

IWRS NEWSLETTER

The first 9 months

Facility construction

Charity-status

Thank YOU!



We thank you for your continued support and are thrilled to see how many people in our greater Okanagan communities want to contribute, **BE PART OF THE CHANGE** we want to see!

We think that rehabilitation of individual animals and population management do **NOT** have to be opposites!! Thank you for truly caring about our wildlife!

Want to learn more about us?

Check out our social media accounts for updates:

IG: @interiorwildlife
 FB: Interior wildlife
 Rehabilitation Society

Drumroll... month 9!

**We've received charity-status !!!
 (#744332479 RR0001)**

- We are very happy to report, that our registered non-profit now has charity-status! What does that mean, you ask?
- We are now able to issue tax receipts for any monetary donations. This also makes us eligible to apply for any project grants by private foundations. Let the grant-search begin!

We're now building our facility!



- Our tireless construction volunteers have come together in Summerland to join forces for our first „work bee“ in September. After a very smokey summer, we met on-site to do some physical work outdoors and meet in-person, what a great reason to leave those indoor-home-office-bubbles and catch the last warm days of summer!
- We had a very productive weekend and started building wood/stucco wire panels for **our waterbird compound.**



From the president

Hurray!! For our operating permit application with the provincial government, I have finally completed my requirements of volunteering at various well-established licensed wildlife rehabilitation facilities.

In 2019 I was at the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, AB. Then in 2020, I spent my summer at the Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter in Smithers, BC. Finally this summer, I was able to take time off to volunteer at the BC Wildlife Park's Rehabilitation Centre in Kamloops (see picture above). That makes 100 days in 2 years - logged!

Upon return I successfully passed my government licensing exam (another requirement for our permit).

- The **Laidlaw family**, who lives on the front property has **generously** spent several days levelling out a **new driveway** with their „Bobcat“. Now we don't have to drive across the horse field to get supplies and tools to the back part of the property anymore. Great job - a bit of everything, with dust and rocks and stubborn little pieces of old barbed wire fencing!

- We have installed a waterline and outdoor tap installed for our use.

- More weekends were spent on building our utility shed.

Thanks to Kieran,

Kasper,

Michael, Ryan and Jonathan - look at the nice little structure we have now! Ready for our power to be turned on by the District of Summerland very shortly.

- Last steps to obtain an operating permit by the provincial and federal authorities, is to obtain liability insurance and to have our **facilities inspected**. This is why we're spending every free day building our first outdoor enclosures: **the 3-part waterbird compound** (so far we have 2 pools) as well as a first **small mammal enclosure** which could house



Our Wishlists

For our nursery: insulated construction office trailer

For storage: shipping container or garden shed (used or new)

Building materials: used chain link fencing, 1/2" hardware cloth, treated wood (2x4's), plywood (3/4" OSB)

Tools : skill saw, power drill etc.

Household/garden items: kitchen island, wheel barrow

To donate any items described above, go to: interiorwildlife.ca/ways-to-support-us.

We also have a new amazon-wishlist now, where you can purchase items for us online!

Go to: www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/genericItemsPage/2GG4BH118U83J

We are not yet operational and are pending permits to accept wildlife in the future.

HOWEVER, we are collecting funds in order to build first structures. Spread the word far and wide (tax receipts given now!)

Acknowledgements

We are humbled and grateful to be able to promote co-existence with wildlife on unceded Sylix Okanagan Nation territory and to be granted use of part of the Summerland private property moving forward.

various species such as all native types of squirrels, porcupines, badger cubs or fox kits.

- The discussion on **which species we will be able to accept** once we have our permits will probably be ever-ongoing. Staying within permit limitations, knowing what our carrying capacities will be (well-trained animal care volunteers and funds to construct more species-specific enclosures). All the while fulfilling the need for a public service. It's a balancing act! We're here, one baby-step at a time!

Our first public educational outreach talk complete!

- Shout out to **Emily Sunter** and **Mary Anthes** who have been instrumental in preparing and delivering our first educational talk! We were invited by the **Allan Brooks Nature Centre in Vernon** to speak about our work. Some great discussions with the centre's volunteers were had on how the public can assist in preventing human-wildlife conflicts and how to assist wildlife rehabilitators in our communities!



According to "wildlifecollisions.ca": about 80% of wildlife vehicle collisions involve deer. Moose, elk, bears, coyotes and other wildlife make up the remaining 20%. Collisions with smaller wildlife species are extremely common, but as they cause less damage to private property or human life, they rarely appear in official statistics (collected by the Ministry of transportation).

- Did you know, that over 10 000 wild animals get hit on our roads yearly, in BC alone? There are 23 licensed wildlife care facilities in BC, we will be number 24 - here were we live!
- We had so many reasons to share why a wildlife care facility is needed in the Okanagan...we forgot to even take pictures ; -)