



# Helping Hands

The First 125 Years

2013 Edition

Published by:  
Ottawa Humane Society  
245 West Hunt Club Road  
Ottawa ON K2E 1A6

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ISBN 978-0-9693173-1-9

# Helping Hands

The First 125 Years



2013 Edition

1988 Edition: Researched and written by Vivian Astroff

2013 Edition: Edited and expanded by Bruce Roney

## Note to Readers

As much as possible, the text of the Helping Hands 1988 edition remains unedited. A great majority of Vivian Astroff's original text appears word-for-word in the 2013 edition. In several instances, the text was changed to put 1988 into the past, rather than the present, as it of course would appear in the earlier edition. In some chapters, additional text was written to bring the subject matter in an original chapter up to date, without altering the earlier text.

Several chapters are entirely new to the 2013 edition: *Building a Brighter Future: The West Hunt Club Shelter*; *Hardship and Growth*; *Advancement and Setbacks 1988 to 2013*; and, *New Ways of Communicating*.

Only one original chapter was edited significantly. The editors felt that *Animals in Research: A Continuing Debate* was written at a time of considerable controversy and criticism of the Society and that as a result, the original text read as a justification for a practice to which the Society is now vehemently opposed. The chapter has therefore been edited in an attempt to restore balance to a very significant debate in the Society's history, and to better describe the thoughts and feelings of those opposed to participation in animal research, as well as how these views ultimately prevailed.

To Pamela Menchions  
Without her, the last chapter would not have been possible.



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## Introduction to the Original 1988 Edition

This story of one hundred years of dedication to a humane cause – a few printed pages and some photographs – can obviously present only an abstract of the history of the Society. Still, the overall effect is very impressive. It is a history of care, love and reverence for all living creatures and of help for those who cannot help themselves.

The objectives of our work have remained the same since the beginning: to promote and develop public humane sentiment, to care for the lost and the abandoned and to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty.

As we are reading through this small book, following the story of many activities and achievements, we have to ac-

knowledge the tremendous task that has been accomplished by volunteers. The dedication, time and energy extended to the humane cause by a relatively small group of volunteers are unsurpassed. Many of the Society's achievements today are due to the perseverance of the devoted volunteer Board of Directors together with the equally devoted ladies of the Women's Auxiliary.

It was the ladies who started the "Women's Humane Society of Ottawa" in 1888. From mailing newsletters, holding raffle ticket and rummage sales, from spring teas to running the demanding companion animal program, membership drives and countless other activities, the work of these women has never ceased.



The Society can look back on many achievements over the years. We have initiated protective anti-cruelty legislation, played a leading role in the establishment of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, built three ever-larger shelters and provided increasing services to and constant surveillance of the local scene. We are constantly involved in queries and controversies – while at the same time carrying on the job of housing, feeding and treating the animals at the shelter.

It is hard to imagine the complexities involved in running the Society today. The pressures of rising costs and inflation with the rising pet population are felt especially hard by charitable organization

such as ours. Only about 30% of our budget comes from regional coffers. This problem has been with us from the beginning, growing in proportion to the growth of the community. Yet, there can be no faltering, the animals need our help.

We are fortunate to have a faithful membership and are thankful for a number of gracious and generous donors. The general public always responds well to the Women's Auxiliary fundraising activities. There is a lot of good will and ever increasing sensitivity toward the plight of animals. All this is great encouragement for the years ahead.

The future of the Society holds many challenges. We have to plan again for the building of a new, improved and larger shelter. We would also like to see humane education included in the school curriculum, just as sex and health education have been integrated. The changing of inadequate legislation regarding the use of animals for research, cosmetic and household product testing and other exploitation for commercial gains can be a matter of time only if it is pursued.

The work we are doing is emotional work. The general public sentiment regarding animal rights is particularly emotional and easily evoked over certain issues, thereby promoting unnecessary controver-





sies. But dealing with laws and regulations should be done rationally.

There is every reason to believe that we will reach our goals eventually. The Society is determined to meet the growing challenges and problems it is facing.

Finally, we would like to extend a note of thanks to our dedicated staff who are constantly on the job carrying out the everyday tasks of the Society. The next one hundred years will hold a lot of work, but they also hold a lot of promise of further achievements.

***Marion Fleming***  
***President***



## Introduction to the New 2013 Edition

When the Ottawa Humane Society was founded, Confederation was only 21 years old, and Canada consisted of only seven provinces and one territory. Queen Victoria was on the throne, and Sir John A. MacDonald was serving his second term as Prime Minister. The first commercial flight was still 26 years away. Karl Benz had just invented the automobile two years previous, but almost certainly none were in Ottawa. The Ottawa Electric Street Railway was still three years off.

Ottawa relied on the horse for transportation and, to a great extent, any need for power beyond human power. Horses were everywhere. And the increasingly sensitized late-Victorian world was concerned about their welfare. The welfare of

horses and children was the Society's beginning. Most children of the time were, of course, working children, and until the Children's Aid Society was formed several years later, the Society was their voice.

That time is hard to imagine, so much of the world having changed so dramatically that ours would be almost unrecognizable to our forebears. One common element between the two worlds, though, is the Ottawa Humane Society. Moreover, its goals and what it represents would, I hope, be as familiar to the people of 1888 as they are to us today. Compassion doesn't change, and the Society was and is a place where compassionate people come together to build something they believe in.





In reading this history, it will be clear that over the years, the Society got some things wrong, but that it got a lot right. It has been a part of our community for 125 years and counting, and I have little doubt it will be here for another 125, if the need still exists. Yes, times have changed a lot, but the Society survived and thrived because no matter what, it stood for something:

- Respect for the dignity of all life
- Care for those who are unable to care for themselves
- A voice for those who cannot speak for themselves
- Relief of pain and suffering
- A respect for the environment that all creatures share
- An abhorrence of cruelty
- The promotion of compassion through education

I hope that you are as proud as I am to be associated with the Ottawa Humane Society and what it has stood for in our community for the last 125 years.

***Bruce Roney***  
***Executive Director 2000 -***

## The shelters



Mann Avenue (1933-1951)



Bayview Road (1951-1968)



Champagne Avenue (1968-2011)



West Hunt Club Road (2011-present)



*Reason discovers the bridge between love for God and love for men – love for all creatures, reverence for all being, compassion for all life, however dissimilar to our own. That is the beginning and foundation of morality.*

— Albert Schweitzer





## PART 1

# The Ottawa Humane Society

The humane movement became rooted in Ottawa in the 1880s. Existing records suggest that a Men's Humane Society was set up in 1881 to oversee a local S.P.C.A. Then in January 1888, a small group of ladies founded the Women's Humane Society of Ottawa.

The S.P.C.A. enforced the new animal protection laws, and the Women's Society contributed to paying the S.P.C.A. inspector's salary. In 1891, the third year of its existence, the Women's Society under the presidency of Lady Sarah Ritchie

(wife of Supreme Court Justice Sir William Ritchie) attracted an average of nine members to its monthly meetings. Their work "embraced one or two special points in the objects of the Society, where the work done would ensure the best possible results."

The women diligently focused on bettering the lot of neglected children by urging legislation to provide for foster homes: supervising the overhaul of Ottawa's only ambulance (which took the ailing on a bone-shaking ride through the capital's



Delivery boy and his dog team, 1887.

unpaved streets); and stirring up the public conscience to the fair treatment of animals, whether workhorses, show dogs, or livestock bound for slaughter.

By 1896, the ladies' group had evolved into the Ottawa Humane Society, with a sprinkling of male members on the executive committee. The S.P.C.A. as a separate entity disappeared, its functions and inspector absorbed by the Ottawa Humane Society.

The Welfare of children in the city, overseen by the Children's Aid Committee of the Women's Society, had become the responsibility of the newly established Children's Aid Society. Much of the credit for its formation was apparently due to the lobbying of Lady Grace Ritchie, former Women's Humane Society President.

"We claim the Children's Aid Society as our descendant, with our Children's Aid

Committee for an ancestor,” the Humane Society’s secretary proudly recorded in 1896. “Their success in rescuing little girls from the dangers of selling newspapers on the streets, and watching over them until today some are valued and efficient domestic servants, will not be deemed an achievement unworthy of a place beside the deeds of the Children’s Aid Society.”

Although animals were now its main concern, the Ottawa Humane Society continued to keep an eye on children, women and the sick, usually referring instances of suffering or mistreatment to the appropriate agency. In one instance, the Society’s help was sought and given in setting up a residence in the capital region for homeless tuberculosis sufferers. Early on, it established a long-standing tradition of awarding medals for life saving.

The Society also took an interest in women’s rights in the workplace in the pre-union days of the early 1900s. In 1906, the Society secretary reported that “several shops of the city did not furnish seats, which the law provides should be done for the saleswoman; this matter was referred to the Local Council of Women by whose secretary the facts will be re-

ported to the Dominion Inspector....” In these years too, the Society’s inspector took it upon himself to return “strayed children” to their parents.

In 1965, the Society assumed jurisdiction for all of Carleton County, and in 1979 the Ottawa Humane Society was renamed “The Humane Society of Ottawa-Carleton”. This was done after a special meeting in June 1978. At this meeting it was pointed out that for more than a decade the Society had been serving the whole regional municipality, extending to Richmond in the west, and Cumberland in the east. In everyday terms that meant that the Society’s ambulance driver could cover over 200 km a day responding to calls.

In 1999, the provincial government passed an Act to amalgamate many of the municipalities in Ontario. The 11 municipalities that made up the old Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton were amalgamated in 2001 as the new City of Ottawa. This proved beneficial to the Society as it no longer had to negotiate an animal sheltering contract with 11 municipalities, but had only one client—the new City. Since Ottawa-Carleton no longer existed, the Society changed its name back to the Ottawa Humane Society in 2002.



*The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That's the essence of inhumanity.*

— George Bernard Shaw

# Articles of Faith

*of the Women's Humane Society of Ottawa 1891*

*We believe it to be our duty*

## TO STOP:

1. Cruelty to children, to rescue them from vicious influences and remedy their condition.
2. The beating of animals.
3. Dog fights.
4. Overloading horse cars.
5. Overloading teams.
6. The use of tight checkreins.
7. Over-driving.
8. Clipping dog's ears and tails.
9. Under-feeding.
10. Neglect of shelter for animals.
11. Cruelties on railroad stock trains.
12. Bleeding calves.
13. Plucking live fowls.
14. The docking of horses' tails.

15. Driving galled and disabled animals.

16. Tying calves' and sheep's legs.

## TO INTRODUCE:

17. Better methods of slaughtering.
18. Improved cattle cars.
19. Drinking fountains.
20. Better laws in all Provinces.
21. Humane literature in schools and home.
22. Formation of Bands of Mercy.

## TO INDUCE:

23. Children to be humane.
24. Teachers to teach kindness to animals.
25. Clergymen to preach it.
26. Authors to write it.

27. Editors to keep it before the people.

28. Drivers and trainers of horses to try kindness.

29. Owners of animals to feed regularly.

30. People to protect insectivorous birds.

31. Boys not to molest birds' nests.

32. Men to take better care of stock.

33. Everybody not to sell their old family horse to owners of tip carts.

34. People of all the Provinces to form Humane Societies.

35. Men to give money to forward this good cause.

36. Women to interest themselves in this noble work.

37. People to appreciate the intelligence and virtues of animals.

38. And generally to make men, women and children better because more humane.

## Ensuring Legal Protection for Animals

From its beginnings, the Ottawa Humane Society has had two main goals: First, to ensure that animal protection laws are enforced, and that cruelty is punished when not prevented; and second, to educate the general community, particularly children, in treating animals kindly and humanely.

The job of law enforcement was carried out by the Society's inspector and his or her agents, who had the authority to warn or charge wrongdoers anywhere in Ontario. Chronically strapped for funds in its early days,





the Society had a part-time inspector who made his rounds in a horse-drawn wagon or on a bicycle. As the workload grew along with the size of the community, the Society engaged several investigating agents to assist their full-time inspector. Their job was to respond to calls from the public, gathering evidence of instances of cruelty, after which either warnings were issued or cases were brought to court, and making the rounds of Ottawa's produce markets, stockyards, horse shows, dog derbies and wherever else live animals were brought for sport or trade.

Today, the officers' jobs have been made easier by using special equipment such as stretchers, dog poles, and nets for cats and birds. The ambulances have a rotating light bar on the roof, which helps a great deal on the scene of an accident in heavy traffic. Ambulances and other vehicles are equipped with mobile phones to communicate with the shelter and laptop computers connected to the Society's database to quickly access Society records and to update them instantly.





From its early decades, the Ottawa Humane Society tackled the many facets of animal cruelty: from abused workhorses, stray dogs and boys who maimed birds with their slingshots to brutal and unsanitary methods of slaughtering livestock for food. The Society worked with a limited budget raised from membership fees and donations, and possessed neither a permanent office nor an animal shelter.

The Humane Society's annual report of 1912 describes its plight: "In the United States, mighty organizations exist, collecting and dispensing in their humane work large sums of money. In Ottawa, a Society has been in existence for thirty-one years and still has not one dollar of endowment or capital." Aside from sharing the expense of the inspector's salary, the City provided



no financial support to the Society, although other cities such as Montreal gave their S.P.C.A. an annual grant.

Nevertheless, Ottawa's Humane Society persistently chalked up its accomplishments. In 1905, for example, with the assistance of the provincial medical officer of health, the Society petitioned City Council to end the primitive conditions in local slaughterhouses by establishing a public abattoir, "bringing to their notice the unnecessary cruelty in methods of slaughtering animals for food, and also the menace to public health on account of diseased meat being offered for sale, there being no proper inspection." Their efforts finally bore fruit in 1914 when a by-law allowed for the erection of Ottawa's first civic-inspected abattoir between Friel and Chapel Streets.

