

Therapy dog owners raising money to complete their uniforms

BRIGHTON INDEPENDENT MAR. 10/16

By John Campbell

Trent Hills – Members of the Trent Hills Therapy Dogs Inc. already look sharp making the rounds of nursing homes, schools and retirement homes dressed in black but they want to add jackets to what they wear.

“A uniform makes us more visible in the community, presents a professional look and elicits interest in our cause,” says Carol Ferguson, the group’s president. Since setting out on their own in 2014, the Trent Hills group has worked on fashioning one for visits and for group activities at parades and festivals.

They’re looking to raise \$2,000 to purchase 20 uniforms that will either be black or silver.

Previous fundraising efforts and generous donations covered the cost of obtaining shirts for members and scarves for dogs that carry the Trent Hills Therapy Dog logo.

We are now eager to provide our members with a jacket to complete the uniform,” Ferguson said.

Requests were sent out to area service clubs and to date the Campbellford Kinsmen and the Warkworth Community Service Club have responded with donations of \$500 and \$200, respectively.

The group has 19 handlers who volunteer their time to regularly visit seniors, shut-ins and other groups or individuals in Campbellford, Warkworth, Norwood and area “who need or desire the companionship of a dog.”

Stops include Campbellford Memorial Hospital, Community Living and VON Havenlock.

Ferguson said the group averages about 50 visits a month.

The dogs are all sizes, breeds and ages, she said.

Ferguson has “a golden doodle” named Lucy she takes to a nursing home whose resi-

dents are “so eager to be able to pet a dog, talk to her [and] talk to me.”

When the pair leaves, they thank them for coming. “They’re so appreciative, it gives them so much joy,” Ferguson said. “They’re more alert because they have interacted with a dog. It’s wonderful to see.”

Therapy dogs must pass “an extensive evaluation with high standards to determine that their behaviour and personality are suited to visiting publicly,” she said. “They bring joy, acceptance and love into the places they visit. They foster a sense of caring and community to those in need through the companionship of a dog.”

Trent Hills Therapy Dogs welcomes dog owners in the community who would enjoy working as a team and go on visits with their pet. Those interested are invited to contact Cathy Fisher at <trenthills.tdogs@gmail.com>.



Carey Elliott and Robert Watkins, representing the Campbellford Kinsmen, presented a cheque for \$500 to members of the Trent Hills Therapy Dogs Inc., Gary Ballard, President Carol Ferguson, Allison Brown, Patsy Copperthwaite, Joyce Hindle, and Cathy Fisher, in front with her therapy dog, Shasta. Photo submitted

Cramahe recognizes passing of Citizen of the Year and Community Builder

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Colborne – Doug Rutherford, a prominent businessman whose work in the community earned him a Colborne Citizen of the Year award, has died at the age of 86.

Cramahe Township recognized his passing at Northumberland Hills Hospital March 3 by keeping its flag lowered at the Colborne Town Hall. It had been lowered days earlier to mark the death of another prominent member of the community, Carl Wilce.

“Doug was much loved [and] respected by those who knew him,” Mayor Marc Coombs said in a statement. “It was a real honour to be able to present him in 2013 with the Inaugural United Way Community Builder Award for his lifetime of volunteerism and community leadership. He will be greatly missed.”

Mr. Rutherford co-founded a local transportation company and was an original partner in the Big Apple. But he “was most known for his strong support for the community and his many hours volunteering on a range of projects throughout the village and surrounding area,” the township said in a news release.

Northumberland United Way CEO Lynda Kay described him as “a driving force in the community enabling Cramahe to have the resources and servic-

es to support local residents,” when she presented him the George Blyth Community Builder Award.

He was “a quiet leader ... always looking to help the community in a selfless way and as such, others naturally gravitate[d] to help out as well,” the organization stated in announcing his being chosen for the award.

It noted Mr. Rutherford was “actively involved in Old St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, working on various fundraisers including the interlocking brick project.”

He was a provincial Bicentennial Medal winner in 1984 for his community work and volunteering, and an honorary member of the Colborne Kinsmen Club.

Mr. Rutherford was involved with many other groups as well.

A funeral service was held in Old St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Colborne March 7.

Mr. Rutherford is survived by his wife Aileen, four children – Wayne Rutherford (Nancy), Linda Walas (wife of Brighton Mayor Mark Walas), Debbie Rutherford and Greg Rutherford (Susan) – five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

It was suggested that any donations be made to Northumberland Hills Hospital Foundation.

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Colborne man guilty in \$6M drug bust

A Colborne man charged with smuggling millions of dollars worth of drugs in a tractor trailer across the U.S. border pleaded guilty to the charges recently in a Windsor courtroom.

Wayne Douglas Rutherford, 63, was caught at the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor driving a transport carrying more than \$6 million dollars worth of cocaine and methamphetamine in August, 2013.

Meanwhile, the trucker is facing charges of drug conspiracy in Quebec. News reports out of Windsor say he intends to plead guilty to those as well.

Rutherford has been free on bail and returns to court in June. No sentence date was available.