



winter 2006

Howlings & Growlings from the Alpha Pair

Thank you all for helping us to have another busy, wonderful, and successful year!

The staff at both Golden and Panorama worked hard at pushing the message about our bear dog petition, and we submitted it to our local MLA with 6000 signatures (collected in one year). It was read in the house the first week of December.

We have been traveling a little more in 2006 with our messages to schools up and down the Columbia valley, and into the Calgary area, educating students on the role of the wolf. Without the support of sponsors like you, we would not be able to do that.

With the adoption of Amorok and Keehta, we have done something we have never done before: assimilating two adult wolves into an established captive pack. It was a lot of work! And the saga with Amorok is not yet over... Casey and I are against the breeding and sale of wolf-dog crosses - they should not be allowed. Our friend Amorok does not play well with others, and thus can't live peacefully with our wolves. It is sad, but as I have become very fond of this beautiful guy, we are still looking for a home for him.

We want to thank all the people who have come to the Wolf Centre - without your visits, we would not be able to pass on the message! Our goals for 2007 are to continue working hard at conservation,

helping other groups and organizations spread their word, and working as a force to help all living things - not just one but all.

Casey and I feel strongly about our pack - and we don't mean the four-legged one, we mean the two-legged. All of them work very hard for us and for you, making sure that our message gets across and that people understand. Without them, we could not reach our goals. So, the next time you visit one of our Wolf Centres, please thank them!

A few things that we all could do everyday to help save our wilderness: turn off your lights if you're not using 'em... car pool when you can... don't let your water run... have shorter showers... recycle everything you can... don't allow your car engines to idle (it's a myth that it saves your engine or your fuel)... By doing simple things, we can all help the planet and our future.

Have a wonderful Holiday, play safe, and sign petitions!

Happy New Year!
Casey and Shelley Black

Thank You, Staff!

This fall we celebrated a successful summer with a staff appreciation party. It was one of our largest staff groups ever, as we grow a little each year. This means our voice for conservation is getting a little louder too, so all staff had a howling good time as we scratched ourselves on the back, feasted like wolves, and hit the bowling lanes! Thanks again to all of the knowledgeable and passionate individuals that make up our



staff pack: Shelley and Casey Black, Ivanka, Yvonne, Dave, Louise, Crystal, Diana, Tyler and Sadie.

Thank You, Sponsors!

As you may know, Shelley and Casey travel to schools and youth groups to provide educational programs. Using some sponsorship money, we have created our very own Wolf Edukit, containing lots of interactive displays and tactile tools that allow us to reach groups of all ages. Children (and adult participants!) can now discover the actual size of a wolf print, wolf scat, wolf canine tooth, and wolf pelt... and compare them to that of the coyote. This hands-on experience reaches people of all ages, involving them, and perhaps fostering a deeper understanding of the natural world. Just one more way we can support conservation through education.

"Tomorrow's leaders have already been born, we just have to educate them."

The Wolf Print

Issue No.4

Volume No.3

Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre



News Shorts

Our sister Wolf Centre at Panorama Mountain Village is officially open for the winter season on December 8, 2006. Please help us celebrate our second winter by visiting Moab and keehta if you are in the area!

The students in the Environmental Sciences program at Mount Royal College in Calgary organized a debate that took place on December 1. The wolves and caribou of Little Smokey on one side were represented by Jim Pissot, Shelley Black, and Lisa Flaman (a past Wolf Centre employee). The government of Alberta on the other side was represented by MLA Hamy Chase. Thanks to the students for putting together such an informative session. Thanks to Lisa for helping with the delivery of the school programs in Calgary during November, too!

Conservation Issues

Well, Alberta's premiership is about to change hands, as Ralph Klein is being replaced by Ed Stelmach. It is a good time to put some pressure on the new government to stop the wolf cull in Alberta's Little Smokey area. The Little Smokey caribou herd is under major threat from industry and humans. The destruction of predators to protect prey populations has consistently failed in the past, and it is unacceptable to continue the wolf cull. For more info about the issues at stake in Little Smokey, please visit our website and follow the links for News and Conservation.

Another major issue that we all need to be aware

of, and perhaps speak out about it, is the status of the Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) on the central coast of British Columbia. The GBR is about more than a rare and lovely white bear - called the 'Kermode' bear. Its 64,000 square kilometres (the size of Ireland) and surrounding waters shelter more than 250 threatened species of animals, plants and marine creatures.

Earlier this year, after intense negotiations, a historic conservation agreement was reached. However, while the details are debated, the logging continues. Will there be anything left to save?

According to some critics, the agreement failed to fully protect the 44-60% of the rainforest that was identified as the minimum. Plus, the management plan for the rest won't be fully implemented until 2009, so... 2/3 of the rainforest is currently open to conventional, industrial logging. The voluntary logging moratorium in place during the decade-long negotiations... is now gone...

One early red flag was the list of 'focal species' considered in the research. Conspicuous by their absence were wolves, the GBR's 'apex predator.' As a result, the fragmented network of protected areas is inadequate to safeguard them. Furthermore, the agreement permits trophy hunting of large carnivores, including grizzlies, wolves and black bears that carry the Kermode gene, in most protected areas.

Essentially, none of the 'protected' areas are truly protected by the agreement. If this ignites your passion, visit the Raincoast Conservation Society's website at www.raincoast.org.

Pelts and Skulls (Again!)

The good news is that we have put together a Wolf EduKit already... but we are still looking for better quality wolf and coyote pelts, since the ones we acquired are on their last legs. Our next major project is a Bear EduKit, so... we are looking for donations of bear pelts and skulls. Pelts and skulls are wonderful hands-on tools for teaching kids about scary predators and other "untouchables". Do you know any hunters or trappers? Help us find some pelts and skulls!

If you don't know any hunters or trappers, you can also adopt a wolf individual from our pack, and receive updates about them... or you can become a pack member and receive general updates about the pack and the wolf centres. Your generosity helps with the huge responsibility of feeding and caring for our wolf pack, putting together our Edu-kits, as well as helping us to reach our goals at each facility to promote wolf awareness, help to educate people, and help change legislation to protect our wilderness.

Pack Membership

- \$250 = Wolf Pack
- \$100 = Alpha Member
- \$ 50 = Beta Member
- \$ 20 = Puppy Member

Adopt A Wolf \$ 75

WE ACCEPT MEAT DONATIONS!



Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre

www.northernlightswildlife.com info@northernlightswildlife.com

1745 Short Road, Golden, BC V9W 5G5

(250) 344-6798 1-877-377-WOLF