The sale of animals that were difficult to care for as pets, or inappropriate for urban areas concerned the Society for many years. By 1962, the Society had succeeded in convincing the City to ban the sale of baby chicks as pets in a pet shop by-law, the first of its kind in Canada; 1965 was the first year the Society received no reports of chicks sold as pets. In 1978,



after five years of lobbying by the Society, Ottawa extended the by-law to forbid the sale of exotic animals such as monkeys, snakes and tropical birds. The City of Vanier adopted a similar by-law in 1979.

By the new millennium, the City had begun to see the Society more as a partner in addressing its animal issues. Frequently,



the City would seek Society advice when developing new Bylaws affecting animals. Amalgamation of the former 11 municipalities in 2001 required that all Bylaws, including animal-related ones, be rewritten, or “harmonized”.

The Society seized on the opportunity to influence City legislation and lobbied both council and City staff heavily about the harmonized Animal Care and Control Bylaw. The resulting Bylaw, passed in 2003, captured many of the Society’s concerns and best practices identified by both the Society and City staff. Among the enhancements was a description of adequate care and sanitation, limitations on tethering, and restriction on many wild and exotic species. The Society considered it a great accomplishment when the City agreed to the licensing of cats, which was extremely controversial at the time.

The Society’s celebration of the introduction of the new Bylaw in 2003 was tempered by the knowledge that it had not achieved one important goal: An end to the cruel exploitation of elephants, tigers and other exotic animals by circuses travelling to Ottawa.

## "Horse and Buggy" Era

Before mechanization took over, horses carried the brunt of transport around Ottawa. Cruelty was not uncommon, and the Humane Society fought a continuing battle against peddlers and deliverymen who abused their teams with grossly heavy loads. In a few instances, the Society's inspector noted wagons weighed down with over 7,000 pounds of goods. Since there were no by-laws specifying the maximum weight for a given wagon and team, it was up to the Society both to determine and prosecute cases of ill treatment.

Other typical abuses which the Society fought to curtail were: the "docking" or bobbing of horses' tails to improve their appearance (thereby taking away their defence from insects); and the holding of check reins overly high and tight, inflicting needless pain



CITY OF OTTAWA ARCHIVES



and discomfort. Docking proved to be a dilemma for veterinarians who disapproved of the practice, yet continued it lest their clients turn to unskilled practitioners. Veterinarians anaesthetized the horses so that they didn't suffer during the procedure.

The Society's secretary noted in 1905: "Scarcely any class of animal suffers so much from ignorance, carelessness and cruelty on the part of drivers as the horse. There are persons who overdrive, do not water, who water when the horse is overheated, who do not blanket. . . ." For several years the Humane Society's annual reports featured photographs of the pitiful creatures that had been starved, beaten and overworked by local contractors.

As a result of the Humane Society's persuasive efforts, change came slowly but steadily. By the 1940s docking of horses' tails was a criminal act; Ottawa's market vendors had to shelter their horses according to by-law; the City Council was berated by Ottawans in "Letters to the Editor" for ordering snow scraped clear to the pavement and forcing



ing snow removal teams to struggle across bare patches. In 1942, a well-traveled visitor to the Humane Society commented on the well-being of Ottawa's 500 odd delivery horses to the Citizen: "I do not know any city where one can see so many healthy, well-groomed horses, of adequate weight for their work.

After the Second World War, ill treatment of horses was less of a local issue as horses gradually disappeared from Ottawa's streets. However, well into the 1950s they were still widely used in Northern Ontario lumber camps to haul logs from the bush, and many were shockingly abused. Particularly among smaller contractors, it was not uncommon to overwork, underfeed and beat them. In one camp, an inspector found only two of 12 horses fit for work. In another, 27 out of 28 needed immediate veterinary treatment; the remaining horse was shot. The Ottawa Humane Society joined with other provincial societies to pay for a full-time inspector to patrol the bush camps.



"Champion" load. Winter 1900.

## Instilling the “Spirit of Kindness”

The Society’s secretary optimistically reported in 1902: “Owing to the splendid educational work that is being done through the public press, in the schools and in our homes, the officers believe that extreme cruelty is now a rare occurrence, and the spirit of kindness and thoughtfulness is becoming more universally recognized in the daily affairs of life.” In fact, the Humane Society enjoyed a long partnership with Ottawa newspapers, radio, and later television, in influencing public sentiment.

Over the century, Ottawa’s newspapers took up issues ranging from farmers’ starving cattle because of low market prices, to selling live animals in the Byward Market; from the cruelty of putting tailsets on show horses, to humane slaughter legislation.

One notable tradition was the “Dog of the Week” feature initiated by The Ottawa Journal in 1957. Its purpose was to publicize the Humane Society’s animal adoption program, and it continued every week for 23 years until the newspaper’s demise. Kenneth G. Switzer, the Society’s managing director from 1945 to 1982, reflects that it was a most successful way of turning abandoned animals into household pets.

# "Be Kind To Animals Week"

on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves and

## Our Ottawa Humane Society

EDUCATION PREVENTS CRUELTY is the slogan of the week and again this year the community of Greater Ottawa can be justly proud of the progress it has made in Humane Education as well as in animal welfare work in general.



**HUMANE EDUCATION**  
In this field Ottawa is keeping pace with the most progressive communities. 12,500 children have already taken part in our Humane Society's 1958 program, expanded this year to include a greater content outlined by almost 500 junior citizens.

The Society came up with ingenious ways to remind the community of its obligations to animals. In February 1941, “famous and faithful dogs of Ottawa” were impersonated in a radio play called “The Animals Speak Out.” Local animal celebrities included Pat, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King’s 18-year-old terrier. The drama was set in the Humane Society animal shelter, where a dialogue took place between a variety of animals reflecting on their problems in the human world and how the Humane Society helped. Pat presided over the meeting, while his master reportedly listened to the broadcast from Laurier House.

Many well-known citizens and dignitaries lent their support to the Humane Society’s work. Painters A.Y. Jackson, Robert Hyndman and several curators of the National Gallery of Canada have been judges in the Society’s poster contest held for school children. Presidents of the Society included prominent local businessman and educator Cecil Bethune (1930-41), former Ottawa Mayor Stanley Lewis (1950-52), and Dr. A.E. Cameron, a former veterinary director general of Canada (1953-55). Canada’s Governors General and their wives have been traditional patrons of the Society since 1912. In



A.Y. Jackson took great interest in the Poster Contest for school children, 1963.





**POSTER CONTEST WINNER** — Hildgarde Schonenback, 10, of 811 Somerset street, grade 5 winner in the Ottawa Humane

Society poster contest, shows her winning poster to Mrs. Wallace C. Sproule, 436 Princeton avenue, chairman of the contest.

—(Dominion Wide Photo)

the early decades of the century, they often addressed the Humane Society members at the annual meeting.

Education of the young has been a constant theme in the Society's community efforts. "Educational work is a duty more important than inspection," the Society stated in an annual report. In 1904, the Humane Society reported that a shortage of funds frustrated its plans for an "educational crusade" among Ottawa children, teaching them "to be kind to all creatures, and to persuade others not to abuse them." However, a year later the Society initiated an essay competition in Ottawa's public schools on kindness to animals. The essay competition, along with an annual poster contest, was to become a cornerstone of the Humane Society's Educational



Program involving thousands of Ottawa children every year.

In the 1980s, at least 100 school and youth groups still visited the shelter annually to be educated and informed with a tour of the animal rooms, and films and talks by shelter staff on animal care. Over the years, the Humane Society also involved children in its work through a Junior Society, annual Good Hands Challenge Cup competitions for young riders, photo contests and Mutt Shows for young pet owners.

For more than two decades, the Society had a junior branch. It had sporadic beginnings in the 1930s, was revived in 1958 and continued to 1979 with membership growing to an all-time high of 140 in 1973. The members ranged from six to 15 years of age, held monthly meetings, carried out their own fundraising projects, and had talks and films on the care and protection of domestic and wild animals. On occasion,



Vanier

### *In appreciation of pets*

It was raining cats and dogs Tuesday but it didn't stop a pet show and appreciation day for members of the Ottawa Boys and Girls Club on McArthur Avenue. Several youngsters braved the weather and brought

their pets — including cats, mice and rabbits — to be judged and petted. After the judging, Robert Cleaver of the Ottawa Humane Society talked to the children about pet care as part of the March break activity.

Ottawa Citizen, March 22, 1978

## HELPING HANDS: THE FIRST 125 YEARS

THE JOURNAL



This Education Booth was set up at the Citizen's Committee on Children's Display in 1961. Mrs. M. Ignatieff was then Publicity Chairman of the Society.

the adult owners of somewhat exotic animals—a llama and a monkey named Tina—were invited to show and tell about their pets. Some of the young club members also worked as volunteer help at the shelter; others took on summer jobs there in their teens.

Marjorie Ignatieff, who shepherded the Junior Club through 22 years of its existence, reflected at one Humane Society annual meeting that: “It is to be hoped that children who attended these meetings have learned kindness, consideration, and a desire to help any animal in distress.” Most importantly, she said, was that those who were now having their own children passed on a reverence for life. She added, ironically, “In a world where horses are expected to

wear diapers, flush toilets are installed for dogs in parks, and letters written advocating that all animals should be eliminated from our cities, let us keep some sanity on these matters in the minds of our young people.”

In 1987, the educational work carried out by the Society was still one of its most important contributions, according to Dr. Harry Rowsell, executive director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care. In general, Dr. Rowsell noted: “People who live in cities don’t really understand wild or farm animals. I come across people in the research field who see animals as tools and not as living creatures. That is changing, but there is still a need for developing a sensitivity toward animals.”

The 2011 move to the new West Hunt Club shelter and the additional educational space that the facility offered allowed the Society to expand and bring existing programs into the building and to introduce a host of new programs, not just for children, but also for adults, including summer and March break camps, dog obedience classes, and pre-adoption seminars, which brought new revenue into the Society while furthering its education and animal welfare mandate.





## New Ways of Communicating

By the late 1980s, the not-for-profit world was rapidly becoming more sophisticated. The concept of social marketing—using marketing techniques from the commercial world used to sell products to instead “sell” socially beneficial ideas—was being embraced by many national and international charities. The idea was that change in society or a community could be generated in much the same way that companies sell soap.

The animal welfare movement was also increasingly challenged by the growing animal rights movement. Groups such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA, were challenging human use of animals for virtually anything.

When contrasted to the new sophistication of social marketing and the much more radical animal rights movement, the Society’s Be Kind to Animals Week and poster contests began to look very old-fashioned and quaint.



The problem, as always, was money. Large not-for-profits had equally large advertising and marketing budgets. In animal welfare, many of the largest charities provided no animal

care at all and so did not face the Society dilemma: pay to care for animals today or redirect funds away from direct animal care in order to reduce the need for that care in the future.

The Society had one advantage over others: huge interest in its work from the local media. One executive director tells of his surprise at the level of interest from his first few weeks on the job, “The shelter ran out of newspaper to line the cat’s cages. The staff asked what we should do. I suggested we put out a short media release, just to say we needed donations of newspaper. Within 24 hours, the story was covered by the two major dailies, three television stations, and at least one radio station. I couldn’t believe it! Most charities have to beg for a quarter of that coverage!”

The media’s level of interest was, of course, a blessing and a curse. The interest also extended to any mistakes that the Society made, or was perceived to have made. Fulfilling the media’s requests was also very time-consuming. “It got to the point that sometimes I was reluctant to put out a news release because I knew that my whole next day would be shot, and I had other things that absolutely had to get done,” says Bruce Roney, executive director from 2000. Clearly, the Society

had to invest in exploiting its media opportunities to educate its community about important animal welfare issues.

Introducing a communications manager in 2002 allowed the Society to not only take advantage of media interest, but also to increase and improve its other communications. The additional resources and expertise allowed the Society to plan and to be strategic in its communications. The Society newsletter was christened “Our Best Friends” in 2001 as part of a rethink of its design and purpose. It underwent another overhaul in 2006 and finally full colour was introduced in 2009. In 2004, the Society launched an e-newsletter, “The Animal Advocate”. Soon after, the Society ventured into the rapidly expanding world of social media with the launch of a Facebook page in 2008 and a Twitter feed one month later.

In its rapid growth period in the first decade of the new millennium, the Society was able to undertake initiatives to make changes in its community that would positively affect the lives of animals. It was clear in this period that the welfare of dogs in Ottawa was considerably higher than that of cats. Owner reclaim rates alone told the story. While routinely 55 to 65 percent of stray dogs were claimed by their owners,



stray cats were reclaimed at a pathetic 4 percent, year in and year out. In 2005, the Society undertook an initiative to close the “welfare gap” between dogs and cats, by declaring that year “Year of the Cat.” The initiative was only a modest success in eliciting community change. The cat claim rate that year was the highest ever, but still only 7.5 percent. It was a greater success internally in focusing the Society more on the needs of cats in its care. A number of the feline care initiatives from that year, such as the cat-calming hide and perch box, became staples of the Society’s animal care regime.

Other smaller initiatives were launched in the 2000s including poster campaigns to promote dog neutering and indoor cats. A sticker campaign was launched in 2009 for big box stores and malls to remind their customers not to leave their dogs in their cars in warm weather.

Over the 2000s the dilemma of budgeting for marketing and communications became less of a concern. Donors were increasingly committed to the Society as it increased its visibility in the community. As a result, the Society underwent considerable growth, allowing for significant new investment in both increased levels of animal care and community change.

