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CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

December 11, 2011 from 1 – 4 pm
67 Neptune Crescent, Dartmouth



BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER – FALL 2011 ISSUE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“There are so many lives to save. Each time an animal is adopted, a space opens up for another.”



Melissa and Darwin

Over the more than forty years Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Society has been in existence, thousands of people and pets have been united. It's a labour of love for those of us who are connected with Bide Awhile. Every animal has a story to tell – of how each one beat the odds to find a coveted spot at Bide Awhile and get a second chance with a “forever family”.

I have been a member of Bide Awhile's Board of Directors since 2006, and in that time I have heard many stories of animals who would not have survived were it not for Bide Awhile. This past summer, I had the experience of seeing Bide Awhile from a different perspective – that of a person who rescues an animal and wants so desperately for that animal to find a good home.

On a sunny July morning looking through my kitchen window, I spied a long-haired orange cat sitting in a patch of long grass in my backyard. Since we live near an apartment building where many people leave their unaltered cats outside to roam, have litters of kittens and fight in the late night hours, our garden is no stranger to stray cats. As I'm always drawn in by these lost souls, I went outside to investigate and bring this fella some kitty treats. He immediately came over to me, purring as he munched. He was extremely friendly but had a sad look in his eyes. He was not a feral cat, and he seemed to be saying: “Why am I here? Please help me”.

He stayed around the yard for a few days. Once he trusted me enough to come to the steps, I thought I might have a chance of catching him but “Pekoe”, as my husband and I began calling him, would not come easily. My first attempt to capture him resulted in me covered in fur and tears and in Pekoe screeching and running away. I thought he was gone for good. Two days later, I did a sweep of the yard, not really expecting to find anything. To my surprise, Pekoe emerged from the bushes and followed me up to the deck. This time I was prepared, and my husband and I managed to scoop him into the cat carrier before he really knew what was going on. We were lucky - there was a space available and we made a dash for Bide Awhile, having sworn to Darrold that yes, “he's really friendly –” (I think Darrold hears that a lot).

Many people who bring the animals they've cared for to the shelter, feel a special bond with them and have a vested interest in their future

well-being. I was no different. In my mind (and heart) Pekoe was “the most special cat” (I think Darrold hears that a lot too!) and deserving of a special home.

It turned out that Pekoe had some serious medical issues that I had not seen under his badly matted fur. He had a long gash on his chest that resulted in a large skin flap and an infected abscess on his back, likely the result of being bitten by another cat. It took him a while to go from the scraggly, pathetic, hopeless and injured soul that he was upon arrival to the handsome, charming, affectionate kitty he was when he was finally adopted by a lovely couple. They were drawn in, as I was, by his emotive eyes and loving demeanour. It is amazing that any creature who endures so much can emerge without a trace of resentment or cynicism.

It's true that Pekoe was one of the lucky ones – lucky to have survived his injuries; lucky to have wandered into my yard when he did; lucky that there was space at Bide Awhile; lucky that he allowed himself to be taken there; lucky that he found the right people to adopt him. The fates aligned for Pekoe, and I had the opportunity to see the personal side of Bide Awhile and to take an active role in saving a life.

There are so many lives to save. Each time an animal is adopted, a space opens up for another. A single space was the difference between Pekoe finding a home and Pekoe dying outside alone and injured. If you have room in your heart and your home for a wayward soul looking for a second chance, come visit our shelter; consider adoption today.

Melissa Grant, President



Pekoe at Bide Awhile

Where would we be without our friends!

Our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors:

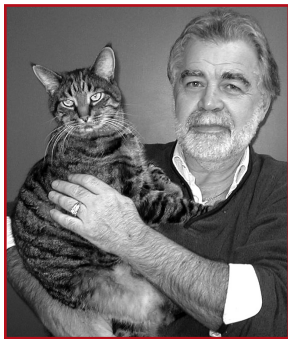
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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DARROLD GOULD



Darrold and Scamp

As we all know our shelter is always a very busy place! And yet many people find it hard to understand why we can't just fit in "one more" animal or why it takes so long for a space to open up. We know how difficult it can be – waiting for the okay to bring in that stray you're worried about or the animal who's suddenly become homeless. On any given day at the shelter we are forced to turn away up to 30 cats because we're already full. There's never a shortage of animals in need – I wish there were.

