

Pit bulls not biting but causing concern

Although pit bull terriers have not attacked anyone in the Midland-Penetang area lately, local animal experts are very concerned about their presence here.

Both the local animal control companies say "there are a few pit bulls out there." But so far, they say, we have not experienced the vicious attacks that the dogs have become famous for.

"Every place there is a pit bull, you have a problem" says Pete Bidan, owner-operator of Huronia Animal Control, which serves Midland, Penetanguishene and Tiny Township.

Actually, Bidan said he is lobbying the three municipalities he serves for a bylaw which will force owners to destroy all dogs if they have attacked someone - even just once.

"That would be the best

solution," he said.

It's ironic, he said, that there is a provincial law that states any dog who injures or kills animals must be destroyed, but a dog who bites a human lives.

"Here you have a chicken that has protection that humans don't have," he said.

Bidan said he can't ever recall a pit bull attacking anyone in his territory. "But there is one that I do have under surveillance," he said. "As long as he is tied up, it's okay - but if he gets loose, there will be a problem."

A spokesperson for the local Ontario Humane Society also said she is concerned about pit bulls.

But, said Mildred Allport, past president of the local chapter, the problem lies not with the dog; it's with the humans who own and train them.

But Allport's main concern with the pit bulls is that they are used in organized dog fighting, although there is no record of that happening around here, she said.

Meanwhile, over at Bay Animal Control (which serves Tay Township, Port McNicoll and Victoria Harbour), the word is much the same: "We are not having any problems with them at this time. We did have a problem in the past," said a spokesperson.

The spokesperson warned that pit bulls are bred for fighting and are not really suitable as a family pet. But despite the recent wave of publicity about the dogs, they have been a problem for years. It's just that they are more popular now, she said.

And again, she added, there are other breeds of vicious dogs; pit bulls aren't the only ones.



Fiddling away

The Centennial Arena in Midland filled up Friday and Saturday night with fiddle-music lovers and step dancers from around Ontario. On Saturday night the

finals were held. Here, fiddler Chuck Joyce is shown in fine form filling the arena with sweet sounds.

Port McNicoll woman licences extra dog

A woman in Port McNicoll has received per-

mission to licence three dogs despite a bylaw only

allowing two.

Mary Johnson of McNicoll Street received permission from the village council at last Wednesday's meeting.

Johnson said in a letter that she just moved to Port McNicoll from the West Indies and did not realize she would not be allowed to licence her three dogs.

"One of our dogs is 15-years-old," she said in the letter, "and whenever the time comes to put her to sleep, I can assure you that we will not replace her."

Council passed a motion allowing her to licence the third dog on the condition that she live up to her word and not replace it.

Reeve John Moreau remarked that it must have been difficult to transport three dogs from the West Indies to Port McNicoll.

One dog adopted

Bay Animal Control submitted its monthly report to Port McNicoll. It was approved at last week's meeting.

Four dogs were destroyed, while one was redeemed and one was adopted in the month of

June. In all, 10 dogs were picked up.

There were 30 complaints in the month.

There were no cats picked up and none destroyed.

One fine was issued. Two licences were sold.

Rabies is down

The incidence of rabies is down "considerably" this year, says a health in-

spector of Simcoe County.

Inspector Don Moreau said last Wednesday that "this is a quiet year" compared to the last one.

He said part of the reason was that the fox population is at a low ebb this year. "These things go in cycles," he said.

Cat destroyed

The Village of Victoria Harbour received its monthly report from Bay Animal Control at last Monday's regular council meeting.

There were 12 complaints from village residents. One dog was picked up; it was destroyed.

Also, a cat was picked up and it, too, was destroyed.

One fine was issued; 42 licences were sold.

Vaincourt won Civitan 50/50

The winner of the Midland Civitan 50/50 Draw which was held at the sidewalk sale July 18, was Mrs. Betty Vaincourt, R.R. 1, Redbridge, Ontario.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PENETANGUISHENE TAX PAYERS

1987 Final Tax Bills were mailed on June 4, 1987. If you have not received your bill, call the Town Office at 549-7452.

Remember, even if you do not receive a bill, you are still responsible for paying your taxes. The installments are due July 31st and October 30th, 1987.

These installments represent the balance owing on your taxes for 1987.

E. Valentine, A.M.C.T.
Tax Collector