



Building a Better
BIDE AWHILE

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 9, 2007 from 1 – 4 pm
12 Eaton Avenue, Dartmouth



BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER - FALL 2007 ISSUE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"As we begin the season of giving, I invite you to make your own contribution to the Bide Awhile legacy."



Chris and Kendra

It's not often that a community has an opportunity to leave a significant legacy to its children and grandchildren, but that is just the opportunity we have before us. As we build the new Bide Awhile Shelter in Woodside Park, Dartmouth, we are leaving a legacy of compassion, respect, caring and passion for each other and for our four-legged guests.

While the new building is in and of itself an exciting venture, the real excitement is about what this represents. There is of course the obvious – pet rescue and adoption. But what is it, really? Isn't it about connecting people and animals? Isn't it about enhancing the quality of life for people and animals? And, isn't it about compassion and respect for the animals with whom we share this planet, caring about the world we live in, and being passionate about making this a better place for us all?

If you agree with that, then you will no doubt agree that what this new shelter represents is a unique opportunity to make a differ-

ence. Throughout the late summer and fall, Bide Awhile supporters have made a huge difference by contributing to our capital and building campaigns. We are half way to achieving our goal of \$650,000 to pay for the new building, but more than that, contractors, trades people, designers and businesses have donated time, construction materials and furnishings, all in the spirit of making a difference. Their generosity has been truly overwhelming!

As we begin the season of giving, I invite you to make your own contribution to the Bide Awhile legacy. The Shelter makes a difference every day in the lives of people and animals, and it is not often that we all have an opportunity to participate in such a real and important way.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Open House on December 9th. This event will be a milestone for Bide Awhile, as it will be our last Open House in our current home on Eaton Avenue. Please join us in making sure it is truly a celebration.



Halfway there!

BOWLING FOR CRITTERS RESCHEDULED

There isn't much that'll slow down our dedicated Bowling for Critters fans but looks like gale force winds and driving rain can do it – at least temporarily. Noel forced us to cancel our event on Nov 3rd but we're rescheduling.

Bowling for Critters will be held on **Saturday January 19th, 2008**, at the **Fairlanes Bowling Centre, Halifax Shopping Centre** and will feature **Lietash Canine Academy's**

Bowling Dogs at 6:00 pm. Registration will go from 6:00 to 7:00 with bowling starting at 7:00.

Prizes will be awarded on the night of the event.

Please confirm whether your team will be bowling. Contact us at bideawhile@eastlink.ca or phone 463-6173.

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Darroll and friend

A couple of weeks ago I received a call from a young man who had found some puppies. They were in a sealed box that was left out on the highway! If he hadn't stopped to move the box, they would have been killed or very badly hurt. He could have been killed just trying to remove a hazard from the road.

Many of you saw their pictures in the Chronicle Herald – six beautiful pups. Imagine how terrified they must have been! Cruelty to animals is not new to me, I've dealt with a lot of it in my years at Bide Awhile and it never fails to leave me feeling frustrated and sad.

But these pups were meant to survive! Twice in one day, their luck held. We had space in our shelter so they were brought to us. These poor little pups were so frightened when we got them - they were cold, hungry, and so malnourished. After a good bath, deworming and vaccinations; they huddled together - no doubt worried about what was going to happen next. Well next up was dinner and that's when the first little

tail started to wag. All six went at their food like they hadn't eaten for a couple of days. By the end of the second day all six puppies were running around wagging their tails and playing – happy, warm and well fed.

Thanks to the media attention, we've had over 300 calls about these puppies, at least 175 people came in to see them and over 50 people wanted to adopt them. Thank you to everyone for expressing your concern and to everyone who wanted to take one of these pups home. There were so many great homes to choose from, but I could only pick six people for six pups. I'm happy to report that all of the puppies are doing just great with their new families in their new homes.

These pups were the lucky ones – shelter space when they needed it and new loving homes. But what about all the ones we never hear about, the ones that no one helps? At Bide Awhile, we do everything we can, but sad to say we're still turning away 30 to 40 animals a day. We need your support so that the day may come when no animal has to be turned away. And maybe the day will come when everyone knows that leaving a box of puppies on the road is just not right.



