

**SANDY
PINES
WILDLIFE
CENTRE**

On the Wild Side

WWW.SANDYPINESWILDLIFE.ORG

WINTER 2018

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The 2019 calendar campaign is in full swing, and we are hopeful of another very successful fundraiser. Our beautiful calendar contains lovely large images of 12 of our wildlife patients; thank you to our photographers Elisa Canepa, Janet Drew, Adriana Larios, and Tess Miller, and to Julia Evoy for her Bat Care information. Thanks also go to the 12 supportive local businesses who sponsored the monthly ads: Cheryl Hiebert Personal Wellness, Fancy That/Roundstone, Hart 'n Hart, Napanee Opticians, Pet Panache, Sand 'n Sea, Second Debut, Shiva's Delight, Starlet, TCO Agromart, Total Aquatics, and Touch of Class. Thanks also to Burke Printing, Janet Drew and Marsha Donald (calendar creation and distribution), the various businesses and volunteers who are selling the calendars, and of course all of you who are supporting Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre with your purchase!

Director's Editorial

Dear Friends,

This has been an odd and trying year. It started off with a tragedy in January when a fire destroyed our barn and sadly we lost a pet pig and a rabbit housed there. It was hard to take but it could have been worse. The firefighters worked hard on the coldest day of the year to limit the spread. I can't thank them enough for their heroic efforts to gain control as ice covered them. In that bitter cold they could only work a few minutes at a time so extra fire stations were called in to help.

After a major clean up and recovery, we hired a construction company to rebuild the barn and an adjoining Aquatic Centre. It began well until the owner of the construction company had a major accident from which he is still recovering. His crew were able to complete the outside of the barn, but no work on the interior including electrical work and plumbing could be started.



Fortunately the hay mow was completed in August allowing us to get the hay and straw, that had been stored offsite for a few months, into the new barn. Thank you to all the generous people who donated hay and straw and storage too.

The third crisis to hit was the drought this summer, causing both our wells to run dry. This resulted in having to buy water three times a week to keep up with our need. We have since had a third well dug so hopefully we won't have this problem again. These unexpected expenses made a big dent in our budget, but a Charity Campaign with "Canada Helps" relieved some of the financial pressure. To all the people who donated, thank you for your support when we needed it most.

By the time October came around we still had no firm offer of a company willing to complete the barn and winter would soon be upon us. We decided a press release asking for help would be our last chance of having a useable barn before winter. What an amazing response we received, first from Graham Construction in Kingston, then from Napanee Generating station. Now it looks like we will have a useable barn for my farm animals and our overflow of wildlife patients as well as our much need Aquatic Centre. It is a great relief to finally have some good news to share and we are very grateful to all the people who have come forward, locally and from far to offer support with donations or offers of hands on work for the new building. We are looking forward to showing you the new barn and Aquatic Facility when next you visit us.



Have a Happy Holiday Season and all the best for the New Year.

From Sue Meech and all of us at Sandy Pines

Meet the team



Leah Birmingham, RVT: Assistant Director and Licensed Wildlife Custodian, Internship Program Coordinator
 Leah is a Registered Veterinary Technologist (St. Lawrence College) In 2005, she became SPWC’s first full-time employee. As a Registered Vet Tech Leah manages the patient care in our wildlife hospital. Leah is also a part time professor at St. Lawrence College teaching wildlife care and exotic pet medicine to the Vet Assistant and Vet Tech students.

Julia: Veterinarian Assistant, Pre-Release Cage Supervisor
 Julia became a member of the SPWC team in 2007. She works in all areas of the Centre, however her main focus is the pre-release cages which house animals soon to be released back to the wild.



Tess Miller Human Relations Coordinator
 Tess graduated from Trent University with a BSc in Biology. After working with SPWC over the years she returned to us in February 2017 and took on the role of Human Relations Coordinator. She also continues to work in the daily care of wildlife, and mentors new interns and volunteers.

