



COCHRANE  
ECOLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE, A  
REGISTERED  
CHARITY #  
0916387-54

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In this edition

A PICTURE BOOK  
OF 2011

WHALEFORCE

RELEASES

LYNX

NEW PROJECTS

HAPPYTAILS

851 2050

WE CAN'T DO  
ANY OF IT WITH-  
OUT YOU ALL

THANK YOU

Please DONATE

donate



MEMBER OF THE ORDER  
OF THE BIG HORN

RECIPIENT OF THE  
EMERALD AWARD



Liberty No. 18 NOVEMBER 2012



### **What did we do at the Cochrane Ecological Institute, CEI, in 2011?**

It was a very interesting and exciting year for us with so much happening that I think, on the lines of a "picture is worth a 1,000 words" a PICTURE BOOK OF 2011 (next pages) will show you more than I could possibly tell you about in only 4 pages!

We released our bears successfully, with the advice and help of Cochrane and Rocky Mountain House Fish & Wildlife officers (see photographs). Monitoring wildlife after release is incredibly important, but also incredibly expensive and we started, in June 2010 to try to obtain the funding to

follow the animals to be released in 2011, so we could monitor their survival in the wild. Raising money for special projects such as this always takes a long time! By June 2011, thanks to a Casino managed by the Alberta Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association, AWRA, and a generous donation of a vehicle from CP Rail, we received a valuable boost towards our lynx project (see inside). Timing and funding unfortunately did not mesh for our bear release, as the bears had to be released in March 2011, while they were still hibernating.

We built, with the help Fortis and of CEI volunteers, two beautiful new OWL Aviaries for Clawed, Bud and their friends.

# BEAR RELEASES

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 separate CAT COUNTRY COTTAGE

WEBSITE

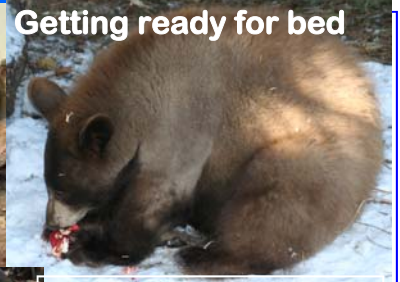
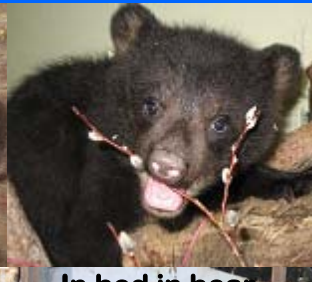
www.

happytailsretreat.com

Or talk to Mike by telephone at (403) 851 2050



Just Arrived



Getting ready for bed



Winter bear "den" with bear renovations



In bed in bear "den"



Anna checking on sleeping bears



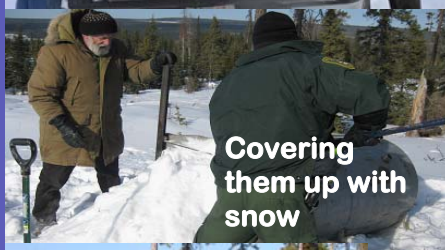
Den & bears loaded up



Den & Bears off to release site



Ken, Den & bears at Release Site!



Covering them up with snow



Ken, Fish & Wildlife officers taking trees to hide den



Catriona covering den



Anna covering den



NO Entry!

ORPHAN PHOTO FROM 2011



It's not just bears and lynx, we need YOU too!

Winter Bear Release: We take the bears while hibernating in their "den", out to the release site. Once arrived, we pack snow against the "den" entrance so the bears can dig their way out in the Spring, cover them up, and put a NO ENTRY sign on the trail. When the bears wake up in the Spring they are in safe and fruitful wilderness area AND they still have their old familiar, comfortable "den" !

# Lynx, volunteers, new projects

## THANK YOU TO

So many people have helped us through the year !Only a tiny fraction can be thanked in this little space, but we appreciate your donations more than we can say; We

could not do what we do without you! You are all WONDERFUL. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the CEI through CanadaHelps, Thank you to: S & J Hasell, Emily Lamb, Rocky View School, Elbow Valley School, F7A Wortman, Meg Mcdonagh, D. Dupont, V. Brandham, S. Anderson, J. Sinclair, Tail Blazers, Fortis, Calgary Outdoor Club, Canadian Pacific, Bonnie Isaacson, Eden Conservation Trust, C. Kaufman, PetLife, Lynn Nittolo, D Burwood, N. Schmidt, D & C Apedaile, L. Edison, E.A. Williams, L. Yeung, DatMedia, Spartan controls, Storm Energy inc, Y. Roche,



