

# COCHRANE ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE



MEMBER OF THE ORDER  
OF THE BIG HORN 1984

RECIPIENT OF  
THE EMERALD  
AWARD 1996



# LIBERTY

VOLUME 13

JULY 2008

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO**  
[www.ceinst.org](http://www.ceinst.org)

- **NEW EDUCATIONAL GARDENS AT CEI**
- **BRANCH OF CEI NOW IN CAMP-BELL RIVER**
- **FRENCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES**
- **WHALEFORCE**
- **BEARS**
- **WILDLIFE REHABILITATION**
- **Funding for educational Landmark wall**
- **SOCIAL INITIATIVES**



P.O. Box 484  
Cochrane, Ab.  
T4C 1A7

Tel: (403)  
932 5632

FAX: (403) 932  
6303

E-mail  
[cei@nucleus.com](mailto:cei@nucleus.com)

WEB  
[www.ceinst.org](http://www.ceinst.org)

Will wilderness always be there? Will wild animals be always be able to live undisturbed? These are the questions that children ask when they visit the Cochrane Ecological Institute (CEI) to learn about Canada's wildlife and wilderness.

Most children now live in cities. Their lives are enclosed in a man-made world, the food they eat comes to them in packages, the games they play are organized and played on sports fields, playgrounds, in gyms, or privately on computers. The stress that has become an integral part of modern adult life inexorably affects the lives of children.

Few children, nowadays, have the freedom to lie on their backs in a grassy, sun splashed dell, doing nothing but breathing in the scent of crushed grass and surrounded only by the sound of birdsong. Few children have the opportunity to stalk along the edge of a creek watching for the dart of a frog or the silvery flick of a fin. Few of them have the liberty to learn about or to experience the natural world.

Knowledge and understanding of how things work brings confidence. It is part of the CEI's Mandate to introduce children to the hidden world of wildlife, to teach them how to read an unwritten and unfamiliar world. Our programmes show **why** it is important



**ORPHANED WILDLIFE ALWAYS  
NEEDS YOUR HELP!  
WHEN CONTRIBUTING TO CHARITY  
REMEMBER US!**

to stand still and listen to **what** your senses (sight, hearing, smell) are telling you.

The CEI's educational programmes are also fun, because the CEI's Educational Director, Lisa Flaman makes them so! To contact Lisa (e-mail: [lisaflaman@yahoo.ca](mailto:lisaflaman@yahoo.ca))

The impact upon Alberta's wilderness of Alberta's booming economy is startling. Our cities are expanding, creating both smog, and a demand for timber. We are using more water and producing more waste, we are crisscrossing the land with seismic lines, oil & gas wells, pumping stations, service roads, the wealth associated with a booming economy also brings with it a greater demand for recreational facilities (golf courses, hiking trails, ski hills), and all of this puts enormous pressure on our remaining areas of contiguous wilderness.

Earth, water, air, even though humans are a very adaptable species we cannot live without these. To maintain air quality

we should, at the very least, conserve large tracts of native forest. To maintain water we must preserve the watersheds which provide water for our rivers and groundwater. To continue to eat we must ensure that we have uncontaminated farmland.

To protect what is essential for human survival we have to understand the necessity to do so. We need to understand and appreciate the role played by the wild world in the continued existence of our artificial world of cars, streets, cities, suburbs, industry. For over 100 years we have taken much from the land and given back very little. Payback time is now. There is no doubt that human actions have and are transforming the world we live in. If we act now to look after Alberta's wilderness it will benefit us, our children and our children's children. No one will do it for us. The time has come for us, the governed, to make it clear to government that the desire of the people is preservation of pristine wilderness, clean water and uncontaminated air, and by doing so, we will also save our wildlife.

## The CEI's Wildlife Rescue Programme ([www.ceinst.org](http://www.ceinst.org))

For injured or orphaned wildlife, phone: 403 932 5632



The CEI is carrying on with its Wildlife Rehabilitation programme. This is a programme that the CEI has been undertaking for the past 36 years! We now have a strong relationship with other inner city Wildlife rehabilitation centres in Calgary, Edmonton, and Red Deer which enables them to send their rescued and treated wildlife to the CEI. These animals then have the opportunity to develop survival skills in a protected wilderness environment. In 2007, we were very happy to note that our continued public relations programme is beginning to have an effect. Cochrane Animal Service (CAS) personnel undertook to live-trap and rescue the badger cubs living on a Golf Course and transport them to the CEI, despite pressure from some members of the public to kill the little cubs.

