

THINGS TO WATCH FOR!!

A Benefit Concert in support of Bide Awhile is being organized by our friend Amy Kaellis. Amy, a classically trained singer will bring a delightful array of talent to the stage of St Matthew's United Church, Barrington St. on June 9th, at 8 pm. It promises to be a fabulous evening and we're honored to have Amy's talent working for Bide Awhile. Watch our web site (www.bideawhile.org) for announcements on ticket sales and concert details.



Bide Awhile Golf Tournament 2006
Plans are already underway for our 2nd annual Golf Tournament, organized by Shelter supporters, Brad and Brenda Ruggles. Brenda says "Last year, there was such tremendous corporate and individual support that we decided to host the event in a more spectacular setting".

Mark your calendars for September 23rd and plan on joining us at the Sherwood Golf and Country Club in Chester.

In addition to playing on a superb course, you'll enjoy the BBQ and prize presentation in the clubhouse after the tournament. Keep your clubs polished; this will be a terrific day! Watch our web site (www.bideawhile.org) for event details.

3rd Annual Ceilidh for Critters

It's still spring but our friends are already organizing for this year's Ceilidh!

And they're promising a bigger and better event than ever!

Angela Granchelli, one of the Ceilidh organizers says "It's a given that we'll have great bands and wonderful auction items but this year we've made some big changes - this year's event will be held at the Westin and on a Sunday, October 22nd". With everything being held in one very large room this year, everyone will be able to enjoy the entertainment in comfort - especially the Lietash Doggy Demo featuring agility and "Chicago style racing". With free parking, prizes for the highest auction bidders and credit card acceptance on site, you won't want to miss this event. Watch our web site and theirs (www.ceilidhforcritters.com) for more details.

Meanwhile the Fundraising Committee is hard at work with KCI, the consultants chosen to help us prepare for this incredible undertaking. Committee co-chair Chris Hornberger says "There's a lot of 'behind the scenes' activity happening as we lay the critical groundwork for a successful fundraising campaign." Our experts tell us "The success is in the planning and planning takes time". So while we're as eager to get underway as you are, we're already moving forward - doing our homework and planning for our success.

the judging process, which was held on March 18th at the Shelter. Hope you caught the winning photos in The Chronicle Herald on April 1st and the official awards ceremony at Global Pet Foods in Dartmouth in April. If you missed the winners, don't worry - you'll find them in our 2007 calendar edition. Thank you to all the photographers who submitted photos this year and to all the animals who put up with the flashbulbs and the adoration!



BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER SOCIETY - SPRING 2006 ISSUE
12 EATON AVENUE, DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA, B2Y 2X5. PHONE 902. 469.9578
www.bideawhile.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD ON JUNE 10, 2006
FROM 10 - 12 NOON
AT THE FINDLAY CENTRE,
26 ELLIOTT STREET, DARTMOUTH

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's Kitten Season Again...

Who doesn't love a cuddly, fluffy kitten? For the uninformed, the words "kitten season" will likely conjure up images of baskets of happy, playful rascals, just looking for fun. It's hard to imagine a happier thought.



Lisa and Cito

For those of us involved with Bide Awhile, or any animal shelter, "kitten season" conjures up a very different set of images. Every year around this time, the days get longer, the weather gets warmer, and thousands of unsprayed and unneutered cats in HRM will produce thousands of unwanted kittens. The lucky ones end up in shelters, where if they are very lucky they will go on to a loving home. The rest are destined to be euthanized by their uncaring, uninformed owners, to die a painful death on the streets, or to struggle continuously for food and survival. Eventually they'll produce still more unwanted kittens next kitten season.

As usual, Bide Awhile is being inundated with kittens this spring. While kittens are easier than adult cats to find homes for, they still have to be fed, cared for, nursed back to health, and spayed or neutered when they're old enough. And as is all too common at the Shelter, the isolation area is packed to the rafters with critters who aren't yet ready to be adopted, while we turn animals away on a daily basis.

As animal lovers and Bide Awhile supporters, we understand the importance of spaying and

neutering both dogs and cats. It's second nature to us. However, I don't think we can ever do enough to get that message out in the community. There are far too many people out there who for whatever reason, simply do not bother to get their animals spayed or neutered.

I urge all of our supporters to take every available opportunity to spread the word. To your friends, family, co-workers, neighbours - anyone you come in contact with who doesn't seem to get it. While we may get tired of hearing about it, there are many, many people out there who need to have this message hammered home. Some people may never have thought about the consequences of failing to have their pet spayed or neutered. Some honestly don't realize how many unwanted animals a pair of cats (or dogs) and their offspring, left to their own devices, could end up producing. Some people may still hold the view that it is somehow dangerous or harmful for their animal to be



These kittens are lucky and will go to loving homes.

altered. Others may intend to do it, but don't make finding the time or money a priority.

