

Cold draws rats indoors

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inquiries about rats in the past year, Barb Cheung said.

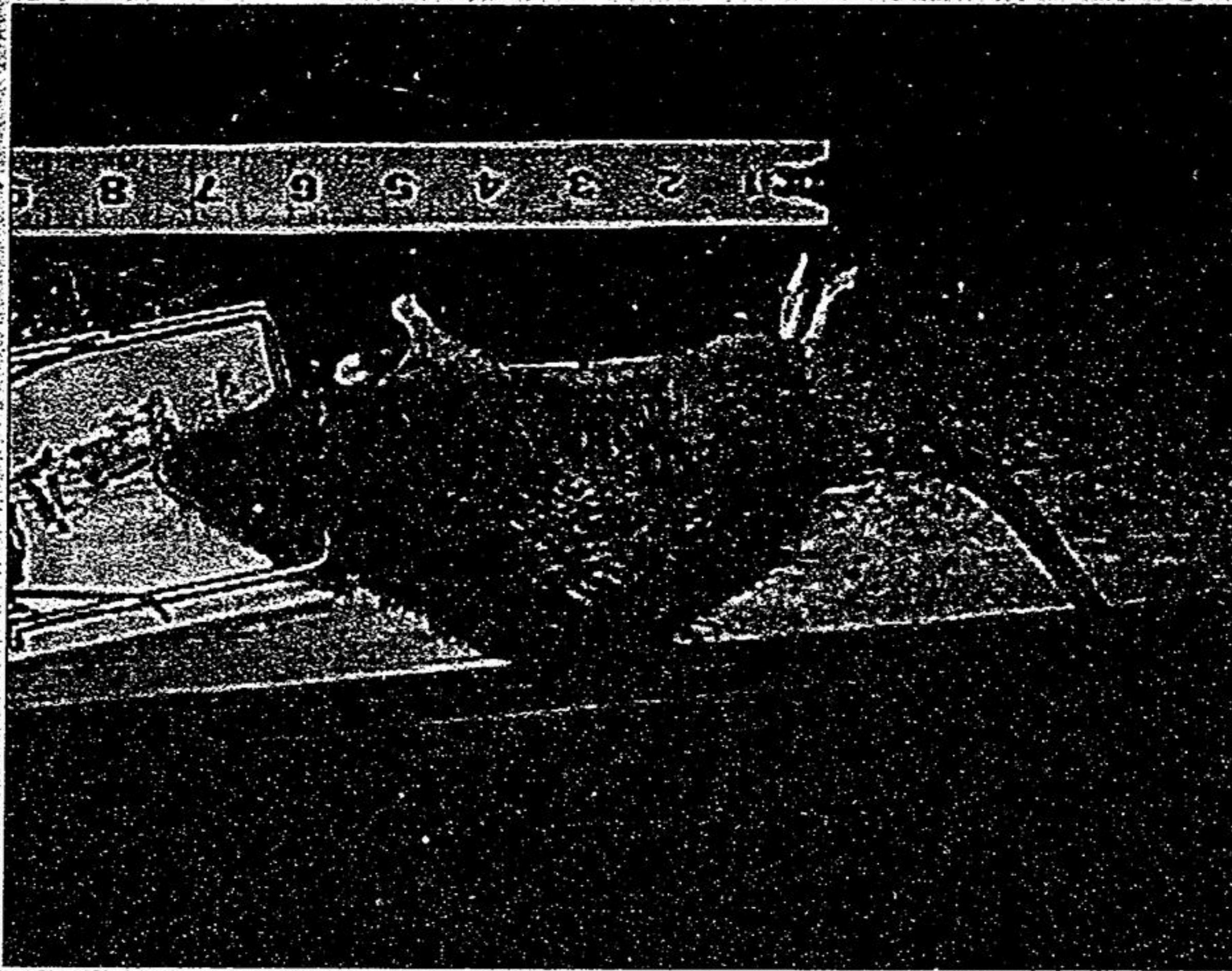
She is the senior public health inspector with Health Connection of York Region Health.

She also advises residents to eliminate sources of food and to make sure the doors of their homes and garages are kept closed so the rodents can't get in.

Rodents are more likely to try to come indoors when the weather turns colder.

York Region Health advises people to call a pest control expert if they are having problems with rodents and to also call their municipality's property standards department.

For more information, call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653.



PETER MARKLE PHOTO

The Markle family of Stouffville trapped a rat in their back yard this month. Neighbours also spotted rats in the area, in the Thicketwood Boulevard neighbourhood near Stouffville Memorial Park.

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United Way launches \$9M campaign

BY SIMONE JOSEPH
Staff Writer

More than \$100,000 raised for the United Way of York Region will go toward ensuring you don't need to travel long distances to access social services.

The fourth annual AMD Dragon Boat Festival raised \$111,000, a 6 per cent increase from last year's race.

The festival, held Saturday at the King campus of Seneca College, is the kick-off to the United Way's 2007 fundraising campaign which runs until early December.

This year's goal is \$9 million.

The United Way, through funding its member agencies, serves those with mental health issues, newcomers and immigrants, the homeless and victims of domestic violence and abuse.

Money raised from the boat races will be used to provide local services.

"An individual with depression or mental health issues will have access to services, whether he or she is in Maple, Milliken Mills or Keswick. It is bringing services closer to where people are," United Way of York Region CEO Daniele Zanotti said.

Last year's campaign goal was \$8.5 million and the organization raised \$8.5 million.

Go to www.uwyr.on.ca for more on the United Way of York Region.

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