



the **Wildside**

Hope for Wildlife's annual newsletter
2012

“Our busiest year ever”

- a message from HFW Founder & Director
Hope Swinimer

/inside cover

Success in 2012 shows growing need for Marine Wildlife Rehab Facilities

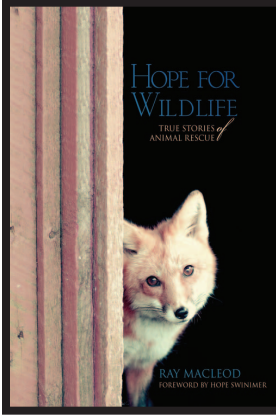
/pg 3

Live-in Interns flock to the farm for a one-of-a- kind wildlife experience

/pg 5

‘Hope for Wildlife’ Season 4 sneak peak

/pg 5



Congratulations to author Ray MacLeod!

Hope for Wildlife: True stories of Animal Rescue was nominated for Nova Scotia's longest-running and most prestigious prize for a non-fiction book: the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Prize!

Get your own copy of Ray's bestselling book and meet the author November 17th from 11am - 1pm at the Hope for Wildlife Gift Shop!

Can't make it? We'll have lots of extra signed copies available all weekend long during the Old Fashioned Seaside Christmas November 17th and 18th, 10am-4pm. Or purchase online at www.freewebstore.org/hope-for-wildlife-gift-shop

Dear Friends of Hope for Wildlife,

It seems like every year is busier than the last, but 2012 truly was our busiest year yet! With early morning emergencies, late night feedings, exciting new experiences and big changes at the farm, 2012 has been a whirlwind. But no matter how hard we're working to feed, clean and care for all the animals that come through Hope for Wildlife, there is really no harder work than educating the public about how to prevent animal injuries in the first place. That's one of the reasons we spend so much time on the phone, answering the steady ring from over 10,000 calls to our wildlife hotline every year. Add to that coordinating all the volunteers to rescue these injured and orphaned animals and before you know it, the feeding and cleaning doesn't seem like such hard work after all!

So instead of counting down to the New Year, we're counting down our top tips for 'Living with Wildlife', which you will find on Page 2. The busier we get, the clearer it becomes that many of our "problems" with wildlife boil down to a lack of tolerance on the part of humans. We need to take responsibility for the fact that we share this earth with many species, and learn to live more comfortably with them instead of simply trying to get rid of them. Our top tips are simple solutions for some of the most common human-wildlife conflicts.

You'll also find lots more in this year's newsletter, like stories from our summer staff, a sneak-peak at Season 4 of Hope for Wildlife, exciting upcoming projects and updates on this year's big successes!

Of course none of this would be possible without your generous contributions. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of Hope for Wildlife. And special thanks, too, to all of our new friends - we hope you enjoy your first Hope for Wildlife newsletter! We only send one out each year, so you know your contributions are going where they are needed most: towards food, medical care, shelter and transportation for injured and orphaned wildlife. We hope you will consider making Hope for Wildlife part of your holiday giving this year, whether through a donation in your name or in honour of a friend, sponsoring an animal or by picking up the perfect gift in our gift shop. No matter how you choose to give, you can be sure that your generous contributions are making a big difference for wildlife!

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season and all the best for 2013!

Sincerely,

Hope Swinimer
Founder and Director
Hope for Wildlife Society

*Hope for Wildlife Animal Ambassador
"Maxwell"
Striped Skunk*



LIVING with WILDLIFE

Raccoons in the garbage? Skunks digging up the lawn? Bears in the bird feeder? Before you take drastic measures, have a look at five Hope for Wildlife tips and tricks for living with (and enjoying!) the wildlife in your neighbourhood.

Get rid of the food: garbage, pet food and fallen fruit are all easy picking, and the number one way to attract unwanted wildlife to your yard. So pick it up, cover it or secure it; don't become the neighbourhood wildlife diner! An abundance of animals all in one place can cause big problems like the spread of disease among wildlife (and also to pets and people).

Try a homemade solution: Spray either of these simple and safe solutions around areas wildlife frequent on your property to encourage them to stay away (don't forget to re-apply after rain):

Easy Castor Oil Repellent: 1/2c castor oil + 1/2c dish detergent + 2L water.

