

2015 / 2016

# Gibsons Wildlife Rehab Centre

[www.gibsonswildliferehabcentre.org](http://www.gibsonswildliferehabcentre.org)

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## PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR WILDLIFE CENTRE OPEN!

*Hi everyone. As you know, GWRC provides a valuable service to our area where there is no other place to care for injured wildlife (except a vet for mercy euthanasia). We really are blessed to have Clint and Irene here but GWRC gets no government funding and each year the animals admitted increases while the donations to cover the cost of their care diminishes.*

*Times are tough! We need your help to keep the care going. Because sadly the need does not lessen...*

*As is evident in your own lives, the costs of food, supplies and medicine keeps rising. When someone brings a wildling to us for care, we often do not receive a donation to help us care for it. And, because we deal with every kind of wild creature, we need to have on hand an array of supplies to feed them, as just one of our costs. For birds we need various types of fish, mice, special hummingbird food, wheat, duck food, wild bird seeds, various nuts, fruits, suet, etc. For mammals we need to stay supplied with substitute milk formulas for fawns, raccoon kits, baby squirrels as well as raw shellfish etc for raccoons.*

*We have never appealed for money since we formed GWRC almost 30 years ago. Reluctantly, we feel it is time to let you all know that we are feeling the pinch and we are having a tougher and tougher time. Can you help?*

*And, while I am asking, do you know of anyone reliable, looking to add some fulfillment to their lives, who'd enjoy working with wild critters in need? And has spare time to offer a predictable few hours each week? Our need for a stable schedule of volunteers is never-ending. Each year the patients increase and so does the need for volunteers. As I have written you before, Clint has had to slow down due to his surgeries (but still doing all he can in addition to providing his essential medical skills and call-out rescues).*

*With the existing dedicated volunteers/staff working as hard as their small numbers can, Irene is still so busy with daily operations she has not been able to find time to write the newsletter (even with the help I am able to provide) hence this issue being so incredibly late! No newsletter means we can't communicate with you, our fabulous supporters who keep us going year after year. And thus, of course, less contributions. Please consider making a donation, however small, so we can keep looking after those who cannot speak for themselves. From the depths of my heart, I thank you! - Anna the treasurer*



### A CALL IN THE NIGHT

Because the wildlife rehabilitation centre is at our home, this means Clint and I often receive telephone calls for help either very early in the morning or late in the evening. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we received a call at 10:40 pm from the Wildlife Call Centre in Victoria informing us that a Barred Owl had flown into a car and was lying by a ditch on the highway in Sechelt. As we drove to the location, we received a call from an RCMP officer who was parked by the owl, awaiting our arrival. Around 11.15 pm we picked up the owl and headed home. The bird had a severe concussion, which resulted in blood at the back of one of its eyes and blood in its mouth. After removing the blood from his mouth, we put the owl into a large warm kennel cab to recover. We were pleased the owl was still with us the following morning, when we administered electrolytes to him. Thankfully, after a few days, the owl began eating on his own and the blood behind his eye dissipated. He was, however, still suffering from concussion and could not hold his head straight. Towards the end of December we transferred the owl to a large outdoor aviary and he was successfully released on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

# THE 413 'PATIENTS' WE TOOK INTO CARE FROM NOVEMBER 2014 TO NOVEMBER 2015

## NESTLINGS

- 20 – American Robins
- 4 – Black-throated Grey Warblers
- 5 – Canada Goose Goslings
- 1 – Eurasian Collared Dove
- 3 – European Starlings
- 3 – Glaucous-winged Gull Chicks
- 1 – Great Blue Heron
- 13 – Mallard ducklings
- 1 – Merganser duckling
- 3 – Northwestern Crows
- 9 – Rock Pigeons
- 2 – Ruffed Grouse
- 1 – Swainson's Thrush
- 4 – Unknown nestlings
- 1 – Virginia Rail

## FLEDGLINGS

- 16 – American Robins
- 1 – Brown-headed Cowbird
- 1 – Canada Goose
- 3 – Cedar Waxwings
- 1 – Common Raven
- 2 – Eurasian Collared Doves
- 2 – European Starlings
- 8 – Glaucous-winged Gulls
- 2 – Golden-crowned Sparrows
- 1 – Great Blue Heron
- 1 – House Finch
- 8 – Northern Flickers
- 3 – Northwestern Crows
- 2 – Pacific Flycatchers
- 1 – Pileated Woodpecker
- 1 – Pine Siskin

