

HISTORY OF THE HALIFAX KENNEL CLUB

The first show of the Halifax Kennel Club was sponsored by the Gyro Club of Halifax and held on August 28, 1943 at the Shirley Street Arena in Halifax under the rules of the Canadian Kennel Club. The Secretary for the show was Geoffrey G. Ryder. President at the time was W.P. Moore and Vice-President was J.R. Eldridge. The Chairman for the show was S.E. Kennedy and the capable show Superintendent was J.D. Whiteley. The judge for this event was Walter Reeves from Oakville, Ontario. Exhibitors came from as far away as Illinois, USA and from many parts of Ontario.

Some of the Catalogue advertisements consisted of Gro Pup Dog Food made by Kellogg's of London, Ontario, Samuel Cunard and Company (wholesale and Retail Coal, Coke, and Oil and Heat merchants since 1835), Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company, Famous Players Theaters (Capital, Garrich, Orpheus and Oxford), Bon Ton Café on Sackville Street (boasting the largest dining room in the city), Maritime Towing and Salvage, L.E. Shaw Limited (manufacturers of brick, building tile and other burned clay products), the Lord Nelson Hotel, Cousins Limited (cleaners and launderers), Wm. Stairs Son & Morrow Ltd. (hardware), T. Hagan & Company (boiler makers, ship repairs), Coleman Machine Company Limited and Wm Robertson and Sons (contractors and supplies), Robert Simpson Eastern Limited, among many more well known businesses.

The Halifax Kennel Club was incorporated the following year on April 6th, 1944. The objectives of the Club was to promote and encourage the welfare of the purebred dog: to use its best efforts to guard the interests of the owners and breeders of purebred dogs, insofar as canine matters are concerned; to conduct conformation shows and Obedience Trials and to raise money for other dog related non-profit organizations. Over the years, donations have been made to The Atlantic Veterinary Teaching College in Prince Edward Island, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Dalhousie Wolf Research, Hearing Ear Dogs program, the SPCA, the Bide-A-while Animal Shelter and most recently, the Halifax Regional Fire Department for oxygen masks for dogs and cats. The HKC has been a strong supporter of the Junior Handler Competitions held in the area in the belief that the future of activities associated with the Purebred Dog rests with our young people.

In the early years, the Club held dog shows at the Arena on Shirley Street in Halifax and at the Halifax Forum. These shows were known as Benched Shows where dogs were on a bench from the time the show started until it finished, only to be let off to go in the ring for competition or to go exercise. Shows were later held at arenas in Bedford, Windsor, Spryfield, and Sackville and one year at the Halifax Metro Centre. For many years Halifax Kennel Club also teamed up with the Dartmouth Kennel Club to hold six days of a summer circuit at Cole Harbour Place in Dartmouth. For the past number of years Exhibition Park has been home to all the Club's Conformation shows and Obedience trials. This year, 2008, the Halifax Kennel Club is celebrating the 250th Conformation Show on August 31, 2008 and it is also holding it's very first Rally Obedience Trials. A new fun competition for dog and handler.

The club was fortunate to have many dedicated members who contributed much to the Club over the years. Recognition must go to the founders, W. P. Moore, J. R. Eldridge, G.G. Ryder, G.F.L. Horner, A.T. Johnson all of Halifax and A.V. Martin of Bedford. Remembering early dedicated members such as Mike and Daisy Andrews, *Sylvester DeWolfe*, Francis Coughlan, Harry Storey, Ona and Howard O'Flaherty, Mike and Frankie McDonald, Charles (Chuck) Dowling, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Robinson, Mary Daye, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Montaque, Rowena Claydon and to all those who today carry on the tradition of sportsmanship in the world of purebred dogs through their hard work and dedication.

The Halifax Kennel Club holds five Championship Dog Shows and Obedience Trials every year and provides its Membership with a Newsletter every month except July, August and December. Meetings take place the 4th Tuesday of each month, except those mentioned above. An annual Awards Banquet is held once a year as well as a Spring Fling Dinner for members and friends. Other informal get-togethers are also held throughout the year.

The Halifax Kennel Club members also provide obedience demonstrations and pet visitations for the patients and staff of local Extended Care facilities. The HKC Drill Team has become a favorite with the residents of many Senior Homes in the area.

It is hoped that the Club will continue to grow over the following years with new members to carry on in the footsteps of the great ones that have gone before.

Glady Gates

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