

New Brunswick



Nouveau Brunswick

New Brunswick SPCA
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*"Giving a voice to those
who cannot speak for themselves."*

New Brunswick SPCA Newsletter

Spring 2007

Busy Year for NBSPCA

by Brad Horncastle

The past year has been a very active one for the New Brunswick SPCA. For the first time, our Animal Protection Officers (APOs) have tracked not only the number of calls received but also the total number of animals they have dealt with over the year. The numbers are quite impressive.

In 2006, our APOs received 1607 calls involving a total of **3378** animals. The highest numbers were related to dogs, with 1232 calls involving 1537 dogs. We also received 145 calls involving a total of 451 cats and 145 calls dealing with 280 horses. The remaining calls dealt with cattle and other types of animals.

Of particular interest is the number of large seizures carried out in 2006. In six specific cases, the NBSPCA was forced to remove large numbers of animals, mostly dogs, from properties in New Brunswick. We were able to provide veterinary care to these animals and, fortunately, most of them were placed in new homes. Having seen photographs of some of these places, I am being generous when I say that conditions were abominable.

Although all this saddens me greatly, it also reminds me of the professionalism and dedication of our APOs, who respond to these complaints,

remove the animals and ensure they receive prompt veterinary care.

To constantly witness the suffering of animals, to deal with individuals who do not value the lives of animals as we do, to know that some animals you're dealing with will not survive, and to work in what are often very difficult circumstances is by no means an easy task. Supervising all of this work is our Chief Animal Protection Officer, Mr. Paul Melanson. If any of you have the opportunity to meet one of our APOs, I encourage you to shake their hand and say thank you. They deserve it! ★

Annual General Meeting Location and Date

Date	Sunday 29 April 2007 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Location	The Delta Hotel Woodstock Road Fredericton, NB
Contact	Glen McGuire (506) 458.8208

Année active pour la SPCA

par Brad Horncastle

L'année qui vient de s'écouler a été très active au sein de la SPCA du Nouveau-Brunswick. Pour la première fois, les agents de protection des animaux (APA) ont tenu

compte non seulement nombre d'appels reçus mais aussi du nombre total d'animaux liés à chaque appel. Les chiffres sont assez impressionnants.

En 2006, les APA ont reçu 1607 appels liés à un total de **3378** animaux. Le plus grand nombre d'appels concernaient des chiens, soit 1232 appels relatifs à 1537 chiens. Nous avons également reçu 145 appels relatifs à 451 chats et 145 appels relatifs à 280 chevaux. Les autres appels concernaient des vaches et d'autres types d'animaux.

Je tiens à souligner surtout le nombre élevé de saisies importantes effectuées en 2006. Dans six cas particuliers, la NBSPCA a été obligée de saisir un nombre élevé d'animaux, surtout des chiens, sur des propriétés au Nouveau-Brunswick. Nous avons fourni des soins vétérinaires à ces animaux, et, heureusement, la plupart d'entre eux ont été adoptés.

Ayant vu moi-même des photos de ces endroits, je n'exagère pas lorsque je dis que les conditions étaient abominables. Certes, ces situations sont extrêmement tristes, mais elles me font penser au professionnalisme et au dévouement de nos agents de protection des animaux, qui enquêtent sur ces plaintes, viennent en aide à ces animaux et s'assurent qu'ils reçoivent des soins vétérinaires sans délais.

Être constamment témoin de la souffrance des animaux, faire affaire avec des individus qui ne reconnaissent pas la valeur de la vie des animaux et savoir que certains des animaux qu'on essaie de sauver ne survivront pas, ce n'est pas une tâche facile.

La supervision de tout ce travail est la responsabilité de notre agent supérieur de protection des animaux, M. Paul Melanson.

Si jamais vous avez l'occasion de rencontrer un de nos APA, je vous encourage à leur serrer la main et à les remercier. Ils le méritent! ★

Charitable Giving – A Guide

by Glen McGuire

There are approximately 82,000 registered charities in Canada. Sometimes it is difficult to know what each one does and whether you should make a donation.

