

CALENDAR

Bide Awhile's 2006 Calendar is a winner! "I love this calendar – it's one of the best ever." That's what our friends are saying, and we couldn't be happier. This means our single biggest annual fundraiser will continue to provide months of pleasure for everyone and much-needed funds for our work. At \$10.00 a calendar, why not pick up one or two or three....?

Check our website (www.Bideawhile.org) for a retail location near you



CEILIDH FOR CRITTERS

October 22nd at the Lord Nelson Hotel was a terrific evening of canine agility demonstrations, live and silent auctions, and talented performers all in aid of the Animal Rescue Coalition and Bide Awhile. Thanks to the many supporters who turned out for the Second Annual Ceilidh for Critters and the committed efforts of a fine group of volunteers.

became Life Members and have generously contributed to our building fund. Our heartfelt thanks to Nancy and Ray, your support and friendship are deeply appreciated.

SPONSOR PROFILE

Since the first Pet Photo Challenge in 1998, Bide Awhile has been fortunate to have the support, guidance, and photographic advice of our friends at Carsand Mosher. From tips on taking good pictures to judging to prizes for our contest winners, our good friends have been there from the start helping to ensure the success of every contest. Your generous support is truly appreciated.

WEB UPDATE

Websites are a lot like puppies – always growing and offering new insights. We're proud of Bide Awhile's website; we've learned a lot since its launch in 2001. Our volunteer web master, Duane MacDonald, led our last revision and maintained our site over the last couple of years. His talent and enthusiasm have served us well, and we're very grateful. But we're at it again, working on a new, more dynamic site that will more fully meet our future needs. Stay tuned for some exciting changes in the weeks ahead.

SUPPORTER PROFILE

Where would we be without our friends? Bide Awhile has always relied on the energy, talent, and support of its volunteers and members: people like our own Nancy Maxwell. Nancy and her husband, Ray, first visited Bide Awhile with the simple intention of making a donation to a shelter that they'd heard good things about. An animal lover with a cat of her own, Nancy was attracted to the cause and began volunteering with the Membership Committee. Whether contributing to the recruitment of new members, organizing the Christmas Open House, or creating and donating beautiful handcrafts, Nancy's thoughtful participation made her a valued member of the team. Nancy continues to support the Shelter in other ways: she and Ray recently

A SAMPLING FROM OUR TOONIE COLLECTION...

"This is for Jake, our Bide Awhile cat, adopted 1988. He's almost 18 now and still going strong, although a good bit slower than he used to be. No amount of money could ever repay the fun, affection and companionship he's given us over the years. Thanks."

"A few years ago my grade one students found a little kitten in the woods near the school. I called Bide Awhile and 2 ladies from the Shelter visited our class, and with pictures and posters told the children about the Shelter and pets. This inspired the children to raise money for the Shelter. Please accept these toonies for 'our memories.'"

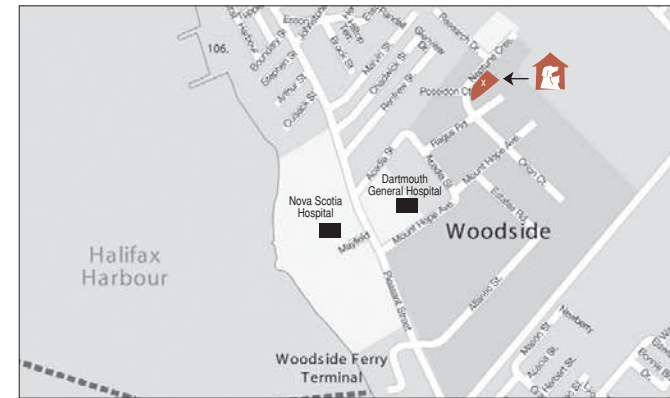


CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Christmas Open House to be held **December 11, 2005** from 1-4 pm
12 Eaton Avenue, Dartmouth

BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY – FALL 2005 ISSUE
12 EATON AVENUE, DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, B2Y 2X5. PHONE 902.469.9578
www.bideawhile.org

MAKING A NEW HOME FOR OUR FURRY FRIENDS



By [Debbie Buott](#)

After 35 years Bide Awhile Animal Shelter is focused on perhaps its biggest milestone yet: a new building to host those homeless furry critters Shelter supporters cherish and work to save. We'll hate leaving Eaton Avenue, but it can't provide the kind of environment we want for our animal friends in the future.

Shelter Executive Director, Darrold Gould, sees the purpose built shelter as a new start for Bide Awhile. "This new shelter will enable us to provide better care for the animals in our shelter. That's always been our purpose, to provide homeless, unwanted animals with a loving home until we can place them with a new family."

