

Wolf Centre Updates

Spring is SPRINGING!!!! Have you started your seedlings yet? One way to reduce waste, conserve energy and stay healthy is to grow your own food! We love our veggie gardens at the wolf centre just as much as our flower beds. Plant seeds that are local, if possible, and food that will grow in the climate and conditions you live in. A little work now means you can feast fresh all summer long! This is REALLY 'keeping it local'. If you don't have time to garden, support your local farmers market; there is usually lots of organic local produce and it will support a healthy lifestyle in your community.

Howl Nights will continue throughout the spring and summer season every Thursday at 7 pm. They have been a big success and we've had visitors from all over the world listening to the Northern Lights wolf packs' harmonious howl. If you haven't heard Wiley's sweet AAAAAAAAAAaaaaaooooooooooooooooo yet, this is a sound you don't want to miss! What could be better than a moonlit howl by a bonfire with marshmallows and chocolate....can you taste the S'mores?

Important Dates!

- April 7 – World Health Day
- April 17 – Climb for Wildlife (Calgary)
- April 22 – Earth Day
- May 15 – Northern Lights Garage Sale Fundraiser
- May 22 – International Day of Biodiversity
- June 5 – World Environment Day
- June 20 – Northern Lights Open House
- July 1 – Canada Day

Keep reading for further details on some of these events. Northern Lights Wildlife Centre is open all of these important dates! Come by and visit us any day!

Wolves and Schools

Shelley Black has been on a school blitz in St. Albert, Alberta, teaching children and youth about wolf behaviour and ecology. She even presented to the "big kids" at MacEwan University in Edmonton, educating about the Canadian Wolf Coalition and our goals of uniting voices for wolf conservation across the country. Thanks St. Albert for being such a wonderful host!

Interacting with kids and schools has always been an important part of our role here at Northern Lights. Recently, one particular class merits special mention...they have blown us away with their passion and dedication to helping spread wolf awareness and make it FUN!! This is the grade 2 class of Nellie McClung School in Calgary, who raised \$650.00! This class has been wolf crazy all year long! Below is a letter written by one of the students in this inspiring class. Look to future issues for more from Mr. deBoer's class!

Dear Northern Lights Wildlife Wolf Centre,
 Our Class raised \$650. When we had to do a second Art Card sale everyone was very disappointed but when everyone counted all of the money everyone jumped to joy and was so happy. Why do you love wolves so much? What inspired you about wolves? Why did you even start the wolf Centre? My whole class invites you back to our school with another wolf if you would like to come. It was so much fun the last time you came to my school. My whole class loved it when you came it really inspired me about wolves ever since the beginning of the year when we started to study wolves it made me think about wolves a whole lot more.
 Thank you for your time
 PS: say hi to Aspen, Wiley, the wolf pack!

We're excited to tell Mollie and the rest of Mr. deBoer's class that we WILL be returning to visit them soon! We'll be coming by at the end of April, see you then!

Earth Day is April 22nd, 2010 Celebrate with the 4 R's

Use this spring, the season of life, to create a positive change in your life. We all know **3 R's: Reduce Reuse Recycle** But do you know the **4th R? REFUSE!** Here are some tips to follow this very important, but often forgotten R.

Refuse...

- ...plastic bags!
- ...products with toxins!
- ...to flush!
- ...to buy over packaged products!



By changing the way we live and what we buy we can demand change. These are just a few tips so check out earthday.ca for more events, celebrations and tips on how to live a green life.

How will YOU celebrate Earth Day?

Northern Lights is holding a clean-up of the Blaeberry! Come join us at the Wolf Centre with your work gloves at **4pm on April 22nd** if you're in the area. Free admission to our howl that night at 7pm for all volunteers!

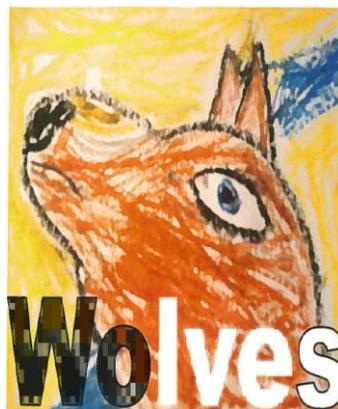


Doing something else to commemorate the day? Share with us your actions and activities that will help celebrate and protect our planet this **Earth Day**.



February was certainly the "month of LOVE" at the Wolf Centre. Just before Valentine's Day Erinn & Michael went out walking the trails with Aspen and

Tuk...and got engaged! What a unique and "picture perfect" memory for the pair. We wish them both the best for their coming years together as a married couple.



-Mr. deBoer's Grade 2 Class, Nellie McClung School

Become a Sponsor!

Your contribution goes directly towards helping to feed and care for our wolves as well as spread the message of wolf conservation. You can adopt a wolf or become a pack member and receive updates about the pack and the wolf centre. We have also been able to send our Alpha Female, Shelley, to Red Deer, Edmonton and Calgary to help to educate people, and help change legislation to protect our wilderness.

