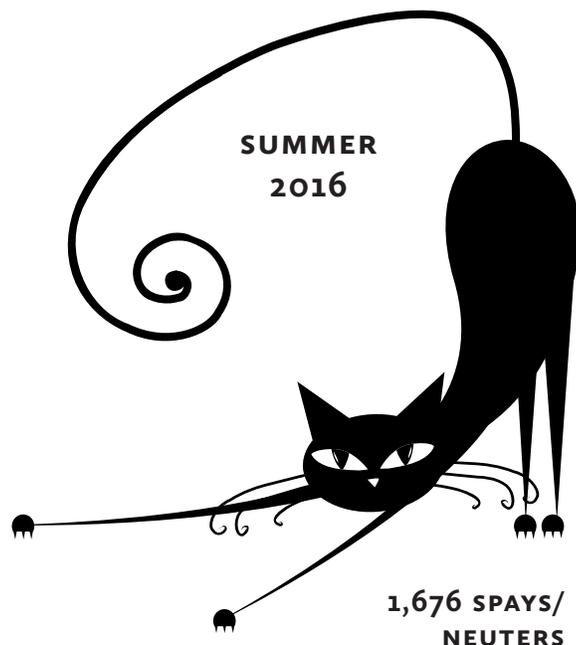


# cat tales

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FELINE FRIENDS NETWORK



## What the heck is a “catio”?

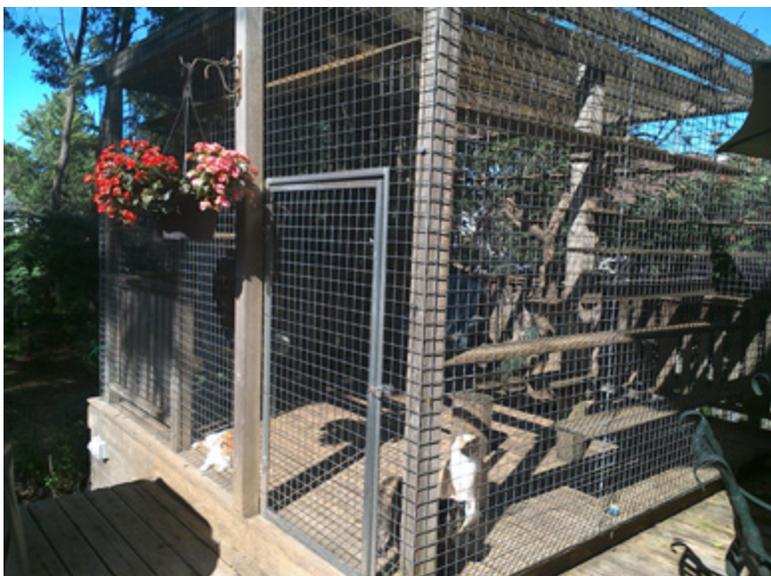
by Cheryl Simpson

Let's face it – cats love to be outside. BUT, these days, letting your cat roam can lead to problems – sometimes big ones – for you, your cat, your neighbours, and neighbourhood wildlife.

The solution? Build a “catio” – a patio for cats! A “catio” is a place where your feline friend(s) can enjoy the out of doors safely any time of day or night. Catio enclosures can be anything from just a simple window-box-like space to an incredibly elaborate structure featuring several stories or tunnels to maximize feline freedom. They can be DIY projects for those who are handy, or custom built for those who are not – or even something in between.

Paul and I decided to add such a “cat gazebo” to our cats' home environment ten years ago. We contacted Kris Kischer of Toronto's Home of Habitat Haven ([habitataven.com](http://habitataven.com)) and soon our beautiful catio was born! We can honestly say this

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## The Frederick Street Gang

by Charlies Riley

It all began in the summer of 2008. A mother cat arrived at my property on Frederick Street, looking for a safe and quiet place to create a home for her kittens. I came across two kittens in my back yard, who were soon joined by three more – two black females, a mottled black/grey male, and twin tabbies.

