

Runaway horse keeps residents on toes

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

Sometimes, cooing a gentle "here horsey, here horsey," just doesn't do the trick. The people trying to woo a runaway horse in East Gwillimbury are finding that out the hard way.

While the owner of the pregnant mare has tried various ways to convince her to come back home to her Mount Albert Road farm, nothing has worked so far.

Meanwhile, residents of the Mount Albert area have taken quite an interest in the wandering animal.

For the past three weeks, Joanne Gosnell and others have been keeping their eyes open. More often than not, they see the horse. Mrs. Gosnell has spotted it several times.

"It goes from field to field in the area," she said.

"It's disheartening to see it," Mrs. Gosnell added. "I feel for this horse and I've worried it could get hit by a car."

This is no mild-mannered animal. "Apparently, this horse is quite wild," Mrs. Gosnell said.

"The owner has done numerous things to try to get her back."

While residents in the area have reported the horse to authorities, the owner has made "several attempts" to capture the animal, said Brian Pemberton, director of communication for the Ontario Society for the Prevention for Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA).

As well as notifying the OSPCA office, a veterinarian has tried to administer a tranquilizer on three occasions.

Mr. Pemberton stressed progress is being made, however. The horse is now confined to a field in another farm.

With permission from the farm owner, the horse has access to food and water.

A plan is in the works to bring in another horse in the hope it can lead her home.

"All these attempts are being made by the owner," Mr. Pemberton said. "He's doing just about everything he can to get this horse home."



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