Those badger cubs decided to overwinter at the CEI (they were not caged) and are now off on their own, far from any Golf Courses, and hunting pocket gophers! In 2008, Charlene, from CAS, has continued to consult with CEI if she encounters a non domestic problem animal. Funding to support Wildlife rehabilitation is practically impossible to obtain over the long term, so this programme is supported entirely by the proceeds from the CEI's kennel (Happy Tails Pet Retreat, [www.happytailsretreat.com](http://www.happytailsretreat.com))



Just telephone (403) 851 2050 for HAPPY TAILS!

CEI CONSULTANCY  
please phone:  
**(403) 932 6303** or  
e-mail:  
[ken@ceinst.org](mailto:ken@ceinst.org)



For Vanishing Artefacts, phone: 403 932 5632



### CEI CONSULTANCY

For 36 years now, CEI has been working in the fields of Ecosystem Restoration, and Environmental Management This experience has shown us that, in many areas, CEI's contribution, in an advisory capacity, towards Technological Exchange and Capacity Building is valued by the people and organizations we work with. As the CEI goal is to achieve sustainability we have established **Social Initiative #3, CEI CONSULTANCY**, which provides advice, highly specialized programs, and services for a fee (all profits from CEI Consultancy go to support the CEI's wildlife & environmental programs). In this capacity, **CEI CONSULTANCY** is currently working in the regulatory processes in the North West Territories and Nunavut as well as with Endangered species programs. For any information on CEI's **Social Initiative #3**, contact Ken Weagle; [ken@ceinst.org](mailto:ken@ceinst.org)

**VANISHING ARTEFACTS:** Worldwide, valuable thousand year old skills are being lost. These skills in building, gardening, fabric making, tool and utensil construction and design maintained vital communities as well as creating works of intrinsic beauty and practicality. The goods produced by using ancient skills and knowledge enabled their producers to live a reasonable life and did not contribute to habitat degradation. The changes brought about in the 20th century have produced laboursaving equipment, easy transport, and a plentiful food supply for the "developed" nations at a huge cost to the rest of the world and our environment. **VANISHING ARTEFACTS** is the CEI's **Social Initiative # 3** and the CEI's small attempt to reverse this trend. Working in the North and in the eastern Mediterranean we see beautiful objects produced by the indigenous peoples of these areas. The CEI believes that if a market was found and a just price paid, the communities where these objects are made could be maintained. There would be no need for economic migration and no loss of priceless skills. It is a big job and if you are interested please contact us: [cei@nucleus.com](mailto:cei@nucleus.com)

### THE WORLD LAND TRUST'S BOOKS FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CEI

The CEI is very fortunate in having a partnership with the World Land Trust. (WLT) The World Land Trust is an international conservation charity (Reg. No. 1001291), based in Halesworth, a rural town in Suffolk, UK. Since its foundation in 1989 as the World Wide Land Conservation Trust, the World Land Trust has been working to preserve the world's most biologically important and threatened lands, and has helped purchase and protect over 375,000 acres of habitats rich in wildlife, in Asia, Central and South America and the UK.

The World Land Trust also provides a service to Conservation Charities, like the CEI, through the World Land Trust's Books for Conservation Programme.

Through the Books for Conservation programme, donated books are sent out to partners...all the CEI has to do is raise the money for shipping ... (Quite a lot, when books are being sent out to western Canada from the UK, but well worth it!).

In our turn, as we did in 2004 and will be doing again in 2008, we forward books on to the Blood (Kainai) Library at the Red Crow Community College.

These books become part of the CEI's reference library to be used in the CEI's educational programming and also part of the Red Crow Community College Library.

For more about the WLT

[info@worldlandtrust.org](mailto:info@worldlandtrust.org)

## BEAR NECESSITIES



Bears: What do bears mean to us? For children, listening to a classic bedtime story such as Winnie The Pooh, cuddling their toy bears as they drift off to sleep, bears give comfort and contentment. For adults, bears can be a symbol of freedom, strength, and untouched wilderness. Although bears, like people, are omnivores, eating grains, fruits, vegetation and meat, unlike humans, bears will never breed to such an extent that their population requirements risk degrading or transforming their habitat. But, 6 of the world's 8 species of bear are listed as **Endangered**.