- 4 – Rock Pigeons
- 10 – Rufous Hummingbirds
- 2 – Sparrows
- 4 – Spotted Towhees
- 3 – Swainson's Thrushes
- 4 – Violet-Green Swallows
- 1 – Willow Flycatcher
- 1 – Winter Wren
- 1 – Yellow-rumped Warbler

## ADULT BIRDS

- 2 – American Goldfinches
- 9 – American Robins
- 2 – Anna's Hummingbirds
- 2 – Barn Swallows
- 1 – Belted Kingfisher
- 1 – Black-capped Chickadee
- 2 – Black-headed Grosbeaks
- 1 – Brown-headed Cowbird
- 1 – Bufflehead Duck
- 1 – California Gull
- 4 – Canada Geese Juveniles
- 3 – Cedar Waxwings
- 2 – Chestnut-backed Chickadees
- 1 – Common Nighthawk
- 1 – Common Raven
- 9 – Dark-eyed Juncos
- 5 – Eurasian Collared Doves
- 2 – European Starlings
- 2 – Evening Grosbeaks
- 10 – Fox Sparrows
- 3 – Glaucous-winged Gulls
- 5 – Golden-crowned Kinglets
- 1 – Golden-crowned Sparrow

- 2 – Great Blue Herons
- 1 – Hermit Thrush
- 1 – Hooded Merganser
- 1 – House Finch
- 1 – Lesser Scaup
- 1 – Lincoln Sparrow
- 1 – Long-tailed Duck
- 1 – MacGillivray's Warbler
- 6 – Mallard Ducks
- 6 – Northern Flickers
- 1 – Orange-crowned Warbler
- 10 – Northwestern Crows
- 4 – Pine Siskins
- 3 – Pileated Woodpeckers
- 1 – Purple Finch
- 3 – Red-breasted Sapsuckers
- 19 – Rock Pigeons
- 1 – Ruffed Grouse
- 6 – Rufous Hummingbirds
- 1 – Savannah Sparrow
- 5 – Song Sparrows
- 8 – Spotted Towhees
- 2 – Steller's Jays
- 5 – Swainson's Thrushes
- 1 – Townsend Solitaire
- 1 – Tree Swallow
- 7 – Varied Thrushes
- 1 – Violet Green Swallow
- 1 – Warbling Vireo
- 1 – Western Tanager
- 1 – White-crowned Sparrow
- 1 – Wilson's Warbler
- 1 – Winter Wren
- 1 – Yellow-rumped Warbler

## RAPTORS

- 8 – Bald Eagles (Adult)
- 7 – Barred Owls
- 1 – Merlin
- 1 – Northern Goshawk
- 9 – Northern Pygmy Owls
- 2 – Red-tailed Hawks
- 2 – Saw-whet Owls
- 1 – Sharp-shinned Hawk (fledgling)

## MAMMALS

- 1 – American Mink
- 1 – Bear Cub
- 1 – Black-tailed Deer
- 5 – Black-tailed Deer Fawns
- 1 – Cottontail Rabbit
- 8 – Deer Mice
- 5 – Douglas Squirrels - adult
- 8 – Douglas Squirrels - babies
- 2 – Harbour Seal Pups
- 4 – Long-eared Bats
- 2 – Little Brown Bats
- 1 – Little Brown Bat Pup
- 5 – Norway Rats
- 1 – Silver-backed Bat
- 4 – Raccoon Kits

