

AIWC GIFTS

FOR THE WILDLIFE
LOVER ON YOUR
CHRISTMAS LIST!

Hoodies
\$35
(Members \$30)
Hoodies come in
navy blue, light
grey & dark grey



T-shirts - \$20
(Members \$15)
*Unisex T-shirts come in
navy blue, fuschia,
yellow & light green*
*Women's long sleeve
T-shirt is available in
white only*



Order Now!
call 403-
946-2361
see insert

Choose the "Adoption" Option!

Stunning photos of wildlife-in-care are combined with the story of the animal your donation has helped support.

Individualized AIWC adoptions are the perfect gifts for birthdays, Hanukkah, Christmas, and other special occasions!



Calendars

Small **\$10** Members: \$8

Large **\$15** Members: \$12

Thanks
continued from p. 7

- RTU Power & Controls Ltd.
- Seitel Solutions
- Sherritt International Corporation
- Solvera Solutions
- Strathmore Spruce Tree Farm
- Suncor Energy Foundation
- Sundance Animal Hospital Ltd.
- TELUS
- The Byler Foundation

- The Uplands Homeowners Assoc. Ltd.
- The Wild Bird Store
- Three Trees Contracting Ltd.
- TR Telecom Ltd.
- Vermilion Energy Inc.
- Yetti Lacrosse Association

GRANTS

- Calgary Foundation
- Awareness Campaign
- Donmar Foundation
- Giffunds Canada
- Nickle Family Foundation
- Suncor Energy Foundation
- The Calgary Foundation

Mugs
\$7.50
Members: \$5

MOVING? Don't miss out on AIWC news!
Please contact us with your new address.

Recovery Review

Quarterly Bulletin of the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation

Wildlife Conservation through Education & Rehabilitation

AIWC 20 Year Special Retrospective Edition: Exceptional Circumstances

An endangered species, a rarely-rehabilitated critter, a tragic situation, a governmental request of care for a victim from thousands of kilometres away; or a provincial disaster such as the 2013 floods - AIWC responds to each of these extraordinary situations with dedication, a determined passion, and specialized skills.

In this final 20th Anniversary retrospective issue of the Recovery Review, we highlight some of the exceptional circumstances and characters that have presented themselves at AIWC over the years.

Patients From Afar

Sometimes it seems like the phone will never stop ringing; each call is a new plea to help an orphaned or injured wild animal. Although the majority of AIWC's patients are local residents from Calgary and the surrounding communities, some patients travel many hundreds of kilometres before being admitted into AIWC's care.

This summer, AIWC admitted two such patients: a bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and a golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

Arriving on July 8, the bald eagle nestling's examination revealed that he was slightly thin and dehydrated. He was discovered on the ground beside his deceased sibling on a small island just outside Yellowknife's city limits in the Northwest Territories. With the assistance of local Fish and Wildlife authorities, the young



~ by C. Vavasour-Williams

eagle made the long journey to AIWC's facility south of Madden, Alberta. Just over a month later, on August 14, another eagle arrived at AIWC - this time a juvenile golden eagle. Although the exact details of his rescue are not known, again, Fish and Wildlife authorities assisted with the eagle's transport from northern Canada to AIWC. Within several days, the golden eagle was placed in an outdoor enclosure, accompanied by the bald eagle. Together, the two eagles will overwinter at AIWC as they grow into healthy adults.



Since 1997, AIWC has received and relocated patients by air within the province of Alberta as well as to and from several other provinces and territories. Species that have travelled to or from AIWC's facility by air include: common ravens (*Corvus corax*), American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*), Swainson's hawks (*Buteo swainsoni*), short-eared owls (*Asio flammeus*) and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*). In 1998, two peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) that were being held

see **Afar** continued on p. 6

AIWC Wildlife Hotline: 403-946-2361



Box 68, Madden, AB ToM 1Lo
 P (403) 946-2361 • F (403) 946-5689
 Charitable #14041 6140 RR0001

www.aiwc.ca

VISION: AIWC strives to enrich the lives of Albertans by nurturing a strong appreciation and respect for wildlife.