The mother, Mumpuss, was shy, but not afraid, staying just out of reach. Every morning she would be sitting by the back corner of the house, waiting for food. Soon the kittens were all around my ankles.

Mumpuss hid her family down a groundhog den under the tool shed. I built a shelter for them but they only used it to feed in. This went on into the winter when Mumpuss disappeared.

By that time the little guys were more independent. They would come up from their den to play in the snow and hang out around the feeding station. The “twins” were inseparable. Shy would hide in my foot prints in the snow to ambush his siblings. A couple of times, I saw Bear put her head down and scoot forward, making the snow fly like a snow plow.

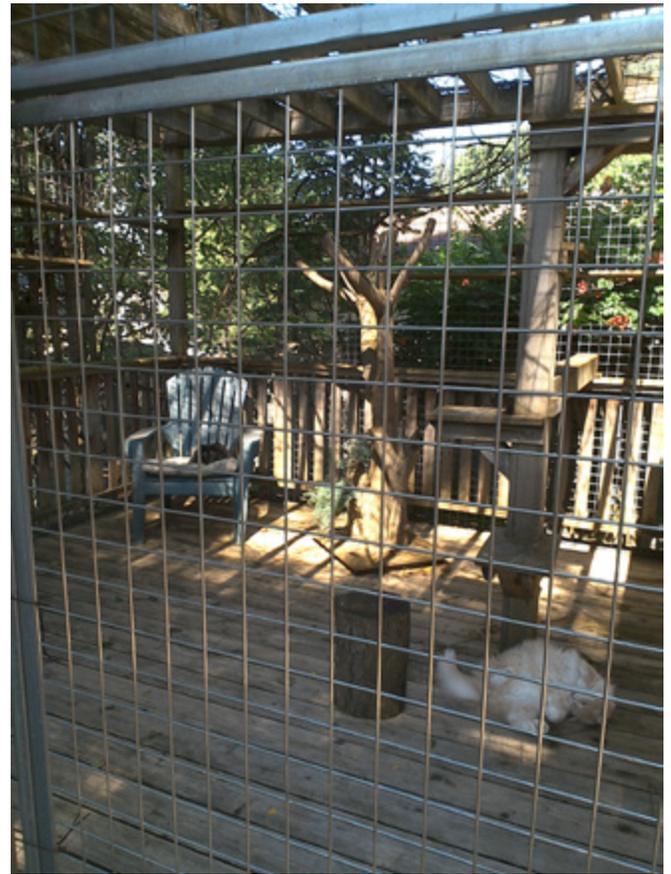
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investment was one of the best we've ever made, both for our cats' enjoyment, and our own peace of mind.

And now we'd like to share our experience with all of you. On Sunday, 11 September (rain date, 18 September) FFN members and friends are invited to join us in the Simpson backyard at 47 Britannia Street, Stratford, for an **FFN Catio Party**. Not only will you be able to see our own catio in action, but our special guest, Kris Kischer, will be bringing a demo enclosure that contains many of the components offered by Home of Habitat Haven, as well as a video of some very happy feline clients enjoying their very own spaces.

The Catio Party will be an open house, so please put it on your calendar, and make a point of dropping in any time between noon and 3:00 pm. Bring a friend and enjoy refreshments or shop for FFN "merch" while you "cat chat" with Kris and other cat lovers about the joys of catios!



### **MANY MANY THANKS TO OUR AMAZING LOCAL PET STORES FOR SUPPORTING FFN**

At left, Feed-All Pet Centre manager Corrine Jordan presents Paul Simpson and FFN ambassador Kashi with 2 shopping carts of food collected during the store's June customer appreciation event.

Below, the same dynamic FFN duo receive a cheque for \$2,574.16 raised during Pet Valu's pet appreciation month in April from manager Kimberley Kempen.