## REPTILES

- 1 – Garter Snake
- 1 – Red-eared Slider
- 1 – Western Painted Turtle

## WHY DISTRESSED WILDLIFE CAME TO US

- 61 – Hit window/patio deck
- 55 – Orphaned, Lost or Abandoned
- 55 – Caught by cats
- 46 – Hit by vehicles
- 40 – Fell from nest, nest abandoned, nest destroyed
- 30 – Sick
- 29 – Broken or injured wings
- 18 – Concussion
- 17 – Broken/injured leg or foot
- 9 – Attacked by crows
- 7 – Wounded (possible cat-caused injuries)
- 7 – Eye injuries
- 7 – Attacked by Dogs
- 4 – Caught in fishing line
- 4 – Nests removed by contractors/home owners
- 4 – Attacked by Hawk
- 4 – Trapped in building
- 3 – Drowning
- 3 – Attacked by Eagle
- 3 – Tree with nest felled
- 3 – Re-united with parent
- 1 – Stuck to tape
- 1 – Maggot infested
- 1 – Broken Beak
- 1 – Hit Hydro Lines

### Number of phone calls received:

**3266**

- Fawns..... 94
- Injured deer..... 90
- Bears/Bear Cubs. 22
- Raccoon kits..... 17
- Seal Pups..... 15

*We had more than 1 call for some of the above.*

## WHERE THE INJURED WILDLIFE WAS FOUND

- |                    |                        |                     |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 183 – Gibsons area | 6 – Pender Harbour     | 1 – Anvil Island    |
| 123 – Sechelt      | 4 – Garden Bay         | 1 – Bowen Island    |
| 45 – Roberts Creek | 3 – Egmont/ Earls Cove | 14 – Vancouver      |
| 16 – Halfmoon Bay  | 2 – Port Mellon        | 2 – North Vancouver |
| 10 – Madeira Park  | 2 – McNab Creek        | 1 – West Vancouver  |

This is one of the 9 Northern Pygmy Owls that came to us for help in 2015. He had flown into a window and was suffering from concussion. Thankfully after a few days in care he was able to be released. Here he is about to fly off

During 2015 we received over 26 telephone calls regarding Pygmy Owls – most of the owls having flown into windows or the now ever more popular see-through plexiglass deck railings!





# THANKS! A small word with big feeling!



**HELPING US IN VARIOUS WAYS MEANS THE WILDLIFE IN OUR CENTRE CONTINUES TO HAVE THE BEST CARE WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE THEM. SPECIAL THANKS GO TO .....**

All of our **volunteers, care workers, directors, fund-raisers**, your hours of service to our Centre are so appreciated! Special thanks to **Nicole Fortier** for again overseeing our Silent Auction – a time-consuming task!

The **many businesses and individuals** who support us financially, enabling our wildlife rehabilitation to continue. Thanks!

**Sechelt Animal Hospital** and **Night Owl Bird Hospital** continue to provide free veterinary help and expertise when we need it. **Howe Sound Pharmacy** helps us with medications needed for the wildlife in our care. We couldn't do it without you.

**Orphaned Wildlife (O.W.L.)** in Delta looks after any raptors we receive that need long-term care.

**Critter Care** in Langley looks after and raise bear cubs, including the orphans found on the Sunshine Coast.

**Party Ponies & Farm Ventures** again held a successful fund-raiser for us. Wow!

**Gibsons Recycling Depot, the Prancing Pony Thrift Shop and Gibsons Building Supplies** - your continued support is so very much appreciated.

**Super Valu** has their donation boxes at the cash registers for people to donate to a different charity every two months. We are delighted that Gibsons Wildlife is included.

**The Rotary Club, Gibsons** – for their donation

**Sunshine Coast Rod and Gun Club** - for their donation

**The Kingfisher Foundation** - again giving us a Grant which is so valued.

**PARA Paints** for holding a competition where the charity with the most votes received \$1,000.00 of paint and \$1,000 of supplies. Thank you to **Gibsons Building Supplies** for nominating us and a big thank-you to all who voted for us. We won the competition for charities in Western Canada.

**The Royal Bank of Canada, Sechelt** donate to a charity if their staff members volunteer a day of service to that charity, plus if they have a staff member who volunteers 40 hours to a charity, the Royal Bank again donates to that charity. We had a very welcomed donation from the bank for both the day of service and for one of their staff volunteering over 40 hours with us.

**Alison Taylor** for working on updating our website

**Krisztina Harasztosi** for taking pictures of our wildlife and continuing to look after our Facebook page.

**Norm Snihur** – always ready with his helicopter to transport wildlife to and from rehabilitation centres.

**Robert & Linda Dawson** – for spending a day at Sunnycrest Mall selling sunglasses, all proceeds to our Centre.

**Wanda Keay** - a portion of the proceeds from the beautiful British Columbia Calendar was donated to us. The calendar has pictures taken by the Keay family and we appreciate them supporting us in this way.

