

July 2010

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Newsletter



Chair's Report - Speech from 2010 AGM – 'our' Goodness Project

Carole Eldridge

My official speech can be found in the 2010 AGM package - if you have not received the information, please email Kate at admin@ottawatherapydogs.ca. It talks about our wonderful growth within the past year because of the contributions of many of you - our OTD Members and Associate Members! What follows is a version of the talk I presented at our AGM on May 25th, 2010. For photos of the AGM, flip to **p.6** of the newsletter.

Tonight I want to share my thoughts about history and how it may relate to OTD and the work we do. Last year 28 people attended our AGM – tonight I am looking at some 40 people. These enhanced numbers reflect the increased recognition of the valuable work we do to support the animal-human bond. Marilyn, Julianne, and John - our first members – must/would have been proud.

Our first Decade of the Volunteer Award will be presented posthumously to Marilyn Benoit tonight. Her family are here for her – a gift for OTD.



I want to personally welcome the attendance of 3 non-members. One of the goals of the Board in 2009 was to begin to engage the collaboration of other 'animal-serving' groups in Ottawa. With us tonight we have Dian McTaggart, of Therapeutic Paws of Canada, and Joanne Moss, Canadian Foundation for Animal Assisted Support Services. Our collaboration is in place with the energy of Margot Montgomery and the wishes of Dian and Joanne. Thank you for being here to support OTD. And then there is our unofficial OTD Photographer, Brittany Veinot – her record can be seen in this Newsletter.

Have any of you ever heard of Nicky Winton? My thought would be – very few. He was a man who, in 1938, chose to worry about the human bond. There were children in distress. Something needed to happen. Quietly he moved forward. As a result of his efforts 669 Jewish children left Czechoslovakia and moved to England. My Mother was 1 of those children. Without Nicky's efforts, I would not be here tonight.

How does this story connect to OTD?

Last Saturday I had a wonderful few hours at Bridgehead with another 'child' of one of 'Nicky's children'. We were sitting outside and I had brought my pups – PandaRu (Therapy Dog) and Tasu (will never be a Therapy Dog!). As folks came into Bridgehead – my pups became the welcoming Committee.

A Lady enters – PandaRu says a big ‘hi’ – she asks – is this the dog talked about in Kitchissippi Times? (May 20 2010 - A wonderful article written by a grand-daughter of 1 of our members – with photography provided by another grand-daughter!). I said – yes. Lady starts to cry and thanks me for the valuable work that is done by OTD.

How does this connect to the Nicky story? I always wear a ring –it might be referred to as ‘beaten’ silver.

Last year was the 70th anniversary of Nicky’s efforts. The Czech, German, Netherland, and Great Britain Governments acknowledged his contributions. A Steam Train left Prague on Sep 1st and arrived in England on Sep 4th, with 22 of the surviving children. I had the privilege of being there with my Mother - an amazing experience.

One of our stops was in Cologne. Germany. A Lady gives me a gift – the ring I always wear. She starts to cry. With the help of interpreters, I now know that her thought was – Nicky helped those in need. Why did she give me this gift of the ring? Elections which happened just before we arrived - 8%

for the new version of the Nazi party. Through interpreters, she told me that she wanted to be a part of the Goodness Project.

We are a small part of the Goodness Project as we talk about the animal-human bond. My Bridgehead experience proves that for me.

Community Outreach and Fundraising Committee Report

Margot Montgomery

The Community Outreach and Fundraising Committee meets monthly to coordinate initiatives. We accomplished much in 2009:

- Anonymous donor application and grant received for \$1500 to add 25 new members. Reports to Anonymous donor re grant progress/status on 15 July 2009 and 15 Jan 2010.
- Fall 2009 and Winter 2010 Newsletter stories on sources of OTD funds and fund-raising

activities.

- Chronology of OTD funding sources since inception – documented and maintained.
- Following posting a volunteer opportunity on Volunteer Ottawa ‘Opportunities’ web site, recruited Guy Mercier, Communications and Graphics volunteer / now an OTD Associate member and web master extraordinaire.
- Member reminder in Oct re United Way charitable campaign – results: \$3000 in 2010.
- List of Fundraising Ideas generated and maintained for inspiration.
- OTD Golf Tournament initiated for July 2010 but cancelled due to large effort and low potential funding return.