MISSION/MANDATE:

To contribute to wildlife conservation in Alberta by:

- Providing comprehensive and humane rehabilitation programs for injured and orphaned wildlife;
- Promoting awareness and encouraging greater stewardship of native wildlife through engaging education programs;
- Researching wildlife issues that improve rehabilitation protocols and support the broader scientific community; and
- Helping people co-exist peacefully with wildlife by providing humane solutions for wildlife 'invasions' on personal and public property.

EDITORS: J. Kaiser, A. Wingenbach

DESIGN: Liz Phinney

PRINT: Seitel Solutions Canada Ltd.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Volume 21 / Issue 4 / Fall 2014

- Nature's First Engineers 3
- Rare Patient Montage 4
- Mammal Montage..... 5
- From The Archive..... 6
- Our Thanks 7
- Christmas Gift Giving 8

CONTRIBUTORS: D. Hanna, J. So, C. Vavasour-Williams, K. Pederson, D. Oldfield, T. Sinclair

PHOTOS: AIWC, J. Kaiser, K. Pederson, C. Vavasour-Williams,

Submissions/comments may be sent to the above address.

YOU can fundraise too!

Bill's Owl

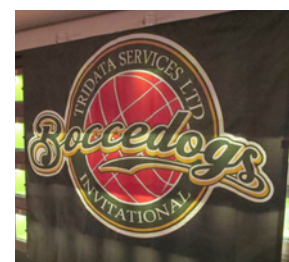
In June, Bill Rendall found a great horned owl standing in the grass alongside a country road, northwest of Airdrie. After the fledgling was brought to AIWC and examined by clinic staff, it was put on a special emaciation protocol and was in intensive care for three days. Bill felt responsible for the owl's care and emailed several of his friends and family. Together they raised \$1,167 - enough money to feed the owl during its stay at AIWC and also cover the cost of feeding six other owlets also in our care.

"Bill's Owl" was successfully released in September on a warm fall evening. Thanks, Bill!



Yeti Junior Lacrosse Gives to AIWC!

Many thanks to The Yeti Junior Lacrosse Team in Innisfail for their generous support! The last game of their season was dedicated to the memory of Dave Lorette, and the proceeds of admission were donated to AIWC. Dave was a regular around the rink and beloved father of long-time AIWC volunteer Pam Fry.



Bowling & Beer for AIWC!

AIWC would like to send a huge thank-you to Tridata Services Ltd. for their support by donating all door proceeds from their annual Boccedogs Bowling tournament, which raised an impressive \$620!



Keep up with the exciting world of wildlife rehabilitation by following AIWC on Facebook and Twitter (@AIWC)!



Our Thanks

...to all the outstanding individuals who generously contributed crucial funds, aiding wildlife in distress!

The individual donor list is calculated cumulatively from January 1st to December 31st each year. This list covers January 1 to September 30

WATCH YOUR NAME MOVE UP THE LEVELS AS YOU DONATE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

FAWNS - \$1,000+

- AWRA · D. Bloom · A. Brebner · D. Cosgrove · R. Davis · J. Dipalo · Estate of Corinne Ison · J. Goerzen · J. Holwell · B. Keating · P. McClelland · G. Pauling · N. Plowman · D. Post · D. Semchuk · S. Staplin · J. Sutherland · S. Viertelhausen

FOXES - \$500-\$999

- J. Alexander · R. Cavanagh · P. Chaput · L. Cunningham · E. Easton · K. Foster · C. Godwin · E. Gray · R.&H. Hamilton · S. Hansen · S. Hope · D. James · I. Jones · R. Krohmer · D. Lumley · G. Matwichuk · P. Petrik · J. Sterrett · A. West · P. Whaley · M. Williams

BEAVERS - \$250-\$499

- L. Alger · V. Boone · E. Campbell · C. Claire · V. Clark · S. Cleary · W. Cumming · L. Danyluk · W. Dempster · D. Elm · N. Goddard · L. Higgins · R. Himes · V. Hindbo · H. Ho · M. Hutchinson · M. Irvine · R. Jensen · J.P. Jones · J. Kaiser · P. Knaga · J. Lukas · R. MacAulay · N. Martel · J. Mercer · L. Mier · Mrs. McMurray's Grade 3 Class · M. Nicholas · T. Pinter-Matick · M. Plantinga · S. Power · S. Rendall · J. Rogers-Dundas · Y. Schurmann · J. Smith · F. Wiesenberg · D. Wittner · G. Wong · J. Woolridge · A. Yu

