

# Notes from the Heronry



## Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton

### Board Of Directors

**Leanna Parker**  
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**Trisha Barranoik**  
Vice President

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**Wendy Thiessen**  
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**Cara Dary**  
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**Charlie Raymond**  
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### Medical Management Team

**Dr. Heather Steele**  
Southside Animal Hospital

**Dr. Jeffrey Person**  
Delton Veterinary Hospital

**Dr. Jessica Wilson**  
Leduc Animal Clinic

**Kim Blomme, RAHT**  
Delton Veterinary Hospital  
Edmonton Veterinarians'  
Emergency Clinic (EVEC)

[www.wildlife-edm.ca](http://www.wildlife-edm.ca)

**Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton**



## Greetings from WRSE's Board of Directors

A new year is upon us and already WRSE is planning and preparing for the start of our busy season. The weather is starting to change bit by bit and it won't be long before we start to see the first babies of the year.

By the end of last year, the Board knew that some difficult financial decisions were going to have to be made. The number of patients that WRSE has been taking in each year has been growing exponentially, and along with it significant increases in our costs. While we have been fortunate in the last few years to have received one-time special funding that has allowed us to continue our good work, that funding has now ended. Changes to grant programs and general fiscal restraint all around meant that the Board was faced with a deficit budget of nearly \$170,000 for this fiscal year. The Board could not, in good conscience, approve such a large deficit. As such, we were forced to make some very difficult decisions. We have worked closely with Debra Jakubec, our Executive Director, to reduce our costs as much as possible, without compromising patient care. Unfortunately, our largest budget item is staff salaries. The Board made the decision to reduce the number of hours that Debra works each week and to cut back the education program. Although we have much to be proud of with the excellent work that the Junior Wildlife Ambassador program has done over the years, we have only ever been funded for part of the work. WRSE has always supplemented the rest of the program with additional funding. We can no longer supplement this program without risking compromised patient care. The Board's mandate is to ensure that WRSE continues to achieve its vision – compassionate care

of injured and orphaned wildlife – and so unfortunately these difficult decisions had to be made.

The Board has also worked to put together a 90 Day Action Plan to ensure the continued operations of WRSE. This plan focuses on short-term, cost effective strategies that will hopefully enable us to cover the remaining short-fall in our budget. Longer-term strategies for more stable funding are being developed in our strategic plan. We hope that all of the efforts from this plan will pay off and we will have better fiscal news to report at our AGM on May 23rd. We invite all members to attend the AGM.

The annual Run Wild for Wildlife fundraising event is fast approaching. We hope to see all of our members, volunteers, and supporters at the run on April 7th. The run is our most important fundraising event, and this year, more than ever, we need your help to make it a success. The Board is working hard putting together run teams, spreading the word, and gathering donations. We hope you will join us doing the same. Our members and volunteers will see WRSE through these difficult times. We already have had one amazing volunteer provide us with almost everything from our wish list. We cannot thank her enough for her generosity.

The incredible work of our staff, volunteers, and members cannot be overstated. The Board appreciates all that has been done so far and we are confident that working together we will get what we need to continue providing this essential service to Edmonton and northern Alberta.

Leanna Parker, President

# Farewell to Stephanie May

by Kim Blomme



Over the years, the success of WRSE is due to the dedication and enthusiasm shown by our staff and volunteers. One such dedicated staff member, Stephanie May, gave us many initiatives to be proud of. It all started when Stephanie was chosen to release a Bald Eagle after months of rehab. It was a triumphant and emotional day and from the moment of the release Stephanie became a dedicated volunteer and then a valued staff member.

Here are some of Stephanie's many accomplishments: learned how to clean oiled wildlife and went on to train other staff & volunteers how to do this time-

consuming and detailed job; piloted our Wildlife Rescue program last spring; took on Animal care duties, volunteer coordinator duties, rescue and research duties and most notably coordinated and presented our very successful Education program to students in Grades 3 to 6. Most notably, I will always remember the tag line she created for the elementary students to repeat, "If you see a baby hare, just remember leave it there!"

Stephanie, we sincerely wish you all the best as you move on to pursue other dreams and goals!

