

Death policy: 'play it by ear'

Humane staff, director save dogs

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whether the man was selling them for profit.

Millard had earlier proposed a non-profit project to the board whereby he would adopt dogs slated to be killed, train them and give them to good homes free of charge, asking only for a donation in return.

Board members were hesitant about the project because it violated society policy, which states the humane society must know who adopts dogs.

However, former Peel society president Don Clarkson, who had worked with Millard on a pilot run of the project, recommended the idea to the board, provided there were controls.

Clarkson resigned in October from the board because of feelings of frustration with the shelter management and head office. The Millard project has since been shelved.

Former staffers and some members of the board of directors say Loscombe's criteria for animals slated to be killed are far too severe.

All claim there have been signs posted in the shelter which dictate that dogs bearing litters, dogs more than nine months old and not spayed or neutered, and dogs more than two years old without immunization shots be destroyed.

The signs also specify that all cats older than nine months are killed.

Loscombe denied that animals were being destroyed needlessly. She said the guidelines exist in the shelter, but "I play it by ear depending on the animal."

"We have 250 cats every month and only 20 or 30 at the most are adopted. What do you do with them? If we've

got too many dogs, I tend to hang on to the dogs that are spayed."

Loscombe said figures for the year

on the number of animals adopted and destroyed at the shelter were not yet available.

The latest figures she would release were for November, which stated that 100 out of 127 dogs had been adopted

and 79 out of 100 cats were adopted.

However, Loscombe added that the high adoption rate was due to Christmas and more than half of the pets would likely be returned after the holiday season.

"If Joe Q. Public would take its responsibilities, we would not have to put the animals down," said Loscombe. "Yet people come and blame us when we have to do it."

Controversy has surrounded the Peel branch of the Ontario Humane Society ever since a report criticizing the operation of the shelter was released by the society's board of directors last month.

The Ontario society is now negotiating a contract for animal control with the city. Last year the Ontario society received \$95,000 from the city.

In the last few years, the Ontario Humane Society has lost several municipal contracts. Because of debts incurred, the loss of the Peel contract, one of the largest, may mean bankruptcy for the organization.

Tom Hughes, executive vice-president of the Ontario Humane Society, dismissed the idea of the society going bankrupt as a "ridiculous suggestion."

"How can you go bankrupt when you are already losing money? We have always subsidized the Peel animal shelter. The city only pays for part of the operation costs and for the past three years they are not giving us what they should."

"We are doing an extremely good job which they can't begin to do themselves for the money we're given. Mississauga is getting a bargain."



Citizen to fight Official Plan

By JOHN STEWART
Times staff writer

A ward 2 citizen has written a letter of objection to the Ministry of Housing about Mississauga's new Official Plan, suggesting that controls for phased development "have been almost eliminated" from the Plan.

William Moir, a resident of Embassy Avenue in the Southdown Orchards area, says he objects to the Plan on several bases.

One is that the vote to adopt it was taken "in illegal overtime." On the night in early July when council approved the Plan, Moir says a motion was passed to continue the meeting until midnight. He claims the vote was taken after midnight, but no motion to extend the meeting past 12 a.m. was placed.

The clock in council chambers showed that it was after midnight, but the official minutes of the meeting say that adjournment took place at midnight.

Moir also objects because: prime agricultural land is designated for development; there was a "public outcry" in favor of phasing which he says council ignored;

and the reasons supporting council's decision were inadequate.

The resident says that with the provision for phasing of development reduced to a series of criteria against which development applications are to be measured, it will be more difficult for the city to do long-range planning. If a geographical pattern of development were laid down, he feels a great deal of taxpayers' money would be saved.

"City planners should be better qualified than councillors to handle phasing," says Moir. "If not, council should question their selection of planning personnel." He adds that, "planning personnel who must follow a set phasing plan are less susceptible to being corrupted than city councillors who have no rules to follow."

In the original conception of phasing, recommendations by planners would have been reviewed by council before a decision was made. But now there will be no one to "override" council, he says.

Moir's objection is one of four received so far by the Ministry of Housing. The ministry has

advised the city of the objections and planning staff plans to meet with the objectors to try to resolve their problems. If they can't be resolved, the objectors have the option of asking that the Plan be referred to the Ontario Municipal Board for a public hearing.

The other objections have been received from the Association of Peel People Evaluating Agricultural Land, Markborough Properties Limited and from citizen Dit Hoerz, who has already asked for an OMB hearing.

Howard Barton of the Official Plans branch of the Ministry of Housing says he is "pleasantly surprised" at the few objections to the Plan for a city the size of Mississauga. The lack of objections from citizens and from other agencies who have been asked to comment on the Plan is largely attributed to the extensive consultation by other levels of government during the

preparation of the Plan and the extensive public participation program. No provincial Ministries have yet expressed serious concerns with the Plan.

The Ministry will meet with city staff about changes it would like to see in the Plan after its review. Those requests will then be presented to council by the planning staff.

Mayor Hazel McCallion has already indicated that she would like to see a stricter form of phasing reinstated in the Plan. Depending on the form of those changes and how they fit in with the rest of the Plan, Barton says a new phasing section could simply "plug into" the Plan, or a whole new submission may have to be made.

If the new city council wish to do so, it can rescind the bylaw which approved the Official Plan at any time and reconsider the Plan's content.

Teams on Patrol

Civic forces plan to TOP vandalism

Several teenagers may be organized into a community action group in an effort to prevent acts of vandalism by their peers this summer.

The group, called Teams on Patrol (TOP) by its creator Vivian Franks, will be co-ordinated by the anti-vandal body Counter-Act, Mississauga Recreation and Parks Department and the Peel police.

Franks, involved in Counter-Act programs against vandalism, told The Times establishment of TOP next summer depends on availability of Youth Canada grants.

"It will have to be a co-operative effort," Franks says. "We may employ six to eight high school students and one university student. The

university student, who should be studying sociology or psychology, will organize the high school students."

TOP members would patrol shopping plazas and other teen "hang-outs" during the summer and talk to young people about city recreation programs and how they can get involved in the community.

Counter-Act is aimed at developing programs for youth which will curb vandalism, according to Franks.

She says the TOP idea was first used in Oshawa last summer, where it was moderately successful.

Times photographer wins award from firefighters

A Times photographer has won the award from the Mississauga Firefighters Association for the best fire photograph of 1978.

Ken Kerr, 26, won the award for his photograph of the Texaco refinery fire which appeared in the Oct. 4 edition of The Times.

A graduate of the journalism program at Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology, Kerr has worked at The Times for the past year and a half.

Elliott Hastings, president of the firefighters association, said a committee of three judges selected Kerr's photograph from newspaper shots showing firefighters battling blazes.

"It's been quite a busy year for the department and we've had more opportunity for selection," Hastings said. "We chose The Times' shot because it best portrays the operation of the department and reflects newspaper coverage of firefighters."

Kerr said he didn't consider his shot the best taken by any photographer that day, but

believes luck was on his side. A policeman had ordered him to move away from the refinery fire and he had asked to take one last shot.

"It thought at the time that I needed a longer lens, but in retrospect, I believe the picture conveys a sense of man battling the elements that a close-up could not convey," Kerr said.

"Spot-news photography is two-thirds expertise and equipment and one-third luck. You could have all the equipment and training in the world, but if luck isn't on your side, you'll just get a snap-shot photo."

Kerr was named the photographer of the month last August by the Ontario News Photographers Association and has won the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources photo contest twice. He has also had his work published in Photo Life magazine.

Kerr will be presented with his award at the firefighters' banquet in February.

The Mississauga News won the award for best fire story of 1978.