



Bide Awhile  
Animal Shelter Society

# 2019-2020 Annual Report

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“UNTIL ONE HAS LOVED AN ANIMAL, A PART OF ONE’S SOUL REMAINS UNAWAKENED”

- ANATOLE FRANCE

# President's Report



Our year began with celebrations of our 50th Anniversary, I am sure an unimaginable accomplishment for our founders. First we had our 50th Anniversary special open house in October, then our first ever casino night event and finally we ended 2019 with our Holiday Open House.

We started our year of change with our new Executive Director; Sehne Connell, whom I hope you have all met. With the next 50 years facing us and a new ED we decided that this year would be the year we revamped the strategic plan for the shelter. The current plan has us focused on financial stability, brand awareness and community engagement and Sehne is using that as his base for creating his own short term operational plan while we work through our new strategic plan. Chris Hornberger has gratuitously agreed to help us determine the new plan and what the next five or ten or even fifty years will hold for Bide Awhile. It is not a quick process and we will be looking to you for assistance over the next few months. Our plan is to present the new strategic plan to you at next year's AGM.

We were well on our way to getting a lot achieved when the world as we all knew it changed drastically. The COVID -19 pandemic hit and we had to close the shelter to visitors, volunteers and adoptions. Veterinarians were not allowed to do non-emergency care which meant no spay or neuters of our animals. Jennifer and her team adapted quickly and continued to accept animals into the shelter. When we were almost at capacity and the cats were at wits end being at the shelter for almost two months, Jennifer did her research, and determined a safe way we could open to adoptions again.

Everyone needed a pick me up so Melissa to the rescue. She set up her phone in our maternity ward with a mother and her kittens and went live on Facebook. Nothing can brighten your day like watching little kittens play.

Just because there's a pandemic doesn't mean the work stops, so we have been holding board meetings via Skype. Our traditional events are on hold so the fundraising committee found new ways to bring in funds. The volunteer committee has implemented a new volunteer management system and the Executive decided on Keela as our new donor management & non-profit software, something we've been working on obtaining since the last AGM. The Executive also started a full review of our policy manual, something we are not sure has been updated in at least 10 years! With Geoff leading the way we started reviewing key areas such as HR, Finance, and Risk Management for gaps in policy. It quickly became apparent that we have some work to do around HR policies, especially with all the changes that have happened over the past year.

The policy updates and the strategic plan are not as far along as we would have hoped, and though they may not be as exciting as a casino night, both are in the works. Watch for invitations to focus groups and surveys so you can help be part of the planning process, after all, Bide Awhile is a piece of all of us. I want to give my thanks to our fantastic staff, our board and executive team; you are all amazing people doing amazing things for Bide Awhile. I have been so proud to be part of this organization the past 20 of its 50 years and I am excited to be part of what the next several years will bring. With that in mind I would like to conclude my report to you with a question to ponder: Why do you Bide Awhile?

Stacey Langley  
President



# Executive Director's Report

I would like to thank our president, board of directors, and staff members for their commitment over the past year, especially through the difficult situations that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented to us.

So far we have coped well and we continue to provide care for all the animals entrusted to us. This year, we hired two new animal care attendants Bhreagh Macleod and Justin Singer-Chisholm as part of our team. We are happy to have them at Bide Awhile.

## Shelter

There were some minor repairs and purchases that needed to be made to the shelter. The back emergency stairs had to be replaced and a new washing machine had to be bought. A general cleanup of items that had built up over the years also had to be discarded.

## Shelter Volunteers

As many of you know, these are the people who come to the shelter each day – a few come in the daytime to walk and play with dogs, and in the evenings we have a dedicated group of people

who come to spend time with our animals and help them socialize. Their efforts go a long way in making an animal's stay at the shelter a positive one!

## Foster Programs

We have two foster programs. One is for long term fosters – this program helps us re-home animals with special needs, faster. The second is our short term foster program - this program allows us to place nursing mothers and their kittens in a home environment with one of our volunteers, until there is space at the shelter.

