

Bear Necessities



At the beginning of spring, a beautiful young black bear cub was brought to Hope for Wildlife late one night. Our medical team stabilized the cub and the young orphan began to perk up. First thing the next morning, the Department of Lands and Forestry came and picked up the bear, and sadly it was immediately euthanized. Unfortunately, this was the second bear cub to be taken from the facility and euthanized in the past year.

In Canada, Nova Scotia is the only province not permitted to rehabilitate black bears. Hope for Wildlife has been trying to get permission for the past 20 years to provide this necessary care, but to no avail. This year however, due to the amount of overwhelming and heart-warming support from members of the public, we have started to make a bit of headway. A meeting was held with the Department of Lands and Forestry in the summer, where it was decided that Hope for Wildlife would submit a proposal for consideration. We are now anxiously awaiting their response. Please help us change this policy so that future cubs can be given that second chance for a life in the wild. Please email your local MLA or the Nova Scotia Department of Lands and Forestry to help make a change by asking them to let us rehabilitate injured and orphaned bear cubs!

Year of the Turkey? Vulture, that Is!

This past November, our team had the opportunity to release a turkey vulture that had been a patient here for close to a year. She was found pinned underneath a seal carcass and rescued by Jeff Gratto and Robert Galbraith. The vulture's prognosis was worrisome, as she showed significant feather damage that can take up to two years to regrow. Additionally, she was unhappy in captivity and a habitat was needed where she would not cause further feather damage. Once the vulture was successfully rehabilitated, we intended to return her to where she was found, but we were concerned that a long car ride might impede the vulture's well-being. Knowing vultures are social animals, we had to release her in an area where others already reside. Since there are other turkey vultures already living in Seaforth, the decision was made to release the vulture right from our facility. As we said goodbye to our long-term patient, she flew away beautifully and reminded us what is possible with the work of wildlife rehabilitators, and the help of community members.



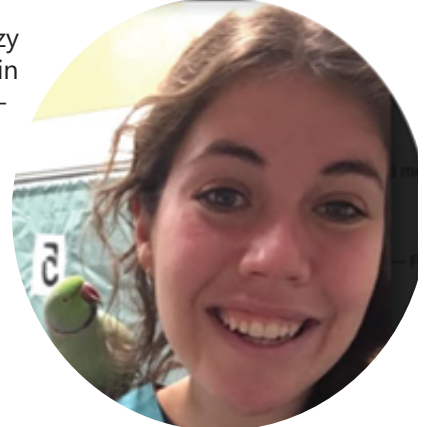
Coping with Covid

There have been many negative impacts of Covid-19, but also many positive "silver linings" when it comes to the selflessness of people donating to Hope for Wildlife. We have seen an enormous outpouring of generosity of food donations, in particular. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, many restaurants, hotels and airlines have not been operating at usual capacity, leaving many suppliers with an over abundance of food inventory. Many of these suppliers have generously donated excess perishable foods such as eggs (200,000 or so!) and, fresh produce, as well as dry goods. We have also seen an increase in donations coming from our Amazon wish list, which can be found at Amazon.ca (search for Hope for Wildlife Wish List). We also have our 50/50 raffles. They have helped tremendously and will continue into 2021. Watch for our draws as they come up at HOPERAFFLE.CA. We would like to send a heart-felt Thank You to all who have helped support us over this difficult year. We, and the wildlife, are so very grateful.

Finding Gratification during Pandemic

Moving to the Maritimes from Ontario for an internship during a pandemic, a seemingly crazy choice to some, has given me the four most gratifying months of my life. I have learned more in this short amount of time than I thought possible. I could undoubtedly write an entire newsletter on the skills I have developed, the animals I have connected with and every moment that has formed the bedrock of a once in a lifetime experience. However, as I reflect on my internship and try to keep this short, what strikes me most is the incredible group of people I have worked with.

"Being surrounded by a group driven by an innate love of animals and a passion for cultivating a safe environment for them is truly inspiring."



Even on the most difficult days of my internship, days clouded by loss or long hours, I was met with empathy, patience and understanding. I am forever grateful to have had this opportunity and to have worked with such a special group of individuals. I hope our paths cross again soon.

- Hannah W.