Adopt a Wolf \$ 75

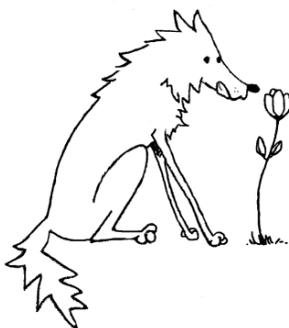
Pack Membership

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

New

\$1000 = Wolf Guardian
Receive a walk with a wolf in thanks

We accept
meat donations
too!



Conservation News

Alberta Grand Cache Update Hundreds of wolves have been shot from helicopters, poisoned and trapped by the Alberta government since 2005 around the Hinton and Grande Cache areas in the name of Woodland caribou recovery... with little public outcry recently due to limited public knowledge. Two wolf packs are being targeted, while resource extraction practices continue and are newly established in habitat that is critical for dwindling caribou herds. Killing wolves SHOULD NOT be used as a short-term solution for long-term habitat protection! To view the history of caribou decline in Alberta, as well as the "management practices" that have coincided, visit the Alberta Wilderness Association's website www.albertawilderness.ca/issues/wildlife/caribou/history. While little else is being done to protect dwindling caribou herds, by February 2010, 35 wolves had already been shot from the sky this year.

BC's Interior Wetbelt Wolves Under Threat In February 2009, the BC government set 2.2 million hectares aside from logging practices in the name of Mountain Caribou recovery. However, mineral exploration with the tree cutting and road building that come along is permitted within the area. As is cat skiing & heli-gliding. Is this breaking a promise to Mountain Caribou, or just twisting it? These same roads and snow packed trails created by humans are leading wolves and cougars into caribou territory, especially now that deer and moose have moved into the new growth forests that now replace old growth through timber harvest. The province of BC is now thinking about killing the predators it has lured in, while still allowing human trespasses. A proposal put together by scientists was put forth to the BC government in March 2009, advising the gunning down of wolves from helicopters, and/or possibly sterilizing them. Already, the BC government is "encouraging hunting of wolves", has extended hunting season lengths and set NO BAG LIMITS in some wildlife management units. There is no specific hunting license required to kill wolves, unlike all other large game in BC. There is no closed season on wolves at elevations below 1100 m in many mountainous regions, when wolves occupy the valley bottoms they rely upon to find prey. To date, 35 wolves & 1 cougar have been killed in direct support of the Mountain Caribou Recovery Plan since 2007. Sterilization projects have begun. And sadly, conservation organizations are being pitted against each other as habitat loss and fragmentation is permitted. Individuals working towards common goals of biodiversity and intact

ecosystems must find a way to ensure gains made in the past in the name of nature conservation cannot be taken back nor broken. We must work TOGETHER for ecosystems. Predator culls have often been misguided in the past. Today, the hunters' great greed may be on its way out as we learn about the value that large carnivores add to maintaining healthy "game" populations (i.e. ungulates such as elk, moose, deer and caribou). The old greed has been replaced by a different one; the human hunt for lumber, gas, oil and minerals. Believe it or not, even recreational pleasure now dominates over the sanctuary the forest offers declining caribou herds through cat skiing & heli-gliding.

There have not been any measures taken to boost the numbers of declining caribou herds, such as adding to the lowest numbers from healthier populations or penning moms and calves during the first stages of life. Yet we are ready to kill in the name of saving this species? Killing any predators would offer a short-term solution at best. How long will we kill them for once we've started? Commercial recreation and mineral exploration are just as threatening if not more to caribou during the sensitive calving season as natural predators are, yet these practices can continue unchecked by qualified and willing biologists that would review plans to ensure caribou would not be disturbed. Ready, aim, fire.

Can we really kill wild wolves, another part of Canada's iconic wilderness? An important part. Can we kill them while still destroying and desecrating the only land that BC Mountain Caribou have left?

For more wolf conservation news and information on how you can help, visit the **Canadian Wolf Coalition**:
www.canadianwolfcoalition.com

Upcoming Events

Climb for Wilderness! We will have a booth set up at the Wild Alberta Expo **April 17th**. This is the 19th annual climb, a FUN fundraiser at the Calgary Tower hosted by the Alberta Wilderness Association. Come and climb and learn about wildlife and the conservation initiatives in the Calgary area.

Garage Sale Fundraiser May 15th. Staff at the Wolf Centre are selling their treasures in the spirit of spring cleaning. Come by early to find the full selection, sale starts at 10am.

Annual Open House June 20th. Always a great day to visit the centre for FREE and learn about the work we have been doing while celebrating our 8th year open to the public. This year we are hosting a screening of a great documentary "Lords of Nature". Viewings are at 1:30 and 3:30 pm and there will be a discussion following. Lets talk together to come up with solutions on how we can co-exist with what has taken nature millennia to perfect. Come for the fun, the knowledge and the food; our favourite way to kick-off the summer season! Treat your dad this Father's Day! Hope to see you there!

Nellie McClung School Fun Fact

Did you know that wolves
babysit other wolves?



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