

the presence of many people. Wednesday is under investigation. A post-mortem on the puppies is scheduled to take place Thursday, said Larry Legge, acting manager of the local branch of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

"Either way it's still despicable," he said, adding if the puppies were drowned there will be a criminal investigation. Legge said it's hard to say what breed of puppies they were.

to rays. Sgt. Gary Conn, of the Chatham-Kent Police Service, said a city works employee found the puppies around 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. He said the employee had not been at the pool for approx-

police Const. Meredith Rota at 519-436-6600 ext. 87083. Anonymous tips can be made to Chatham-Kent Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). ebajer@chathamdailynews.ca

RIDING: Event held internationally Cyclists raise awareness

TREVOR TERFLOTH
The Daily News

They didn't say a word as they slowly filed out of the Union Gas parking lot.

But with some donning arm-bands, they didn't have to. Local cyclists raised safety awareness during Wednesday's Ride of Silence, which also memorialized those killed or injured in collisions.

Greg Bondy, of Chatham, was one of about 60 riders who took part in the event.

He was involved in a crash with a vehicle in March, which left him with bumps and bruises. However, he's well aware that other riders aren't as fortunate.

"I've seen a lot of angry drivers," he said. "They're not just in a hurry, they're in a rage."

It was the first time the Ride of Silence was held in Chatham. Beginning in Dallas in 2003 after an endurance cyclist was killed, there are now 300 sites in 18 countries.

The local ride was 13 kilometres long and weaved its way through the downtown streets.

Bondy said he rides all the time, noting the exercise helps him manage his diabetes.

"I do everything by bike," he said. "It keeps me healthy."

a serious rider and said the attitudes of some motorists need improvement.

"It's not very good," he said. "I got knocked off my bike in Florida."

That incident, which took place in March, left Hime with a concussion.

He said his wife was involved in a collision two years ago that required her to have 27 stitches.

Organizer Jennifer Laevens said the ride is even more timely given the recent tragedy in Quebec, where three cyclists were killed after being hit by a truck.

Three others in the same group were seriously injured. The following day, another Quebec rider was killed.

While Laevens said her riding experience has been mostly positive in Chatham-Kent, she still has to be cautious.

She said drivers need to realize that they're required to share the road.

"Occasionally people are downright rude and just a little bit dangerous," she said.

Laevens is optimistic the local ride will continue on an annual basis.

"I hope to see it grow every year in recognition," she said.



Cyclists leave Union Gas headquarters Wednesday evening for the Ride of Silence. Locally, about 60 riders took part in the event, which is held internationally to raise awareness, as well as honour those killed or injured in cycling collisions.

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TRAINING: Goodwill Industries gets \$276,000 Feds fund program for unemployed youth

ERICA BAJER
The Daily News

A program helping youth overcome employment barriers received a \$276,000 cash injection from the federal government Wednesday.

Chatham-Kent Essex MP Dave Van Kesteren announced the funding to Goodwill Industries Future Focus project. The money will help 181 youth between the ages of 15-30 develop life and job skills to ease their transition to work or return to school.

"In today's environment, it is more important than ever that youth develop the skills they need to participate and succeed in the job market," Van Kesteren said.

"By supporting this project, we are helping Chatham-Kent youth develop the skills, knowl-

edge and work experience they need to reach their full potential."

Lisa McAllister, program co-ordinator, said the funding allows the four-week session to run and provides a stipend to the participants.

"It's worth it financially for them to be here," she said.

She said participants learn job-searching skills such as interview techniques, resume writing and also life skills including budgeting and socialization.

"The end result is achieving their goals," McAllister said.

Participant Sherry Smith, 25, said the program is inspiring and empowering.

"For me to have this opportunity . . . it's very uplifting," she said. "If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be able to get ahead in life."

The mother of five said she's planning to go to college this fall to become a personal support worker. At Future Focus she said she's gaining the skills needed to be successful.

"The doors have opened up and I've seen all the opportunities," she said.

Brent Druer, 26, is taking part in the program after being laid off from a local roofing company.

He said it's obvious that he needs to broaden his horizons when it comes to employment and learn how to do jobs outside his comfort zone.

"Sometimes you have to work around our economy," he said.

Druer said he's currently working on getting his Grade 12 and plans to pursue post-secondary education.

See TRAINING | Page 2



DIANA MARTIN photo@chathamdailynews.ca
Chatham-Kent Essex MP Dave Van Kesteren, centre, discusses the importance of workplace skills and opportunity with students in the Goodwill Industries Future Focus program. Van Kesteren was on hand to announce a \$276,000 in federal funding for the program.

NEWS
Daily News
page
with
video

2-3 10 Life
4 Comics/Crossword
5 Comment

6-7 Sports
8 Golf
9 Entertainment

11-13 National News
14 Classifieds
15 World News
16-17 WEATHER
18-19 Sunny, High 26°
Low 15° Page 7
20



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