

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

SCRATCHING POST

SPRING 2018

Annual Strawberry Tea June 16th, 2018

The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps will hold their annual Strawberry Tea and Sale on **Saturday June 16th at 1:00pm at Knox Presbyterian Church.** (See poster on page 5.) The function will take place from 1-4 pm and strawberry shortcake and beverage will cost \$5.50. Clean sale items in good condition will be accepted at the church on Friday June 15th starting at 2:00p.m. **We do not have access to the church before that time!**

Volunteers have requested that items NOT be delivered on Saturday morning unless absolutely necessary.

NO ELECTRONIC ITEMS PLEASE.

Please cut out the mini poster on page 5 and post it in your neighbourhood. Make extra copies if you can. Spread the word! Call (250) 656-1100 for more information.



BOTTLE DRIVE

Sunday August 19th
Save your bottles for
our fundraiser.
See the details on
Page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular Meeting (1 wk early) 6pm	June 13
Strawberry Tea Knox Presbyterian Church, 1-4pm	June 16
Bottle Drive 12-4 4261 Glanford Ave	Aug 19
Annual General Meeting 6pm	Sept 20
Christmas Bazaar Knox Presbyterian Church, 1-4pm	Nov 17

Meetings held 3rd Wed. of each month at 6pm.
Call 250-656-1100 for location.
No meeting July or Aug.

Important Notes

- A change in routine this year. We are not holding a raffle, but we hope you will support our Silent Auction at the Tea this year. Items to be auctioned include several very nice gift cards for local businesses.
- Please respect the 'residents only' street parking when attending the Tea. The Church has a parking lot, and we can also use the lot next door.
- Do you like to bake? Please consider donating baking this year. Please label your items with an ingredient list, especially if nuts are used.



B.C. joins Nova Scotia in banning 'ethically problematic' cat declawing

The Canadian Press/May 8, 2018

The practice of declawing a cat is now banned in British Columbia. The College of Veterinarians of B.C. says the new standard was implemented Tuesday after it researched other jurisdictions and consulted with provincial vets. It says in a news release that declawing is "ethically problematic" and not an appropriate way to deal with cat behaviour issues. College registrar and CEO Luisa Hlus says there is consensus among the public and the profession that declawing cats is inhumane and ethically unacceptable, similar to the outdated practices of tail docking and ear cropping.

The group has the power to investigate and impose disciplinary action on veterinarians who ignore the new standard. The college says some medical conditions may necessitate partial or full amputations as part of declawing and those procedures will be allowed to continue.

It says Nova Scotia is the only other province to ban declawing, but the practice is also not permitted in Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Brazil, the United Kingdom, parts of Europe and some cities in California.

(At time of writing, a petition online is asking for signatures for a ban in Manitoba <https://www.change.org/p/manitoba-veterinary-medical-association-ban-declawing-in-manitoba>)



Financial Information and Statistics

Statistics

Sept 2017 to April 2018

Cat Spays: 110

Cat Neuters: 60

Dog Spays: 0

Dog Neuters: 1

(Medicals discontinued Feb 2011)

2018 Spay/Neuter Blitz

Cat Spays: 92

Cat Neuters: 56

(included in stats above)

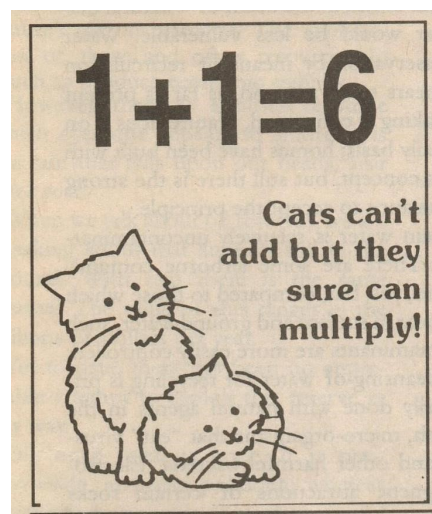
Annual General Meeting

Wed. Sept. 20th, 2018

6:00pm

Phone for location

250 656-1100



2017 Christmas Bazaar

The net income from the 2017 Christmas Bazaar was \$3,632.46

Income

Donations	\$1,401.00
Memberships	195.00
Tea & Cake	396.00
Crafts	458.35
Raffle Draws	165.00
Rummage	878.40
Jewelry	901.70

Expenses

Hall Rental	400.00
Liability Insurance	82.50
Advertising	115.49
Pizza	125.00
Raffle License	25.00
Disposal	15.00

President's Message-Spring 2018

Hi Everyone,

We've been busy over the past year, but first, our annual classic Strawberry Tea and Bazaar is fast approaching on June 16th. And yes, local strawberries will be available for our strawberry shortcake. This year we're holding a silent auction instead of a raffle and there will be lots of bargains on the rummage tables, as well as books, jewelry, crafts, and baking. Please come out and join us. We're looking forward to a lively time!