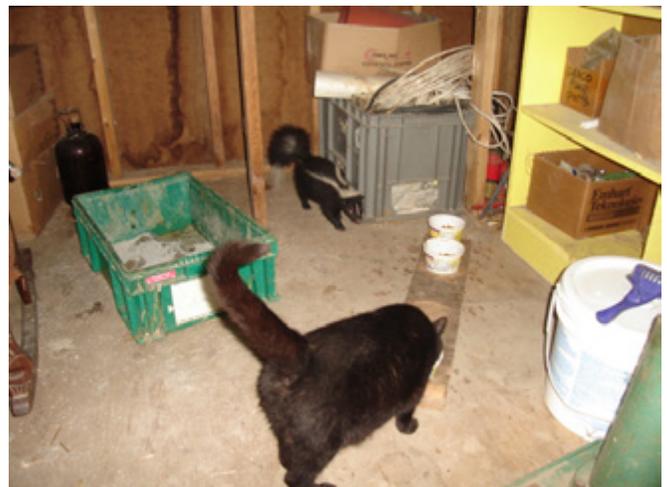
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In the summer of 2009, I noticed one of the cats looking over a board, ears all perked up. When I went to check it out, I found a little face looking back up at me. Not long after, there was Mumpuss and a new family of five kittens! Two black females, a mottled grey/black male, a black and white male, and a black and white female.

By now, I was aware of FNN and in contact with Cheryl. Arrangements were made for Mumpuss to visit the vet. When I brought her home – caged for observation – she was anxious. I knew she missed her family. At the same time, I was giving one of the kittens drops for an eye problem. I brought a second kitten in so the two of them could keep Mumpuss company. She relaxed immediately.

Next, it was the kittens' turn at the vet to be spayed/neutered and vaccinated. All 9 of them!

The Frederick Street gang now lives in my tool shed for food, water, and shelter. I leave the door open during the day so they can enter and leave. At night, I close the door so they are safe inside and not roaming the neighbourhood.



left: The tabby twins at play  
above: Shy ready for ambush  
centre: Mumpuss and her second litter  
below: An unexpected visitor!



## Upcoming Events

### CAT CON

Saturday, 27 August 2016  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Stratford-Perth Humane Society  
125 Griffith Road

Billed as a “Comic Con for cat people” and hosted by the Stratford-Perth Humane Society at their brand new building at 125 Griffith Road in Stratford. Cat-related merchandise, speakers, and – of course – cats for adoption. FFN reps will be there too ... Come join the fun!

### A CATIO PARTY!

Sunday, 11 September 2016  
(rain date: 18 September)  
noon – 3:00 pm  
Cheryl and Paul Simpson  
47 Britannia Street

An open house in the Simpson backyard for all FFN members and friends to socialize while enjoying nibbles and a glass of wine or non-alcoholic punch. See for yourself the “joys of catio living” (courtesy of the Simpson felines ) and learn how you too can create something similar from our special guest, Home of Habitat Haven founder Kris Kischer.

*Kittens are born with their eyes shut. They open them in about six days, take a look around, then close them again for the better part of their lives.*

– Stephen Baker



Left: Shannon of Covet: The Community Closet pulling the winning Best of Stratford Raffle ticket; right: people talking everything feline at the FFN booth.

## Celebrating Canada Day

by Cathy Russell

FFN’s third year at the Stratford Canada Day celebration was a success! The few brief showers couldn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the crowd and we enjoyed many great conversations about our feline friends.

Thanks to the generosity of members and other cat lovers, 222 cat toys were donated to our “Guess the number of cat toys” game. The winner was Meagan Gloor with a guess of 218. Meagan is an expert cat toy guesser; she was 2015’s runner-up.

From the game and the sale of Pat’s Puddy Products, we collected a total of \$108. The toys from the game will be divided between Feline Friends Network and the Stratford-Perth Humane Society and provided with adopted cats/kittens.

A HUGE thank you to Holly Roulston and her husband Floyd, Cathy Rhodes, Pat Burnell, Jess Thom, Val Pinder, and Cheryl Simpson for offering the special gift of time to staff the booth – it wouldn’t have been possible without you!

I look forward to another successful year with Feline Friends at Canada Day 2017!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR | garet markvoort