## The Society's First Animal Shelter

Before the Society had a shelter, the inspector dealt with animals where he found them. Stray and injured animals were either destroyed, or, in the case of dogs, herded together in the police station's pound for a limited time, giving owners the chance to claim them. By 1919 the Society had worked out an agreement with the police allowing it to inspect the pound regularly, while the police placed the dogs in separate pens to keep them “clean, warm and comfortable, and out of danger from quarrelsome neighbours.”

However, conditions at the police pound continued to trouble the Society, particu-



## Cornerstone Of Animal Shelter Laid Yesterday

Work of Ottawa Humane Society Reviewed in Address at Ceremony at Mann Avenue Site.

In the presence of members of the council of the Ottawa Humane Society, representatives of City Council and the Ottawa police department and with many friends attending, the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone for the new animal shelter being erected by the Ottawa Humane Society was held yesterday afternoon. Owing to the indisposition of Mrs. H. M. Ami, lifelong friend of the society who was to have officiated at the ceremony, she was unable to be present and in her place, G. Hope Burdick, chairman, presided at the laying of the stone, dedicating it in the name of Mrs. Ami. The new shelter is on Mann Avenue just east of Brewster Avenue on a tract of land leased from the government.

Cecil Bethune, president of the society, was chairman for the ceremony. J. L. Kemp, chairman of the building committee, extended the welcome in the name of the society. "Ottawa has a right to be proud of its Humane Society," declared Mrs. H. M. Ami, who represented the city at the ceremony. "It is a pleasure to participate in a ceremony of this nature which marks the culmination of a struggle for years to obtain a first class home for animals." In conclusion, Council and the Board of Control would be pleased to cooperate with the society's efforts in all matters pertaining to the good and welfare of the city.

**Complete Cooperation.**  
Deputy Chief Joseph P. Downey, of the Ottawa police, in a short address said that since the society had taken over the dog matter, there had been complete co-operation between the police and the officers of the society and he had every confidence that this co-operation would continue.

J. Clark Kelly, secretary, spoke, referring to the work of the society and making an appeal for support. Among those present at the ceremony, in addition to the officers of the society, were Don G. H. Gellert, Deputy Chief J. P. Downey, Dr. J. H. Hollingsworth, city food inspector, and E. C. Asakith, commanding officer.

The laying of the cornerstone was carried out with a silver trowel which will be presented to Mrs. Ami by Mr. Burdick. The inscription on the stone reads: "Presented to Mrs. H. M. Ami by the Ottawa Humane Society on the occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the new animal shelter, Sept. 16, 1935." The inscription on the cornerstone reads "Ottawa Humane Society 1910."

In his address of welcome, Mr. Kemp paid tribute to the humane spirit of the citizens of Ottawa, and their generosity which made the shelter possible.

**Humane Society Work.**  
The president of the society, Cecil Bethune, reviewed the progress of the society, referring to the fact that it was organized in January 1910 and has had a continuous existence since that time. "Under the distinguished patronage of the various Government Ministers and their legions, the policy of the council of the society has included some of the foremost citizens of Ottawa, both men and women," Mr. Bethune said.

"The work done by the society has been of a very varied character and with the object always in mind of preventing and punishing cruelty to birds and animals," he continued. "The motto of the society is 'We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.' In the past, dogs were used as bait for the purpose of catching criminals, and the condition of horses was such that they were almost impossible to handle on the streets. With the

great increase of motor transport, this phase has been very materially reduced. Constant attention is required, however, and the officers of the Ottawa police department give splendid co-operation to the inspectors of the society."

About a year ago, the society took over the management of the animal shelter, receiving the dog brought in by the police. Temporary quarters have been provided on Mann Avenue. Animal coming to the shelter are held for forty-eight hours, in order to give the owners a chance to reclaim them. Those who are then destroyed in a humane manner, unless placed in dog homes, a moderate charge being made for those obtaining them.

**Long Cherished Dream.**  
The new shelter has been the dream of the council of the society for a number of years and has been made possible by private gifts and requests for this specific purpose. Difficulty was experienced in securing a suitable site, but at last a piece of property was secured on a loan from the government. It is situated on Mann Avenue, between Henderson and Russell Avenues, and has the advantage of being at a considerable distance from residences.

Dedicated by Allan Horwood, the society's architect, under the approval of Dr. T. A. Cooper, medical health officer, the building at present under construction comprises receiving-room, quarantine, disposal chamber, food preparation

room, temporary office, and storeroom. There is also space for horse and deer stalls, which can also be turned into kennels. When further money is available, a two-story front addition will be erected, which will contain accommodations for the office of the society, and quarters for veterinary inspectors.

"The financial affairs of the society have been under the very capable supervision of Charles A. Gray, to whom annual membership subscriptions may be sent, as well as donations to the New Animal Shelter."

Construction of the shelter is being undertaken by Ed Brunet & Sons, general contractors. Ottawa and splendid progress has been made in the sale. The foundations have been completed, and the main walls are now being laid up with Dunlop blocks. Water and sewage service has already been made available, through the co-operation of the city engineering department.

**Humane Thanks.**

Mr. Bethune expressed the appreciation of the society for the hearty co-operation which has been given the society by the officers of Ottawa, the civic officials, the city police, the provincial police officers, and the financial supporters who make the work possible. He urged that this support be increased, to meet the new conditions which are facing the society and will involve responsibility of the new building's operation.

Mr. Bethune also announced that on Sunday, October 1, the Ottawa clergy have been asked to make mention of the fact that this is Humane Sunday, and as no being observed right across Canada. This is specially appropriate, he being the Sunday nearest to St. Francis of Assisi Day. St. Francis is known as a friend to all birds and animals, and generally regarded as their patron saint.

18, 1933 the cornerstone was laid at the Ottawa Humane Society's first permanent home it was to occupy for the next 18 years. This first shelter was a single story building built on crown land on Mann Avenue.

Cecil Bethune, a prominent Ottawan, was the Society's president from 1930 to 1940. In 1935,

he proudly summarized the Society's progress: "At the beginning of my term of office the Animal Shelter or Pound, as it was then called, was situated in a shed connected with a livery stable. It was not heated and there were little, if any, sanitary arrangements. It was managed by a man in the employ of the City. The animals were disposed of by a pistol or gun known as a 'humane killer.' There was no office, only a part-time sec-





Cecil Bethune

retary, and the inspector made his inspections or visits by bicycle and sometimes it was difficult to get in touch with him.

“Now we have an animal shelter comparing favourably, when size is taken into consideration, with any shelter in Canada or the United States. It is practically fireproof and

is all paid for. The equipment consists of an electrical disposal chamber, which we purchased in England, and which is unequalled on the American continent, and steel cages for the dogs purchased by money raised by the Junior Humane Society... . The grounds are surrounded by a high wire fence kindly donated by one of our good supporters, and the inspector makes his inspections and calls by motorcar...”



MALAK, OTTAWA

One of the first “Blessing of the Animals” services was held by Father French at the shelter on Mann Ave. in 1946.

## The Bayview Shelter

In 1949, to the dismay of the Society's directors, the federal government sold the land to the Public School Board, leaving them with the task of relocating. With its future existence at stake, the Humane Society's preoccupations in 1950 were to find a new site, build a new shelter, and raise the money to pay for it. The Society's operating expenses came from memberships, bequests, fees for service and adoptions, the regular fundraising activities of the Women's Auxiliary and local groups, and a portion of the City's income from dog licences. A major capital expense meant a major fund drive.

The Society needed the leadership of a well-known and influential individual in this critical period. Former Mayor of Ot-



tawa Stanley Lewis was approached and asked to run for the presidency. Although he had suffered a heart attack the year before, Mr. Lewis accepted, and was elected President in January, 1950. In May, Ottawa's Controller E.C. Pickering was enlisted

as fundraising chairman, and the Society set out to raise \$40,000 for a new shelter.

At the same time, the Society appealed to the City of Ottawa for the gift of a suitable, centrally located building site. City Council looked at several possibilities, listened to complaints from residents who didn't want the shelter as a neighbour, deliberated, waffled, and at the risk of the Society closing its doors, handed over ownership of a piece of land on Bayview Road for \$1.00.

Governor General Viscount Alexander turned the sod at the new Bayview site, and







launched the fundraising campaign on September 14, 1950. The following week, a small army of 100 women canvassers led by Mrs. Jane Perley-Robertson blitzed the city. The Society's volunteers and directors campaigned on all fronts. There were special letters to prominent animal lovers; a raffle; functions organized by the Women's Auxiliary such as theatre nights, teas, and the sale of cardboard "bricks" at 25 cents a piece; collections at football and hockey matches, and a special "used-but-not-abused" sale.

The Society's faith in support of Ottawa's citizens was not misplaced. The public contributed \$34,000 toward the \$44,000 cost of the building. It was



completed in the spring of 1951 with an outstanding mortgage of \$9,000. In October, more than 100 guests attended the official opening, including Mayor Charlotte Whitton, who presided over the ceremony.

The Bayview shelter marked a new era for the Ottawa Humane Society. Twice the size of the Mann Avenue building, it could accommodate four times as many animals brought to the Society by the Health Department for observation. And, for the first time, the Humane Society was able to acquire the services of a veterinary surgeon and animal clinic on its own premises as a result of the space allowing a new partnership with Bayview Animal Hospital.

Patricia St. Germain and Three Little Kittens

Mike Howell and Jerome Levac Serve Up Chow

Twixt children  
and animals, there's  
**That Certain  
Rapport**

Tomorrow begins Be-Kind-To-Animals Week.

But in the days and girls who spend their before-and-after school hours—to say nothing of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays—helping out at the Ottawa Humane Society Shelter at 31 Bayview Road, every week is Be-Kind-To-Animals Week.

The children—aged 10 to 16—are members of the Ottawa Humane Society Club, and they're a big help to the staff at the animal shelter.

They help feed the dogs and cats and all the other assortment of animals; they clean out the cages; they sweep the floor, and they exercise the pets.

And because there's a genuine rapport between young people and animals, the shelter's founders look forward to the children's visit as much as the children themselves.

These members of the Humane Society Club don't just drop in from time to time to play with the animals.

Most of the boys turn up at 7:30 in the morning to help the dogs and cats have their room, clean up the cages, and so begin preparing breakfast for the animals.

And on Saturdays and Sundays, when the shelter is short-staffed, these boys and girls are particularly useful.

For the Humane Society Club is not just a source of volunteer labor. The children are taught great deal about animals and their care by Humane Society staff.

There are even films and lectures—but these are considered "pretty dull stuff" compared to the fun of actually helping after the way.

Photos by MIKE KELLY  
Story by Frances Baldwin

A Dog's-Eye-View of His Young Visitors

THE OTTAWA JOURNAL  
*Saturday Section*  
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1954

Mike (left) and Jerry Sweep Out the Kennel

## A Major Project: the Champagne Shelter

By 1965, the Society's workload was taxing both the staff and its Bayview Avenue quarters. A committee was organized to draw up plans for a shelter extension and to lay the groundwork for a fundraising campaign. An architect was hired and the City was informally approached for its support and approval. The Society's directors then learned that part or all of the property would soon be expropriated to make way for the new Queensway into Ottawa.



After learning that the Bayview property was to be expropriated, the Humane Society negotiated a settlement with the City for its fair market value. The City paid \$189,630 for the property, and the Society acquired a piece of land for \$90,000 on Champagne Avenue. Plans went ahead for a new shelter that was intended to accommodate a growing number of animals.

The new building was to cost \$223,496. To this, the Society committed all its financial resources. The City of Ottawa promised \$60,000 in grants toward the building, and the Councils of Eastview, Gloucester and Nepean also contributed several thousand dollars each. Friends and supporters responded to 3,000 letters appealing for donations, bringing in an additional \$24,000. With the fundraising efforts of the Women's Auxiliary, proceeds from "used-but-not-abused" sales, and some generous bequests, the Society eliminated a \$14,000 bank loan before the end of 1969, leaving the new shelter mortgage-free. However, the Society was forced to forgo constructing a second story for its long-cherished educational hall; a project that would be undertaken as soon as funds were available.

## Humane Society Needs Bigger Shelter—Jones

Controller Ernie Jones, in his final message as president of the Ottawa Humane Society Tuesday night, asked the society to give careful consideration to enlarging the present shelter.

Mr. Jones who has been president of the society for the past five years was succeeded by A. Kenneth MacLaren.

Mr. Jones also paid tribute to the staff of the society which, he said, had not increased in any way despite a heavy increase in the work load.

In his review of the society's financial position, treasurer Alec Perley-Robertson said the books showed a year-end operating

deficit of \$562, an improvement over recent years.

Society manager Ken Switzer, in his annual report, revealed that of 5,683 dogs received at the shelter, owners claimed 1,063 and new homes were found for 1,355.

Mr. Switzer maintained the excellent co-operation of The Journal in publishing the weekly feature "Dog of the Week," was particularly helpful.

Other members of the executive elected Tuesday night include: vice - presidents, Alec Perley - Robertson and Mrs. J. G. DePose; treasurer, Alec Perley - Robertson and secretary, G. Gordon Gunn.

Ottawa Journal, 1963





Governor General Roland Michener at the official opening of the new shelter on Champagne Avenue, 1968.

Twenty years later, then President of the Society, Mrs. Ignatieff reflected: “When the shelter was being built, I was down there every day, and so was managing director Mr. Switzer. There were all sorts of problems, like arborite that came in the wrong colour, and some baseboard heating equipment that was too long to fit the space.”


Common sense solutions prevailed, and despite the added snag of the builder going bankrupt in mid-project (not, Mrs. Ignatieff hastens to add, because of the Humane Society), the Champagne Avenue shelter was opened for business in mid-April 1968. Governor General Roland Michener and Mrs. Michener presided at the official opening on the seventh of May.