Pepper Repellent: add 1 chopped onion + 1 chopped jalapeno + 1 tbsp Cayenne to 2L of boiling water. Boil for 20 minutes, then cool and strain.

Patch up holes *before* they become someone's new home: Do a thorough check of your property in the early spring to make sure there are no easy access points and patch up any holes. (Some heavy gauge wire is a good quick fix). If you already have animals living somewhere they just can't stay, *do not* grab a trap. Set up a radio and a spotlight directed into the animal's makeshift den and leave them on for 48 hours. The unwanted tenants will move out all on their own (and moms will their babies with them).

Don't live trap: This common practice can sound like the perfect solution - taking an animal away from the busy city and letting it loose in the great outdoors. Here's why it isn't: Dumping an animal in unfamiliar territory can be a death sentence. Territorial animals will fight with newcomers to defend their land. Animals that rely on food stores and living in colonies for the winter are left out in the cold. You might even be spreading a harmful or deadly disease by moving a sick animal to a new territory. Plus, when you trap in the spring or summer months, it's likely that you're taking a mom away from her babies.

Practice tolerance and understanding: Wild animals do what they do out of their need to survive and thrive. That raccoon didn't choose your shed as a den to annoy you; she just wants a safe place for her kits. That bear isn't digging in your green bin because he likes the look of food all over your lawn; he's just looking for something to eat. The better we understand our natural world, the more likely we are to see it from the animals' point of view. Wildlife is all around us - city, country and everywhere in between. As our population spreads, we take space away from animals who need it just as much as we do. So the next time an animal is testing your patience, take a step back and think about *why* he's doing it. You'll already be that much more likely to prevent problems in the future.

Want to know more? Check out these great web resources!

www.hopeforwildlife.net



Our own website is full of tips dealing with everything from foxes under the porch to how to catch and transport an injured bird!

www.helpbabybirds.ca



Did you know that it is a myth that an adult will reject their baby if a human has touched it? This excellent resource from the Toronto Wildlife Centre can tell you if and when to get involved when you find a baby bird.

www.ecologyaction.ca/alliedcats



Allied Cats is an initiative started by the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, NS to build a network of indoor cats to protect both kitties and birds!

Seal success proves capability and demonstrates challenges of marine wildlife rehabilitation



Meet Hollywood: Two weeks old, covered in infected wounds and weighing only 11 kilograms (one-third of what he should weigh at his age). When he was found on the Halifax waterfront, this little grey seal was fighting for his life. After a referral from the Marine Animal Response Society (www.marineanimals.ca), Hope for Wildlife was called in for the rescue.

You might already know this, but Hope for Wildlife's track-record with seals has been less than perfect: While adults have been released in the past, never before had an orphaned seal be successfully rehabilitated at Hope for Wildlife. After losing the fight for Chase (an orphaned harbour seal) in 2009, Hope, Dr. Barry and Allison visited marine rehabs throughout Canada and the US in an effort to be better prepared for the future.

It's a good thing they did because 2012 proved to be a busy year for seals. By early February, reports were already coming in about starving and injured seal pups on local beaches. Sadly not all could be saved, but by late March it looked like we were winning the fight for Hollywood and a second grey seal - to be named Poppy - who had arrived just weeks later and in even worse shape than Hollywood.

The timing of these arrivals meant an early start to the busy spring season, requiring round-the-clock care during what is usually our quiet time of year. With no summer students hired yet to help, it meant a lot of late nights and early mornings for a few dedicated staff and volunteers.

Another challenge was setting up an appropriate unit for the seals' care. Luckily, a very timely donation of a large collapsable pool served the purpose for swimming and fishing. We also had to be very careful about keeping close tabs on the equipment and people working with the seals - we didn't want to transfer the deadly virus that is currently being found in Nova Scotia's raccoon population to the seals. Fortunately the timing of the seals' arrival was well before the yearly raccoon baby boom.

It almost seemed too good to be true: it was beginning to look like Hope for Wildlife might finally be able to celebrate the successful release of seal pups. After a final blood test to make sure the seals were healthy, both Hollywood and Poppy were released a few weeks apart, each in front of a very proud crowd of Hope for Wildlife volunteers and friends!