We know better, and it's up to us to share that information whenever we can. Much of the time our efforts may fall on deaf ears, however, if you and I manage to convince one or two people, we will have prevented the needless suffering of thousands of animals.

It's the least we can do.

Lisa Richards, President

BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

We're really excited about the land purchase for our future Shelter and we wanted everyone passing 67 Neptune Crescent to know it! To help us announce our arrival in Woodside Industrial Park, the good folks at Mattall Signs generously donated a sign to mark the site of our next home. If you're in the neighbourhood, stop by and take a look at our beautiful sign and future location. Just imagine how many animals we'll be able to help when that building goes up and the sign comes down!

PET PHOTO CHALLENGE UPDATE

The 2006 Pet Photo Challenge was a great success again this year thanks to our volunteers and our long list of sponsors. Our good friends at The Chronicle Herald, Eastlink and C100 helped us let everyone know about the contest, local vets and businesses displayed our posters and entry forms, Carsand Mosher helped us collect the entries, and Global Pet Foods prepared special baskets filled with treats and toys for the winning cats and dogs.

This year we received over 750 photos of pets of all shapes and sizes. Rick Conrad from The Chronicle Herald lent his expertise to

Carsand Mosher
PHOTOGRAPHY

EASTLINK ADVERTISING
The Smart Money Medium.

C 100
TODAY'S BEST MUSIC

The
ChronicleHerald

HUMANE SHELTER FOR LOST AND HOMELESS ANIMALS

2006 CALENDAR - THE YEAR OF THE DOG (AND CAT)

2006 is off to a roaring start for Bide Awhile fundraising. The Shelter's 2006 Calendar sold out even before the year began! In less than 3 months, our calendar sales raised more than \$30,000 for the Shelter – that's almost \$10,000 more than last year.

The sell-out caused lots of tails to wag, and while the Calendar Committee is still basking in its accomplishments, they know it took a lot of volunteer effort and promotion to make this happen. And they're not taking anything for granted as they plan for the 2007 edition. Helena MacIntyre, the committee's co-coordinator says "We're a little in awe of our success, but now we're asking ourselves 'what can we do to surpass this next year?'" She adds "Our game plan will need to change - we'll not only need to order more calendars to meet people's expectations but then we've also got to make sure we're able to sell all of those extra calendars". Distributing and tracking the sales of the calendars was challenging with so many outlets wanting to help the shelter. "We literally had to pull calendars from our outlets to place back at the Shelter to replenish their frequently depleted supplies. Our calendar was in great demand this year."

While some walked away disappointed they weren't able to get a

calendar this year, we were pleased to see so many people coming to the Shelter to make their purchase. "Seeing is believing," said Heather Parkyn, who co-ordinates the calendar's media and marketing efforts. "No better case could be made for the work we do or the need for a new shelter than by having people visit the current facility to pick up their calendar. People saw that need with their own eyes – and the needs of the animals. They melt your heart, just like the photos in the calendar do."

The Calendar Committee is always ready to welcome eager volunteers to help on the sales team. A big part of ensuring another sold out year will be having volunteers ready to help with calendar distribution and sales remittance. Helena says "It's clear the public sees our calendar as a great way to support the Shelter so ensuring it's readily available is critical. Dedicated volunteers are the key to a successful sales drive." If you'd like to get involved, please contact the Shelter at 469-9578.

The Calendar Committee is working to have the 2007 Calendar available by mid September – check out our website or call the Shelter closer to that date for confirmation. Avoid disappointment and get your copy (or copies) early!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS MESSAGE – REMEMBERING A FRIEND – Darrold Gould

One of the driving forces that has sustained Bide Awhile for more than 36 years has been the dedication and hard work of our Board Members. All are volunteers, giving their time to help homeless animals. One such board member was George Thomson. When I came to Bide Awhile as Executive Director nearly 17 years ago; George was one of the first people that I really got to know. George was a quiet, kind man who would do whatever he could for our shelter.

Sitting here in my office at 12 Eaton Ave, I'm amazed at how this old building (built in 1863) has been able to serve our needs for such a very long time. George was one of the main reasons we



Darrold and Friend

managed to keep everything in working order for so long. He could fix anything, or else knew what we could do to keep something working a little while longer. I look at these very old tiles in the shelter and know that many years ago it was George who laid them. I don't remember George ever missing a board meeting. He did anything he could to lend a hand – regularly helping with our bowling events, bake sales and building maintenance.

I remember one year just before our Christmas Open House we had water leaking from the roof into one of our rooms. George and I (in shirt and tie), went up on the roof to break up the ice that was causing the leak. The leak was stopped and no one knew how close we'd come to an Open House disaster.

When we first starting talking about building a new shelter, I wanted George's opinion – after all, he'd done more than anyone to keep this building going. In typical George style he said "this building is used up, like an old car on its last miles, there comes a time when you just have to get a new car". He felt we were doing the right thing. He'd been a part of Bide Awhile since the beginning and knew our strength was always in moving forward.