## Low cost Spay/Neuter Program

This program has made a huge impact on reducing the number of unwanted kittens born every year. We are fortunate to have received another \$5000 grant from the CanFel Foundation to continue expanding this much needed service.

## Pet food Pantry

This program is in place to help feed a person's cat or dog in an emergency situation, if the owner is

unable to buy any. All of our cat and dog food is donated.

## Pet Visitation

Our volunteers bring cats or kittens to visit with seniors in nursing homes throughout the year. This program helps to socialize animals while providing comfort to the elderly.

## Reading Circle

This program is where children, along with their teacher, will come to the shelter to read to the animals. This builds confidence in a safe environment.

## Pet Stewardship

This program is for people who want to make sure their animals are taken care of after they have passed away. This agreement ensures Bide Awhile will care for and re-home the animal when the time comes.

- Sehne Connell  
Executive Director



# Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Statistics

## Animals In

Period	Cats	Dogs	Total	Halifax	County	Dartmouth
2019	305	10	315	92	90	133
2018	360	11	371	99	118	154

## Adoptions

Period	Cats	Dogs	Total	Male	Female
2019	297	11	308	141	167
2018	334	9	343	168	175

## Spay/Neuter Program

Period	Total	Total	Total
2019	198	1	11
2018	191		

## Palliative Care Foster

## Return to Owner

## Euthanasia

Period	Total
2019	9
2018	11



# Finance Committee Report

**O**ur financial statement package includes the following:

Balance Sheet (page 2) – reflects the assets Bide Awhile owns and the liabilities we owe - financial obligations we are required to settle now and in future periods. The difference between the asset and liability accounts is called unrestricted net assets.

Statement of Operations and Net Assets (page 3) - shows revenues less expenditures, grouped by source (operations and other). Operations relate to the core business of running the shelter, while Other is related mainly to investment activity.

Statement of Cash Flows (page 4) explains the change in the cash balance from the prior year. In other words, where did cash come from and where was it spent.

Notes to the Financial Statements (page 5-9) provide further explanation of items found in the balance sheet, statement of operations, and cash flow statement.

## Highlights for 2019:

### Balance Sheet

We had \$71,617 in cash in the bank on December 31 year end.

Our investment portfolio increased approximately \$64,000 year-over-year to \$1,264,070. At year-end, we held a combination of cash (\$56,669) bonds/high-interest savings accounts (\$775,915) and stocks (\$431,486) all in accordance with our approved investment policy.

Capital assets decreased overall due to amortization being higher than capital asset additions.

Deferred contributions (building) are being recognized over the life of the building. This relates to capital campaign donations received towards the construction of the new Shelter. As we amortize our building (an expense), we will amortize the deferred contributions (a revenue, under Other Income).

### Revenues

Year over year revenue decreased by \$56,875.

Donations, bequests, memorials and pledges account for \$38,000 of the decline while fundraising revenues dropped by \$16,051. Cash donations took the single biggest hit, falling by \$28,000, while reduced bequests and United Way donations making up for the balance.

Additional funds raised via

new events (50th Anniversary, Rain Barrels) and third-party fundraisers could not fully cover the shortfall resulting from the Bluenose Marathon, Cat Yoga, Grants and reduced support of corporate casual days.

With the ongoing support of the volunteers and our members, we continue to look for new ways to consistently grow the shelter's revenue streams to a level that is sustainable over the long term into the next 50 years!

### Expenses

Year over year expenditures decreased approximately \$9,000. Major changes are as follows:

Amortization (non-cash) reduced \$1,997 given no significant asset additions and some of our remaining long held assets already fully expensed.

Animal Care costs reduced \$3,958. While there is typically some fluctuation from year to year depending on the general health of animals entering the shelter, intake was down in 2019 - 315 critters enter the shelter vs 371 in 2018.