Looking ahead, the Committee’s priorities for 2010 include:

1. Ensuring OTD presence at key community events:
 - Volunteer Ottawa Volunteer Marketplace St Laurent Mall (11 Feb 2010);
 - Ottawa Physiotherapists Race (18 April 2010);
 - Ottawa Humane Society Wiggle Waggle Walkathon (12 Sept 2010);
 - AWARE - Animal Wellness Awareness Responsibility and Education (previously World Animal Day on 25 Sept 2010); and,
 - Blessing of the animals and memorial service, United Church at Low, Quebec. (3 Oct 2010).
2. Working to cultivate relationships with peer organizations such as Ottawa Humane Society,



Carole and PandaRu

Therapeutic Paws of Canada and the Canadian Foundation for Animal Assisted Support Services.

3. Helping members to promote financial support for and donations to OTD via United Way and other opportunities.
4. Reporting on grants received and applying for new grants for key OTD programs
5. Seeking media and other opportunities to build awareness of OTD in the community.

Letter from the Editor

Rachelle Pagé

I can't believe that it's already been a year that I've been with OTD as an Associate Member and as part of the Communications Committee and Newsletter team! Since changes seems to have been a theme for me in the past year – you may have noticed that my last name has changed, the result of reverting back to my maiden name – I couldn't help but notice all of the changes that OTD has undergone over the past year as well!

OTD membership continues to grow, we've welcomed new Board and Committee members, added a volunteer of the decade award, and new fundraising endeavours for the organizations are on the horizon.

You may recall that the last *Letter from the Editor* was written by Claire Heistek. After much consideration, Claire has decided to step down as Editor of the OTD Newsletter. We would all like to thank Claire for her countless contributions not only as Editor of the newsletter, but also as Co-Chair (along with Teresa LeGrand) of the OTD Communications Committee. I would personally like to thank her for her unbeknownst role of mentor to me!

Teresa, as well, has decided to step down as Co-Chair of the Communications Committee, which left the Chair position for the Committee open. I've also accepted the invitation to take on this role, with a bit of assistance from both Claire and Teresa when needed, who both remain Associate Members with OTD. This leaves quite the void on our Committee, so I encourage Members and Associate Members to contact me at communications@ottawatherapydogs.ca



Me and my dog Patches

if they, or anyone they may know, are interested in being part of the Communications Committee; there are a lot of interesting projects on the horizon that I am looking forward to working on!

Taking over as Editor of the Newsletter and as Chair of the Communications Committee strikes me as a bit scary, since I have two pairs of big shoes to fill, but it is

also an opportunity that I am looking forward to undertake. I especially look forward to working closely with Margot and the Community Outreach and Fundraising Committee on all these exciting new opportunities to get the

word out on OTD and all of the great things we do as an organization!

So, while I've only been with OTD for a year, I've had the privilege to attend two Annual General Meetings (AGMs), both at which I've cried. I think next year, I'll suggest that they have tissues on the tables! This just reinforces that I made the right decision to volunteer for this organization. OTD does amazing things! It is an incredible organization that was started by a remarkable woman, Marilyn Benoit! While I've never met Marilyn, I feel like I have because of all of the stories I've heard. At this year's AGM, it felt like she was there, alongside her family, who were in attendance to receive the volunteer of the decade award on her behalf.

I truly believe in setting goals for yourself and envisioning what you want to achieve. What is even more amazing is seeing the realization of those set goals and vision. I truly believe this is happening with OTD. We are achieving Marilyn's vision and I am sure she is watching over us and guiding us along the way!

I am looking forward to moving forward with OTD, growing, reaching and helping more people, achieving our mission of promoting an understanding of the values and benefits (enhanced physical, emotional and communication abilities) of the animal-human bond by offering a mutually beneficial and safe interaction with companion animals.

As Claire has mentioned before, this newsletter is by the members for the members of OTD and so I would encourage you to send us any news, interesting articles, facts, or stories that you would like to share. I believe the stories we have to share is what is truly at the heart of what we do.

Maggie's Gift

Pearl Jutzi

I was witness recently to a very special response from my Ottawa Therapy Dog, Maggie, which I would like to share with you.

Maggie and I were at CHEO for our regular visit to the psychiatric assessment unit where we typically see 4 teenagers, one at a time, for 15 minutes each. That day, for reasons unknown to me, two girls were brought in together for the first time slot.

