

Citizen Canine Companion Society



Paws for Love

Newsletter Volume 3 June 2021

Opening statement:

This is the third newsletter for Citizen Canine Companion (CCC).

For a brief history from inception to December 2020 and more about who we are, please read Volumes 1 and 2.

Letter from the president:

This newsletter comes to you again as we continue to be in a difficult time in the world in general and in our country and communities. Many are still working from or at home for other reasons. Some are home alone. Yet one is never alone if they have a dog, or a cat, or a bird or any creature. I found out this very clearly as now without my dog, I feel so very alone. This newsletter is mostly about him.

About Smyth

I am so very sad to tell all of you of the passing of my lovely boy Smyth. Some of you that know me well are already aware.

He died peacefully at home with me right beside him, April 30 2021. He was one month short of 15.

A day or so later, I got out and painted his face on a one panel fence that is in front of my home.



On May 31 we honoured him on his birthday.

Everyone around here knew him. And when they saw me painting they wanted to stop and chat. It was very difficult yet I needed to do it and I am pleased with the result. He will always be with us here.

I have written a little story with lots of his pictures as a memory for me. Here is an excerpt from it.

Smyth was two years old when I adopted him. He was a handsome athletic young dog. Smyth yes with a “y”. And no “e”. Not Smythe. His person before me named all her dogs one syllable names, and each one had to have a y in the name.

I got a work contract on the island and then he had two places to explore, and live; my area in New Westminster, and his week day’s area of Esquimalt and Victoria. One time on a walk in the Esquimalt area we were stopped by a local photographer and he took two great pictures of him.

This is his macho dog look.



Smyth was my first inspiration for the fence. It expanded into a project for the love of all dogs and some cats too, and then for the BC and Alberta Guide Dogs. It grew and I had so many faces and Cherry Lane Canines and Cats came to be, and an extension of it. In total over 100 dogs and a few cats, and Smyth has his face on these fences in 5 places. (Well 6 including the logos)



At the beginning of the fence projects I also started Citizen Canine Companion Society, and yes he was the inspiration for it, and for the logo, except he is not blue.

Smyth was also my inspiration for my presentations to TransLink in 2014 and 2018. The presentation was to ask for a bylaw change to allow dogs on transit at set times and conditions.

The presentation was well received and I thought I was close; yet when I had thought I might make another presentation, the world was in a pandemic (spring 2020).

He did not like the rain, he was a whippet and no respectable whippet does. He would make it quite clear, plonking down his feet as if to say, I dare you. One time we had gone on a walk and we were near the bus terminal in New West when the rain came down in sheets. I said to a driver, I guess I can't take him, and he said, just come on in. I was very thankful for the kindness of this bus driver. (This was before my presentations to translink- I am sure it also inspired me to pursue it)



He was a happy boy and he ate all his meals, in the last month or so he discovered a liking for yogurt and also cream cheese. And he would never turn down chicken.

Smyth passed away at 10AM on Friday April 30 2021, only one month short of his 15th birthday

I was with him and had my arm around him on his floor bed in my home. It appeared to me he may have had one of several small strokes in the last hours and his passing was peaceful.

Smyth has been my partner my companion, and has been my "everything". I will miss him desperately. I hope he can now catch up with the other whippets and other dog friends before him and run as free as the wind.

He was Smyth Halsey and will be missed forever by his person Margaret Halsey.

My home is very empty and I am so very alone without him. He was always there for me, as I was for him.

In his last two months it became difficult for him to walk very far. He had lost a lot of muscle in his back legs, and he also had a lump on his right hind leg. I could get him up and about in the garden. He was a senior and while in good spirits, he was getting frail. I knew then we did not have long yet I wanted him to feel the wind and smell the smells of not just my house and garden, as by mid March that was all he could do.

I got him a wheel cart from Handicapped pets. It took some learning more on my part than his but we were able to get out in it, and we had a lovely outing at Sapperton Landing a week before his passing. He was only in the wheel cart for 15 or so minutes, yet he got the idea of it and his head was looking toward the river and I believe he was taking in all the smells and sites. We found a lovely place to sit and rest after, with his friend Brian and person, and he looked so relaxed and almost pleased with himself.

Handicapped pets put a tribute on their Facebook page for him, with some pictures I had sent to them.



I wish I had taken a picture at the river, but I did have some of him in his cart, in Queens park area and in my front garden

“Rest in peace to this wonderful soul. Smyth was so loved by his family and friends.

We are happy that we could help him get up and going for the few weeks that he could.”

“I am so saddened by his loss and feel so lost without him. He was everything to me. I knew he did not have a year, but I hoped he had a few more months. Yet it was his time, and he died peacefully here with me at his home.”

Smyth’s last outing was going to the local park with his mom and friends. He got to be by the river and enjoy the smells and the breeze in the grass.

You will be very missed Smyth, run free”.