Fundraising costs were \$2,171 higher mainly due to 50th Anniversary Events, and the Rain Barrel Project, offset to some extent by reduced

Newsletter Costs (Spring edition of Newsletter was electronic only)

Repairs and Maintenance reduced by \$1,401.

Salary and benefits decreased by \$700 due to transitioning staff.

Spay and neuter program expense decreased by \$1,123 as fewer animals entered the program.

### Other Income

In 2019, net investment income increased by \$177,559 to \$122,768 from \$(54,791) in 2018. The overall market generated particularly strong returns in 2019. Year over year, the shelter had a recovery of \$147,200 in the market value of its portfolio (Unrealized Gains).

### Operations and Investments

In 2019 Bide Awhile generated a surplus of \$12,697 which is an overall improvement of \$129,012 compared to 2018 results. This improvement is driven purely as the result of exceptionally strong financial markets – and the corresponding impact on the Shelter's investment portfolio.

Year over year, income from investments increased \$30,358. Overall market value of the portfolio recovered \$147,201 from 2018.

While a surplus is definitely good news, and we are so very fortunate to have significant investments at this time, it is concerning that except for the benefit of those investments, Bide Awhile would have been in a significant loss position at the end of the year.

If we look at the core operations of the shelter, our operating loss of \$124,266 is worse than 2018 by almost \$48,000. The shelter has generated operating losses for the last four years. Our investments have definitely offset some of this impact over the years, but we cannot and should not solely rely on unpredictable financial market conditions to sustain our business for the long term. If we continue to draw down on the portfolio to cover continued shortfalls, the offset benefit currently provided by our portfolio may be lessened, if nothing else changes.

The situation highlights the importance of finding new/improved sustainable sources of funding. There are many

options to consider - planned giving and pet stewardship are key pieces in the equation, but revenues from these sources typically would occur over a much longer time frame. Our need for a course correction is more immediate, and may involve new and unique fundraising projects, corporate partnerships, or possibly investment in social enterprise.

The next couple of years will be critical as the board strives to develop a strong strategic plan to bring the shelter out of a deficit position, so that regular recurring revenues are sufficient to pay for recurring costs to effectively manage the shelter.

### Looking Forward

It has been my privilege to serve the shelter in the capacity of Treasurer this past year. I would like to thank the Finance Committee and Wanda Lydiard for their help during the year. I will be stepping away from the board next year but will be leaving you in the capable hands of our new treasurer.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY MANSFIELD  
TREASURER





# Fundraising Committee Report

**F**undraising continues to be an integral component to supporting the shelter operating costs. Our focus for 2019-2020 has been to build upon successful past events & create new fundraising efforts. Our key priority at this point is to build online fundraisers to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

## Kennel Klub

The Kennel Klub is our monthly giving program. This is our biggest fundraising source and is a top priority. We are always looking to promote the benefits of monthly giving, and highlight the impact those regular donations have on our operations & animal care.

## Calendar

Our annual calendar was printed & sold again for the 2020 year. It includes the winners from our annual Pet Photo Challenge which we have just wrapped up taking entries for the 2021 calendar. We are discussing and reviewing how to best reduce cost & to distribute the calendar for 2021.

## Blue Nose Marathon

Last year, the Bluenose marathon was hosted June



7-8th. It was less successful in driving fundraising than previous marathons but we are working internally to grow & recruit our runners for the virtual marathon being held in November. Please join our "Tails in Motion" group on Facebook to get involved.

## Cat Yoga

Cat yoga is a fantastic fundraiser that Allison Coffin continues to run for us. She held sessions through the Fall as well as in January which raised \$660 alone. We had to postpone our May class but are looking at outdoor & virtual options.

## Casino Night

This was a new event that we hosted in November, we enjoyed seeing everyone & look forward to hosting again in the future when we are able to.

## Bake Sales

Between our 50th Open house & our Holiday Open House in December, bake sales are a core source of funds. Special thanks to Susan who continues to manage the bake sales, and to our dedicated bakers.