When a cat comes into our shelter there are many things that have to be done before it will be ready for adoption. First stop is our quarantine area where the cat will receive blood work, an exam, bath, deworming, vaccinations and other medical attention as needed and as we're able. When all is well and we're sure the cat is healthy enough, off to the vets they go to be spayed or neutered. This all takes about 30 days for a cat without any problems. If they come in with other medical problems, it can be much longer before they're ready for adoption.

To protect all of our guests from infectious diseases, all cats coming into our shelter must go through a quarantine period. So the longer it takes to move a cat out of quarantine, the longer it takes to free up space for a new arrival.

Once a cat is medically cleared, they can move into the adoption room if there's a space available there.

I wish I could tell you that our cats are flying out the door but they're not. Some are older and harder to adopt, some are not overly friendly and need time to overcome their fear. There are too many reasons to list here.

When an animal comes into our shelter, we will do everything we can to find a long term home where they will be loved and cared for. That's what a "no kill shelter" does. But it takes time and that means a longer wait for space to open up.

When you call the shelter for help and you're told "we're full" these are some of the reasons. If we could, we would take them all. So please, for their sake, don't give up. Keep calling us every day until a space becomes available. And if you have any thoughts on how we could help animals in our community in other ways, please drop me a line.

"When an animal comes into our shelter, we will do everything we can to find a long term home where they will be loved and cared for. That's what a 'no kill shelter' does."

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

Bide Awhile is honoured to announce that it was a finalist in this year's 7th Annual Maritime Business Ethics Awards. Awarded by the Maritime Better Business Bureau, the awards honour those businesses and not for profit organizations that go "above and beyond" in maintaining high standards of ethical behaviour. The awards recognize integrity and professionalism. Simply being nominated for this award made us feel like we'd already won!

The criteria for the non-profit sector included: having a sustained record of providing exceptional service in the community, being a leader in providing ethical guidance in the community or having a presence of ethical leadership in the Maritime Provinces, being recognized for enhancing public awareness of social/ecological respon-

sibility or serving as respected advocate and showing integrity and leadership in dealing with ethical dilemmas.

Bide Awhile would like to thank our nominator and to recognize the other finalists – the Ecology Action Centre and Homebridge Youth Society, both fantastic organizations working to make our community a better place to live. Our President, Melissa Grant, and 1st Vice President, Nancy Mansfield, attended the ceremony on November 1st. In the end, there can be only one winner and Homebridge Youth Society took it home this year; however, they were very gracious in victory and praised Bide Awhile's good work. We're honoured to have been nominated and will proudly display our shiny new NovaScotian Crystal "Finalist" plate.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Recent visitors to the Shelter may have noticed that the land adjacent to the building is being cleared and levelled. As part of our purchase agreement with the Woodside Industrial Park, Bide Awhile is required to landscape its property. We think this as an opportunity to do something special. A Memorial Garden is being created with "seed" money from BMO who has graciously donated \$25,000 to go towards this particular project. The work is being carried out by IPS (Integrated Property Solutions), the company that currently maintains our property. IPS has worked hard to create a great plan on budget and are even donating some items to make the garden extra special.

We hope to make the garden a revenue generator by allowing donors opportunities to purchase trees, shrubs and other items (e.g. bricks) as memorials to loved ones. We anticipate having a grand opening of this green space sometime in the late spring or early summer of

2012 (possibly to coincide with our 2012 AGM). If you are interested in purchasing a tree or shrub, drop us a line. We haven't finalized the costs, but we can keep you on a list and let you know what options are available as this project moves forward. If you have a green thumb and would like to help the Garden Committee with its plans for plant selection and fundraising, you can contact Darrold or Melissa.



"If we treated everyone we meet with the same affection we bestow upon our favourite cat, they too would purr"

Martin Buxbaum

20 YEARS OF BOWLING FOR CRITTERS!

Twenty years of fun, bowling, and fundraising! October 22, 2011 marked the 20th anniversary of Bowling for Critters and this year did not disappoint.

