

Sloppy cleaning won't be tolerated by president

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"Bad odours are the result of inefficient and sloppy cleaning, something I will not tolerate," stated Hiebert.

Hiebert further said the facility would feature air-to-air heat exchangers to ensure a fresh air supply, while venting would be run from the front of the building, opposite the residential area, with garbage taken to the dump daily.

The SPCA president referenced the Joe Brain Children's Petting Zoo, which is already located in a residential area and, unlike the shelter would, keeps some animals outside.

"I've never heard anyone complain about the zoo," said Hiebert. "Rather, I find the immediate residents find it a novelty and nice to have in their area."

But the reservations surrounding the project did not end there, as concerns surfaced that the shelter would only add to a large volume of traffic stemming from Northern Bus Lines and nearby McKeen's Trucking Ltd.

"We've had enough (traffic)," said one man.

Hiebert noted that

permission has been secured to build an access road connected to the company road, opposite McKeen Avenue. If the building gets the go-ahead, she said the SPCA will apply for a permanent entrance at that location.

Furthermore, Hiebert said, the building will not generate evening traffic because it will have daytime hours and feature a locking gate at night.

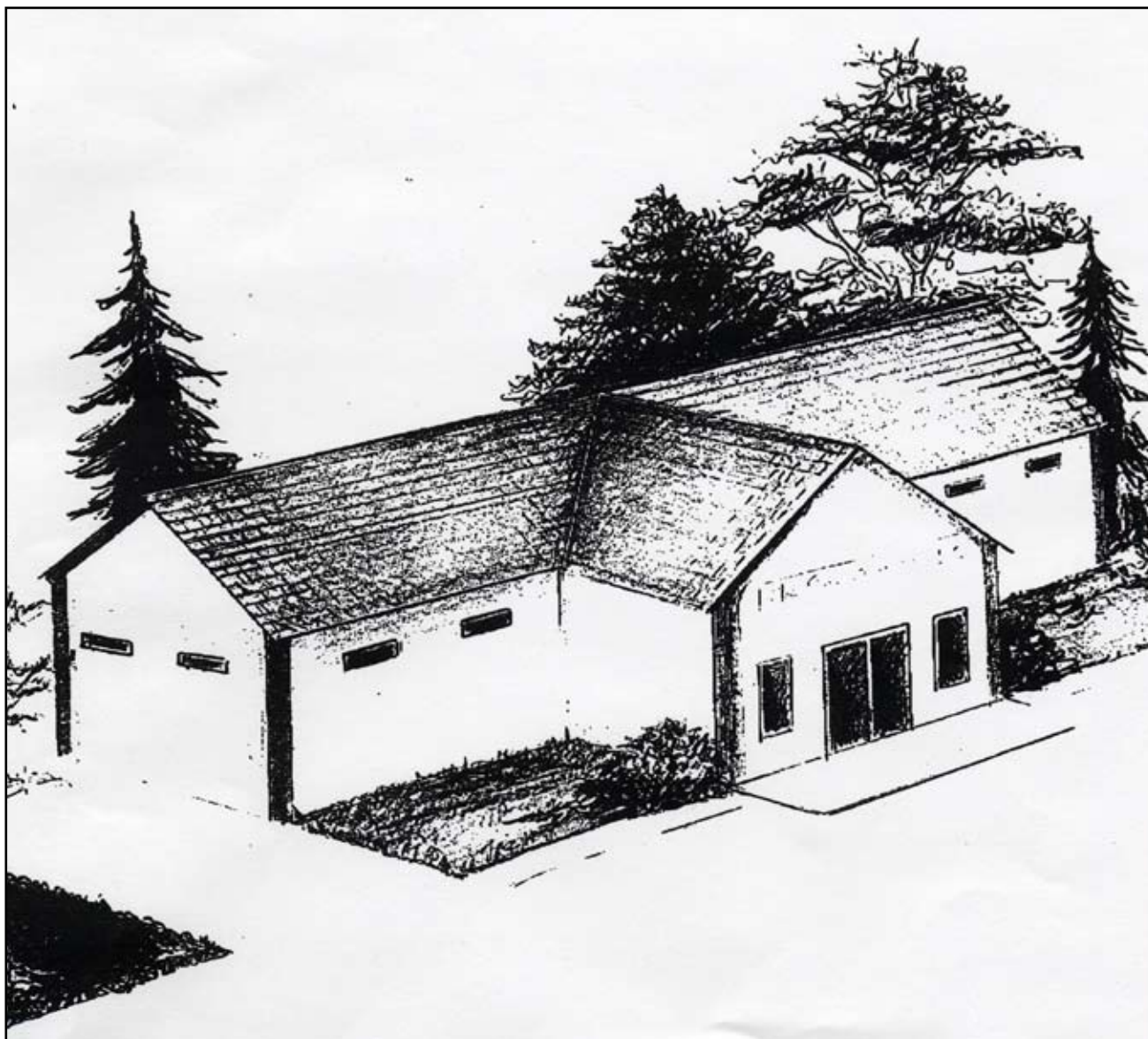
Talk of vehicular traffic led to worries about traffic of the four-legged variety. At least two people suggested the shelter would lure other animals.

"You're going to have every dog in the country sitting outside that place," asserted an attendee.

In a similar vein, agitation was expressed that a string of unwanted animals may simply be abandoned outside the building.

Hiebert assured that the neighbourhood would not be overrun with strays, mentioning the shelter will have regular hours to accept animals and that someone will be on-call after hours to deal with any such incidents.

Another source of exacerbation had noth-



The SPCA supplied The Reminder with this artist's conception of what the building would look like.

ing to do with the actual building, but with the lack of notification residents say they received regarding the proposal.

One woman pointed out that a road leading to the proposed site has

already been built and the area cleared.

"Like, it looks like it's a done deal," she said.

Hiebert termed the work at the site as "really preliminary,"

while Coun. George Fontaine said permission was granted for the SPCA to conduct exploratory work to ensure the location's feasibility.

Hiebert also sought to alleviate concerns over the property's appearance, promising the lot would be landscaped, fenced off and lined with trees facing the residential area.

"We wish to make the building and the grounds as aesthetically pleasing as possible," said Hiebert.

"Over the next few years you will see this piece of property evolve from what is now a barren, rocky and sawdust-covered mound to a green area."

That wasn't enough to allay fears the shelter could impact residential property values.

"It's not a big selling point for our houses - 'Hey, we've got a dog pound right beside it,'" said one of the residents.

Coun. Cal Huntley did not accept the "dog

pound" description, arguing that most communities would see such the addition of such a facility as "an enhancing service."

Like Hiebert, Mayor Tom Therien drew an analogy between the proposed development and the zoo along Green Street.

"In the 10 years since it's been around, I have heard zero complaints (about the zoo). Zero," said Mayor Therien. "I live in that area, I do not smell anything... (Zoo staff) take proper care and I'm assuming, any SPCA I've ever heard about has always taken care of their animals very, very well. That's why they're there; it's what they do. So I guess in correlation, I'm finding it kind of difficult to understand the difference between why we should or shouldn't allow it on McKeen Avenue. The traffic is much greater on Green Street than it's ever going to be in the McKeen area."

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And The Winner Is...



PHOTO BY KELLY CARRINGTON

Laverne Chilson (centre) recently won a Kenmore washer and dryer from an Eddie's Family Foods contest. Also pictured are contest representative Dan Pasishnik (left) and store owner Greg Phair.