## Postponed Events



Given COVID-19 & the impact of social distancing, we have had many of our regular fundraisers postponed. Our annual Grafton St Dinner Theatre event has been postponed until further notice. Our successful "Pours for Paws" event was scheduled for April and will be the first event we organize when we are able to.

## Third Party Events

We saw an increase in casual day funds, thanks to Citco and BOYNECLARKE LLP. Princess Auto continued their quarterly barbecues in support of the shelter. Good Robot held an online Good Willbot in March, where they donated a percentage of their daily online sales to the shelter. As well, Lower Deck has been hosting trivia nights for us before COVID-19.

I want to thank our volunteers and donors for their ongoing dedication and support. Thank you!

SUBMITTED BY AMANDA HARWOOD  
FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR





# Sponsorship Committee Report

**B**uilding on the new direction that was taken from the 2018-2019 year, the sponsorship committee continued to focus on the fact that sponsorship often times comes in many forms, not just big (or small) revenue dollars. It comes in the way of promotion on social media, the donation of goods and services, donations in kind, and media sponsorship.

This was a big year for us as we reached the milestone of our 50th Anniversary. The 50th anniversary open house was a great success and we would like to thank all the sponsors that supported us for the event through donated items and support for the event. Special thanks to all that attended the event to make it a successful day.

This year we had our first Casino Night that was well supported and very enjoyable. The event was held at the Mic Mac Amateur Aquatic Club and made possible through the thoughtful planning and organizing of all involved and by the donations of over 30 silent auction items that made for some exciting rival bidding towards the end of the night.

Special thanks to all the sponsors of our annual calendar and the venues that sell them for us, from Veterinarians and Animal Hospitals, pet stores and other retail outlets, businesses and corporations. Without your sponsorship and sales support, the calendar would not be possible.

This year we recognized two of our longest giving supporters, Princess Auto and R&R Pools, with a plaque recognizing their ongoing support and dedication. I look forward to recognizing similar long time supporters in the future.

I would like to also thank FX 101.9 Today's Country for the support this year, Red Ear Media for web support, L.O.V.E. Organic Vital Energy for providing catnip gift bags to all of our adoptees and Quantum Communications for being a Champion Supporter.

As COVID-19 challenges us to look at alternate ways to seek sponsorship for the Shelter, I look forward to meeting and working with potential sponsors that will support Bide Awhile, allowing us to continue fulfilling our mission in rescuing and caring for unwanted and abandoned animals.

SUBMITTED BY SEHNE CONNELL  
SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR



# Communications & Community Outreach Committee Report

**T**he Communications and Community Outreach (CCO) committee was formed in 2018 with the goal of increasing awareness of Bide Awhile and its mission.

The Committee worked on several initiatives over the year beginning with participation in the 2019 Pride and Natal Day parades. With a car outfitted like a large cat and volunteers in colourful costumes, each bringing smiles all along the parade route, Bide Awhile was recognized as the Natal Day Parade's Best Non-Profit Float.

In support of the shelter's 50th Anniversary Open House, media activities including pre-event outreach and a news release led to notable coverage of the event.

Members continued to discuss a communications plan for the shelter and conducted research into ways to grow the Kennel Klub Monthly Giving Program, which was then provided to the Fundraising Committee. The communications plan will continue to advance in tandem with future strategic planning efforts by the shelter.

The Committee made progress in developing content and materials for a potential Youth Ambassador Program (YAP), an initiative that would see youth educated to share information on responsible pet care and ownership with their peers. Future efforts will involve identifying a potential community partner for this program.

Committee members also assessed an earlier initiative to rename the CCO to the Education and Advocacy Committee to reflect a shift in focus toward advocacy and community education. The change was determined to be unnecessary in light of current circumstances and will be deferred until a later date. Members conducted research of potential advocacy roles for ongoing discussion with the board.

As with other Committees, CCO activities were adversely impacted by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the economy reopens, members will be identifying opportunities for participation in events and activities to ensure Bide Awhile continues to develop awareness among the broader community.

