



Animal Welfare Agency South Central Ontario
Media Release
June 26, 2018

Annual General Meeting Held June 26, 2018

Celebrating our Accomplishments of 2017 and Sharing our Future

Kitchener-Waterloo, Stratford-Perth, Ontario, Canada, June 26, 2018 – The Animal Welfare Agency South Central Ontario, which operates the Kitchener-Waterloo and Stratford-Perth Humane Societies held their Annual General Meeting today..

The AGM started off with in-house tours featuring a behind-the-scenes look at what the Humane Society of today does.

The formal business of the organization included a legal name change from AWASCO to a more community friendly moniker: The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth. The two Humane Societies will continue to be known as Kitchener Waterloo Humane Society and Stratford Perth Humane Society within their respective communities.

Celebrating the past year included highlights including:

- 2413 Animals Rescued
- 1757 Animals Adopted
- 2945 Spay/Neuter surgeries and 3200+ total surgeries performed
- 4200 + Rabies Vaccines administered
- 4200 Microchips implanted
- 637 Volunteers
- 30,798 Students who learned about animal welfare

And More ...

Showcasing our amazing volunteers, several awards were given out to members of the community who make an amazing difference in the Animal Welfare world.

The **AWASCO Builder Award** recognizes an individual, group or organization that has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to impacting society's behavior, making our communities a better place today and for the future. **This year's winner is Dr. Shane Bateman**, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine who has made a difference in animal welfare communities all across Southwestern Ontario. As an Associate Professor at the Ontario Veterinary College, he mentors and encourages future generations in the animal welfare field. He is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Guelph Humane Society and participates in a number of initiatives that delivers preventative care at low cost to First Nations communities in Southwestern Ontario. He is also the volunteer Regional Co-Director for Community Veterinary Outreach – a charity that provides free preventative veterinary care for pets whose owners are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The KWHS is proud to partner with Dr. Bateman in the Community Veterinary Outreach efforts in our own communities.



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The **GEM Awards**, or “Going the Extra Mile”, recognizes those who have made outstanding contributions to their local humane society and show a commitment to enriching the lives of animals.

The KWHS Gem Award Winner is Jeanette Schmidt. Jeanette and her son Troy opened their professional contacts and promotional opportunities to the KWHS. In addition to annual donations, Jeanette expanded her support to include sponsorship. But it’s not just her financial gifts that brought the KWHS to recognize Jeanette. She has sponsored KWHS ads in the Homes Plus monthly magazine focusing attention on the highest priority needs – a hard to place dog; funds for an animal’s extensive surgery and rehab, or the need for Foster Families. Opening the door to an ongoing relationship with ReMax and local ReMax agents, establish a giving plan allowing ReMax agents to donate a set amount per home sale in 2017 – the KWHS received more than \$4000 from their sales. Jeanette clearly demonstrates compassion to the most vulnerable animals.

The SPHS Gem Award Winner is the Hayter Family. Their compassion for homeless and abandoned pets is what brought them to mind when looking at the GEM Award. Their commitment to the Stratford-Perth Branch of the OSPCA was well-known. Vic and JoAnne were a driving force behind the construction of outdoor dog runs at the former Douro Street Shelter. In 2014, when it was time to launch a campaign for a new Centre, co-chairs Eddie Matthews and Jeff Orr knew that having the Hayter name on the donor list would encourage others to give generously. From their early sponsorship of the Paws in the Park walk to their continued support of the Best In Show evening, the Hayters make caring for needy pets a priority. Following Vic’s death in 2016, the annual Vic Hayter Memorial Trot established by the Standard Bred Association in Clinton, has the SPHS as a recipient of funds raised at this event. In almost every event and initiative at the Humane Society, you can see the Hayter Family fingerprint.

Unveiling the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan shows just how far the Humane Society is planning to take their leadership role in the Animal Welfare field to the next level. Working to improve the well-being of animals in the community, educating young people on responsible pet ownership and embracing a forward-thinking future – this organization is determined to leave an indelible mark on our communities.

For more information, please contact:

Kathrin Delutis, Executive Director
Tel: 519-745-5615 ext. 230
Email: Kathrin.delutis@awasco.ca

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AWASCO is a leader in Animal Welfare in our communities, focusing on what is in the best interest of the pets. We do this through community education, advocacy, care, and compliance. We are a registered charity and receive no government funding for our programs. Charitable BIN 11898 3550 RR0001