

# THE WILDSIDE

April 2023

## A Tale of Two Foxes

*Returning two foxes  
back to the wild thanks  
to your support!*

*What you should know about*

## Mange

## River Otter ICU

*A River Otter arrives at Hope  
For Wildlife with injuries from  
causes unknown!*



# Hope for Wildlife's Hope Swinimer Awarded the *Order of Nova Scotia*

I am very grateful and happy to be acknowledged by receiving the Order of Nova Scotia.

The growth of Hope for Wildlife has, and will always be, the result of an amazing group of people who have come together to share in the same goals and mission. I would like to send out a big thank you to everyone: the volunteers, interns, donors, staff, the community, and to all Nova Scotian's.

Nature, and the way we interact with nature, is always changing.



## This Month

### The Gift of Giving

The increased number of interactions between Humans and Wildlife comes at a cost

### Mange

Things you should know when you see an animal with mange

### Falcons

At over 300 Kph Falcons are truly the divers of the skies

### River Otter-ICU

An injury with an unknown cause, this Otter shows us just how resilient wildlife really are

### The Eagles have Landed

Dueling eagles fall from the sky

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### Hope for Wildlife

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Nova Scotia B0J 2L0

Emergencies and Inquiries  
Call or Text 902-407-9453

## Welcome to Hope for Wildlife's monthly newsletter.

We at Hope for Wildlife are thrilled to present our monthly newsletter to you. We want to assure you that by receiving this newsletter, we will never share your email with any other organizations.

Hope for Wildlife takes great joy in the work we do and we would love to share with you our experiences, stories, and dreams.

### Our Mission:

*"Connecting people to wildlife in a positive way through knowledge and understanding, Hope for Wildlife believes that education through rehabilitation is the key to a sustainable future."*

Our goal is to cultivate a profound admiration for the natural world, and we aim to achieve this by sharing our narratives and encounters. Our aspiration is to encourage a deeper understanding and compassion for all living beings. We recognize that without your support, Hope for Wildlife would not be able to carry out its mission. Therefore, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your contribution.

Hope Swinimer

Thank You!

ON THE INTERNET....

Web: [www.hopeforwildlife.net](http://www.hopeforwildlife.net)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hopeforwildlife](http://www.facebook.com/hopeforwildlife)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/hopeforwildlife](http://www.instagram.com/hopeforwildlife)

FOR ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK

[www.hopeforwildlife.net/support](http://www.hopeforwildlife.net/support)

### *Mange- a Silent Killer*

A month ago, this young porcupine was found in the snow - barely moving. She was suffering from mange, and she had crusts all over her face and belly. Her eyes were completely crusted shut from it.

After a month of treatment, you can see her mange is all gone and her face and belly are healing well! By the time spring comes she'll be ready for release. She will have grown up and all of the warm fur on her face and stomach will have returned.

### *What is Mange?*

Sarcoptic mange is skin disease caused by a tiny mite that burrows deep into the skin, which causes inflammation, severe itching, a thickening and crusting of the skin, and hair loss. Severe infestations can be fatal in the wild due to infection, dehydration and impaired thermoregulation. Porcupines are usually always on the move, so if you have one in your area that seems to be hanging around, watch for signs of mange:

- Crusting on body, abdomen, or face
- Staying hunched and not moving when approached
- Laying on its side
- Approaching people with no fear
- Stumbling around and/or falling over







While it might look like we are having fun on the golf green we are actually receiving a much appreciated donation. Golf carts are a vital tool here at Hope for Wildlife.

Many of you may know that we use electric golf carts to move around the property, transporting animals, food, visitors, and so many other things. Recently, Barry donated 5 refurbished golf carts to replace our aging fleet. They came complete with new batteries, matching chargers, higher suspensions, and great brakes!

We are at a loss for words to express our gratitude for the incredible generosity of Barry Hutt, the owner of Golf Cart Hutt! His contribution will have a significant impact on our ability to focus more on animal care. We are fortunate to have generous supporters like Barry, they make a real difference!

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and generosity. Your support means everything to us." - Hope

## The Divers of the Sky

This beautiful Peregrine Falcon was brought to us a couple of weeks ago when it was found unable to fly. We found a small fracture of the right coracoid, and there is an injury to the right wing, but so far the falcon has been recuperating well in our intensive care unit.

Falcons are known for being fast birds, and Peregrines are no exception to that. Their pointed wings with slim, stiff, and unspotted feathers give them a very streamlined and aerodynamic profile in the air. Their strong chest muscles help them to get good acceleration. These birds are able to reach over 300 kilometers per hour in a dive!