We would also like to introduce Amy Hill, a Veterinary technician, who has joined our team full time. She brings with her several years of experience and a love of wildlife. Amy will be a welcomed addition to our staff and patients.



Janelle: Admin/Bookkeeper
 Janelle has always had a passion for working towards improving the lives of animals. She was a volunteer board member for the Napanee OSPCA for over 20 years. Janelle has a background in bookkeeping and assists Sue part time with administrative duties, answering the phone and arranging transportation for incoming patients.

Lauri Campbell is our new full time receptionist. She has been a great asset to us and the clients who come into the office. We also have two office volunteers, Susan Pelow and Shirley Young , who help out regularly.



The Official Mrs Sandy Pines is a Great Horned Owl!

By Leah Birmingham, RVT

Great Horned Owls are both a thrill and challenge to rehabilitate. I wouldn't characterize them as majestic, that I attribute to the Great Grey Owls, because when they look at you, you feel like a jester in their Royal court. Although the Great Horned is the second largest owl according to the MNR's Hinterland Who's Who (<http://www.hww.ca/assets/pdfs/factsheets/great-horned-owl-en.pdf>), with the largest being the Snowy Owl.



Among all the raptors we work with I find owls to most often be the ones that choose fight over flight. Great Horned Owls particularly stand their ground. They clack their beak aggressively, puff up wide and large and let you know that any attempt to capture them will be met with a strong defense. Saw Whet Owl's do the same thing, but unfortunately for them, with their diminutive size, they don't elicit the same intimidation. Because of this, Great Horned Owls are best restrained for treatment by experienced handlers vs. novice restrainers. Those talons are large and long, and they have a great deal of strength in their powerful feet. They are quick in their movements, and capable of testing the boundaries of the person holding them. If you are intimidated or fearful, they know it!

This is typically not the case when they are in need of help, anyone capable of throwing a towel over something and picking it up and placing it in a box can rescue an injured, weak, emaciated raptor. We talk people through how to capture Birds of Prey frequently out of necessity, because we simply don't have the funding or manpower to send people out to rescue every wild animal that comes through the Sandy Pines doors. Most are contained by the finder and transported by one of our amazing transportation volunteers. On this occasion, this owl was found in the barn area by our handyman David, he came into the hospital looking for some help and Adriana responded quickly. In the rain, she used her sweater to capture the owl and bring it in to triage. We noticed a large wound on two of the owl's toes. Likely an attack from her prey, it was now badly infected. It involved the joints and we were worried about how compromised her hunting might be. Long before we could assess that, we needed to get the infection resolved and the wound to heal. She was placed on a variety of pain medications, one antibiotic, and a very expensive antifungal preventative treatment. Raptors are prone to Aspergillosis, a fungal infection of the respiratory tract. Antibiotics and stress can lead to a "perfect storm" for the ubiquitous fungus.

Her foot wound was cleaned and bandaged, and unlike many other Great Horned Owls she tolerated her bandage well. It was almost as if she knew we were trying to help. Which led me to ponder how she arrived on the property. Was she our area resident, with a mate close by? Did she come looking for help in a Dr. Doolittle kind of way?

Her wound was slow to respond to antibiotic treatment and required at least 3 different antibiotics to deal with the infection. In the meantime she seemed to enjoy the square meals she was provided, not to mention the shelter and warmth while she was recovering. We were able to provide her medications in her meals as GHOW's eat their prey whole. This allowed us to move her to an outdoor aviary, which she did well in, but unfortunately there was a pocket of infected tissue deep within her wound, so in order to greatly speed up her time in captivity (which is always the goal with adult wildlife as they resent being captive and can be prone to captivity diseases from being in a constant state of stress), we had to anesthetize her and remove the dead tissue, we place drain in the wound and that meant she needed to come back inside for a week or so. The drain did its job and she was ready to move out to larger aviary.