Why? Because, for bears, the bare necessities of life are a large and undisturbed wilderness, bears live within their means. Bears don't change natural habitat to suit their requirements, instead they adapt their behaviour to suit their habitat. A long-lived species, bears reach sexual maturity late (5 – 7 years) and will only have cubs if there is food to support them (grizzly bears have the slowest reproductive rate of any terrestrial mammal). An adult female must be in prime condition for ovulation to be induced by an interested male and, once she has been bred, she must be in optimum condition when going into hibernation or gestation will not occur. Once her cubs are born, and the natural die-off among cubs and sub-adult bears is high, she has to protect and rear them. Due to philopatry ( cub home range forming part of, or overlapping the home range of the parent female) cubs stay with their mother for 2- 3 years, or longer. All this means that the richness of wilderness habitat is reflected in bear populations. Habitat transformation resulting from industry, agriculture, transport corridors and recreation can have an adverse impact on watersheds, wilderness and wildlife

causing increased conflict between wildlife, including bears, and people. As bears are so slow to reproduce, the effects of bear management decisions on hunting or protection do not become apparent until decades have passed, and by that time, the politicians and civil servants who made those decisions have moved on. Every cub born is of immense importance to the population. Yet, in Western Canada the usual fate of orphaned bear cubs is, **abandonment euthanasia, or life imprisonment** in Zoos. The first choice of wildlife managers is **not** rescue, rearing, and release. The primary cause of population loss amongst bears, worldwide, is human-caused mortality. But in Alberta the belief is: (1) "*Habitat protection and human/bear conflicts are not directly linked*" and (2): "*The consensus of wildlife management agencies is that the best chance for orphaned bears to contribute to wild populations is to leave them in the wild, even though their survival chances might be slim*" (SRD,2007)

## THANK YOU TO

So many people have helped us through the year ... no room to thank you all in this little space, on our website we are trying to keep an acknowledgements page up to date; Eden Foundation, the M.D. of Rocky View, The Alberta Watershed Stewardship Network, The McLean Foundation, the United Church of Canada J.S. Foundation, Ken & Debbie Yohnke, Dawn Locke, Blood Tribe Land Management, Grant MacEwan Nature Protection Fund, Elizabeth Barratt school, Elbow Valley School, Volker Stevens, DatMedia, World Land Trust, UK, Yvonne Roche, Canadian Forces, World Society for the Protection of Animals, Elsa Canada, Tim's Reusables, Elliot Morrison, Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society, Spray Lakes Sawmills, Canada World Youth, R & M ReFord, P.Ford, La-Farge, Canada, Michael Curtis, Pierre Terret, and so many more.....

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN ENGLISH



Lisa Flaman, is now co-ordinating and undertaking the CEI's educational programmes, and, as well as being a Director of the CEI, she is also the CEI's Volunteer co-ordinator. You can reach her at [lisaflaman@yahoo.ca](mailto:lisaflaman@yahoo.ca) or Tel: 403 932 5632. Lisa is also the Executive Director & Education co-ordinator of the Weaselhead /Glenmore Park Preservation Society, you can reach her there at: **Tel: 403-200-7111** As we all have to earn money to live, Lisa is also the

owner & energy healing practitioner of Rowdy Dogz, a Doggy Day Care in Calgary ([www.rowdydogz.ca](http://www.rowdydogz.ca) or [rowdydogz22@yahoo.ca](mailto:rowdydogz22@yahoo.ca)) **Tel:403-288-4000.**

The CEI's educational programmes are geared to match the current school curriculum (K-12) to provide Field Station facilities for under-graduates, graduates and post graduates, and opportunities for life-long learning for interested individuals.

If the CEI comes to the Classroom we provide a PowerPoint presentation followed by a Q&A session. If a group comes to the CEI we provide a PowerPoint presentation followed by a hands-on experience and Q&A session. For adult groups, if requested, CEI can also provide Field trips.

Programmes are in the following areas :Biology, botany, art, wildlife rehabilitation, endangered species reintroduction, endangered species management, non-intrusive fauna & flora survey methods, wilderness survival, wilderness literacy, cetaceans, amphibians, insects, and individual species (swift fox, badgers, bears, owls, diurnal raptors, etc.)

## SWIFT FOX

We haven't forgotten them and the CEI still holds Canada's **only** captive-breeding colony of swift fox! Swift fox, North America's smallest and rarest fox, has, thanks to the 841 CEI swift foxes provided by the CEI to the Canadian Swift Fox reintroduction programme (1983-97) had its classification in Canada changed from Extirpated (**extinct**) in Canada to **Endangered** (COSEWIC 1998). The USA swift fox reintroduction, 123 CEI swift foxes reintroduced, was a Blackfeet Nation- CEI programme, and the FIRST swift fox reintroduction in the USA.

Although substantially less than 1000 swift foxes are estimated to live in the wild in Canada, there is, at present, no Federal or Provincial will to continue reintroduction. The Blood tribe initiated (2004) the first reintroduction of an indigenous species (swift fox) by an Aboriginal people on Aboriginal land in Canada but without Federal and Provincial support of this initiative the Tribe is legally prevented from continuing the programme.