The ever-popular Lietash Canine Academy's bowling dogs kicked the evening off with Esskay taking the top prize for bowling a 78, which even included a spare! Way to go Esskay – you beat out many of our two-legged bowlers! For the second year in a row the top human bowling team was the "Cat-IT-tonics", with a score of 477. The team was headed up by Carole Arsenault. Congratulations again, Carole and team!

Once again we want to express our appreciation to Sherry Beatty, Dawn Clarke and the rest of the "The Flea Bags" who were our top fundraisers with over \$6,000 raised. Sherry and her team from The Cutting Zone have been long-time supporters of Bide Awhile. With the money they raised this year alone they have provided enough fund-

ing to help more than 17 animals get the medical treatment and care they need as they await their forever homes at the shelter. A big shout out [bark out] to "The Flea Bags"!

A special thank you to all the fundraisers, prize donors, volunteers, sponsors, and the management and staff of Fairlanes Bowling Centre for supporting this event! An extra special thank you to Stefan for his fabulous photos of the event – check out the website. We hope to see you all back next year!!



Bowling Critter, Delta

GOLFING FOR CRITTERS

The 7th annual Golfing for Critters tournament, with special partner PMI Nova Scotia, was held at Sherwood Golf and Country Club on September 10th. With temperatures in the high-teens and clear skies, it turned out to be a perfect day for golf. The best-ball event got underway with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. and ended with a dinner and awards presentation in the club house.

The Marshmallow drive, BBQ, raffle draw and meet/greet registration were a lot of fun and ran like clockwork thanks to our volunteers, Ruth, Carla, Colleen and Sheri. Brad and Mike, our roving photographers, turned event pictures into a fun video shown later at the club house – thanks guys. A special thanks to our Champion Sponsor

Homburg Charitable Foundation and Corporate supporters: Halifax Global Management Consultants, Quantum Communications, Global Pet Foods, Royal Canin, The Barrington Consulting Group, IMP Solutions, Homburg Canada REIT, and Boyne Clarke.

Congratulations to this years winning team - Mike Musial, Alan Mitchell, Kendall Taylor and Dave Nelson.

Thanks to everyone who came out to golf and show their support for a great cause.

*Brenda Ruggles
Chair, Golfing for Critters*

VOLUNTEERING YOUR IDEAS

Recently, our volunteers were invited to participate in a new volunteer initiative for Bide Awhile with the first meeting held on November 19, 2011 at the Shelter.

We're hoping to find more meaningful opportunities for Bide Awhile volunteers to assist the Shelter in both its operation and fundraising efforts. The new volunteer sessions will provide volunteers with news on what's going on with the shelter, potential volunteer opportunities and a chance to brainstorm possible volunteer opportunities. As we plan for

future needs, it's important to look at new ideas from a variety of sources.

As the saying goes: "many hands make light work". We all want to help, but we also feel best when our talents are being utilized on activities that we enjoy and play to our strengths. We want to harness your creativity and share the load. Join us! If you didn't receive an invitation to the initial meeting but would like to attend future meetings, please contact the shelter to make sure we have a current e-mail address on file.

THANKS TO SUPPORTERS

We can never say "thank you" enough, so – just to name a few – thanks to our many friends in the community for their kind support. Our thanks go out to:

- Atlantic News for displaying a Cat Bank for us for many years. Their Cat Bank is our most successful donation bank location and since 1984 has collected over \$7200!
- The staff of Morrigan LeFay's Mystical Gifts on Portland Street for holding a silent auction with all proceeds going to Bide Awhile.
- Deloitte Halifax employees for producing and selling a calendar featuring employee pets for Bide Awhile.
- Vetcetera for once again hosting their ever popular Dog Wash and Scotiabank, Bedford, for matching the funds raised.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Wendy Haines of Agenda Design for her very generous donation of time

and talent to the redesign of our Bide Awhile brochure. Wendy's patience and pursuit of quality have given us an outstanding brochure that will serve us well for many years to come. Thanks Wendy.



BIDE AWHILE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Please join the staff and volunteers at Bide Awhile's Annual Holiday Open House on December 11 from 1pm to 4pm. Celebrate the season with a cup of hot apple cider and treats and enjoy holiday greetings from the cats and dogs whose lives are touched by your kindness all year long. Hope to see you there!

