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**WILDLIFE
REHABILITATORS'
NETWORK**
Of British Columbia

WRNBC Member Facility Wins BIG!

By Angelika Langen, WRNBC President, Northern Lights Wildlife Society

On September 28, 2011, Smithers resident Betty Gelean contacted us with the request to enter the Aviva Community Fund on our behalf. We were delighted with her initiative, but to be honest, we really did not see much of a chance for her to succeed in this endeavour. The Aviva Community Fund distributes money to local and national initiatives for change to help make a positive impact in Canadian communities, whether through providing new opportunities for at-risk youth, education, helping the environment or cultural activities. The funding is allocated by public voting and a panel of judges.



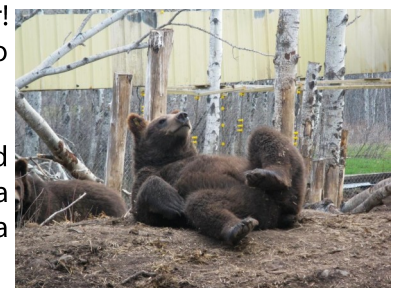
Betty worked hard on publicizing our new fundraiser and was aided by the arrival of Dawson and Clover, our two media bears. All of a sudden, our group of supporters grew and a lot of people became involved in the project. Our Facebook site (Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter) was – and still is – the hum of activity. Dorothy Avery became Betty's supporter in the Aviva quest, keeping the site busy and entertaining, and adding more and more people to the group.

To our absolute delight and surprise, we advanced into the semi-finals, and then in a hair-raising battle into the final round. Winning would mean a new enclosure for the bears, as well as water and power for all facilities! Oh, what a ride! It took several months, thousands of dedicated supporters who voted and a panel of judges, but on January 25, 2012, the Aviva Community Fund announced that they were awarding NLWS the incredible amount of \$140,000!

The excitement at NLWS and around the world was and still is like a drug! NLWS has been operating for 21 years without power or water on site, and this funding will change that in our 22nd year! Already we have started by identifying water sources and determining the route of the power line. We now wait for cost estimates. Funding will also be used to extend or upgrade existing facilities and hopefully build a new food preparation and storage area.

As always, this success is the result of many working together, and the wildlife will gain the most. Running water will not only allow for easier and more detailed cleaning (all of our volunteers dream of a power washer!), but it will also allow us to fill big tubs with water for the young animals to play in, a luxury we have not had so far! Power will also mean light at the shelter and better access to the animals at night.

Dreams are coming true at NLWS, thanks to a lot of dedicated people who showed the world that wildlife rehabilitation is a worthy cause to support. Thank you all, and let us celebrate a GREAT year!



Flying High

By Marcy Potter, WRNBC Membership Secretary

In 2012, WRNBC acknowledged Norm Snihur's ongoing significant contributions to wildlife and wildlife rehabilitation. The following is a transcript of our presentation to Norm that was to take place at the 2012 AGM.



Today we would like to honour Norm Snihur of Helicopter Wildlife and Transport who volunteers his time, fuel and other costs to fly his helicopter to transport wildlife to over 10 rehabilitation centres across BC. Not only does Norm transport, but he has been involved in rescues and releases where a helicopter is really the only option to get to remote places.

By the end of last year, Norm had clocked over 2,930 wildlife flights, over 1,365 hours, and over 685 animals flown since 1994. Harbour seal pups are his most common co-pilots. Support flights are also provided to transport equipment, volunteers and veterinarians to centres difficult to reach.

Wildlife rehabilitation centres can require frequent transfers between specialist facilities to optimize care. For example, Norm explains that moving an eagle needing care from Tofino on Vancouver Island to Delta would take a volunteer about 20 hours round trip, driving over two days. The eagle would endure the stress of up to 10 hours of travel. By helicopter, the round trip is about four-and-a-half hours, including a fuel stop.

Lindsaye Akhurst, from the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue, says, "His time, compassion and patience are truly appreciated and we cannot thank him enough for everything that he does for us. It always amazes me each time we thank him for helping us out that his reply is 'No, no, thank you!'"



Norm Snihur transported this fawn to Critter Care Wildlife Society in 2003.

WRNBC and all of its members would like to extend a huge thank-you to you, Norm. You are instrumental in the success of wildlife rehabilitation in this province. Whether through a rescue, transport or release, BC's wildlife thanks you most of all.

Up 4 Grabs!



Up 4 Grabs is a new column where members can post items they have available to donate to other centres. Reduce, reuse, recycle! To submit an item to Up 4 Grabs, email lani.sheldon@wrnbc.org.

