

Expansion time in the community

Anna Moscardelli - May 2021

Expansion time. Whether it is the fire department or the animal shelter, things get outgrown. For the fire station, it looks like a new one is being built. For the Sarnia and District Humane Society (SDHS), it is now their time to seek community support.

A dog is a man/woman's best friend. For anyone who has an animal, they know the joy that an animal brings. For many, the love for an animal at times is greater than a relationship with a human being. Like humans, an animal can make a huge impact on one's life. In the Moscardelli household, there have always been one or more dogs in the home and all those dogs except for one, came from the SDHS and that tradition has been passed on.

As a young girl, I remember the shelter on Confederation Street with Marilyn Horner as the Manager. I remember regular visits to the shelter with my family. I hated seeing all those animals caged up, but most of them always had a wag of the tail or a lick for your hand. I remember Marilyn retiring and Donna Pyette taking over, with big shoes to fill. Donna has done a fantastic job, and her staff are amazing. Our community is fortunate to have not only the employees but the countless volunteers as well. Nowadays, (well not since Covid), I still visit the shelter.

After reading the article about the "Humane Society looking to build a new animal shelter at Centennial", it brought back memories of how the Forest Kiwanis began a fundraiser a few years ago for their expansion of the Forest Theatre. With Ruth Illman leading and so many helping, the Kiwanis have raised \$981,000 to date. Ruth and so many others turned the expansion into reality and for those of you who have never experienced the little Kineto Theatre in Forest, it is well worth the drive.

I am fully in favour of a new shelter. I know not all will agree, yet if we look at some of these places people take their dogs to doggy day care or to "the spa", we can see that times have changed drastically when it comes to our furry friends. For anyone that is an animal lover, the shelter needs your support, and for those who are not animal lovers, your support to this worthy cause would be greatly appreciated.

Our dogs have always been a huge part of our family life. I remember Jack Horner making a coffin for our pit bull Timmy years ago. We had a funeral and get together with family and friends gathering to say goodbye to Timmy. Then our vet came to the home to euthanize Timmy when it was his time to cross the rainbow bridge. Timmy was then laid to rest in his coffin with his bone, blanket, and a picture of us with him. And yes, my girls were raised with a pit bull in the home. As most people know, it is not the breed, it is how the animal is raised. The only thing dangerous about Timmy was his tail.

For those who have ever dealt with the shelter, you will know they are all caring individuals who fight for those who cannot speak. I do not know what it is about each one of the employees, but they always seem to know how to match the right pet with the right person. An animal's love is unconditional. Since the 80's, things have changed. Pets are now brought into senior homes, hospitals, and are used to help children and individuals heal.

Not sure if the shelter has started a fund for "the new shelter project" but if everyone could give even just a few dollars, I know the shelter could turn this well needed project into reality. Look at what has been happening with the Imperial Theatre. Just a few bucks from the public has gained them large dollars.

Donna, staff, and volunteers, you all have my support. Count me in. And a huge thank you for all that each one of you do, including the volunteers. This community is lucky to have people who care so much.

