



# ASPEN VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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Winter 2010

Winter is upon us. Just a few days ago we were enjoying balmy sunshine and now we are in the midst of the first snowfall of 2010 -11. When this snowfall is over we are anticipating an accumulation of over 35cm. And this is just the beginning! It is a beautiful sight, that first snowfall and we all enjoy seeing the trees bending with the weight of the snow and the ground looking like mounds of sugar. We also know that for the next few months our jobs will become more challenging. Regardless of how much snow or how cold it gets or how slippery the way, the fawns, raccoons, squirrels, otters, wolves and the permanents must all be fed and cared for.

The bears are beginning their hibernation activity. Sadie bear (as is her habit) is the first to begin the process of preparing a snug warm haven for her winter nap. As early as September she began to use her massive paws to select and rake leaves and then push them into her hibernation box. Sadie is quite fussy about her bedding. She will redo her little house numerous times by hauling the leaves out and then rearranging them until it is just right. She will then reinforce her bed with the straw we provide and when the time is right will pull the straw up in front of her hibernation box effectively "closing the door". Sweet dreams Sadie.

The cubs are spending their first winter without their mothers. They have been together for a few weeks and have developed their own little "family". They will enjoy the heat generated from the companionship of each other by squeezing themselves into a hibernation box or two. It will take a bit of sorting out to determine who will spend the winter with whom. It is not unusual to find that some one has been booted out of the box for snoring or whatever unsavoury habits of which bears cubs are guilty. In short order a new spot shall be found and all will finally settle in for the long winter sleep. Last spring, it was a very comical sight to see one, two, three, four, five cubs tumble out of one box. It was pretty obvious as to which cub was on the bottom of the pile as he was the one sporting a very fashionable but humourous hairstyle resembling a Mohawk cut. Thank goodness the rest of his coat grew in black and shiny prior to release.

In the past, we have had the year of the raccoon, the year of the bears and in 2010 we have had the year of the squirrel. Due to a good food supply, many female squirrels have given birth to two litters over the course of the summer which has resulted in a significant crop of late babies. Those babies who arrived in the latter part of the season had a poor chance of survival over the coming winter and so many kind people contacted us to take them in to winter over for release in the spring. At the moment we are wintering twenty six squirrels.

## Our winter inventory is:

- 26 squirrels • 14 raccoons • 9 bears • 10 fawns • 2 otters • 1 beaver
  - Sadie Bear • Mama Bear • Luna the wolf
  - Mkom the wolf • Amarook the wolf
  - The two Arctic sisters • Subira the Lioness
  - Banshee the Eurasian Lynx • Gandalf, the Great Grey Owl
- Elly, the Great Horned Owl • Pansy and Petunia the striped skunks

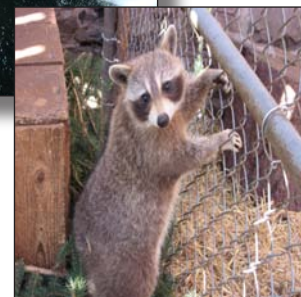
No doubt over the next few weeks we shall admit a number of foxes and coyotes suffering with Mange and maybe another cub or two. No matter what the species or the problem, they are welcome at AVWS.

We have wonderful news to share with you!! This past week, the Ministry of Natural Resources conducted its annual mandatory inspection of Aspen Valley. The MNR Technician and Conservation Officer walked around the entire property looking for any non compliance and also ensuring that all the animals at the Sanctuary are recorded accurately in the MNR log book. You may recall that last year the MNR discovered a number of non compliances and presented the new administration with a list

of items that they had found to be unsatisfactory. Over the last twelve months, the BOD, Management and Staff of AVWS have worked with diligence, commitment and determination to comply with the Minimum Standard Requirements of the MNR regulations. This week we have seen the pay off when upon the completion of the inspection we were told that our efforts shall be documented in a "glowing" report. We wanted to share this information with you because the MNR is the governing body for issuing the necessary permits to continue operating as a wildlife sanctuary. It is also very important for us that you as supporters understand that your donations have been used in a responsible and effective manner to ensure that Aspen Valley is able to continue in its mission to care for injured and orphaned wildlife. Additionally, we are proud to state that in 2010 AVWS has realized an 87% success rate in the rehabilitation of the animals admitted to the Sanctuary. This exceeds previously recorded numbers by more than 20%!!!!!!

