



Building a Better

BIDE AWHILE

GRAND OPENING & CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 14, 2008 from 1 - 4 pm
67 Neptune Crescent, Dartmouth



BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER – FALL 2008 ISSUE

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COMMUNICATIONS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – BRENDA RUGGLES

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

– C.S. Lewis



Brenda & Toby, former Bide Awhile guest

Over the past three years I chaired the Golfing for Critters event, sat on numerous committees and in 2007 served as 1st Vice President un-

Hello, my name is Brenda and I'm quickly learning the "ropes" in my first few months as President of Bide Awhile's Board of Directors. What I'd already learned a few years ago is that this organization has an abundance of hard-working, dedicated individuals in our staff, our volunteers and our supporters. I was introduced to the shelter while attending a cat show at the Dartmouth Sportsplex in 2003. My husband, Brad and I had stopped by the Bide Awhile booth to chat and shortly thereafter, had a tour of the facility; we were hooked. We became members and in 2004 organized the first annual Golfing for Critters event. The following year I accepted an invitation to join the Board of Directors. I have always been an animal lover and grew up in a household with dogs, cats, chickens, pet raccoons, crows etc. You name it, as kids we brought it home to Mom.

der Chris Homberger. Chris's leadership during that time was a great source of inspiration to me. I spent this past year working on the Capital Campaign with some extremely talented people taking time out of their busy lives to volunteer at Bide Awhile. Those volunteer efforts have raised more than \$500,000 dollars towards our new building.

This is indeed a very exciting time in Bide Awhile's history! The opening of our new shelter on Neptune Crescent has been an amazing achievement, but we still have much to do! We'll be working hard: raising the final \$150,000 of our campaign goal, raising the funds needed to operate our new facility and as always looking for ways to educate everyone about the humane treatment of animals. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead.

For those of you, who've already contributed to our campaign, thank you. For those of you, who are still contemplating a donation, please consider doing so. You'll be participating in the most remarkable event in the life of our Shelter.

On a personal note, our home used to include two very active boys James and Michael, who are now out on their own leaving Brad and I with our two adorable cats, Beau and Hobo and the sweet memories of our recently departed and well loved cat Oscar.

On behalf of Bide Awhile's Board of Directors and staff, I wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season and the very best for 2009.

GRAND OPENING

Bide Awhile's Board of Directors and staff warmly invite you to our official Grand Opening and Christmas Open House. We're thrilled to showcase our new Shelter. It's a dream come true and something in which every member, friend and supporter of Bide Awhile should be honoured to have played a role. Please visit us on December 14th – share some holiday treats and a very special day in the history of a very special place.

BAKE AND CRAFT SALE

Put your baking pans and knitting needles away! Bide Awhile's topnotch bakers and crafters will happily provide all of your holiday baking and gift needs. Don't miss our fabulous annual Christmas Bake and Craft Sale, coming to City Centre Atlantic, 1535 Dresden Row (upstairs from Pete's Frootique) on December 6th from 8 am to 6 pm.



Ty, first puppy to try out our new shelter

HUMANE SHELTER FOR LOST AND HOMELESS ANIMALS

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DARROLD GOULD



Darrold and Grazie

We've been in our new shelter for seven months, and what a seven months it's been! I know I speak for everyone when I say—it is such a pleasure to come to work in our new building. What has the new shelter really meant for us? Quite simply, we now have a modern building designed to help us take better care of the animals. The air is

cleaner, our new cages are much more hygienic and upkeep is much easier with improved storage. Our animal care attendants are here 12 hours a day and having worked in our old building they are overjoyed to be in our new Shelter.

As for the animals if they could talk I'm sure they would give the Shelter two thumbs up. The cats seem to love the in-floor radiant heating. And having more space to roam when out of their cages seems to keep everyone looking very calm and contented. Our mother cats and their kittens feel very secure in their own private rooms but we can easily observe and intervene if problems arise. These maternity rooms have been full to capacity from the day we moved in—we will likely save an extra 100 kittens because of this space alone! We could not have done this in our old Shelter.

