

SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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www.petfinder.org/shelters/ON99.html

2024

Once again, it is that time of year. Time to get the snow shovels out and brace for the coming winter and time to prepare for the year end celebrations. Our rescued decorations and lights are already up. For some time now, Christmas has been illuminated by LED based lighting. We have a string of LEDs in the Sanctuary porch. This year, in addition, we resurrected a string of the older, pre-LED, lights, with the screw-in larger bulbs and heavy wiring and installed it in the book tunnel. The difference is interesting. The LED lights, although bright and sparkly, seem to have a certain harshness to them whereas the colors of the “old” lights seem richer and smoother, softer on the eye, perhaps even a bit nostalgic. It’s surprising how fast nostalgia comes around these days. Overall, we continued throughout the year with our main activities, rescues and adoptions, fundraising and looking after our premises.

Time is a daily dictator for our excellent cat caregivers - time to do litter boxes, time to change bedding, feeding time and nail clipping time. It’s interesting to reflect on how much of our live is dictated by time. One could think that the cats have some sense of time. In the sanctuary there is a large table with several large cat beds on it. In the afternoon, after feeding, several cats, 6-8, will be there. We call it the meeting place. As one approaches the meeting place, one cat, Floyd, will get up and start to yowl very loudly. This is the signal that it is petting time. Several of the other meeting participants, particularly Flo and Big Tuna, get up for petting. The meeting place provides an insight into the phrase “copy-cat”. One participant, Guinness, now accepts petting. It wasn’t always so. Attempts to pet Guinness were always rewarded with a swat or attempted bite. Eventually, he started to join the meeting, but only lying watching the proceedings – other cats being petted. Finally, perhaps a year, something must have told him that petting can’t be all that bad and he started to accept a few strokes. Today, copying the behavior of his friends, he routinely accepts petting with only an occasional half-hearted swat.

The post-Covid slowdown in adoptions continues and probably for the same reasons as noted last year, economic uncertainties and high costs. It’s a difficult decision to take on the expense of adopting a cat under these conditions. We held two adoption events at the **Pet Valu** located on **Pickering Parkway** – one in April and the second one in October.

We held three yard sales this year. Our June sale was very successful despite some rain showers. The garden plants are a popular feature of this sale. Attendance at the September and October sales was lower than expected. We constructed a new area to display CDs and sales were good. We have a very large selection of CDs and DVDs. The Second Chance 2025 calendar is very popular and is now sold out. Returns from bottle returns were lower again but revenue from scrap increased. We continue our participation in charitable bingo at the Delta Bingo Hall in Pickering. There have been numerous changes and refurbishments to the bingo hall and it is very nicely decorated for Christmas. It's a welcoming place to meet your friends, enjoy bingo and perhaps be a winner.

To look after our cats, we have to look after our premises. With two buildings, joined by the book galleria together with the yard sale area consisting of a school portable with attached covered deck and two Sea Containers each with an external covered area there is a lot to do. Perhaps the reason it seems to rain at our yard sales is that we have too much roof. This year, we replaced the water purification equipment, replaced all the floor moldings in the north room with urine-resistant material, converted one of the house porches into an extension of the book galleria, closed in another portion of the house porch to be used for storage, installed shelving to better display our donated works of art at sea Container 2 and repaired water leakage along the roof edge of the Sea Containers. We had some volunteer help and some donation of supplies and material. It takes a lot of work to keep the sanctuary going and there is always something to do.

To date, personal donations are at about the same level as last year. It remains to be seen what impact the postal strike will have. Although prices of things have not gone down, price inflation has been reduced and interest rates have fallen. Perhaps there is cause for optimism ahead. Nevertheless considerable economic uncertainty remains as we wait to see what the new administration in the USA will have on Canada. At least the cats don't have to worry about it. How nice to have nine lives and no worries.

The year comes to a close as it usually does although possibly without snow. Our decorations are up and the cats will get their extra treats and petting. Cats at home will be "enjoying" the Christmas tree! We thank our dedicated caregivers who look after the cats so well and thank our volunteers for their invaluable help throughout the year. We thank our donors, large and small, whose thoughtfulness and generosity keeps the sanctuary going. On behalf of all at Second Chance, people and cats, best wishes for the holidays and for a safe and successful new year.

DONATIONS IN LIEU OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Second Chance is grateful to **Linda D'Avignon** 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 -

Helen Baker
Anne MacPherson

John Crane
Sherry Marten-Currie

FUNDRAISING THANKS

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

1. **Global Pets**, Whites Road in Pickering, donated all funds raised during their **Show Us Your Heart** campaign to Second Chance.
2. **All contributors** to the Second Chance on-going bottle drive.

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.

CLUBLINK
CORPORATION



Caitlin, Leka Maddie and Diya from **1st Ajax Rangers** volunteered at Second Chance on June 8 as part of their Service Project. The girls spent the afternoon washing cages as well as under the cages and, of course, spent time petting and playing with the residents of Second Chance.

IN-MEMORIUM DONATIONS

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

Cameron McDonald, brother	Lucille and Norman Chaplan
Cheech, former SCWS cat	Lucy, a wonderful dog
David Steele	Luka, former Second Chance cat
Little Dorrit, my shining, always at my side best friend	Shaya Dube, my beloved fur-baby
Jacqueline Armstrong, friend	Spaz, Tuli and Trill, former Second Chance cats
John (Sandy) McDonald, parents	Unity, my cat
Jarmila and George Traxler, parents	Wayne Stocker
Karinna Kusmenko	Yolanda McBride
	All Second Chance cats

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Chance Yard and Plant Sale either the last week of May/first week of June, 2025.

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. 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.

Cats waiting for their forever homes



Juna is 2.5 years old and was released to Second Chance in October, 2023. Juna enjoys petting and chasing the laser. She would do best in a home without any other animals.



Findley's vet estimated age is 3 years. Findley was being fed by the employees of a business in Ajax who didn't want to leave him on his own over a long weekend. He was brought into Second Chance in September, 2024. He enjoys petting and loves to play with the cat toys and other cats.