I had met one of the girls last time and she was confident and comfortable both with Maggie and with me; the other girl not so. She was timid, withdrawn, looked frightened and in emotional pain. Although she said she had a dog at home and her visit with Maggie was optional, she did not wish to interact with us in any way. Instead, she pushed herself against the corner wall, as far away as possible from Maggie and the other girl, refusing to respond to or participate in any of the activities.

Finally, after more than half the time had passed, I was successful in

persuading her to come and sit on the mat while the other girl was grooming Maggie. Again, she chose the furthest corner and curled up pressed into the wall. For me, it seemed to be as much as were going to achieve that day.

But this was not good enough for Maggie. After a few more minutes of grooming and with no prompting whatever, Maggie suddenly got up, left the first girl, went over to the timid child and literally flopped herself on her feet.

Initially, the girl was startled and looked surprised, but she quickly broke into a faint smile for the first time and reached out to pet Maggie.

Maggie's generous gesture broke down a small part of the barrier and the now not quite so lonely and not quite so frightened child was able to give Maggie a warm goodbye on leaving.

Maggie's intuitive sense of pain recognition and the knowledge of how to respond with her gift of self continues to amaze me.



Maggie the OTD therapy dog

FAREWELL TO OTD FRIENDS

**DONNA AND PENNY-
RETIRED FROM 2 ½ YEARS
SERVICE AT FOREST HILL
LTC**

**ERIKA AND ASPEN-
RETIRED FROM PARK
PLACE RR AND HARMER
HOUSE**

**GOOD LUCK ALL IN YOUR
NEW VENTURES!**

News from the Office

Kate Miller

There has been a lot of confusion and curiosity about the mysterious OTD "office", so I'm going to finally spill the beans. I have had many sad calls from people dropping off their applications at 1500 Bank St. in Ottawa, expecting to meet other dog people surrounded by their happy pets.

Alas, as most of you now know, you are greeted by a tiny post box at the UPS store.

The real office is in my Almonte home where I have my OTD laptop and cell phone, many, many files and my two constant companions under the desk or blocking the doorway. Bro (red Golden Retriever) is a therapy dog and Clark (Boston Terrier) is not. My window looks out on a gorgeous cherry tree that attracts cardinals, goldfinches, hummingbirds, chipmunks and squirrels. Just past the tree the wide Mississippi River is my backyard where just yesterday a bald eagle was perched on a tree on the shoreline. Not too shabby and a perfect setting for keeping things in perspective when OTD work and life in general gets too busy.

Fabulous new web site launched

Associate member, Guy Mercier, has spent countless hours over the past months "renovating" our web site. I hope that all of you have checked it out and marvelled at the new bold look and many added features.

The OTD Members Pages are particularly useful for downloading forms, creating cards and memorabilia for the people you visit as well as accessing OTD promo items. The link to the Members pages is on the top right

of the home page- your pass word is [gooddog](#).

New to the web site are seven great Team Member profiles. If you haven't submitted one for you and your dog, I urge you to do so.

Along with all the fun stuff, Guy has been incredibly helpful to me in installing the yearly Facility Feedback Form on line. Last year we had a 30% return rate of the form from facility contacts, this year it is well above 75% and still counting. Guy just made it easy for everyone.

Thanks to Guy for all his hard work, professionalism, good humour and patience in dealing with some of us techno-geeks!

OTD membership over 100 members

Yes we have reached that magic number. As of June 1st we have 102 associate, honorary and visiting members and we continue to grow.

We held our 3rd and 4th set of evaluations in Feb/March and April/May of this year and now have 12 new teams, plus two "2nd" dogs for existing members. Most of the new teams are happily settled in their placement and the remaining few will be 'launched' by the end of June. Hopefully, it will be a quiet, peaceful summer!

READ program expands

Also growing is the READ program. We have 7 new READ teams who will begin their work in schools, libraries and children's programs in the summer and fall. Congratulations to: Janice and Azor, Lesley and Taffy, Claire and Max, Mary Jane and Lily, Sandra and Xecel, Bob and Kelty and Karen and Gogo.

Upcoming events

We'll be asking for your participation and support at several public events coming up in the fall. OTD will have a booth and need an OTD presence at these events.

- Humane Society's Annual Wiggle Waggle Walk on Sept. 12th
- Animal Wellness, Awareness, Respect and Education on Sept. 25th
- Volunteer Marketplace, Bayshore Plaza, date not confirmed

Remember to check out our web site often for updates and photos of current, recent and past events.

Baby Bulletin!

