



CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DE LA FAUNE

Your connection to wildlife

Bulletin

NEWS FROM CWF
MAY + JUNE 2013

Going With the Flow

Canada is a nation of water. Support CWF's Rivers to Oceans Week and help preserve one of our most important resources

Would you like it if someone randomly walked into your home and tracked mud on your freshly washed floors? What if they trashed it—room by room? Would it feel like home? Probably not. Unfortunately, that's just what we're doing to the wildlife that call water home.



ERIC PETT

Going With the Flow...

Water pollution occurs when a significant amount of waste is added to a body of water. When oil, garbage, fertilizers, chemicals, sewage and litter enter a body—be it a creek, stream, river or lake—that waterway changes greatly.

As Canadians, we should be especially sensitive to this fact.

Our country and water go hand in hand. We are the stewards of one-fifth of the world's fresh water and can proudly claim about two million lakes, not to mention enough rivers, marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, sloughs and ponds to make a duck quack. With three mighty oceans offering us more than 200,000 kilometres of coastline—the longest in the world—Canada is truly a water nation.

Because most inland bodies of water eventually drain into the sea, every community in Canada is linked to the oceans, so having healthy watersheds is important. And though it may not be immediately apparent, our day-to-day activities affect Canada's marine ecosystems. From dumping leftover paint down the drain to using pesticides in the garden, our actions can contribute to water pollution. It's up to us to keep our waters clean.

Rivers to Oceans Week, from June 8 to 14, is your opportunity to celebrate the water that makes Canada special and to help CWF turn the tide on the threats to Canada's waterways and the life they sustain.

To mark the occasion, CWF invites you to take the Water Challenge at RiverstoOceans.ca. Every bad habit you swap for a more environmentally friendly one will make a world of difference to our waterways. It's the little things that count, after all.

TIPS FOR BEING WATER SMART

Invest in a rain barrel: They're a cheap and effective way to prevent downspout water from entering the sewer system. You also save money by having a ready—and free—supply of water for your garden.

Choose bricks: Interlocking bricks are a more environmentally sensitive choice than pavement for covering your driveway. They allow runoff to seep into the ground and keep it out of storm drains.

Go easy in the shower: Clarifying shampoos, deep conditioners, moisturizers and exfoliating body washes create a chemical soup when they go down the drain. Try to reduce the number of products you use—and stick to all-natural formulas.

Buy recycled toilet paper: Each Canadian uses an average of 100 rolls of toilet paper a year. Switching to recycled brands not only reduces the amount of pollution generated by making TP, it also saves huge amounts of forestland.

So what'll it be? Will you pledge to take old Betsy to the car wash instead of sudsing her up in the driveway? Or forgo those shell earrings you had your eye on during your beach vacation? Will you swap chemical cleaners for good old elbow grease? And will you buy sustainable seafood for your next dinner party?

CWF's challenge will give you many ideas and a host of options. Join in today.
—APRIL OVERALL

CWF PROFILE



Gordon Van Tighem

CWF DIRECTOR, N.W.T.

As a long-serving director on the CWF board, Gordon represents the Northwest Territories. He served as Yellowknife's mayor between 2000 and 2012.

A committed advocate for wildlife conservation, Gordon is regularly involved in conservation initiatives through his involvement with the NWT Wildlife Federation. Gordon is president of the Fly Kid Foundation, which promotes conservation to youth through fly-fishing, and has been active in Junior Forest Wardens, a cross-country organization that promotes enjoyment and protection of the natural environment to young people and families. He has also helped initiate funding programs to support wildlife, including a project for off-stream pickerel rearing, as well as studies of invasive species and the impact of their parasites on new habitat.

Originally from Calgary, Gordon has been active with Alberta Fish and Game and with Ducks Unlimited in the past. He and his wife, Carol, have three children and six grandchildren.

Project Highlights ...your donations in action*

Projects funded by CWF's Endangered Species Program:

\$12,000

To Memorial University to support a brief and targeted attempt to recover nine geolocator tags still deployed on Ross's gulls in Canada's High Arctic.