Among the new shelter’s features were stainless steel cages, a crematorium, and self-contained animal wards. In 1972, a





*Anxious First Graders From St. Elizabeth's School Rush to See the Animals*



*The Humane Society of Ottawa-Carleton*

**IN THE SEVENTIES**

**THE SOCIETY:**

- Investigated 4463 cases of alleged animal neglect or abuse
- Completed the modern, well equipped Animal Shelter which includes the Humane Education Hall where 1102 school classes and 369 special groups such as cubs and guides visited, watched films and fondled the animals.
- Received 212,233 animals
- Returned 21,161 lost animals to their owners
- Found new homes for 43,506 animals
- Rescued 10,477 animals
- Persuaded the City of Ottawa to disallow:
  - o the keeping of exotic pets
  - o the use of the leg-hold trap, killer traps and snares
- Encouraged and supported the neutering of animals to control the number of surplus pets
- Worked closely with the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies on such matters as research, transportation, sealing, whaling, intensive farming, and pet owner responsibility
- No matter where, in Ottawa-Carleton, animals were used, the Society's Inspector or Representative was there
- All of these successes could not have happened without support from the Society's many friends and 3000 members
- To carry on the Society's work for these past ten years it was necessary to raise over \$2,000,000. Our current deficit is \$18,000.
- Now we need your help to maintain the work of the Society. Send your membership and/or donation to:

**101 Champagne Avenue,  
Ottawa, K1S 4P3**

**WE THANK YOU!**

Ottawa Journal, December 29, 1979

second story was added for the Society's educational hall, with adjoining offices that were provided rent-free to the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies until 1987 when the CFHS relocated to more spacious quarters in Nepean.

By the 1980s, however, the Champagne Avenue shelter was proving alarmingly deficient. A building committee under Humane Society director Robert McGibbon conducted a study of the 20-year-old structure in 1986, and reported to the Annual Meeting in early 1987: "The Board has recognized for some time that we must do something about the state of the shelter."

The committee pointed out that because of the Society's shortage of funds when the building was being constructed, features originally planned for had not been included or were greatly modified. As a result, the shelter had either aged more rapidly than originally expected, or had proven more inefficient than ever dreamed of. Moisture was seeping into the walls, destroying the small amount of insulation there, and driving up heating and cooling costs. The mechanical systems were altogether inefficient, and the shelter's physical layout was much too small for current demands. There were inappropriate accommodations for sick animals, and for those recovering from shock. And there was the ever-present worry that infection could spread throughout the kennel because of poor ventilation.

Rather than recommending that the Society continue to expend resources on on-going maintenance and repairs as in the past, the building committee drew up plans for an updated shelter with efficient, up-to-date facilities for its animal population.

This project never became a reality. A well-intentioned, but apparently ill-conceived Centennial Campaign was launched in 1988 as a part of the Society's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The campaign became mired in controversy and bad publicity and was eventually abandoned.



Ottawa Humane Society staff, early 1980s.

## **Hardship and Growth; Advancement and Setbacks: 1988 to 2013**

A tremendous amount of change occurred in the humane movement in the 25 years after the first edition of this book. Not all of it was positive, and the Society was not immune to its effects.

Because of a number of societal factors, in Canada, companion animals', particularly dogs', "value" increased. Pets were now a full-fledged member of the family for many. Combined with the rise of the animal rights and so-called "no-kill" movements, and further fuelled by messages delivered in the fundraising materials of some large, savvy humane societies, expectations for what a humane society could and should do for an individual animal rose sharply in most sizable communities across the country.

Humane societies that hadn't yet adopted up-to-date fundraising methods were squeezed. An unwillingness to surrender money-

losing municipal contracts or to demand full compensation for animal care and control further exacerbated the lack of funds. So, at a time when the public expected much more, many humane societies could barely keep up with what they had been doing, much less add more.

Severely limited resources led to chronic short-staffing, which in turn led to a dearth of policy at many societies – whether basic operating procedures, human resources policies, or solid governance policies and By-laws.

Strong community feelings, lagging service delivery, poverty, and lack of policies created the perfect storm for frequent board takeovers and occasional bankruptcies among even large humane societies in the 1980s and 1990s. Adding to both the causes and the effects columns was the very high turnover in senior staff, executive directors specifically.

These trends were seen all across the country, and the Society was among those affected. In the twelve years between 1988 and 2000, the Society hired no fewer than seven chief

executives who resigned or proved unsuitable for one reason or another. This instability alone prevented the Society from moving forward in a significant way in those years.

Despite these handicaps, the Society introduced several new programs in that period. The Pet Adoption Location or PAL program was introduced, sending mostly cats to pet stores in the region for adoption. The program greatly increased the Society's reach into the community. By 2012, the Society had 19 partner locations and adopted more cats through PAL than through the shelter itself.

Another advancement in the period was the introduction of a temperament assessment regime for dogs in the late 1990s. Prior to this, dogs



The Pet Adoption Location (PAL) Program was launched in March of 1994.





Temperament testing

that did not overtly bite the staff were placed for adoption and the public simply selected a dog, paid for it and left. Temperament assessment allowed the Society to ensure the safety of the commu-

nity with reasonable certainty. Armed with the assessment information, Society staff could also work with adopters to find a match for their lives and expectations. This, when combined with providing much more advice education regarding their pet's needs at adoption, dramatically increasing the adopter's bond with the dog.

More comprehensive thinking about the problems in animal welfare accompanied the introduction of PAL and temperament assessment. Even the images that the Society used to promote itself changed to better promote good animal care practices. From then on, older animals took their place along with the ubiquitous puppies and kittens to promote their value as pets, and no longer would the Society use an image of a dog or cat without a collar and tag.

While important progress was made in the late 1980s and 1990s, advancement was stunted by a lack of money and resources. Bruce Roney recalls one of his first days on the job in 2000: "They had a little table in the lobby with some used dog toys, litter boxes and other



small plastic things. Each had a scrap of paper taped to it, with 25 or 50 cents handwritten on it. It looked terrible. I asked what it was, and was told it was the training table—money raised paid for staff training. It was sad. I said it had to go. We would find the money for staff training.” The organization was starving.

Progress was also made when the board of directors underwent its own development process. When Pam Menchions was elected as President in 1999, she brought with her a determination to get the board’s house in order. Board policy was researched and written. The board was better oriented to its role. Soon after, the Bylaws were amended

so that board terms were staggered in two-year terms. Previously, the entire board could be voted in—and of course, therefore, voted out—at a single annual general meeting, making the board extremely vulnerable to sudden take-over.

While a handful of larger humane societies adopted much more effective fundraising methods, smaller and mid-sized ones remained mired in book sales, spaghetti dinners and other high-effort and investment, low-reward and growth initia-



Pam Menchions

## HELPING HANDS: THE FIRST 125 YEARS



tives. By the late 1990s, the Society was crossing over. Board members and other volunteers still stood outside liquor stores for Be Kind to Animals Week, while the Society was developing a modern direct mail program. By the end of 2001, most of the old-style fundraising was abandoned, and the Society was on a track to greatly expand its efforts.

Over the next decade, the results were very encouraging. Between 2001 and 2011, funds raised more than doubled to over two and a half million dollars. Most of the growth was fuelled by direct mail and monthly giving, though large events such as the Annual Walkathon garnered much pub-

lic attention, with the annual FurBall Gala being hosted first by Margaret Trudeau, former wife of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and later for several years by Laureen Harper, wife of Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Bequests, not included in this number, were wisely invested and not spent in the current year, as was the practice of many humane societies. The invested bequests added to the overall financial health of the organization. In addition, the long-disputed amount the City paid to the Society to operate the municipal animal shelter or “pound” increased, when negotiations were settled by outside consultant Jim Badow. The Society’s financial stability, in turn, allowed for overdue growth and innovation in its programs.

Learning opportunities for staff were greatly expanded in the 2000s. As more funds became available, more opportunities presented themselves through conferences, workshops and later, webinars offered by an increasing number of organizations, colleges and universities with animal welfare, or sheltering and medicine research and expertise. The new availability and resources allowed many Society staff members at all levels to attend and learn. The Society also



FRANK SCHIEME

Minister John Baird and Laureen Harper, wife of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, at the FurBall Gala.





developed its own in-house staff development, which included workshops on customer service, compassion fatigue and non-violent crisis intervention in order to assist staff in addressing a frequently belligerent public, angered by city release fees and other necessary policies.

The volunteer program expanded greatly over the period, leveraging increased staff support and stronger management to create a huge volunteer contingent of as many as 600 active volunteers, caring for animals in their homes, walking dogs, entering data, and performing other essential functions.

In 2002, the Society contracted with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to undertake a full review of the organization, its work and the way it was performed. The resulting 300-some pages informed a great deal of the Society's thinking and planning for the next several years.

With some financial ability to travel, and with cheaper and easier communication made possible by email and the internet, the Society became a more active member of the Canadian and North American animal welfare movement, and

Pictured left: Walkers in the Wiggle Waggle Walkathon raise money for the animals.



both learned and taught others in the process. It became more active with its national partner – the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, and its provincial counterpart – the Ontario SPCA. The Society regularly sent board members to both throughout the 1990s and 2000s. The HSUS remained a valuable resource for years after completing its report on the Society. In 2008, the Society felt strong and active enough that it should have an international partner and joined the World Society for the Protection of Animals.

While committing to building more and stronger partnerships and ties with other like-minded organizations, in 2003 as a part of that year's strategic planning, the Society's board voted to limit the organization's advocacy efforts, recognizing that trying to take a leadership role on international concerns well outside its jurisdiction, such as whaling and sealing, was leaving local and municipal issues unaddressed. In future, the Society would support, but leave the leadership role on national and provincial issues to its partners. The Society would become a strong and effective leader locally in Ottawa, advocating for improved bylaws and enforcement. A renewed respect for the Society allowed it to increasingly



become a partner and resource on animal welfare for the municipal government.

The investigations and rescue work of the Society consolidated in 2000 with the merger of the then two small departments into one. Shortly after, staff members of the new department were required to be certified as OSPCA agents in order to provide seamless service between the animal rescue and investigation of cruelty and neglect, since the two were frequently related.

The additional resources afforded the Society the opportunity to develop standard operating procedures and policies for financial and human resources and the systems to support them, recognizing that with a staff compliment of over 80 by the mid-2000s, growing to 104 at the new West Hunt Club Shelter, the Society could no longer be managed as simply as in the past.

Growth at the Society has continued into 2013. The Society is in the midst of developing new strategies and plans to utilize its resources, in particular the West Hunt Club shelter, to grow

further, to provide better care for the animals. Long-term solutions to old problems are being sought and implemented in order to deliver on the promise we made our community: to build a brighter future for Ottawa's animals.

## Building a Brighter Future: The West Hunt Club Shelter

The decline of the Champagne Avenue shelter continued as Ottawa grew and the expectations of what the Society would do for each animal grew along with it. Overcrowding in the shelter became almost permanent, and piecemeal solutions to addressing animal health had limited effect. Successful initiatives including vaccination on admission dramatically reduced the incidence of diseases such as feline panleukopenia, but this gain was largely offset by increased levels of severe upper respiratory infection in cats caused by the overcrowding. The Society and the animals desperately needed a new shelter.

In 2002, Executive Director Bruce Roney corresponded with Algonquin College. Ottawa was experiencing a shortage of veterinary technicians, and this was affecting the Society as well as most private clinics in town. In his letter, Mr. Roney pledged the support and cooperation of the Society if the College were willing to develop a veterinary technician program.

The response was swift. Not only was the College interested in pursuing the development of such a program, but would the Society like to consider becoming a full partner, including co-locating a teaching facility and a new home for the Society at the College's Woodroffe campus? The benefits appeared obvious. Why build two new animal care facilities, when one could serve both functions? The College had extensive experience in planning and construction; the Society had none. The Society did, of course, have tremendous animal care experience that would be needed to develop such a facility. The synergies seemed excellent. A full teaching humane society would be an obvious benefit to the animals, and could draw support from donors interested in animal welfare and those supporting post-secondary education.

Planning began in earnest before long. The City of Ottawa was brought on as a partner shortly after, as the Municipal Animal Shelter, operated by the Society for the City, was expected to be a part of the facility. Moving the over-wintering of the Royal swans was also considered, as their existing housing in Leitrim was also badly decaying.

After two years of research and planning, in 2004 the project came to an abrupt halt. In preparation for the “double cohort” (two class years graduating at once, both seeking post-secondary spots) created by the province’s elimination of grade 13, the College was already building at a frenetic rate. Senior College staff came to realize that they could not take on another project on the scale of that which was planned, either financially or operationally. Though the partnership continued, with the Society regularly taking veterinary students for practical learning, the dream of a comprehensive teaching humane society was dead.

The work done to date was not wasted. Many of the needs identified through the Algonquin partnership carried forward to subsequent plans. The Society needed a clear route forward now, and without the support of specialists at Algonquin, it needed outside help.

Basic questions needed to be answered. Was it better to retrofit the Champagne Avenue shelter, or begin anew in a new location? Exactly how big would the facility need to be? What was the scale of the cost for construction? In 2005, the Society contracted with the project management firm, MHPM, to assist

in answering these questions. The most basic question was answered quite easily: The Society would need a shelter of over 35,000 square feet just to meet the community’s existing needs—a space larger than the land that the old shelter sat on. The Society would have to move.

Once the Society knew it would be moving, the next question was to where? Given the Society’s emergency response and rescue programs, and simple accessibility for the community, it was clear that the location needed to remain relatively central, but outside the City core. It was hoped that the purchase price for new land might be considerably less than the sale price for the Champagne Avenue property located in the rapidly gentrifying Preston/Dow’s Lake area.

Ottawa was at the time experiencing considerable growth, and along with it came a shortage of commercial real estate inside the Greenbelt. It took close to two years to identify a suitable site.