## Porcupines

by Holly Duvall

During my time with WRSE I've been able to encounter amazing wildlife, but common porcupines have quickly become one of my favourite mammals. Unfortunately there are a lot of myths concerning porcupines and they are often persecuted because of this.

The porcupines I have come into contact with, whether at the rehabilitation centre or in the wild, would be enough to change the opinions of even the most anti-porcupine people. Contrary to popular belief, porcupines do not throw their quills!

Porcupines have approximately 30,000 barbed quills on their back, sides, and tail and as they are slow-moving creatures, they need this defense mechanism to guard against predators. If a predator gets too close, the porcupine will swat it with its tail and once the quill-filled tail makes contact with the predator's skin, the barbs on the quills take hold of the predator and release from the porcupine.

These animals are incredibly intelligent, and despite their stocky build are very delicate with their movements – especially when it comes to eating. They enjoy taking food into their paws, sitting up on their hind feet, and then eating.

Currently we have 2 porcupines in care. One we suspect was hit by a car and is recuperating from spinal trauma, and the other suffered from a wound on his back that is healing fantastically.

If you see porcupines in the wild, take the time to appreciate these wonderful creatures!



This Common Porcupine is on the mend from spinal trauma. Due to her injury, this beautiful girl has to balance herself by holding Holly's hand while she eats.

## Kim Blomme: A woman with a vision

We are very proud to announce that our very own Kim Blomme, Founder of Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton, is a recipient of the “Global Woman of Vision” award for Edmonton.

Kim founded WRSE out of her Sherwood Park garage in 1989 where, with no budget or funding to work with, she provided care for hundreds of birds.

The years spent giving care to animals in her garage and home was definitely a challenge, and at one time she was ready to quit, but Kim stuck with it and she was able to make WRSE a permanent fixture and essential service for wildlife. Throughout the years, Kim has worn many hats within the WRSE: founder, manager, wildlife caregiver, bookkeeper, educator, board member, and of course, the volunteer coordinator. Kim has established a large volunteer base, consisting of concerned public, veterinarians, falconers, and others who all share her desire to rehabilitate and release wild animals in need. WRSE would not be where it is today without her dedication, skills and patience.

From one Great Horned Owl in her garage to more than 1,400 birds and animals this year alone, WRSE has come a long way thanks to Kim. Without her and WRSE’s services, all injured and orphaned animals north of Red Deer would have no chance of treatment or care.

Kim, our fearless trailblazer, has been the backbone of the WRSE for 23 years and we are so proud that our friend has been acknowledged for all she has done, for all she does, and for all she will continue to do.

You can read Kim’s profile from Global Edmonton’s Women of Vision at: [www.avenueedmonton.com/blogs/blommes-charitable-endeavours-are-for-the-birds](http://www.avenueedmonton.com/blogs/blommes-charitable-endeavours-are-for-the-birds).



### Did you know...

In 2012 WRSE had 1,409 patients - 1,197 birds and 212 mammals. That’s double our numbers from 5 years ago.

## WRSE NEWS LETTER NEWS

As you can see we have a new look for our quarterly Newsletter. We would also like to add a section for our members to submit stories, photos and other Wildlife information that may be of interest to our readers. We would love to hear from you! Please email your submissions to: [development@wildlife-edm.ca](mailto:development@wildlife-edm.ca).

We will be phasing out printed versions of the Newsletter to save printing and mailing costs as well as saving trees for our winged friends. Starting in September we will stop mailing out hard copies of the Newsletter. We will continue emailing issues and post it online on our website.

If you are getting a hard copy please send your email information to: [volunteer@wildlife-edm.ca](mailto:volunteer@wildlife-edm.ca) to ensure that you will continue to receive *Notes from the Heronry*.

## COMPOST SALE

WRSE Compost Sale  
Saturday May 11, 2013  
Wildlife Hospital - 12515 - 128 Street  
from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

To pre-order the nutrient rich organic matter called NatureMade™ Compost email Judith at: [development@wildlife-edm.ca](mailto:development@wildlife-edm.ca)

Compost is \$10.00/bag,  
3 bags for \$25.00 or 5 bags for \$40.00

If you would like to volunteer and help us bag and sell compost email Debra at [debra@wildlife-edm.ca](mailto:debra@wildlife-edm.ca) indicating which shift you prefer: 8:30am - 11:30am or 11:30am - 3:30pm.

