

The Paw Press

2021 Winter Edition



Building a community animal centre

"A beacon to animal care and animal welfare across Canada." That's just one way our new building has been described. Other words being used to describe our building at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd are: **transformational, bright, and hope.**

With WEEKS remaining before we can move into the new building (in early Spring 2021), every day brings more changes to the construction site. The driveway is paved, the roof over the dog runs is in place - as well as the doggy doors for coming inside and out. The cat adoption space is so close to completion that we can already imagine the cats in their large enclosures as they climb at their leisure and people-watch over the front entrance!

The new GHS building isn't just an animal shelter - it's a community animal centre. It will be a bright, spacious, and comfortable space for vulnerable animals in Guelph and Wellington County. But it will also be a place for camps and birthday parties, for animal education activities, and other community-oriented events. This project is an investment in our community, and we're looking to our community to invest with us.



Construction continues at 190 Hanlon Creek Blvd, getting closer to completion each day.



The dog runs are taking shape, and the dog doors have been installed.



We're roughly 25% short of our \$10 million dollar fundraising goal, and we need our community to help us close the gap. **We will be running our first-ever 50/50 draw this spring to help support the new building.**

Details to come!

Visit [UnleashingHope.ca](https://www.unleashinghope.ca) to learn more about the building.

DID YOU KNOW?

During COVID-19, the majority of animals placed up for adoption on our website are receiving multiple applications within the first day!

The average cat/kitten only stays up on the Available Animals webpage for 12 hours, while the average dog might stay online for a day.

Memories of 500 Wellington

While the excitement over our new building at 190 Hanlon Creek continues to build, we can't forget all of the amazing memories that were created at 500 Wellington Street West. GHS has occupied our current building for more than **50 years**. Thousands of animals, along with hundreds of staff and volunteers, have come through these doors. We reached out to GHS staff and volunteers for some of their favourite memories at 500 Wellington:

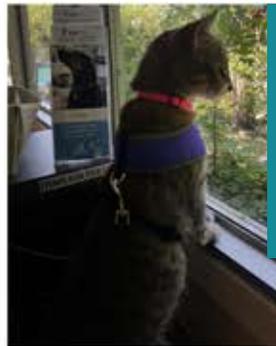


"I loved walking all of the awesome dogs that you are helping. The path along the river is very nice for the dogs so they can relax and enjoy some quiet time. Definitely the best part of my week!"
- Alec Pettit, GHS Volunteer (photo of Onyx)

"Before COVID, I regularly volunteered with the Cat Nail Trim/Soft Paws clinic on alternate Saturdays at GHS. I gained some amazing friends in the staff and other volunteers."
- Carleigh Cathcart, GHS Volunteer (and OVC Class of 2021!)



"GHS was like my second home for about 12 years, doing humane education programs, being a volunteer, and a co-op student. It was my favourite place to be, and where I adopted my first dog, Luna."
- Ariana Brittenden, GHS Volunteer



"After COVID forced us to close the building to the public, with most of our cats in foster homes I was able to spend more time giving the remaining cats some fun enrichment, including walking them around the shelter."
- Emily Fowler, GHS Animal Care Attendant (photo of Ginger)



"As a volunteer since 2007, I have made lasting friendships with other volunteers and staff. This is a pic of a few of us volunteers and former staff at one of our CCL (Crazy Cat Lady) dinners."
- Deb Schmidt, GHS Volunteer

"I enjoy the memories of organizing as a team, one day a year for a special staff day. We'd break into groups and organize/clean the shelter inside and out, including yard work."
- Melissa Stolz, GHS Intake & Behaviour Coordinator

Avian update: 755 birds helped by GHS in 2020

When you think of "birds" in our care, what do you think of? Do you think of small budgies, looking to find their #HappyTails? Do you think of injured owls, in need of medical care? Do you think of roosters, in need of a barn to call home? All of these stories were true in 2020, as the GHS team cared for 60 different avian species last year.