Wildlife and Poison Don't Mix



This year, we admitted staggering numbers of poisoned pigeons found in the downtown Halifax area. The poison affects the pigeons nervous system and even if treatment is started immediately, it can only reduce the number of casualties that result from this inhumane tactic. The use of poison is a dangerous threat to our wildlife. Once it's out in the environment, it inevitably affects other species and the local habitat. What about the hawk or vulture that eats the pigeon? Or, if the pigeon is not consumed by a predator, where will the carcass decompose and leave the toxin it contains? The same chain of events can be followed for mice or rats killed by poison - the poison can go on to affect owls, foxes, even domestic animals. When considering the use of poison, it is important to think of the long-term consequences. A far safer and more humane approach to a problem is making the habitat less welcoming for the unwanted guests by sealing all possible entry points, removing any access to food, and making human presence known. Also, being willing to share your outside space with nature is incredibly important too.

In nature, everything is connected. Every animal plays a specific role in the food chain and the balance of nature, even if their role is not immediately obvious. An intact ecosystem performs many vital functions, such as purifying the air, filtering the water, turning decayed matter into nutrients, preventing erosion and flooding, and moderating climate. Nature can be viewed as a huge pharmacy: it contains thousands of components essential to our survival. This means that all living things are an important part of our survival kit!

Record Calls for Wildlife in Need

We had a record-setting year for wildlife intakes at our facility as we took in more orphaned and injured wildlife than ever before! Over 5,400 animals were admitted into care in 2020. We also received far more phone calls seeking help or advice, than we have in the past. Our hotline registered just over 38,000 texts or calls, enabling us to reach thousands of people, providing information and guidance. Though some may look at these numbers as troubling, they also show that Nova Scotians care about the health and well being of wildlife. Overall, our connection with the public enabled us to successfully release hundreds of animals this past year; giving them a second chance at life in the wild where they belong.



New Microchip Program

Hope for Wildlife began a new program for tracking orphaned raccoons. We placed a microchip in every raccoon kit that entered the facility. It is ideal to release the raccoons back into their originating area once they are big enough to survive so as not to upset the natural balance and populations. The microchip information makes this possible. The data gathered also alerted us to pockets of viruses within our province, data we can keep track of year-after-year for further epidemiological research. We were also able to track sibling groups which helped with disease control within our facility. We are always working towards improving the care that we give our animals orphaned due to human and wildlife conflicts.

Keen on Green - Solar Power Project

We are so very happy to have completed phase two of our solar power project. Now, Hope for Wildlife can utilize green energy instead of fossil fuels. Thanks to everyone who helped us make this dream come true by purchasing a solar panel. Miss Stiles, who purchased 24 panels, was a major contributor that really helped accelerate the project. We still have many panels available to purchase at \$1,500 a panel. The names of those who contribute to this campaign will be displayed permanently in acknowledgement of their donation.

	# of Panels	Installed Capacity	Annual Production	Annual Revenue	Lifetime Revenue	Equivalent to	Coal Displaced Annually
Project 1	96 panels	30 kW	43,000 kWh/yr	\$14,000	\$265,000	4 houses	33,000 pounds/year
Project 2	204 panels	72 kW	102,000 kWh/yr	\$26,000	\$490,000	10 houses	80,000 pounds/year
Total	300 panels	102 kW	145,000 kWh/yr	\$40,000	\$760,000	14 houses	113,000 pounds/year



YES! I would like to support Hope for Wildlife.

I would like to make a donation:
 \$10 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

AND / OR

I would like to sponsor a species for one year:

- \$125 - Sponsors receive a personalized Certificate of Sponsorship, a fact sheet, a Hope for Wildlife bumper sticker, and a story of an animal from the selected species (please choose):
- Canada Goose
 - Red Fox
 - Porcupine
 - Snowshoe Hare
 - White-tailed Deer
 - Raccoon
 - Bald Eagle
 - Barred Owl
 - Seal
 - Bobcat

If the sponsorship is a gift, please provide:

Recipient's name _____

Recipient's mailing address _____

Contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____

Postal code _____ Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Please add me to your mailing list.

Payment information:

Cash or cheque (made payable to Hope for Wildlife) is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card number _____

Expiry ____/____/____ Signature _____

Please mail me a tax-deductible receipt.