



# Feather & Talon

## SORCO Newsletter

SPRING 2010

South Okanagan Rehabilitation Centre for Owls

### MISSION STATEMENT

Conservation of  
Birds of Prey  
through  
Rehabilitation and  
Education

### GROWTH FROM WITHIN!

Dear SORCO  
Members and  
Volunteers:  
It is with great  
pleasure that I  
address all of you  
once again. I have  
been laid up due to  
an accident in  
January and am just  
now getting back  
into the swing of  
things, including  
SORCO. My thanks  
to all of you who  
have filled in for me  
during my absence?  
I have been  
watching with

amazement the number of  
creative ways my fellow  
Board members, our staff  
and our tireless  
volunteers have come up  
with fundraising  
opportunities. We were  
seriously worried last fall

when our \$18,000 grant from the provincial  
was cut. Several members of SORCO worked  
tirelessly to protest this cut, but at the same  
time worked at developing ideas for  
fundraising to fill in the shortfall. Even  
Houdini played a big role in our fundraising!  
It would be wonderful if this grant cut was a  
onetime thing, but funding is being cut  
everywhere. I do not think we can expect that  
this grant will be restored. Therefore, I  
anticipate that our creative fundraising will  
have to continue.

The wonderful thing that has happened is the  
reaffirmed commitment to our organizations  
from within. Volunteers have worked longer  
and harder. People have given us money just  
out of the goodness of their hearts! Tough  
times are good times for organizations like  
ours to grow and become stronger!  
My thanks to everyone who supports SORCO.

Sheila Gamble  
Chair





*In Remembrance*

**MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> A BALD  
EAGLE WILL BE  
RELEASED AT  
NENKICK'S  
CAMPGROUND, WEST  
OF HEDLEY AT 2:00 PM**

**SEE YOU AT  
TICKLEBERRY'S IN THE  
SUMMER**

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW  
WEBSITE AT**

**WWW.SORCO.ORG**

I would like to dedicate this newsletter to **DALE BROWN**. Dale was a friend and supporter of SORCO.

Dale was involved in a vehicle accident on February 24, 2010 and passed away from her injuries.

“Dale lived life to the fullest, loved her dogs and pets and was an avid hiker with friends and neighbors. She was an angel in every respect of her life. Loved by all who knew her, Dale cared for others as an LPN where she worked in Oliver, Penticton and Summerland.”

Because Dale so generously registered to become an organ donor, one person with heart failure received a heart transplant, two people with lung failure received single lung transplants, one person

with liver failure received a liver transplant and two people with kidney failure received kidney transplants. To date, these individuals continue to do well and would not have survived without her gift.

This was the type of person that Dale was.

We will miss her greatly.



A new arrival to SORCO-Sambuca

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend a Wildlife Rehabilitators Symposium in March. The symposium was great with lots of valuable information presented. I gained a great deal of information to help with the rehabbing of our raptors. Our volunteer, Tracey also accompanied me so that there would be another person with rehabbing knowledge to assist me.

In February, Charles and Judy Gurr took the Basic Wildlife Rehabilitators course in Victoria. They will now be able to look after SORCO when I am not available.

A total of 46 raptors were brought in to SORCO from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. Of these there were 9

Great Horned Owls, 2 Saw-whet owls, a Western Screech owl and a Snowy owl. We had 6 Redtail hawks, 3 Sharp-shin hawks, 3 Coopers hawks, 4 Merlins, 2 Kestrels and a Swainson hawk. Four Golden Eagles, a Bald Eagle, a Turkey Vulture and 6 Ospreys. Also 2 Nighthawks were brought in.

SORCO would like to thank Dr. Steven Harvey at Penticton Veterinary Hospital for all the work he donates and without him we would not be able to continue our good work. A thank you to Carman Miller for all the hard work she has done fund raising for SORCO. A thank you to Effective Printing Inc of Summerland for their support by donating the printing of our brochure

and business cards. I would personally like to thank all the volunteers that make SORCO possible.

Ken Fujino  
Executive Manager



Carman Miller and Houdini



A big thank you to Matt Duffus for the musical entertainment he provided at our Annual Open House in April shown here with Cheryl Halsted.

## GIVE A "HOOT" - URGENT FUNDING APPEAL

The funds previously received from the government's BC Gaming Commission have been eliminated. We are facing a dire financial situation as the result of this 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 provide food and medical supplies. Since 1987, SORCO has been dedicated to three key priorities throughout the Okanagan.

**RESCUE:** of injured and orphaned birds of prey  
**REHABILITATION:** of the injured birds (providing medical attention, nurturing orphaned birds, preparing them for release)  
**RELEASING:** the 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 and 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 and help us !**

1. Become a SORCO member!
  - a) Donate \$20 and you will (a) receive an semi-annual newsletter (b) receive advance invitations to bird releases and (c) receive an invitation to the annual Open House.
  - b) Make a donation as a gift (Christmas, Birthday, Graduation).
  - c) Include SORCO in your will.
2. Visit our website to sign up for automatic withdrawals in support of SORCO.
3. Visit our website to Adopt-A-Raptor.
4. Donate Canadian Tire Cash - we use these coupons to purchase hardware and cleaning supplies for SORCO.
5. Save SORCO \$\$\$ - To receive Newsletters by email - please send us your address.

**NOTE: All donations are tax-deductible.**



**Our volunteer Debbie with a recent patient.**

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