Throughout 2020, 755 birds came through our doors at GHS – 63 were domestic birds, and 692 were wild birds. **Robins were the most common species of bird we saw at GHS, with a total of 145.** That was followed by 67 geese, 64 mourning doves, 54 grackles and 51 wild pigeons.

While spring and summer are busier seasons for wild birds, this winter we saw a number of domestic birds come through our doors. And thanks to generous donors like you, all of these birds found their **#HappyTails**.



Elvis found his #HappyTail on a small hobby farm with a very loving family!



8 budgies surrendered to GHS in December have all since found new homes.

One year later: 105 cats surrendered from one household

January 22nd marked **ONE YEAR** since **105 cats** were surrendered by their owner into the care of **GHS**. The 105 cats came in from one home, and it was "all-hands-on-deck" to ensure ALL of the cats were rescued and received immediate care.

GHS appealed to the community for assistance immediately after the cats were surrendered, and we were overwhelmed by the community's support and donations. Together, the community raised over \$30,000 in 72 hours and the generosity kept pouring in over the following days and weeks.

Our friends at other humane societies also helped out by taking care of 27 of these cats. The rest remained with us, and have all since found their **#HappyTails**.

Here are some of the 105 cats, enjoying the love and happiness they have found in their new homes.



Your support made Jesse's #HappyTail possible

Jesse, the resilient senior beagle, spent 479 days in our care at GHS.

Jesse faced many medical challenges, and thanks to donors like you, we were able to give him a fighting chance for his #HappyTail. He came to us in July 2019, and we are happy to report that he was adopted in November 2020.

Jesse is now known as Snoopy, or Snoopdog, and his new family says he loves cuddling and running. At his first Christmas in his new home, friends and family even brought him gifts of stuffed Snoopy toys! There is no greater reward than hearing how well Jesse/Snoopy is doing after such a long journey.



When you support the Guelph Humane Society, you are supporting an open-admission shelter, which means we never turn an animal in need away – regardless of its medical status or demonstrated behaviour. We are proud to continue caring for all animals regardless of available space, their length of stay or their age.

Our generous donors make that possible.

Inspiring ideas: donors got creative with 2020 donations

When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade. Or in this case, when life gives you COVID-19 and you have to cancel your in-person fundraising events, along with camps and other revenue sources, your supporters think outside the box and find new ways to raise money for the animals! **Here are some of the creative and inspiring ways our community supported GHS in 2020:**



Making and selling masks

Debbie Webster began making her own face masks in September. They became popular with other residents at Village by the Arboretum, so she started selling them for \$10 each. Just before Christmas, Debbie donated the proceeds from her mask sales to the new GHS building - she raised over \$2,000!

Donating award money

David Halls is a Sales Representative with RLP Royal City Realty, and local philanthropist. David won the John Clark Sr. Award for volunteerism, presented by Guelph & District Association of Realtors. He was presented with a \$1,000 donation for the charity of his choosing, and he chose GHS.



Condo bottle drive

The residents at River Mill Condo in downtown Guelph work together to collect and return bottles in their building, and all the funds go to charity. GHS was the lucky recipient of their latest bottle run in December, with a donation of \$403.32 made to our new building fund!

Summer promotion

Tri-City Fencing ran a promotion last summer: for every wooden fence post they installed, they donated \$1 to the Guelph Humane Society. By the end of summer 2020, Tri-City Fencing was able to gift GHS with \$582! Kevin Jubinville, President and CEO of Tri-City Fencing, says he loves animals, and he adopted a cat named Haley (formerly Rory) from GHS in 2018. (Haley pictured right.)



Calling all local makers!

GHS is hosting an online artisan market to celebrate the arrival of spring. We're looking for local vendors who make/sell animal-themed items. A percentage of sales will come back to GHS.



bumblebee jewelry will be one of our vendors!

Let's support local, while supporting the animals in our care.

Interested?
Email events@guelphhumane.ca
by March 2nd
to get involved

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!

Don't miss out on animal stories, updates on our new building, news, events, and so much more!

Click the link at the top of our homepage at guelphhumane.ca

Follow us on



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