

# Elliot Lake animal gas chamber demolished

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## FULL TEXT

Elliot Lake's long-time and infamous animal gas chamber is no more.

On March 31, Mayor Dan Marchisella and several others took turns pulverizing the former death chamber that put hundreds of animals down. Marchisella said he has wanted to see the chamber demolished since he was elected mayor. He began the demolition work on the gas chamber with a 10-pound sledgehammer. After a few shots, he passed the hammer to others, including Councillor Tammy Van-Roon, Jackie Hall -a former president of the Society for Animals in Distress (SAD), as well as John Sewell.

The gas chamber had not been used in the past three years. Instead, pets were taken to SAD to be adopted.

Animals that were too ill or otherwise unadoptable were euthanized by lethal injections, said Sewell.

VanRoon said she attended the demolition because "I've been waiting years to see (this). With the gas chamber gone, there will no longer be questions as to whether it's in use.

Following her slams with the sledgehammer, Hall said she was "just totally and absolutely moved. After three years of trying to get it knocked down that was the best news I had."

Sewell, a self-professed Elliot Lake animal lover, said in the past more than 100 animals per year were destroyed using the gas chamber.

He added that death in the gas chamber was believed to torture animals. He said at times after 30 minutes animals were still alive.

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