



COCHRANE
ECOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE, A
REGISTERED
CHARITY #
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In this edition

A PERFORMANCE
REVIEW OF THE
47 YEARS OF THE
CEI'S WORK

A PICTURE BOOK
OF 2010

CEI BOOK PUB-
LISHED

WHALEFORCE

HAPPYTAILS

851 2050

WE CAN'T DO IT
WITHOUT YOU
ALL

THANK YOU

Please **DONATE**



MEMBER OF THE ORDER
OF THE BIG HORN

RECIPIENT OF THE
EMERALD AWARD



Liberty No. 17. FEBRUARY 2011

47 YEARS OF SAVING WILDLIFE

How have we done?

Years ago, I noticed that a large organization was offering to give away computers.

A free gift to suitable charities! It seemed a marvelous offer, we, at the CEI, desperately needed computers for our students and educational programmes and this organization had some to give away for free. But first, we had to send them an inventory of what computers we had so that they would know we REALLY needed their gift.

The CEI really did need their gift, so we duly sent off our computer inventory. They kindly wrote back to say the CEI was eligible for their computer gift programme, but first they needed the CEI's financial statement. We sent that off, too. In response we got a letter telling us that the CEI was not a suitable charity, because the CEI was not a wealthy enough charity to deserve a free gift of computers.

Is a Charity's wealth the indicator of it's success? Or is success marked by the Charity's longevity and ability make a difference to, or benefit, it's chosen field?

It set me thinking; **has the CEI made a difference in our chosen field?**

The field of the CEI is **wildlife rescue**, rehabilitation and release, **ecosystem restoration**, and **public education**. We have been in operation, doing the same work on the same site, since **1964**. During those 47 years our name changed from the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada to Cochrane Ecological Institute, CEI. Has the CEI managed to make a dif-



ference? **A PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE CEI**

What did we want to achieve? My parents and I founded the CEI because we wanted to "put something back". In **1964**, we came up with a novel idea for doing so, it was **ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION** which meant to **repair damaged ecosystems by breeding and reintroducing the animals that had once belonged there**. The animal we chose to return to it's native habitat in Canada was the swift fox—north America's tiniest native fox— and a species that was at that time, extinct in Canada.

TO START: we bought land in Alberta, got the requisite permit, and built the infrastructure for what would become the CEI. In **1971** we obtained our first swift foxes, *Vulpes velox*, and started the present

Do you
know HOW
we are
helping
wildlife?



Just telephone
(403) 851
2050 if your dog
would like to stay at
for HAPPY TAILS
RETREAT!



CATS also stay at Happy
Tails in their own sepa-
rate CAT COUNTRY COT-
TAGE

WEBSITE

WWW.

happytailsretreat.com

Or talk to Mike by tele-
phone at
(403) 851 2050

What have we done? ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CEI

captive-breeding colony in Alberta, and, in B.C., established an educational programme travelling to schools to teach about Canada's wildlife. We also laid the groundwork for the treatment of migratory birds oiled in a large spill off the B.C. coast, as well as undertaking the first base-line survey to identify the causes of seabird deaths in southern Vancouver island. We started, under Government permit, a **wildlife rescue**, rehabilitation and release programme.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION. By 1977, we had signed a cooperative agreement with the University of Calgary, so in 1978, when the swift foxes were officially classified as Extirpated (**extinct**) in Canada, in Alberta the CEI's captive colony of swift fox was going well with plans being made for Swift fox reintroduction to the Canadian prairies. Due to the jurisdictions of provincial and federal government, it is not possible for a non-government organization, like the CEI, to reintroduce an extirpated species or release a rescued, rehabilitated wild animal without the facilitation of government. This does not mean that government will pay for ecosystem restoration efforts, that is not within their Mandate. Therefore, government control of ecosystem restoration is through issuing permits enabling non-government organizations to do the work.

A government/CEI partnership in swift fox reintroduction began in 1978 (federal Canadian Wildlife Service) joined by Alberta (1983) and Saskatchewan (1985). The work of the CEI funded, in part, by the wonderful Elsa Canada charity. Throughout the Canadian Swift fox reintroduction (1983-1997), of the total of 829 swift foxes reintroduced in Canada, CEI provided 738 of them. By 1998, the status of swift fox in Canada had changed, from **Extirpated** (extinct) in Canada to **Endangered** in Canada. A SUCCESS! The FIRST successful reintroduction of a small carnivore to take place in North America! We went on to work in partnership with the Blackfoot Nation of Montana, USA (1997-2003) in the FIRST swift fox reintroduction in the USA, and then, after that finished, we partnered the Kainai Tribe in swift fox reintroduction in Canada. The CEI still holds Canada's largest, longest established and only captive breeding colony of swift foxes intended specifically for release back into the wild (i.e. not for exhibit, trade, or sale)

