

cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



from left: FFN president Cheryl Simpson, Kristi Mallinson-Vogel of the Port Colbourne Feline Initiative, and FFN member and TNR co-ordinator for Stratford, Marg Usprech

1,000th Cat Celebration

On Sunday, October 26th, the Feline Friends Network celebrated reaching the major milestone of having spayed/neutered our 1,000th cat! The event at Stratford's Optimist Hall included a presentation, videos, photo displays, shelter and trapping demonstrations, and of course, lots of great goodies (thanks Paul and JoAnn!), as well as a beautiful cake created by Holly! One hundred well-wishers were in attendance. Check out the videos of the event on the "Past Events" page of our website – http://felinefriends.ca/past_events.html.

AND check out the spay/neuter numbers at the top of this page! We're well over 1,000 now ... and counting!

FFN is famous!

FFN has been in the news a lot lately. Not only did we make the front page of the Stratford Beacon Herald on October 20th (thanks Laura!), but we actually made CTV news! Check out the "News" page of our website to see the clip. <http://felinefriends.ca/news.html>



FFN member and colony caretaker Charlie Vince hams it up with our mascot, Will Feral, at the FFN celebration

Wine Raffle winners



Thank you to everyone who supported our 5th Annual Wine Raffle Draw. We raised \$7,200 for the cats! Winners of this year's wine raffle were: 1st prize – animal lover Sharon Poelstra of Stratford, who is an FFN member and volunteer; 2nd prize – Brett Friesen of Guelph; and 3rd prize – veterinarian Kim Watson of Walkerton. Kim works for the Heartland Vet Clinic in Listowel which has helped FFN with feral cats in the Listowel area of Perth County.



Many thank yous!

A huge vote of thanks from all of FFN to:

- Member JoAnn Goodwin and Manulife Financial, who gifted FFN with \$500 through their “Helping Hands” employee volunteer program – Woo-hoo!!!
- Pet Valu, Stratford for including Feline Friends in their “Thanks for Giving” campaign which provided us with lots of cat food for the ferals this winter
- Global Pet Foods, Stratford, for always thinking of FFN when any cat food is close to its expiry date
- Member Elinor Murdoch and the BMO Financial group, who gifted us with \$800 in their employee volunteer grant program – Woo-hoo again!!!
- Marion and Bill Weber, whose generous donations to both the East Village Animal Hospital in London earlier this year and now the Kitchener-Waterloo Humane Society, are making it possible for FFN and other TNR and cat rescue groups to get free, spay/neuter surgeries for some of our unowned cats!

As a side note ... FFN is hoping to increase funding for our low-income spay/neuter program which helps people in Perth County who are in financial difficulty with the cost of spaying or neutering their pet cats. We know this cost is prohibitive for many and believe that catching these cats before any litters are born will help us solve the overpopulation and homelessness problems that much faster.

Any and all donations will help us reach our 2015 program goal of spaying or neutering approximately 150 cats owned by people receiving social assistance.

WINE RAFFLE 2015

FFN's sixth annual Wine Raffle will feature bottles donated by our members! Let's make it our best raffle ever. To donate your favourite bottle(s) of red/white wine and arrange for pick-up, please call or email Holly Roulston (519-284-2649 or holly.roulston@f55f.com) between now and May 2015.



Giving Tuesday

Imagine a day dedicated to giving back ... around the world, across Canada, and in your own community! Just as Black Friday kicks off the holiday shopping season, Giving Tuesday is the opening day of the giving season.

Please consider partnering with FFN this year on December 2, 2014 – Giving Tuesday's second year in Canada. Your donation will go twice as far as last year, thanks to CRP Plastics which has agreed to match all donations by 100% (up to a maximum donation of \$500). It's easy to donate through FFN's Canada Helps page at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/feline-friends-network-of-stratford/>

If you have considered getting more involved with FFN, please call or email Cheryl Simpson (519-273-8067 or simpson.cheryl@wightman.ca) to discuss FFN's myriad volunteer opportunities in more detail.

Donate your Shoppers Drug Mart Optimum Points

Feline Friends Network is now part of the Shoppers Optimum Program. You can help us by donating some (or all) of your Shoppers Optimum Points. FFN will use the points to purchase products/gifts etc. for our ongoing fundraising activities.

To donate your Shoppers Optimum Points, please visit: www.shoppersdrugmart.ca/donate.