# WRSE WISH LIST

WRSE is looking for the following donations:

- Cordless drill
- Wheelbarrow
- Bicycles, Scooter & Vehicle
- Coffee maker
- Straw/hay bales
- Latex gloves (powder free, all sizes)
- Ipod dock
- Ground beef
- Eggs
- Smelts
- Sweet potatoes
- Apples
- Carrots
- Corn on the cob
- Blueberries
- Mushrooms
- Lettuce
- Mountain ash berries

Please call Holly at 780-960-1421 to arrange to drop off donated items.

# WRSE AGM NOTICE

All WRSE members in good standing (memberships paid for 2013) are invited to attend WRSE's 2013 Annual General Meeting at our Wildlife Hospital (12515 - 128 Street) on **Thursday, May 23 at 6:30PM**. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.



## 14th Annual RUN WILD FOR WILDLIFE

Top 4 pledge earners can participate in a patient release!

**11AM on Sunday, April 7, 2013  
at William Hawrelak Park**

Register online at: [www.wildlife-edm.ca](http://www.wildlife-edm.ca)

Dress up as your favorite wildlife animal and enter the Best Critter Contest!



### RUN WILD FOR WILDLIFE SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Bioware   | Rabbit Hill Snow Resort           |
| The City of Edmonton                              | Riverbend Veterinary Clinic       |
| David's Tea                                       | Royal Alberta Museum              |
| Emergia Hair Group                                | Snow Valley                       |
| Hidden Treasures Thrift Store & Collectibles Ltd. | Tipi Camping (Elk Island Retreat) |
| Highlevel Diner                                   | Trophy Book Archery Ltd.          |
| The Enjoy Centre                                  | Whitemud Pet Grooming Salon       |
| Pure Potential Personal Fitness                   |                                   |



**WRSE THANKS** all of our participating veterinary clinics, community partners, members and donors for their ongoing support!

**Special thanks to:**

- Alberta Culture (CFEP)
- Alberta Wildlife Rehabilitators' Assoc.
- Capital City Clean Up!
- City of Edmonton
- CLAC
- David's Tea
- Delton Veterinary Hospital
- Emergia Hair Group
- Hidden Treasures Thrift Store & Collectibles Ltd.
- Enjoy Centre
- Imperial Oil Ltd.
- Parkland County
- Panago Pizza
- Pure Potential Personal Fitness
- Rabbit Hill Snow Resort
- Riverbend Veterinary Clinic
- Royal Alberta Museum
- Snow Valley
- Southside Animal Hospital  
Dr. Heather Steele
- Tipi Camping (Elk Island Retreat)
- Trophy Book Archery Ltd.
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada
- The Wildbird General Store
- Whitemud Pet Grooming Salon

And to all of our individual donors!

Charitable registration #893492371RR0001

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Admin: 780 - 433 - 0884  
info@wildlife-edm.ca  
www.wildlife-edm.ca

# You Can Make A Difference!

## Make a donation to support WRSE

Donations of \$25 or more are eligible for an official tax receipt. Donate on-line with a credit card by visiting [wildlife-edm.ca](http://wildlife-edm.ca) and clicking on the CandaHelps.org button.

Donation Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Foster A Wild Animal

\_\_\_ Bald Eagle: \$150

\_\_\_ Porcupine: \$100

\_\_\_ American Robin: \$50

\_\_\_ Red Squirrel: \$25

Great gift idea! With a donation you can adopt a recovering animal. You or your gift recipient will receive a thank you card with a picture from a current or recent patient and its story of recovery. Please send this gift card to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Become A Member Or Renew Your Membership Today!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Family Membership: \$50

\_\_\_ Single Membership: \$35

\_\_\_ Discounted Membership for Volunteers \$20

## HELP US SAVE MORE WILDLIFE BY GOING PAPERLESS!

Sign up to receive the newsletter by email and help us save costs on printing, envelopes and postage.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_