George was an extraordinary volunteer and my friend. We'll always miss him.

Shelter. Wendy and staff member Allie Ferguson are shown here with Darrold and Mia, presenting the funds raised at their Social Sunday Brunch held on March 26.

PAMPERED PAWS



Two paws up and a big thank you to Wendy Gillespie and the staff of the Pampered Inn on Hammonds Plains Rd for their \$700.00 donation to the

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Any member interested in serving on our Board of Directors is invited to submit a volunteer application and resume to Darrold Gould, Executive Director.

We are seeking support in fundraising, law, public relations and human resources. If you can commit 10-12 hours a month and have experience in any of the above, we'd love to hear from you.

Please mail or fax (463-6173) your application before the deadline, May 20, 2006.



Holly's a 9 year old sweetheart who through no fault of her own has had 3 different homes in her lifetime. She's now been successfully adopted to her permanent loving family

A hearty thank you goes out to Michael Fulcher and the folks at Wade Company Ltd for donating the colour printing of 100 posters for this years Pet Photo Challenge.



PART 2 IN A SERIES

Unleashing the truth about banned breeds: Friend or Foe?

By Katherine and Karen McIntyre

Bill 132 is the first legislation in North America to ban any breed throughout an entire province or state. Public safety was the reason Ontario brought this bill into effect; however, it turns out that the ban is ineffective. In the last 21 years, dogs have been responsible for 25 fatalities in Canada. Will banning pit bulls, as Ontario has done, solve this problem? Not likely, since none of those people were killed by the breed now banned in Ontario. Of the 25 fatalities, eight involved sled dogs, including mixed breeds.

In recent weeks the story of one Ontario pit bull, named Neville, made headlines as he proved Ontario's Bill 132 to be nothing but foolish. Neville was slated to be killed as required under the new provincial law. At the last minute, he was rescued and sent to the United States. Neville is now a graduate of the State Patrol Program and a canine officer with the Washington State Patrol. Today, he screens cars for bombs to help keep Americans safe. Law enforcement dogs, like Neville, are in great demand. Ontario overlooked this valuable resource as it was masked as a pit-bull.

Clearly animals play important roles in our society. The German Shepherd, for example, who happens to be one of the 92 breeds banned in Italy, is well known for being a Rescue K-9 and Therapy K-9 assistance dog for the disabled, blind and deaf and used extensively in narcotics, weapons, explosives, and environmental detection as well as criminal apprehension. Imagine a world without this breed. The Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP Unit recognize the importance of dogs in their work. There are eight teams in the Halifax K-9 unit, and they are considered to be an invaluable asset in searching for people and evidence. They are also an

additional line of defense in officer safety. Thanks to Bill 132, Neville would never have had a chance to serve as a patrol dog in Ontario.

A summary for those for and against the pit bull ban in Ontario revealed some interesting findings. There were 43 experts against the breed ban, and one expert supporting the ban. The expert, English Nannies Dogs Inc., takes a zero-tolerance approach to dog attacks. English Nannies also noted that "the Staffordshire Bull Terrier is a very friendly, lovable dog to humans that should not be included in the ban." This implies that there is not one known Staffordshire Bull Terrier to bite in the world, which would have to be the case to fit with the zero-tolerance policy. This expert also stated that "there should be a law that covers the dogs that are physically able to take your thigh muscle off, such as a German Shepherd." There goes the Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP K-9 units. The point here is that this expert clearly has conflicting evidence in his/her own argument and this being the only expert for the banned breed was enough for Ontario to pass Bill 132.

Breed-specific legislation has become a hot topic in Canada in the last year. Without a doubt, even one fatality from a dog is too many; however, we can't paint all dogs with the same brush. In reality, more people are killed by automobiles, sports, housework, and other humans than they are by dogs. Therefore, the purpose of Bill 132 must be questioned. It appears that a law was created to solve a problem that doesn't really exist. Enforcement of current dog laws is what's needed. There are not bad breeds just ineffective owners.

Thanks to Neville, it became apparent just month's after Ontario's ban took place that it was fallible. What one province regarded as a menace to society became another state's hero in waiting.

SUPPORTER PROFILE

Over the course of 14 years, Sobey's Tape Saver Program has generated \$46,702.82 for Bide Awhile. That's a lot of groceries when you consider how that amount is calculated - Sobey's donates \$1.00 to the Shelter for every \$500.00 it receives in Sobey's grocery tape receipts from any of its locations. We're so glad our friends love to eat!

Not only is this a great way for Sobey's to support community organizations like ours but it's also a really easy way for many supporters to give to the

Shelter without spending an extra dime. Many of our supporters collect from family, friends and co-workers; they know it all adds up! Just last year alone, Sobey's tapes raised over \$5300.00. That's a lot of kittens spayed and neutered!

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Sobey's for their continued support and friendship.

Don't forget - you can drop your tapes off at the Shelter or place them in our tape donation box at the Sobey's location on Windsor St in Halifax.