2 Cages – Liz Thunstrom

Contact: ethunstrom@shaw.ca

I have two professionally built cages, wood frame covered with heavy-duty, chew-proof wire. They were originally built for chinchillas. The cages are very solid and easily cleaned with metal flooring and removable front pieces. Unit size is 40" high x 36" wide x 25" deep (front to back). There are two separate cages, each roughly 23 ½" x 34 ½" and 19 ½" high. Each has a removable front for ease of cleaning or handling and a full height door. The backs are solid plywood. The floors are tin, reinforced with galvanized metal at the edges, so as not to be sharp or easily chewed. They have been kept in the basement and are in good condition. Photo can be sent on request or you would be welcome to come and take a look if interested.

A message from our past president:

President and Board of Directors
WRNBC

I would like to congratulate you all for the excellent plans for the AGM and also what you have achieved this past year. It is exciting to get the newsletters and know that WRNBC continues to look ahead.

The paper that I did concerning legislation for captive bats in Canada for *Bats in Captivity, Volume IV, Legislation* edited by Sue Barnard, was completed on time, it was peer reviewed and is now at the printers. Sue had originally contacted WRNBC in 2009, requesting someone to do this. While not a really fascinating subject, it allowed me to contact and engage with rehabilitators across Canada and get an overview of federal and provincial legislation for bats in captivity for research, rehabilitation or education purposes. I was surprised and pleased at how many knew of WRNBC and/or at least one of your member centres. Cooperation with my requests was, overall, excellent and at least Canada was included in the international field along with the US, Australia and Europe! Thanks for giving me the opportunity to do this - a steep learning curve with computers - and a challenge. When I receive the copy of the volume, I would like to donate it to the WRNBC library.

Very best wishes to all of you

Sincerely,

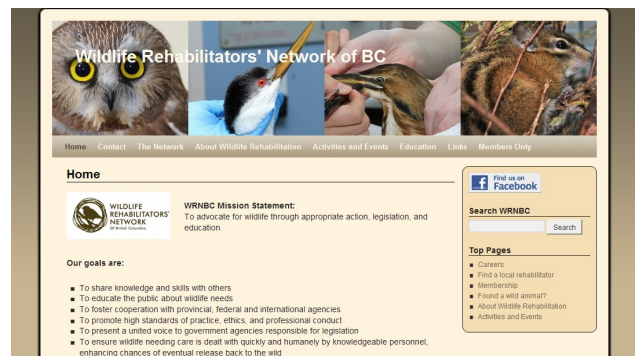
Liz Thunstrom

Website Update

Coming soon: Membership renewals, as well as AGM and course registrations will soon be available online! It is our hope that increasing accessibility will grow our membership base and expand our network.

2012 AGM handouts and the finalized WRNBC Minimum Standards will be available online soon in our members-only section. 2012-2013 members-only passwords will be emailed this April - renew today!

www.wrnbc.org



Have a great case study to share? Spread your expert knowledge! We want to hear from YOU! Email your submissions to info@wrnbc.org for our quarterly newsletter.



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Upcoming Courses

International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council



Parasitology

Victoria, BC

April 7, 2012

Hosted by BC SPCA Wild ARC

Register online at www.theiwrc.org

All animals have parasites. Understanding them leads to better care of wildlife in rehabilitation and can reduce the spread of disease. *Parasitology* is a comprehensive course covering individual parasites, their life cycles and their transmission to new hosts. In this course you begin to learn how to identify the diagnostic forms, the treatments to use and also the zoonotic potential for many varieties of parasites.

Feeding and Nutrition

Victoria, BC

April 8, 2012

Hosted by BC SPCA Wild ARC

Register online at www.theiwrc.org

Feeding and Nutrition addresses the nutritional requirements of mammals and birds with principles applicable to reptiles and amphibians. Lecture topics include: basic nutritional biochemistry, gastrointestinal physiology and anatomy, neonates, self-feeding process, importance of recognizing natural diets, determining nutritional requirements, feeding ill and emaciated animals, analyzing and formulating diets, and minimizing captive stress through feeding and foraging enrichment.

In Memory



Our condolences are extended to Critter Care Wildlife Society's founder Gail Martin on the passing of her husband Richard.

Give the Gift of Knowledge!



Have an amazing veterinarian in your life? A stand-out volunteer, or helpful government representative? Give the gift of a WRNBC membership! They will receive our quarterly newsletter, reduced registration at our AGM and special events, and more! Visit our website for more information.

What has your Board of Directors been up to?

- Holding your 2012 AGM in Courtenay, BC!
- Updating your website to allow for online registration, membership fees and more!
- Finalized the WRNBC Minimum Standards document
- Meeting with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for discussions on Schedule C wildlife, permitting and reporting requirements, and regional wildlife rehabilitation concerns – presented at the 2012 AGM

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Help us save paper and reduce costs! If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by *email only*, please contact our Membership Secretary, Marcy Potter, at marcy.potter@wrnbc.org.