



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 13, 2009, 10 - 12 noon  
Bide Awhile Animal Shelter  
67 Neptune Crescent, Dartmouth

## BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER – SPRING 2009 ISSUE

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COMMUNICATIONS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Our deepest respect and gratitude to our founding members:*  
**Barbara Bell,**  
**Grace Burfitt,**  
**Ruth Chisholm,**  
**Lorraine Kaplan, Harriet Montgomery and Rosalinde Warren.**



**Brenda & Toby, former Bide Awhile guest**

The year was 1969: Apollo 11 landed on the moon, The Beatles gave their last public performance, a rock concert was held in Woodstock NY and TV's most popular shows included The Mod Squad, Marcus Welby MD and Laugh-In.

Also that year and with much less fanfare, a small group of six friends met on October 14th to discuss their ongoing efforts to help stray and abandoned animals. They decided to start a shelter and to call it Bide Awhile. The following year they moved into an unused space in a Spryfield veterinary clinic and began taking in homeless cats – a little tabby named Moonbeam was first in the door. To Moonbeam's delight, Bide Awhile Animal Shelter was born. Happy 40th Birthday!

Bide Awhile's accomplishments during the past four decades have been nothing short of phenomenal. From the original Spryfield location, we've increased the size and capabilities of our facility twice; first to our former Eaton Avenue location in Dartmouth in 1972 and then to our newly constructed facility in the Woodside Industrial Park in 2008. We also expanded our operations to include dogs.

Our six founding members were the essence of volunteerism and resourcefulness. They laid the foundation for solid sustainable growth based on sound management and a focused commitment to their dream of helping animals. In an effort to reduce the increasing number of homeless animals, the shelter began providing education to the community on responsible pet ownership through its spay and neuter programs.

None of our continued success would be possible without our dedicated volunteers - cat-cuddlers, foster 'parents', board members, event coordinators and assistants - and the many people who support our cause through donations and annual memberships.

The ingenuity and commitment of our volunteers is amazing. Over the years, we've benefited tremendously from their efforts on programs and events such as: Ceilidh for Critters, Pet Photo Challenge and Calendar campaign, Craft and Bake Sales, Bowling for Critters, Golfing for Critters and the Kennel Klub. Considerable time and effort is required to organize and stage these fundraisers but our volunteers make them run like clockwork.

Of course our real success is in the thousands of animals rescued over the years. Congratulations to our members, volunteers, supporters and staff for a job well done. With your continued support, imagine what we'll accomplish next!

After 40 years, Woodstock is history and The Beatles broke up but the moon still shines and so does Bide Awhile Animal Shelter.

*Brenda Ruggles, President*

### INVITATION TO JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bide Awhile is seeking energetic, talented and creative individuals for its Board of Directors. If you love animals, are enthusiastic about your commitments, trustworthy, have leadership abilities and can give 5 to 10 hours of your time to Bide Awhile every month – we'd love to hear from you.

Specifically, we require volunteers with a background in educa-

tion, marketing, or public relations. Previous Board or committee experience would be helpful but is not necessary.

If you're interested in using your talents to help homeless animals, contact us at 469-9578 for application information. The deadline for applications is May 25, 2009.

HUMANE SHELTER FOR LOST AND HOMELESS ANIMALS

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DARROLD GOULD



**Darrold and Grazie**

It's hard to believe that we've been in our new building for a year. And what a year it's been - getting used to working in our new building and location, more people visiting the shelter, more adoptions and as expected, more animals coming in needing our help.

This has truly been a work of love, passion and commitment by everyone involved in making this dream a reality. When I started working at Bide Awhile in 1990, I couldn't imagine the day would come when we could build a larger more modern facility. My wife still laughs about helping me tear down walls at the old shelter in our efforts to renovate on the cheap. I'd dream of a healthier building with more space for more animals to wait

for their second chance. Obviously I wasn't the only one with a dream.

Now when we're taking in a group of kittens, a dog or stray cat, the thought always occurs to me, that without this new building we probably would not have been able to help. Sadly we still turn animals away and likely always will. No matter how big the shelter, it will never be able to help all the animals in need. Everyone must be part of the solution and that means spaying or neutering their animals. Anyone looking for a new pet should be willing to pay that cost. Shelters ensure that their cats and dogs are spayed or neutered which is certainly a cost saving for a new owner. In my opinion if you're getting a new pet and there is not some kind of spay and neuter program in place, you should walk away, and visit a facility that does.

From my years with Bide Awhile, the one thing that I'm always sure of - Bide Awhile will always strive to better the lives of our four legged friends. Thank you all for helping our dream come true.