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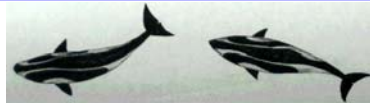
Cochrane Ecological Institute, (CEI), P.O.Box  
484, Cochrane, AB, Canada T4C 1A7. Tel:403  
932 5632 website: [www.ceinst.org](http://www.ceinst.org)

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## WHALEFORCE



### WHALEFORCE CETACEAN I.D.

**BOOK** Prior to leaving for Spain to present *WhaleForce* seminars to blue-water sailors participating in the 2007 Atlantic Rally for Cruisers, Class Afloat, and the 2007/08 Circumnavigation Rally, Clio & Ken completed the CEI's *Whaleforce* I.D. book.

If you'd like one, contact Ken at [ken@ceinst.org](mailto:ken@ceinst.org) and if you would like to participate in *WhaleForce*, or learn more about the programme, check the web [www.ceinst.org](http://www.ceinst.org), or also contact Ken

A 4 Page newsletter is hard to fit everything into! This year,



2008, we will finally complete the CEI's LandMark Wall, once completed it will be unique, combining environmental education with an introduction to Rock Art.

In addition, and thanks to Elliot Morrison, the CEI will have the outline of an educational garden, demonstrating the indigenous plants used for plant technology (fishing lines, baskets), medicinal plants, edible plants and dye plants, as always with a garden, more work needs to be done!



## Happy-Tails Pet Retreat

Happy-Tails Pet Retreat is the CEI's Social Initiative #2  
[www.happytailsretreat.com](http://www.happytailsretreat.com)

Over the winter of 2006/07 we designed and built the CEI's small dog and cat boarding kennel, Happy Tails. We have 16 indoor-outdoor runs for the dogs and two large wooded exercise areas for social dogs to play in. The dogs have in-floor heating in their indoor runs, and each bank of indoor runs opens off the central office so that it is easy to keep an eye on the dogs and talk to those dogs who are unhappy at being left behind by their owners.



Occasionally, we have a boarder who isn't a dog or a cat! Last Christmas we had a rabbit to stay! Cats are definitely not left out! Our "Cat Country Cottage" provides 11 cat boarders with a house of their own, well away from the dogs. Each boarding cat has a floor to ceiling enclosure with window views, and their own tree! As a CEI Social Initiative all the proceeds from the dog and cat (and rabbit) boarding fees from Happy Tails Retreat go to support the CEI's Swift Fox and Wildlife Rehabilitation Programmes. If you would like to help out wildlife while boarding your pet, you can always reach Pat Mysero, CEI's manager at 403 851 2050. Lisa can take your pet if you want a days shopping in Calgary: [rowdydogz22@yahoo.ca](mailto:rowdydogz22@yahoo.ca)



## CEI'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN FRENCH

### L'ÉCOLOGIE, C'EST POUR TOUS

In 2008 the CEI was requested to provide educational programming in French by the ACFA (Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta). The CEI is so fortunate in having three native French speakers, Pierre Balduc, Pierre Terret, and Charlotte Apedaile. Lisa Flaman, en plus d'être à l'origine et de coordonner les programmes éducatifs du CEI, en est l'un des directeurs et la coordinatrice des volontaires de l'Institut. Vous pouvez la joindre par Internet: [lisaflaman@yahoo.ca](mailto:lisaflaman@yahoo.ca) ou par téléphone : **Tel: 403 932 5632**

Les programmes éducatifs du Cochrane Ecological Institute ont été élaborés pour correspondre au mieux avec les attentes et les sujets traités par les programmes scolaires actuels (K12). Le CEI avec son infrastructure et le terrain qu'il l'entoure fournit pour les étudiants non gradués, gradué ou post gradué un véritable laboratoire de terrain idéal pour l'apprentissage, le perfectionnement et la mise en pratique des savoirs universitaires. Il offre également tous simplement des opportunités pour les individus intéressés ou pour les gens qui veulent apprendre tout au long de leur vie. Si c'est le CEI qui vient dans la classe nous réalisons une présentation Power-Point suivi d'un débat et d'une séance de Questions / Réponses. Si c'est la classe qui se déplace et que nous accueillons le groupe dans les facilités de l'Institut, nous réalisons une présentation Power-Point suivi cette fois d'expériences concrètes d'apprentissages à l'extérieur sur le terrain, puis pour conclure un débat et une séance de Questions / Réponses.

Pour les groupes constitués d'adultes, sur demande, le CEI peut aussi prévoir des excursions de terrain