



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD ON JUNE 9, 2007
FROM 10 – 12 NOON.
FINDLAY CENTRE, 26 ELLIOT STREET, DARTMOUTH

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY – SPRING 2007 ISSUE
12 EATON AVENUE. DARTMOUTH. NOVA SCOTIA. B2Y 2X5. PHONE 902. 469.9578
www.bideawhile.org

BIDE AWHILE LAUNCHES ITS BUILDING CAMPAIGN

On April 22, 2007, under beautiful blue skies, our two- and four-legged friends gathered to celebrate the beginning of our journey to a new Shelter.

Standing next to our site, at 67 Neptune Crescent in the Woodside Industrial Park, Bide Awhile President Lisa Richards announced the launch of our Building Campaign to the cheers, applause and barks of supporters. "After months of hard work and planning, we're ready to invite the community to show their support for this truly amazing endeavour," she said. "The animals we care for (and about) need a new Shelter and we know our community is ready to make this building project a tremendous success."

Executive Director Darrold Gould spoke of the difficulties our present Shelter imposes on animal care while Building Project Manager, Carolyn Haddock, spoke of the construction plans for the new Shelter and the improved care these designs would provide. Dartmouth - Cole Harbour MP Michael Savage, founding member Grace Burfitt and long-time volunteer Riet

Koetsier were on hand for our "turning of the sod" ceremony.

A reception followed at the North Woodside Community Centre where President Lisa Richards



Turning of the sod

and Campaign Co-Chairs Chris Hornberger and Darrold Gould spoke of the commitment of our supporters for this undertaking and how our shared passion for the wellbeing of our animal friends has carried us through the first 38 years of Bide Awhile's history. As Darrold Gould said: "That commitment will certainly see us through the next 40 years."

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

This very special day also celebrated a host of volunteers in the first annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. Coinciding with National Volunteer Week, Bide Awhile took the opportunity to recognize and thank its many valued volunteers. As several speakers pointed out, Bide Awhile would not exist without this dedicated and passionate workforce. Darrold Gould cited some of the many aspects of Bide Awhile's work which are completely dependent on volunteers: Board of Directors, Calendar Committee, Bowling for Critters, Animal Socialization, Foster Program, Pet Visitation, Pet Photo Challenge, Golfing for Critters, Grocery Tapes, Bake Sales, Cat Banks and the list goes on! Darrold described Bide Awhile's volunteers as "being the life blood of the organization." President Lisa Richards then had the honour of presenting the first annual

"Volunteer of the Year" Award. She noted that this year's award recipient shared in our "spirit of compassion." The plaque stated:

"Awarded to a volunteer who has shown outstanding dedication to Bide Awhile Animal Shelter, who selflessly contributes to the caring and welfare of unwanted or abandoned animals and who shares in the Shelter's Vision and Mission."



President Lisa Richards presenting Volunteer of the Year award to Valerie Griffiths

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lisa and Cito

From a Dream to a Reality

A dream made its debut on October 14, 1969. Six caring individuals put their heads together and the concept of Bide Awhile Animal Shelter was born. It took financial support, moral support and a lot of elbow grease but, a year later, Bide Awhile Animal Shelter opened its doors for the first time in an unused wing of a veterinary clinic in Spryfield. It was a humble space

where a few stray cats made their home and were cared for by a handful of passionate volunteers. There was no money for cat litter, so volunteers opted for shredded newspaper. There was no running water, so founding member, Grace Burfitt, hiked across the street carrying buckets of water. While by no means a luxury accommodation, the Shelter was a vast improvement over life on the mean streets for its many residents.

Fast forward to 1972. Bide Awhile entered a new phase. Once again, its dedicated volunteers arranged for a mortgage to purchase a "new" home on Eaton Avenue in Dartmouth. While getting on in years and not designed to be an animal shelter, Bide Awhile's new home offered more space, with a kitten room, adoption room, isolation area and a section for dogs.

Operations expanded and within a few years, the Shelter was home to up to 50 cats and kittens and two dogs at a time. While paid

staff were eventually hired for animal care, the Shelter had to rely on its volunteers who were crucial to its existence. Despite many changes, one thing remained constant: the dogs and cats lucky enough to enter Bide Awhile received tender loving care and were carefully prepared for their eventual adoption by the right family.

Over several more years, Bide Awhile continued to thrive. By 2005, there was a full-time Executive Director and four paid staff members. Today, close to 300 animals are rescued and adopted every year, but the years have taken their toll on the building that has served Bide Awhile so faithfully. After careful research, the Board of Directors has reached the conclusion that the only alternative for providing a healthy and sustainable home for the Shelter is a new, purpose built building. Land has been purchased in Woodside Industrial Park and the Board has begun the daunting task of planning for a capital campaign and construction of a brand new Bide Awhile Shelter.

