



### **GRETEL - A NEW BRUNSWICK PINE MARTIN**

In April 2003, the Hope for Wildlife Society received a call from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro; a mother pine marten had died and they wondered if the Society would raise two orphans.

Named Hansel and Gretel, the pine marten kits weighed only 120g each and their eyes were still closed. Unfortunately, Hansel died shortly afterward from a coccidia infection. Gretel, also infected, was saved by medication and around-the-clock care by the Society's volunteers.

Members of the weasel family, pine martens are an endangered species in Nova Scotia, with less than 100 believed to be living in the upper Cape Breton Highlands. Because of Gretel's New Brunswick lineage, the Department of Natural Resources advised that she was not to be released back into the wild. As a result, Gretel has been raised so that she is comfortable with human interaction.

Gretel now helps to educate visitors to the Hope for Wildlife Society's education center (especially young visitors) about endangered species in our own province by allowing them to actually meet a member of this beautiful species up close.