And I don't mean puppies, this is a real baby boy born to Jeannie, our wonderful, long time evaluator and member. Congratulations to Jeannie who we hope to see again in the fall, baby on hip.

Congratulations and Welcome to New OTD Members and Associate Members!

Associate Members:

- Marlene F.

New Teams:

- Monique and Maya
- Emily and Piper
- Dave and Piper
- Christina and Aries
- Jody and Parker
- Cindy and Scout
- Brad and Libby
- Elaine and Dixie
- Rosemary and Tara
- Patti and Lexi
- Chantale and Moogly
- Emmeline and Max

2010 AGM Photos!



Chantel Hutter presenting the first Volunteer of the Decade Award to Dr. Paul Benoit and his son, Dan Benoit, on behalf of their wife and mother, Marilyn Benoit.



Guest Speaker, Dr. Stephanie B Reid, DVM, CVA, who gave a wonderful presentation about Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine

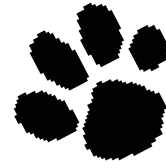


Margot Montgomery, Chair extraordinaire of Community Outreach and Fundraising Committee receiving the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award





Julianne Labreche (former Board Chair) receiving her 10-year Certificate of Service to OTD



OTD Registrar, John Rathier, 'almost' receiving his 10-Year Certificate of Service to OTD (Footnote - the lapse in organization has been filled -the real document should be in hand)



Member Pearl Jutzi giving us an energetic and instructive presentation on how WE can support OTD by encouraging friends and family to donate through United Way



Interview with Brittany Veinot - PhoDOGrapher!

Kate Miller

I get a lot of e-mails from people interested in joining OTD with their dogs or simply offering their service or particular talent.

Brittany Veinot sent a message asking if she could photograph a few of our dogs "on the job". She freelances for a dog magazine that was looking for pictures of therapy dogs in action. I considered this request for about a nano-second as Brit also offered her photography services to OTD, for whatever our needs might be.

I arranged two photo sessions with members and their dogs, one at the ROMHC with Carole and PandaRu and the other at an OCAPDD day program with Dee and Kari.

True to her word, Brit has agreed to let us publish her photos on our web site and came to our AGM to photograph many of the memorable moments (see



The deaf-blind shih-tzu



Kari at the Loeb Centre

AGM article).

I decided to ask Brit some questions about herself and how she came to be a pet photographer.

KM: Obviously you love dogs. Did you grow up in a household of animals and do you have dogs now?

BV: I grew up on a farm with dogs, ponies and horses, and everything from ducks to guinea pigs, even a pet racoon for a while. I currently have two dogs- an 8 year old German Shepherd/Collie named Sadie and a 7 year old Chihuahua mix named Shenzi.

KM: Dog photography is a specialized area of photography- how did you get into it?

BV: I do many types of photography, but my love for dogs made this my "niche". I kept going to the park taking photos of my own dogs and whoever else was there, and realized that focusing on dogs is WAY more fun than

other types of photography.

KM: You do a lot of work for the dog rescue organization "Hopeful Hearts" and other animal based charities. How did you get into this?

BV: I've always wanted to help rescues, but have not had the cash to donate or the room for fosters. When I first moved to Ottawa I started asking some rescues if I could help out at events, which also gave me a chance to promote my business. One day another photographer who was supposed to do a Santa Photos event for Hopeful Hearts realized that she was double booked, and sent an e-mail out to photographers that she knew ... I jumped on the opportunity. I thought it would be just another fun event and that would be the end of it. Unlike some rescues I have worked with, Hopeful Hearts is more like a family. They welcomed me in and asked me to be involved. A whirlwind of ideas and fundraisers came about, and I became very passionate about volunteering and rescue.

KM: Tell us about your most unusual shoot, any funny stories to share?

BV: The first thing that comes to mind is a little deaf/blind shih-tzu who came into a rescue centre (Westminster Pet Sanctuary) a couple of months ago. I did two things to get her attention. I had the camera on a tripod and set up ready to take the shot the second it happened. Once she was sitting, comfortable and relaxed, I started tapping gently on the ground, and she started sniffing around to see where it was coming from! Eventually her head turned so that she was “looking” at me. For a second shot, I had the dog’s foster mom, Kelli, walk back and forth behind me. The dog seemed to have a sense of where she was as she had grown attached to Kelli and followed with her head. I waited, and caught the shot when she looked animated and curious!