In the meantime, the Society was also facing the issue of finding the funds to purchase the property and build the facility.

While the Society had experienced very significant growth in its fundraising revenue over the past several years as a result of significantly increased professionalism in that area, nothing of this scale had ever been attempted by the organization. Consultants were hired, but after a period, it was apparent that times had changed for capital fundraising, and their advice was not helping the Society to achieve its goals.

Changes in tack were required. The Society hired a new manager for the campaign, Anna Silverman, and shortly after, the consultants' approach was abandoned. Rather than focusing on recruiting a chair and a committee as had been recommended, Ms. Silverman and (Executive Director) Bruce Roney began to ask its supporters to self-identify as major capital donors. Donors that had demonstrated a long-time or large financial commitment were invited to tour the decrepit Champagne Avenue shelter and shown slides of the new Winnipeg Humane Society shelter to understand what was possible, and the developing plans for Ottawa's. Every room and piece of equipment in the new shelter was available for naming. Ms. Silverman and Mr. Roney lead hundreds of tours and presentations, enlisting the support of a few com-







mitted supporters to make calls and open doors. Ottawa's veterinary community was particularly responsive after the initial approaches of Dr. Sue Kilborn and Dr. Nigel Gumley.

Also as the search for land continued, research into best design practices and visits to newer shelters built in the past several years was undertaken. Ultimately, the design of the new shelter was influenced tremendously by designs of the Winnipeg and Edmonton shelters. Both organizations were extremely generous with information and advice that helped the Society to create a functional and healthy design. Finally in 2007, a suitable site was identified for the shelter in the rapidly growing Hunt Club corridor in the City's southwest.

The Society came to learn that it was a best practice to use a local architect for most of the design work, but to employ an animal shelter specialist architect as a consultant. The choice

of specialist was easy. George Miers had been the primary or consulting architect on both the Winnipeg and Edmonton shelters which the Society sought to emulate in many ways. George Miers's contribution was essential to the project's success. Selecting a local architect was more complicated. Following an extensive search and tender, the firm of Barry Hobin and Associates was selected, with Sandy Davis put forward as the lead for the firm.



In 2008, a U.S. financial crisis spread across the globe, causing a recession. Governments around the world, including Canada's, responded with stimulus funding directed mostly toward community infrastructure projects. Laureen Harper, the wife of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, had been a long-time foster volunteer of the Society, and later became the honorary chair of the Society's FurBall gala. Her close friend, local MP and

Cabinet Minister John Baird, also had a soft spot for cats. Both were anxious that the Society apply for funding for the new shelter under the new program. Minister Baird was responsible for the program, and though the funding rules were scrupulously adhered to, the Minister's interest in the project was welcome. In the end, the program contributed \$3.6 million toward the \$17 million budgeted for the project.

The consultants had warned the Society that inflation in construction was far above general inflation and that 14 percent should be added to the cost estimates each passing year. The



federal infrastructure funding was time-limited. Animals were not getting healthier in the Champagne Avenue shelter. After a number of years of research, planning and abandonment of plans, it was clear the Society now had to move quickly to take advantage of the alignment of events to make the project a success.

While the architects raced to complete the tender documents, with Mr. Roney and Operations head Sharon Miko spending evenings and weekends reviewing, editing and commenting, a tender for the construction was assembled. Tendering resulted in the selection of the firm of MP Lundy as general contractor. The ceremonial ground-breaking was held on May 7, 2010, and the grand opening took place

on July 7, 2011, the construction schedule having been very aggressive. The opening ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Harper, though he did not make a speech, as the honoured guest was Mrs. Harper. Minister Baird and Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson were in attendance and spoke, welcomed by Society President Robert Cameron.

In the end, the Society got all the amenities it hoped for in the new 40,000 square foot shelter, and it is without a doubt a striking and impressive facility. Because of the tremendous support of other humane societies, Ottawa was able to capitalize on their successful designs choices and avoid their pitfalls. Because of the commitment of senior staff to the details, the project had a very unusu-



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Laureen Harper, Minister John Baird and Mayor Jim Watson attend the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the OHS facility at 245 West Hunt Club Road in July of 2011.



## HELPING HANDS: THE FIRST 125 YEARS



ally low number and cost of change orders, and this saved considerably on the anticipated cost.

By the time the Society moved in June of 2011, it was clear that the \$16 million dollar West Hunt Club facility could be fully paid for in a short while. In addition to the federal funding, the sale of the Champagne Avenue property surpassed early estimates, the City of Ottawa committed \$2.8 million, and the province chipped in \$500,000. The Society's Board of Directors voted that estates realized during the period would be



directed to the campaign and had transferred \$500,000 from the Society's Trust Fund to seed the campaign. The Society's own Auxiliary pledged \$300,000 for the clinic in the new shelter. The largest contribution and the ultimate success of the campaign, however, came from fundraising in the community. Forty percent of the cost of the project was paid by donations. From a \$1.6 million anonymous gift to the large, medium and smaller contributions of hundreds, if not thousands of others, the dream was achieved because the people of Ottawa cared.



## Bayview Animal Hospital

In 1953, young Dr. James Hutchison signed a two-year contract with the Ottawa Humane Society, beginning a relationship that was to last more than three decades. He was given two small rooms and a waiting room for his private veterinary practice, and in exchange agreed to provide medical treatment for the animals in the Humane Society's care. His services would be credited against the rent of the rooms made available to him.

Emergency treatment could now be given to injured animals brought to the shelter; adopted pets would be examined before leaving for a new home; dogs would be inoculated against distemper, and the time would even be set aside to provide free treatment for the pets of the poor.

Ken Switzer, who as the Society's managing director was mainly responsible for negotiating the



original agreement with Dr. Hutchison, said the relationship with Bayview was an ideal one. In 1958, Dr. B. Brennan joined the growing practice, and the two veterinarians opened a second clinic, the Alta Vista Animal Hospital on Bank Street. (Bayview became, in effect, a “branch” of the Alta Vista Hospital.) In 1987, Dr. Hutchison described his work with the Society as “a mutual satisfactory relationship. We expanded, and they had a service that many humane societies have not had.”

When the Humane Society moved to Champagne Avenue in 1968, the Bayview Clinic kept its original name and expanded into self-contained quarters adjoining the shelter with two full-time veterinarians.

Dr. Bernard Pukay, a veterinarian well known to many Ottawa animal lovers for his pet problem-solving work through the local media, established his practice at Bayview. He described the relationship with the Humane Society as a unique one in Canada. “Traditionally, there is an uneasy relationship between humane societies and veterinarians. There is an idea that a veterinarian associated with a humane





society would give a lower standard of care, but in this case it is clearly not so.”

Bayview’s veterinarian role remained basically the same over the years. The Society contracted with the veterinarians to treat animals at the shelter, in exchange for a reduction in rent. The Bayview Veterinary Clinic was a valuable adjunct to the Society in its role.

From 1953—the year the Bayview Clinic opened its doors—to 1987, there were significant improvements in the level of care given to the animals at the shelter. In the mid 1970s the Humane Society started employing college-trained animal health technicians. This allowed the shelter to introduce new methods of euthanasia by intravenous injection rather than gassing or electrocution. Pre-euthanasia tranquilization was given to both dogs and cats making euthanasia more humane.

In 2005, as the Society began its plans for a new shelter in earnest, Bayview owners became uneasy that they might find their business suddenly homeless. The Society had made it known that with a new facility, it would be time to host its



own clinic. Bayview informed the Society that it felt it should move out early, rather than risk a potentially lengthy business interruption. On the last day, when Bayview closed its doors, the Society hosted a small reception and presented Bayview with a plaque that honoured the long and successful partnership between the two organizations. That plaque hangs in Bayview Animal Hospital on Carling Avenue today.

Reacquisition of the clinic space allowed the Society to open its own in-house clinic. A Society clinic would allow the organization fulfill its goal of sterilizing all animals prior to adoption. Though quite successful, the voucher system used to date was not 100 percent reliable to ensure that Society adoptees were not contributing to pet overpopulation. As the clinic developed, it also allowed the Society to provide many more medical procedures to help more animals become adoptable.





## Birth of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies – the CFHS

To establish a national organization through which all Canadian animal welfare societies could speak with one voice on major issues was a long-time goal of Ottawa's Humane Society. However, it took nearly 50 years before the Ottawa Society's initiatives finally bore fruit.

The first attempt to form a federation was recorded in the Ottawa Humane Society's Annual Report for 1909. Lady Hanbury Williams, the Society's popular President, was chosen as the first President of the national body at its formative meeting in Toronto. However, there is no subsequent mention of the new organization, so it was apparently short-lived. In 1946, the notion resurfaced and was supported by some of the provincial humane societies, but no leadership emerged to set the wheels in motion.



### OTTAWAN HEADS HUMANE GROUP

A national council for Humane Societies in Canada was formed during a weekend meeting here of representatives of organizations from all parts of Canada. Col. Richard Taylor, OBE, of Ottawa, was named president of the national

are, front row left to right: Miss H. M. Copp Vancouver; Col. Taylor. Back row, left to right: K. R. Harper, Windsor; T. I. Hughes Vancouver; Senator F. A. McGrand, Fredericton Junction, N.B.; and M. H. Sarty, Halifax.

OTTAWA CITIZEN, NOVEMBER 17, 1956

The present national organization had its beginnings in 1955. A special donation was received from the Barret Montford Charitable Trust in Victoria, B.C. for the formation of a National Humane Society. Dr. A.E. Cameron, then President of the Ottawa Humane Society, proposed the formation of a national body in order to tackle the abominable slaughterhouse conditions which still persisted across the country.



Dr. A.E. Cameron

Dr. Cameron concluded that the situation could be improved only by “long and persistent effort” through a national organization with Ottawa as its logical centre. His words were reported across Canada. Dr. Cameron was well known and highly regarded for his expertise on the subject. He had been Chief Veterinary Inspector of Canada for 15 years and had recently retired as Veterinary Director General for Canada.

In 1956, Lt. Col. Richard Taylor succeeded Dr. Cameron as Ottawa Humane Society President, and the Colonel can-

vassed humane societies across the country for their opinions. Interest snowballed and the idea gained support from other influential figures including Senator F.A. McGrand, M.D., of New Brunswick, journalist Ann Francis, as well as from many provincial and local societies.



Lt. Col. Richard Taylor

The Federation’s formative meeting was held in Ottawa in November 1956 at the first national conference of representatives of Canadian societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. With delegates from eight provincial and many local societies attending (the provincial societies of Ontario and British Columbia joined in 1964), Lt. Col. Taylor was named President. In August 1957, the new national organization was incorporated as the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies.



Senator F.A. McGrand



*The fate of animals is of greater importance to me than  
the fear of appearing ridiculous.*

— Emile Zola



## **PART 2**

# **Tackling the Broad Issues**

### **Slaughterhouses**

Slaughterhouse conditions across the country were deplorable. In many cases, smaller animals – such as pigs, sheep and calves – were not stunned unconscious before bleeding because slaughterhouse employees lacked skill or adequate working space to perform the task effectively. Thus these animals too often endured a terrifying and painful death. The

search for a practical, safe and rapid method for rendering animals unconscious had been going on for some time.

Dr. A.E. Cameron, then President of the Humane Society, felt that the lack of progress was inexcusable, and condemned packing house owners at the January 1955 meeting of the Ottawa Humane Society: “The greatest evil in Canada today is the method of slaughtering animals for food. One has the uncomfortable feeling that if profits were likely to



accrue, the remedies would be forthcoming promptly.” He pointed out that Canada was far behind other countries in its treatment of slaughter animals, and that “one prominent and rational observer, Dr. Lillie, who was responsible for the improvement in the method of killing whales, stated in a report that the conditions he had seen in Canada were the worst he had encountered anywhere.”



Ken Switzer, who was then managing director of the Society, later recalled that briefs came from groups across the country. The Society presented the then Agriculture Minister Douglas Harkness with a petition signed by 264 citizens urging legislation specifying that food animals be rendered unconscious before being bled.



The Canadian Jewish Community wished to retain the 3,000-year-old kosher method of humane slaughter by slitting the animal's throat. The method stipulates that a food animal must not be injured or blemished before killing. Ultimately, Jewish Members of Parliament and the religious communities agreed on slaughter arrangements that were both humane and conformed with prescribed religious ritual.

Through the CFHS, Ottawa's Humane Society was instrumental in bringing about important changes in federal laws relating to animal welfare. In 1959 humane slaughter regulations were brought in under the new Food and Drug Act, assuring that all animals slaughtered for food packing houses under federal jurisdiction would be killed using humane methods.



## Leghold Traps

The cruelty caused to wild creatures caught in leghold traps was another long-standing issue on the animal welfare agenda. An animal caught by the paw in the jaws of a steel trap remains alive, often for days, without water or food. As well as the pain caused by torn flesh and broken bone, animals often mutilate themselves while trying to tear free of the trap.

Late in the 1960s, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, supported by the local and provincial welfare organizations and the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping, initiated research to develop devices that would either humanely live-trap or instantly kill the various fur-bearing animals.

Page 10, The Citizen, Ottawa, Tuesday, October 25, 1977

## Humane Society hits use of leg-hold traps

By Ralph Wilson  
*Citizen staff writer*

Seymore, a six-year-old sealpoint Siamese cat, was on his regular nocturnal prowls. He slipped under the fence near the third hole at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club in search of new haunts. A few minutes later a bloodcurdling howl was heard. Seymore's right rear paw had been crushed in a steel leg-hold trap. He would not be rescued for more than 18 hours.

Seymore is one of 12 house pets who have fallen prey to the tiny but deadly traps in the last year.