PRAIRIE HARES - \$50-\$100

- A.E. Bowers Elementary School · B. Adams · S. Alder · I.&M. Alexander · J. Algar · D. Amatto · R. Armstrong · J. Baldwin · M. Barbeau · D. Barber · M. Bartley · M. Becker · E. Binns Dang · S. Boldt ·

MUSKRATS - \$101-\$249

- B. Adams · D. Albright · G. Anderson · T. Antares · J. Attwell · C. Baranky · T.&B. Bell · K. Botting · H. Brockway · K.&J. Brown · L. Brule · J. Bulmer · L. Cerveny · D. Chadder · E. Cheung · J. Choi · G. Comin · L. Cordeiro · D. Cote · J. Creaghan · B.J. Currie · H. Dexter-Green · J. Draper · B. Duns Moor · M.&M. Evans · G. Fairhead · J. Faulkner · C. Figiel · R.&B. Filafilo · R.&W. Green · D. Guyett · V. Hanley · A. Houck · A. Hull · B. Isaacson · P.&M. Kelly · J. Kent · G. Kobylka · H. Kretschmer · J. Langton · M.&J. Laurie · K. Lea · D. Limoges · S. Lincoln · S. Madiill · N. McLean · E. Michel · M. Middelveen · K. Middleton · R.S. Milne · N. Mohamed · L. Odell · S. Opas · J. O'Sullivan · Z. Pawlicka · S. Perry · B. Pinder · R. Quinn · Ralph McCall School · J.&J. Rasmussen · E. Relf · W. Rendall · R. Roth · J.&D. Sandercock · A. Shepherd · R. Snyders-Blok · J.&P. Tarjan · L. Thomas · C.&P. Tracey · K. Trenholm-Boyle · C. Vavasour-Williams · S.&N. Wainer · F. Weir · B. White · S. Whittaker · D.K. Wickman · K. Young · A. Zaremba · C. Zink

CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS

- 935586 Alberta Ltd./ARVS
- A. Katharine Checkland Professional Corp.
- AB Union of Provincial Employees Local 52
- Apache Canada Ltd.
- Brendan D. Adams Professional Corp.
- Brookfield Office Properties Mgmt. LP
- Canadian Energy Research Inst
- Canadian Online Giving Foundation
- Carl Young PC
- Cenovus Energy Inc.
- Chevron Canada Resources
- Chinook Bottle Depot
- Cochrane Veterinary Care Clinic Ltd.
- Community Natural Foods Ltd.
- ConocoPhillips Canada Resources Corp.
- Data Scavenger Inc.
- Donmar Foundation
- Dragonfly Ranch
- Eisan Consulting Inc.
- Encana
- EnCana Corporation
- Flow Business Strategies Inc.
- Grant MacEwan Charitable Foundation
- H.V.A.C. Essential Ltd.
- Harleenpremi Professional Corp
- Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation
- Ivanhoe Cambridge Inc
- Jehangir J. Appoo Professional Corp.
- Lightstream Resources Ltd.
- Madden Lions Club
- Morris B. Warren Professional Corp.
- Ok Tire - Airdrie
- Olympic Billiards
- Paul Dunphy Productions Inc.
- Petroleum Joint Venture Association
- R.C. Purdy Chocolates Ltd.

see Thanks continued on p. 8

Contact AIWC to become a member
 403-946-2361
 www.aiwc.ca

From the archives ...

OIL VS. WILDLIFE

Dianne Wittner: Alberta's version of the oil spill Recovery Review, Vol. 5, Issue 1, Winter 1999

[W]aterfowl in this province contend with numerous ponds of water that are deliberately contaminated year-round. This was all too graphically illustrated in December when 'oiled' ducks began showing up at our doorstep. These pathetic creatures were so fouled with a yellow-black oily substance [compressor oil] we couldn't distinguish plumage colour nor differentiate male from female. ... The worst offender of "oiled" waters in Alberta is industry. Settling ponds, ranging in size from little more than puddles to hundreds of acres, are scattered throughout the prairies. These ponds may not freeze over and, therefore, look inviting to waterfowl migrating south. ... One at a time, each duck was assessed, stabilized, [and] cleaned. ... After a couple of weeks of swimming around in our indoor pool, fattening up and regaining their strength, we released them on the Bow River....

continued from p. 1

illegally in Igloodik, Northwest Territories (now Nunavut) were seized by Fish and Wildlife authorities and transported to AIWC for rehabilitation. In 2003, another peregrine falcon, this one suffering from a fractured wing, was successfully rehabilitated and relocated to a Nova Scotia peregrine falcon breeding facility. In 2002, an orphaned American black bear cub (*Ursus americanus*) was transported from Inuvik, Northwest Territories and spent nearly a year in AIWC's care before being returned to Inuvik and successfully released.

