



NATIONAL WILDLIFE CENTRE



Did you Know?

Winter can be challenging for many animals, just like humans. Small birds, for example need to be able to access a much greater amount of food in order to maintain body heat during the colder months.



Birds and mammals are both endothermic. This means that in order to keep their body temperature high enough for survival, they have to sustain their metabolism. Some mammals hibernate, unlike birds, who cannot. When in hibernation, animals have low body temperatures and slow breathing, heart and metabolic rates. Hibernation takes a lot of energy, though some animals do spend winter in and out of hibernation (called torpor). Only a few species can hibernate efficiently, due to limited fat resources. Eastern grey squirrels in Ontario, like the one pictured here can usually store enough food to maintain energy stores and stay active all winter. Other animals migrate in the winter to areas where food is more plentiful, giving them a better chance for survival.



HOLIDAY 2023

Winter is Here!

Winter is a great time to venture out, to observe and appreciate many wild species. You can often spot animals more easily in winter than in other seasons, due to the loss of tree foliage. Look for animal tracks or wing prints in the snow while you're out there. Can you guess the species that made them? Look for tunnels, seed casings and impressions in the snow. Don't forget to stay on main trails, as we don't want to disturb wildlife that may be hibernating. Please do not bait animals for photos and as always, take only pictures while you're out there!



Patient Stories



HOLIDAY 2023



Human/Wildlife Interaction!

Meet Lee! This young second year Black bear cub was hit by a vehicle near Bracebridge, Ontario. Our NWC mobile hospital team reacted quickly to transport the young bear from Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary to the National Wildlife Centre. X-rays showed the bear had a ruptured diaphragm. His stomach, spleen and some intestines were crowding into his chest cavity. Emergency surgery was required. The NWC Veterinary team worked to put his internal organs back into their correct places in his abdomen. The team also repaired his front leg which had been fractured in the collision. Once stable, this little fellow, called Lee spent his recovery at Bear With Us and has now been released. Lucky Lee now has a future in the wild once again! Thanks to everyone for this great teamwork to help this young bear.

Pictured here, working on Lee, is Dr. Taryn Ellis, one of our amazing NWC vets!

Unfortunate Encounter!

This poor North American porcupine recently arrived at Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary after having an unfortunate encounter with a vehicle. He was quickly transferred to Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge for treatment by our National Wildlife Centre medical team. X-rays showed that he had suffered two broken legs. Dr. Lapham-Simpson and Dr. Cox (shown here) as well as Octavio Perez went into surgery to repair his bones and he will remain at Shades of Hope until he fully heals and can be released. Thanks to this team effort, this little one has a chance!





HOLIDAY 2023

Bad Day for This Little Kestrel!



This little American kestrel arrived to NWC showing trauma/injuries to his wing and keel. X-rays showed a broken right ulna, broken left humerus and a soft tissue wound on his keel (undercarriage). Surgery was required to fix the broken left wing. Surgery went well and once the pins were removed he was returned to his natural habitat. This is one of the lucky ones! The American kestrel is our smallest falcon with extremely good eyesight for hunting. In the winter, you are more likely to see a kestrel hunting from a perch, than from the air, due to the great energy that is required to secure a meal. Kestrels are cavity-nesters, and often use holes excavated by woodpeckers and flickers for nest sites. There are conservation concerns about the kestrel, as populations have been slowly declining in Canada. They suspect loss of open habitats mixed with trees are the problem.



Field Hospital Update!



Building is officially in progress!

This means that we will be able to receive sick and injured wildlife to our new facility in Caledon, beginning late Spring 2024. We need your help. If you know of anyone who can donate time or materials for the inside of the building, please reach out to director@nationalwildlifecentre.ca.

Here are some of our needs:



- lumber
- hardware
- insulation
- trusscore panels
- plywood
- drywall
- weatherstripping
- baseboards
- doors
- windows
- paint
- appliances
- vapour barrier
- sub-flooring
- electrical wire
- light fixtures
- shelving
- sinks
- cupboards
- tables
- volunteer trades people





Our Supporters: Helping Us Preserve Canada's Wildlife



HOLIDAY 2023

Taking small actions to help our wildlife and help our planet.



You Too Can Help Wildlife Today

Thank you for donating to our Giving Tuesday Campaign and/or our Climb for Wildlife Fundraiser. If you didn't have the opportunity, please consider donating to wildlife this holiday season. It's a great gift idea! Since we operate on donations, every dollar counts!



Consider Donating Monthly

To help keep our medical team on the road (this would help cover costs for medicine and our mobile hospital). Ongoing monthly donations of \$25.00 or more receive a free 2024 calendar, while quantities last.



Provide a One-Time Donation

Did you know it costs between \$500.00 and \$900.00 in materials alone to perform many complicated orthopaedic surgeries? One-time donations of \$100.00 or more receive a free 2024 calendar, while quantities last. Consider giving in celebration or in memory of a family, member friend or pet.



Remember Wildlife in your Estate Planning

Your legacy can live on.

Your generous support helps protect Canada's wildlife. Join us on this important mission!



Donate Online

www.nationalwildlifecentre.ca

Donate By Mail

National Wildlife Centre
PO Box 192, Caledon East
ON L7C 3L9



NWC 2024 Calendars Have Arrived!
Order on our website: www.nationalwildlifecentre.ca/nwc-store/

Happy Holidays from the National Wildlife Centre!