When our songbird aviary almost fell down due to decayed 25 year old wood (!) we decided we had better build a new one. We would like to specially mention **Robert Dawson** for his hours of work helping to rebuild the aviary and **Harvey Metz** for painting the new building. Days and days of volunteer work – so treasured.

**Richard Joseph** at Gibsons Marina continually saw bags of cans/pop bottles lying around, so he decided Gibsons Wildlife should be the recipient of the proceeds from them. He built a lovely big container with divided sections so that boaters could deposit their cans/bottles safely, thus keeping the Marina tidy and financially helping our Centre. We value Richard's support and his time taken to build the container. We also appreciate **Joanne Laansoo** emptying the box every week, sorting the cans/bottles and taking them to the Bottle Depot.

We received a number of donations in lieu of Christmas gifts or to honor someone's birthday and we would like to thank the **donors** for their thoughtfulness and the **family members** for supporting us in this way. Unfortunately we are unable to name all of the people who donated in this way but please know that we sure are appreciative.



*When **Arlene Harmon** saw an article about knitting "nests" for wild nestlings/fledglings or baby mammals, she got to work and knitted small, medium and large nests for our "patients". The nests were well used by many of our wild creatures and we are so grateful to Arlene for her kindheartedness and for spending time knitting them.*





# IN MEMORIAM

*We have received the following memorial donations and wish to convey our sympathy to the families and donors and thank them for their thoughtfulness. By remembering a special person or pet in this way, the donors are helping us continue to care for wildlife in distress.*

- ROSEMARY CARLILE** remembered by Donna Pretty, Tricia Morel
- JEAN HORTON** remembered by Rick and Anna Wright & Ineke Weyburg
- RHONA KELLY** remembered by Margaret Boyd
- RICK PLOTZKI** remembered by Carlos Colon-Vonarx, John Binns, Renee Barrette, Rodney Colbourne, Nicole Haroon, Danny & Susan Gober, Kristy Gonsalves, IBS Canada
- ANNE STEWART** remembered by Judy & Randy Scott, Joyce Hinton, Estrelisa, Muriel & Liezle Daly

- “BAILEY”** (missed so much)
- “BLUEBELLA”** (loved by many)
- “BOOTSIE”** (a very loving kitty)
- “CHIEF”** (a dignified big German Shepherd)
- “CLEM”** (a kind, gentle soul)
- “LOKI”** (a deeply loved 19 yr old cat)
  
- “MINOU”** (loved so much)
- “OREO”** (a loving kitty)
- “PADDY”** (a gently and loving cat, so missed)
- “J. ALFRED PRUFROCK”** (beloved guinea pig)
- “SIMBA”** (sweet Simba, missed terribly)
- “TOOTSIE”** (a dear little dog)
- “TAZ”** (beloved companion)
- “WHOOVER”** (a very special owl - bright-eyed ambassador, we will never forget him)

## BELOVED PET OF

- Maureen Moorby
- Rosemary Carlile
- Duncan Ward
- Rosemary Almond
- Second Chance Shelter
- Cornelia van Berkel & Don Kernan
- Judy Werts
- Lorraine Jones
- Fred & Sue Bradley
- Judy Werts
- Cushla Curtis
- Sybil & Selah Williams
- Lynn & Ray Burge
- Gibsons Wildlife Rehab.

## REMEMBERED BY

- Gene Errington
- Donna Pretty, Tricia Morel
- Duncan Ward
- Gene Errington
- Duncan Ward
- Cornelia & Don
- Irene & Clint Davy
- Judy
- Lorraine
- Fred and Sue
- Judy
- Cushla
- Estelle Lavine
- Margaret Grant
- Anna & Rick Wright
- Ineke Weyburg
- Irene & Clint Davy

## ELEANOR BABCOCK

We were saddened to hear of the passing of one of our loyal volunteers, Eleanor Babcock. Eleanor volunteered with us for many years until she moved to Sorrento. Although no longer able to visit, Eleanor kept in touch by sending us a donation every Christmas. We received her last donation in December 2014, our thank-you letter was sent January 2015, the month Eleanor died. RIP Eleanor.