Although each patient and each flight is different, AIWC's goal always remains the same: to return native wildlife to their native wild homes.



Shannon Bower: AIWC aids in Lake Wabamun cleanup Recovery Review, Vol. 12, Issue 3, Fall 2005

It heats our homes and keeps our vehicles running. It's what makes Alberta's economy strong. But it doesn't come without a price tag. Sometimes, that price tag is hefty indeed. ... [I]t was such an intense and moving experience to arrive at Lake Wabamun and see the devastation there. In addition to the smell of oil that hung thick in the air was the smell of decaying bodies and the sweat of the volunteers who had pulled together to try to help hour after desperate hour.

AIWC's Education Committee REPORT

AIWC's Education Committee would like to say a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to Leah Daoust-Hoskins for her commitment to the education programs. Leah started in 2010 as back-up presenter and then become prime presenter in the fall of 2012. Leah, we wish you all the best in your new endeavours.

Leah will be replaced by a team of education presenters, each on a part-time basis. We are gearing up for our busy season and welcome:

Cheyenne Nadbrzezna, Skye Burgan, Nathalie Martel, Dionne Williams, Sylvie Michaud-Romaniuk, Laura Speakman, and Diane Thomas into the education presenter training program.

**To book an AIWC Education Program for a classroom or group, please contact:
403-946-2361 • email: education@aiwc.ca**



Nature's First Engineers

~ by D. Hanna



For the past three years I have been a part of the team that helps relocate beavers from Nose Creek in Airdrie, Alberta to more suitable habitat. During this time, I have had many wonderful experiences observing these magnificent creatures going about their daily tasks, trying to live their lives in quiet solitude.

I've also learned that beavers can be quite mischievous! Many times I've seen a beaver swim straight towards me as I sit waiting on the bank, my net in hand, just to have them turn quickly away right when they might be within arm's reach!

This spring I was sitting on the bank, watching for Nose Creek's elusive beavers, when one came upon the shore just a couple of metres away. Again, just out of reach! When I raised my foot to make a move towards him, he effortlessly slipped back into the stream. I patiently waited, and he came back up again to the exact same spot a few minutes later. This time, he stood up casually grooming himself, as if taunting, "ha-ha, you can't catch me", all the while watching me from the corner of his eye.

One recent experience from this season was jaw-dropping. I witnessed one of the beavers "wake boarding" on his buddies back. It was beaver synchronized swimming!

Although I do have a feeling of

accomplishment from helping to relocate more than sixteen beavers over the past three years, I also feel sadness when I walk along Nose Creek and find it without these ingenious creatures. It is the beavers, nature's first engineers, who create wetlands for many other species of wildlife to thrive in.

I have seen great blue herons nesting at the creek side, many species of duck raising their young, muskrats swimming along the shore, and several species of songbirds hunting for insects. All of this happens in habitats created by beavers.

Of course, after many long evenings of tracking my elusive 'prey', I sometimes get the feeling that perhaps the beavers are playing a joke on us; we may relocate them, but I know in my heart that more beavers will journey upstream to take their place. They always seem to get the upper hand. After all, you can't outsmart nature!



From the archives ...

SURPRISING SURVIVAL

It is a genuine miracle that some animals survive their initial injuries. From a feisty bald eagle that had been hit by a train; a fawn orphaned during the Pine Lake tornado; a gull enduring a hail of rocks from bully children in a schoolyard; a great-horned owl stunned - but alive - after being electrocuted upon collision with a transformer station; to a coyote deliberately poisoned, the resilience of the bodies and spirits of these animals is a testament to a strength of body and vitality of spirit that defies death itself.



Here is one such story....