Seymore was caught in a small garden plot cared for by a Hunt Club greenskeeper.

The greenskeeper had planted his garden well off the fairway and had placed the leg-hold trap to catch groundhogs.

There are no controls over the use of steel leg-hold traps on private property in the city. Ottawa Humane Society director Ken Switzer thinks there should be and is to voice his stand next month at a meeting of the city's physical environment committee.



— Ron Polling, *Citizen*  
Owner Annabelle Fox consoles Seymore

"We would like to see all trapping stopped in Ottawa-Carleton, particularly in the built-up areas," he said Monday.

If traps must be used, he says, homeowners should buy a live cage-type trap or borrow one of the Humane Society's to capture garden pests.

Although the city may not have authority to enact bylaws governing the use of leg-hold traps, special provincial legislation might be granted to outlaw the traps within the regional municipality.

Ministry of Natural Resources spokesman Bruce Turner said that provincial legislation does not cover private use of the traps but that professional use of traps requires a provincial licence.

"Set properly, the traps should never catch cats or dogs. The traps should be set near burrows — where animals come in and out of their holes," he said.

He questioned the Hunt Club greenskeeper's use of the traps during the fall.

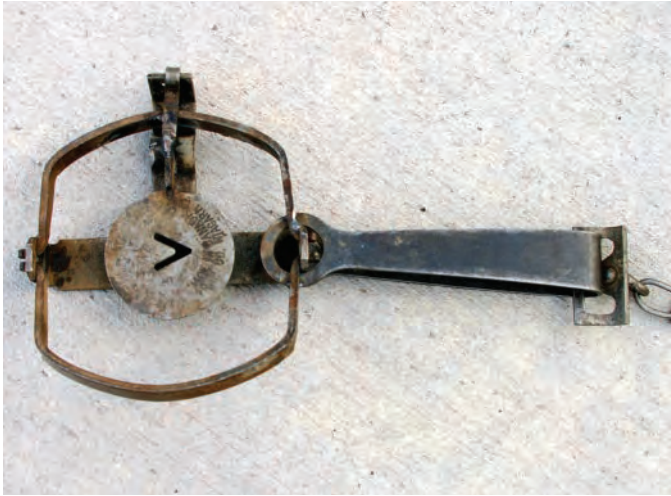
"I could understand setting a trap for groundhogs in July or August, but after Sept. 1 most groundhogs go underground."

"A trapper checks his traps regularly . . . three times a day. The cat should never have been in the trap that long."

He said the ministry is conducting a trapper course in Delketh, near Cornwall, offering instruction on the proper use of traps.

Seymore's fate, he said, was the result of ignorance.

"A trapper would never have set a trap in that manner," he said.



Even though trapping legislation is in the hands of the Provinces, the job of dealing with troublesome wild animals within the region such as skunks, groundhogs and the like was left to the Humane Society. Home gardeners plagued by the animals could borrow the Society's cage-type traps, to trap and contain the animals without harming them.

In 1973, the Ottawa Humane Society petitioned the City of Ottawa for a by-law prohibiting leghold “killer” traps, such as conibear, within city limits. They were a danger to pets and children and an instrument of cruelty. The City Council lobbied the Ontario Legislature, and eventually Ottawa was given the authority to control trapping. In 1979, the City passed a by-law prohibiting trapping within city limits unless authorized and supervised by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Province of Ontario.





## Sealing and Whaling

Through the 1960s, '70s and the '80s, the Ottawa Humane Society, in conjunction with other Canadian animal welfare organizations, pressed the Government to ban the gruesome methods used in sealing and whaling. At the Humane Society's annual meeting in 1968, President Marjorie Ignatieff reported on a meeting of the CFHS the previous year at which sealing and whaling were on the agenda.


She said the Ottawa Humane Society was instrumental in bringing forward a Resolution, which was carried unanimously, stating that the Federation "commends the Government for its actions taken to date to control the cruelties in the sealing industry, but professes its profound dis-



satisfaction in the results obtained and urges the public to continue to bring pressure to bear on the Government to abolish the cruelty of the seal hunt.”

Similarly, the Humane Society lobbied for a stop to the inhumane methods used in whaling, petitioning the federal fisheries minister to call a moratorium on whaling and to support scientific research on humane alternatives to using harpoons with explosive charges that burst inside the whale. Canada itself gave up commercial whaling in 1972, but as a voting member of the International Whaling Commission could influence the cause of conservation in international waters. Through the CFHS, the Ottawa Humane Society argued for whaling to be examined as an ethical issue.

**BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK**  
**May 3rd to 11th**



The Ottawa Humane Society is co-operating with other Humane Societies to prevent cruelty to seals; to petition all Governments concerned to provide regulations which will ensure decent treatment for them. We ask for your help.





*Our treatment of animals will some day be considered barbaric. There cannot be perfect civilization until man realizes that the rights of every living creature are as sacred as his own.*

— Dr. David Starr Jordan

## Live Animals Banned from the Byward Market

For many years, vendors had every legal right to sell live animals in the Byward Market – all they needed was a permit from the City – and for many years on Saturday mornings they sold their ducks, chickens, rabbits, puppies and kittens on York Street near Sussex Drive.

However, these vendors often kept their livestock in far worse conditions than those who sold vegetables and flowers from sheltered stalls down the street. Since 1977, when the Society persuaded the City to pass a by-law regulating animal sales, vendors were obliged to provide the animals with adequate water,



Byward Market goods: ducklings, kittens and a pup cannot move in their overcrowded makeshift cages.



— Citizen photo

*Livestock no longer goes to Byward Market*

## Animal ban overdue



*Hens and a variety of animals crowd the York Street sidewalk Saturday*

### Market scene

## Cages draw complaints

By Jim Butler

From and about  
A woman passed as the intersection of Sussex and York Saturday morning and dropped her gaze to the dozen pulsating hens crammed into Stirling Lang's crowded cage.  
"Why don't you give them more room before they smother?" she asked.  
The 527 plastic container was about the size of a dishwasher rack, and barely permitted the first enough headroom.  
But Lang — and other dealers who traffic truckloads of live and domestic pets to the market every Saturday — said justice is to have the animals' welfare protected by city bylaws.  
An Ottawa-Carleton Humane Society representative visits the market every Saturday, and the vendors say they have little choice but to obey him.  
Vendors say inspectors should be more concerned with "spices" who arrive early on Saturdays with their animals packed in everything from car trunks to suitcases.  
The vendors say the zoning law before inspectors arrive.  
Robert Christie, the sole humane society inspector in charge of Ottawa-Carleton and Annapolis, said he wasn't aware of the illicit trade.  
"We wouldn't be too happy about that, because the food can get infected with carbon monoxide as the cook, especially if the person's doing an old chicken," he said.  
Lang has driven in from Annapolis, 90 kilometers southwest of Ottawa, every week for the past five years, arriving at the market about 5 a.m.  
He sells an average of \$150 worth of broilers, ducks, chickens and geese every week after buying them from farmers in his area.  
"People are great complainants," he said. "The food isn't in the crates long enough (10-12 hours) to do them any harm."  
Lang is compelled to keep his stock supplied with dishes of food and water.  
"But people don't want them full of food and water when they kill them and dress them," he said.  
What explains how she lets mother poultry every Saturday, they are agreeing to regulations that should the food from the elements.  
Peter Martin, an Orpington farmer, started his Saturday with 75 rabbits housed in three cages, and 50 in 60 piglets in another three containers.  
While a dozen mothers stuffed into one cage may suffer from cramped conditions, Martin said, he's able to give them more room as they're sold off through the day.  
Weekly inspections check for overcrowding, sickness, and unreasonable mixing of animals, such as a cat and a hen in the same cage.  
Since there are no formal spacing guidelines, Christie uses his judgment. He likes to see every animal have an area of half its size to move around in.  
The inspectors also ensure vendors aren't breaking the bylaw by selling chicks under three weeks old in children's under 10.  
If they spot a violation, inspectors ask, then under the market to clean-up it.  
If they don't comply, they can be charged under the Criminal Code with cruelty to animals, which carries a maximum sentence of six months, a \$500 fine, or both.  
If they're charged under the Ottawa bylaw, the maximum fine is \$1,000.

— The Ottawa Citizen

shade, and cage space. They were also forbidden from selling dogs and cats younger than six weeks of age, selling sick or injured animals, or chicks and ducklings younger than three weeks old as pets. The Society monitored the area regularly to enforce the regulations. But the inspector or agent couldn't remain on the scene all day, and the dealers who offended the most could usually pack up quickly to return the next day.

Over the years, the Humane Society's directors, especially Mrs. Muriel Davies, along with local residents and tourists, complained about the

primitive conditions. The Society maintained that the sale of livestock should be banned altogether and put its case to the City's Physical Environment Committee in 1981, but the vendors persisted. Some alderman preferred an improved by-law to an outright ban.

In 1981, the marketing conditions on York Street had barely improved. Cages would be stacked, one on top of the other, so that animals were exposed to both the exhaust fumes and the stressful noise from cars and trucks passing two to three feet away. In winter, there was little protection from the bitter weather. The attitude of the vendors was that most of the animals



were sold for slaughter, not as pets, so their treatment was not of great concern.

However, in 1981 Ottawa resident Teresa Jotham spear-headed an intense campaign, which, with the support of the managing director and members of the Humane Society, was successful in achieving a ban on the sale of animals in the market.

Not only were the purchasers handling the animals badly, what they were doing was also illegal. Transporting live animals and birds to and from the market in various inhumane conditions contravened sections of the Federal Animal Disease and Protection Act, and the Cruelty to Animals section of the Criminal Code of Canada. Taking them onto buses broke a City by-law. Those who took live animals into restaurants were breaking two provincial laws: the Ontario Public Health Act, and the Meat Inspection Act. And home slaughter could have been performed inhumanely, contravening two provincial and two federal laws, including the Criminal Code of Canada. Thus, the problem was more far-reaching than the market conditions themselves.

It became political. An advertisement was purchased in the Citizen asking the general public's opinion, and got 460 replies, only three of them against a ban. With the backing of not only the Society, but also the CFHS and the Animal Defence League, from February to July 1982 the political battle raged on. Finally, on a hot July evening, City Council passed the ban by a vote of 11 to 5.

This was not the end of the matter, however. In 1984, City Council proposed to reintroduce the sale of animals, again regulated by a by-law. The Humane Society's managing director Michael Bloomfield took up the battle with City Hall and the move was unsuccessful; the ban remained.



## Animals in Research: A Debate Resolved

In the mid-1960s, one of the major public debates in Ottawa and the whole country concerned the use of animals in medical research. In order to obtain animals for research, the deans of Ontario's medical schools were pressing the provincial government for legislation enabling them to acquire strays that remained unclaimed or unadopted from local pounds. In 1967, the Province of Ontario was about to introduce the legislation.

In the Society President's report of 1966, Mr. A. Kenneth MacLaren outlined the situation as it then stood to those assembled at the Annual Meeting: The Ontario Humane Society and the medical profession had been negotiating for several years without reaching agreement. In the face of potential legislation, which would make it mandatory to release animals from pounds at licensed researchers' request, the Ontario Humane Society had called a special meeting of



affiliate societies to decide on a policy. Many supporters of the humane movement felt that they could not hand over animals under their control to researchers. At the same time, they felt responsible for ensuring that all animals used in research received as much protection as possible. The decision reached by the majority of delegates was that they could not agree to release animals for research purposes. Mr. MacLaren went on to say that this was the position the Ottawa Humane Society should support.

The debate raged on for two years, as the government produced a draft Bill, subsequently withdrawn, that brought more mail to Queen's Park than any other piece of legislation on their books. According to an observer, Premier John Robarts told his Minister of Agriculture that he simply had to get the matter "cleaned up" or he stood to lose his portfolio. And it was just a fringe issue as far as agriculture was concerned.

In 1970, the Animals for Research Act for the Province of Ontario was passed. The Act had been considerably modified from its draft form, and from Bill 194, which preceded

it. Marjorie Ignatieff was the Humane Society President in 1969 and met with the Agriculture Minister to suggest improvements to the Bill. One of the Society's proposals that became part of the law was that animals not be released from pounds until at least 72 hours had elapsed since their arrival. This allowed more time for them to be claimed or adopted. Later, the Society's agreement with the City was legally structured so that the Act could not be used to demand animals.

Other amendments provided that:

- stray animals obtained from pounds be used only by a registered research facility in Ontario. The Ottawa Humane Society contended that animals taken for research purposes in Ontario should not be sent to other provinces or abroad, where Ontario provincial safeguards for humane treatment did not apply.
- every animal used in a research facility in any experiment likely to result in pain be anaesthetized.
- analgesics be used to prevent animals from suffering pain while recovering from any research procedure.

The new law made it compulsory for municipal pounds to provide, on request, unclaimed dogs (and cats in those communities where strays are impounded by by-law) to registered facilities.

With the passage of the law, the Ottawa Humane Society negotiated an agreement with the University of Ottawa, the only institution that had requested dogs from the Society. The agreement stated that the dogs supplied would be used only in acute non-survival research. This meant that they would be placed under anaesthetic so that they could feel no pain, and they would not be allowed to revive when the experiment was over. Nonetheless, many at the Society and in the community were deeply troubled by both the



Protesters outside the Champagne shelter.

Act and the Society's agreement with the university. Emotional debates raged at Society Annual Meetings, and public protests were not uncommon.

In April 1986, the Society issued a rationalization of its policy to all members. In part, it read: "Why does the Society provide animals for research? Because we live in a world where there are many surplus cats and dogs which have to be destroyed because no one wants them; because we live in a world of much illness in both humans and animals; because, for certain illnesses such as heart disease and cancer, there is as yet no substitute for research using animals; and because the animals that the Society provides for research suffer no pain and contribute to human well-being."