## A Loss at Sullivan's Pond

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to one of our very special guests. The old Sullivan's Pond goose with the bad eye passed away peacefully from old age last week. The beloved community gaggle of geese spend their summers at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth and their winters with us here at Hope for Wildlife.

Over the past few years his senior age had been slowing him down, and our team always took extra measures in the winter to make him comfortable by providing him with a specially heated unit with plenty of soft bedding and a variety of food options with extra toppings just for him. Our medical team and rehab staff did an amazing job of caring for him in his final days.

He touched a lot of lives and he will certainly be missed by all, including his little flock.



## Bobcat Recovering from Injuries

In December, a young bobcat was found on the side of the road unable to move. While he was still occasionally combative, he was obviously in very bad condition as he was going in and out of alertness. A full examination showed that he had suffered a dislocated left hip as well as a fracture of the left pelvis.

It has been a few weeks and the

bobcat's condition is improving. In the picture above he is in his carrier in his ICU isolation room. On the right is an x-ray that shows his hip injuries. He is very feisty about having visitors which is a good thing.

Bobcats are crepuscular hunters, meaning they are most actively looking for food during the hours around dusk and dawn. In the time of year when those times come early and late for humans, there are far more cars on the road for crepuscular and nocturnal animals to encounter. Always try to be a little more alert while driving this time of year - scan ahead!





# Oh Deer

2022 brought Hope for Wildlife a total of 58 White-tailed Deer fawns - most of whom arrived between May and July. Roughly 60% of all of the fawns we cared for were orphans that we had confirmed were without their moms. About 40% of our fawns had been hit by cars. If you would like to help support our work, please visit [www.hopeforwildlife.net/support](http://www.hopeforwildlife.net/support). Every bit helps!



## River Otter ICU

A North American River Otter was found with a large, serious head wound of unknown cause. Fortunately, his radiographs revealed that he did not have any broken bones, but he is missing a claw on one toe and his lower canine teeth are fractured. Our awesome medical team got right to work closing the wound and putting him on treatment and giving him a lot of quiet time in one of our isolation rooms in our ICU. Amazingly, he still has a healthy appetite. He loves fish!



As their name suggests, the river otter is well adapted for living in rivers, but they also can be found in streams, lakes, and ponds. They are excellent swimmers, and can move through the water with speeds up to 14 kph (9 mph). They are semi-aquatic, which means they can actually move pretty well on land, too. On land a river otter can run at speeds of up to 24 kph (15 mph)!

# The Eagles have Landed!

Just when you thought you'd seen everything!

Over a week ago, these two female eagles were found on the ground with their talons locked together, and they refused to let go of each other. Concerned about injuries, they were brought to our medical staff for examination and it was at least another hour before they decided to release each other. Unfortunately, one of the eagles suffered a broken wing as a result of the fall. The other had minor injuries, which we treated, and she was released a few days later. We have pinned the bone of the wing of the second eagle and we are hopeful for a successful release!

Eagles will fight over food or territory, and it appears these two grappled with one another and fell from the sky as a result. Who can say why they refused to let go, but apparently this isn't an uncommon thing.





**Please Release Me**

## Release day!

The long winter nights have brought us a lot of barred owls that have been hit by cars. Six weeks ago, a barred owl was found suspected of being hit by a car, and when she arrived at Hope for Wildlife we discovered an injury to her right eyelid which required some minor surgery to fix properly. After she healed and regained her strength, she was released!

We wonder if she took that last look back at us to say farewell!



### ***The Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly***



We received this colorful Canadian Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly from a wonderfully compassionate person who found her in her living room, probably brought inside accidentally with some firewood. She has an injury where the bottom tip of her right wing is missing, but otherwise seems fine.

Swallowtails are named for the 'tails' on their hindwings that resemble tail feathers of swallows. The bright blue coloring on the bottom part of the wing indicates this is likely a female. They are hearty insects and the final brood of the year can survive our cold weather by hibernating in the chrysalis stage until spring. They have a short lifespan up to two weeks. We'll give her a good supply of fresh flowers for her to eat the nectar from while she's with us.

# Muskrat Love

This muskrat got herself stuck in a fence and needed some help to get out. We brought her in for an exam and found some bruising and a bit of head trauma, but after a few days of rest and rehab, she was back to her feisty self and we sent her back home.

We don't know if the following fun fact inspired the 70s minor hit song, but muskrats are known as great reproducers! Mating season starts as early as March and they can have two or three litters during the mating season - with each litter having up to ten babies! It's a good thing their young are generally independent by six weeks of age.



