



# BIDE AWHILE ANIMAL SHELTER NEWS

SPRING 2017 ISSUE



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As my term as President draws to a close, I am reminded of the saying, "The only time you should look back is to see how far you've come". And far we have come, indeed.

Over the past two years alone, Bide Awhile has rescued and rehomed approximately 700 cats and dogs (at time of writing) and has held numerous fundraisers to support those successful rescues. We have provided assistance to over 200 low income families seeking low cost spays and neuters for their pets. Volunteers have been present in the community, sharing information and education at every opportunity and we continue to plod up the hill, day after day, fighting the good fight. We hold each other up when times are tough and celebrate together when we reach our goals.

While the daily work continues, Bide Awhile has also undertaken additional projects and initiatives. Together, we have laid out an Education plan, which includes the forthcoming publication of a children's book highlighting the responsibilities of pet ownership. We have created community outreach programs like The Reading Circle for children who struggle with the written word, and most recently, Bide Awhile has partnered with a local feline TNR (Trap/Neuter/Release) organization in an

attempt to reduce the number of stray and feral cats in Nova Scotia, by providing funding for the spays and neuters.

On the less visible but equally important side, Bide Awhile has tackled administrative initiatives such as a review and modernization of our Shelter By-Laws, Vision and Mission Statements and have also begun the process of preparing a Strategic Plan, which will influence our actions and advance our mission over the next five years.

Yes, it has been a very full two years, but it has also been a very fulfilling two years. I could not have asked for a more rewarding opportunity and I am ever-thankful for all the wonderful volunteers and supporters who faithfully show up to meetings and events, time after time. And of course, a huge shout out to our A-Team shelter staff. The loyalty and selflessness of all these incredible people are the heartbeat of Bide Awhile, and its future.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of Bide Awhile's journey.

*Stephanie Willan,  
President*



## Join our Team!

**Bide Awhile Tails in Motion**



ON YOUR MARK • GET SET •  
**LET'S GIV'ER!**  
Halifax • May 19-21 • 2017

For more information: [www.bideawhile.org](http://www.bideawhile.org)

They did it again! Last year our Tails in Motion team raised over \$13,000 in the Blue Nose Marathon. Our team finished 12th out of 85 charities! This is truly amazing and wouldn't have been possible without the support from great participants, fundraisers and donors! This year's goal is to raise \$16,000. And this year we are looking to beat that!!

All funds raised from the Blue Nose goes directly to the care of the animals in our Shelter by helping us to keep them warm, fed and healthy while they await their furever homes.

Please visit our website for more information about how you can join or help support the team.

## Annual General Meeting

10:00 a.m. start



## Open House at Bide Awhile

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Shelter Tours  
Refreshments  
Bake Sale  
Meet & Greet

**Saturday June 10, 2017**

67 Neptune Crescent, P.O. Box 50029, RPO Southdale, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4S2  
Tel: (902) 469-9578 | Fax (902) 463-6173 | Email: [bideawhile@bideawhile.org](mailto:bideawhile@bideawhile.org)



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As I write this, I hope we have seen the last of winter, and spring has arrived, but we all know what that means, kitten season. Every year at this time, we see more pregnant cats and kittens coming through our doors needing our help. Also at this time of year we have more people looking for kittens, so it is very important that we make people aware of the responsibility of owning a pet. When we see a kitten or a puppy, our first response is I want one, but understanding the responsibility and long term commitment of owning a pet is the first thing we need to consider. At Bide Awhile we take the time when adopting our animals to help everyone to make an informed decision. If we all did this before getting a pet, we would have less unwanted cats and dogs needing our help.

At Bide Awhile all our animals are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, de-wormed, and seen by a veterinarian every week. I am now happy to say that all our cats and dogs will be microchipped before being adopted. This will increase the chance that should your pet get lost it will be returned to you.

As I have said spring is the time for kittens, and by the numbers we see, there are people who still are not spaying and neutering their pets. Bide Awhile runs a low cost spay and neuter program for those who qualify, as do other animals groups. By spaying and neutering your pet you become part of the solution not the problem.