***"Everyone must be part of the solution and that means spaying or neutering their animals."***

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## BIDE AWHILE WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

As a Society, Bide Awhile relies on its members not only for their support but also for their voice in delivering on the Society's mandate. If you are not currently a member, please consider adding your voice by joining our family. Individual members receive our bi-annual newsletter, are entitled to vote at our Annual General Meeting and are eligible to sit on the Board of Directors. If you're already a member, we thank you for your continued dedication to Bide Awhile.

Bide Awhile is pleased to announce the addition of two new membership categories: "Classroom/Youth Group" and "Pet".

The \$35 Classroom/Youth Group Membership provides a classroom or youth group, such as scouts, cadets, girl guides or church groups, with the chance to contribute to the welfare of cats and dogs living within our community. The group will receive our bi-annual newsletters to keep them updated on shelter activities. Other benefits of this exciting new category may include receiving a photo of one of our animal guests and a tour of our new facility.

It's a great opportunity to learn about Bide Awhile, proper care for pets and responsible pet ownership. It's also a chance to take on a special project related to Bide Awhile. Although this group category does not come with voting privileges, members will receive a certificate of membership.

Perhaps your family's Snoopy or Fluffy would like to help his or her fellow four-legged friends and would be thrilled with their own membership to Bide Awhile. For only \$10, your pet will receive a certificate of membership to Bide Awhile. However, please note that this membership does not allow your critter to vote at our Annual General Meeting - voting rights are currently reserved for two-legged individual members only!

Bide Awhile looks forward to hearing from children and youth from across the HRM who are interested in showing their concern for homeless animals. As well, we look forward to the addition of many new furry members to help us in our continuing efforts to provide a safe haven for lost and abandoned animals.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Volunteer Appreciation BBQ set for June 13, 2009

Bide Awhile's 3rd annual Volunteer Appreciation Event will once again follow the Annual General Meeting set for Saturday, June 13, 2009. This year, the Supporter Relations Committee and Volunteer Committee will be hosting a BBQ to thank all of its hard working volunteers for another successful year - the first full year in our wonderful new building! Here's hoping for sunshine (however, as our great friends at Royal Canin are donat-

ing the use of their tent, the BBQ will go ahead "rain or shine").

In addition to recognizing our 2009 "Volunteer of the Year", guests are invited to attend a dedication ceremony for a memorial stone retaining wall donated by our President, Brenda Ruggles, and her family in memory of their mother.

## 2009 CALENDAR SALES TOPS \$40K! MEOW!!!

*If you're not on our email distribution list, you could miss notices about upcoming events. We'd be happy to add your name to our email list or if you prefer we could put your name on a special call list.*

It's been our dream to exceed \$40K and this year we did it! Was it the handsome picture of Stewart on the cover, the many proud Moms and Dads buying up the calendars to show off their favourite 'Pet of the Day' or the excitement of the new shelter? We think it was all of that plus the hard work of our many volunteers and retail outlets. Two paws up to Global Pet Foods - they sold 250 calendars in their 3 locations! Many sponsors provided monetary support to help offset expenses plus our friends at Halcraft Print provided us with such a great product, it almost sold itself. A very special note of gratitude goes to our graphic designer, Natalie Rowe. She's donated countless hours

for 6 years of great calendars and from as far away as Abbotsford, BC. Thank you Natalie!

**The 'Pet of the Day' feature has been a big hit with everyone. We know you don't want to miss getting your own pets into our 2010 calendar, so we've extended the deadline to May 31st.**

Thank you to everyone for supporting this great fundraiser. Be sure to watch for our 2010 calendar coming in October.

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### **"DO WHAT YOU CAN, WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, WHERE YOU ARE" - T. Roosevelt**

For most of us, today's economic picture is probably the most worrisome we've seen in our lifetime. Concerns about job security, rising costs and the loss of savings and pensions have touched everyone. If you're fortunate enough to have not been directly affected, there's always a worry about family and friends and the impact on our community. Will the services and programs in place be enough to help those in need? How will the most vulnerable survive in times when there are fewer resources to go around?

For those of us involved in the not-for-profit world of an animal shelter our worries are understandably focused on the animals we strive to help. We expect there will be an increase in the number of abandoned animals and the number of people looking to place their animals in shelters because they can no longer afford their care. We will also see an increase in the numbers of unwanted kittens and puppies as the cost of spaying or neutering - already a problem for many - becomes even more of a factor. As a Shelter that's always filled to capacity, how will we cope when there's an even greater need for our help?