WILDLIFE RESCUE, REHABILITATION AND RELEASE, For 42 years we have accepted injured or orphaned wild animals for rehabilitation and release. This has meant successful releases, including post-release monitoring, of otters and black bear as well as the more normally received injured and orphaned small mammals and birds. The CEI now has facilities to care for large carnivores and large ungulates as well as the smaller animals. Besides existing enclosures, we built NEW large enclosures for swift foxes (20 acres), orphaned bear cubs (2 enclosures: 5 and 6 acres each) lynx (2 enclosures 1/2 an acre and 4 acres each) a flight enclosure and a beautiful new Aviary (**thank you Fortis**) the rest of the 140 acres is given over to native ungulates.

EDUCATION Since our foundation in the 1970's the CEI has continued to provide experiential learning in environmental subjects. Throughout the 1990's and 2000's the CEI has also provided Field Station facilities for researchers, as well as an ever growing Educational programme managed by Lisa Dahlsiede. Since the mid 1990's we have built an Educational centre, enclosed by a 400m long Landmark wall which both encloses our visitors safely, and protects our wildlife from human disturbance. (To contact Lisa lisaflaman@yahoo.ca)

FUNDING ALWAYS NEEDED! As the CEI rescues wild animals and breeds endangered species for reintroduction, we have to have secure funding. We built **Happytails Pet Retreat** a dog and cat boarding facility which contributes towards supporting the day to day costs of the CEI. But building enclosures designed for specific species, like lynx and bears, as we had to do in 2010, or for any other special projects, we rely upon donations. The CEI has been able to achieve all this due entirely to the donations of individuals like yourself. **THANK YOU**

A CEI PICTURE BOOK 2010

THANK YOU TO

So many people have helped us through the year ... no room to thank you all in this little space, but we appreciate your donations more than we can say; Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the CEI through CanadaHelps, Thank you to: Robert Bateman, Henry Dawney,

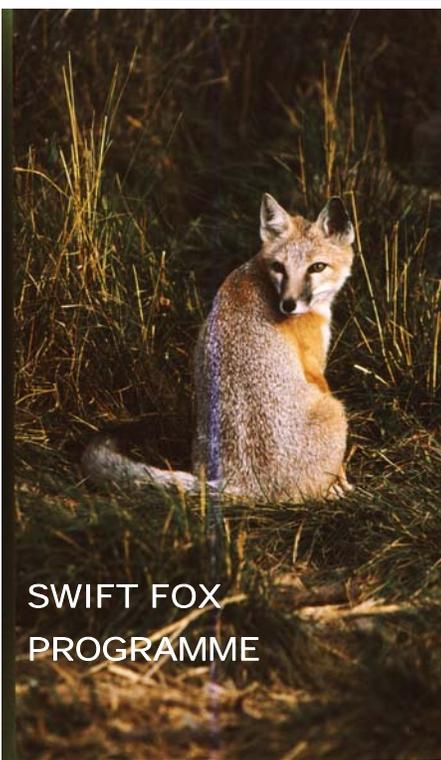
Laura Gethin Smith, Tail Blazers, Calgary Outdoor Club, Val & Colin Castle, Gérard Talbot, Eden Conservation Trust, WSPA, Virginia O'Rourke, Pet-Life, ,Marianne & Dennis Mahoney Lynn Nittolo, Dat-Media, R & M Reford, P.Ford, Spray Lakes Sawmill, Angy & Horst Moessmer, Bonny Fox, Fr James Whelihan School, Shaun Smith, The Apedailes, Ciara Jensen, Linda PeKrul, Christine-Farkas, Sheena Brown, Tim Moore, Kevin Le-Huray, Mark Brown, Terry & Hank Biesbroek, Sheena Lehoulier Simpson, Patricia Hines THANK YOU



WILDLIFE RESCUE



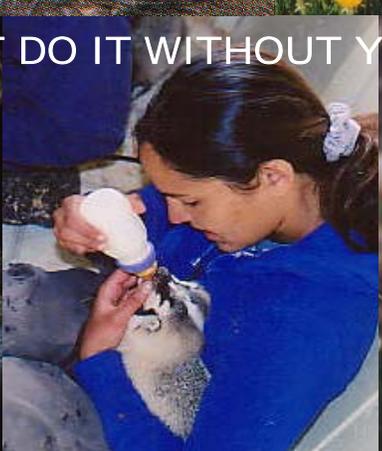
STUDENTS & VOLUN-



SWIFT FOX PROGRAMME



EDUCATION PROGRAMMES



WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU



The CEI is a registered Charity #0916387 – 54 and Alberta Society: . 5050 75713
Please help wildlife by giving your financial support to the work we do!

