

Outdoors

These are the elements that make a worthy hunting dog

ART BRIGGS-JUDE
Correspondent

A hunting dog is an eight-week-old bundle of puppy love that comes into your house one day and within a year becomes one of the family. It's a floppy-eared, big-footed package of inquisitive energy that keeps you forgiving and forgetting the trouble it causes or gets into.

It has the equipment at both ends to cause anxiety. The front end for chewing what it's not supposed to, and the rear end for dispensing where it's not supposed to.

Several pairs of slippers and several weeks of training usually correct your problems. The pup has no problems.

A hunting dog is an eager pupil, willing to learn what you want it to do, if you have the time and patience to spend in teaching it. It laps up praise and affection as quickly as it laps up warm milk, becoming confused only when its performance is measured prematurely against its predecessors.

A hunting dog is a raw emerald waiting to be polished, a rough blade needing only to be honed in the right way. Most hunting dogs are smart enough to know what's expected of them, even if their owners don't know themselves.

A hunting dog in the field is part of a team. The chasing, flushing, pointing or retrieving unit that should be a larger segment of the hunting fraternity.

A hunting dog is pleasure in motion to watch, often a necessity for a successful hunt, and one of the greatest conservation tools ever produced.

Though its education in the field begins the first time out, it continues every outing after. The bond that's forged over the seasons allows man and dog a certain measure of understanding each other's faults.

A hunting dog's demands are not that great: A protected kennel or corner in the house, a good meal every day, a daily romp for exercise, and a chance to go whenever the gun is taken off the rack.

A hunting dog will not pout if any of these are forgotten or neglected for reasons they don't understand. Their eyes will be just as bright, their tail wag just as vigorously, their enthusiasm just as great when you do return after leaving them behind.

They only ask to curl up by our feet with the hope of another hunting day tomorrow.

A hunting dog knows when the season starts. The first hint of fall has them watching your every move. They spend the night before the duck season fidgeting and fretting between your bed and the assembled equipment.

There'll be no chance that you might forget them. The biggest hang-up, though, for a bird dog, is the deer season, when you go off, gun in hand, without them.

Yet they're the first to console you when you come home dejected, the best tonic for your body and soul when you drag in tired from a miserable day in the rain.

A hunting dog is your companion when all others are busy or gone.

It's the soft muzzle on your lap when you most need a lift, the firm paw in your hand when your world is spinning out of orbit.

A hunting dog has eyes that speak more than mere words could ever tell. They'll flash with excitement during the hunt, plead with your conscience to take them out, reply to your questions and blink with satisfaction when you pat their head. They'll trust you to the ends of the earth with one exception: the time you take them to the vet.

A hunting dog will alert you to strangers, frolic with your kids, and make life interesting for the neighborhood cats. They'll wine softly with expectation when you head for

the marsh, but won't leave the wetland until they find that downed duck.

They can mark a fallen bird better than a professional caddy spots a ball, and have no fear of ice water or heavy tangles of drowned timber. Like the rest of us, a hunting dog gets a touch stubborn when they get on in years. They know their body won't do what their minds want them to. If you're lucky, a hunting dog will be around for a dozen or more years.

And when they are gone you realize not only how much you miss them, but that they've taken part of your life with them on that trip to the happy hunting ground.

Rebel hanged in 1838 subject of project by Claremont group

CHRIS SHANAHAN
Correspondent

A Claremont-area resident is spearheading a campaign to honor a north Pickering settler who was hanged as a rebel in 1838.

Bruce Findlay chairs the Peter Matthews Committee, a 30-member group which wants a statue and plaque erected in memory of Brougham founder Matthews.

"Peter Matthews and (fellow rebel) Samuel Lount were hanged in Toronto in April, 1838, despite the fact that both of them had their death sentences commuted by Queen Victoria," Mr. Findlay explains.

"But that information didn't arrive back here until after they'd been hanged."

Authorities of the day apparently rushed the executions knowing that as many as 8,000 people had signed a petition of clemency for the two men, he says.

The Matthews family arrived in Pickering Township in 1799 and farmed land at what is today the hamlet of Brougham at Hwy. 7 and Brock Road.

Peter Matthews - unhappy with services provided rural inhabitants by the government at Toronto (then York) - was drawn into reform activities that culminated in the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837.

