

Dear Editor:

ATTENTION ANIMAL LOVERS

Did you know that household pets are being caught in cruel leg-hold traps here in Chaffey's?

Just last week while walking my dogs on the point of land just past the Lock, they came across a helpless grey tabby cat caught by the right paw in a trap. Had I not been right there with my dogs, they would, no doubt, have killed it. Fortunately they did direct my attention to her plight and after tying them up some distance from her, I went back to release her leg.

She will probably lose some of her claws and most certainly will have a very sore leg!

Do trappers have to set traps so close to our houses that our pets are liable to be caught?

As an animal lover, I will never forget the look of pain and shock on that cat's face! How many hours had it been there -- helpless?

How often do trappers tend their traps? Do they skin out the muskrats and leave the carcasses nearby to attract meat-eating animals? One of my dogs picked up a partly decomposed carcass on the shoreline.

I do not condemn trapping on the whole, but I think these men should trap away from populated areas. I understand there is a more humane type of trap that kills the animal as soon as it is touched.

For years I worked with the Humane Society to outlaw leg-hold traps. We may have to accept them, but can the trappers not set them on islands or remote shorelines where household pets will not get caught?

I am concerned----how about you?
Concerned Animal Lover,
Mrs. Thea Dodge



The Staff of the North Leeds Lantern wish all our readers a happy and safe Holiday Season.

North Leeds LANTERN



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COMMUNITY TELEPHONE RATE INCREASE

Most of you are aware of the fact that petitions have been circulating throughout the areas served by the Community Telephone Company in response to their proposed rate increase. These petitions must be received by the Ontario Telephone Service Commission by the 30th of Nov. in order to force a hearing by this commission in our own area.

The Seeley's Bay petition has done remarkably well, boasting well over four hundred signatures and seven copies of the petition have been sent by registered mail to the following places:

- (1) Ont. Telephone Service Commission
- (2) James Auld
- (3) Earl McEwen
- (4) Tom Cossitt
- (5) Community Telephone Company
- (6) C.B.C. Ombudsman
- (7) Kingston Whig Standard

We are presently in possession of a letter from Tom Cossitt offering his support and Mr. Auld's office has been in contact regularly to discuss the problem at hand and the most effective means of fighting the rate increase. At present, there are twenty four areas in Ontario served by Community Telephone and Mr. Auld has informed us that all twenty four areas have submitted petitions and enlisted the aid of their local provincial member of parliament to fight the increase. We have strength in numbers, so let's pull together and fight to end unjust rate increases. We work hard to earn our money, isn't it time Community Telephone had to do the same?

ATTENTION VETERANS

Some disturbing information regarding the processing of veterans' disability pensions has recently been brought to light. As a result of questions posed in the House of Commons, the Minister of Veterans' Affairs advises that as of this September, the average processing time of original applications is 6.3 months. As of September 30, 1979, 77 claims had been outstanding for a period of 12 months or more. When a negative decision is rendered on an initial application, it takes an average of 8 months before the claim is heard by an entitlement board. To make matters worse, it is the intention of this government to move the department to Charlottetown, P.E.I. and it is expected that the further processing of applications will result.

Some members of Rideau Lakes Branch 231 are of the opinion that many veterans are unaware of their rights and that many more are experiencing unnecessary delays and denials of their entitlements. As a result, Mr. Lou Mitchell is co-ordinating their efforts to arrange a seminar to deal with the situation. Veterans are encouraged to attend at the Portland Community Hall on Wed., Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. Representatives from the Ministry will be in attendance to explain entitlements and procedures and to answer any questions you may have. You may also wish to express any concerns you have and discuss them with you fellow veterans.

Anyone wishing to help with the arrangements should contact Mr. John Greenhorn, Secretary of Branch 231, R.R.#2 Elgin. It would be of assistance to the organizers if anyone planning to attend would complete the box below and clip and mail it to Mr. Greenhorn at the above address.

I PLAN TO ATTEND THE SEMINAR FOR VETERANS ON JANUARY 16.
NAME _____
REGIMENT NO. _____

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