I would like thank everyone who supports Bide Awhile. It is you who allow us to continue working for a better world for our four legged friends.

I would also like to thank everyone that took the time to complete our Strategic Plan Survey. The survey results allow us to better understand your thoughts and concerns. We will be taking these results and creating a five year Strategic Plan for Bide Awhile. Please stay tuned for an update.

*Darrold R. Gould*  
Executive Director


## PUBLIC RELATIONS UPDATE

The main focus of the PR Committee has been branding for Bide Awhile. The consensus at the Board level has been that we need to have more consistency in our promotions in regards to logo placement, colors, etc., and this will inevitably aid in brand recognition for the shelter.

In an effort to aid in brand recognition, Bide Awhile purchased ads on several billboards in HRM in November and December. These billboards were used to promote the sale of our calendars and our Open House as well as to increase the visibility of the Bide Awhile Brand. Currently the PR Committee is working closely with the other various committees to ascertain how we can help promote their events and initiatives. In addition we have been working to establish an online clothing and merchandise store where people can shop for Bide Awhile branded t-shirts, jackets, golf shirts, coffee mugs, etc. It is felt that this initiative will help to increase awareness and keep the Bide Awhile brand front and center.

On a separate yet related note, committee chair Barry Osmun has agreed to take on Bowling for Critters and has promised to have an event that is bigger and better than ever before.

*Bary Osmun,*  
Public Relations Chair



**Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program**

**BIDE AWHILE**

**Does your cat need to be spayed or neutered?**

If you can't afford the operation you probably can't afford to deal with a litter of kittens every year or so. We may be able to help if you qualify. Your cat will be healthier, happier and you will save money overall. Call us today.

Please contact us for more information.

**Bide Awhile Animal Shelter**  
902-469-9578  
www.bideawhile.org



**BIDE AWHILE**

## Pet of the Month Contest

### Honour Your Pet

**Buy a monthly spot  
in our 2018 Calendar.**  
And you can have your  
pet's photo featured on one  
of the monthly pages!  
**Send your photo by May 3 and you'll  
be entered in a draw to win a \$300  
Gift Card.**

**Final Deadline: May 31**

**\$20  
Per Entry**

download an entry form at:  
**www.bideawhile.org**



## ADOPTION STORIES



### Goose finds his forever home

Hi All,

We just wanted to write a note about how well little Goose is doing!

Goose came home to us on December 12. We made lots of plans and arrangements beforehand in preparation for him taking time to adjust. We explained to the kids that he might hide for a while, etc. Well, that was all a waste of time! Goose strolled right in and plopped down on the couch like he'd lived here all along.

He's amazing with our four kids. Gentle, playful, and sweet. He loves to eat and his little "meow" in the mornings when it's time for breakfast is the cutest. His first night here, every member of our family got up in the morning and announced that Goose had slept with them. It was obvious little Goose had made the rounds throughout the night, taking time to snuggle up for a little while with each of us.

He loves to play with toys and we love when he uses his paw to drink water from his bowl. Honestly, Goose is the perfect cat and has been an incredible addition to our family. We feel so lucky to have him. We can't wait to see what happens when we put up our Christmas tree later today

Thank you so much for all your help and for your dedication to all those special kitties you care for. You can feel good to know that Goose has found his forever home.

Love,  
Beth, Jared, Grace, Sam, Rowan, and Kenna.

### Lou loves his new big sister

Hi Bide Awhile!

We just wanted to give you an adoption update on Lou! We brought him home 4 weeks ago and he has made our little family complete! He is getting along great with his big sister Patches who is so happy to have a play mate.

Thanks so much for making Lou's adoption so easy and such a great experience!

Alison and Sreedeeep



### An International Adoption!

Hello there, My name is Henry!

I have traveled far and wide to find my forever home! My life started as a hungry kitten on the streets of Jakarta Indonesia, along with my brother, we were rescued by a loving woman who bottle fed us and raised us. When we came to Canada our owner could no longer care for us and contacted Bide Awhile Animal Shelter. At Bide Awhile, we were given vet care and a cozy place to call home for awhile until we were adopted! Little did I know I was going to be adopted by a staff member, Chelsea who cared for me. At first I was unsure but now I know I've found my forever home!