2012 CALENDARS ARE ON SALE!

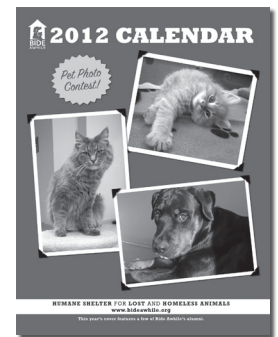
This year's calendar is again filled with cherished pictures of your best friends as well as a few of Bide Awhile's past adoptees. With over 270 Pet pictures, this feature is still a big hit with calendar fans! Join in the fun and give a gift of one or two spaces to a friend - wouldn't they just love to find the spotlight on their own best friend(s)! With plenty of space to fill in those vet checkups and furry play dates, this calendar is a must have for home and office. Thirty pages of adorable faces are now on sale at the shelter and more than 50 retailers around HRM - still a great buy at only \$10 each!

Who sells our calendars? While retailers make up the largest share, personal sales play a vital role in our calendar sales campaign. That's a lot of work and we could really use your help. Invite your friends, co-workers, community group and family to help you sell 10 calendars. If that's not a challenge, sell 25 and we'll reward you with a free Pet of

the Day spot in our 2013 calendar. Once you've sold 25, send an email to bawpetphotos@live.ca with your pet picture for processing. Remember - Bide Awhile supporters make the best sales reps!

Don't forget our Calendar Sponsors! Without the monetary help of our many sponsors, we would not be able to keep the cost so low. This helps in returning over 95% profit back to the shelter. A special thank you to our good friends at Global Pet Foods for top calendar sales last year and for sponsoring 12 months in this year's calendar - Thank you.

Check out www.Bideawhile.org for a detailed list of locations selling the calendar. This is Bide Awhile's biggest fundraiser, so please help make this a sell out year! Get out there and buy and sell those calendars - our furry friends will thank you.



JAX

Jax is a handsome one year old American Staffordshire Terrier and like any one year old, he's busy exploring and trying to understand his world. We know because he stayed with us at Bide Awhile for more than 3 months after his world fell apart. His original family gave him up when they found that the combination of a new baby and a young active dog was just too much to handle.



Jax at the Shelter

As we all know, having a dog is a huge labour of love. Building a successful relationship and a happy family life with a dog takes effort and perseverance. They'll require dedicated time for training, play and affection. Anyone thinking of getting a dog must look at their lifestyle and decide whether they can really give what a dog will need from them. Imagine the turmoil Jax must have felt in losing all that he knew for reasons he could never understand. Jax was lucky and is now settling with a new family and rebuilding the trust he'd lost.

We believe pets are for life. A decision to get any animal should never be made lightly but only after fully considering the consequences for you and the animal. After all, your dog will give you his lifelong devotion; doesn't he deserve the same commitment from you?

THINK ABOUT JOINING US!

You've probably noticed that every spring, we invite our supporters to consider joining our Board of Directors. That's because we're always looking for energetic and creative individuals with a passion for animals and a wish to help improve their lives. This year

we decided to plant the idea a little early. If you're interested in learning more about our volunteer board and how you can help, please call us at 469-9578.

ICE AWARDS

Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise. The "ICE" Awards, now in their tenth year, showcase a diverse group of advertising and marketing professionals who gather to celebrate creativity and advertising in Atlantic Canada.

This past summer, Bide Awhile was approached by Mike Whitelaw and Paul Card of Prime Creative. They were organizing a special creative competition for emerging young professionals, the winner of which would be revealed at the ICE Awards. Mike and Paul knew Bide Awhile could benefit from bright, eager folks who would design a real advertising campaign where the costs of the creative and production would be donated by all those involved. On the evening of October 21st, Melissa Grant and Mike Whitelaw took to the stage at the ICE

Awards in their best ghoulish attire (it was a "creepy-classy" theme) to announce the winning entry that had been chosen by our Executive Director in concert with the Board. We think our members and supporters will love these ads. They really speak to the heart of Bide Awhile - that's why we chose them. Special thanks goes out to all those talented folks who participated in the competition, Mike and Paul and everyone at Prime Creative, Pattison and all those who donated their time and resources to make the campaign happen and to all the people in this industry who have supported Bide Awhile over the years.

Thanks for giving back to the community and for helping our furry friends find forever homes. Look for the ads very soon on a bus or billboard near you!

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

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