We now have two isolation rooms plus a treatment room for the

new cats coming in to our Shelter. This makes such a difference in trying to keep animals healthy.

And our dogs now have their own rooms—just like our cats—designed not only to meet their specific needs but also to allow for easier care.

Everyone seems to enjoy their visit to the Shelter—seeing our animals in such a bright, clean and healthy environment; you just know they're getting the care they deserve.

Although we're taking in and adopting more animals than ever before, some things never seem to change; we are still turning away 30 or more cats a day.

There's never enough room in any Shelter, we're only a part of the solution. Every person must take responsibility for their own pet: spay or neuter your pet, make sure you want a cat or dog for life and can afford this decision. Sadly, shelters are blamed if we don't assist everyone who asks for help, but if more people were responsible—there just might be room at a shelter when it's needed.

Spaying or neutering all of the animals we adopt is one way to help reduce overpopulation but everyone, including pet stores, needs to recognize their role in providing solutions.

Although so much has changed for us with our new building, one thing I am sure will never change—Bide Awhile will always do everything we can for the animals that come to us and will always strive to make their lives better.

"The maternity rooms have been full to capacity from the day we moved in—we will likely save an extra 100 kittens because of this space alone!"

OUR SPECIAL FRIENDS AT ROYAL CANIN

Over the past few years Bide Awhile has been honoured by the generosity of many in this community but perhaps none more so than Royal Canin. A national pet food supply business with a solid reputation for quality products, they are relatively new to the Atlantic area. Shortly after their arrival, they began looking for ways to help local Shelters and much to our delight offered to provide all of Bide Awhile's food needs.

Darrold Gould, our Executive Director, says "Having a reliable source of quality food for our animals is a tremendous relief. Many of the animals coming to us are very poorly nourished. Good nutrition plays a key role in restoring their health and keeping our

healthy animals well. It also gives us the ability to share the food donated by our supporters to families in need and to our foster homes. Royal Canin support has made a significant difference"

Royal Canin has gone above and beyond their original offer, however, and has also provided financial support to many of our fundraising events. They're also helping to spread the word about Bide Awhile and its important role in our community.

To our good friends at Royal Canin, our deepest gratitude and appreciation of your commitment to the well-being of all animals.

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO TRAMPOLINE

Bide Awhile would like to express its heartfelt thanks to Brad Dykema and the creative team at Trampoline. Trampoline designed the three campaign ads that will be seen throughout HRM in the coming weeks—watch for them, they are incredible! These ads will play an important role in increasing public support for Bide Awhile and helping us raise the final \$150,000 needed to meet our campaign goal. Trampoline graciously donated their time, ingenuity and dedication, and Bide Awhile is very grateful for their support.



BOWLING FOR CRITTERS – STRIKES AGAIN!

Congratulations to this years Volunteer of the Year award recipient, Helen MacCallum, our Cat Bank coordinator & 'volunteer extraordinaire'.

Bide Awhile's 17th Annual Bowling for Critters took to the lanes on October 25th with President Brenda Ruggles, emceeing the event in purrfect feline fashion. The night got underway with the always popular Lietash Canine Academy's bowling dogs doing incredibly well. In fact, their scores were higher than some (okay, most) of our two-legged bowlers.

This event always raises an impressive amount of much needed funds to support Shelter operations, but this year was exceptional. For the first time ever, this event raised more than \$20,000—what a night! Achieving this goal would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors, bowling teams, pledge-givers and volunteers. Thanks everyone and see you next year!



Time out from a busy play schedule

CEILIDH FOR CRITTERS

Ceilidh for Critters organizers are proud to announce that our 5th annual event was our best yet! We raised \$8000 for Bide Awhile and had a great time doing it. Thank you for the tremendous community effort... we will definitely see you again next fall.

