

## **ANIMAL ADOPTIONS OF FLAMBOROUGH PAWSITIVE REFLECTIONS 2008**

*“ Saving just one pet will not change the world...  
but, surely, the world will change for that one pet.....”*

### **President’s Message :**

2008 proved to be another successful year for Animal Adoptions of Flamborough. With many cats, kittens, dogs and puppies finding new homes.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a big “thanks” to all our volunteers. To the twelve members on the board of directors who attend regular meetings and make important decisions regarding this charity.

To our Foster Homes who give freely of their homes and love to those pets who require temporary care.

To our Local Veterinarians, who without prior notice take in those in need of immediate care.

To Ryan’s Pet Store, Waterdown for all their help..

To Furry Friend’s Pet Grooming always there to help with a bath and nails clipped when needed.

To Betty who answers the adoption line seven days a week. No small feat.

To those volunteers who come in every Sunday to clean cages and feed the cats and kittens.

To those who supply transportation. There are always those who need to be picked up at the vets or go to the vets.

All these people play a vital role in this charity. A big THANKS to each and everyone.

We are indebted to all those who make donations, be they of the monetary kind or donations to the store and garage sales.

It takes an enormous number of dedicated people to keep this charity going strong.

*A 'Special Thanks' to Shelley Scutt and family who donated the beautiful cat cages and then spent many hours at the facility assembling them. Shelley has done a wonderful job of fostering cats and kittens, her expertise in this area is second to none. I sincerely apologize for having missed thanking the Scutt's when writing the newsletter.*

### **Our new location :**

In 2008 we faced the daunting task of moving from 40 Mill Street to 16 Mill Street. No more nineteen stairs to climb on a daily basis with food, water and litter.

As a registered charity, our budget could not handle the cost of this renovation. What to do? Several board members stepped up to the plate with generous donations to cover the costs incurred. Others donated their time and talents, making it all possible. In the end it took many volunteers, many, many hours to get the new facility up and running. Two months and we were ready to change locations....

Thanks to Wally at Excel Heating for the air-exchange fans in all the cat rooms. These fans will cut down on odors and help eliminate the spread of air-borne disease. A new furnace was installed along with a bonus, central-air.

Animal Adoptions of Flamborough has a new sign, Randy at K & K Signs in Waterdown did a great job. Should you be unable to visit in person, check out the pictures below or on our website.

We have three rooms in which to house our feline friends ready for adoption. Upon entry you will find a reception desk and an area with items for sale. At the rear we have a washroom and laundry room. Complete with a washer/dryer. The attached garage is used for storage. A large storage bin outside enables us to keep all refuse outside waiting pick up day.

Along with the move, we have been busy keeping this organization in the black. Animal Adoptions receives no government funding and must rely on donations from private individuals and constant fund-raising to keep this worthwhile organization afloat.



## **2008 Fund-Raisers In-Review :**

Fund-raising is in high gear come April with our annual garage sale at Sealy Park. This event is always well attended as we have many new and used items for sale. Proceeds from this sale were \$1600.00

In May, The Terry's held a yard sale. This netted us \$320.00. Thanks Donna and Bob, you always do an awesome job.

Then in June we were again invited to "Artist's in the Country". A yearly event held each spring at Corby's Custom Framing in Carlisle. Each artist donates a piece of their work, tickets are sold and winners are announced with all proceeds to Animal Adoptions. This year we raised \$420.00. Thanks again to Don and Mona Corby..

In June we were involved with the "First Annual Elizabeth Otter Pet Parade". All participants were asked to collect pledges for the walk. Everyone met at Joe Sam's Park and walked the trail to Alexander Place, a local retirement home. Here, several residents acted as judges, and prizes were awarded. Patting dogs, a goat, a pony and miniature horses along with a llama. The residents had a delightful day of activities. Sheila, Elizabeth's Mother gave a touching eulogy, everyone knew Elizabeth was a great animal lover and would have approved this event. With all the pledges we netted nearly five thousand dollars. For those with pets, plan to participate in this event next year.... To all those who brought their beloved pets on the walk, a big thank you from Animal Adoptions, the parade committee and the residents at Alexander Place.

No fund-raisers happened during July and August as we were all in construction mode.

#3

September arrived and we held our Open House at the new location. Coffee, tea and goodies were served to all those who attended. Everyone was impressed and no stairs to climb....

Our Annual fall sale at Sealy Park was held in October. Once again it too was well attended and we netted \$1500.00. All unsold items were in-turn donated to CHOICES for their garage sale. One charity helping another.....

The Flamborough Santa Claus Parade , held on November 29<sup>th</sup> drew many spectators. Many pets and their owners walked in the parade with their owners. Carol Carter and her wee Sheltie, Shelby won the 'Best Dressed Pet' award.