This spring represents a landmark for the Shelter: the kick-off campaign that culminates in the doors being thrown open on our new facility. This is a monumental step for Bide Awhile. While it poses great challenges, we are confident that, with our dedicated and passionate supporters, Bide Awhile will succeed in constructing a new home that will sustain our work for many years to come.

I urge all of our supporters to get involved with our building campaign. As always, it is our members, donors and volunteers who enable us to keep helping animals in need in HRM. We can't do it without you!

Lisa Richards,
President

BUILDING UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that the design of our new shelter is well underway! The Building Committee has added several talented and enthusiastic partners to their team – RCS Retail Construction Specialists and GEC Brown Architect. Jennifer Judson-Wall, a project manager from RCS, has been lending us her scheduling and administrative expertise and Doug Doucet, co-owner of RCS, has been keeping an eye on the construction budget to ensure the building we design is within our budget parameters. Ted Brown, from GEC Brown Architect, has drafted building elevations and floor plans for the new shelter.

The design is still evolving, but we thought you'd enjoy hearing a few details about the new building. It will be constructed as a single-storey building with a walk-out basement at the rear. The main entrance will face Neptune Crescent and will be located adjacent to the paved visitor parking lot. Our feline guests and human visitors will enter through the main entrance, while the staff and canine types will enter through the basement door. The separation of the cat and dog areas of the shelter will ensure that we minimize the disruption to those kittens who aren't so fond of dogs, and vice versa!

Construction of the new shelter is scheduled to start this summer and we look forward to welcoming you to the 2008 annual general meeting in our new building! We hope that you're as excited as we are about this wonderful project and that you'll consider supporting it by making a donation to our building campaign.



Artists rendering of new Bide Awhile

VOLUNTEERING MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD

Anyone interested in serving on the Board of Directors for Bide Awhile may submit a volunteer application and resume to Darrold Gould, Executive Director. We need many volunteers to work in various capacities including: fundraising, capital campaigns, marketing and public relations. If you can commit 10 -12 hours a month and have experience in any of the above areas, we'd love to hear from you.

Please mail or fax (463-6173) your application before the May 25, 2007 deadline.

ARE WE THERE YET?

Thanks to Pat Hayes and David Fader of Integrated Property Solutions (IPS) and Trevor Hynes of Servitech Media for generously donating time and materials to produce a sign that measures the progress of our Capital Campaign contributions. This sign has been temporarily erected at the site of our new facility, but it will be moved to Eaton Avenue so everyone can regularly check our progress.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Home – A Warm Place to Grow

After more than 18 years’ in residence in the Eaton Avenue Shelter, I’ve learned how to get the most out of the old building. I know its limitations and I am certain that a new shelter will give us the opportunity to save more animals.



Darrold and Friend

One of the most important rooms in our shelter is the isolation room. This is where all new, incoming cats must stay until they are deemed healthy enough for adoption. Here is where they receive blood tests, vaccines, deworming, recover from their spay or neuter experience, have a flea bath and begin the socialization process that’s so important for animals who may have lost their ability to trust. Every cat in isolation has a minimum 10-day observation period to reduce the risk of disease transmission throughout the

Shelter. A sick cat obviously stays longer in isolation so that space is unavailable for another homeless animal in need. This is where our bottleneck occurs. The Eaton Avenue isolation room is small and, what’s worse, it’s located in a detached outbuilding with inadequate heating and ventilation.

Building a new Shelter means we can increase the number of spaces for isolation and separate the low-risk arrivals from the sick and recovering felines. Not only will we be able to take in more animals, we will be able to install stainless steel kennels and proper ventilation to reduce the transfer of infection from one animal to another.

The end result: more animals will leave isolation sooner and more animals coming into the Shelter can take their space.

I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for your support. For the past 38 years, that support has kept us helping stray and unwanted animals, rescuing them from uncertain futures. Your continuing support means we will be able to build the new shelter. This will enable us to keep on helping those who can’t speak for themselves. On their behalf, we thank you

Darrold R. Gould,
Executive Director

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION (CONT’D FROM PAGE 1)

The 2007 recipient of Bide Awhile’s “Volunteer of the Year” award is Valerie Griffiths. In her nearly 10 years of volunteering with the Shelter, Valerie has helped with almost every fund raiser, socialized and cared for our animals and has fostered 70 cats and kittens through Bide Awhile’s Foster Program. Over the years, Valerie and her family have found room in their hearts and their home for four lucky cats from Bide Awhile, all of whom could be described as waifs – old, injured or disadvantaged kitties who were not necessarily the “pick of the litter” but were as equally deserving of a second chance at life. The Shelter is lucky to have been able to rely on such a devoted volunteer. In accepting her award, Valerie commented on the high calibre of Bide Awhile volunteers and how it felt “funny to be honoured for something I truly enjoy!”