GOLFING FOR CRITTERS – Adam Cooney, Chair

Congratulations to the very first winners of the new "Golfing for Critters Cup" – Wayne Forster, Brian Beazley, Chris Arsenault, and Mike Peterson.

On September 20th, 2008 Bide Awhile Shelter held its 4th 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.

Sixty-four enthusiastic golfers ranging from novice to expert turned out for the tournament. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the event's presenting sponsor, Royal Canin and the championship sponsor Homburg. With their support and commitment our tournament raised over \$20,000.00.

Congratulations to the very first winners of the new "Golfing for Critters Cup" – Wayne Forster, Brian Beazley, Chris Arsenault, and Mike Peterson, who together shot a 7 under par for the day.

Also, a special thanks to all of the event sponsors including Disaster Kleenup Canada, Halifax Global Inc. SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. League Savings and Mortgage Halifax Heating & Air Conditioning, MHPM Project Managers Inc., Burnside Dental, Retail Construction Specialists Inc. (RCS), Integrated Property Services, Zive Insurance, Triple Triple Web Design, and All Star Software Systems. 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 the event volunteers, Ruth Blades, Florrie MacKenzie, Sean Ryan, Carla Beyreis, Eric MacKenzie, Andrea Beaver, Carol Ann Firlotte for keeping everything running so smoothly.

Check out our website (www.bideawhile.org/events/golfing.php) for a full listing of all event sponsors, prize donors, participants and volunteers. You'll also see some event pictures. 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 19th, 2009, our tentative date for another outstanding day at the Sherwood Golf & Country Club! See you next year!



Nine happy faces



Digger, rescued from life in a ditch

“Saving just one animal won’t change the world, but surely, it will change the world for that one animal.”

– Author unknown

2009 CALENDARS ARE READY!



We expect the 2009 calendar to be more popular than ever—calls started in September, anticipating its arrival. It’s now available at the shelter, most veterinary clinics and many other retail outlets throughout metro. Check www.Bideawhile.org for a detailed list of locations.

How can you help us sell out? If every member sold or gave as gifts, just eight calendars we’d have almost half of our calendars sold. And \$20,000.00 raised! While we appreciate the efforts of our retail outlets, no one can “sell” Bide Awhile like our members. Drop by the shelter and get your extra copies.

Remember, success is often just the sum of many small efforts.

DON’T GIVE UP!

Just because you haven’t won yet, there’s no reason that your adored pet couldn’t be the Shelter’s 2010 calendar cover. Your best friend is just waiting for you to capture that perfect shot. And for just \$5.00 an entry, how can you resist the chance?

Watch for details on our annual Pet Photo Challenge in the Chronicle Herald in February.

Like kittens in a basket, our 2009 calendar has animal pictures popping out everywhere! With the introduction of the Pet of the Day feature in our calendar, we’ve given pet lovers a great chance to showcase their beloved pet and help the shelter at the same time.

When we started this project, we were confident we’d get at least a few submissions but were thrilled when we received more than 65. People also bought a “Day” as a gift - now that’s the gift that gives twice!

THANKS TO OUR OLD FRIENDS AT SOBEYS

Recently, Sobeys announced an end to its Tape Saver Program and a plan to replace it with a school breakfast program. For many in our community, saving & submitting grocery tapes was an easy way to support a favourite cause. No outlay of cash required, it was the perfect fundraiser and many not for profit groups have benefited from the generosity of this program. Bide Awhile first submitted tallied grocery receipts in 1986. Since then Sobeys has contributed over \$60,000 to Bide Awhile.

Thank you Sobeys, for your longstanding commitment to our community! While we were sad to see the program end, we’re so grateful for the support you’ve given us over the years and wish Sobeys much success in its new school program.

We’d also like to thank everyone who saved those receipts for us and the dedicated volunteers, especially Riet Koetsier, who never minded adding them up, one receipt at a time.

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