Matthews, a sergeant who served in the War of 1812, led the Pickering contingent in the ill-fated rebellion.

He was captured later and pleaded guilty to treason with a petition for mercy.

Matthews was executed for his

role in a clash at the Don Bridge, despite contradictory evidence in the case.

Mr. Findlay and fellow committee members - some of whom are descendants of Matthews - feel Peter's memory should be preserved by a sculpture that's now in the planning stages.

"We plan to gear up our efforts this fall," says Mr. Findlay, noting the group has so far been unsuccessful in its attempts to have an area school named after the Brougham rebel.

For more information on the Peter Matthews Committee, contact 649-2581.

STOUFFVILLE DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Notice to Parents/Guardians

TERM 1 - PARENTS NIGHT

will be
Thursday, Nov. 1/90
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Principal
Mr. Alan Dickson

Vice Principal
Mr. J. Hooper



Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville PUBLIC NOTICE Fall Leaf Collection Program Community of Stouffville

The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville encourages its residents to compost or mulch as much of their own leaves as possible for home use.

There will be a special leaf collection in the Community of Stouffville, in the areas specified on the following days.

Tuesday, November 6th, 1990 - From Highway 48 to the C.N. tracks and from Lot 34 on the south to Lot 2 on the north.

Wednesday, November 7th, 1990 - C.N. tracks to the York/Durham Line and from Lot 34 on the south to Lot 2 on the north.

Leaves must be bagged in clear plastic bags and placed at the curbside no later than 7:00 a.m. on your collection day.

In order to encourage the use of clear plastic bags, the Town will provide FREE plastic bags while quantities last (Limit of 5 bags per house hold).

Bags will be available commencing Monday, October 29th, 1990 at the Public Works Department, Park Drive South, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The bulk collection of leaves from the streets, boulevards and ditches in heavily treed areas will continue to be done by the Public Works Department using the leaf vacuum during the month of November.

For further information on the leaf collection, please call the Public Works Department at 640-1900 or 895-2423.



PETER MATTHEWS
Hanged as a rebel

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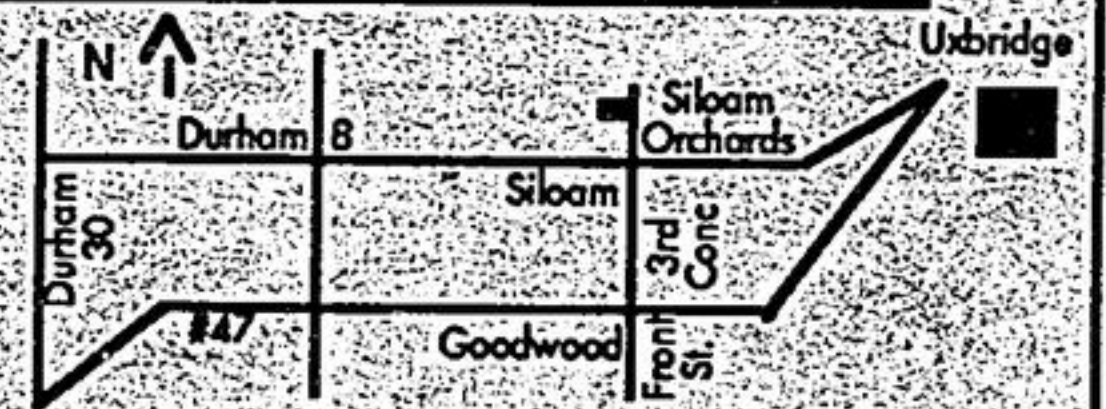
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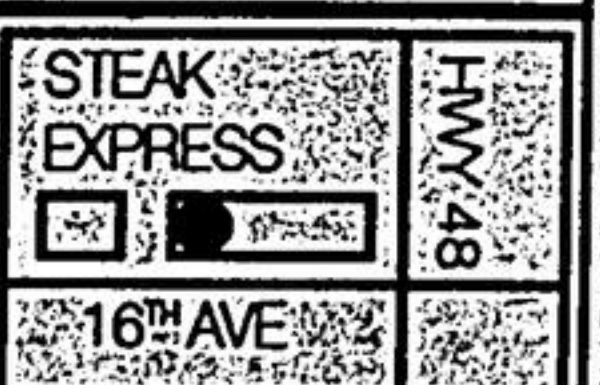
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