Mrs. Sandy Pines recovering from anesthesia with intern/vet tech Alysha monitoring her vitals

She flies with great strength, and has started to heal much quicker. In fact by the time this newsletter reaches you she will have been released on the Sandy Pines Farm, home of Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre and our founder and director Sue Meech.

Sue and her husband Donald named the farm because of the beautiful sandy loam soil that can be found all over, and the magnificent Pine forest in the back 40. Many people don't realize this and believe that SPWC is named after the person who originated it. Sue is often mistakenly called Sandy, a name she has learned to adopt over the years. Since Sandy isn't actually the namesake of SPWC, it seems perfectly fitting to name this feisty owl 'Sandy Pines' as we bid her a fond farewell, and hope that she is a permanent resident on our property, and that we will be able to catch glimpses of her in the forest from time-to-time.

She really embodies all that Sandy Pines is, we are here to service patients just like her. Wild animals that succumb, but don't give up. That allow a human to capture them, before they become beyond help. She is pretty confident in her mistrust of us, but at the same time, she isn't beating herself against her cage, she isn't refusing to eat as many wild patients do at first. As long as we can work within her boundaries, she accepts our help and seems to somehow know that she had a very bad injury. As annoying as it is, we are helping her get better. She has been a text book patient, leaving her bandage alone, leaving her drain alone. Not further damaging herself due to captivity stress...somehow, she knows.



Thank You for your Support of
our
13th Wildlife Baby Shower

A HUGE "Thank You" to the following for your generous support

- Amélie Robitaille
- Avanta Salon and Spa
- Baldwin Audio Visual Rentals
- Bark'n Up the Green Tree
- Beardall Animal Hospital
- Bear Tyes
- Bob's Portable Toilet Rentals
- Burke Printing
- Chris & Sue Pelow
- Concrete Creations
- D.J. Wright Entertainment
- Deb Stagg Photography
- Dreamy Owls Nest
- Enoria Kuzio
- Fit4Life Napanee
- Gail Johnson
- Greenshield Pest Control
- Honigmann Apiaries
- James Brett Coiffure Salon
- Jason Malley
- Jean Barkley

- Jewelry by Cin
- L.J. Arkilander
- Linda Garrard
- Lindy Martin Photography
- Lush Cataraqi
- Milk & Cookies Café
- Molson Coors Canada
- Mutt Hut Spaw & Pet Centre
- Nice Ice Baby Ice Cream
- Gary & Eleanor Oake
- Paulmac's Pets Napanee
- Sherbrooke Heights Animal Hospital
- Shiva's Delight
- Simple Country Pleasures
- Subaru Kingston – Ian Smith
- The Fade Kings
- The Kitchen Gypsies
- The Waterfront River Pub
- Thomas-Estevez Design
- Tina Lynch
- Tom's Cherry Bomb



Thanks also to *Caitie's Critters, Foster Forest Wildlife Orphanage, Fur Fur Away, Lifestream Animal Blood Service & Napanee Kitten Rescue*

This event would not have been such a success without all of you who joined us for the day, and without the efforts of our many wonderful Volunteers! You are all greatly appreciated.

The 13th annual Baby Shower, held on Mother's Day May 13, was another great success. This event is the only time Sandy Pines is open to the public, and this year we welcomed approximately 1000 guests! Visitors toured the clinic and outdoor facilities, having a chance to watch baby wild animal feeds and to see some of what goes on behind-the-scenes at Sandy Pines. The day included live music, a barbecue, live and silent auctions, a petting zoo, children's activities, and vendors offering products such as local honey, jewellery, hot sauce, pet products, photography, clothing, and sweet treats. By the end of the day, some \$20,000 had been raised for the care and rehabilitation of our wild patients: a testament to the wonderful support from our community!

Mark Sunday May 12th on your calendars so you don't miss the 2019 Baby Shower!

VOLUNTEERS

by Tess Miller

Volunteers continue to amaze me. I am privileged to meet truly inspiring people through my role at Sandy Pines. Every volunteer that comes through our door is here because of their love for wildlife. No matter the task performed, volunteers know they are a part of a team that is as dedicated to conservation as they are. This camaraderie and sense of community is what holds our group of diverse people together.