Dianne Wittner: Freeway: A violent beginning Recovery Review, Vol. 5, Issue 3, Summer 1999

One unforgettable occurrence will remain locked in [our] hearts and minds... A female white-tailed deer was struck by a vehicle as she attempted to cross the Trans-Canada [Highway] near the Cochrane/Bragg Creek overpass. The doe dragged herself across the pavement into the ditch while the driver of the car continued on. Traffic continued to whiz past as the doe lay dying in the ditch. What the motorists didn't realize was that the fatally-wounded animal was giving birth, even as she drew her last breath.

Fortunately for one lucky little fawn, one passing motorist [and her husband] did stop to investigate. ... they discovered a newborn baby, wet and shivering. ... Today, Freeway (as he is affectionately called) is a healthy, playful little buck. ... The decision ... to take a moment to check out a possible wild animal in distress turned out to be a life saver. "Freeway" is just one example of how a little compassion can save a life.

To Cuddle or not to Cuddle?

~ by D. Hanna

Early this spring an orphaned baby porcupine came to our centre in need of care. No one knows for sure what tragic event would leave him without a mother so early, but without intervention by the finder, our rescue driver, and dedicated AIWC staff and volunteers, his story would have ended shortly thereafter.

One morning, while cleaning his cage, I had what became a truly awe-inspiring experience. I was seated on the floor in front of his cage on the bottom row, ready to start changing his bedding and replenishing his food. The prickly little fellow came to the front of the cage, gingerly reached down, and climbed down to my knee as I continued to clean his cage. He quietly went about exploring my lap and even looked directly up at me a few times. I felt the urge to cuddle him, which could have been a painful thing to do!

This time, the decision was made for me – I would not cuddle him so I would not get stuck with several quills! However, there are instances where one questions how much care and

affection to show to a patient at the centre. This is particularly true when the centre has a baby mammal as a patient.

Babies of any species require some amount of nurturing from their mothers, and when the babies are separated from their mothers by an unfortunate circumstance (usually human induced) wildlife rehabbers are forced to deal with a difficult question: how much nurturing is too much?

Wildlife rehab facilities must find a way to deal with habituation, which occurs when an animal becomes too familiar with its human caregivers and would no longer be able to fend for itself in the wild. Often, wildlife rehabbers have to withdraw from the creatures they care for in the same fashion an animal's parents do in the wild, increasing the baby's independence and capabilities. This is hard to do and can lead to conflicting emotions. But in the end, it is still in the best interest of the animals and their continued survival in the wild – and that is what wildlife rehabilitation is all about.



Mammals
make up 20% of AIWC's patients.
Here are some we have cared for
over the years...



Black Bear

Red Squirrel



Coyote



Red Fox



White-tail Deer



Flying Squirrel



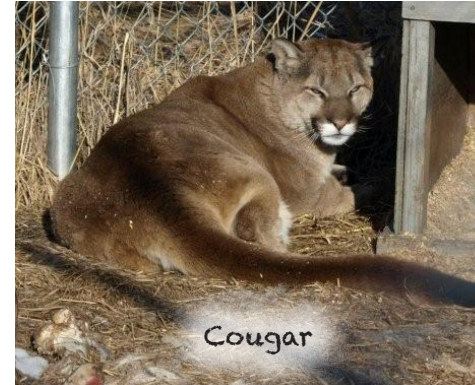
Mule Deer



Big Brown Bat



Prairie Hare



Cougar



Least Weasel



Badger



Woodrat

Exceptionally Rare Patients



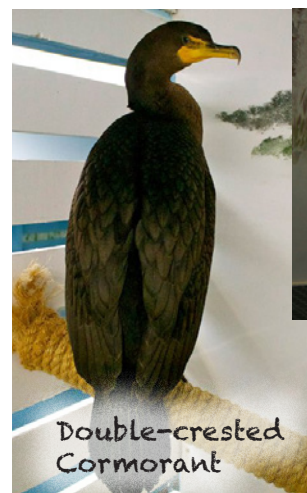
American Bittern



Tiger Salamander



Common Nighthawk



Double-crested Cormorant



American Pelican



Baltimore Oriole



Great Blue Heron



Hoary Marmot



Plains Garter Snake



Rufus Hummingbird



Muskrat



Bobcat



Striped Skunk



Beaver



Chukar



Ringed-turtle Dove



Ring-necked Pheasant



Turkey Vulture



Moose



Cottontail Rabbit



Ring-tail Weasel



Porcupine



Mink