I am loving life thanks to Bide Awhile, with my two "sisters" "Willow" a blue point Siamese and "Liberty" a brown tabby just like me! I also have some best friends I love to watch "Oliver" and "Edgar" the guinea pigs! I am VERY talkative! I also enjoy watching the fish tanks.

### Ruby finds the perfect fit

Just wanted to share some photos of Ruby, whom we adopted from you just over a month ago, on March 4th! She is doing very well, and we love her very much!! We can't imagine our family without her. Thank you, Bide Awhile!!



# AWESOME FUNDRAISERS

On an ongoing basis we often get donations from employees and individuals who organize fundraising activities on our behalf. These are just a few of the interesting projects:

- Companies such as Scotiabank and Labatt Brewing Company have donation match programs. Employees have raised money on our behalf that was matched.
- Princess Auto held a free customer appreciation BBQ and donations were given to Bide Awhile. They raised \$496.
- For the month of February the Halifax Stanfield International Airport had a donation box for Bide Awhile. They raised \$190.
- Companies have raised money for us through casual days, bake sales, 50/50 draws and other creative means.
- Over the years, Atlantic News's cat bank has raised over \$10,000.
- Children have asked for donations and money for Bide Awhile when having a birthday party.
- Employee donations through United Way are an excellent way to donate to Bide Awhile - just give them our bus.#:889459095RR0001

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Fundraising is a huge part of any charitable organization and Bide Awhile is no different. All the money we raise at our events goes directly towards the care of the animals at the Shelter. I assumed the role of Fundraising Chair over 4 years ago and I was terrified; I am an accountant, I don't know the first thing about fundraising. I must say that the fantastic team of volunteers I have the pleasure of working with and all of you who continue to support our efforts has really put the FUN in FUNdraising. So here's some of the exciting things you can get involved with:

April 23rd we had a sold out show at **Grafton Street Dinner Theatre**. With an ABBA theme we knew it would be a big hit. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy an evening with us; this event raised over \$3,200.

May 19-22nd our **Tails in Motion Team** will challenge themselves to walk or run in the Blue Nose Marathon. Last year the team raised over \$13,000 and this year they hope to make it to \$16,000. Visit <http://bluenosemarathon.com/> to join or support our team.

We know you can't make it through the day without smiling at those cuties in the 2017 Bide Awhile Calendar so don't miss out on having your favorite furry face looking back at you from the 2018 Bide Awhile Calendar. The **Pet of the Month** contest is on now until May 31st; your pet could be Hali-famous.

Back by very popular demand and hungry supporters is our **Open House Bake Sale**, June 10th. I am always impressed by all the delicious cakes, cookies, jams, breads and everything our small army of bakers create for each sale. Our stomachs thank you for the treats, our hips well... a walk with the dogs will fix that!

Stop by our booth during **Victoria Bark in the Park** event happening July 8th in Victoria Park, Halifax. We love meeting all the dogs that visit our booth and their human companions.

This is just some of the things we have happening this spring. For the most up-to-date information of Shelter happenings, please check our website and sign up for email notifications. Our events would not be successful without all of you who donate, attend the shows, visit the booths, bake the goods, run in the marathon or simply buy a calendar. Thank you, the fundraising wouldn't be fun without you.

Stacey Chisholm,  
Fundraising Chair

## Bide Awhile Bake Sale

Will be held downstairs at Bide Awhile Animal Shelter during our Open House on June 10, 2017.

## UPDATE FROM SHELTER CAT FIONA

Hi Everyone,

It's me Fiona! Bide Awhile's Shelter cat! If you haven't seen me before at the Shelter here is one of my best photos, although I think all my photos are pretty fabulous. In case you didn't know I have my own blog, each Friday I share updates and photos about all my adventures during the past week at the Shelter.

Read my updates on [www.bideawhile.org](http://www.bideawhile.org).



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