We are supported in so many ways by our volunteers. They teach and learn, they rescue and transport animals, they organize and run fundraisers, they buy supplies and collect donations, and they come to our clinic regularly to help in any way.

In our work, we see a lot of human-caused pain, suffering, and hardships for wildlife and nature. In spite of this, I am inspired by the amount of people I meet who truly care about and want to help all living creatures. This brings me hope that a difference will be made for wildlife, thus providing us and future generations with the continued opportunity to enjoy it.

Volunteering for a cause that creates happiness and a vision of a better future is something worth pursuing. If you share this vision, please contact us for more information about how you can be part of our community.



A Busy Season For Fawn Intakes

By Julia Evoy

Our month of June was extremely busy for fawn admissions, by mid July we were caring for 15!

Some of the reasons for admissions this year included dog attacks, vehicle impacts, kidnapping and orphans after their mother had been hit by a vehicle or died while giving birth.

On June 14th our eighth fawn came into care. He was a larger fawn, weighing in at 8.6 kg and approximately 4 weeks old. Badly damaged with abrasions on his head, spine, legs and between his hooves; the hair in these areas was missing, replaced with skin that was thickened and raw. He attempted to stand, only to collapse, weakened from pain, stress and exhaustion.

This wasn't the first time we had seen injuries such as this; injuries due to confinement. Deer of all ages die easily from stress, especially in circumstances of entrapment, confinement, or too much human exposure. This is called *capture myopathy* and is seen often in wildlife, especially in deer. We were extremely concerned this young buck would succumb to capture myopathy or simply give up. The odds were certainly not in his favour.



Pain medication and subcutaneous fluids were started immediately. He was kept isolated in his own warm, quiet, stall away from human activity and noise. An environment that included padding and blankets to prevent him from injuring himself. Grass and natural browse were added to help include some of the natural environment, relieve stress and be available should he decide to take a nibble.

The second day he was responding to treatment and was looking more alert. Still uninterested in the bottle, fluids were continued subcutaneously to limit handling and keep him more relaxed. Even though we saw improvements over the first 24 hours the prognosis was still very guarded. We don't normally name patients, but this young one really pulled on our heart strings. We decided to name him "Guerrero" (Spanish for Warrior).

On the third day he continued to look stronger, now able to stand for short periods of time. With his eyes covered he slowly began to accept formula from a bottle. This was progress, and we were very excited! In the following days Guerrero continued to gain strength in his legs, was drinking from the bottle better, and began to eat solids; grapevine and sugar maple a favorite!



By the tenth day, Guerrero was strong enough to move outside, now off medication he moved into a stall with four of our other fawns. The large abrasion still covered his head, but it would be many weeks before it would be completely healed. Although Guerrero trusted us more, he still would only drink the bottle from arms length. He would however, allow us to apply a topical spray antiseptic to his head daily while drinking. This helped speed healing and keep any danger of flies away.

Approximately a month after admission Guerrero was moved to our new larger enclosure with covered stalls alongside our other 15 fawns. Here they had access to our first field area where they could browse and hide in the long grass. Throughout the summer months Guerrero continued to heal and grow alongside the herd.



Four months later, Guerrero's head has totally healed with little evidence of the past. Strongly bonded with the herd he is doing well and will be released this Fall after hunting season has past. What a difference since his arrival, he truly is a warrior!



For several years we have been dreaming of expanding our fawn field to include a forested area beyond the existing field. In May, Sue contacted Don Murphy to see if he could look at the area we wanted to fence and see if the project was possible. Don had experience with fencing and most importantly fencing for deer.

Not only did Don donate his time and expertise he also collected fencing supplies donated from Jane and Allan at the Fallow Deer Reserve that we would need for the expansion. We were extremely fortunate that Don was able to spare some time to advise us and in the end coordinate and oversee the project. With the help of some of our volunteers the expansion was completed! A special thank-you to Don, and volunteers Laurie, Charles, Amy, Greg, and David for all your help in making this happen!!



