

GTHS Expands Access to Care Through New Pet Pantry Depots

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Collingwood, ON (October 25, 2023) – The GTHS is thrilled to announce the expansion of its popular Pet Pantry Program to 9 Community Depots, thanks to a generous grant from [Humane Canada](#). The GTHS Pet Pantry Program, established in 2020, is a donation-based program aimed to ensure that pet food and cat litter is more accessible for individuals and families who are in need. The service is strictly confidential.

“At the GTHS, we know that when a family is struggling to put food on the table, pets are impacted too,” explains Karen Marsh, GTHS animal centre manager. “We are committed to helping pets and people thrive and recognize that, at times, pet owners will prioritize food for their pets over nutrition for themselves. We have made huge strides toward pet retention by keeping pets with their families as much as possible, even during the toughest of times when resources are lacking. Pet Pantry is perhaps our most well used program because times are tough, and we are all feeling it.”

Many Humane Societies in Ontario are seeing more challenges being faced by pet owners. The costs associated with pet ownership have continued to increase sharply, along with rising inflation and the growing cost of living. “When the GTHS learned that the cost of pet food had increased 46% since 2020, we knew we had to elevate our efforts by providing access to care for every pet parent in need,” states Sonya Reichel, GTHS executive director. “This year we have seen the need for our Pet Pantry continue to increase, so we are incredibly grateful for the grant we have received from [Humane Canada](#), as it has allowed us to establish nine Pet Pantry Depots in our catchment area. Community members who need dog and cat food can simply visit one of our Pet Pantry Depots and pick up what they need.”

Community partners, like [Beaver Valley Outreach](#) in the Town of the Blue Mountains, have embraced this idea, with executive director, Carolyn Letourneau explaining, “it is a great compliment to the food cubby we operate in the Town of the Blue Mountains, as it ensures that our furry friends have access to a regular supply of pet food. Beaver Valley Outreach is thrilled to be participating in the Pet Pantry Depot program with GTHS.”

The locations of the nine new Pet Pantry Depots are as follows:

Collingwood Depots

- Collingwood Public Library
 - Address: 55 Ste. Marie St., Collingwood
 - Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 8:00 pm., Friday: 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (note: closed Sundays in July and August)
 - How to Access: Located in the community pantry on the second floor. Completely anonymous, but library staff can assist if pet food is not in the cabinet.
- Project Butterfly Community Food Pantry
 - Address: 200 Erie St. (Erie Street Community Church)
 - Hours: 24/7
 - How to Access: Completely anonymous, can be accessed any time. Restocked at various times throughout the month.
- Collingwood Ontario Works Office
 - Address: 485 Second St., Collingwood
 - Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
 - How to Access: Inquire with staff at the front desk.
- Salvation Army
 - Address: 55 Ste. Marie St., Collingwood
 - Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Wednesday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
 - How to Access: By appointment. Inquire with food bank staff. Contact by phone at 705-445-9222.

The Town of the Blue Mountains Depots

- L.E. Shore Memorial Library
 - Address: 173 Bruce St., Thornbury
 - Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 10:00 am to 5 pm, Tuesday, Thursday: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
 - How to Access: Located in Pet Pantry cabinet in the entry way. Please note, the cabinet is always unlocked. Completely anonymous, but library staff can assist if needed.
- Beaver Valley Outreach
 - Address: 54 King St. E., Thornbury
 - Hours: Monday – Thursday 10 am to 4 pm
 - How to Access: By appointment. Inquire with BVO staff. Contact by phone at 519-599-2577 ext.121.

Wasaga Beach & Clearview Township Depots

- Wasaga Beach Public Library
 - Address: 120 Glenwood Dr., Wasaga Beach
 - Hours: Tuesday–Friday: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm., Saturday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm., Sunday: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
 - How to Access: Located in the community pantry in the library. Completely anonymous, but library staff can assist if pet food is not in the cabinet.
- Wasaga Beach Ministerial Food Bank
 - Address: 818 Mosely St., Unit 2, Wasaga Beach
 - Hours: Tuesday: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Thursday: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.
 - How to Access: By appointment. Inquire during food bank hours. Contact by phone at 705-429-6464.
- Clearview Community Church (Stayner Campus)
 - Address: 1070 County Rd. 42, Stayner
 - Hours: Monday – Friday: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
 - How to Access: Call during church office hours to arrange a pickup. Contact by phone at 705-428-6543.

Information on how to access these services, hours of operation, as well as details on how organizations can become a Pet Pantry Depot can be found by visiting gths.ca/gths-pet-pantry/.



Pictured Right: Pet Pantry Volunteer Merri Poole loads her car with Pet Pantry supplies for delivery out to members of our community.



Georgian Triangle Humane Society

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The Georgian Triangle Humane Society

The GTHS is a non-profit charity that operates an Animal Centre serving the south Georgian Bay region by providing shelter for homeless animals and adopting them to caring families. They offer innovative programs that enhance and support the human-animal bond. These programs include Lifelong Learning, Access to Care and Animal Transport for pets in underserved communities.