Hollywood emerges from his carrier at a healthy 30 kgs...



...and swims away happily ever after!

Help Hope for Wildlife help more marine animals!

Support our campaign to construct a new facility for injured, orphaned and oiled marine wildlife

Over the years, Hope for Wildlife has been called upon to rescue seals and oiled, injured and wayward migrating seabirds. These have been managed on a case-by-case basis, but the last few years have shown that Hope for Wildlife needs to be able to care for a larger number of these types of animals, and we need the proper facilities to do it.



This normally southern pelican found himself stranded in Nova Scotia.

The new facility will address two big gaps in the Society's ability to provide care to marine wildlife: First, we don't have adequate facilities to care for marine mammals, and second, we don't have the proper facilities for washing oiled wildlife.

The new Hope for Wildlife Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre will be located away from the existing facilities to prevent the transmission of deadly diseases between marine and land-based animals. It will be purpose-built specifically for marine wildlife, including seawater pools, proper pumping and filtration systems and specially designed washing stations for oiled seabirds.

Hope for Wildlife has been working hard to gain the support of governments, business and organizations on local, provincial and national levels. We would like to thank the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Nova Scotia Student Cooperative Education Incentive Program, Bluewave Energy, the Neville/MacKenzie Family, and HRM District 3 Councillor David Hendsbee for their contributions to the project thus far. There's still a lot to work to do and a lot of money to raise, so...

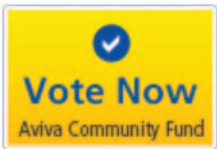


Hope prepares to release a Common Murre - one of many seabirds at high risk of being affected by oil spills.



*In Loving Memory of
Blake Neville MacKenzie*

Hope for Wildlife is honoured to have been asked to name a portion of our new Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre in loving memory of Blake Neville MacKenzie. The Neville/MacKenzie family have made generous contributions towards the new facility and suggested the name "Blake's Shanti" - meaning peace, bliss, and tranquility.



how can you help?

Donate, vote and promote!

Hope for Wildlife is vying for a top spot in the **Aviva Community Fund** finals, and you can help us win by **voting daily December 3 - 12** for the Marine Wildlife Rehabilitation Center! In order to vote, simply register online at **www.avivacommunityfund.org** then search for our idea using Project Code **ACF13800**. Be sure to **vote every day**, and help us **spread the word!** The more people who vote, the better the chances that we'll win!

Of course, there's no guarantee of winning, and providing care to marine wildlife on a long-term basis is going to require continued contributions by our generous supporters. Please consider making a donation towards our day-to-day operating costs - the food, medical care and transportation we need to enjoy many more happy endings like Hollywood's!

Please vote daily December 3rd-12th
for Hope for Wildlife's
Marine Wildlife Rescue Centre at
www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf13800
Thank-you for your Support!



12th Annual Open House

Sunday, 25th August 2013

12-4pm, Rain or Shine

Free Admission



HFW3 available on DVD; Season 4 to air on OasisHD early 2013

Just in time for the Holidays, the Hope for Wildlife Season 3 box set is now available in the Hope for Wildlife Gift Shop! And if you still haven't caught the first 2 seasons, they are both available too – order yours online at:

www.freewebstore.org/hope-for-wildlife-gift-shop

So what's in store for Season 4? Lots of surprises!

How do you catch a bashful bear? How do you get a hawk out of a hockey arena? How do you track down a coyote in an urban jungle of 9 million people? Find out when the fourth season of Hope for Wildlife debuts on OASIS HD this Spring!

Plus: Hope and the team help

more creatures than ever at the rehab, and Hope continues her quest for knowledge, visiting rehabilitation centres across North America. There are more animals, more Hope and more excitement than ever – this spring on Hope for Wildlife!

Summer interns from near and far flock to Hope for Wildlife

Hope for Wildlife's internship program is an intensive hands-on learning experience. For up to six weeks, enthusiastic volunteers work, live and breathe wildlife rehabilitation. It isn't for everybody, but for those with a true passion for helping wildlife, the experience they gain is like no other.