Many of the Society's dogs contributed to life-saving organ transplant studies, such as heart and kidney transplant research. Dr. Wilbert F. Keon, renowned surgeon and Director General of the Ottawa Heart Institute, later appointed to the Senate, used Society dogs for his research and wrote to the Society asking that the Society continue to release animals for research.

But time passes, attitudes change and board positions roll over, and this meant that the Society's earlier policies regarding animals in research would not stand. By 1993, the Society's board had introduced a strict policy against releasing any of its animals for research purposes. The belief had developed that the previous arguments did not hold up against the Society's mission to protect animals. The position and the thinking were tested for a number of years. New debates arose when local veterinarians asked the Society if its animals could be used as blood donors just prior to euthanasia, and later was asked if corneas could be harvested immediately following euthanasia – activities that would immediately help other animals. The Society also continued to provide cadavers for teaching purposes for eight years after it restricted the use of live animals.

By 2001, the Society issued its definitive position: As a haven for animals, the Society would not transfer animals, alive or dead, for research purposes, practicing medical procedures or harvesting organs and tissues. Henceforth animals in the care of the Ottawa Humane Society could only be subjected to medically necessary procedures in their interest, not the interest of others—whether they be humans or animals.



## Pet Population Control


Over a century into its existence, the major concern that continues to plague the Society, and indeed all animal welfare organizations, is the large number of unwanted animals with which it must cope: Thousands of unwanted animals still persisted annually: nobody would claim them; nobody would adopt them; many are sick, injured or are aggressive or temperamentally unsound, so they must be euthanized.

In 2012, the reality was somewhat different. Numbers of unwanted animals at the Society had reduced somewhat and had stabilized for over a decade. At the same time, the needs of each animal increased as the expectations of the community about the lengths the Society would go to for each animal increased dramatically.

The Society has continually sought other solutions to the problem of surplus pets.








# Born to die

or to be a  
nuisance?



## INDISCRIMINATE & UNCONTROLLED DOG & CAT BREEDING SENTENCES MANY THOUSANDS OF HEALTHY YOUNG ANIMALS TO DEATH EACH YEAR IN THE CITY OF OTTAWA. PREVENT UNWANTED BIRTHS BY HAVING YOUR PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED.

### Stray pets: a serious problem for Ottawa.

There are far too many unwanted, homeless animals in our City. The overpopulation and uncontrolled reproduction (of cats, dogs, and other animals) will only keep increasing. In the meantime, it is the only animal that will only keep increasing. In the meantime, it is the only animal that will only keep increasing. In the meantime, it is the only animal that will only keep increasing.

### Is animal POPULATION CONTROL the answer?

Definitely YES — says the Ottawa's Humane Society. There are only two ways to control the animal population. One is to control the breeding of animals. The other is to control the breeding of animals. The other is to control the breeding of animals. The other is to control the breeding of animals.

### What does it involve?

**SPAY** — surgical removal of the reproductive organs in the female animal. This operation permanently prevents reproduction and birth control.

**NEUTER** — surgical removal of reproductive organs in the male animal.


- Subject to local ordinances and relevant differences because of animal characteristics, spaying is a safe, effective, humane.
- It is the most effective means of controlling population.
- It eliminates the nuisance of a growing cat or dog population.
- It stops most animals from being able to breed properly.
- It eliminates the possibility of infection of the reproductive system (BVD, etc.) and other diseases.
- It keeps the number of pets more manageable and decreases the likelihood of stray.

As to the cost of the operation — a pet owner who can afford to have an animal spayed should usually be able to afford having it spayed. A person having a greater sense of responsibility towards the welfare of animals and having a clear picture of the alternative tragic consequences will not regret the cost.

### What are the licence fees?

Within the City of Ottawa, and effective January 1, 1975, the city will increase the fee for an unlicensed female dog 1 year or older will be \$20. For other dogs the fee will be \$5. Stray animals will be impounded for those who fail to license their dogs. Licenses will be available to anyone who pays the fee for unlicensed dogs to \$100.

**Pet owners: You can prevent a potential community health hazard. YOU can stop thoughtless, needless cruelty. If you need further advice call the Ottawa Humane Society (TEL. 725-3166).**



**A PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE  
FOR THE CITIZENS OF OTTAWA**

Prepared by the Department of Physical Environment of the City of Ottawa, from comments, information and advice provided by members of the Dog and Cat Nuisance Sub-Committee, which includes representatives of the Ottawa Humane Society, the Ottawa Kennel Club, the Ottawa-Cardigan Regional Animal Health Unit, the Academy of Veterinarians, the City Solicitor and the Ottawa Police.

In 1973, a committee under Humane Society Director William Thomson undertook an in-depth study of Ottawa's surplus pet problem. At that time, Mr. Thomson pointed out: "There is every indication that the pet animal population is growing at a faster rate than the human population, or, more importantly, than the number of households."

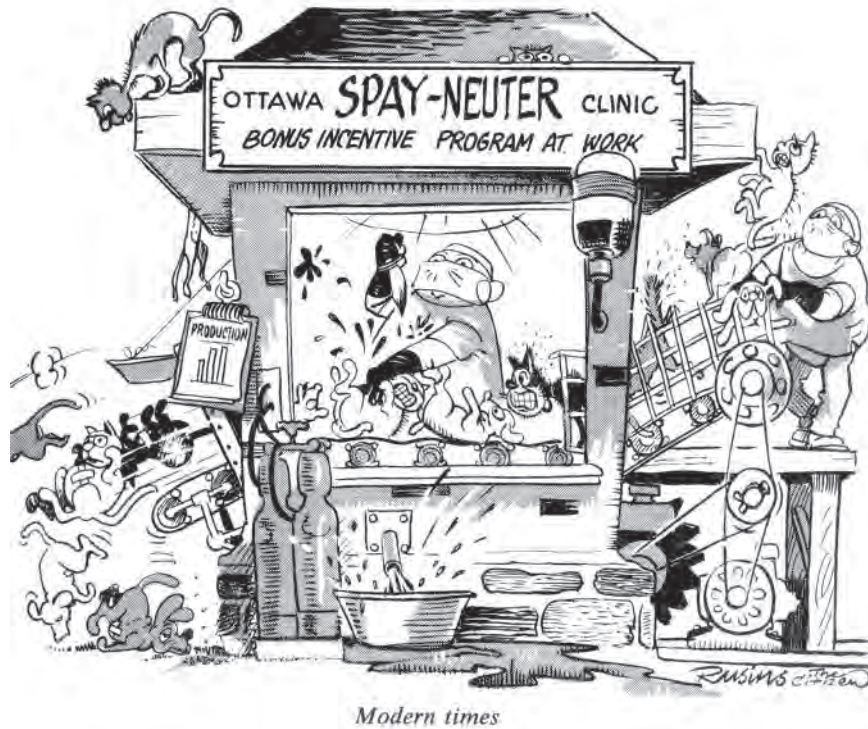
The committee concluded that there was no "best" method of pet population control; much depended on local circumstances, the attitude of municipal governments, and available finances. However, it did recommend that the Society introduce a partly subsidized program for neutering all animals that were adopted

through the shelter. The costs of neutering would be shared by the new pet owner, the Humane Society, and the veterinarian.

The committee also said that the municipal government should be alerted to the seriousness of the problem, and to the cost to the Society of operating a subsidized spay-neuter program. Most importantly, the Society must launch an expanded publicity and educational drive to tell Ottawans that having their dog or cat spayed or neutered was part of responsible pet ownership.

By January 1975, a new licence fee scale had been set up to distinguish between neutered and unneutered dogs; the City had





agreed to contribute toward newspaper publicity and pamphlets; and the Society established a fund to help needy people who acquired pets from the shelter pay for neutering them.

Lobbied by a local group called Pet Owners United, the City was then persuaded to set up its own spay-neuter clinic for Ottawa pet owners. The clinic would spay and neuter cats and dogs at a lower price than the veterinarians were charging. It opened in 1978 to provide the service free of charge to animals of those who were on welfare, in public housing, or senior citizens. The Society co-operated with the clinic by supporting transportation for the animals of senior citizens and owners who could not afford to transport them on their own.

The Society also established a spay/neuter program directed at people who adopted



Stop littering

## Spay or Neuter Your Pet

### Spaying or Neutering Pets: The Facts

- 🐾

Many people think spaying or neutering pets will make them fat and lazy. In fact, lack of exercise and too much food makes them fat and lazy.
- 🐾

Spaying/Neutering has health benefits. The surgery prevents cancer and increases the life expectancy of your pet.
- 🐾

Spaying/Neutering can reduce behaviour problems. Neutering can reduce the tendency in male cats and dogs to roam and eliminates spraying in most male cats. Spaying eliminates troublesome heat cycles in female dogs and cats.
- 🐾

Many people think there are plenty of homes that want to adopt baby animals. In fact, every year, thousands of young animals are brought to the Ottawa Humane Society because their owners can't find homes for them.
- 🐾

Most of the stray or feral cats living on Ottawa streets are the offspring of family pets.

www.ottawahumane.ca


animals at the shelter. Beginning in 1983, each new pet owner was obliged to sign an agreement to have it spayed or neutered, and to leave a deposit to cover part of the operation's cost. The deposit would be refundable within six months with proof of sterilization. The de-

posit eventually became a part of the adoption fee and a certificate was issued that could be redeemed for sterilization paid for by the Society at most local veterinarians. The program allowed the Society to have some assurance that all animals adopted by it would not contribute to pet overpopulation, but the scheme was not 100% successful, as not all certificates were redeemed. Only with the opening of an in-house clinic in 2005, could the dream of adopting only animals that had been sterilized be realized.

In 1985 and 1986, the Society received an award for arranging the largest number of pet adoptions, and in 2006 won an award from its peers at a national summit of leaders in animal sheltering for the greatest innovation in adoption programs.

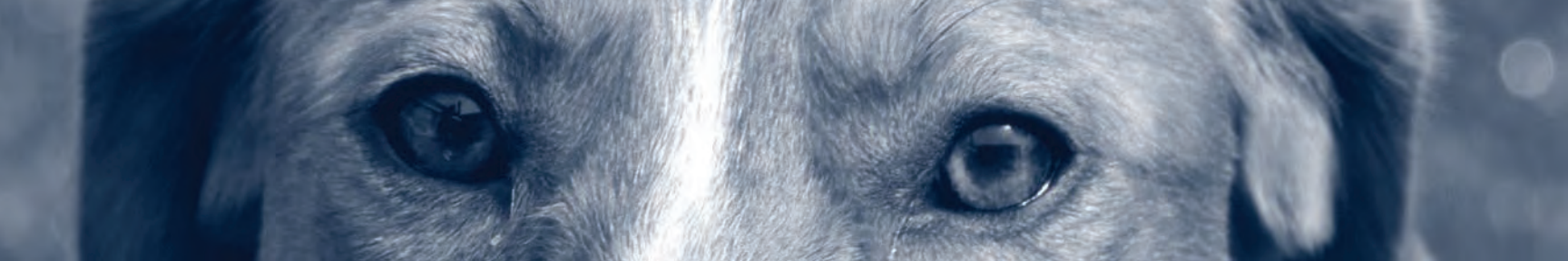
However, in 1987 and through to 2013, the Humane Society had and has no illusions about controlling the pet population in its community. The topic remains a top priority on its public education agenda.





*What is a man without beasts? If all the beasts were gone,  
men would die from great loneliness of spirit.*

— Chief Sealth, Duwamish Tribe



## **PART 3**

# **Serving a Growing Community**

### **Paying the Bills**

In May 1947, the Humane Society directors met in the old Carnegie Library to grapple with the latest financial crisis. The Society was living hand-to-mouth on slightly over \$10,000 a year. Income came from animal shelter receipts: \$3,827; members' fees and contributions: \$3,412; and a \$1,700 grant from the City of Ottawa. A request to City Council to raise the grant to \$5,000 was met with an increase of \$200. At the

same time, the City was collecting \$12,000 a year in dog licence fees.

The Society got moral support from an editorial in *The Journal*: "In a seven million dollar budget, no one will accuse the Ottawa City Council of undue generosity to the Ottawa Humane Society in increasing its annual grant by \$200 to a total of \$1,900. The Humane Society is hard-pressed for funds to carry on its splendid work, and is asking for permission to



hold a tag day. Even though it means breaking a rule the Society can make a good case.”

Another Journal editorial pointed out “the city had services which would cost a great deal more if the Humane Society were to pass

out of existence. The city has a moral obligation to pay a fair price for the Society’s work which the city would have to perform if the Society did not exist.”

The Society warned Board of Control that without increased funding it would be forced to close its doors in two years. The City finally loosened its purse strings and agreed to give the Humane Society 30 per cent of its annual dog licence fees. In 1948, the Society received \$3,883.

Between 1948 and 1958, the City gradually raised its payment to the Society from 30 to 75 percent of the dog tax. However, municipal funds were covering a smaller and smaller proportion of the Society’s expenses. In 1951, total operating expenses amounted to \$19,000 and City Council support made up 45 percent of income. In 1964, expenses totalled more than \$55,000 and municipal payments paid for less than 33 percent. In 1986, expenses were over \$752,000 and the municipality paid the Society 31.5 percent. By 2012, the percentage had dropped further to 19 percent.

The financial pillars of the Humane Society for most of its history have been members' dues, public donations and bequests; the proceeds from fundraising events run by volunteers; fees from pet adoptions and other shelter services; and municipal payments to the Society for housing stray animals.

Membership was once a much more important part of sustaining the Society. In 1905, when Ottawa's population was nearly 100,000, the Society had 140 members. From the 1960s into the eighties, membership fluctuated between 2,500 and 3,000.

