

Overburdened SPCA looks to build animal shelter

Jonathon Naylor
Staff Writer

The SPCA has turned to the city for help in establishing a shelter for homeless pets.

In a recent letter to city council, member Harry Hobbs said the organization prefers a serviced lot within city limits but is prepared to look at unserviced lots provided the location is reasonably accessible.

"We seek your support in assisting us to get land and a very much-needed animal shelter in our community," wrote Hobbs, who offered to have his property committee meet to discuss the situation.

The letter stated that the shelter could be built on an unserviced lot, but the SPCA would require "the assistance and support of the city to bring the lot to the standard we would need to erect a building."

Hobbs wrote that the SPCA was previously told there is no available property in the city for this project, but Coun. Dave Kennedy disputed that.

"I guess I was a little concerned they kept repeating in the letter that there was no land available. I don't think that's quite accurate," said Coun. Kennedy.

"It may not be appropriate for them to use, but there is certainly some sites that we suggested and were prepared to go ahead with," he added without going into further detail.

It's also the SPCA's understanding that a



PHOTO BY JONATHON NAYLOR

Earlier this year, SPCA volunteers posed with some of the many animals in need of homes.

shelter could not be located near a residential area, Hobbs wrote.

Coun. Bill Hanson said he gave the organization that information but was speaking only for himself, not council.

Still, Mayor Tom Therien agreed with Coun. Hanson's perspective.

"I don't think I'd want us to burden a neighbourhood with that," said the mayor. "I mean it's a nice idea to have an SPCA [shelter], but it's got to be in the right place."

Council referred the matter to the Committee of the

Whole for further discussion.

Attached to Hobbs' letter was a write-up by SPCA President Debbie Hiebert making the case for a shelter.

"Today our organization is working with severe limitations," wrote Hiebert. "Because we don't have a building of our own, we are unable to help as many animals as need our help. Only the lucky ones come under our care and protection — in other words, we're just touching the tip of the iceberg."

Hiebert went on to note that for every ani-

mal taken in, it's likely that 10 are turned down.

"And those are just the ones I get phone calls about," she wrote.

"So many out there just slip between the cracks."

~~Main St. project delay~~

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~~L~~ingering ground frost has delayed the start of the Main Street piping replacement project by nearly a week.

Major work was originally slated to begin tomorrow, May 1, but will now get underway next Monday, May 7, the City of Flin Flon has announced.

However, a small amount of preliminary

~~work will still be conducted over two days this week near RBC Royal Bank.~~

The whole street will not be blocked off, and traffic should be able to proceed fairly normally, the city said, adding that two or three parking spaces will be taken up to route traffic.

The city's temporary uptown parking rules designed to keep more spots open for shoppers are now not expected

to come into effect until May 7.

With an estimated price tag as high as \$1.4 million, this major project will replace all sewer, water and storm sewer lines between the First Avenue and Third Avenue intersections.

Some of the existing piping dates back to the early 1950s, a fact reflected in the line breaks that have become increasingly common over the years.