Gould also notes that the new shelter will allow Bide Awhile to take in more dogs and reduce the turn around time for animals taken in. "Turn around is the time it takes for us to get an animal adopted into a home. The clock starts when the animal arrives at the shelter and stops when they leave for their new home," explains Gould. "The new shelter will provide us faster turn around time because the purpose built facilities will allow us to take care of those animals that are

under the weather and those that just need a good bath and some TLC in a more timely fashion." Quicker turn around time means faster adoptions, leaving the new shelter with more room, on average, and the ability to take care of more abandoned cats and dogs.

Construction on the facility is still a couple of years away, says Carolyn Haddock, building committee chairperson, but the work to make that day a reality is ongoing. Bide Awhile's new home will be at 67 Neptune Crescent in the Woodside Industrial Park on land purchased from Nova Scotia Business Inc. Now that the land has been secured, says Haddock, design of the building by WHW Architects can begin. "Design will begin in November and will likely be complete in the spring of 2006," says Haddock.

The land and the design signal a great start to the building campaign, but we're only part of the way to our new building; the biggest step still remains: to actually get the new shelter built. For that to happen we need the support of volunteers. If you're interested in getting involved with the building campaign, contact our Executive Director at 469-9578.

A hearty thanks to our fabulous Bowling for Critters sponsors



HUMANE SHELTER FOR LOST AND HOMELESS ANIMALS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE » NOVEMBER 2005

I'm happy to take this opportunity, in my first "President's Message," to introduce myself to Bide Awhile's supporters and friends. I became a part of the Bide Awhile family in 2000 when I answered an ad seeking Board Members in the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society newsletter. At the time, I had just started practicing with a Halifax law firm and felt it was time to start volunteering and giving back to the community. I've been an ardent animal lover all of my life and an animal shelter seemed a natural fit.

From my first interview with Darrold and Trio (who spent the entire time curled in my lap), I was hooked. I was immediately struck by the warm and homey atmosphere of the Shelter and by the passion and good humour of the Board members and volunteers. During the five years I've spent at Bide Awhile, I served first as the Chair of the Membership and later Supporter Relations committees, then Recording Secretary, and now as President. I've had the privilege of working with some extremely talented people who take time out of their busy lives to make life better for homeless and abandoned animals. From Board meetings to staffing the Bide Awhile table at cat shows to dressing as Sylvester at last year's Open House, I've enjoyed all of my Bide Awhile experiences.

On a personal note, my household consists of myself; my husband, Denis, three-year-old daughter Amelie; one-year-old daughter Mairi; and my two feline "kids", Cito and Sylvester, who have been with me for over 10 years since I moved into my first apartment and discovered it just wasn't home without a pet. My sister Jennifer, also a Bide Awhile volunteer, and her cats, Neelix and Tuvok (clearly Jen has been watching too much Star Trek), complete our very



LISA AND CITO

busy, and noisy, home.

You will often see Amelie and Mairi with me "helping" at Bide Awhile events – my goal is to train them to be our youngest volunteers!

This is a very exciting time to be beginning my term as President. The Shelter is on the verge of some big changes as we work toward the construction of our new building in the Woodside Industrial Park. With these changes come big challenges as we kick our fundraising efforts into high

gear. I know we are up to the task and look forward to working with you toward this goal.

I could not complete this message without recognizing the Board of Directors and in particular Chris Hornberger, our Past President, whose leadership has been such a great source of inspiration during my years with Bide Awhile. Taking on the role of president is a much less daunting prospect knowing I am working with such a great group of people who are devoting their experience and expertise to the Shelter.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who has supported the Shelter over the past year and wish you, your family, and friends a wonderful holiday season and all the best in 2006. We'll see you at the Open House!

Lisa Richards, President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Pets should be for life, but I've heard many reasons why they can't be. Indeed, as Executive Director of Bide Awhile for many years, I've heard them all. My favourites:

- We moved and can't have pets in the new place.
- Now that the kids have moved out, we want to travel more. Having a pet doesn't fit our lifestyle now.
- We're too busy for a pet right now.
- My new partner doesn't like my cat/dog.
- They tear up the yard.
- They shed too much.
- The cat roams around the house at night and wakes me up.
- My children are too busy with other activities to care for the dog/cat.

At Bide Awhile, we are forced to turn away as many as 30 cats a day. We simply can't take them all. We could build a shelter that would hold 1,000 animals, and soon enough we'd be back to turning away animals.

