

Weekender

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Rabies outbreak strikes Stouffville



By CHRIS SHANAHAN
Staff Reporter

A total of 10 Whitchurch-Stouffville residents are undergoing anti-rabies treatments following an outbreak of the killer disease during the past two weeks.

"It (Whitchurch-Stouffville) is one of the rabies hot spots right now, especially in the rural areas but even in the town," Dr. John Hodgkinson, York Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health, said in an interview Friday.

Human exposures in this area during October have involved a dog, three cows and a raccoon, all of which were later confirmed rabid.

He urged pet-owners throughout the region to ensure household animals like dogs and cats have anti-rabies vaccinations and are kept under close watch.

The MOH's office is particularly concerned that a local family's farm dog was not immunized despite the well-publicized threat of rabies in the Stouffville area.

Dr. Peter Weidelich of O'Connor Veterinary Services, R.R. 4, Stouffville, diagnosed the case after the animal began acting viciously earlier this week. The Australian shepherd cross was destroyed Wednesday morning and later confirmed rabid by officials in Ottawa.

Three members of the family that owned the dog are among those undergoing preventative treatments, which consist of a total of five anti-body and vaccine injections over the course of a month. Cost per person is about \$800.

Dr. Hodgkinson said the overall incidence of rabies is high again this year, but is spread more evenly across York Region than was the case in 1985.

"We're right smack in the middle of a pretty good outbreak," Stouffville veterinarian Dennis O'Connor told The Weekender.

All for United Way (left to right) Constable Don MacPherson and Constable Dan Clydesdale put the cuffs on "crafty" Curt Fleischer, owner of Toromark Furniture, and loaded him into the paddy wagon along with "bad" Bill Crothers, owner of Crothers Pharmacy. You can help bail them out.

—Sjoerd Witteveen

Boy do they need bail!

Rick Crisp, United Way volunteer, has hunted down a pack of public figures for a special "jail" hearing Thursday. The event is expected to raise more than \$10,000.

Each one is currently clamoring for bail money, (\$1,500 per VIP) on time for the mock hearing by Supreme Court Justice Allan Hogg (a real judge).

Bail hearings will be held Thursday (Oct. 30) at the Chimo Hotel on Woodbine Avenue near Steeles, from 2 to 9 p.m.

Cheques should be made payable to The United Way of York Region, marked with the name of the person for whom the bail money is

pledged. Telephone pledges will also be accepted by calling the United Way Office at (416) 474-9974 before this Thursday.

Some of the locals already committed for bail hearing are: Don Cousens, MPP; Larry Saunders, Bank of Montreal; Ron Moran, Regional Counsellor; Bob Sherwood, Counsellor; Bill Crothers, Crothers Pharmacy; Dr. Ed Meade, Markham Family Life Centre; Peter Wege, Steelcase; Mario Giorgio, Consumer Graphics; Tony Engel, Toronto-Dominion Bank; Frank Scarpitti, Regional Counsellor; Tony Roman, MP; Gary Johnson, Toronto-Dominion Bank; John Kaptyn, Captain Developments and Curt Fleischer, Toromark Furniture.

Girl critical

A five-year-old R.R. 3, Stouffville girl remains in critical condition at Toronto's Hospital For Sick Children after she was kicked by a horse Oct. 17.

Mellisa Carroll is a patient in the hospital's intensive care unit, following an accident that happened while she was visiting Wilson's Equestrian Centre Inc.

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