

Message from the WRS Chair To Current Members and Potential New Members

It's a new year, and now more than ever, we are in need of members with a fresh approach, new ideas and plenty of enthusiasm. You can make a difference to one of the 1500 individual birds or mammals we take in yearly. Last year, over 4000 calls were made to the shelter, covering everything from requests for information on fledglings, to the location of an owl caught in wire, to persuading squirrels to nest elsewhere. All these are common urban concerns and no one else is better prepared to deal with them than WRS. Our organization is trained to handle, inform and protect the wildlife population that exists side by side with the city's human inhabitants.

But the next few years will prove to be very challenging for our society and its supporters. As many of you know, WRS is located in the SW corner of Edmonton. The new Anthony Henday extension is now just a stone's throw away, and the University of Alberta (from whom we lease the space) is likely to vacate the premises soon.

Knowing that moving is a certainty, we elect to take a proactive approach and plan. We not only plan to move, but to build a new "dream facility" complete with separate bird rooms, treatment areas, flight pens both indoors and out, isolation rooms and a large area for public education, meeting rooms and public interaction. Over the next decades, our planned new facility will enrich the lives of both the patients and the people of Edmonton, providing education on conservation, habitat enrichment and urban planning. Above all, it will provide the protection, treatment and rehabilitation of the area wildlife.

Board members have been active in contacting different organizations to find out if an existing developed area, with existing infrastructure, a steady base of public exposure, and a common meeting of the minds as to wildlife and general environmental issues could add us into their space. Although the river valley would be ideal, the City of Edmonton has a plan already in place to not develop any more of the area.

As we continue to look for potential partnerships, we have to realize that a major capital campaign will be necessary, even before any firm plans are negotiated. As part of the overall plan, boosting our membership is paramount to success. It will take a large contingent of people to solicit funding from organizations, government and the public to have our dream come alive.

In a time where you are bombarded with requests to support so many needy groups and programs, you personally have to examine your own interests, to make decisions you can be confident will result in positive contributions to what is important to you. Although financial support is extremely significant and crucial to the existence of all organizations, I firmly believe that the people who form the structure and foundation of the organization are the essential elements. With the members' commitment, the rest will follow.

At this time, I ask you to revisit why you initially joined WRS. There was something in what WRS strives for that appealed to you, that drove you to contribute in order to make a difference. Where would WRS be without people with that sense of responsibility and perseverance? As with many things, constant challenges and mundane day-to-day

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Kim Allan, Past Chair
Kristin Wyness-Arnot, Secretary
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Cheryl Feldstein
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Kim Allan
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Cindy Platt
- Wildlife Rehabilitator

Kim Goble
- Wildlife Rehabilitator,
Volunteer Coordinator

Kristin Wyness-Arnot
- Wildlife Rehabilitator

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Kim Allan –AHT
Delton Veterinary Hospital
Town Center Veterinary Hospital

Message from the WRS Chair

(continued from front cover)

routines can overshadow the goals we desire. Through all the routine tasks, let's not forget the reasons we are part of WRS. The strides we have already accomplished, the growth of the organization and the increase in our services, are all wonderful reasons to feel pride in ourselves. We have proven what we always knew: Wildlife advocacy is desperately needed, and the more the public learns of us, the more we are valued and contacted.

Existing members can help by offering their expertise in business contacts, past experiences, and overall enthusiasm. If we all vow to network with our daily, business and recreational contacts, we can increase our membership and skills to move forward. Please share your personal WRS experiences with someone else, so that they too may join. Then renew your pledge to WRS and know that you are making a vital contribution.

You can also help by stepping up if you can offer your time, networking skills, contacts in organizations, agencies and government, computer/graphics background, business plan/banking experience, or an unbridled zest for challenges. You can direct any questions, queries and offers to my attention, Kay McCormack, through the WRS email address.

Starting with this new year, let's work towards making our dream wildlife rehabilitation facility one to be proud of – a facility that will be present for the Edmonton area wildlife for a very long time.

**Edmonton wildlife needs you because
“It's their home too!”**

Kay McCormack
Chair, Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton.

Wildlife Rescue at Wabamun Lake

On August 5, 2005, 43 CN Rail cars derailed, spilling their contents of oil and wood preservative into Wabamun Lake – and into the home of many migratory waterbirds, including a large nesting colony of Western Grebes. Over 1000 oiled birds were collected from the lake. Well over half of them were already dead. Of the 450 live birds collected, just over 100 survived the traumatic rescue, stabilization, washing and rehabilitation procedure. These lucky few were released at Buffalo Lake about a month later.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton staff and volunteers were the first NGO to respond to assist the wildlife. This disaster has brought into sharp focus the need for a better organized emergency response plan – and we are committed to see this become a reality.

Dozens of people got involved in the rescue effort at Wabamun by either donating their time, skills or materials to the effort. We would like to thank ALL of the volunteers who dedicated their time, all the veterinary clinics who donated medical supplies and all the companies that donated other needed goods and materials. **THANK YOU!**



Brainstorm Box:

The Board of Directors meets after dark at the shelter trying to properly steer the direction of WRS. Check out this Brainstorm Box each newsletter for topics on which the Board would welcome feedback.