BUILDING UPDATE

Construction of our new shelter is well underway and the excitement is building! During the month of October the site underwent major changes with excavation work, installation of foundations, as well as water and sewage lines.

With these tasks complete, the contractor is busy preparing the site for our paved parking area, and the service delivery driveway, located behind the building. They are also installing piping for in-floor radiant heating in the basement, with the concrete floor expected in the coming weeks.

Our new shelter will be constructed using a new technology incorporating insulated concrete formwork, and a finished metal cladding on the interior and exterior of the perimeter wall. What does this mean for the humans and critters in-

involved? It means an extremely well insulated and energy efficient shelter. The concrete form of the exterior walls will provide insulation, decreasing the need for excessive heating and cooling.

The finished metal cladding makes for very durable perimeter walls, reducing the need for a new paint job for at least 25 years. This makes for big savings! The panel system for the exterior will arrive in mid-November bringing the construction of the shelter to a new level.

Log onto www.bideawhile.org to follow our construction progress with updates and photos!

"At Bide Awhile, we do everything we can, but sad to say we're still turning away 30 to 40 animals a day. We need your support so that the day may come when no animal has to be turned away."

"Our deepest gratitude goes to the organizing committee for their efforts in staging the 4th annual Ceilidh for Critters. This year, the total proceeds will benefit Bide Awhile and we couldn't be more honoured by your generosity!"

CALENDARS AND VOLUNTEERS!



Our 2008 calendars have hit the streets, along with many wonderful volunteers and retail partners.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any animal shelter, and that definitely includes the calendar campaign. Many of our volunteers assist with the sales drive of our calendars, and never step foot inside the shelter, yet they bring in thousands of dollars for the cause.

One such volunteer is Cheryl O'Laughlin, an employee of Bell Aliant. Over a brief period of four weeks, Cheryl has sold 215 calendars through her network of family and friends, ultimately helping Bide Awhile spay/neuter two litters of kittens.

Her valuable efforts have included organizing drop off stations for food and blankets, raising funds through her employer to produce greeting cards for resale and selling 50/50 tickets. In her three years of involvement, Bide Awhile has never had to ask her for anything, and she has brought us close to \$6000.

When asked what motivates her to spend so much of her personal time giving back to animals, she simply stated, "Animals provide unconditional love to everyone, yet we tend to forget how much they need us."

It's truly amazing how one individual can have such an effect on animal welfare in our community. It solidifies the saying, "Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something."

New!! Buy a day for your pet! Here's your chance to guarantee your furry friend makes it into the Bide Awhile calendar. Dates are available for 'purrchase' and will feature a picture of your animal and their name, on a date of your choice. Visit www.bideawhile.org or check out your 2008 calendar for more information.



Cheryl O'Laughlin selling another 2008 calendar

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RCS – PARTNERS & FRIENDS



Back in March, our building committee met with Doug Doucet, President of RCS Retail Construction Specialists. It was a pretty significant meeting that marked the beginning of a terrific friendship!

As an expert in local construction markets; Doug was asked simply for some feedback on the construction budget for our new shelter. Doug however saw this as an opportunity to do something very special for a little animal shelter that needed a lot of help.

Doug said "when I was first approached by Caroline Haddock about some budget figures for the new building I was happy to help out and thought it might be neat to be a part of this community project. In our business we're quite often too busy to get involved in any extra curricular activity but after visiting the existing shelter both Jen (our Project Coordinator) and I were taken aback by how desperately you needed a new facility. Bruce (my partner) and I thought this was the ideal time for us to give back a little extra effort to the community. When we proposed construction management it seemed like the perfect means to get results and the most cost efficient savings. This

would be needed if we were to build the new modern facility (originally priced at \$850k) for the budgeted \$650K. This also allowed us to take a 'Team Design Build approach' which gathered ideas and expertise from each of the parties, ultimately achieving a modern animal friendly facility that will remain practical for many years to come. Many great ideas have been used in the design and we must say that it has been an absolute pleasure dealing with Bide Awhile and the entire design and construction team. This has been one of the busiest construction years in Halifax ever and it's amazing that so many sub-contractors and consultants have stepped up to the plate with great discounts and other cost efficiencies. We look forward to bringing the project in on time and on budget"

The RCS team has indeed brought all of their well respected construction skills to bear in creating a building that meets our specific needs – and then some!