## REMEMBERED ALWAYS BY

- LILIAN BLAKE** Ann Blake
- KAYLA** (a sparkling light) Judy Renouf
- RON JONES** Lorraine Jones
- ROSE PERRY** Ann Blake
- BOB SMITH** Aileen Scott
- DENISE SUNSHINE** Ann Blake
- JOHN R. WARD** Duncan Ward



- “BONSON”** Duncan Ward
- “HIGGINS”** Evanie Clack
- ALL MY PETS** Marilyn Richmond

## WHOOVER

We were all saddened at the death of our educational Barred Owl, "Whoover". Whoover suddenly became ill and although we had the help of a number of veterinarians, after a couple of weeks of intensive care, he died. What a loss to our Centre! Whoover was certainly our ambassador. He taught hundreds of school children all about owls, their habitat and how important it is to protect their environment. Whoover sat quietly on either Clint or Irene's gloved hand, never trying to get away. Whoover had only one eye and was unable to fly and from the moment he was brought to the Centre, settled right in. You might even say he took over the 'bird room' with his presence. Not only did children thrill at seeing an owl up close, so did the many adults who had the privilege of seeing him when Clint and Irene gave one of their presentations about wildlife rehabilitation. He is missed by all of us and will always be remembered as our very special owl.

## “RIVER”

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, when one of our volunteers, Margaret Boyd, told us she was concerned about a little bear cub that had been around her backyard for hours and was drenched from the heavy rain, we called the Conservation Officer for help to trap the cub. He brought a live trap and set it up at Margaret’s home. In the torrential rain, Margaret kept checking the trap and when she heard a sound coming from that area thought, success, the little bear has been caught. She was wrong! The trap had a dog in it, not the cub! Margaret quickly opened the trap and the dog ran off home. By this time it was dark and difficult to re-set the trap so it was decided to leave food around it, to encourage the cub to stay around and the trap would be re-set in the morning. The little cub had other ideas. In the morning she had not been near the food and was nowhere to be seen.

A couple of hours after Margaret told us the not-so-good news, we had a

For endangered species we are both their greatest enemy and their only hope.

Those wonderful creatures will not argue their case.

They will not put up a fight.

They will not beg for reprieve.

They will not say goodbye

They will not cry out.

They will just vanish.

And after they are gone, there will be silence.

And there will be stillness.

And there will be empty places ...

With so many lives hanging in the balance,  
the paths we choose today will decide the fate  
of the world.

*Bradley Trevor Greive in*

*The Friends We Keep’ by Laura Hobgood-Oster*



call from Jane Hopkins who lives a few blocks from Margaret. She had a very tiny, wet cub in her backyard. We were sure it was

the same one so Clint reset the trap. A few hours later, Jane called to say the cub was in the trap. Clint and Leroy McLellan picked up the trapped cub and brought her to the centre. We called Critter Care in Langley to make arrangements to transfer the cub to their Centre to be raised with their other orphaned cubs.

Critter Care informed us the cub is a female and they are calling her “River”. River weighed only 17 lbs – the normal weight for cubs at this time of the year is around 30 lbs so she definitely needed help. Thanks to Margaret, Jane, and Leroy for caring and to Critter Care for taking in this little orphan.



## DISCARDED FISHING LINE – MEANS DEATH OR INJURY TO WILDLIFE

On October 16<sup>th</sup> around 2:30 pm, Ange Copping noticed a bald eagle attacking a gull in the ocean not far from her home. She watched it for a few minutes and carried on with her chores.

Around 8 pm the same day, Ange noticed something flapping in the ocean where the eagle had been attacking the gull. Although it was now dark, Ange’s husband, Brad, decided to check it out as it was obviously a wild bird

in distress. Brad got his boat and on arrival at the bird, saw it was a gull. He tried to scoop it up from the water only to discover it had lots of fishing line wrapped around its legs and wing. Not only was the line preventing the bird from flying, the fishing line was caught on something in the sea and was anchored deep in the water. With a lot of effort, Brad managed to cut the line (he didn’t have scissors with him) and rescue the gull.

