

localnews

ANIMAL CONTROL

Shelter of Hope is a paws-itive place

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Northumberland Today

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP — The Shelter of Hope is now officially A Place for Paws-itive New Beginnings.

That is the new slogan unveiled earlier this month at a celebration of its 10th anniversary.

The celebration included a tribute to a man who helped get the shelter started, with a tree dedicated to the memory of Dave Watson — a member of Port Hope council at the time the shelter was being established. He also served as an original Joint Animal Control Board member and helped organize the shelter's fundraising committee.

The new slogan was submitted by shelter volunteer Erin Dayman, and this is only one volunteer contribution over the last 10 years that the shelter is so proud of. They are also vital to the daily operations of the facility, always ready to help out with such chores as ensuring the dogs are walked.

The shelter facility is funded jointly by the Township of Hamilton, Town of Cobourg, Municipality of Port Hope, and Township of Alnwick/Haldimand, operated by the Joint Animal Control Board of Management that consists of one member from each of the participating municipalities. The shelter also provides services for dogs only for the Township of Cramahe.

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Constructed at 2363 Theatre Rd. (off County Road 2 between Cobourg and Port Hope, it is open Monday through Friday, with morning hours on Saturday.

One of its main goals is the adoption of dogs and cats, and adoption fees of \$120 for dogs and \$75 for cats includes shots. They also accept animals surrendered into care (provid-

ed proof of current vaccination can be acquired) at \$75 per dog and \$50 per cat.

Among all the animals that have come through the shelter doors, they have found homes for 4,437 and returned 1,820 to their own families.

A press release issued on the 10th-anniversary celebrations referred to the need for continued improve-

ments at the facility in order to provide better service to the municipalities for such contingencies as when animals come into the shelter in poor health and place the rest of its animal population at risk.

"Some cat viruses have a high mortality rate with stray cats," the release cited as an example.

Expansion plans will permit an isolation or quarantine room to prevent the spread of an illness.

Shelter staff extended their thanks to the many community and business supporters who have given the shelter a very successful 10 years.

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