Says Executive Director Darrold Gould, "They've guided us in selecting products that provide superior insulation and sound-proofing, and a vastly improved ventilation system - a 'must have' for our new shelter. Their dedication to this project has been incredible and our progress to date is in no small way due to their contribution."

Our heartfelt thanks to Doug Doucet, Bruce Mollins (RCS Partner), Jenifer Judson-Wall (Project Coordinator) and everyone at RCS for your unparalleled professionalism, your commitment to Bide Awhile and your outstanding sense of community.

"CAT" BYLAW

There are many in HRM who are pleased that the bylaw issue is no longer a topic of debate at city hall. It's obvious from the media coverage that this issue generated considerable controversy. There may in fact have been more questions raised than solutions delivered.

Understandably, views and interests across the community will differ. There are many who are dissatisfied with the new bylaw – some say it goes too far, others say it doesn't go far enough and more yet say the bylaw doesn't address key issues.

Many who are involved in the animal welfare arena know that these issues are complicated and solutions will only be found by using a variety of approaches and the participation of many.

Bide Awhile has been a part of finding solutions for more than 38 years and we appreciate the many letters to the editor and commentaries that made reference to Bide Awhile as an organization already doing an amazing job and deserving of more support.

Bide Awhile's foremost concern has always been the welfare of the animals and our goal – responsible pet ownership. Our mission is to improve the lives of homeless animals in our communities and our willingness to work towards finding solutions is unwavering.

We here at Bide Awhile applaud the fact that an animal issue made it to the headlines and to city council's agenda. Our hope is that solutions continue to be sought and that animal welfare and humane treatment remain on everyone's agenda.

"Many have forgotten this truth, but you must not forget it. You remain responsible, forever, for what you have tamed."

- Antoine De Saint-Exupery

GOLFING FOR CRITTERS – 3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On September 21st, 2007 Bide Awhile Shelter held its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament, and what a tournament it was! Held at the Sherwood Golf & Country Club in Chester, it was a fabulous day on the superb course owned and operated by Eden Hotels and Resorts, a division of Homburg Canada Incorporated.

Fifty-seven enthusiastic golfers ranging from novice to expert turned out for the tournament. Unlike the previous year, there was no need to send out a search party for wayward teams (Hello!! Paul J, Paul P, Scott, Dave, Michael, Darryl & Brad). As part of their registration, every golfer received a sleeve of golf balls with the Royal Canin logo, bagged lunch, a prize and a delicious dinner in the club house.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the event sponsor, All Star Systems Software from Connecticut, USA and our meal sponsor Camp Bow Wow of Dartmouth. With their support and commitment our tournament raised \$12,000.00. Also, a special thanks to Global Pet Foods, Burnside Dental, RCS, Zive Insurance, SECOR, Maxxam Analytics Inc., Hazco Inc., League Savings and Mortgage, Mill Right Woodworking, Disaster Kleenup Canada, IPS, Royal Canin, and Halifax Global, our very generous Hole Sponsors. We are also very

thankful to the many companies that so kindly contributed the prizes awarded that day.

To make the day flow as well as it did, we must issue a standing ovation for our volunteers, Carla, Florrie, Ruth, Carol Ann, Susan, Ken and Eric for keeping everything running so smoothly. Without dedicated volunteers, this event would not be possible. We also want to congratulate Chris Hornberger, winner of the 8GB iPod (donated by MHPM).

Check out our website (www.bideawhile.org) for some pictures from the event, and if you're interested in helping us make this tournament even better please fill out the survey on our website. Be sure to send us your email address so we can keep you informed on all shelter news and activities.

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, September 20th, 2008, our tentative date for another outstanding day at the Sherwood Golf & Country Club! We'll be sure to keep you posted! See you next year!

*Brenda Ruggles
Chair "Golfing for Critters"*

"Seen any good movies lately? Visit www.BideAwhile.org for the best kitty action films in town!"

Thanks to our good friends for their continued support and generosity!

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