PandaRu at the ROMHC

For more information on Brittany and her thriving pet photography business, go to www.PhoDOGrapher.ca.



Brittany and her dogs

In Memoriam

SUNNY

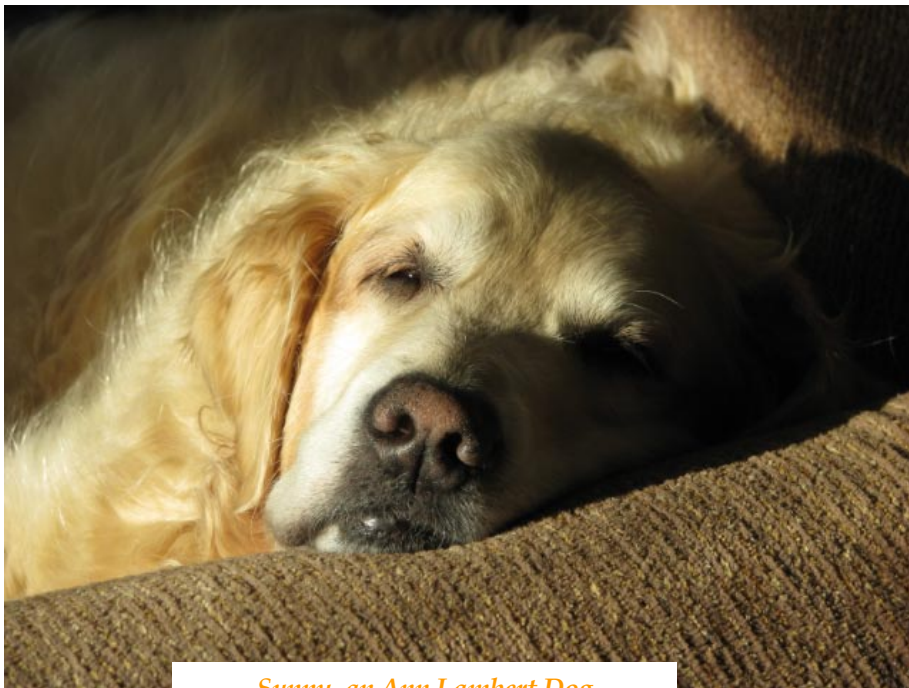
Sylvie Lambert

Had I been asked to provide this write-up even a month ago, I would have either declined or drafted a maudlin and tearful account of Sunny's last days.

You see, not only was Sunny my first dog, but she was also an Ann Lambert dog. Let me explain: Sunny came into my life at a difficult time. Since I had no children, and I had wanted a dog ever since I could remember, I thought that this would be the perfect time. I

breeder would be interviewing me, not the other way around. So I drove out to meet Ann one bleak winter day. I immediately sensed that I was dealing with someone who loved dogs so viscerally that if I did not meet up to the standards, I would simply not do. For someone who loves dogs as I do, I knew that I had found the perfect breeder.

I picked up my little bundle of white fur one early spring day in 1998. Sunny and I approached the learning curve on the same level: she knew very little, and I knew even less. Luckily, Sunny must have sensed my state of mind because she somehow took control,



Sunny, an Ann Lambert Dog

contacted all the local reputable Golden Retriever breeders until I landed on Ann, who happened not only to bear the same surname as me but also had a puppy available.

Applying for an Ann Lambert dog is similar to applying for top-security clearance. Don't get me wrong, since I had never owned a dog, this was most comforting to me. It turned out that the

something Cesar Millán in the Dog Whisperer would have gently scolded me for. The one amusing anecdote I remember about her puppy training period was that I enrolled her in THREE different puppy-training classes in THREE different parts of Ottawa. It was not because Sunny was difficult to train: it was because I simply had no clue.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS 2010

All of the following merchants require proof of current OTD membership (ID badge) and will honor discounts to OTD members.