A donor may wish to ask questions about the charitable organization. What is the mission or goal of the organization? Is it a registered charity? Who funds the organization? What portion of my donation is designated for the subject and what portion goes into expenses and advertising?

For instance, did you know that if you give to an organization that is not a registered charity, you will not be able to claim your donation as a deduction on your income tax return? The New Brunswick SPCA *is* a registered charity. Approximately 80% of every donation we receive goes directly to our inspection program. We spend the remaining 20% on education, administration and fund raising.

Organizations sometimes use names that are similar to an established charity. The New Brunswick SPCA, for example, is sometimes confused with the Canadian SPCA. This group is based in Montreal and operates two shelters in the Montreal area. It uses professional fund raisers who mail appeals throughout the country. These fund raising letters do not state that they operate two shelters. The letters are designed to convince donors that they are supporting a national SPCA. While this type of approach is not illegal, it is certainly disingenuous.

Some organizations will sell, trade or otherwise barter names of donors who have supported their efforts. This is why you sometimes will receive appeals from organizations out of the blue. The NBSPCA believes in compliance with the Privacy Act and never discloses its membership list to anyone. We welcome any questions you and other members may have about our organization. ★

Remembering Guy R. Clavette

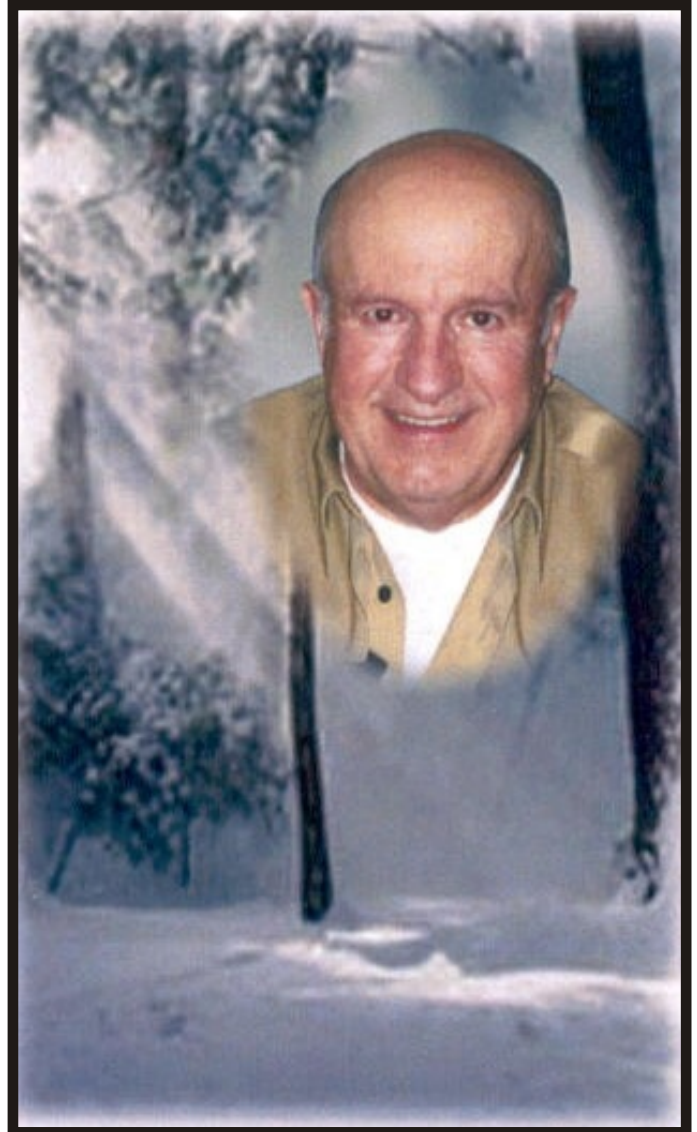
One of the New Brunswick SPCA's most loyal supporters during the last several years has been Mr. Guy Clavette of Edmundston.