On another note, all our news is not good. On a number of occasions including a grand proclamation on the occasion of Ms. Tournay's 80th birthday celebration, it was announced that funding of a new building was to be undertaken by a generous benefactor. We regret to inform you that the donor who had promised the funding to erect the building has withdrawn his offer. Of course, we were very disappointed but we have made some good improvements and will carry on rehabilitating native wildlife in the current buildings. I think that we can all agree that it is far more important that the care of the animals is our first priority and whether this is accomplished in a 100 year old barn or a state of the art facility, it is about the animals and not about people.

At this time of year, as we all prepare for the holidays, we ask you to consider a donation to Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary so that we can continue to care for orphaned and abandoned wildlife into the future. We do not receive any government funding, and rely entirely upon our generous donors to maintain the Sanctuary. As you can well imagine, it takes



significant funding to meet the expenses which include feed and medication for the animals, maintenance of the buildings and vehicles, staff salaries, utilities, insurance, phone and other miscellaneous expenses. We are very grateful for your past support, and look forward to a continuing relationship with you.

### **A Remarkable Animal.....Stinky**

Just like some people there are animals that just grab your heart and won't let go. All of the animals we care for at the Sanctuary are special to us and all are given the care and devotion they so deserve; however, there are those that will live in our hearts forever. Stinky is one of these animals.

We received a call asking for help for a severely damaged adult beaver. The poor soul had been brutalized, suffering numerous physical injuries and the excruciating emotional and psychological wound of losing its life partner in the attack that had left it for dead.

When this beautiful animal arrived from his long drive he stood up on his hind legs and looked right at us with complete and utter trust. It is our belief that animals truly know when they are safe and in good hands. The beaver made no sound nor exhibited any aggressive behaviour as he was transferred to be assessed, but rather cooperated fully.

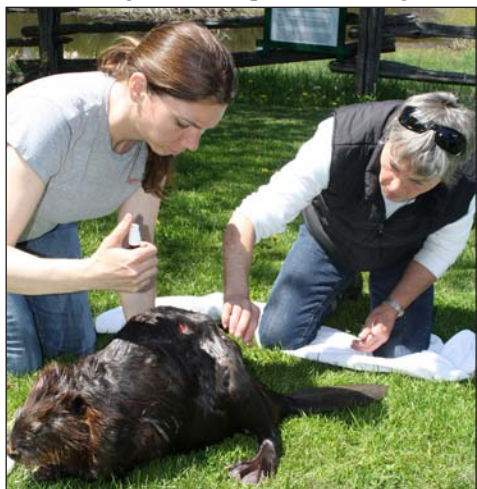
I cannot even begin to explain the injuries on this poor soul. It was almost as if some one had taken a blunt object and rammed it into its sides, back, and neck. The wounds were deep, open, nasty and full of maggots. We immediately arranged for a Veterinary consultation and in the interim started to remove the maggots and clean the wounds. Just when we thought we had attended to all of its injuries, we would discover yet another. This wonderful animal continued to cooperate and allowed us to carry on with the necessary work to deal with its injuries.

Off to the Vet, our hero. When we arrived and removed the beaver from the carrier the first words, well maybe the second words from the Technician's mouth were, "he sure is stinky"; hence the moniker for the rest of his stay with us.

The following weeks were a challenge for both Stinky and the staff. Twice a day the beaver received the ministrations of the dedicated staff for his wounds including cleansing, debriding, and maggot removal, antibiotics both oral and topical. He then graduated to Epsom salts baths which helped immensely in the healing process. Upon completion of each session, Stinky would be rewarded with a banana. That beaver would do anything for a banana!

Over time, Stinky's wounds improved and he began to gain weight. It was time for the pond! Stinky was taken to the pond at the Sanctuary where he dove in, had a good swim around and then tucked into his den for a snooze.

We have all learned a great deal from working with this magnificent creature. Treating Stinky has taught us the need for strong team work. It was necessary for two and sometimes three people to attend to Stinky's treatments. It took a strong relationship with the Veterinary staff making sure that we followed all instructions for the care of Stinky's wounds. Stinky has taught us that there are all sorts of injuries, not just those to the flesh but also to the heart and soul. It takes great patience and incredible fortitude on the part of the care giver and the patient to administer and care for one so hurt. Throughout his rehabilitation Stinky had many ups and downs and as a result taught us the euphoria of seeing the fruits of our ef-



forts and the anguish that comes with a set back. But what Stinky has truly shown us is what we all believe, and that is there is such a need for a place like Aspen Valley in order for the orphaned, sick and injured like Stinky to come to for care, warmth, and rehabilitation by those who are so completely devoted and committed to giving these animals another chance at life back in their natural state. It is our privilege to serve these animals.

### **Some Sanctuary Facts**

It has come to our attention in recent weeks that there is a great deal of misinformation being broadcast about the practices here at the Sanctuary. So let's clear the air:

AVWS does NOT charge people a fee to bring in injured and orphaned animals.