If you aren't already a Shoppers Optimum member, just ask for a card at your next visit to Shoppers Drug Mart. Your new card will be issued right on the spot at no cost!

With your support, this initiative has the potential for FFN to OPTIMIZE the fundraising dollars that allow us to provide our services.

James Lumbers print raffle

Have you seen the beautifully framed James Lumbers print "Imagination" for which we are currently selling raffle tickets? James himself says of the print that, "even though I've used a kitten imagining himself in the future, I am also thinking of the alter ego that we all possess and how differently we see our inner being from the rest of the world. Perhaps this is how we sustain ourselves at times of great adversity."

We think both print and description are very fitting for FFN as an organization! Tickets are only \$2 and are currently on sale at Feed-All Pet Centre where the print is also currently displayed. The draw will take place on December 15, 2014 and the odds of winning – well, depends on how many of the 500 tickets printed are sold!

FFN's annual Upscale Yardsale is just around the corner!

If you have books in excellent condition that you no longer read or jewellery that you know longer wear, pop it into a bag and get ready to drop it off at 16 Fern Street in the New Year for FFN's annual Upscale Yardsale.

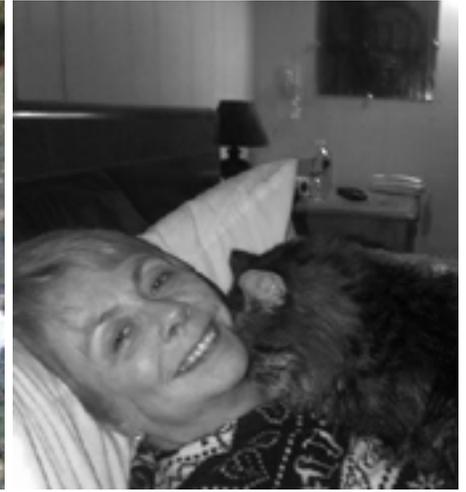
And ... if you were disappointed last year because all the wonderful gourmet food was sold before you got there consider ordering ahead. Yep, that's right, we said "order ahead"! For meat or seafood lasagna, meat or seafood quiche, shrimp bisque, rosemary foccacia, "To-Die-For" chocolate truffles, cupcakes, and much much more. To place an order, email Pat Burnell at pmburnell@hotmail.com.

The Upscale Yardsale will take place in early March 2015 – check out the December/January issue of *cat tales* for the exact date!

You can keep a dog; but it is the cat who keeps people, because cats find humans useful domestic animals.

– George Mikes





Meet the Trappers!

Cheryl Simpson

Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) – whereby colonies of feral cats are humanely trapped, neutered, vaccinated and returned to their outdoor homes – is one of FFN’s most important spay/neuter programs. It is also one of the most difficult – and the most rewarding.

TNR is labour intensive and requires a good deal of planning and organizing. The FFN volunteer must receive a request from a caretaker and then co-ordinate how and when the trapping will be done with the caregiver, the vet clinic, and the driving and surgery recovery volunteers. Then there are challenges such as the weather (cats don’t come out in the pouring rain), the hours spent watching a trap (you can’t leave a trap out without watching it because a trapped cat can seriously injure itself if the trap is not covered and removed right away), and the knowledge that between 80 and 100% of a colony must be TNR’d to stop that colony from growing.

I did say, however, that this job was also rewarding. And it is ... there is nothing like the rush you get during the “return” as you watch the cat streak away from you when the trap door is opened, knowing that he or she will live a much easier and healthier life. Not to mention knowing that you have made

a major contribution to ending the problems of cat overpopulation and homelessness.

So, I’d like to take a moment to thank and recognize our FFN TNR team: from left to right, Marg Usprech, co-ordinator for Stratford and surrounding area; Holly Roulston, St. Marys TNR co-ordinator; and JoAnn Goodwin, trapper extraordinaire in the Listowel area of Perth County. You are the best!

PAWS OF PERTH COUNTY ADOPTATHON

Saturday, November 15, 2014

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Global Pet Foods, 684 Ontario Street, Stratford

Suggested adoption fee: \$50

All cats and kittens have been vaccinated, de-fleaed, de-wormed, and spayed or neutered.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Between now and the end of the year, Global Pet Foods has agreed to carry Puddy Products. Check it out!

Puddy Products will also be at the Stratford Market on Saturday, November 29, and Saturday December 13. Shop ‘till you drop.

Remember ... ALL the proceeds from the sale of Puddy Products help FFN’s cats.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
garet markvoort

