



James Ryan, owner of Tara Kennels on the Gormley Sideroad, sits besides his giant Irish wolfhound named Cullain — after an Irish legend. Mr. Ryan said the Irish

**Tara Kennels operator**

**His lifetime work is to help animals**

By Keith Bolender

Any person that has worked with animals is aware of the ever constant threat of an outbreak of rabies, and of the harm it can cause to animals and humans alike.

And unfortunately for James Ryan, of Tara Kennels on the Gormley Sideroad, he has to deal once again with the threat following the discovery of a rabid cat in Unionville.

The cat was brought to Mr. Ryan, who has a quarantine section for suspected rabid animals, last week after the cat had bitten the owner's wife and their dog. The cat died last Friday and its brain was sent away for analysis which proved that it was rabid. The dog is still in quarantine and Mr. Ryan expects that it too is rabid.

"We don't know what started it," Mr. Ryan commented, "although there has been a dead fox that was rabid found in the area, the Carleton Rd. subdivision."

Mr. Ryan is asking dog owners to not let the dog outside on its own. He said that if someone is with a dog that is bitten then at least the dog can be checked out for rabies before it is too late.

The symptoms of rabies sometimes take a long time, and if no one has seen a dog being bitten, then there is no way they can have the dog checked. This is a very serious situation we have in Unionville and it can spread rapidly unless the animals have protection in the form of rabie shots.

Unfortunately though, the shots only give about 90 per cent protection, there is no 100 per cent one. In most cases this is sufficient but that rabid cat had its shots, so you can never be sure," he said.

Besides trying to curb the spread of rabies, Mr. Ryan, who has run the kennel for 16 years, also offers many other animal services.

One of the most beneficial of his programs, and one he has organized himself, is the 24 hour accident pickup service.

Mr. Ryan explained the service by pointing out that in the past whenever an animal was hit by a car the police had no choice but to shoot it. Now, however, whenever an accident occurs, the police will call Mr. Ryan who will pick up the in-

jured animal and take it to the clinic in Stouffville or Thornhill.

"The people who run the clinic in Stouffville are the only ones who will get out of bed at night to help injured animals," Mr. Ryan commented.

If the owner isn't found then Mr. Ryan will foot the bill. He also said that when the program first started a few years ago he averaged about one call every two weeks, with over half of the owners unlocated. Now, however, "the calls are far more often, because there are more people in the area, faster cars and faster highways."

However, when an owner does care enough for his pet to get it back from Mr. Ryan, "the thrill of seeing the reunion is all the payment I need. I feel that saving the animal was really worth it and that's a good feeling."

Returning the serious problem of rabies, Mr. Ryan who was once bitten by a rabid cat, stated that his rabie isolation unit has been set up for the health department, and that any animal that bites a human is isolated for 14 days. The types of animals in the unit vary from mice to horses to skunks, muskrats, foxes and dogs and cats.

One area that Mr. Ryan would like to see corrected is in the misdirected intentions of some people who try to help injured animals. He said that anyone coming across an injured animal should report it to the police or to him, and not try and help it.

He illustrated an incident to point out how

some people's intentions can do more harm than good.

"A dog was hit by a car and the dog suffered a broken back. In a case like that there is no way we can save the dog, he has to be put to sleep. But what happened was the man who hit the dog tried to remove it and the dog bit him. So the man took off in his car but another man following him also stopped, tried to remove the dog, and was also bitten. We've got the dog but now we have to hold him in isolation for 14 days to see if he has rabies. The dog is in agony from his broken back and there is nothing we can do. If either man would have called us none of this would have happened."

Mr. Ryan pointed out that this was an isolated incident, and that for the most part people in the area are good pet owners.

He did, however, have a few pointers on how a person could become a better pet owner. He commented that before anyone gets a pet they should consult an expert on just what owning a pet really means.

"People who are planning to get a dog should especially be made aware of what it entails. They should sit down and get an estimate of how much it will cost to keep a dog. The price may stagger them. There is also an obligation to keep the animal healthy, a dog need exercise every day."

"One of the biggest problems is when the

novelty of a dog wears off, when he grows up and doesn't get the care he has been getting. People's intentions are good regarding animals, but many animals are dead on the roads today from good intentions that have never been carried out."

One way to help alleviate the situation is education, Mr. Ryan said. He used to visit schools and lecture children on pet care and he believes that every school should have a pet care and control class.

Another area of concern is people who buy animals as Christmas or Easter gifts. Mr. Ryan firmly believes this should not be done, since after the pet is grown up the people don't know what to do with it and often just get rid of it.

When asked what some of his more unusual calls to help animals have been, Mr. Ryan said that he once had a call from a man regarding a cat that was crying — from inside the wall of his house. We think we got there through the attic. "The cat was in the kitchen wall which we

had to open up to get it, we think he got there through the attic. Another time we were called at two in the morning to get rid of two racoons that were wrecking a mans bedroom."

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**Balanced economic growth is needed**

By Bill Hodgson M.P.P.

When a country like ours faces uncertain economic times, pressures increase for getting the economy moving and for ways of getting the unemployed back to work quickly — all in the name of economic growth and without due regard to environmental and safety issues.

In a word, forget about quality of life issues and concentrate only on matters of economic growth. That may have been the approach in days past, but it is unworkable under current legislation.

Take, for example, large economic developments. A company can no longer simply go into an area and build whatever is proposed to be built. Instead, the company must submit detailed proposals on the practicality of such a project and follow carefully the guides in such acts as the Ontario Water Resources Act, the Pesticides Act or the Environmental Protection Act.

To the companies, such legislation may be

viewed as too constraining; to some environmental groups, the legislation may not go far enough.

What is needed is a relative satisfactory balance between both sides to protect the environment and to provide for job opportunities after all the far-reaching factors of a large development have been examined with a fine tooth comb.

Then a decision has to be made on the outcome of such information. That is the process which Mr. Justice Hart will follow in the Reid Paper Company situation to build a huge pulp and paper development in Northwestern Ontario.

The recent Throne Speech commits your Ontario Government to check and undertake greater research into use of hazardous chemicals such as PCBs, lead, cadmium and mercury, especially into our water systems. A central group of scientists in the Natural Resources Ministry will undertake this very important job.

Over the years, the number of mines which have been abandoned have increased beyond

belief. These abandoned mines are prime sources for contamination of local water supplies and can bring economic trouble to communities affected by such mines.

A clean-up operation will be started after a complete inventory of these inactive mines has been completed.

While local governments can provide the most effective leadership in these concerns, in-

creased financial aid is required to help municipalities in eastern and northern Ontario to overcome the difficulties of environmental spoilage.

Not only in environmental matters is your government firmly committed to planning your energy future for the long term. That means, in the short term, the development and use of nuclear power for all

types of users and, in the long run, the development of the sun and wind for continuing renewable power.

These two broad choices are about the most sensible and realistic available, unless we decide to exercise the most stringent energy conservation measures ever carried out. In effect that means severe rationing of electrical power across Ontario.

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