

Humane society chief prepared if world goes to the dogs: [Toronto Edition]

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

Black & White Photo: Carlo Allegri, National Post / [Jack Slibar] says the Humane Society's River Street operation could be turned into a big kennel if there are Y2K problems. ;

Mr. Slibar, who lives in Oakville, is planning on staying in a downtown hotel with his fiancée. If there is an emergency, the champagne will have to stay on ice because he's made contingency plans to bunk at the Humane Society with his staff where port-a- potties and cots are on ready.

FULL TEXT

Name: Jack Slibar.

Title: Chief executive officer of the Toronto Humane Society.

What he'll be doing: The staff at the Humane Society are probably more prepared than the Department of National Defence if a disaster hits -- and Mr. Slibar will be at the River Street location when the clock strikes midnight, just in case it does.

"We've thought of everything. If disaster strikes, the public is going to expect us to be there. I think we're the only Humane Society in the country that has taken it this seriously," Mr. Slibar says.

In the event of a catastrophe, people will have an emergency shelter to run to, but they won't be able to take their pets with them, he explains. So the society is prepared to operate as a huge kennel for up to 10 days if a major power or water shortage occurs.

The 10 people who make up the Humane Society's emergency response team have spent more than 2,000 hours organizing their plans and are ready for any type of natural disaster as well as a Y2K hiccup. The premises are equipped with its own generator, heaters, medical supplies and a 10-day supply of food and water for pets and people.

They've already staged two mock disasters to make sure that nothing has been overlooked.

Mr. Slibar, who lives in Oakville, is planning on staying in a downtown hotel with his fiancée. If there is an emergency, the champagne will have to stay on ice because he's made contingency plans to bunk at the Humane Society with his staff where port-a- potties and cots are on ready.

"My fiancée understands that I'm the one that is ultimately responsible. We're hoping nothing happens, but if it does she'll want me down here. She'll be here with me anyway."

Perquisites: None. "This is something that goes with the job."

Illustration

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