

Keep pets safe at home and cottage this summer

With the arrival of spring and summer, pets become exposed to various potentially harmful situations. Poisonous substances and run-ins with other animals (both domestic and wild) are just a few of the things that can prove hazardous for pets.

Poisonous Plants and Toxic Substances

Warmer weather brings with it several potential hazards to pets. The emergence of poisonous plants can pose a danger to animals. Buttercups, rhododendrons and rhubarb are three common poisonous plants.

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, gardening and painting and these activities

involve the use of harmful chemicals. Often, these substances, such as herbicides and pesticides, are not necessary and should be avoided. All toxic material should be locked away when not in use. Harmful substances that have been spilled should be immediately and thoroughly cleaned up.

If a pet has been poisoned, it is important to act quickly and responsibly. Always have the phone number of your veterinarian (including their emergency number) nearby. If an animal has, or appears to have, been poisoned, call your veterinarian immediately for advice. Minutes can make the difference life and death. Have the name of the active ingredient of the poison or the plant at hand, and, if possible, a rough idea of

the amount of poison involved. Animals suspected of having ingested, absorbed through the skin, or inhaled a toxic substance may show one or more of the following signs: vomiting, diarrhea, staggering, unco-ordination, breathing difficulties, convulsions, collapse, death.

For more information regarding poisonous plants and other toxic substances, you can call the poison control centre in your area. It is a good idea to have this phone number readily accessible as well.

Vaccinations and Canine Heartworm Disease

Pets require protection from disease. Always ensure that your companion animals are kept up-to-date with their vaccinations. As well, canine

heartworm disease is a serious ailment that is caused by the filarial worm and spread by mosquitos. Talk to your veterinarian about how to protect your dog from this disease.

Pets in Cottage Country

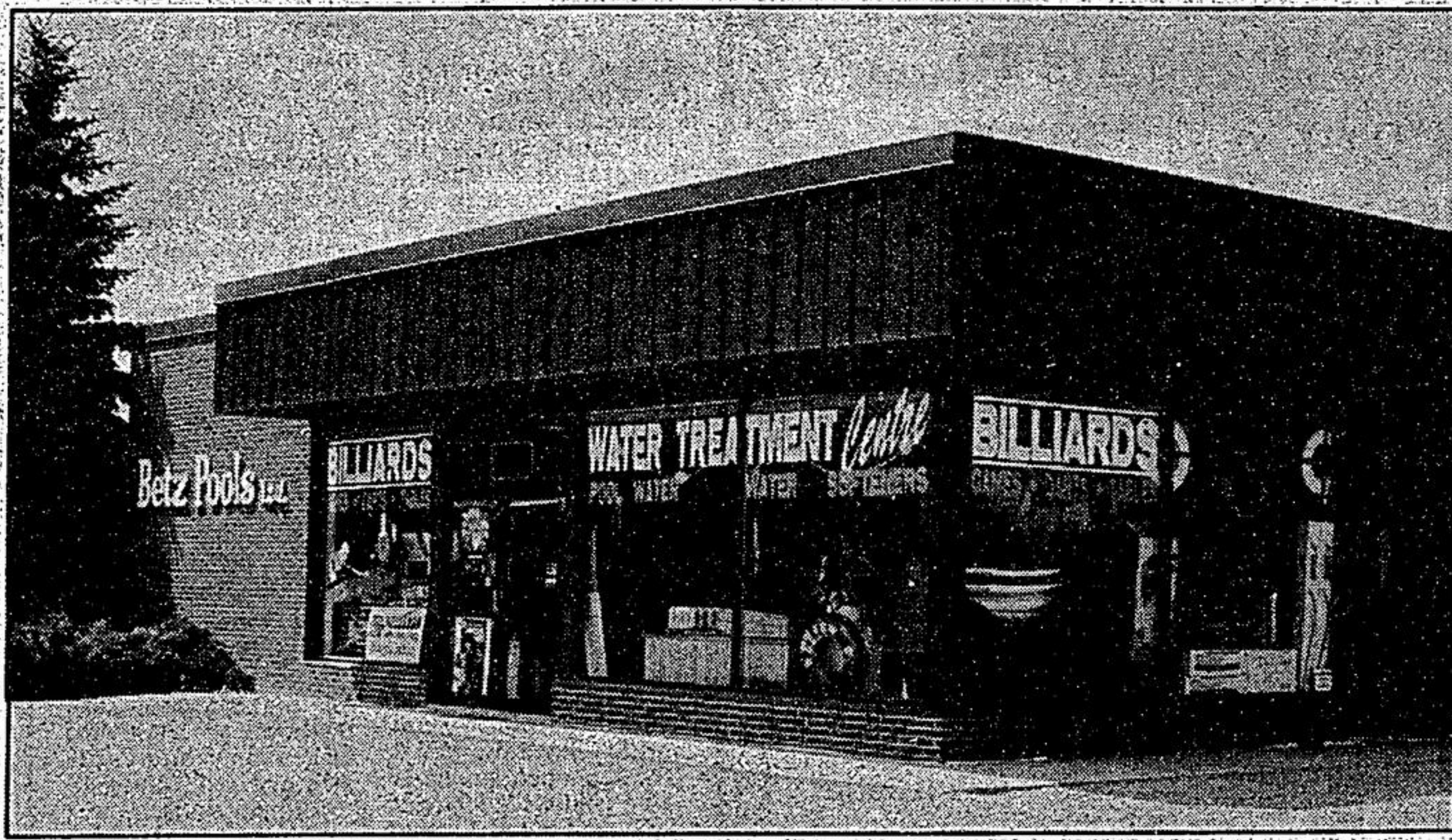
Pets who accompany their families to the cottage often face various hazards that they are not normally exposed to. Many pet owners allow their pets to run at large at the cottage. Unfortunately, many pets allowed to run at large become lost, hit by cars, get into fights with other animals, etc. Dogs and cats should be safely confined to their owner's property and be equipped with effective identification that can be easily traced (ie. personalized tag, including the cottage and home

