



HOW COVID 19 IMPACTS US

We at the wildlife centre have been feeling the effects of the pandemic along with all of you. We started by increasing sanitizing efforts several times a day at the Visitor Centre but when it became evident that this might not be enough, we erred on the side of caution by closing the doors in mid March. This has meant the loss of our main source of income which we need operate the wildlife hospital. In addition, we had to cancel the Garage Sale scheduled for late April and fundraising events that we attend annually have been put on hold as well. There has been an outpouring of support from the community, our members and our Facebook followers for which we are very grateful.

The wildlife hospital remains open and caregivers are taking the necessary precautions to be safe while continuing to care for our wildlife patients.

We hope you and your families stay safe . Together we will get through this.

PATIENTS IN CARE

We have had several Bald Eagles in care since the beginning of the year. Most have tested positive for lead poisoning along with other injuries. Treating these birds requires many treatments of chelation therapy which is a costly procedure at \$125 for each session and most times several treatments are necessary. We have had some positive outcomes with subsequent releases which is very encouraging.

We currently have a Great Blue Heron patient who we believe had a nasty encounter with a sharp object, causing a hole in his lower beak. Hopefully he will make a full recovery and be released.

CONSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

We now have several work parties under our belts and the excellent work speaks for itself. The top photo is of the viewing platform for the flight cage. Visitors will be able to look down into the cage to view the birds. The overall size of the cage is 120' by 40' and will be so advantageous in the rehabilitation process.

The bottom photo is of a deer pen in one section and what we refer to as "global" in the other which is housing for baby and juvenile song birds prior to release. We have several dedicated volunteers who participate in various construction projects and without whom it would be nigh on to impossible to get these jobs done.



OUR ANNUAL RAFFLE



- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Prize | Two round-trip tickets anywhere WestJet flies
Taxes & fees not included
Approx value \$ 2900 |  |
| 2nd Prize | One night stay for two at the Wickannish Inn, Tofino
Approx value \$500 |  |
| 3rd Prize | Signed & Numbered Eagle Print
"To Touch the Sky" by Morten Solberg
Approx value \$500 Donated anonymously |  |
| 4th Prize | 4 hour C.R. Whale & Wildlife Zodiac Tour for two people
Approx value \$350 |  |
| 5th Prize | One night stay for two at Harbour Hideout in Ucluelet
Approx value \$150 |  |
| 6th Prize | A West Coast Helicopter winter jacket and gift card to Fifty Parallel Tap and Grill
Approx value \$130 |  No photo available |

The draw will be held at Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens 6183 Whittaker Rd., Courtenay BC Monday September 7, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Winners consent to release of their names by license.

Know your limit
Play within it

It is the responsibility of the prize winners to arrange to pick up prizes
1331 Williams Beach Rd., Merville BC (778) 428-1990
www.marswildliferescue.com

License # 125981

You can purchase raffle tickets online by going to our website:

www.marswildliferescue.com
The cost is \$10 per ticket for a chance to win one of 6 terrific prizes.

Westjet tickets for two round trip

A one night stay for two at the Wickannish Inn, Tofino

A signed & numbered Eagle print by Morten Solberg

A 4 hour whale watching tour

A one night stay at Harbour Hideout in Ucluelet

A West Coast Helicopter company jacket & gift card to Fifty Parallel Tap & Grill.

Draw is on Labour Day weekend at Kitty Coleman

Must be purchased in B.C. 19 years and older.



CAREGIVERS' PROSPECTIVE

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique challenge to wildlife rehabilitators everywhere. This is normally a time when we would be preparing for an influx of springtime babies, but it has been difficult to locate and purchase the necessary supplies and accomplish animal care and administrative tasks while also protecting our hospital from this virus. Kiersten and I have been busy planning and updating the protocols for fawns, raccoons, baby birds, and ducklings to ensure proper training and instruction in the upcoming months, but it is hard to say how the rapidly evolving situation will affect our caseload and capacity to care for wildlife. Whatever comes, we will do our best to help those in need! We are so deeply grateful for the support of our members, volunteers, and community. Most of the hospital volunteers are self-isolating at home but have offered assistance in other ways such as donating, sewing, and transporting animals. We know they wish they could be here! A handful of very dedicated people are still volunteering in the hospital and we are so lucky to have the help of five international volunteer interns who came to stay just before the COVID-19 situation escalated. To all of you wonderful people, we can't say thank you enough!

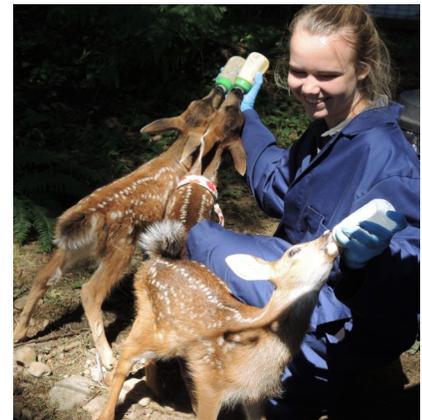
Gyl Andersen—Manager of Wildlife Rehab

NWRA SYMPOSIUM

I attended the 2020 symposium in South Padre Island, Texas in February. The location was beautiful and there were many amazing birds to be seen in the area. This week long conference is held annually as a chance for rehabbers from all over to connect, share their work and come together to celebrate and learn about the world of wildlife rehabilitation. Attending this conference gave me so many amazing ideas and connections that I am using to improve our rehab protocols and revamp our ambassador program. I will be working on these things in the coming months to use what I have learned to make the hard work we do here at MARS even better and more efficient! It has given me a lot of things to think about as we prepare for our upcoming baby season. Kiersten Shyian—Asst. Mgr. of Wildlife Rehab.

GLOBAL

The new Global enclosure will be used for both baby birds and newly admitted fawns this summer. The construction crew discovered a significant mold problem in the small kitchen we were using for the deer so it was demolished with the intention to rebuild when we have the time and funds. We will be modifying part of the new Global to act as both an isolation area and kitchen for fawns. Fawns and their supplies must be isolated from other animals because they are very susceptible to bacterial infections. Global construction is funded in part by a \$500 bursary from the Wildlife Rehabilitator's Network of BC.



TOGETHER WE ARE MARS

Our members make it possible for us to help wildlife. Please join us by going to our website to renew your membership or become a member.
www.marswildliferescue.com

LEAD POISONING STATS

In 2020, we have received 9 eagles that have tested positive for lead poisoning. Some were so severely impacted by the lead that they died within days or were DOA. One was humanely euthanized after showing severe symptoms of lead poisoning and one was euthanized due to underlying muscle and bone infections unrelated to the lead. Two of the birds who tested highest were treated and successfully released back to the wild after several rounds of chelation therapy and time in the flight pen.

We are setting up the Medium Animal Room to be used exclusively for infant raccoons since we don't have a separate building for raccoon food prep, laundry, and isolation. Raccoons represent a significant disease risk so it is important that their supplies don't mix with the other animals'.

We recently had a Cozy Cot infant warmer donated by VIHA. We are very grateful since one of our two isolette infant incubators was broken and the remaining one will need to be used for the nestling birds. We plan to use the Cozy Cot for infant raccoons.



We do our best but sometimes the poison has become such a systemic issue that we can't save them.