Lynx Project



Lynx in trees



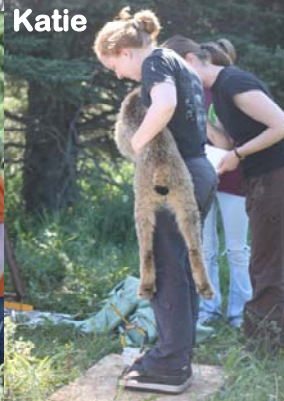
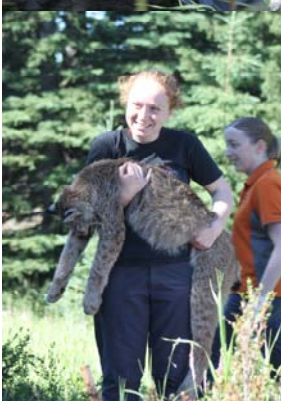
Veterinary care



Mike & radio collar



GPS collars 1 & 2 >>



Katie

observations at the CEI, our lynx climbed up, hunted in, and slept in, the many large trees in their enclosure for 32.89% of the 24 hour cycle. We had a short "window" of time for a spring release, so with the help of Arrowhead Veterinary Clinic the lynx had radio (GPS) collars put on. After collaring, their behaviour changed to spending only 5.26% of the 24 hour cycle up trees. This behaviour change could compromise their survival in the wild. We studied the lynx with their GPS collars on for one month but their behaviour still did not revert to what it was before they were collared, so we took the collars off. The month of observing their behaviour with collars on used up the "window" available for a suitable time to release them. The Lynx will be released, but we'll use a different, less intrusive monitoring method.

Since the lynx came to us, our goal has been to release them back into the wild and to monitor them post-release. We needed help for this and AWRA kindly donated money towards field work and Canadian Pacific Railway, a truck. Katie, from Dept. of Wildlife Biology, Institute of Technology Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland studied our lynx. To date, in North America, lynx are usually monitored by using radio telemetry: radio collars. These lynx collars were provided to us by ADC, and were surprisingly large (see photo). From Katie's long term, night and day,

Developing this will be one of our **NEW PROJECTS** for 2011/2012. International, published, research has shown that for some species wearing a radio telemetry device, like a VHF or GPS collar has a measurably detrimental effect on behaviour and on health. In many published papers on lynx species (Europe & north America) there is a very high die off amongst the monitored animals. This die off is attributed to starvation, not to behavioural change due to wearing radio telemetry collars. But maybe wearing collars is a contributory cause. If you would like to help or raise funds for this **NEW PROJECT**, please let me know, we need help!

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,

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 donated over the \$200 threshold. This includes donations made on or after January 1, 2007.

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



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 providing 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](mailto:info@happytailsretreat.com) or by phone: **403 851 2050**.

**REMEMBER, HAPPY TAILS IS WHERE BOARDING YOUR PET HELPS WILDLIFE!**



## WhaleForce, established 1986

**WhaleForce** was developed and implemented by the CEI in 1986 as an effort to monitor the oceans. **WhaleForce** counts the world's cetacean (whales, dolphins, porpoises) species, identifying species, numbers and direction of movement. **WhaleForce** also notes changes (garbage, pollution, invasive species) in oceans and rivers. **WhaleForce** members are racing and cruising blue-water and coastal cruising sailors who participate in this CEI project by observing and working to conserve the ecosystem where they play (oceans, seas, rivers, inland water-bodies) and the wild species which share those ecosystems, then e-mailing their observations and photographs to the CEI ([cei@nucleus.com](mailto:cei@nucleus.com)). If you have a boat **JOIN US**, join **WhaleForce**! It is fun! You get a specially designed book to help you identify the cetaceans you see, all **WhaleForce** members fly the **WhaleForce** burgee, so you meet interesting people, and above all, while holidaying aboard and doing something you love, boating, you are also helping towards the protection of the ecosystems where you play and the wild whales, dolphins, and porpoises which share them with you.

For more on WhaleForce and what we have been doing, check the website [www.ceinst.org](http://www.ceinst.org) and eventually, I hope, the Blog!!



**CHRISTMAS IS COMING!** Please help the CEI to continue with our long-term programmes (see below) by indulging yourselves or giving **CHRISTMAS** gifts of memberships of the CEI (\$50.00 Tax deductible), or a gift for your Yachtie or would-be Yachtie friends of **WhaleForce** membership (\$50.00, plus post & packing membership includes Burgee and I.D. book), by boarding your pet at **HappyTails**, or giving a **Christmas Happytails boarding voucher** (\$27.00 per day for dogs, \$17.00 p.d. for Cats) or buying for yourself or as a **Christmas gift** for friends the CEI's book on wildlife rehabilitation: **HEART'S EASE COMES IN A BOX, Rescuing wildlife in the foothills of the Rockies**, 2nd revised edition (\$65.00 plus post & packing). Making any of these **Christmas gifts** will mean that your money goes straight towards supporting the following CEI's Long-term Programmes



- Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release



- Ecosystem Restoration



- Environmental Education: [lisaflaman@yahoo.ca](mailto:lisaflaman@yahoo.ca)
- **WhaleForce**: [cei@nucleus.com](mailto:cei@nucleus.com)
- Development and implementation of non-intrusive wildlife survey methods