# A Mid-Meal Nap

Sometimes you just have to have a time out between helpings. Twisty, our resident groundhog never fails to make us laugh.

Groundhogs are known by a lot of different names: woodchucks, whistle pigs, and land beaver are a few of them. They are actually large rodents - in fact they are the largest members of the squirrel family!

If you would like to meet Twisty and hear about his story, we are open Saturdays for public visits and tours from 12PM to 3PM!



## Volunteers and Donations

The cornerstone of a successful organization like Hope for Wildlife are it's dedicated staff and volunteers and of course donors! If you are interested in helping visit:

[www.hopeforwildlife.net](http://www.hopeforwildlife.net)



# U.S. Consul General Tours Hope for Wildlife

Hope recently had the extreme pleasure of hosting Lyra S. Carr, the U.S. Consul General in Halifax for a tour of our facilities here at Hope for Wildlife. She reached out to us after seeing news reports of Buddy The Bald Eagle - our rescue success story from Prince Edward Island - and wondered if she could meet him. The bald eagle has been the national bird of the United States of America since 1782 and eagles hold a special place in many Americans hearts, so how could we refuse? Hope didn't just stop with Buddy, though, she provided a full tour of the facilities.

Lyra S. Carr assumed her duties as Consul General of the U.S. Consulate General in Halifax in July 2021, and she is only the second female Consul General in the Post's history.

We hope Buddy did his American cousins proud.





# only a Mother could love



Remember our injured turkey vulture who has a mirror friend?

Last week we told the story of a turkey vulture that came to us with an apparent injured wing. We provided him with a mirror for enrichment, and while we were examining him we noticed he was pretty emaciated. He seemed disinclined to eat, which even if he had a wing injury, was troublesome. We drew some blood from him and ran it through a lead detector. It indicated high levels of lead poisoning. Some rads (x-rays) proved that he not only had a coracoid fracture, but it appears he has ingested a bunch of metal objects, some of which had some lead in them. They could be parts bullets or lures.

Lead poisoning is very common in birds of prey. It could be from lost fishing lures, or more commonly from lead bullets. Even if a bullet passes all the way through its intended target, as much as a third of it will fragment and remain inside the animal. Dressing the animal and simply leaving the gut pile behind exposes scavengers to the tiny shards of the lead ammunition remaining. Lead fragments can lodge as much as 18 inches from the pathway of the bullet, making the meat unsafe.

Nearly half of all U.S bald eagles have been found to suffer from some level of lead poisoning. There are lead-free ammunitions available in the market. Made from materials such as copper or copper-zinc alloy, steel, tungsten or bismuth, they can be as effective if not better than lead. We are treating the vulture with chelation therapy for the lead and we will keep him under close observation.

# Stitching a Garter Snake

This little garter snake that was brought to us three months ago by someone who found him while hiking. The snake had a large open cut in the skin on his side, which we stitched up with some pretty purple stitches.

His stitches are out, his wound is healed and he's got his own big aquarium to explore - with a fancy rock house which he seems to think is just dandy. Garter snakes like to take shelter under rocks and logs. Since garter snakes usually overwinter in groups underground below the frost line, he'll be with us until the spring, when the weather is perfect for his release.



## Welcome Home, Buddy the Bald Eagle!

In October of 2021, Buddy was found injured and suspected of being hit by a car. He had suffered severe head, wing, and spine trauma - the last of which gave him partial paralysis in his legs. Being from the province of Prince Edward Island, he was brought to the Atlantic Veterinary College's Wildlife Service. The vets there did a spinal procedure on him that was the second of its kind in the world. Within a week, Buddy was able to stand on his own again.

But Buddy's recovery was far from over. Months passed as he was treated for and healed from his multiple injuries. His spirit was strong, and over time, little by little, Buddy improved. Sadly, it became apparent that the nature of his injuries would prevent him from going back into the wild. In partnership with the AVC and UPEI, and with the additional support of tons of generous donors, Hope for Wildlife has given Buddy a permanent home away from home. He moved into his giant new enclosure - built specifically for him! (It even has a ocean view). In the near future as we learn Buddy's capabilities and preferences, we will continue to enrich his home to his needs and his liking.

Everyone is welcome to come and visit Buddy on Saturdays from 12PM to 3PM!







IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION YOU CAN SEND A CHECK TO:

HOPE FOR WILDLIFE

5909 Highway 207, Seaforth, Nova Scotia B0J 2L0, Canada

OR CALL US [902-407-9453](tel:902-407-9453)



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