The Board is currently considering:

- Ways to increase membership to WRS
- New fundraising ideas / opportunities
- Options for new locations for shelter

Feel free to contact WRS via email, Attention Board of Directors, with ideas on any or all of these topics. Thanks!

Attention WRS Members:

WRS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on Monday, March 13, 2006 at the shelter. All members are invited to attend. Any member interested in joining the Board of Directors please contact Kim Allan at 922-6103

Notice:

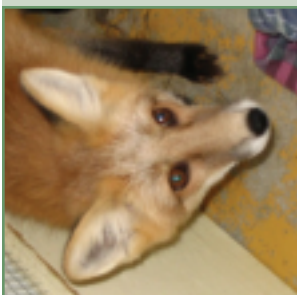
WRS membership runs from Jan 1 - Dec 31. Please renew your membership now! Membership fees help us through the long, cold winter so why not get a pen and make that cheque out now. If you are not a member, why not join us?

(see membership renewal forms included with this newsletter)



Little Red Fox

This little Red Fox was found with a fractured pelvis – likely struck by a car – unable to get up with Kirk approached it on the highway on July 4, 2005. Dr. Black examined it at Spruce Grove Veterinary Clinic, took Xrays and began treatment for shock. Overnight the little guy stabilized on intravenous and could be transferred to WRS where – aside from a typical flea infestation – the young, strong animal continued to improve. Surgery was able to correct the fracture and we were rewarded by seeing this beautiful animal not only tolerate his captivity, but thrive. He got a larger space to exercise when he was transferred to the Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation in Madden in early September, and we're happy to report he was released back to the wild soon after.



Pelican story

In late August, Louise reported a large white bird who was unable to fly in her backyard acreage in Sherwood Park. Cindy Platt became the rescue “team” to collect what turned out to be a young American White Pelican! “Percy”, as she came to be known, was easily captured and in extremely low body condition. Parasites were apparent all over her body (and subsequently on us as we thoroughly examined her!), as well as inside the soft leathery pouch. Blood work revealed slight anemia and starvation, but luckily we found no other obvious signs of injury. Percy soon gained weight with rehydration therapy and treatment for parasites, all the while winning our hearts with her antics. We set up a special “pool room” for her so she could play in the water. Others did the flying for Percy when she was put on a plane to California’s International Bird Rescue and Research in late October, to be tested for waterproofing and flight, and finally released.

Bucks for Ducks Cheryl Feldstein

Expressions & Images Custom Framing and Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton held the “Bucks for Ducks” charity lotto from August 12 to 29, 2005. All proceeds from the lottery supported WRS and our efforts at the Lake Wabamun oil spill.

Malcolm and Nancy Kellock, owners of Expressions & Images Custom Framing, 5813 Gateway Blvd, donated a limited edition, framed conservation print entitled “Where No One Goes” by Gary Pulham. The print travelled to various locations around the city, where concerned Edmontonians could make a donation to the shelter to enter their names in the lottery.

“The plight of the wildlife at Lake Wabamun touched our hearts” said Nancy Kellock. “This is a tangible way for us to contribute to an important cause and a society in need of funds.”

Malcolm drew the winning name of Jean Duke on August 29, 2005. Jean was thrilled to receive the beautiful print valued at \$950 while contributing to such a great cause.

The “Bucks for Ducks” Charity Lotto generated over \$4,000 for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton’s shelter and programs. WRS would like to sincerely thank all individuals who contributed to this lottery and every volunteer who helped make it a reality. Our most heartfelt thank you goes to Malcolm and Nancy Kellock for their generous gift to our shelter and patients, making this fundraiser possible.

Stonefest 2005 Cheryl Feldstein

Each year, the **Stonehouse Pub** on 11012 Jasper Avenue dedicates one night during their “Stonefest”, a seven-day music event featuring Edmonton’s up and coming bands, to a local charity. The Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton was the chosen charity of the 3rd Annual Stonefest on September 12 to 18, 2005.

“The Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton was the local not-for-profit organization dedicating their time and resources to the Lake Wabamun oil spill clean up” said Mark Saleem “and we wanted to help them out”.

On September 15, the Stonehouse Pub collected donations for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton instead of a cover charge, and donated 2 tickets to the Systems of a Down concert for a door prize. This fun event raised over \$650 for the shelter and all of the staff, supporters, and volunteers attending had a blast!

WRS would like to thank the Stonehouse Pub, Mark, and Leanne for their time and generosity. WRS would also like to thank Dana and Dave Brettelle and Reka Serfozo for volunteering their time and helping to make this event a success.

Volunteer Voice Debra Chesley

Five years ago when I decided to become a volunteer for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton, I must admit I was a bit self-conscious about my lack of experience in either rescuing or rehabilitating wildlife. Trust me, the experiences come quickly! Like learning that a Great Horned Owl can comfortably be held at arm’s length as long as you keep your composure – and proper grip! – when the persistently flapping wings you’ve neglected to keep in check blow your hair back like some lightweight feathered fan.

