

Pat Proctor joins Niagara County SPCA

Regional promoter named director of business development

Proctor invites community to support 'Forever Home for the Holidays Telethon' fundraiser

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

He may be out of the sky, but he's definitely not out of the picture.

This past week, the Niagara County SPCA named Pat Proctor as its new director of business development. Proctor, the colorful local guy best known as an owner/helicopter pilot with Rainbow Air Inc., working with the company in marketing/sales – as well as a regional promoter for numerous tourism projects – joined the Niagara SPCA to guide that agency into the future.

"The board is thrilled to bring Pat to our organization. His expertise in the field of fundraising will take our shelter to a new level of excellence. With that said, we as a board know that we are outgrowing our current shelter. With bringing Pat on board, the reality of a new shelter is now in the foreseeable future," said Susan Agnelo-Eberwein, president of the board of directors at Niagara County SPCA.

Tim Brennan, who has served the SPCA as executive director, will continue with the agency in his new role as director of shelter operations.

Rainbow Air, a company Proctor owned with his uncle and stepfather, was acquired by Helicopter Transport Services, based in Ottawa, Ontario, in 2019. Proctor said he stayed on over the past year to assist the company through the transition.

"All is good; there's just no helicopter for me anymore," he said.

A familiar face in the Cataract City, Proctor has worn many hats over the years in his many promotional roles for the Niagara tourism and business community. He has made numerous local and national TV appearances in promotion of travel and tourism in Greater Niagara, and was among those recognized as a "12 Persons Under



Pictured on top of the poster is Reese, who will be among the animals available for adoption at the Niagara County SPCA's first "Forever Home for the Holidays Virtual Telethon." (SPCA photo)

40 Award" winner for Niagara County Business of the Year in 2017 by the Niagara County Small Business community. A current board member with the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, he continues to serve the community as vice chair of the Tourism Board of the City of Niagara Falls.

Proctor, a true lover of animals, has been active with the Niagara County SPCA for some time. He served as a volunteer over the years in various SPCA fundraising and

promotional events, including its "Sponsor a Cage" program, where he has been instrumental in the success of the adoption programs. For these efforts, he was honored as Niagara County SPCA's 2020 Taylor Award recipient for his commitment and support of homeless and neglected animals in the community.

He spoke highly of the Niagara SPCA's continuing transition to become the leading no-kill shelter in the Western New York community. He said he continues to be impressed by this success, one that has taken the Niagara County SPCA from the much darker times of the past that saw many animals unfortunately lost.

"Your eyes really open up on this, the emotion it has on the community," he said.

Proctor said he looks forward to his new role in bringing the Niagara SPCA into the future.

"This opportunity to remain working close with the community is exciting, and now being able to work close with a proven winning team is even more exciting. For the last few years, the Niagara County SPCA has been building a strong, friendly and inviting environment that staff and volunteers want to be a huge part of. They continue to reach out and work within the community, and that selflessness is a main reason why I love the SPCA and what they

stand for," Proctor said.

His aim is to help make the Niagara SPCA even bigger and better on Lockport Road.

"It's a major goal, a new facility, to be bigger, better. We have a new surgery center. It's a great facility and location," he said.

Proctor also seeks to expand the Niagara SPCA's relationship in opening animal fostering opportunities with Erie County.

"I'd love to do that; there's no reason not to," he said. "Look, fostering is huge; it's a big thing for us."

And once the border reopens with Canada, Proctor said he'd like to develop an even greater relationship for the Niagara SPCA with the Niagara Falls Humane Society in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

"I'd love to do that, expose us to an even higher arch," he said.

Proctor closed by inviting the community to check out the Niagara County SPCA's "Forever Home for the Holidays Virtual Telethon," to be held from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, on Facebook.

Presented by the Basil Family Dealerships, the Niagara County SPCA will be going live on its Facebook page in an effort to raise funds for its no-kill shelter, and also to promote animal adoptions. The event will feature prize giveaways, live interviews with special guests – plus the SPCA's lovely adoptable animals presented on the red carpet.

Proctor said the Basil Family Dealerships has offered to match any donations received by the community, up to \$2,500.

"We hope to promote some of our longest residents in hopes that they might find a 'Forever Home for the Holidays.' Please help us reach our goal," he said.

To visit, log on to <https://fb.me/e/3hPSqG9nZ>. Proctor noted residents are welcome to make a pledge early by texting 91999 to donate to the SPCA.

IN THE NEWS

Schultz, county director of emergency services, recognized by IAEM

Jonathan Schultz, director of the Niagara County Department of Emergency Services, has been recognized by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) as being among the group of professionals who have maintained their Certified Emergency Manager designation. Only 2,000 men and women globally in the emergency management profession presently hold a CEM.

"Every Niagara County resident should be proud that we have someone of Jon's talent and character running our Emergency Services Department," said Niagara County Legislator Dave Godfrey, chairman of the Community Safety and Security Committee. "This recognition proves what we already know, that be it battling Lake Ontario flooding, procuring the PPE and other supplies to deal with pandemic, or handling some other emergency, there is no one better than Jon."

The CEM designation is the highest honor of professional achievement available from the association that represents professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters.

Previously, Schultz qualified as a CEM by submitting an extensive credentials package giving personal and professional background achievements and successfully completing a management essay and a written examination. In order to maintain certification, a person must continue a program of professional development over successive five-year periods.

"As the IAEM said in their letter to Niagara County, this is an honor neither easily earned nor maintained under normal circumstance, yet Jon was able to finalize his recertification during the COVID-19 pandemic," Godfrey said. "That speaks volumes about his dedication."

Memorial to realign primary care network

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, on Wednesday, announced plans to realign its primary care network to better serve its growing

number of patients.

The most significant change will be the closing of its North Tonawanda Primary Care Center and the relocation of its providers to other locations.

The North Tonawanda office will close Dec. 31.

Beginning Jan. 4, 2021, Dr. Adeel Amir will join the staff at Memorial's Lewiston Primary Care Center and Physician Assistant Melitta Mendonca will see patients at the primary care center on Memorial's downtown Niagara Falls campus.

CMP COMMUNITY MEDICAL PHARMACY
282-1292

Local, Independently Owned & Operated Pharmacy Offering Fast & Friendly Service and FREE Local Delivery

Accepts All Major Insurances
• Workers Compensation
• No Fault
• Express Scripts
Walk-In Flu Shots/Shingles Vaccinations with prescription
Compounding Available
Patient Customized Pain Creams

918 Michigan Ave.
Niagara Falls
Mon. - Fri. 9-6 • Sat. 9-3

www.communitymedicalpharmacy.com

SCOTT interiors
FURNITURE & Since 1953

QUALITY - SELECTION - LOW PRICES

Broyhill • Stanley • Pulaski
La-Z-Boy • Lea • Riverside

FREE DELIVERY

4419 Military Road, Niagara Falls

297-3060

North Tonawanda Primary Care patients may also choose to receive care at Memorial primary care centers in Wheatfield and Grand Island. For information about the upcoming changes, call 278-4081.

NURSES & CNAs
EXPERIENCE-BASED
SIGN-ON BONUSES!

Great Benefits
Weekly Paychecks
Tuition Assistance
Flexible Schedules
Family Environment
5-Star Facility

APPLY INSTANTLY!

TEXT OUR HR DIRECTOR
Judy Ogden
(716) 531-1097

ONLINE:
McGuireGroup.com

\$1,500
LPNs 6+ years
\$1,000
LPNs 3+ years
\$750
CNAs 6+ years
\$500
CNAs 3+ years



NORTHGATE
HEALTH CARE FACILITY

7264 Nash Road • North Tonawanda