On arrival at our centre we removed the fishing line and cleaned and sutured the deep puncture wound on the gull’s back (obviously caused by the eagle). We were happy that the gull recovered from both traumas and a couple of months later we were able to successfully release it.

We have mentioned this before but **PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT DISCARD FISHING LINE**. It causes so much harm and death to wildlife. This gull was very lucky, but many thousands of wild creatures are not.

## THE MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP...

Use a **MARKETPLACE IGA RE-LOADABLE GIFT CARD** (obtained from us) if you shop at IGA. This card, when used, means Gibsons Wildlife automatically receives a 4% donation from IGA Head Office for every dollar re-loaded. There are no limitations to the amount you load ... and there is **NO COST TO YOU!** You can re-load anywhere from \$10-\$500 and use the card at any IGA throughout B.C. To up-load you can pay in cash, debit or credit card (to collect points or air miles).

Please continue to put your **GROCERY RECEIPTS** from **IGA, SUPER VALU** or **CLAYTONS** in our box at the stores. **CANADIAN TIRE** vouchers are also very welcomed by us.

Save your **BEER BOTTLES** and **POP CANS** and donate them to us. If you have lots, we may be able to arrange pick-up, especially if you have them regularly.

Purchase our **PHOTO CARDS, ALL-OCCASION CARDS, CHRISTMAS CARDS, T-SHIRTS, WINDOW DECALS** and the new **WILDLIFE REHABILITATION BOOK** or help with our "Wish List":

**FOOD** – Canned dog or cat food (pate only please), plain cat kibble, wheat, duck pellets, hen scratch, pigeon mix, dove mix, assorted nuts, frozen fish (herring, smelt, salmon) suet, berries.

**CLEANING SUPPLIES** – Washing-up Liquid, Liquid Laundry Soap, Liquid Hand Soap, Bleach, Kleenex, Paper Towels (1/2 size sheets), Non-latex gloves (S-M-L), Extra large Garbage Bags.

**STATIONERY** – Computer Paper, Envelopes, Black Felt Pens.

**DONATIONS** – Always needed and always appreciated. We will be happy to issue a tax receipt, of course.

**VOLUNTEERS** – Our never-ending request! We need help in all kinds of areas, including wildlife care, yard work, gardening, picking up injured wildlife, etc.



**GREAT BAKERS!** *We were again successful in receiving a Federal Government Summer Jobs Grant enabling us to employ two students. This year we hired **Leanna Bildwell** who was our summer student two years ago, and **Kiara Meikle** who volunteered with us at weekends. Both students loved working with the wildlife, they showed lots of compassion, and worked really hard. At the end of their term, they decided to hold a Bake Sale for us at our local Mall, arranging all the posters, tables, etc. They raised over \$800.00 and sold ALL the baking! Well done!*

### Wildlife Rehabilitation Stories of Compassionate Care



Rhonda Skinner

This book, by Rhonda Skinner, is dedicated to the rehabbers, veterinarians and volunteers who provide care for the sick, injured or orphaned wildlife. The book contains stories from various wildlife rehabilitation centres, including a few by Irene Davy from your Gibsons Wildlife Rehab Centre. The cost is \$24.95 and the book is available either by calling in at our Centre or by completing our order form. Rhonda is donating the proceeds from the sale of the book to the rehabilitation centres mentioned in the book... a wonderful gesture!

Here's another way to help your wildlife rehab centre. Postage is increasingly expensive, and we send our annual newsletters to over 1,000 people! If you agree to receive our newsletter by email, we can channel the cost of paper, envelopes and postage back into animal care. You would receive the newsletter as a PDF document which can be either read on your computer in colour or printed out on your printer (in colour or b/w)

To receive your Gibsons Wildlife Rehab newsletter by email in future, just do this once this year:

1. Visit our website at [gibsonswildliferehabcentre.org](http://gibsonswildliferehabcentre.org)
2. Look for JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST in the right hand column.
3. Type in your name, mailing address and email address.
4. Click the SUBSCRIBE button.

You'll receive an immediate automatic email asking you to click a link to confirm your subscription and you're done.

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