You can read more about this wonderful organization at <https://handicappedpetscanada.com/>

If or when your pet gets ill or frail, they really need our love and understanding and we need to be very careful not to be sad for them and around them. As I mentioned in the last newsletter I learned that we need to be stronger, and make our friend feel safe and comfortable, be happy around them, and not be sad. This experience helped me in Smyth's senior time. I danced even more for him then. I could never let him see I was sad.

About Citizen Canine Companion (CCC): Our focus is to improve the acceptance of dogs in our society, and to help more people become aware of their importance in our lives and our well being. Our dog is our "Citizen Canine Companion." Citizen Canine Companion - For the love of the dog. I am the founder Margaret Halsey and President. It became a Registered Not for Profit society in British Columbia on February 28 2017.

Accomplishments and Projects include:

It has been another very quiet 6 months for CCC. No new books or fences, yet I remind myself again of the overall mission of CCC, and I know that we continue to pursue that. I continued to walk every day with Smyth while he could and also with his friend Brian and his person once a week. I continued to make at least one person smile when out there with him. Other dogs and people do the same thing.

We were interviewed on April 13 2021 by Ashley Burr of City TV and were on the news that night. The heading were- Street art honoring man's best friend - New West dog fence raising money for BC and Alberta Guide dogs - More space needed for popular pet fence. Here is an excerpt of what Ashley said.

"It is inspired by Halsey's whippet Smyth who makes a number of appearances along the fences"



And if you want to see the broadcast you can find it at <https://www.citynews1130.com/video/2021/04/13/street-art-honours-new-westminster-pets-artist-now-searching-for-more-space/>

Smyth was really the star of the show.

Who we are: At the moment we continue as a one person organization. Margaret Halsey wears many hats. Margaret is also the artist for the fence, and our logo, and the producer writer for the books, and our newsletter.

Have you noticed any new fences in New Westminster or Burnaby? If so, let us know. And if you have a dog or cat you would like painted on the next fence please send the pictures by email even if you have contacted us before please contact again.

In memory of:

I know that many of you have wanted your dog or cat painted on the fence in memory of, and many others have their companions sharing their life and wanted them on the fence. I don't know how many of the dogs and cats on the fence now are dog and cat angels. One person whose dog passed away wanted me to put the dates on the painting and then we both decided we did not want to and I am so glad I did not do it. The dogs and cats on the fence are there for us for as long as the fences are, and I hope that will be for many many more years. We don't need a start and end date.

I would however like to honour all the dogs and cats that have passed away that are on the fence, or are dogs and cats you have loved. I would like to **dedicate the next newsletter to the them all**. Please let me know if yours is one of them, and if you can share a sentence or two, I can put it in a tribute. Also if you have any wisdom to share as to how you stayed strong, I know I am not the only one who would appreciate it.

About Harris:



Harris was Smyth's friend. He was not on the fence; he will be when I get a new one. Harris, from Dogwood Rescue, was with his person Gordon for just a year and a half. He was adopted as a senior and on April 19 2021 Harris passed away. He had a good happy life and was 16. Harris was our friend and we want to honour him in this letter also.

Masks/bandanas, books: We still have a few really nice face masks. Selling them at cost (\$17.) We also have some Cherry Lane books at \$30. and a few Dogs of 6th and Devoy at \$20.

News about Bertie: Bertie and Bert had a litter of 6 on December 21 2020. There is a picture of them in the Paw Prints Spring 2021 43. They are all doing well and now carry on with training. www.bcandalbertaguidedogs/volunteer and www.bcandalbertaguidedogs/sponsorapuppy

Check out their web page to read more, and see how to get involved. So far I am not very good at on line events; however this one may be one I will be at. **"Ties & Tails Virtual Charity Auction & Gala Saturday, October 23, 2021**

Current: Check out the **Air Hugs**. -Here is news about it from **Oana Capota the Museum curator**, and from the Facebook page.

"This new photo exhibition documents the first few months of the pandemic in New Westminster as seen from the city streets. Book your time" Thank you again for being part of this exhibition and for providing such a nice respite along our city streets!" **Oana Capota**

"The exhibit is now on display until Sunday September 5, 2021. I included some photos of your pet fences in the exhibition." . Check the Facebook site at:

[https://www.facebook.com/NWMuseumArchive/photos/a.109981242394347/4208789099180187,](https://www.facebook.com/NWMuseumArchive/photos/a.109981242394347/4208789099180187)

Portrait of your pet: On paper or canvas in pastel, acrylic

With every portrait a donation will be made to the dog or cat organization of your choice.

Charity supported- BC and Alberta Guide Dogs and Dogs for Autism Check out their web site at www.bcandalbertaguidedogs.com

"Fur faces on fence projects raise money for the BC and Alberta Guide Dogs and Dogs for Autism." MH

Writer and Editor – Margaret Halsey