Our reliance on you, our donors has never been greater and we're concerned about how you will continue to support Bide Awhile when you may already be worried about your own finances. In previous times of economic downturn, our donors have always been there for us and we hope that you will continue to help as best you can - perhaps spreading your usual donation over a longer period of time to help lessen the impact.

We also hope that as a community we'll be moved to look harder for solutions to the problems of pet homelessness and overpopulation that perhaps prior to this economic tailspin were much easier to ignore.

On a thankful note, our Executive Director has always had a talent for stretching a dollar beyond imagination and looking for cost savings at every opportunity. We'll continue to be vigilant, spending wisely, and as always using our resources to provide the best care possible within our means.

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## EASTER B'EGG HUNT

If your dog had an extra special treat on Easter Sunday, the odds are good you took him to Point Pleasant Park for metro's 1st annual Easter B'egg Hunt.

Three Dog Bakery owner Leanne Dowe and The Naughty Dog's Candice Blaney and Derek Gallant, organized this amazing event to support Bide Awhile and to give dogs and their people a really fun holiday outing. Over 100 dogs searched the Park for 350 plastic Easter eggs filled with scrumptious bakery treats and prizes. It was a great day - the dogs enjoyed their goodies and a visit from the Easter Bunny, their families were treated to a BBQ and over \$1000.00 was raised for Bide Awhile.

Three Dog Bakery and The Naughty Dog are tremendous friends of Bide Awhile. Last year Leanne organized a BBQ (with Telus) and a Christmas Pet Photo Shoot with the Grinch. Leanne says "As locally owned businesses, we feel it's important to provide our customers with fun events that they can do with their dog. To also raise money for a wonderful animal shelter in our community at the same time is just the icing on the cake!"

Our very special thanks to Leanne, Candice and Derek for organizing such a terrific day for our canine friends and for being so incredibly supportive of Bide Awhile.



**Everybody loves the Easter Bunny**

## 12TH ANNUAL PET PHOTO CHALLENGE – DID WE GET SOME GREAT PHOTOS!!!

The contest start date may have been a bit late this year but we think that only gave folks extra time to send in some of the best photos we've ever seen. We have enough fabulous furry creatures to fill every block in the calendar! But don't worry, we'll leave that space for all of your 'Pet of the Day' pics.

Sadly, we had to narrow it down to just 13 winning pictures to feature in the 2010 calendar. This year the contest raised \$3965 in entries and sponsorships. Our great friends at The Chronicle Herald, Carsand Mosher, C100 and Eastlink have continued to offer their incredible support of this contest. We were also fortunate to gain the support of 5 new sponsors: Cabco Communications, Global Pet Foods, Hurricane Industrial Equipment, Renovators Resource Inc and Sylvan

Learning. Our random draw prize was again provided by Brier Island Lodge and Brier Island Whale Watching - a great weekend retreat. Three lucky winners will also be able to see their winning photos on dry mount prints thanks to Carsand Mosher. Thank you to all who submitted photos.

Thank to our new Pet Photo Challenge sponsors:



### WISP



It's been a long, hard winter and no one knows that better than Wisp. She was found during one of our really bad snowstorms – she didn't even have the protection of a little fat on her bones to help keep her warm. Emaciated, frostbitten and close to death, she came to

Bide Awhile. A survivor, she eventually recovered but lost the end of her tail and the tip of one ear to frostbite. After two months of loving care at Bide Awhile, she's now healthy, fatter and settled with her new family.

### IMAGINE A CAT THAT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO PURR!



Sarge had lived most of his life (about six years) in the same neighbourhood but without an address of his own. He probably started out with a family that moved on without him. It happens all the time. He was sick with open sores on his

swollen paws when he came to Bide Awhile. He couldn't purr. Life on the street doesn't leave much time for niceties. Later when he was well again, he was adopted with a kitten who taught him how to play – and purr!

### SQUIRT & MOXI

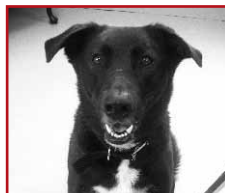


Squirt & Moxi kept everyone entertained till they found their new families.

*“Until we extend our circle of compassion to all living things, humanity will not find peace.”*

*- Albert Schweitzer*

### TROOPER



Trooper spent four months with Bide Awhile before he was adopted – happy, fit, and ten pounds lighter!

### WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SEPTEMBER 19TH?



If you'd like to be outdoors, enjoying a beautiful course with golf club in hand – be sure to watch [www.bideawhile.org](http://www.bideawhile.org) for details on our 5th Annual Golfing for Critters event.

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