\$19,050

To the Vancouver Aquarium to research Steller's sea lion entanglement. The research will provide data on the types and frequency of entanglements and develop methods to free sea lions safely. The aquarium will also conduct education programs to help prevent entanglements.

\$25,000

To the Granby Zoo in Granby, Que., to measure the success of an artificial incubation program for spiny softshell turtles. The research will also evaluate the number of reproductive adults to document paternity and the turtles' fidelity to nesting sites, as well as establish a genetic profile of the female population.

*This is just a selection of recently funded projects. For more information on projects funded by CWF, visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/funded-projects.

Projects funded by Canadian Wildlife Foundation:

\$2,500

To South Nation Conservation in Finch, Ont., for a study to determine the status of the hydrology in Alfred Bog, the largest peat bog in southern Ontario. This wetland has shrunk to half its original size as a result of peat harvesting and mining, affecting habitat for endangered spotted turtles.

\$6,500

To the Bicknell's Thrush Project at the Université du Québec à Montréal to evaluate the effects of wind turbines on Bicknell's thrush and other forest-dwelling birds. The study will propose better mitigation measures to reduce the impact of wind-energy development and includes public education.

\$5,000

To the Gulf of St. Lawrence Bat Project at Saint Mary's University in Halifax to determine if islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence can protect bats from exposure to white-nose syndrome. Researchers are studying the genetic structure of bat populations in Eastern Canada to estimate the level of gene flow and movement between the islands and the mainland. If the bats do not migrate between the islands and the mainland, island populations may not be exposed to white-nose syndrome.

Your Shot

Dave Radowitz of Abbotsford, B.C., is the winner of February's By Popular Vote monthly photo contest, which was based on the theme "Perspectives." The themes for the May and June contests are "Patterns" and "A World of Water," respectively.

Visit WildPhotoContest.ca for your chance to win a CWF prize package valued at \$100.



CWF NEWS, PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES

What's Happening



CWF is hosting a special contest—Your Wild Adventure—with a grand prize of an adventure trip for two. Entering is easy. Visit our website YourWildAdventure.ca, and sign on to one of our adventure activities. It's free, and when you sign on, your name will be entered in the draw. Check out the rules and regulations for full details.

Africa to Americas Webinars

Have you been following CWF's Africa to Americas expedition? If so, there's now more information to enjoy. CWF marine manager Sean Brilliant has hosted a series of webinars about the rowing voyage trip from Dakar, Senegal, to Miami, Florida. Subjects include what the rowers are seeing on their expedition, ocean habitats and the importance of

conserving oceans. Visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca to watch Sean's presentations.

Walk for Wildlife

CWF hosts its fourth annual Walk for Wildlife from April 7 to May 22, 2013. Get outside with Canadians from coast to coast and connect with nature. Then log onto WalkforWildlife.ca and add your kilometres walked to our national tally. CWF is

aiming for a total of 15,000 kilometres—every step makes a difference.

Damian Foxall Joins CWF

CWF is pleased to welcome world-renowned offshore sailing champion Damian Foxall to the team as our new Rivers to Oceans and Sports Ambassador. Sailing aficionados will know Foxall for his first-place finishes in the 2011-2012 Volvo Ocean Race

and the 2007-2008 Barcelona World Race, which are both around-the-world events.

Eureka!

Join CWF at the Eureka Festival in Montreal. The June 14-16 event is an annual, family-focused celebration of science. It attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year. CWF will be there with a great collection of engaging and interactive activities about Canada's

ecosystems. Guaranteed fun for nature lovers of all ages.

Win Bicycles for Your Family

CWF and Burnbrae Farms want to help you and your family get outside this summer to explore Canada's wild spaces. So, we're giving you a chance to win a set of four bikes. Visit bikeforwildlife.ca for your chance to win. Be quick. The contest closes May 31, 2013.

Connect

For more online wildlife news, tips, facts and photos, sign up for CWF's free monthly newsletter, *Wildlife Update*. Visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca and enter your e-mail address under "Get CWF News." You can also follow the Canadian Wildlife Federation on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

