

2021

SANCTUARY

Our Christmas decorations - rescued wreaths and lights - are up, snow is down and we head toward the end of another eventful (Covid filled) year. Last December we were all masked, socially distancing and restricted as to most gatherings, family or otherwise, and hoping that a vaccine would be developed so that life could get back to normal. Thanks to hi-tech bio-science, vaccines became available in spring of 2021 and by September restrictions were being lifted or relaxed. Normal life appeared to be in sight. Then the Omicron variant arrived and everything started going backwards. It looks like we wait longer for our hoped normalcy.

For the most part, this year at Second Chance was much like last year. We continued to look after our cats and, thankfully our caregivers all remained in good health. We continued with restricted visiting and volunteering with masking and distancing. We continued with intakes, adoptions and fostering.

One of our intakes, Neo, is pictured on the front and back covers of the Second Chance 2022 Calendar. Neo was an indoor/outdoor cat surrendered by his owner who could not afford to have a vet examine his injured leg. He was neither neutered nor vaccinated and was not able to put his weight on his right front leg. His vet examination showed that his right front leg had a fracture. After 6-8 weeks in a leg cast and being kept immobile – as immobile as a cat can be kept immobile - he fully recovered. Neo now waits for that special person to discover him and take him home.

We mentioned Hunter, the big black FIV cat with huge paws, in our previous newsletter. His friendly nature caught everybody's attention and in the spring he was welcomed into a loving foster home. Hunter is a wonderful companion, loves his toys and is a great foot-warmer.

Many of the cats at Second Chance are older cats who have been at Second Chance for years, some with medical problems, and each year, in spite of good care and vet attention we have to say goodbye to a few. We miss them all. Many who know Second Chance will remember Tower – our kitchen resident. Tower was born at the sanctuary and, because she suffered from seizures which required her to receive medication at set times twice each day, people did not want to or were not able to meet that requirement and so Tower remained at the sanctuary for her entire life - 16 years. We lost Tower in late October and her ashes now reside with the long-time supporter who would so much have liked to have adopted Tower. So, in death, Tower was finally given what she would so much have liked in life – a home of her own.

Work on the steel sheds over the path between the house and sanctuary buildings continued. The ribbed roof ends were plugged and windows were installed, one in the north wall and three in the south wall. The windows certainly lighten things up. Lighting was installed – a welcome improvement now that it goes dark at 5 p.m. With protection from rain and elimination of the icy walkway in winter, moving between the buildings is now convenient and safer. We are grateful to Sobeys for donating the sheds to us.

Although we only asked for two cart sheds, Sobeys gave us four. It was decided to put the extra two sheds into service for yard sales. We are planning to resume yard sales once it becomes possible to do so. It has been looking like we would be able to have a yard sale in May, but, along came Omicron and who knows what comes after that. The two extra sheds have been installed parallel to the east sea container and the gap between has been roofed. The roof extends partially over the sea container door so we now have dry access to a lot more covered space. This arrangement will greatly improve the setup for sales and display of items.

In anticipation of resuming yard sales we need things to sell. If you are moving or downsizing or just thinning things out, please consider donating to Second Chance. Desirable items (in good condition) are collectibles that are no longer collectible, toys, records, ceramics, tools, books, costume jewelry, old video games, cameras, artwork and prints, etc. If you have questions regarding donations, please phone the sanctuary.

Again this year, the Covid crisis has had a major impact on our fundraising activities - no Victorian Tea, Spring Fling or Yard Sales. The Victorian Tea and Spring Fling were close contact events with food. It seems likely that their time has ended. We continue to sell items on Kijiji. Delta Bingo did shut down for some months but then reopened with access restrictions. However, Delta is on the road to recovery. In November, bingo restarted in the main hall and one charity volunteer is present in the reception area.

Donation can revenue remains low due to access restrictions and less use of cash. *Donation cans that accept Visa or MasterCard might be nice*. Revenue from the perpetual bottle drive has dropped. The beer store lifted its restrictions on returns and with the advent of vaccines, more people started to return their own empties. Nevertheless, we invite anyone interested to bring

their empties to Second Chance. Please leave your empties in or in front of the Sanctuary porch (there is a sign) and we will handle them.