At Bide Awhile, we deeply appreciate all of the volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent.

This is an exciting and challenging time for Bide Awhile and we would not be in a position to build a new and necessary shelter without the tremendous efforts of our volunteers.

Bide Awhile has an immediate need for more volunteers who have fundraising experience. Our goal is to raise \$650,000. If you have the talent and ability to help us reach our goal, the Building Committee has many opportunities for you to apply your skills and would love to hear from you. In particular, we are seeking assistance with our upcoming direct mail campaign and with approaching businesses for corporate donations. If you can help, please contact Darrold at 469-9578.

OUR GUESTS KEEP COMING!

Everyone at Bide Awhile is buzzing with the excitement of our Building Campaign, but behind the scenes, life goes on as usual! Animals are still coming to us in need and the work doesn't stop just because we're planning our new building. Our doors will remain open and our kennels full until we turn the key in our new home on Neptune Crescent.

Our volunteers continue to work on our usual fundraising activities and we're hoping you will continue to support us in our Shelter's extraordinary chapter of growth. We need support from everyone in order to make this campaign a success. This is a great time to get involved by supporting one of our popular events: Bowling for Critters, Golfing for Critters, Bake and Craft Sales, Calendar Sales and Pet Photo Challenge. You may also join our Kennel Klub, pledge through the United Way, become a member or make a donation. No matter how you help, your support is needed and appreciated.

Please check our website www.bideawhile.org for details of upcoming events.

WHAT ABOUT BEN?

Nothing speaks of the need for a new Shelter any better than the story of Ben. Seven-week-old Ben came to the Shelter because his previous "three homes didn't work out!" Passed from home to home, no one was prepared to deal with the needs of a very young puppy who would grow into a very large dog.

Our Executive Director, Darrold Gould, is shown here with Ben at our Building Campaign launch. Darrold said "This little guy was lucky! He came to us yesterday - we're the 4th home he's had in his short life. On any other day, our kennels might have been full and he might have been on his way to yet another home. Our new

UPCOMING EVENTS

Golfing for Critters – September 21, 2007

2008 Calendar Sales – Fall 2007

Bowling for Critters – Fall 2007

Ceilidh for Critters – November 18, 2007

Bake and Craft Sale – Fall 2007

In the past few months, a few of our young friends have asked for donations to Bide Awhile instead of accepting birthday gifts. How thoughtful and generous!

Others, like our friends at Royal Canin and Global Pet Foods, have recently held their own events to help Bide Awhile and we're very grateful for that support.

If you're interested in holding your own fundraiser for Bide Awhile, please visit our web site for more information or contact us at 469-9578.

Shelter will give us a better chance of helping many other puppies like Ben." Ben, however, wasn't particularly excited about the building launch. He was just happy to be able to sleep in comfort on a full belly, surrounded by friends. He slept through the festivities.



Darrold Gould with 7 week old Ben

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE – APRIL 2007

As Bide Awhile launches its capital campaign to pay for the new building, the obvious question is 'How can I help?'. The most obvious way you can help is by making your own monetary gift. And there are 3 other ways in which Bide Awhile supporters can help – you can assist with fundraising by joining one of our committees; you can organize your own fundraising event; and you can spread the word about the new Shelter to your family, friends, and colleagues.

Our goal is to raise \$650,000. To date, we've raised \$200,000 through the generosity of donors who have either left us monetary gifts in their wills or sent us donations specifically earmarked for the building. With \$450,000 left to raise in the next 18 months, we hope to receive support from both our current and past donors as well as new supporters. This is a tall order for a small community based

organization, but a challenge the Board and membership are excited about taking on.

Bide Awhile rescues about 300 animals each year and turns away 30 per day. That's more than 7,000 unfortunate animals in any one year whose fate is uncertain. It costs an average of \$316 from the time an animal comes to the Shelter until she goes to her new home, including feeding, medical attention and care. For less than \$1.00 per day, you can support the care and feeding of one of our guests. With additional capacity in the new Shelter, we will need to care for many more animals than we do today.

You can help make the dream of a new Bide Awhile Shelter a reality. In return for your gift you may receive naming rights to rooms, kennels or permanent recognition on a donor wall. Details are available by calling the Shelter at 469-9578 or checking out our website at www.bideawhile.org.