phone numbers and their area codes). It is advisable to have the phone number (including the emergency number) of a local veterinarian where you are vacationing.

If you take your pet in a boat, ensure that it cannot jump, or be thrown, out of the boat. It is a good idea to equip your pet with a life jacket. There are flotation devices available that have been designed for pets of different sizes.

The cottage is a wonderful place to spend the summer. Learning about the potential hazards your pet could be exposed to and making sure that your four-legged family member is kept out of harm's way is an important step towards ensuring an enjoyable holiday in cottage country.

FOCUS ON BUSINESS



In business for 51 years, Betz Pools is a full service pool company specializing in custom gunite pools. This year, the company has expanded to include vinyl and above-ground models.

Betz Pools: For the best in pool sales and service for 51 years

Quality. Service. Selection. Three good reasons why Betz Pools has been serving the Markham/Stouffville area for more than 50 years.

Owned and operated by Marvin and Keith Betz, Betz Pools specializes in the construction of custom gunite pools and spas. In the 51 years they have been in business, they have won over 300 awards from the Canadian Spa and Pool Association for their innovative designs.

Recently, the company has expanded its horizons to include vinyl pools - only because it has taken this long for technology to advance to meet the Betz Pool standard. The new vinyl division features the firm's own line of

pools, designed with Betz Pool's input.

"Betz Pools has built its success on quality," said Store Manager Scott Richardson. "There are cheaper pool builders out there - we've been competing with them all along - but some of our pools are 30 years old and they're still in good shape."

Also, this year Betz has introduced the "Betz Card", a ten year all-inclusive guarantee - the industry's first "bumper-to-bumper" pool guarantee.

Betz Pools is a complete service company. Not only will they build your pool, they'll build your fences, decking, cabana, do your landscaping...anything that's required.

Using a computer-aided design system, the staff landscape architect is able to put the client's backyard on the computer and produce a selection of blueprints to choose from.

A full renovation department specializes in refurbishing old pools - a trend that is growing in popularity, said Richardson.

Experience has taught us how to accommodate any special requirements at each installation," said Richardson. "We've built pools on islands, lakeshores..."

Located on Main St., Stouffville, the store offers a full line of BioGuard pool and spa chemicals, a wide variety of filters and pumps by Jacuzzi and Sta-Rite, pool cleaners, toys and games. Store staff attend the BioGuard pool school annually to upgrade their skills, and service mechanics receive extensive training as well.

Computerized water analysis is offered free-of-charge to store customers, and a running record is kept on file for their 700 customers.

Betz Pools also carries the Coral Bay line of spas, as well as billiards, darts, model race car and train sets.

Betz Pools is located at 5688 Main Street in Stouffville. Call 640-1424 for more information.

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