

# The battle between mice and man

Standing out in the garage, I could hear the tiny squeaks coming from the wall.

"Mice", I said to myself. "Those damn mice are back."

In my last house, I had a big problem with mice. The little furry rodents were bold, often going right up on my countertops in search of crumbs and food.

I knew where they were playing, because they always left evidence - little pieces of poo everywhere. Not to mention the gnawing at the bottom of rice bags, or cereal boxes.

That old house wasn't big enough for all of us. Someone had to go, and after a four-year battle against the mice, I sold the house, packed up and left for higher ground.

Prior to my surrender to the mice, I took a few of them out.

In total, I would guess I killed at least 50-60 mice over a four-year span.

I tried all kinds of different techniques.

First off was the traditional trap, with wooden base and sensitive trigger arm. After having my fingers snapped more than once, I decided to seek a new weapon in my war against the mice.

Some people advocate using warfarin (also known as rat poison). Warfarin is a pesticide used against mice and rats. Its anti-clotting properties produce death through internal hemorrhaging.

The only problem is, when the mice die back in their holes, after consuming warfarin, they rot. When they rot, they stink.

Another weapon in my battle against mice was the glue trap. I'm not sure if you've ever used one of these traps, but there's something about watching the slow death of a mouse caught on the glue trap that didn't sit well with me.

Sure, I wanted the mice dead, but not through a lengthy and agonizing process. Plus, the traps only work once.

There are also live traps, which I don't understand. What do people do with the mice? Release them in the backyard? That's bright.

No, I needed a trap that was safe to use, could be used over and over again, and would kill my adversaries in a quick manner.

Some people keep mice as pets. I'm not a big fan of the rodent-man relationship.

Anyone who has ever suffered an assault by

these vile little creatures will know there's nothing cute and cuddly about mice.

Did you know that in six months, one pair of mice can eat more than two kilograms (4 lbs.) of food and deposit about 18,000 droppings?

Structural damage caused by rodents can also be expensive. Mice are very destructive to rigid foam, fibreglass batt and other types of insulation in walls and attics of structures.

Mice also gnaw wooden structures and undermine buildings by burrowing.

Electrical wiring gnawed by mice causes many fires each year, listed as "cause unknown".

Mice also carry disease.

When I moved into my new home on Hamilton Mountain, I was glad to be rid of the mice that had plagued my existence for so many years.

I battled with conviction and determination, and exacted a pretty good toll on the mice army.

However, I'd rather not be bothered by the little rodents at all.

Unfortunately, the mouse army has found me once again.

And the battle has resumed.

Since discovering the mice last week, I have taken out seven members

of the mouse mob:

I found a nice trap that is easy to use, and seems to be getting the job done with routine precision. It's the Rentokil Advanced Mouse Trap, and I found it at Home Depot (and it's not made in China).

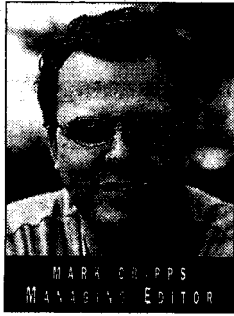
I can't rely on my dog to help in the war against the mice. She's so old, half blind and can't hear anything. The damn mice are eating her food for crying out loud. You'd think old Kayla would be concerned about sharing her meals with the mice.

Mice and rats are prolific breeders. You must tackle the problem of occasional invaders immediately, or you will eventually have a severe infestation.

I will not stand for infestation in my new home. So far, the mice haven't come into the house, but they have amassed the army at the foundation in the garage wall. If I don't act now, they'll be in the house before I know it.

So the battle rages on, and this time I am in for the long haul because there's no damn way I'm moving again.

To all the mountain mice out there, come and get it. Or maybe I'll just get a cat.



**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA, AN OPINION, OR A NEW PERSPECTIVE TO SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITY?**

**TO SUBMIT A GUEST OPINION, PLEASE CONTACT JULIE SLACK, 905-308-7757, EXT. 335.**

**SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 500 WORDS AND ACCOMPANIED BY A RECENT PHOTO.**