

Highlights of our 2019-2020 Successes



The Canadian Wildlife Federation's 2019-2020 fiscal year has been an unprecedented time of growth for our programs and contributions to conservation across Canada. Here are a few highlights.

LAKES AND RIVERS

Giving Fish Safe Passage

We launched an initiative to remediate barriers to fish passage in British Columbia. Two barriers were remediated in 2019, one benefitting Pacific salmon species and the other benefitting Westslope Cutthroat Trout, a species at risk. During 2020, we expect to be fully implementing this program and starting work to expand it within B.C. The project is funded by BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk, and RBC Bluewater.

Showing Lakes Some Love

Funded by the Rogers Foundation, Love Your Lake is a shoreline stewardship program run by CWF and our partner Watersheds Canada. In 2019, 2069 properties were assessed on 12 lakes, bringing our total since 2013 to 39,567 properties assessed on 163 lakes in Ontario, Saskatchewan and B.C.. Love Your Lake also contributed to more than 20,000 native plants planted on shoreline properties across Canada and established a network of engaged lake associations, regional partner groups and active lake stewards who are committed to improving Canada's shorelines and lakes.

COASTS AND OCEANS

Untangling A Threat Together

Eighty-three per cent of the critically Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale population shows scarring from entanglement in fishing gear, and on average a quarter of the population shows evidence of new interaction with entanglement each year. CWF is working with individual fish harvesters, fisheries associations and First Nations groups to review the current fishing methods, examine aspects of ropeless gear requiring testing and evaluation, and determine how testing should be conducted. With funding from the Canada Nature Fund and PEW Charitable Trusts, we will be determining whether ropeless fishing gear systems may be a successful alternative to traditional fishing gear for use in areas currently closed to fishing due to the presence of North Atlantic Right Whales.

Slowing to Prevent a Collision

Studies have demonstrated conclusively that anytime a whale is struck by a boat, no matter how small, the whale suffers. The faster the vessel is travelling, the greater the trauma. CWF created an interactive biophysical model to better understand what occurs to a whale during and after a collision event. The information derived from the model can inform current speed restrictions and support the idea of a more conservative speed.



FIELDS AND FORESTS

Creating the Great Canadian Pollinator Pathway

Canada is home to 1.4 million kilometres of roadsides. That's an immense opportunity for pollinator habitats. Working with rights-of-way owners such as hydro companies and municipalities, CWF launched a pilot project to create Monarch and pollinator habitat on right-of-way corridors and hosted a series of meetings and webinars for rights-of-way managers to discuss opportunities to increase and improve pollinator habitat on transportation, utility and other corridors. This project is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada Habitat Stewardship Program, Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Working on the Farm

Agricultural land — including woodlots, hedgerows and grassy field margins — provides pollinators with important food and nesting sites. This means restoring natural habitat on farms may be essential to maintain pollination services. In collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of Guelph, CWF continued our research with farmers in Norfolk County to understand how to manage farmland to contribute both to sustainable agriculture and healthy pollinator populations. Thanks to this research, which involves DNA barcoding, 150,000 agricultural pollinator specimens are being added to the Canadian National Collection database. The results will inform government policy and help Canadian farmers support our all-important wild pollinators.

BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES AT RISK

Going Batty

CWF's bat team was hard at work promoting bat conservation to ensure the long-term survival of Canada's at-risk bats and to keep more common bat species from becoming at-risk. Our focus was expanding our bat house citizen science project and carrying out a study to track the movement patterns of bats once excluded from human structures such as home attics and barns. By publicizing the best ways to help at-risk bat species and studying the impacts of exclusions, we are aiming to reduce the number of improper or unnecessary evictions taking place. We also launched our Help the Bats project on iNaturalist Canada to encourage bat house owners to document their observations, in order to determine the most effective bat house design. This project was supported by the Canada Summer Jobs Program and the Ottawa Community Foundation.



Protecting Freshwater Turtles

Funded by the Rogers Foundation, this project involves protecting turtles and their nests, building community awareness, and contributing to turtle conservation science. Locating Blanding's Turtles triggers habitat protection under Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*, while identifying hotspots of road mortality allows us to prioritize sites for mitigation (e.g. erecting fencing to keep turtles off roads). It also allows us to locate high-risk nests so we can incubate the eggs and then release hatchlings. Since its start in 2017, over 1,800 km² of habitat has been protected; turtle fencing has been installed at two of the worst roadkill hotspots in eastern Ontario; over 750 turtles safely moved off roads, and more than 36,000 turtle hatchlings have been released.



EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

Building A Better Canada With A New Generation of Conservation Leaders

Funded by the federal government as part of the Canada Service Corps, CWF's Canadian Conservation Corps program combines outdoor adventure with volunteer service and leadership development for young adults ages 18 to 30 across Canada. To date, 18 groups with 183 participants have performed 127,883 volunteer service hours in conservation.

Getting Young Canadians WILD Outside

Launched in early 2020, WILD Outside is a new flexible CWF volunteer service and learning program for young adults ages 15 to 18 funded by the federal government. Each participant is encouraged to commit 120 hours of volunteer service in conservation over a calendar year. Youth Leadership Specialists, 14 of whom are Canadian Conservation Corps alumni, will coordinate this program in communities across Canada, including Calgary, Toronto, Halifax, Charlottetown, Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ottawa, Montreal, Moncton and St. John's.

Getting Schools Growing

Through our WILD Spaces program CWF delivered high-quality educational materials and pollinator plants to 200 schools across Canada. This meant that students were able to help improve pollinator habitat while learning.

CONNECTING CANADIANS TO NATURE

Bringing Wildlife into Our Homes

Hinterland Who's Who/Faune et flore du pays released public service announcements (PSAs) and accompanying fact sheets on the Chorus Frog and the Common Raven in both official languages. The Common Raven PSA was also released in six Indigenous languages (Ojicree, Wood Cree, Ojibwe, Mohawk, Inuktitut and Denesuline). A free bilingual app for both Android and iOS platforms was created for children called The Wild Gang/Les curieux de nature, in conjunction with the CWF WILD/Faunetastique magazines.

Becoming Certifiably Wild

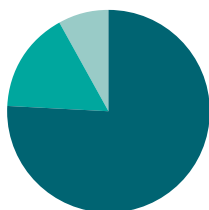
CWF's Garden Habitat Certification recognizes Canadians who make their home, school, business or community gardens suitable for wildlife by certifying their outdoor space as a "wildlife-friendly habitat". During our 2019-2020 fiscal year, we certified 405 gardens bringing our total to 2051 certified gardens.

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

CWF efficiency ratios were within guidelines of the Canada Revenue Agency.

Investments in charitable programs were \$18.4 million. This investment was used to strengthen programming in areas of freshwater habitat conservation, endangered species and large marine animal protection, education programming, pollinator habitat and other terrestrial conservation. CWF takes a balanced approach to resolving conservation challenges, including research to better understand how to be most effective in our programs, direct conservation programming, education to maintain public support for and active participation in conservation, and advocacy to shape national policy to benefit wildlife.

*CWF's full audited financial statements are available on our website at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca.



- 76% Charitable Programs
- 16% Fundraising Expenses
- 8% Administration Expenses



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