Of course a lot of time spent as a shelter volunteer consists of the usual upkeep like cleaning dishes, cages or goose pools (which, if you’ve cleaned, you’ll know can’t really be called “usual”). But after you figure out how to restrain flapping wings so that an underweight owl can be hand fed, you’ll find the usual doesn’t really define your experience at WRS that much at all.

Volunteering for WRS comes in many forms, both inside the shelter and out – and we want to hear about it! Please share your volunteering story via WRS email, Attention Debra Chesley, to be published here. And if you’d like a story to tell ... check out our website to see how you can become a volunteer today. We’ll throw in the stories to tell free of charge!

6th Annual Run Wild for Wildlife

Our 6th Annual Run Wild for Wildlife continues to be a successful and FUN fund-raiser! Over 100 costume-clad runners and walkers participated and ran or walked the 2.5 – 5 km route through Hawrelak Park. Our top pledge earner was Dr. Carol Kujala who won an overnight stay for two at Delta Kananaskis Lodge. Thank you Carol for your strong support of WRS! NAIT Biological Sciences group team turned up again with hundreds of dollars in pledge money – what an awesome team! Everyone who participated and brought in pledges are greatly appreciated!!!

Thanks to our corporate cash sponsors this year: Campbell Scientific Canada Corp., Wilmac Glass Services, TNT Instrumentation, Marty Smayda (Remax), Envisage, the big fresh inc., Suggit Group Inc., ECP Fish & Game, Oriental Veggie House, Dabro Homes, Delton Veterinary Hospital, Park Veterinary Centre, Town Centre Veterinary Hospital, Calgary Trail Pet Hospital, Lessard-Callingwood Veterinary Hospital, Lakeside Veterinary Clinic, Riverbend Veterinary Clinic, Finell's Family Pet Care Clinic, Mission Ridge Animal Hospital and Terwillegar Veterinary Clinic.

As well, thank you to all the companies that provided prizes for the runners: The Running Room, The Wild Bird General Store, Black Cat Guest Ranch, Delta Lodge Kananaskis; Trek Holidays, Lorenzo Lawrence Hair Salon, Mountain Equipment Co-op; Lone Pine Publishing; LeHigh Heidelberg Cement Group; High Level Diner, Boston Pizza, Café Mosaics, Canine Caddie, Chilis Texas Grill, Custom Fit, Cutting Room, Lulemon WEM, Reds, Skiers Sports Shop, SPITZ Sunflowers, Strathcona Wilderness Centre, Famous Players WEM & I.N. House Cleaning Services.

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER!

Jim Lange has been a volunteer with WRS for many years. He has "gone on the road" for us many times, especially to places a little out of the way! One of the trips he took this spring was to collect a Bald Eagle from the Fish & Wildlife office of Valleyview, AB (a four-hour round trip)! He went back up a couple of weeks later where he and the local biologist joyfully released the eagle. Thank you Jim, for your many years of help in rescuing, picking up and releasing numerous patients!



WRS is grateful to all volunteers who give freely of their time & skills in order to help us achieve our goals!

Thank you Shell Environment Fund

Shell Environment Fund contributes \$1060.00 to WRS for "Seeing the Light" program for wildlife. Money from this fund was used to purchase an Ophthalmoscope/Otoscope for detailed examination of eyes and ears. This instrument has proved invaluable for the medical team, given that many of our owl patients come in with head trauma from being hit by cars. Best of all, it lessens stress on the birds since we don't have to drive them to the vet office to get their eyes checked!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2005 MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Woodhaven Properties Inc.
Edmonton Association of Small Animal Veterinarians
United Way Alberta Capital Region
United Way Calgary Region
EnCana Cares Foundation
Cunningham AnimalCare Fund
Suggitt Group Inc.
Telus Community Connections
ZED Resources
Shaw Communications
Wilmac Glass Services
Laura and Colin Jackson

Thank You Also Goes Out To:

- **alocalchoice.com** – donating space on the website
- **Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada** – Sending one staff member to the "Working Together for Wildlife" Conference in Toronto
- **Aveda Salons** - collected money for WRS during Wabamun
- **Big Al's Aquarium Services** – supplying WRS with feeder fish
- **CJSR** – providing WRS with advertising
- Food Bank
- **Jordans Floorcoverings** – Donating Carpet to the shelter
- **Pet Planet** – our partner and collected money for WRS during Wabamun
- **Sunterra Market** – Providing WRS with produce and bread
- **Tackle Shack in Grande Prairie** – raised money for WRS and collected supplies during Wabamun
- **West Harvest Inn** – Donating sheets and towels to our shelter (ongoing basis)
- **West Harvest Inn, Coast Terrace Inn Edmonton South, Delta Edmonton South, Travelodge Edmonton South, Cedar Park Inn, Varscona Hotel on Whyte** – sheets and towels during Wabamun

VERY SPECIAL MENTION!

Laura Jackson loves animals! She also loves WRS and wildlife! On October 1, 2005, Laura organized the "Ride For Wildlife". Laura's Ceili Farms and the Bremner 4-H club did an all day horse-back ride through the scenic, wildlife-filled land around her farm in memory of Roni Irwin, a friend and fellow animal-lover. **The riders raised close to \$4,000.00 to support WRS!**