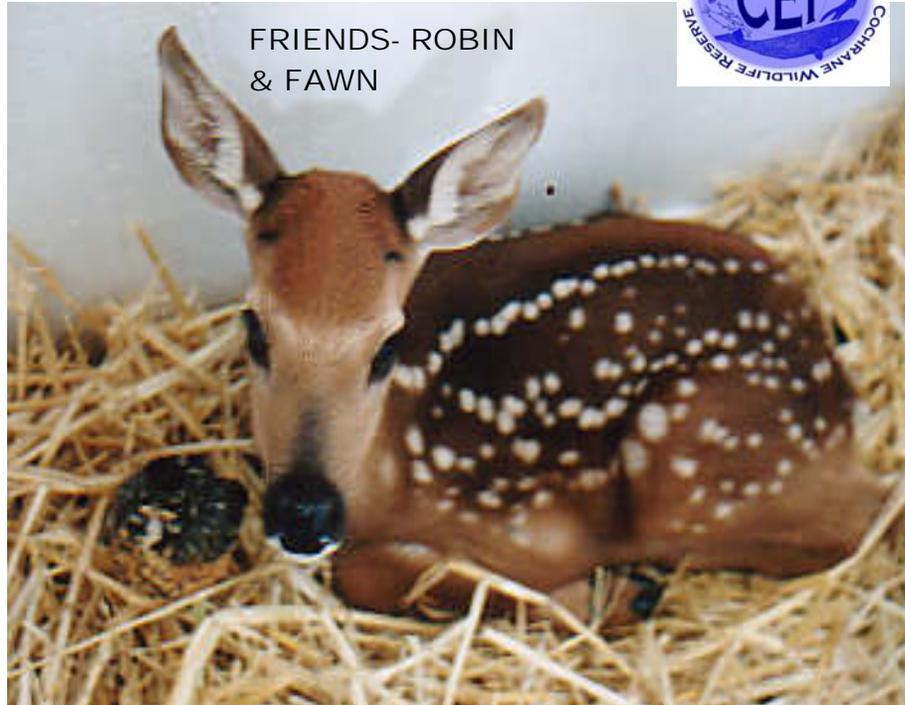
You can do this :by
DONATION on the internet (CanadaHelps) or
by mail (CEI P.O.Box
484, Cochrane AB T4C
1A7)

Alberta's tax credit
has increased by
more than 60 per
cent for total annual
charitable donations
over \$200. Including
the federal tax credit,
Albertans receive a
50 per cent non-
refundable tax credit
for every dollar do-
nated over the \$200
threshold. This in-
cludes donations
made on or after
January 1, 2007.

<http://www.culture.alberta.ca/communityspirit/taxcredit.aspx>



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can list THANK YOU
THANK YOU

As well as ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, WILDLIFE
RESCUE, REHABILITATION & RELEASE, EDUCA-
TION PROGRAMMES, we undertake research in
the field on non-intrusive methods of monitoring
and surveying wildlife.

The CEI also established, in 1986,
WHALEFORCE, an international survey of whales,
dolphins & porpoises. **WHALEFORCE** involves
volunteering racing and cruising blue water and
coastal yachtsmen and women in this survey and
is still going strong in 2011, providing vital infor-
mation on the state of the World's seas. (to be-
long to **WHALEFORCE** e-mail cei@nucleus.com)

We have put on Art Exhibitions at the CEI,
in the CEI's Interpretive Centre. In 2010 artists
from Britain, Canada and wonderful Robert Bate-
man provided original works. We aim to have ex-
hibitions at least twice a year because it is a won-
derful showcase for up and coming artists –
especially if we have someone famous like
Robert Bateman- and everyone enjoys visiting the
CEI and learning, firsthand, what we do here

The CEI also provides Speakers for inter-
ested groups and community associations.

In 2010 our first book was published and
launched HEART'S EASE COMES IN A BOX: Res-
cuing Wildlife in the Foothills of the Rockies
(contact cei@nucleus.com if you'd like a copy). If
it sells well, all proceeds going to wildlife rescue,
we hope it will be the first of many unique books
published by CEI



The engine which supports the day to
day work and expenses of the CEI is
HAPPY TAILS RETREAT, our dog and cat
(and turtle and rabbit) boarding facility.
HAPPY TAILS RETREAT has two separate
buildings, one for cats and one for dogs!
For our DOG guests we have individual
enclosures with outdoor indoor access,
in-floor heating and, as well, for
social dogs, a large, 2 acre,
fenced free play area. Dogs go
for walks as well.



For CATS, we have 11 runs pro-
viding floor to ceiling vertical space and
window views for the cats to enjoy. **MIKE
CURTIS** is the kennel manager; you can
reach him at info@happytailsretreat.com
or by phone: **403 851 2050**