



ANIMAL WELFARE NEWS

Newsletter of the Lanark Animal Welfare Society Summer 1988

NEWS LETTER OF THE
LANARK ANIMAL WELFARE
SOCIETY, WINTER 1989

From the President's Desk

This is the time for breaking all of those new years resolutions - smoking that cigarette, gaining weight, spending money or breaking any of the countless other resolutions. Perhaps I can help.

One way to stick to a promise is to positively reward yourself. Fine yourself each time you break a resolution and set aside the money that you would have spent on those cigarettes or other vices and donate it all to LAWS. It really can add up over a year.

I can happily say that the fall and early winter months have been good for LAWS, since you, the members, have raised a lot of money for your society, and I want to thank and congratulate you for the fine effort. It looks as if we'll be in a financial position to pay a goodly amount off the mortgage this year - and a good thing, since interest rates appear to be on the rise. I am looking forward to the day that we clear all our debts so that the money raised can be spent on the animals. Not paid out on loans. Once again, thank you, and KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Ken Rutledge

Treasurer's Report

As your new Treasurer, let me introduce myself. I am Dorothy Flanagan. I have been a member of LAWS for many years, and have recently become a member of the Board of Directors. I have taken over from Reta Traill, who you all know, and who has done an excellent job of keeping track of all the monies during the past number of years. Thank you Reta!

As we leave the old year behind us and start a fresh new year, I think we can look back with great satisfaction at the job we did. Public donations over the year were great and all the projects the members provided us, be they garage sales, bazaars, and other such events helped to put us in the black at the end of the year. Our monthly income is the all important thing, as it has to cover so many

expenses associated with running the shelter without the support of municipal or provincial funds.

Therefore we must continue to plead our cause, and keep our goal in sight. The mortgage will be coming up for renewal soon, and it is important that we continue to maintain the present payment on the interest, which is \$737.50 a month.

The Nevada is helping, by bringing in a weekly income; however, it is the decision of the board to keep that money for payment on the mortgage in the future. So many thanks to all you great people out there who have helped us with your generosity. Dorothy Flanagan.

Shelter Notes

The past six months with LAWS have been a tremendous learning experience. The uplift from adoptions of abandoned or neglected animals is a fabulous reward, but short-lived as new animals come through our doors, many showing signs of abuse and neglect. It is a small wonder that shelter supervisors and volunteers work for short terms only before they are forced to leave due to depression.

There is a real boost in morale from working with the animals. The caring hands of those who adopt them with love and the people who give so much of themselves by volunteering, is the key to survival.

It requires a truly dedicated staff to ensure the well-being of our shelter animals, and Sue and Vince patiently care for each incoming "guest." They report all physical or mental problems to me or to our veterinary, Ken Rutledge, and follow up by administering whatever treatment is recommended.

As well as our regular shelter staff, we have three devoted volunteers who spend a total of four or five days at the shelter caring for the animals and helping to maintain the shelter in topnotch condition. This is a heavy load for so few people to carry, hence our constant plea for

volunteers, particularly for weekend duty.

The television programme, "Laws, Pets and You" which I host every Wednesday night at 6:30 on Cable 10, has proven most successful insofar as increasing the adoption rate of shelter animals and in making viewers more aware of their responsibilities to their pets. Recently I have acquired an assistant, Laurie King, who also grooms our shelter animals.

Finally, we at the shelter welcome 1989 with anticipation. Many new projects are being planned, both to increase our adoption rate, thus decreasing the number of animals that must be euthanized, and to improve the general efficiency of the shelter.

Andre Bisailon, Supervisor

Saving Wildlife

Should you find an injured or orphaned animal, the Coalition for Wildlife, a non-profit group dedicated to providing specialized, compassionate care for these creatures, asks you to call their Emergency Hotline (613 726 1041) for assistance.

The Coalition, through its volunteer foster home programme, last year saved more than 800 wild animals, including fawns and wolf cubs. For more information, contact Donna DuBreuil, R.R.#1, Dunrobin, Ont., K0A 1T0

From the Vice President

While it's exciting to look ahead to the new year, anticipating the success of future plans, it's also encouraging to look back and savour what has been accomplished.

Although LAWS is a relatively young organization, it has attained many of its goals in a remarkably short period of time, notably the construction of our new shelter, now almost a year old. Too, membership in our Society has increased, pet visiting services have been expanded and the adoption rate of animals from our shelter is impressive, and our spay/neuter program is well established.

However, gratifying as it is to review the comparatively recent accomplishments of LAWS, personally, as a co-founder of the Lanark County Branch of the Ontario Humane Society, the forerunner of LAWS, I derive a great deal of satisfaction from the realization of how far the humane movement has come in Lanark County since the mid 70's.

Vividly, I recall - as no doubt do many of our original members - the enormous number of stray cats and dogs roaming the county prior to the establishment of a humane society in the region. In fact, it was this appalling situation, emphasized by the number of dead pets on the highways, that prompted the inauguration of the Lanark County Branch of OHS. In short order, of course, we also became aware of the adverse conditions afforded many animals - livestock as well as household pets - by cruel or indifferent owners.

Now, 13 years later, while there are still stray animals around, and not all instances of cruelty have been eliminated, nevertheless, literally thousands of dogs and cats have been rescued from dubious fates and assured a safer more secure future, and each year the number of cruelty complaints necessitating investigations have become fewer.

We have made a difference!

Dawn Trent

Pet Visiting Service

Although no expansion of its schedule is planned in the near future, the Smiths Falls Pet Visiting Service has acquired three new volunteers, and would happily welcome more!

In October, the group held its annual craft and bake sale, raising more than \$1700 for LAWS, and as a Christmas present to the shelter, members of the PVS funded the spaying of a female cat and the neutering of two males. (Hopefully, this may inspire other groups to participate in the spay/neuter programme.)
Judy Veilleux

This advertisement is repeated with apologies for the omission, in the February Lantern, of an important part of the message.

The PLAYERS of the ELGIN MERCHANT'S FASTBALL TEAM

would like to extend to the following businesses

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and health for the New Year

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Your assistance in the past year was appreciated and contributed to our successful season. Thank You.

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