- **Berry's Food Store**, Glebe Store- 15% discount on general merchandise.
- **Critter Jungle**, Hampton Park Plaza- 10% discount on general dog related merchandise.
- **TLC Grooming**, Canotek Rd- 5% discount on grooming services.
- **Bark & Fitz**, Westboro and Centrum- 10% discount on non-food related merchandise, grooming (not nail clipping or u-bath), OTD members must register with the HYDRANT program at the store and provide contact info for their system.
- **Natural Pet Foods**, Westboro and Carleton Place- 10% discount on all dog related merchandise.
- **Kaleidoscope Kids**, Glebe- 15% discount on books for OTD READ members.
- **Blair Animal Hospital**
- **A guy, a girl, two dogs and a cat**, 10% discount on store items, except food.
- ***NEW* - Wag Pet Shop Inc.** Wag will offer all Ottawa Therapy Dogs current members 10% off on all merchandise and food. Exclude: drinks and sale/discounted items. Please have your members present their current membership card for discount. 1071 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 3W9, 613.730.4647, www.wagpetshop.ca

I eventually caught on. What it took Sunny to learn in one year took me seven years. She turned out to be the most amazing girl. Not only did she become a therapy dog (we visited the Alzheimers Ward at Billings Lodge for nearly three years), but shortly before she died, she had become a READ dog. This was a job Sunny thoroughly enjoyed in her senior years, since all she had to do was curl up next to a child and start snoring softly as the child read something to her in any language their little heart desired.

In March of this year, Sunny woke up one morning, unable to walk. Within three days, she was put down as a result of aggressive osteosarcoma. I could not let her suffer even though I may have waited four to six hours too long. She had spent all her life trying to soothe my pain and that of others: so how could I possibly not return the favour as quickly as possible?

A little over three months have gone by, and I have recently opened my heart to another Ann Lambert dog. Her name is Rockin' Robin, and she will be another therapy dog, mark my words.

OTD MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS!

WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!!

These would be strictly volunteer activities. If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Susan Roberts at lynwoodgoldens@storm.ca (613) 264-0978 or Margot Montgomery at director2@ottawatherapydogs.ca (613) 232-2463

We are happy to report that OTD has grown this year in terms of number of handler teams as well as the number of facilities that we visit. This is great news for the community. However, with that growth has come additional work for the folks who coordinate OTD activities. Given this situation, support is needed in a couple of areas in order to alleviate the workload on a few people.

We are actively soliciting support in a couple of areas from members who feel that they would like to help OTD continue to grow in its commitment to the community. We would like to hear from folks who are organized and "people-oriented" and who might be interested in providing support in any of the following areas:

- Provide assistance and potential backup to our Admin/Volunteer Coordinator for the coordination of the OTD orientation sessions (currently about 4 times a year):
 - Arrange for facility where orientations are to be held
 - Arrange for presenters
 - Contact candidates with details of the session
 - Assemble paperwork and presentations required for the session.
 - Attend the session and manage the paperwork required for the candidates and pass the paperwork back to the Admin/Volunteer Coordinator for ongoing management
- Provide assistance and potential backup to our Admin/Volunteer Coordinator for the coordination of the OTD evaluation sessions (currently 8-10 times a year):
 - Arrange for facility where evaluations are to be held
 - Arrange for evaluators and helpers to be present
 - Contact the candidates with details of the session
 - Assemble paperwork required for the session.
 - Attend the evaluation and manage the paperwork required for the successful candidates and pass the paperwork back to the Admin/Volunteer Coordinator for ongoing management.
- Provide assistance in the annual membership renewal process
 - Assist the Admin/Volunteer Coordinator with the management of the annual membership renewal process. This starts in November and carries on into January while renewals are being received:
 - Assist in the distribution of renewal notices
 - Upon receipt, process the renewals and provide renewals back to the member.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

DONORS

Minto: Lois Drummond - senior graphic designer
(donated logo 2005)
Leimerk Developments (donated \$5000 2005)
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 593
Your Credit Union
Ottawa Veterinary Hospital and Bells Corners Animal
Hospital
Best Friends School of Dog Training
West Québec School Board
Alta Vista Bayview Animal Hospital
Open Hand Group
Bark and Fitz
The Co-operators
Tivoli Florists
Canadian Foundation for Animal Assisted Support
Services (CFAASS)

FACILITIES

Best Friends School of Dog Training (Kim Cooper)
Bruyère Continuing Care
Ottawa Paramedic Service HQ (John Rathier)
The Training Hall (Frances Holmes)
Carolark Centre for Applied Canine
Low United Church

OTD OFFICE Summer HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

KATE MILLER

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co-ordinator

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Email:

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Hours: flexible, please
leave a message and I'll
get back to you ASAP.

Here's Looking at You!

The Communications Committee wants to hear your thoughts!

- How do you like the OTD Newsletter?
- Do you have an OTD success story that you would like to share?

Send us your thoughts or ideas at:

newsletter@ottawatherapydogs.ca