There is no admission fee to enter the property or to use the trail system. Donations towards the upkeep of the facility and the care of the animals are gratefully received.

All of the permanent residents, all of the wolves, Mama and Sadie Bear, Pansy and Petunia, Elly, Gandalf, Banshee, and Subira are available for the public to see and watch on Visitors' Days, Wednesday and Sunday from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. May through to Thanksgiving weekend.

AVWS does not receive any government funding and is totally dependent on the kindness and generosity of the public to maintain what we do here at the Sanctuary.

AVWS does not turn animals away. If we are unable to care for the animal here at the Sanctuary due to space issues, overcrowding, insufficient personnel or financial challenges we work with the contact and other rehabilitators to find an appropriate solution.

AVWS does not use outside agencies to release animals. Our own staff drive to appropriate sites to release bears, squirrels, otters, beaver, deer, raccoons and all other animals that have been the beneficiaries of our care here at the Sanctuary.

As a registered charity (#11879 1193 RR0001), AVWS is required to and has submitted the mandatory returns to the CRA. The Bookkeeping and Accounting practices of AVWS are completed by independent, accountable businesses to avoid any conflict of interest, mis use or misappropriation of funds and to ensure that our donors' contributions are used for the purposes intended.

AVWS operates in an open, transparent environment. Our donors, Members and public are welcome to make inquiries of our operations at any time.

It is the mandate of AVWS to rescue, rehabilitate and release back to the wild injured or orphaned Ontario Wildlife. AVWS is fortunate to have a number of Veterinarians who work with us in maintaining the highest level of care possible. On occasion animals are brought to the Sanctuary as a result of accident or injury which makes rehabilitation and release impossible. It is the policy of AVWS to alleviate the suffering of an animal in a dignified, humane manner. It is our belief that it is imperative that an animal be the recipient of our compassion and sensitivity and in doing so we will humanely euthanize rather than prolong suffering or return an animal to the wild to suffer a lingering and painful demise by predation, freezing or starvation.

All staff and volunteers are required to submit to a police check to ensure the safety and well being of all visitors to the Sanctuary

### **To our Supporters**

Donors come in many sizes, shapes and forms as do their donations. The Sanctuary has received virtually everything from soup to nuts and even a kitchen sink. We have received a pail of pennies, bags of blankets, gently used clothing, dog and cat food, tools, hardware, buckets, skids, and so on and so on. We have received donations of 5 cents to \$100k. We appreciate the five cents every bit as much as the \$100k.

On behalf of the Staff, the Board of Directors and our beloved animals I would like to thank each and every one of you that has donated money, time or materials to help us to help the animals. Without you we cannot continue in our work here at the Sanctuary. We are all very much aware of the demands on our time and our pocket books and we are most certainly aware of the huge number of causes and charities that need and want help.

If you are able we ask that you consider the Sanctuary when planning your giving. To all of you who have given to the Sanctuary we thank you. To those of you who are willing and are able to give to us in the future, we thank you.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE IMPORTANT

"I have a litter of baby raccoons and the mother has been killed. Will you take them?" How many times have we got a call like this during early spring?— too many to count.

The majority of these orphans are tiny bundles who need feeding every 3-4 hours around the clock. It wouldn't be possible for our staff to cope with the time-consuming care needed if it weren't for our volunteers.

We are very fortunate to have people from different countries as well as Canada who came to us during the spring and summer of 2010 to assist in the many chores that are necessary to maintain Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. Dan K., from Ottawa, braved the cold weather to join us in March for a week. He must have enjoyed himself as he brought his wife back later in the year!

Simone K. was the second to arrive in early March from Germany, followed shortly by Nadine K. also from Germany (after volunteering with turtle research in Costa Rica). Although they hadn't known each other before their arrival, they soon became fast friends and during their stay became known as the "go to" people for nursery duty, regardless of whether they were assigned to day or evening schedules. Nadine was supposed to leave after three weeks, but chose to remain for the majority of spring and summer, as did Simone. We came to rely upon them as much as though they were paid staff members.

Over the course of spring and summer we welcomed Julia H. (Scarborough), Chandra M (Montreal), Jacqui G. (U.K.), Jenna L. (Alberta), Kristy and Scotty (Sault Ste. Marie), Stephanie S. (Barrie), Nicole Z. (Mississauga), Corine L. (Ottawa), Eileen C. (Scotland), Cathy G. (Quebec City), Julia G. (Germany), Ann S. (Austria), Heidi (Toronto), Sarah G. (U.S.A.), Tacita and Adam (U.K.) and Alan D. They all pitched in to do whatever chores were needed to be done – everything from building and repairing enclosures, to laundering nursery towels, to unloading cartons of produce donated by Sobeys in Parry Sound.

