

# Baie Ste Marie Animal Society

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Warden Ronnie LeBlanc  
Clare Councilors  
Stephane Cyr, CAO:

Baie Ste Marie Animal Society was started in June of 2012 by a group of people whose goal was to build an animals shelter and help animals in need. Since there was no actual shelter building in the Clare area, we felt that was the most important place to start. It was important not only to care for stray and abandoned animals but give them a safe place to be cared for and/or medically treated while waiting to find their forever homes.

We started by forming a Board of Directors and registering Baie Ste Marie Animal Society as a non profit organization. Then we began our fundraising efforts to start construction of our animal shelter. A 2 story building, housing up to 12 dogs and up to 20 cats at times. We acquired the appropriate permits and began our quest to have local businesses donate material for the construction. We received donations from Home Hardware, Clare and Weymouth, Kents, Yarmouh, UJ Robichaud just to name a few. We had people come in and help with pouring cement, a local Electrician gave his time and even young ones volunteered to do some much needed painting. Our President, Joey Wagner and his father donated countless hours to build the shelter from the ground up. BSMAS bought over \$20,000.00 of material by having fundraising events which included selling t-shirts, hats, calendars, cookbooks and Christmas wreaths. We also had events such as Rappie Pie sales, Bake sales, Chicken BBQ, Yard Sales and Tickets sales just to name a few. Now almost 4 year later we have successfully rehomed over 200 dogs and cats. And even though the shelter is up and running there is still work to done.

Baie Ste Marie Animal Society helps animals in the Clare, Yarmouth, Digby and surrounding areas. We start by having the animals brought to our local Veterinarian clinic to have them checked for any medical condition. We make sure the cats are FIV/FeLV tested and all animals are vaccinated, dewormed, flea treated, spayed/neutered and the dogs are microchipped. We work with the people of the community to teach them how to properly

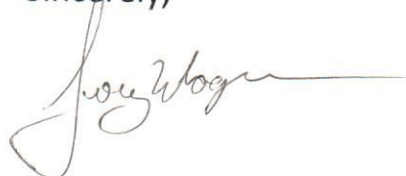
take care of their pets and give advice when needed. We take every situation that comes to us and deal with that particular issue whether it be health, behavior, death in the family or life changes, example, Grandma needing to move to a care facility. We also have a trial period for the animal and their new owners to make sure that it is the right fit for both the animals and the family. BSMAS raised over \$40,000.00 last year by fundraisers, donations and adoption fees and over \$30,000.00 went to cover vet costs. The remaining funds were used for expenses such as supplies, food, travel, advertising etc. This means we were able to help over 100 animals get the care they needed and a chance for a new life. BSMAS also puts in countless hours in fundraising, adoptions, vet visits and day to day operation of the shelter, all done by volunteers.

Since opening our shelter in 2012 to animals in need, our demand to help the animals has grown. This means more demand on BSMAS and we are looking to the Municipality for an additional stream of funding to continue doing the very important work we do for these animals. Without our services animals would no longer have a place to go and people would no longer have a place to turn to for help.

What we are asking of you, the Municipality of Clare, is for financial assistance in the amount of \$4, 000.00. BSMAS would also be willing to meet with the Municipality in the hope of maybe providing a service for animals in the Clare area. Each animal that comes through our shelter doors will cost us a minimum of \$300.00 in vet cost, and that is if the animal is healthy, the cost can increase dramatically if not. Yes, we do ask an adoption fee, \$300.00 for dogs and \$125.00 for cats. This does not cover all the costs associated with these animals or the day to day operations of the shelter itself. Some of these animals are here for longer stays than others, sometime months. This additional money would help us to get the word out, cast a wider net marketing these animals that otherwise would have very limited options. The work Baie Ste Marie Animal Society does is very important to this community.

We have included our 2015 Financial Statement, photos of our shelter and a few of the animals we have helped. We hope that the Municipality of Clare will be able to see the benefit that BSMAS is providing and provide us with some financial assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joey Wagner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joey Wagner, President  
BSMAS