



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Yorkshire terrier Bear sits in the helmet of Michael Cole (right) who will ride with Tim O'Hara, chapter president of the Dirty Dogs Motorcycle Club, in the Charity Run for the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals June 18. They are collecting blankets, toys and pet food for the OntarioSPCA.

Dirty Dogs ride for dogs

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

The Dirty Dogs Motorcycle Club will take to the road on June 18 to show it cares about animals.

Joining the ride at 9:30 a.m. is the Falcons Motorcycle Club.

About 50 recreational motorcyclists are expected to gather on Main Street, Unionville to participate in the third annual Dirty Dogs for Dogs ride.

The ride runs from Timothy's Coffee Shop in Unionville to the

Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) headquarters on Woodbine Avenue in Whitchurch-Stouffville, near the Newmarket border.

Throughout the year, members of the Dirty Dogs have been collecting sheets, towels, blankets, dog food and doggie toys.

"All the donated items will go to the animals at the OSPCA," club president Tim O'Hara said.

"Last year, the Dirty Dogs collected 600 pounds of dog food, while it took a van three

trips to carry all the other donated items, including the blankets to the OSPCA office," Mr. O'Hara said. "We want to make sure the animals don't have to sleep on the cement floor."

Mr. O'Hara pointed out the OSPCA depends on volunteer donations.

"The OSPCA is not funded by the government," he said.

Anyone interested in making a donation, call Mr. O'Hara at 416-908-6471 or 905-470-7384.

Motorcycle club opposes proposed parking ban

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A move to restrict evening and weekend parking on Unionville's Main Street has the Dirty Dogs Motorcycle Club revved up.

Members of the recreational motorcycle group who participate in fundraisers say the plan will dampen their activities.

Club members like to park their bikes along Main Street and the public welcomes them, Dirty Dogs president Tim O'Hara said.

Wedding parties often approach the club members and ask if they can have their pictures taken with the motorcycles, Mr. O'Hara said.

"This goes on all the time. Also children really enjoy looking at the bikes. It's a positive thing for the street," he said.

Mr. O'Hara made the comments following a public meeting last week at the Markham Civic Centre, where Unionville's Business Improvement Area (BIA) proposed parking restrictions.

The BIA recommends no parking on the west side of Main Street from Carlton Road to Station Lane Monday to Friday after 6 p.m. and at all times on weekends and holidays from April 1 to

Oct. 31 as a pilot project.

While the Dirty Dogs are against the move, a great majority of the 40 people at the meeting supported the proposal.

The plan is realistic since all offices are closed during the evening and on weekends, BIA president Gregory McCormick said.

"The time we chose is the lowest demand time," he said.

The plan affects about 40 parking spots, meeting chairperson Councillor Joe Virgilio told the audience.

"The purpose is to enhance streetscape," Mr. Virgilio said. "We want to put life into the area."

Jerry Sikranc suggested the entire Main Street be closed to traffic. A shuttle service could bring people to the downtown core, he said.

"It's time we stepped outside of the box," Mr. Sikranc said. "Unionville is a jewel. Let's get all the cars off the street. If we did, we'd have wall to wall people up and down Main Street."

Walking downtown is becoming difficult, Kimberley Kwan told the audience.

"It's awkward going around the cars with a stroller," she said. "There are people with their children and with their dogs and they can't get around the cars."

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