Second Chance did experience a significant reduction in funding in 2020-21, but, some unexpected donations and the government benefit program were very helpful. We thank our regular donors for their continued support. Surprise donations and the government benefit, although very welcome, are one-off things; whereas, being a 7-day-a-week sanctuary, the bills arrive continuously. With the current uncertainties, any forecasts, expectations and hopes can become meaningless very quickly as Omicron, in spite of vaccines, is now demonstrating. Nevertheless, it looks as though the funding shortfall we expected has been delayed a year to 2021-22.

Soon it will be Christmas and a new year will begin. Unfortunately Covid is still with us so restrictions are still with us and our hoped-return to normal life remains a hope. As usual, the cats will get extra treats and some new toys. We thank our dedicated and reliable caregivers who look after our cats and also thank the volunteers who help keep things going. Thanks to all our financial donors, to bottle drive donors and to donors who drop off things for the cats and items for yard sales.

On behalf of everyone at Second Chance and on behalf of all the cats, best wishes for the holiday season and a happy and safe New Year.

SCWS 2022 CALENDAR

Thanks to everyone who supported our ninth annual calendar by submitting pictures of their pets and purchasing our calendar. The Second Chance calendar is one of our major fundraisers – and this year, as last year, almost the only fundraiser. Our tenth annual calendar, year 2022, is now available for sale on-line, at the sanctuary or Global Pets in Ajax.

& FUNDRAISING THANKS

Fundraisers are very important to the sanctuary and would not be possible without the efforts of many people –

- 1. **Mary Lattion-Wells,** a long-time volunteer of Second Chance hosted a Norwex on-line party on March 17, 2021. **Lisa Hodges**, a Norwex representative, displayed the items available for sale and donated her profit from the event to Second Chance.
- 2. **George Healey,** a long-time volunteer of Second Chance organizes a continuous ongoing bottle drive for Second Chance.

DONATIONS IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Second Chance is grateful to Christopher Liew and family who very generously requested that, in lieu of a Christmas gift, a donation be given to Second Chance Wildlife Sanctuary.

DONATIONS HONOURING

Second Chance is grateful for donations received in honour of -

Nadia Burton Dylan Montrichard Mike Paquette Aunt LindaMr. Chester BloomfieldLisa C. MumbyRick NolanLinda Watson and her adoptees Bruce & Dorothy

📣 THANK YOU

Second Chance gratefully acknowledges current and past assistance received from the following organizations as well as all of those individuals too numerous to list but without whose generous support, the sanctuary could not continue to operate.





Donations have been gratefully received by Second Chance, in memory of -

Adeline Moulins Alex, former Second Chance cat Kiwi, a wonderful dog Lee Bowman, friend

- Angus, our 18-year old cat Art Okanoto Bailey Beatrice Flora Faulkner, mother, grandmother and great grandmother Cameron McDonald Caroline McDonald Eleanor Buchanan Giulio Michela, beloved best friend Janet Minaker, wife Jason, my nephew's cat J.B. Joan Robbins, my special friend John "Sandy" McDonald
- Marlene Gustafson, aunt Maurice Black Monkey (aka Sparky), my much loved and missed every day cat from Second Chance Peter Jackson Ruth Eileen Day, mother Ron Argue, friend Sally Tolisano, friend Sally Tolisano, friend Smokey the world's best cat Wayne Stocker Toby, former Second Chance cat Riley, Spike, Vader, Salem Rudy, Sophie, Michelina Provenzano

UPCOMING EVENTS

Unfortunately, due to Covid, there are no upcoming events at this time. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to hold a **Yard Sale** in **May 2022**.

DONATIONS

Did you know that 100% of every donation goes directly to sanctuary activities? SCWS Directors are not paid. There is no paid staff other than those who directly handle and care for the animals. SCWS does not pay fundraisers. SCWS does not make investments or lend money. Administrative expenses consist of things for which we are charged, for example, phone, cable, bank charges, mailing costs.

Thus, donations to SCWS are used for the expenses of keeping the buildings operating, food, veterinary expenses and, as just noted, ordinary administrative costs. Veterinary expense is a very large item (burden) usually running to several thousand dollars per month. When you donate to SCWS, your money goes directly to the welfare and care of the animals. It is spent carefully and responsibly just as you would want it to be.

If you are already a donor, please consider increasing your donation; if not, please consider becoming a donor.