Picture your pet with Santa was once again held at Connon Nurseries in Waterdown. This event was well attended by many dogs and cats. Nothing exotic this year, no snakes or pot belly pigs or rabbits. The staff at Connon's do a wonderful job setting up a back-drop, Martha Stewart would be impressed. This fund-raiser raised \$900. Special thanks to Rick our 'Santa' and Garth our photographer who donated their time and efforts.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> we held 'Christmas with the cats' at our facility. Christmas items were up for sale as well as baked goods. Profits for the day were \$300

Animal Adoptions was closed for adoptions from mid December until after the Christmas holiday. This has been our policy for many years as we still maintain that pets should not be given as gifts. The holidays are a very hectic time, should you be looking to adopt a new furry friend, wait until the new year.

#### **Coming events for 2009 :**

50's & 60's Sock Hop – *Dance the night away to music you can sing along with. Hoopla-Hoop and twisting contests...Etc..*

Spring Garage Sale – *To be held at Sealey Park in April.*

Artist's in the Country – *Corby's Custom Framing in Carlisle, early June.*

2<sup>nd</sup>. Annual Elizabeth Otter Pet Parade – *Joe Sam's Park, mid-June.*

Tag Day – *Septembe 26<sup>th</sup>,09, we always require lots of volunteers for this event. Should you have some free time and can assist us please call the line at #905-689-7801.*

Fall & Pre-Christmas Sale – *Sealey Park mid-October.*

Flamborough Santa Claus Parade- *To be held November 28<sup>th</sup>, come and walk your pet with our group.*

Picture your pet with Santa - *December 5<sup>th</sup> at Connon Nurseries, Waterdown. From 11am until 3pm.*

Christmas with the cats - *Animal Adoptions facility, to take place in mid-December.*

#### **#4**

#### **Pet Therapy :**

All pets have that unique ability of being non-judgemental. A soft voice and gentle touch is all they require in thanks. These qualities make them perfect visitors in our Pet Therapy Program. Those shut-ins having a down day are suddenly all smiles and happiness. Dogs, cats, kittens and sometimes a new born lamb become special visitors. Thanks to all those volunteers who are dedicated to this program with their special pets.

#### **Our "Guardian Angel" :**

Once again I must mention our fabulous volunteer 'Allyson'. Over the years she has continued to make wonderful gifts for our store. Quilts, sweaters, bags, table runners, mitts and hats along with many other items. Thanks again, you restore our faith in mankind.

## **Gifts :**

Cannot think of a gift for that person who has everything? Drop by our facility at 16 Mill Street North. You can make a donation to Animal Adoptions, fill out one of our specially designed cards and help our four-legged friends at the same time. As an added bonus you will receive a tax receipt.

## **Adoptions :**

**ADOPTIONS HOT-LINE #905-689-4972**

**WEB ADDRESS : [www.anadoptflam.com](http://www.anadoptflam.com)**

Here you can check out pictures and descriptions of those pets ready for their new forever homes.

*While kittens are very cute, Animal Adoptions has many older cats in need of new homes. These furry feline friends have been displaced through no fault of their own. If you have room in your home and your heart for a new friend, please give our adoption line a call at #905-689-4972.*

*Please note : Animal Adoptions does not adopt kittens or puppies to those with children under the age of five years.*

During the year 2008 we placed 162 cats and 26 dogs in new homes. This number does not reflect those placed through our referral system. As of July 2009 we have already found new homes for 133 cats and kittens ( *We still have ninety in our care.*)

***Once again we at Animal Adoptions stress the importance of having your pet spayed or neutered. Upwards to a quarter million cats and dogs are euthanized each year in city pounds. Once spayed or neutered they become better companions, lead healthier lives and will not contribute to the overpopulation problem.***

## **Christmas Tree at local Vets :**

Thanks to all those who helped decorate the tree at Clappison Vet. This raised \$114.00 for Animal Adoptions. What a fabulous idea.

## **Financial Report :**

In 2008 our expenses totaled \$97,309.43. Veterinary bills alone accounted for \$51,776.55, with food and boarding along with microchip implants cost the organization another \$1855.50 All organizations cannot operate without insurance and our bill set us back \$2,982.96. Rent on the facility came in at \$8,800.41 Add up the costs of telephone, payroll and letter and you will understand why we are always holding fund-raisers.

Adoption fee and store sales brought in \$21,004.40 and donations increased the bank account by \$45,534.47 Fund-raisers, donation boxes, etc kept this organization afloat.

With the state of the economy it becomes more and more difficult to find funding for this organization. Yet, everyone benefits from its existence. First and foremost it's the pets we take into our care, once adopted to new homes, they require food from pet stores, at least yearly require veterinary care. The general public at large benefits as there are less strays wandering around reproducing.

Should every home in the Flamborough area donate just one dollar it would be wonderful. The need for donations is always great and all go directly toward the pets in our care. All donations over \$10 receive a tax receipt.

*Board of Directors for 2009 are :*

*President – M.Lamb*

*Treasurer – H.White*

*Secretary – A. Ainsborough*

*Adoptions – B. Griffiths*

*Director – L. McMaster*

*Director – A. Saczyk*

*Director – H.Hillyard*

*Director – M. Huxley*