An idea originally conceived in 2009, Summer 2012 saw Hope for Wildlife welcome our first season of live-in interns. This was made possible thanks to generous contributions from District 3 Councillor David Hendsbee on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality and a dedicated group of volunteers who renovated a former nursery-turned-storage-shed into a cozy bunkhouse.

The interest in the program has gone well beyond expectations with applications pouring in and volunteers coming from as far afield

as Europe! The program has been so popular, interns have been accepted into November, and inquiries are already coming in for the 2013 season.

A huge thanks to our interns for all of their hard work. We couldn't get through the busy season without them!

For information about the program, visit our website at: www.hopeforwildlife.net/jobsinternships.html

How does our garden grow? With the help of the NSYCC!

Nova Scotia Youth Conservation Corps crew members Ashleigh and Megan were up to their elbows in dirt this summer! Guided by a team of knowledgeable volunteers, they were busy growing a rooftop vegetable garden and planting trees and native transplants in the wildlife garden, providing food for the animals here.

The main priority has been to keep the wildlife garden wild, native, and natural to support native and local wildlife while maintaining a beautiful spot for visitors.

The NSYCC crew have received a lot of positive feedback for their efforts and it would seem they have accomplished their goal of ensuring that visitors to Hope for Wildlife leave with new knowledge learned and new appreciation gained for wildlife and nature.



Give a little **HOPE** this holiday season
with gifts from the Hope for Wildlife Society

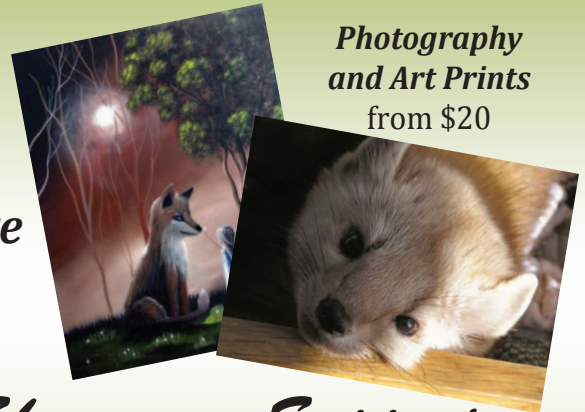
Share our stories...



Books \$20
DVD box sets \$50

**Lots more in-store
and online!**

Gifts start at just \$2



*Photography
and Art Prints
from \$20*

...Show your Support

Visit our Gift Shop

November 17th & 18th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

5909 Hwy 207, Seaforth

Can't come to us? Shop online at

freewebstore.org/

hope-for-wildlife-gift-shop

HFW apparel and gifts:

Ballcaps - \$20

T-Shirts starting at \$20

Jackets starting at \$40

Fleece Toque or Scarf - \$15

Raccoon Plush toy - \$15



YES! I would like to support the Hope for Wildlife Society by:

___ Making a donation to the Hope for Wildlife Society in the amount of \$_____ **OR**

___ Sponsoring an animal at the Hope for Wildlife Society for one year (Sponsors receive a sponsorship certificate, photo and story from an animal in your chosen category, information sheet of the sponsored animal, and the addition of your name to the sponsorship registry.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

If sponsoring as a gift, please indicate recipients name and, if you would it sent directly, their mailing address:

Payment Method: ___Cheque (enclosed) **OR**

Credit Card: ___Visa ___Mastercard

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Would you like a tax-deductible receipt? Y___ N___

Would you like to join our email list? If yes, provide email address: _____

for Sponsorship Packages, please place a checkmark by your chosen category:

\$75/ year

- Ducks/Geese
- Songbirds
- Reptiles/Amphibians
- Crows/Ravens
- Sea/Shorebirds
- Snowshoe Hare

\$100/year

- Foxes
- Porcupines
- Raccoons
- Skunks
- Squirrels/Chipmunks
- Seals

\$150/year

- Raptors (Eagles, Hawks, Falcons)
- Owls
- Mustelids (Martens, Fishers, Mink)
- Bobcats
- Deer/Moose

Charity Number 885062448RR0001

Please make all cheques payable to the Hope for Wildlife Society