We ran our annual Spay/Neuter Blitz in February and March, during which we pledged the full cost of spays/neuters for 148 cats belonging to low-income cat owners. We could not do this without the participation of veterinarians who provided us with reduced rates, so a big thank-you from us to them.

We received a bequest this year that helps to put our society on a firmer financial basis for the next few years. In response, in late April we increased the amount of aid for spays/neuters in our regular program for low-income pet owners to see if this encourages more people to spay/neuter their cats.

Also a big thank-you to the College of Veterinarians of BC who banned cat declawing as of May 8, 2018 unless there are good medical reasons for the cat (see article within).

Please keep an eye on the adoption page of our website, www.victoriacatrescue.com if you or someone you know would like to adopt a cat.

If you'd like to volunteer or attend our monthly meetings, please email us at meow.133@victoriacatrescue.com or leave us a message at (250) 656-1100. We'd love to see you.

As ever, we and the clients we serve (feline and human) deeply thank you for your continued support. We couldn't do it without you.

Catherine

Bottle Drive Fundraiser—August 19, 2018

Our Treasurer Cheryl McCreary is organizing a Bottle Drive for **Sunday August 19th 2018** from 12:00am to 4:00 pm. Drop Off location: Glanford Bottle Depot, 4261 Glanford Ave. For those members who do not have a car, Cheryl will come and pick up your bottles. You can contact her at 778 265-5338 or email her at cmccreary@shaw.ca. Please save all returnable beverage containers, with the exception of milk products. This includes gable top juice containers, tetra packs, cans, alcoholic and non-alcoholic containers.

Please ask your friends and family to participate in this summer fundraiser.



In Memoriam—Donations received in memory of loved ones

Mary Goodspeed in memory of Margaret Johnson
Diana Black in memory of Fraser Lindsay
Liz Dyson in memory of Sophia
Linda Rutherford in memory of Thora and Tommy Bonneau
Annie Loutit in memory of Yvonne Parti's Daisy Baby
Annie Loutit in memory of Mike Gibson's Ranger
Ruth Wittenberg in memory of Panda and Rocky
Magdalena Van Houten in memory of her best friend John
Aaron Severs & Sue Ward in memory of Joyce Ward
Carol Sheilds in loving memory of her Mom Jean R. Strachan and all her beloved furry friends
Grace Schenkeveld, Sue Roberts, Susan Biln, Jodi Roberts, Christy Wong, Jeff Ket, and
Charlotte Tudose in loving memory of William Howard Carlton
Catherine Gale in memory of Margaret Christmas and Punkin
Jane and Robert Seright in memory of Abby and Webster
Colin and Phyllis Pendleton in memory of Mrs. Margaret Christmas
Anonymous in memory of Joy Guerzoni
Sara Guerzoni in memory of her mum, Joy Guerzoni



Founding Member Margaret Christmas Passes Away at 98

Margaret Christmas was a loyal supporter of Victoria Cat Rescue Corps for decades. Her support lasted long after she was able to physically help at fundraising events. She wrote a recurring column "Margaret's Corner" for the Scratching Post back in the 1990's, and was no doubt involved in many last minute cutting and pasting sessions to get the newsletter to the printer. Before the use of computers, flash drives and email submissions, everything was done by hand. Margaret was a great supporter and friend to our founders Tommy and Thora Bonneau, and a very kind and generous person. She will be missed. Her obituary is included below and we pay tribute with her poem on pg. 7.



Margaret Louise (Peggy) Christmas

Obituary

March 28, 2018

CHRISTMAS, Margaret Louise (Peggy) Born March 9th, 1920 at Virden, Manitoba, died March 20, 2018 at The Heights at Mt. View, Victoria, BC. Elder daughter of the late Arthur W. and Louise Brownlie, she was predeceased by her beloved husband, Walter H. (Chris) Christmas, on November 4th, 1989. She is survived by her niece, Margaret Misko, nephew Bill Robertson and Elda Robertson, widow of nephew Gordon R. Robertson and their families. She was a long-time employee of the Royal Bank in Brandon, Manitoba and Victoria, and also of Yorkshire Trust in Victoria. Her love of cats led to founding membership in The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society. For those so desiring, a donation to the Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society, at www.victoriacatrescue.com, or to an animal welfare organization of one's own choice would be greatly appreciated.

