

# Time for province to strengthen animal cruelty laws

The press release read, "Just as the Ontario Society for Prevention to Cruelty to Animal staff administered examinations and grooming to 34 dogs rescued from a farm near Alliston, another 24 dogs from the same farm arrived at the Whitchurch-Stouffville-based animal centre."



Joan Ransberry

This was not a once-in-a-lifetime event. Last summer, a story published in York Region newspapers read, "An endless stream of quivering, anxious little dogs entered the small grooming room."

Most submitted to brushing, clipping and bathing with nary a whimper, too scared to resist. Many shivered violently, some defecated as we held them in our arms."

This press release focused on the needs of the 180 dogs rescued from a Vaughan farm.

Such a sad story not only reminded us of people's inhumanity towards people, but our inhumanity towards puppies.

Some dogs from the Vaughan puppy mill raid were too sick to help and had to be put down.

After a great deal of work, skill and tender loving care, the good people at the OSPCA were able to return most of the puppies to reasonable health.

When word spread that 180 little dogs had landed on the doorstep of the just-opened OSPCA headquarters, the public rallied. People arrived at the Woodbine Avenue shelter and lined up to donate cash, dog food, blankets and to fill out adoption applications.

The jury is no longer out. For the most part, people care about each other and about the well being of animals.

It's also obvious that existing laws regarding cruelty to animals aren't doing the job.

Since the OSPCA saw fit to put its anchor down in our backyard, residents across the region seem to rise to the occasion to share the responsibility.

As a community, let's stand up for the dogs once again. We're not only being asked to help by making financial donations and adopting the 54 shelties,

cockapoos and terriers; we can also help lobby the provincial government to toughen existing laws linked to abuse in animals.

No doubt, we all agree: Those responsible for the abuse must be made accountable.

If, as recommended, they are adopted, amendments to the federal government's Bill C-15B will accomplish the following:

- make it an offense to brutally or viciously kill any animals;

- make it an offense to abandon or fail to provide suitable and adequate food, water, air, shelter and care for an animal;

- remove animal cruelty from the property crimes section of the Criminal Code recognizing animals are living beings that feel pain;

- toughen penalties for convictions of animal cruelty by increasing the existing

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\$2,000 fine to an unlimited amount to be determined by a judge;

- increasing jail time from six months to five years.

Since Bill C-15B is up for third reading in the House of Commons, it will be passed soon.

While former Minister of Justice Anne McLellan has shown leadership in urging her government to put some teeth in existing animal cruelty laws, the Ontario government has basically sat idle, stalling on real and meaningful amendments to the OSPCA Act which would greatly help investigations.

Join me in appealing to MPPs across York Region to strengthen the laws linked to animal cruelty.

In the light of the latest puppy mill raid, an immediate provincial governmental response is in order. Keep in mind, last summer, the OSPCA removed more than 500 dogs from puppy-mills.

Enough is enough. Call your MPP.

## FRESH ASPARAGUS

We sell lots of fresh asparagus because (a) we always buy the very best quality available (b) we take lots of care in handling it which translates into the best eating enjoyment, and (c) we charge a fair price.

**1.99** lb.



## CHICKEN CUTLETS

This is one of our more popular meat counter preparations. We begin with our chicken breasts and flatten them so they'll cook quickly, we bread them with egg, crumbs and a French herb seasoning - and voila! - a quick and tasty meal that can be served on a bun or on a plate with your veggies (and fries).

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

Reg. \$9.95 lb.

## CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

Ever had trouble finding the chicken in chicken soup? Ever wonder what it was made of if there was no chicken?

No further worries about that here. We make chicken noodle soup using lots of chicken (and noodles) with the cooked-all-day, grand-motherly flavour of days gone by. It's really good.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

Reg. \$5.49

Serves 3 - 4

## SMOKED TURKEY DRUMSTICKS

In case you missed out last week, we've made another batch of our now famous smoked turkey drumsticks.

**99¢** ea.

When they're gone they're gone!

## DOUBLE CHOCOLATE LOAVES

These are an amazing loaf, and according to one of our long-time customers, Jack Lambersky, we don't make them nearly often enough. It's the same batter as our rich chocolate cake, but it's in a loaf size and it's drizzled with white chocolate.

**1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

Reg. \$4.50 ea.

## DOREEN'S OLD-FASHIONED MAC AND CHEESE

This is perfect for those evenings when your family is busy and hungry, yet want a wholesome, home-cooked meal. Macaroni and Cheese, a perennial favourite with everyone, is one of our hottest-selling dinners. We use extra-old cheddar (the older the better), elbows and buttered crumbs. All you need to do is pop it in the oven for about an hour. The kids will love it and you will too!

Reg. \$10.95 ea.

Serves 3 - 4

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

## DOREEN'S RICE PUDDING

This is Doreen's dusted-off recipe from the past. It's slow cooked and finished with a touch of cinnamon.

Really good! (500 ml)

**4.99** ea.

## BARTLETT PEARS

Although I'll eat any pear and enjoy it, my family loves Bartlett Pears. "If it's not a Bartlett, don't bring it home!" So this week, it's Bartlett pears arriving from Argentina.

They're size '90' which is nice and large.

Enjoy them!

**99¢** ea.

## APPLE & ALLSPICE SAUSAGES

Apples and pork is already a good flavour combination. Add the allspice and apple cider and you'll find flavour of a higher order.

Reg. \$3.99 lb.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

These are a unique Mennonite open-faced pie which we make on an occasional basis. They keep very well, and while their flavour improves over time, their visual appeal diminishes but we do make them often enough to keep those customers who love them well supplied.

This week they'll be available in spiced apple, apple-cherry and apple-pear.

It's a great pie!

Reg. \$10.95 ea.

(Small are available as well)

## FINI BALSAMIC VINEGAR

This vinegar is the genuine article - it's made in Modena, Italy, the same way that it's been made since the Middle Ages.

A great seasoning!

Regular \$9.95 ea.

500 ml size.

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

## OUR LEMON CAKES!

Jaana and her crew made me the most wonderful cake for my recent birthday (29th) and it very quickly disappeared at home - in fact, Cathy ate most of it!

Surprise, surprise, another appeared yesterday and it's already quite depleted, as we speak.

What's so nice about it is that it's fairly light (white cake) with a layer of our homemade lemon curd, iced with what seemed like a not-so-sweet icing, and it was tastefully decorated.

We loved it so much that we've made it for everyone this week.

Reg. \$12.95 ea.

Buy 2, you'll need them!

**1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

## SCHNITZ PIE WEEK!

**1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

**the VILLAGE GROCER**  
QUALITY FOODS

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Sat. 9:00-6:00 - Sun. 10:00-5:00

548 Carlton Road, Unionville

940-1770

## ASTHMA?

We can help. Call The Lung Association

THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

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