As our fawn admission numbers continued to grow we knew that we were going to need a larger fawn pen with more stalls for when the fawns began to get introduced to the field. Our original area was close to the barn construction site. This area wasn't going to be large enough, and the noise would be far too stressful for them. Luckily while planning for the field expansion there was enough fencing supplies, along with a large sliding gate that was donated that we were able to create a perfect fenced in area with stalls. Don and his crew were

able to help with the fencing and gate installation and our fabulous volunteers Lisa and Laurie built us three new stalls inside the pen, the area is the perfect size for our growing numbers!

WHERE DO THE TURTLES GO IN THE WINTER?

It's downright chilly outside – and there are no turtles in sight! Did you know that, in the wild, Ontario turtles spend the winter in a state of dormancy similar to hibernation in mammals? The term used to describe this state of reduced activity in reptiles is called “**brumation**”.

During their period of **brumation**, turtles move to the bottom of their wetland homes and often actually bury themselves in the mud. They have developed the ability to survive for a very long time under water with significantly reduced levels of oxygen, which occurs at the deepest parts of the lake or pond. At the bottom, the water has low levels of oxygen but it does not become totally frozen.

One of the differences between hibernation and **brumation** is that brumating reptiles do not show a long period of uninterrupted sleep. On warmer winter days, you might be lucky enough to spot a turtle through the ice, moving about on the muddy bottom of the lake or pond.

In addition to very special metabolic abilities that allow for survival in low oxygen environments, some species of brumating turtles can have a modification in their cloaca (where the combined portion of the digestive and reproductive tracts exit the body) to allow them to absorb oxygen from the water. You could say that these turtles are specialists at breathing through their bums!

At Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre, we are able to release most of the injured turtles who have been brought to us in time for them to prepare for winter **brumation**. Some turtles, whose injuries have been more severe or have been incurred later in the season, need to spend the winter with us to continue with their rehabilitation. They are given very good care. It's not quite a “turtle spa” – but we provide them with all of the components needed to maximize their recovery.

The turtles are kept in tanks of warm water filled with naturalistic greenery and places where they can hide and feel safe. Every tank has a method of keeping the water warm, including heating lamps and special UV lamps that allow the turtles to make Vitamin D, an essential part of healing bones and shells. Turtles that bask have access to basking rocks beneath the heat lamps. The turtles receive nutritious and appetizing meals. We weigh them on a regular basis and, when they leave us the following Spring, they are in a state of good health and weight which confirms that life at Sandy Pines, while a far cry from their natural homes, was pretty darn good!



Hatchling release



Holiday Wish List



What to Give

- Scissors
- Clip-On Desk Lamps
- Disposable Gloves
- Brother Labeller Refill (12mm TZE-231)
- Paper Towel
- Bird Seed
- Heating Pads without Auto Shut-Off
- Liquid Laundry Detergent
- Bleach
- Extra-Large Industrial Garbage Bags
- Unsalted Almonds, Walnuts, Pumpkin Seeds, and Cranberries
- Postage Stamps
- 40 Watt & 60 Watt Incandescent Bulbs

How to Give

We have over 4,000 patients coming through our doors each year! We always have a need for supplies. Any donations would be appreciated!

If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at the Centre or contact us at info@sandypineswildlife.org for a pick-up.

Should you wish to donate money instead in order to purchase any of the above items, please contact us on how to do so. We are a Registered Charity with the Canadian Revenue Agency, # 81402 0210 RR0001.

Thank you!



Internship Program

The Internship Program started in 2006, and then in 2007 it was in full swing with 5 interns. The program hosts students interested in wildlife rehabilitation and gives them an opportunity to come to Sandy Pines for 3 to 6 months to learn about Canadian Wildlife and rehabilitation. Originally we only had students from Canada and a few from England, but as our program gains in popularity we are now receiving students from New Zealand, Australia, Europe, Ireland, South America, U.S.A. and Mexico. They are mostly University level students who are interested in the environment and of course wildlife. Many have worked abroad previously and have travelled extensively.