Cremation and private Interment at Royal Oak Burial Park. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallgardens.com

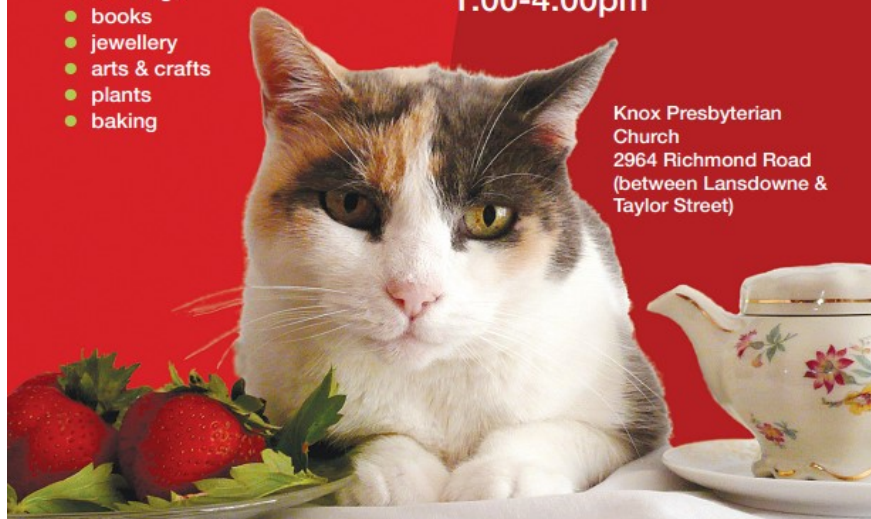


Strawberry Tea & Bazaar

- strawberry shortcake and tea/coffee - \$5.50
- rummage
- books
- jewellery
- arts & crafts
- plants
- baking

Saturday, June 16, 2018
1.00-4.00pm

Knox Presbyterian Church
2964 Richmond Road
(between Lansdowne & Taylor Street)



In support of the
Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

Contact:
250 656 1100

meow@victoriacatrescue.com
www.victoriacatrescue.com

Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society is a charitable organization run by volunteers. All donations go toward spay, neuter and medical costs for the animals we assist.



PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN
SHOPPING BAGS TO THE
STRAWBERRY TEA



Cut out the flyer on the
left and post it in your
neighbourhood.



Thank You

- **Angela Westmacott** for her donation of the delicious shortcake and strawberries for this year's Strawberry Tea, and the cake for our 2017 Christmas Bazaar.
- **Anonymous members** who donated raffle/auction items to both events.
- **Save On Foods (University Heights), Lifestyle Markets (Douglas St.) and Fairway Market (McKenzie), Country Grocer and Planet Organic** or their donations of gift cards for fundraising at our events.
- **Patisserie Daniel** for their generosity regarding the cakes for both events.
- **Pepper's (Cadboro Bay)** for their donation of whipping cream, coffee cream & milk.
- **Ian Fraser** and the staff of **Victoria Animal Control** for helping to transport rummage items and garbage at both events.
- **Loretta Chaperon** donation toward Hall Rental cost and for tea supplies for both events.
- **Liz Keay** for her donation toward the Hall Rental cost for both events.

PLEASE SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION BY SUPPORTING OUR SPONSORS IN ANY WAY YOU CAN

Our Programs



- Spay/Neuter Financial Assistance Program (formerly the Bonneau Spay Fund) offers assistance to those who cannot afford to spay or neuter their pet.
- Spay/Neuter Blitz held every Spring, when we offer full payment of spay/neuter procedure to low income families.
- Foster/Adoption Program where we attempt to find good homes for abandoned and homeless pets. Foster homes and volunteers help us to sustain this program.
- Education program to alert the public about the importance of spaying and neutering to reduce the stray population.

SEE MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.victoriacatrescue.com

Foster and Adoption News

These shy tabbies are not feral, but not relaxed enough to be ready for adoption. We are in **need of a few patient foster homes to help some shy cats build trust and become adoptable!** Can you: provide a safe, quiet space for them to adjust during the transition from our place to yours? A spare room would be ideal. A quiet household - these kitties are not suitable for small children and a lot of commotion. Are you comfortable with a cat that will be very shy at first, and might just need you to take him/her treats a few times a day and quietly sit with them? They are used to a very big friendly dog, as well as other cats. These cats are very loving once they settle - they just need more experience and one on one attention. It is very rewarding if you are patient and have time to work with them.



Please contact our adoption worker Kim at kimesau@shaw.ca if you are interested in helping.

Your Cat's Health: Ask the Vets at Cornell University

Q. My 7 year old male domestic shorthaired cat has recently begun to bite me. The last bite became infected and required antibiotics. I am concerned and wonder what makes a cat bite like this?