We were saddened to learn that Guy had died on February 18, 2007 at the age of seventy-three. We extend condolences to his surviving family of three brothers and four sisters. He is buried in Saint-Basile, New Brunswick.

As a young man Guy entered what was then the Air Force, and completed a very successful career in the Canadian Forces, retiring in 1979 as a Chief Warrant Officer.

He subsequently worked for ten years with Irving Oil, before retiring again, this time to devote himself to volunteer work with the Twelve Step Program in Edmundston and serving as treasurer of the organization.

Guy was a person who believed that we make our own lives better by helping others, and for him that included the animals that he loved so well. The New Brunswick SPCA will miss him, and remember him.



Focus on Our Inspectors: Rebecca Lewis-Marshall

by Steven Turner

I never thought I'd be doing a job like this one," APO Rebecca Lewis-Marshall observes, but in a way being an NBSPCA Inspector has come naturally to the New Brunswick native.

Rebecca grew up on a farm in Second North River near Salisbury, and after living in Toronto for a few years, returned to her native New Brunswick in 1985. Her farm background, she says, made her sensitive to animal needs, especially those of cattle, which are much smarter and aware than most people think.

She became an NBSPCA Inspector in 2004 and two years later passed the provincial examination to become an Animal Protection Officer and to exercise the legal authority given to APOs. Living now in Petitcodiac, she handles calls in the Sussex area and throughout Albert and Westmorland counties.

In October 2006 Rebecca ably represented the NBSPCA at the Symposium on Family Violence held in Fredericton. In her presentation she drew on her personal experience as an Inspector to emphasize how police and social workers need to exercise the legal authority given to APOs. Living now in Petitcodiac, she handles calls in the Sussex area and throughout Albert and Westmorland counties.

Rebecca prides herself on remaining calm and professional while dealing with the public, and with being a good listener. "There's always more to the story than you first think," she observes. Often getting the voluntary cooperation of someone who is being investigated requires patient listening and skill in managing and diffusing anger in others. But those skills don't always suffice.

Rebecca remembers situations in which she felt herself to be in personal danger. In one such case, she responded to a public complaint about a hog farm in which pigs were allegedly being abused. When she arrived, she found pigs screaming, dead animals everywhere, and a someone inside the barn cursing and swearing at the top of his lungs.

In another she was forced to leave the property for fear of violence from the couple she had attempted to interview, only to have the couple pursue her in their own car. In cases like that, Inspectors are instructed to seek police assistance. Rebecca says she has worked hard to win the cooperation and respect of other law enforcement officers in her area.

Rebecca admits that her Inspector duties can be time-consuming and frustrating. She recalls one recent case which was on-going for over a year following the legal seizure of five dogs and sixty-six cattle. Charges of animal abuse were brought by Crown Prosecutors in the case.

Despite the fact that she holds other jobs, Rebecca was required to go to court at least six times before actually appearing on the stand. On that last occasion she spent three hours in the witness box and was subjected to a grueling cross-examination. She had the satisfaction of knowing that her skilled testimony helped secure a conviction in the case, but the satisfaction was tempered by the light sentence handed down: a \$168 fine and a six-month prohibition on owning animals.

Pet Food Recall

Many pet owners are worried and confused about the recent contamination of some brands of cat and dog food. The definitive cause of this situation has not yet been proven. However, there seems to be a link to WHEAT GLUTEN. We advise you to check your pet food ingredients, and if they include WHEAT GLUTEN, contact your veterinarian, just to be safe.

The most satisfying kind of case, Rebecca believes, are those that can be settled by educating and assisting the person involved. Frequently the individuals she investigates are extremely cooperative, and sometimes they subsequently call on her for help and advice, whether for building dog houses or caring for their animals.

Asked how the NBSPCA enforcement program could be improved, Rebecca answers emphatically that APOs need to become full-time officials. People need to recognize the difference between municipal SPCAs and shelter operations they run, and the New Brunswick SPCA and the law-enforcement work carried out by its Animal Protection Officers.

"We're always out there on the line," says Rebecca, "and the public needs to have a clearer understanding of what we are trying to do and the challenges we face." ★