



Breaking New Waters

Last year we asked for help from our supporters for a new marine animal facility – and we are excited and so grateful to provide an update!

Our new marine animal facility was built in 2018, and even welcomed this year's seal pups! This new enclosure allows us to better prepare for and assess marine animals for release. The enclosure can be used for seals, beavers, otters, turtles, and even seabirds. The new,

deeper pools allow proper diving and facilitate a better area for conditioning of these animals. We cannot thank everyone enough who donated to this project. A huge thank you to our long term supporter, the Highbury Foundation, who contributed over \$25,000 to the project. Thank you for your continued support. With everyone's help, injured and orphaned marine wildlife in Nova Scotia get a second chance.



Friends for Change, Frankie and Katie

Katie has been a dedicated volunteer at Hope for Wildlife for over two years. She helps in our laundry room and with our education animals. Katie has an unparalleled connection with the animals here at Hope for Wildlife – she is also on the autism spectrum.

"Animals just connect with her. They know that she understands them, and so they trust her. It's really amazing to watch," says Katie's mom, Chris.

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All the volunteers at Hope for Wildlife know Katie and are in awe of the connection she has with the wildlife; especially with Oliver, our retired barred owl, and our new addition, Frankie the fox. Frankie arrived as a tiny, blind fox kit and took an immediate shine to Katie. The bond of trust they have in each other is truly heart-warming, and shows just how healing animals can be. Our education team animals have really benefited from Katie, and she from them. Katie has shown improved communication and social skills since volunteering with us; and can usually be found in Frankie's unit, telling the public all about her. Not even Katie thought she would ever be a public speaker – but with Frankie or Oliver by her side, she'll never shy away from an opportunity to teach people about these creatures.



Going Green and Clean

Hope for Wildlife has been approved by the provincial government for a 30 kW solar installation consisting of 109 solar panels. This will allow us to produce power here at the farm, and in turn, reduce both our ecological footprint and electricity costs. We are very excited to have the opportunity to make a positive impact on our natural world, while showing the public a solar farm that will help encourage people to look into solar energy themselves.

Although we have provincial approval, this does not include the money to purchase and install the panels, so we must raise the funds needed to make this project a reality. Individuals and businesses can sponsor a solar panel – for a \$1,500 donation you will receive recognition through Hope for Wildlife's social media and online platforms. In addition, solar panel sponsors will be acknowledged with a stepping stone on the property, or you may choose to have your name placed directly on the solar panel itself. Help us move from fossil fuels to green energy and minimize our impact on the natural world. To sponsor a solar panel, contact Stephanie: steph@hopeforwildlife.net



Bonded Brothers, Tom and Jerry

This year we welcomed a few more members to our education team, and they have taken on the greeter role with pleasure!

Anyone who has visited Hope for Wildlife this year has met Tom and Jerry, our two domestic turkeys. They are fan favorites and were even seen dancing to the music at our Annual Open House!

Hope for Wildlife is all about connecting people with the natural world and giving tangible examples of how they can help wildlife and their environment in everyday life. Tom and Jerry help with this, and we have been overwhelmed by the effect they have had on our visitors and staff. Even people who are nervous around birds have come to love them, and their gentle nature allows people to get up close and personal. They bring joy to our staff and volunteers each day, and we love having them as part of the team.



Explore, Learn More

This fall, Hope and Erica joined forces with Tonya from

Nova Scotia's Marine Animal Response Society (MARS) and travelled to San Francisco to extend their learning in wildlife rehabilitation, focusing on seabirds, marine mammals, and oiled animals. At The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, they learned about rehabilitating large animals like sea lions, studied disease control cases with California's current leptospirosis outbreak, and even got to go on a sea lion release! They got suited up to learn about bathing and care procedures for oiled wildlife through the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, and explored the science behind bird waterproofing in a rehabilitation setting with International Bird Rescue.

Between all the knowledge they took in, and the amazing sights to be seen in California, Hope, Erica, and Tonya had a great time. Hope for Wildlife looks forward to building strong relationships with these rehabs, especially with MARS, in the coming months and years.



Our New Vet's Most Difficult Case

This summer, we welcomed Dr. Jessica Khodadad to our wildlife hospital. She comes to us from Florida, and now lives and works at Hope for Wildlife. Working under the mentorship of Dr. Sherri Cox, the founder of

the National Wildlife Centre, Dr. Jessica brings an abundance of knowledge and experience that we are so fortunate to have.

Shortly after Dr. Jessica arrived at Hope for Wildlife, she was thrown into wildlife emergency medicine with one of our hardest cases to date – a fawn that had gotten stuck in a thick tar like substance covering over half of his body.

Deer can be extremely hard patients. They suffer from a condition known as capture myopathy – the stress of capture. Even helpful medical treatment can be so stressful to the animal that it causes chronic metabolic upset, which is often fatal. While we usually limit human contact, in the case of this deer, we had to handle him to try to get the caustic material off – an impossible circumstance.

While not every story has a happy ending, every case we handle is an opportunity to learn about continuing care for that species. Sadly, this deer was incredibly and adversely affected by the actions of humankind, and although he did not survive, we learned to look at everything we do in a new way, and to really understand the consequence of all our actions and activities. Hopefully by sharing this sad story we will encourage others to become better stewards of the earth.



From Hope

The wildlife rehabilitation world in Nova Scotia has undergone many changes and challenges in 2018.

We must take a moment to reflect and celebrate the lives of three

wonderful stewards to the wild world that have passed away this year.

Helene Van Doninck passed in August. She and her husband Murdo founded the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in 2001. Her energy and dedication to Nova Scotia's wildlife will be sorely missed. Helene was a mentor and leader to wildlife lovers.

Ray MacLeod, writer of "Hope for Wildlife: True Stories of Animal Rescue" passed away this November. He was known throughout the community as a journalist,

teacher, coach, outdoorsman, author, and loving family man. Ray will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him, and he will always remain a part of Hope for Wildlife.

Reid Patterson, my partner of close to 14 years was lost at sea in July. Death, loss, and grief give us unrivaled life experience. When we lose a member of our family, we learn how to better appreciate the ones we love. Reid's memory will live on as we look over our facility and see all that he contributed.

These lives are a collection of memories for those left behind. We know all three followed their hearts and their passion. This gives us great peace.

It has been a year of triumph, sadness, and growth at Hope for Wildlife. We have some amazing new facilities to take on more patients; we have new education animals and programs; and we have great plans for the new year. I cannot thank our supporters, donors, staff, and volunteers enough for seeing myself and all of our wildlife through 2018 – and I cannot wait to see what 2019 has in store.

... *Grief is just love with no place to go.*



YES! I would like to support Hope for Wildlife.

I would like to make a donation:

\$10 \$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

AND / OR

I would like to sponsor a species for one year:

\$125 – Sponsors receive a personalized Certificate of Sponsorship, a fact sheet, a Hope for Wildlife bumper sticker, and a story of an animal from the selected species (please choose):

- Canada Goose
- Raccoon
- Red Fox
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- Porcupine
- Barred Owl
- Snowshoe Hare
- Seal
- White Tailed Deer
- Bobcat

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