They work 4 days on and 3 off. Their work days are long starting at 6 am until finish which can be 11pm at peak baby season. They also take turns with middle of the night feeding for the very young or very weak animals and birds in our care. They learn a lot in a short time and by the time they leave are able to examine, treat and care for most of the wildlife found in Ontario.

Our interns graduate from the course and end up working in various fields, Environmental, Research, Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Technicians and Animal welfare. They all have interesting stories to tell and enjoy being part of the Napanee Community. They always remark on the welcome they receive from the friendly Canadians they meet. Some have concerns facing a winter here but they usually enjoy it and have fun.



Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre's

The 14th Annual

ART & JEWELLERY SALE

February 8th to 10th, 2019
(location to be announced)

Open Hours
Fri. Feb. 8th - 9:30 to 6 pm
Sat. Feb. 9th - 9:30 to 6 pm
Sun. Feb. 10th - 12 pm to 5 pm

Over 1,000 pieces
of Vintage, Estate and
Costume Jewellery

SPWC
SANDY PINES WILDLIFE CENTRE

All proceeds go to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre for the care and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife.

SANDY PINES WILDLIFE CENTRE GIFT SHOP



CLOTHING

- Youth & Tot Tees\$10
- Toques & Caps\$15
- Adult Short-Sleeved\$15
- Adult Long-Sleeved\$20
- Sweat Tops\$25
- Hoodies\$35
- Zip Hoodies\$40



TOOLS

- Bottle Opener\$10
- Pocket Knife\$20

STATIONARY

- Book Marks\$1
- Post Cards2 for \$5

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE GIFT SHOP GO DIRECTLY TO THE CARE OF OUR PATIENTS. TO MAKE A PURCHASE, VISIT OUR OFFICE AT 8749 COUNTY RD 2, NAPANEE, ON, K7R3L1. GIVE TODAY AND SAVE WILDLIFE!

For more information on volunteering, sponsoring, or donating, please visit www.sandypineswildlife.org, complete the form below and mail to 8749 County Rd 2, Napanee, ON K7R3L1, or call us at (613) 354-0264.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



NAIL TRIMMINGS
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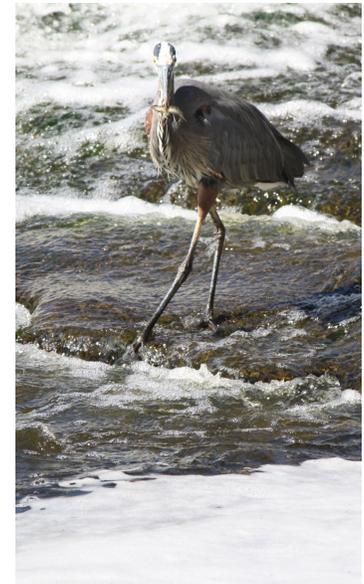
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Nail Trims: First Monday of every month
Time: 5:30 – 6:30pm
WALK IN ONLY
Cost: \$10 Cash each pet

ALL PROCEEDS DONATED TO SANDY PINES WILDLIFE CENTRE

We will also accept donations for Sandy Pines including items from the SPWC donation wish list



*Create
a
Legacy
Ask Us about
Planned
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Giving*



If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us via Email, phone or mail.

We protect your privacy and do not



8749 County Rd 2, Napanee, ON K7R3L1



Please help us help the wildlife of Ontario!

All of our revenue depends on your generous donations. We receive no funding from the government. You may donate by cheque, credit or debit card or on our website with the "Canada Helps" button.

Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20.00 or more. Please make your cheques payable to the Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre.

SELECT PAYMENT METHOD: [] CREDIT CARD [] DEBIT CARD [] CHEQUE

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Check to receive weekly update email []

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