Membership declined in both numbers and importance since the 1980s. The Society began to think of "supporters"—members, donors, volunteers and even well-wishers as its important constituency. Membership fees could not reasonably be raised to the point of sustaining the large and growing demands from the community. Interest in membership dwindled as the Society recruited monthly and other donors over members.





## From Bears to Birds

A common misconception has always been that the Society's shelter cares only for dogs and cats. Although cats and dogs do form the majority of the shelter population, the list of animals cared for has also included an increasing number of more exotic species.

Over the years, the Humane Society has been called on to deal with many odd cases. Among them was the case of Jo Jo, the African grass monkey, who escaped from his backyard cage in the Glebe on a summer afternoon in 1948. He bit four people before being caught in Centretown by the Society and returned to his owner.

In another instance in 1940, a bear cub was brought to the shelter by the Provincial Warden of Game and Fisheries. It was being kept as a "pet" by a Westboro resident without the required government permit.



The shelter also received another bear cub brought in by a hunter after the mother was killed. The cub remained at the shelter for over a year and was cared for by Mr. Waldemar Hansl to whom the animal became quite attached.





In 2002, a furnace technician discovered a huge number of exotic animals inside a Kanata townhouse. The Society was called in, and national headlines appeared after 256 animals of over 80 species were found in the small home. A variety of snakes and birds were found, along with foxes, lemurs, and a host of small mammals. The already overcrowded Champagne shelter was overrun with the seized animals as staff attempted to identify each species and its care needs, some being wholly unfamiliar.

From the 1980s, the rapid spread of development in the region has been displacing wild animals from their natural habitat at an increasing rate. As a result, the animals have no choice but to adapt to an urban environment, bringing them in contact with humans. The humans would always win, as they rid themselves of these “nuisance” creatures.

When the Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre closed its doors in a dispute with the Ministry of Natural Resources, wildlife calls and rescue fell to the Society. With very limited rehabilitation available in the area, sadly, many times, the only option open to the Society was euthanasia.



## Brightening Lives Animal Visits

On a grey November afternoon in 1980, Inspector Robert Cleaver and two other Humane Society staff members visited the New Orchard Nursing Home. They brought along three puppies and three kittens to meet the 30-odd seniors in the home. The visit was a hit, featured in the *Citizen* with a front-page colour photo, and marked the start of the Society's very successful Companion Animals Program.

This was the first Canadian initiative to bring pet visitors into seniors' residences and hospitals, and similar programs have since been



**Puppy love:** Ellen Welburn, 78, left and Kathleen Fraser, 80, cuddle puppies Thursday at the Steff-Kim

Lodge, a residence for senior citizens. The visit by the pups is part of a program to bring animals into

nursing homes and other local facilities to give an emotional lift. (Story, page 35)

—Bruno Schlumberger, *Citizen*



## HELPING HANDS: THE FIRST 125 YEARS



introduced in other cities. In addition to the playful company they provide, animals have proved to be of therapeutic value to withdrawn, bed-ridden or lonely individuals of all ages.

Speaking on behalf of the Humane Society at a symposium in 1982, Ken Switzer commented on the visits to seniors' homes: "After talking



to some of these people, when tearful recollections are made of long departed pets, it is not surprising they would want to have another just for the pure joy of having something to hold and love. We have heard of cases where people who were previously uncommunicative and barely leaving their rooms have come out eagerly when they know that the animals are there.”

In 1982, the program was the subject of a film produced by a Toronto company that was circulated in Canada and abroad. In 2005, in honour of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and to enhance the public’s awareness and understanding of the program, it was renamed, Brightening Lives.

In 1986, shelter employees and 15 committed and enthusiastic volunteers continued to take kittens, puppies, dogs and rabbits to about 40 homes and institutions, four afternoons a week, throughout the Ottawa-Carleton region. By 2012, the number of facilities visited regularly had increased to 67.



## Foster Homes for Pets

In 1983, the Society introduced a foster program to provide safe, temporary homes for animals that need special attention before a formal adoption. They may be too young for adoption when received at the shelter, mildly ill, injured or pregnant.

The Society's newsletter tells the story of Penny, a mixed Doberman-Shepherd. The shelter was alerted to Penny because she was again foraging in curbside garbage left for pickup. It seemed that garbage days were the main feeding days for the malnourished mother and her 10 pups.

After being taken to the shelter, and named Penny, mother was put on a feeding program. Penny was then placed in a



foster home, as were her pups since they were eating on their own. A few weeks of much tender loving care from foster “parents” brought mother and pups back to health. All were adopted into new homes.

In 1986, the program had 12 regular dedicated foster parents who cared for 230 animals that otherwise would have had to be destroyed. By 2012, 271 volunteers fostered 1,382 animals outside the shelter that were recovering from illness or surgery or one of the many other increasingly complex care needs of animals.







*If humankind loses the capacity to foresee, to live  
in harmony with nature, we will end by destroying  
the Earth and all life on it.*

— Albert Schweitzer



## PART FOUR

### The People

#### **“Women were the Backbone”**

Throughout its history, the dedicated work of volunteers, particularly women, has been the Humane Society’s lifeblood.

In 1999, the Women’s Auxiliary celebrated 50 years of voluntary service to the Ottawa Humane Society. The Auxiliary began early in 1949, when Christina Watts (of the firm

McIntosh & Watts) gathered a small group of women in her home to discuss a women’s organization to help the Society promote its aims and raise funds. Its first undertaking was a theatre party in the spring of 1950, under the patronage of Prime Minister and Mrs. Louis St. Laurent.

Following the event, Mrs. Watts reported: “This was put on rather hurriedly as it seemed we should have the party before spring when people did not attend shows. I only had five of



**Mrs. Robert Dorman**

## New Auxiliary To Be Formed

A "Coffee Meeting" is being held in the parish hall of St. George's Church, Metcalfe Street, on Tuesday, April 4 at 8.15 p.m. to plan the formation of a Women's Auxiliary of the Ottawa Humane Society. Stanley Lewis, president of the society, will preside and Mrs. Robert Dorman is to speak on the various phases of the society's work. An inspiring color moving picture "Animals In The Service of Man" will also be shown.

The formation of the Women's Auxiliary is the first step towards aiding the society at a time when it is faced with the possibility of closing its doors. All women interested in the future of the society are invited to attend the meeting.

my new members who could assist; however with all the members' help we sold out the house in one week and we were able to turn over to the Society \$330 clear." Apparently, it was a glamorous social evening with members of the diplomatic community, federal Cabinet and Opposition attending. In its first six months, the Auxiliary raised \$474.94 for the Society's building fund.

A Rockcliffe Auxiliary was organized in the fall of 1951 under Isabel Schwartz and continued until 1965. Its goals were: to raise money for the Humane Society; to assist with

### THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE **Ottawa Humane Society**

Is Holding A  
**T E A**

at the Animal Shelter, 95 Bayview Road, on

**Thursday, May 21st.**

from 3.00 to 6.30 p.m.

at which the men will receive and preside

the Society's Junior Humane Education projects, particularly those of the three schools in Rockcliffe Village; and to generally aid the Society in furthering the public's interest in animal welfare.

The Rockcliffe Auxiliary's major fundraising event was the annual Animals' Christmas Fair held at Ashbury College in the fall. A popular event widely covered in the media, the fair received support and donations from many Ottawa merchants, the Diplomatic Corps and friends of the Society.

In its first financial statement, submitted in 1951, the Women's Auxiliary reported that it







raised \$1,141.03. In 1985, the women recorded receipts of \$38,383.60.

Since 1961, the Auxiliary undertook the responsibility for supplying the Society's ambulances. When the new Champagne Avenue shelter was opened in 1968, the women's group equipped it with stainless steel cages. And when the second-story educational hall was added, the Auxiliary equipped the kitchen with appliances and paid for new drapes throughout the building.

The Auxiliary contributed \$300,000 to the new West Hunt Club Shelter, and as a result of this, and the group's long and generous support of the Society, the large new Clinic in the facility was named in honour of its members.

Major fundraising projects by the Women's Auxiliary have included teas, raffles, the Christmas auction sale, as well as the twice annual "used but not abused" rummage sales. The sales began in 1951 as a fundraiser to help pay off the mortgage of the newly built Bayview shelter. They were the brain-child of Mrs. A. Horwood, a bustling lady who was in her eighties when she trained Mrs. Davies in the early 1960s.

## Muriel Davies

Mrs. Davies was the director in charge of the Auxiliary sales for 20 years until she stepped to the sidelines in 1986. In these two decades the sales produced close to \$150,000 for the shelter; the sums increased nearly every year, from \$798, raised in 1964, to an all-time high of \$18,094 in 1983.

In the early 1960s Mrs. Davies recalled, “We had to beg or borrow empty downtown shops or church halls.” After the second story was added to the Champagne Shelter, all the sales were held in the education hall.

“Women were the backbone of the Society,” Mrs. Davies observed. She herself came into the Humane Society via the Women’s Auxiliary, which provided the dozens of volunteer workers who picked up, sorted and sold the carloads of “used-but-not-abused” goods donated by the public. Each sale booth featured a specific sort of merchandise—hats or tools, jewellery or shoes—and was staffed by a “regular” who often attracted the same clientele year after year. An annual Christmas Auction Sale was conceived to sell the



—Citizen-UPJ staff photo

### *Rummage sale coming up*

There's nothing like a rummage sale for helping finances along and for this reason the Ottawa Humane Society has arranged to hold one at the Animal Shelter on Bayview Street on Friday. The members have been collecting articles for many months and have a fine collection of items they are offering

for sale. Here, Laddie, a ward of the Humane Society, who was picked and brought to the shelter, sits surrounded by some of the articles and seems to be quite interested in everything that's going on around him. The sale starts at 10 a.m.



Brian Caines, primary caregiver for the Parliament Hill cats, received an Award named in honour of Ms. Davies, "the Muriel Davies Kindness Award" from Rob Cameron, June 26, 2012.

more valuable items, particularly antiques, which were evaluated with the help of local dealers.

Mrs. Muriel Davies, at the age of 86, became an Honorary Director of the Humane Society in 1987. In 1984 Mrs. Davies was awarded the commemorative Bicentennial Medal by Ontario Premier William Davis for her extraordinary work on behalf of the animals.

## Marjorie Ignatieff

Marjorie Ignatieff had already served as a director of the Humane Society for 15 years when she was elected president in 1967, the first woman in that office since 1910. Her three-year presidency coincided with eventful if “somewhat difficult” times. The Criminal Code was being amended, and with other humane societies, Ottawa lobbied tirelessly to put more teeth into sections dealing with mistreatment of animals. The use of animals in research was a full-blown public controversy, efforts were under way on several fronts to develop more humane trapping methods and the Humane Society had undertaken a major project: to finance and build a new and larger shelter on a new site.

Did the appointment of a woman president at that juncture have any particular significance? Mrs. Ignatieff, a dignified and articulate individual who still served on the Board of Directors in 1987, laughingly replied: “The significance was that they hoped she’d do the work. I was a little amused because we’d always had men as presidents, and at that

point the men sort of stepped aside and moved a woman in.” The presidency had become almost a full-time job.

Marjorie Ignatieff was awarded the Frederic A McGrand Award posthumously in 2002 by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies in recognition of her tremendous contribution to animal welfare in Canada.



## Pamela Menchions



Since her first election to the board in 1998, Pam Menchions has been a major force at the Society. Term-limits have meant that her board service was interrupted, but she served most years since that date, as successive boards and committees recruited her to return. Ms. Menchions' combination of keen intelligence, interpersonal skills, profes-

sionalism and knowledge of the Society and governance are attributes few boards would willingly give up. Her unwavering support of the Society included her significant personal gifts to the Society's building and annual funds, her unfailing attendance at Society events and her leadership in the Critter Crafters – a committed group of crafters who devote hundreds

if not thousands of hours to creating and selling crafts for the Society, raising over \$60,000 over the last decade.

Pam Menchions passed away from cancer just months prior to the publishing of this book.



The Humane Society's story is also the many people whose dedication made it the organization it was and is. A handful has already been named in this text. Two others, E.S. Sherwood and Alex Perley-Robertson, played major parts in the Society's affairs for many years as directors and financial advisors. Mr. Sherwood was elected to the Board of Directors in 1930, later became a vice-patron, and from 1948 to 1963 served as the Society's honorary treasurer. Mr. Perley-Robertson became a director in 1955, served on the Board for three decades and was a vice-patron in 1987. Robert L. McGibbon is another long-time director, former president and chairman of the building committee, who has played an important leadership role in the Society.

Of course, always at the "front line" have been the committed and hard-working shelter staff. But few contributed to the extent of Ken Switzer, the Society's managing director from 1945 to 1982. He left an indelible mark; from encouraging Mrs. Davies and her helpers in their spectacularly successful





Ken Switzer with Toby.

rummage sales, to establishing the highest standard of care for animals at the shelter. He introduced many programs that were followed by his successors, such as the counselling procedure for people who adopt pets to make sure they adopt responsibly, and know how to care for the animal. Said Society President Marion Fleming: “He lived the Humane Society. He didn’t stop at six; he’d work till two in the

morning and weekends if necessary. School groups would come back year after year for ‘Mr. Switzer and his talks’.”

Respect for all life is what the humane movement is all about, and after 125 years of public education, this once-eccentric concept has gained wide credibility and support. The Ottawa Humane Society has evolved as a leader on the national scene. And the future, as the past, will likely continue to depend on huge amounts of human and humane commitment.







*The future, as the past, will likely continue to depend  
on huge amounts of human and humane commitment.*



*What is a man without  
beasts? If all the beasts were  
gone, men would die from  
great loneliness of spirit.*

— Chief Sealth, Duwamish Tribe



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