Where does the problem start? It starts with pet owners, and this is where it must stop. Owning a pet means being responsible for it. It

means taking care of its health needs – and this includes spaying or neutering it. Can't afford to spay or neuter a new animal? Then consider going to a shelter where it's all been done for you. You'll be giving a home to an animal who really needs you and is looking for a loving home.

Think before you take an animal home. Are you prepared to pay the vet bills if the animal gets sick or hurt? You can't expect someone else or an animal shelter to step in and take over as soon as there's a problem.

Please take the time to consider all the aspects of owning a pet before you take that first step. There are far too many unwanted pets and not enough room at shelters for all of them. It all starts with you.

Darrold Gould, Executive Director



TALL, DARK, AND HANDSOME SEEKING SPECIAL SOMEONE



Hi there!!! My name is Bo, and I have lived at Bide Awhile Animal Shelter since April.

I am currently looking for that special someone to take me home so we can live happily ever after.

I'm a HUGE, and very handsome, Rottie / Great Dane / maybe Shepherd / maybe giraffe mix. I am VERY enthusiastic about absolutely everything but am, at heart, a gentle soul. I love people and am not shy about showing it! I love to run and chew and play and run and chew some more, and I am looking for someone who will run with me.

I need someone special in my life who loves big, active dogs. My perfect mate should have lots of space, lots of patience, lots of time to spend with me, and should plan on taking me to obedience classes so I can get the guidance I need.

With lots of love and training, I know I can be the light of someone's life.

If you think you have been waiting your whole life for me, please contact Darrold at the Shelter.

I'll be waiting for you.

UNLEASHING THE TRUTH ABOUT BANNED BREEDS: IS YOUR BREED NEXT?

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES ON BREED BANNING.

Many countries, provinces, and cities are looking at the issue of banning specific dog breeds from their communities. These laws, called Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), regulate the right to own a dog based solely on the breed or "type." The owner's role or responsibility is ignored. As a result, this is legislation that does not work.

Banning breeds is not effective in preventing dog attacks. Dog bite statistics show that every breed of dog will bite. Italy, for example, is now up to restricting 92 breeds of dogs! (Corgis, Border Collies and St. Bernards are all considered dangerous dogs in Italy and neither children nor criminals are allowed to own them.) But the breeds not excluded still have a nip left in them.

The problem with banning certain breeds is that it does not address the root cause of dog attacks: irresponsible dog owners. Some breeds of dogs have a greater prey-drive or protection instinct and are unfairly labeled as aggressive or dangerous. But no breed of dog is inherently vicious. The problem exists not with the breed of dog but with the owners of the dog.

BSL doesn't solve the problem of dog attacks. All breeds of dogs can bite and inflict harm, and there is no scientific evidence to suggest that one breed

is more dangerous than another or that dangerous temperaments and behaviors are the result of any one factor, including breed. Ban one breed as the most dangerous and another will take its place,



BSL takes time, money, and people to enforce. Wouldn't it be better to enforce more strictly the laws we already have, like leash laws, and hold pet owners accountable for their pets' actions?

thus creating a snowball effect until eventually all dog breeds will be labeled dangerous. BSL punishes dogs and owners who have done nothing wrong. It discriminates against people who choose to own a particular breed of dog, and it punishes dogs based on their breed, not their behavior.

BSL takes time, money, and people to enforce. Wouldn't it be better to enforce more strictly the laws we already have, like leash laws, and hold pet owners accountable for their pets'

actions? Blaming an entire breed is not the answer. The tools for public safety are there, they just need to be enforced.

On close examination, there are no benefits to breed specific legislation. Owning a dog is the responsibility of the individual. If the ultimate goal for BSL is to reduce the number of injuries or deaths, there are better ways. For example, let's examine more closely the circumstances and events that cause attacks to find better ways to reduce them. Understanding human and canine behavior is a critical part of this process. Banning breeds is not.

1ST ANNUAL BIDE AWHILE GOLF TOURNAMENT



For the golfers in the crowd, the 1st Annual Bide Awhile Golf Tournament was a smashing success, despite Mother Nature's attempt to dampen our spirits! Thanks to Brad and Brenda Ruggles, long time Shelter supporters, the Golf Tournament kicked off the Thanksgiving weekend with a big bang at Indian Lake Golf Course.

Brad and Brenda were successful in securing fabulous prizes from a number of very generous sponsors. The event raised \$600 – enough to feed 20 cats for one month! Planning is already underway for next year's event, so polish your golf clubs over the winter – we'll let you know as soon as details are available. Two paws up for Brad, Brenda and their volunteers for a wonderful tournament!