH

50' BUNGALOWS NEXT TO PROTECTED CONSERVATION

SMALL TOWN CHARM
WITH BIG CITY AMENITIES.
Make the move to Guelph
and get larger lots in a quiet
secluded neighbourhood,
next to conservation and
on 50' lots. Get more for less
in Guelph!

3 BEDROOMS STARTING FROM
\$629,990
UP TO 2,381 SQ. FT.



Cedar Model Shown
3 Bedroom, 1855 sqft

**SUMMER
BONUS!**

**FOR A LIMITED TIME, RECEIVE A CHOICE* OF
FREE FINISHED BASEMENT OR
WAIVE YOUR CONSERVATION LOT PREMIUM**
WhiteCedarEstates.com

SALES CENTRE: 1340 Gordon St. | Guelph, ON
1.888.519.2346 x204 | whitecedarestates@dunsire.com

Dunsire Developments builds homes
and communities throughout the GTA &
Southwestern Ontario that are elegant, warm
and perfectly suited to your lifestyle. **Discover
Dunsire today.**



MISSISSAUGA
Semis on the the Golf Course
from the mid **\$700s**
barcaverde.ca



MISSISSAUGA
Urban Towns by the Lake
from the lower **\$400s**
anchorsatlakeview.com



MISSISSAUGA
Custom Luxury Homes across from
Meadowvale Conservation Area from
\$1.75M
crowncollection.ca

Bringing
community to life.
Dunsire.com



**DUNSIRE
DEVELOPMENTS**

*Prices subject to change. *Cannot be combined with any other promotions. Limited time only E&OE.