



Bobcat Bounceback!

This past December, Hope for Wildlife received a call about a bobcat that was hit by a car in Aylesford. On her arrival at Hope for Wildlife, an examination by our medical team revealed that she had suffered head trauma, but remarkably she had no other injuries. She began her recovery and after only a few days was already showing signs of improvement!

Two weeks later, another bobcat arrived at Hope for Wildlife. This one was caught in a wire snare that was clamped around his hind leg. After some careful work by our veterinarian, the snare was removed and the wound around the leg was cleaned and treated to prevent infection. Luckily, the wound was not too deep and the leg was intact.

Once both bobcats had healed and were doing quite well, they were moved to a large outdoor enclosure where they could stay together for the remainder of their rehabilitation. The bobcats got along great and had each other for company during their stay here. In May of this year, both bobcats were fully recovered and released back to the wild. This was a very happy ending for two beautiful creatures who would not have survived without the help of good samaritans and our team.



Our First Baby Bear!

On April 20th, we received a call from the Department of Lands and Forestry asking if we could look after an orphaned bear cub for Easter weekend, and we gladly accepted! The little cub arrived weighing just over two kilograms. Our medical team quickly discovered that she had a respiratory infection, and she was started on a course of antibiotics immediately. What started as a weekend stopover turned into a much longer stay.

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Over the 18 weeks that the cub stayed with us, she grew stronger and had only three caretakers to limit the amount of human contact. They all had some previous experience with bears in rehabilitation centres across Canada and were able to make sure that she was content, safe, and had the appropriate diet and enrichment that she needed to thrive. Of course, she also taught us a few things along the way!

It was such a joy and privilege to be able to watch this playful little cub (named Lila) develop and explore her environment. Lila has since left Hope for Wildlife, as our permit for black bear rehabilitation is still a work in progress. We are working hard to convince government that Nova Scotia should be allowed to assist bears, as do all other provinces in Canada. Hopefully, we will soon be able to help many more bears to come, because they matter.



Dorian's Damage

This past September, “Dorian,” a Category 2 hurricane, swept across Nova Scotia and went directly through Hope for Wildlife, Seaforth being the eye of the storm. Fortunately for us, the damage was contained to only dozens of uprooted trees and structural damage to our flight cage. Our wildlife was also spared injury or stress as all the vulnerable animals were safely evacuated from their units prior to the relentless winds and rain.

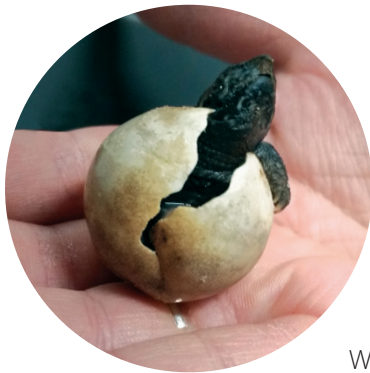
Thankfully, we had back-up generators that supplied the necessary energy to keep the farm running for critical patients. We also had a few brave staff and volunteers who stayed the night at the farm to ensure everything was taken care of, not knowing what was coming!

In the days following the hurricane, we received hundreds of animals injured from the winds, or birds blown off course by the storm. Many needed medical care and time to gain strength, and we were happy to be able to help. Overall, it was an experience we will not soon forget.



Wildlife Calendar Collection is Here!

After hundreds of requests, the Hope for Wildlife calendar is finally a reality. With contributions from photographers Brittany Crossman, Patricia Seaton, Brooke Shipley, April Harding and Surina Anstey, we have collected some favourite photos of patients in our first Hope for Wildlife calendar. They can be purchased from our friends at Walker's Feed Store, Wheaton's, Homeward Bound City Pound, here at Hope for Wildlife, and through our website. We hope you are as excited as we are about this great Christmas Gift that helps fund our work. Creating this collection was quite a journey, and we can't wait to share it with you.



Turtles in Trouble

We've had a drastic increase in the number of turtle patients at Hope for Wildlife over the last few years, with more than 250

turtles and eggs coming into our care each year. Nova Scotia has four native freshwater species of turtles, all of which are now on the species at risk list. When turtles come to Hope for Wildlife, it is often because they have been struck by vehicles while crossing busy roads.

Turtles cross roads frequently from Spring to Fall, coming and going from chosen nesting sites. If you see a turtle on the road and want to help, make sure to always move them in the direction they are headed (and only to the other side of the road), and only if it is safe to do so.

With all turtle species native to Nova Scotia considered to be at risk, we must do all we can to protect every one. If you see a turtle or turtle nest in a dangerous location, always call us or your local wildlife rehabilitator for advice. Never move a turtle unless there are obvious injuries or it is in direct danger, and try not to ever disturb a nesting site.



Shifting Seasons

Our natural world is changing, and the seasons are shifting. We've seen a shocking example of this with the late arrival of babies this year. Record

numbers of baby birds and infant mammals were arriving at Hope for Wildlife as late as October 15th.

For wildlife, this means new challenges and threats to their lives. This year in particular, we have seen wildlife trying to adjust to changing weather patterns. With a cold, wet start to Spring we saw a very late start for babies and young orphans. We also saw a rush of Autumn babies, typically a time when animals start preparing for winter migration and hibernation. As a result, many may be too young to be ready for winter and will have to remain with us until Spring.

With more than 40 baby squirrels admitted in the month of September, it is apparent that Hope for Wildlife will also need to prepare and plan logistically for the shifting baby season, as summer staff and interns finish up at the end of August. We will need to consider changing our programs to ensure there are enough interns to manage a fall baby boom.



Gretel's Story

Another year has passed and pine marten "Gretel" is still going strong. Many people who have visited Hope for Wildlife have met Gretel,

but do you know her story?

In April 2003, Gretel and her brother Hansel were transported to Hope for Wildlife. They had been orphaned and were both quite sick. With their eyes still closed and weighing only 120 grams, they needed around-the-clock care. Unfortunately, Gretel's brother succumbed to his illness within a couple days, but a necropsy allowed our team to find out why he had

died, and with this information the veterinary team was able to save Gretel from the same fate.

In June of that year, Hope for Wildlife received a permit to care for Gretel under strict conditions, but just days later, the permit was revoked. Hope was ordered to turn Gretel over to authorities by the end of the month, or face criminal charges. The case gained national attention, and for almost a year Hope applied for the proper permits to keep Gretel, only to be continuously denied. Finally, after a determined effort to continue providing Gretel the care she needed, the government decided she could remain at Hope for Wildlife as part of the education team—again, on strict conditions.

Pine martens are an endangered species in Nova Scotia and have an average lifespan of four to eight years in the wild (the oldest recorded was 17.8 years old). Gretel is turning 17 years old in 2020 and is still going strong. Gretel's story and her role as an education animal are part of a bigger effort to help her species survive, one that Hope for Wildlife continues to fight for today.



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