A. Aggression by cats toward people can be caused by a number of things, and figuring it out can be challenging. The first step is to eliminate any medical causes. Some diseases—hyperthyroidism, osteoarthritis, dental disease and central nervous system problems—may cause aggression. First consult your vet. If a medical problem is not evident, there are a number of general categories including: Play Aggression, Fear Aggression, Petting/Grooming-Induced Aggression, Redirected Aggression, Status-Induced Aggression, or Territorial Aggression. Space does not allow us to elaborate here, so check out Cornell Feline Health Centre's website www.bit.ly/felineagg to investigate the details and try and determine if any of these could be the cause. There are specific recommendations for each type of aggression and with patience, appropriate guidance, and dedication, it can usually be successfully managed. Early intervention is key, and may require the help of both your vet and a Veterinary Behaviourist.



Scenes from the 2017 Strawberry Tea



Beautiful table settings



Volunteers at the Jewelry Table



There are Treasures to be found

Sammy (Samantha) By Margaret Christmas (see pg. 4)

First published in the May/Aug 1992 edition of the Scratching Post

Sammy Samantha, you are my clown,
Picking me up when I am down.
Prancing and dancing on little white feet,
Matching white bib, immaculate, neat.
Wise tawny eyes, darting, all-seeing,
Tiny, mercurial, touch-me-not being.

Born a rebel, yet gentle of paw,
Never extending a menacing claw.
Tuning me out when I reluctantly scold you,
Resisting all efforts to cuddle and hold you.
But should I sit down, creating a lap,
Assured of a welcome, you hop up to nap.

Then, if I'm lucky, all doe-eyed and purring,
You'll reach for my cheek with a tentative pat.
Smart and beguiling, mysteriously smiling,
The quintessentially inscrutable cat.



Sharing a home with others of your kind
Is grist for the mill in so fertile a mind-
Raiding their dishes, scorning their wishes,
Causing alarm with a leap from a shelf.
Pursuing a mission to tease and to please-
(Teasing the others and pleasing yourself).

Lurking, usurping, refusing to budge,
Daring and scaring, perfecting your nudge.
Feigning repentance and deflecting a hiss
By presenting the top of your head for a kiss.

Steadfastly rejecting a ready-made bed,
Nightly you stake out your own choice instead.
As you churn cushions into a heap
The word swiftly spreads, "She's preparing to sleep."

They watch as your purring sputters and fades,
Long lashes droop as you pull down the shades.
You shift in your bed with a satisfied sigh,
A little white fist tucked into each eye.

"Cat-ch of the Day"

This photo was submitted by long time member and supporter, Annie Loutit. This is Tommy, her 27 pound, one-eyed rescued cat, who is very social and the King of her "pride".



The Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

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Victoria BC V8R 6S4

Phone: 250 656-1100

Email:
meow.133@victoriacatrescue.com

Tax no.

BN11926 1493 RR0001

**An Incorporated society
dedicated to the
alleviation of suffering of
cats and all animals.**

Founders:

Thora and Tommy Bonneau

Honorary Patron:

Judge Loretta Chaperon

The society began in the 1960's as the Bonneau Spay Fund. It was incorporated in 1984 as the "Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society".

Become a member today!

Membership includes a subscription to this newsletter. Please complete this form and mail it with your cheque to the address on the left.

Please make cheques payable to Victoria Cat Rescue Corps Society

- ☐ Family \$45 ☐ Single \$30
☐ Life \$ 150 ☐ Senior/Unwaged \$15

☐ Donation _____

Total Amount enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Enter your email address here if you would like to receive the Scratching Post electronically, and receive important VCRCS notices.

Email: _____

Executive Board

2017/2018

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Catherine Gale

Secretary:

Susan Robertson

Treasurer:

Cheryl McCreary

Directors:

Pam Slyth

Sherry Buttner

Betty Kask

Kim Esau

Scratching Post Editor:

Pam Slyth

We're on the Web!
victoriacatrescue.com



We are currently seeking volunteers in all areas of our society.
Many animals have been helped and are now happy and healthy.

We always need workers at our fundraisers too!

Why not volunteer today? Just call 250 656-1100.

Our Philosophy

The Animals are our brother creatures who share this earth with us and are equally deserving of our respect as well as compassion. It is indeed our moral duty to alleviate their suffering whenever and wherever possible. Perfect peace and harmony can never exist in this world if the plight of even one of its' creatures is ignored. If we were to solve all the problems of poverty, disease, and overpopulation and still somehow lacked the single quality of compassion, we would still have a world not fit to live in.

Our Purpose

The purposes of the Society are to promote an aggressive spay/neuter program for cats and dogs to reduce the stray population with its attendant suffering; to encourage euthanasia if it is clear that there is no other humane solution for an animal; and to offer monetary assistance to aid these goals regardless of financial circumstances. The Society's paramount concern being animal welfare, to educate towards responsible pet ownership and compassionate understanding of and respect for all living creatures, and to be a voice for all animals mainly through the Society's newsletter "The Scratching Post".