SUBMITTED BY AARON VIENOTTE  
AND MICHELLE VENTURINI  
CCO COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS



# Volunteer Committee Report

**B**ide Awhile has always been incredibly grateful to all the volunteers that have supported us throughout the years, whether by being on the Board of Directors, one of the many committees, helping during one of our fundraising / community events, or assisting with animal socialization. We say this time and again, but we could not do all that we do without the great support of our volunteers.

## William & Corinne Hopgood Pet Visitation Program

Like many things, this program has been greatly affected by COVID-19 and the provincial shutdown that closed all the long-term care homes to visitors to reduce the chance of endangering the residents. Before this occurred, our team of volunteers made 30 visits to our regular locations between June 2019 to January 2020, averaging 3 to 4 visits per month. We currently have 20 regular pet visitation volunteers, who will be looking forward to when we can re-start the program when it is safe to do so.

The William & Corinne Hopgood Pet Visitation Program is always accepting new volunteers; if you would like more information or would like to volunteer please visit our website or fill in a volunteer application form.

## Meeting our Volunteers

This year we held several periodic Volunteer Orientation sessions co-hosted by the Executive Director and Volunteer Chair. These sessions include a tour of the Shelter, information on the history of the shelter, an overview of the programs, upcoming projects and fundraising opportunities.

We also held a Meet & Greet early within 2020 to hear from our volunteers. This offered a chance to hear suggestions and feedback from them, and was a great opportunity to thank them for all their work.

## Database

Throughout the pandemic, we took advantage of the time with no events or volunteer scheduling to implement our new volunteer database, Timecounts. This database is a free program for non-profit organizations to assist with event scheduling and organization of our volunteer lists. Each volunteer is tagged with their volunteer interests to allow us to filter and contact those individuals when specific events are scheduled. It will assist us in keeping track of who needs to attend orientation, reach out to specific groups, track our most active volunteers, and it will provide volunteers easy access to view upcoming events as they are posted within Timecounts - which we are hoping will allow them to have more time to plan around their schedules and be available to volunteer with us.



SUBMITTED BY JENNY ALLEN  
VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE CHAIR



# Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee's mandate is to recruit board members who are prepared to commit their volunteer efforts and talents to the work of Bide Awhile Animal Shelter Society and to take on leadership positions within the Society – on various committees and as Officers.

For the 2019-2020 year, the Committee was specifically interested in recruiting individuals who will strengthen and complement the skills of the current board in areas such as leadership, project management, visual and social media, fundraising, education and communications.

Unfortunately, not everyone was able to return to the board for the 2020-2021 year.

The following Directors will not be returning for the 2020-2021 year:

- Nancy Mansfield
- Geoff Richardson
- Amanda Mitchell

- Michelle Venturini
- Carolyn Baker
- Jeff Lanthier
- Dave Quinton
- Lauren Springer

We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to these members for your contributions to Bide Awhile over the past year.

## Recommendations for Directors and Officers for 2020-2021 are as follows:

The following Director has completed her sixth term and is reoffering for her seventh term:

- Kate Peddle

The following Directors have completed their second term and are reoffering for a third term:

- Stacey Langley
- Amanda Harwood
- Aaron Veinotte
- Jenny Allen

The following Directors have completed their first term and are reoffering for a second term:

- Natasha Chestnut
- Emma Menchefski
- Gwyneth Christoffel
- Kimberley McOnie
- Florence MacLennan
- Christine Latter Stratton

There are six new nominees this year:

- Genevieve Sharkey
- Rachelle Boutilier
- Melissa Manette
- Colin Duggan
- Michael Hughes
- Kathleen MacEachern

## The proposed slate of Officers for 2020-2021 is:

President: Stacey Langley  
Vice President: Jenny Allen  
Secretary: Aaron Veinotte  
Treasurer: Christine Latter Stratton  
Past-President: Kate Peddle