All of these people resided in our bunkhouse at various times, enabling them to be on the spot whenever needed and providing them with free accommodation during their stay. There are also volunteers who come when they can and assist with our tours on visiting days (Wednesdays & Sundays from May 24th through to Thanksgiving from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.), or assist in the office. Fran P. has been marvellous in helping out with the tours which we offer in order to make the visitors' experience much more meaningful than simply walking around. Marni W. has been a great asset in the office assisting me with various chores. A very mature fourteen-year old Megan H. came with her parent to assist with tours on several occasions and 15-year old Brittany M. and her mother cheerfully cleaned out pens and washed buckets. Carla D. also helped with tours when she could but was more famous for coming across injured animals on the roads and notifying us!

Another weekender who has been a great asset is Jason B. of course our Board of Directors are all volunteers, and we are grateful for them taking time out of their busy schedules to help guide us. But we would be remiss if we didn't single out two of them for special mention. Ed



Brown (who is retired) volunteers three days a week to do construction, maintenance or whatever else needs to be done at the Sanctuary, while Joe Morin drives up every weekend from Trenton (after working during the week) to help with whatever jobs are needed.

Another unlikely source of volunteers has turned out to be a real boon to us. Residents of Beaver Creek Institution in Gravenhurst have come out with their supervisor and have done an outstanding job in assisting with enclosure building, lawn mowing and any other work requiring muscle. Clients of the John Howard Society have also volunteered their services during the past year.

We greatly appreciate the efforts that all those who contribute to the successful operation of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. If I have missed somebody, please accept my apologies. We always welcome new volunteers. Our one caveat is that they have to be at least eighteen years of age in order to work on their own. We do consider younger people provided that a parent accompanies them. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office at (705) 732-6368 and ask for an application form.

### Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Membership Application

We invite you to join us by becoming a Member of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

General membership entitles the Member in good standing to help in making decisions that directly affect the business of the Sanctuary.

A Member in good standing is an individual who has paid an annual due of \$10.00, is at least 18 years of age and is an advocate of the mission of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary:

By becoming a Member of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary you will have the opportunity to vote at the Annual General Meeting to be held at The Sanctuary April 25th, 2011. The individual must be a member in good standing at least 30 days prior to the AGM in order to vote.

To become a member of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, please complete the following form and make payment to the Sanctuary by cheque, money order, Credit Card or by secure payment on line at [www.avws.ca](http://www.avws.ca) for \$10.00 per person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a Member of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. I am at least 18 years of age and have enclosed the annual membership fee of \$10.00. I am an advocate of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and its mission:

We care for injured and orphaned wildlife. Once rehabilitated, we return them to the wild in a safe and natural environment.

We educate others to help animals who are facing an ever-increasing threat to their habitat by the encroachment of people.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment:

Cheque  VISA  M/C  Amex

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please note each individual must complete a separate application for membership

## ADOPT AN ANIMAL

It is the mandate of AVWS to rescue, rehabilitate and return to the wild orphaned and injured animals. Sadly this is has not always been possible and as a result a number of animals continue to call the Sanctuary their forever home.

These animals are here as a result of human conflict and through no fault of their own are unable to be returned to the wild.

It is our privilege and responsibility to care for these magnificent creatures. They are fed, enriched and housed here at the Sanctuary in the best manner possible. They are our friends and our inspirations as well as being ambassadors of the Sanctuary they also act as a constant reminder that we must respect our wildlife and their natural environment.

You too may help these animals by adopting one of them as your own. Adoption is a gift of love and caring for a special occasion such as a birthday, a wedding gift, an anniversary, in remembrance of a loved one, or just because you would like to care for one of these animals.

When you adopt an animal you shall receive a picture and a history of the animal along with a certificate of adoption for you to keep and display with pride.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Pansy and Petunia (skunks) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Amarook–Timber Wolf       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Lucky–White Tailed Deer    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Mama–American Black Bear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Elly–Great Horned Owl      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Subira–African Lioness   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Banshee–Eurasian Lynx      |   |

### Donor Contact Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### In Celebration Of:

- Anniversary     Birthday     Christmas     Other

### Recipient Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ PC \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment:

- Cheque     VISA     Master Card     AMEX

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

You may fax, email or mail your adoption request to us using the contact information provided below. A tax receipt will be issued. Charitable # 11879 1193 RR0001

Adopt an Animal is also available on the AVWS website

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