



Feather & Talon

SORCO Newsletter

Fall 2009

South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls

MISSION STATEMENT

Conservation of
Birds of Prey
through
Rehabilitation
and Education



BIRD RELEASE SCHEDULE

The last of our Great Horned Owl orphans was released on November 1st in a remote area near Naramata.

The remaining two birds, a mature Bald Eagle and a mature Great Horned Owl, are both doing well but not releasable and we are attempting to find suitable new homes for them.

Established in 1987, the South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls (SORCO) is a registered non-profit society which relies on the public for both physical and financial support. Funds from tax deductible donations go toward food, medication, the rescue and release of raptors and educational materials. Our objective is to rescue and treat injured and orphaned birds of prey with the purpose of releasing them back into the wild whenever possible.

The word "Owl" in our name was chosen because the Okanagan area is home to more threatened and endangered owls than anywhere else in Canada. This includes the Burrowing Owl. Fifteen of the 16 owl species found in Canada are located in BC and 13 of them can be seen in the Okanagan throughout the year.



SORCO is dedicated to saving our native species through treatment, rehabilitation, public awareness and education. We believe raptors are an important link in the ecosystem, and their health reflects the health of nature itself. Our aim is to work toward regaining a balanced ecosystem by assisting our wildlife.

NEWSLETTER

WE HAVE PEOPLE WORKING ON SORCO'S WEB PAGE AND IT WILL BE UP AND RUNNING IN JANUARY

Board Chair's Report for SORCO Newsletter October 19, 2009

Dear Sorco Members:

I was pleased to be elected as a SORCO Board member at the May 28th AGM. I was quite surprised to be elected as the incoming Chair as well. I learned about SORCO through my volunteer work with the Oliver Rotary Club at the new Burrowing Owl Habitat Site. On my first visit to the site, it was an absolute thrill to look into the owl enclosure and have six heads turn in unison and stare back at me with twelve very large round eyes. I can see why Great Horned Owls are night hunters!

Over the past year our organization has made a lot of changes and a lot of progress. We have enacted a comprehensive governance plan, with Ken's direction, completed some major site cleanup and are busy planning some major site changes, including a new clinic. We hope to have a complete new strategic plan for the new year. Unfortunately, we have encountered a major challenge. To date we have been able to maintain our organization and keep up our level of service to our "clients". For the past few years, one of our major sources of funding has been an \$18,000 gaming grant from the lotteries. This year, along with several other "like" organizations our grant has been cancelled by the

Government of British Columbia. We have made our concerns known to our local MLA John Slater. Members have written letters and thanks to several Board members, we have had some major news coverage. At this point it is to no avail. Our work is important. It is sad where once again our wildlife and the environment have to pay for the mistakes of people. The Board is currently working on ideas to supplement our funding shortfall. We look to you our members and supporters for your help and advice. If you would like to speak with me, I can be reached at (250) 498-3774 or on my cell (250) 919-2871. My email is: sheilagamble@persona.ca. I look forward to hearing from you about this issue and other SORCO matters.

Finally, my thanks go to Past Chair Bruce Malczewski and his wife Carol for their tireless work, Ken Fjuino, our Site Manager, our volunteers and to my fellow Board members. Best wishes,

Sheila Gamble
Chair

SORCO SITE MANAGER Ken Fujino

At SORCO'S Annual General Meeting this spring we were lucky to get new board directors. They all come highly

qualified and I look forward to working with them.

Work continues to clean up the SORCO site. With the help of volunteers the sorco site looks much better.

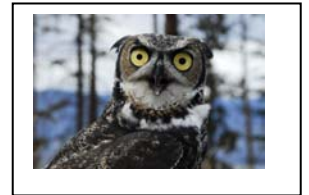
The orphaned Great Horned Owls were released the past few Sundays. We hope they all survive and have families of their own.

SORCO received news that we would not get our funding from the Gaming Commission. The \$18,000 that SORCO usually received represents approximately 40% of the operating funds for us. We have been forced into coming up with ways to supplement our budget.

One idea was to have a membership drive. For a \$20 annual membership you would receive our Spring and Fall newsletter. Also perhaps photos of new arrivals and of releases. Starting in 2010 only those people with current memberships will receive the newsletters. We hope all those who have faithfully supported us in the past will continue to do so by donating towards a membership. It will help us continue the important work we do at the rehabilitation centre.

If you have any ideas or question you can e-mail me at sorco@telus.net or phone 250 498-4251.

Ken Fujino



“Give a Hoot”
URGENT FUNDING APPEAL
SOUTH OKANAGAN REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR OWLS

Registered non-profit organizations such as SORCO rely on grants from the BC Gaming Commission to cover part of their operating costs. A 1999 *Letter of Understanding* committed funding from gaming activity (lotteries, bingo & casinos) to a variety of charities. Now, without any notice, the Government has announced that these funds have been eliminated entirely. The welfare of wildlife & the environment are its lowest priority.

We are facing a dire financial situation as a result of this Government action. To make up the \$18,000 funding shortfall, we are appealing to friends of SORCO to provide desperately needed financial assistance. Funding is needed to purchase food & medical supplies.



Since 1987, SORCO has been dedicated to three key priorities throughout the Okanagan:

RESCUE of injured & orphaned birds of prey
(Owls, hawks, eagles, merlins, osprey etc.)

REHABILITATION of the injured birds
Providing medical attention
Nurturing orphaned birds
Preparing them for release

RELEASING these birds back into the wild
where they can contribute to a balance in our eco system

The organization actively promotes wildlife preservation by conducting educational presentations at schools & environmental centres throughout the Valley.

Many volunteers provide assistance in running the SORCO facility near Vaseux Lake. It also offers a unique volunteer experience for the Brain Injury Society by providing them with a stimulating activity for their clients.

Please give a hoot!

1. *Become a SORCO Member - Donate \$20 & you will:*
 - Receive the semi-annual newsletter
 - Receive advance invitations to bird releases
 - Receive an invitation to the annual Open House
2. *Make a donation as a gift (Christmas, Birthday, Graduation)*
3. *Include SORCO in your will*

Please send donations to:
SORCO
Box 1166 Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
Tel: 250-498-4251 Fax: 250-498-0188
Email: sorco@telus.net
Note: All donations are tax deductible

Thank you for your generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Ray Putnam
Vice-Chairman

Listen to Owls sounds

http://soundboard.com/sb/download_sound_effects.aspx
(Open this link & then select from the “PLAYLIST” for 10 different calls)

Your donations keep SORCO operating. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please consider the options below.

Monthly Auto Withdrawal Authorization

I (***we if joint***) hereby authorize The South Okanagan Rehab Centre for Owls-SORCO to initiate debit and if necessary credit entries to my (our) credit card listed below.

Name on credit card _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Master Card__ Visa__ American Express__ Other__

Amount of debit donated per month _____ Start date _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until the South Okanagan Rehab Center for Owls has received written notification from me (***or either of us***) of its termination in such time and manner as to afford SORCO opportunity to act on it.

Signed _____ phone # _____

(***if joint***) signed _____

Date _____ email address _____

It is a federal offence to forge a signature.

Donors are responsible for all fees imposed by their financial institution.

Auto withdrawal entitles you to free membership with SORCO as long as it is in effect.

An official tax receipt from SORCO will be sent at the year end with debit slips.

Mail donations to:

The South Okanagan Rehab Centre for Owls – SORCO

PO Box 1166 Oliver BC V0H 1T0

Ph. 250-498-4251 email sorco@telus.net

Canadian Tire Cash

We use these coupons to purchase hardware and cleaning supplies for SORCO.