



Photo: Paul Steeves

*This common merganser (Mergus merganser) was one of hundreds of patients treated by the WRA this past summer.*

# Help Us Help Wildlife in Need

## Record intakes spur fundraising drive to meet demand

*By Yolanda Brooks*  
Communications Coordinator

**As many of you know, 2012 was a record-breaking year at the WRA. In just one year, our admissions jumped by more than 20%. Now that another summer has come to an end we've had a chance to catch our breath and take stock. It is now clear, after looking at the intake figures for the last three months, that annual intakes of 4,000 plus are the new normal.**

Up until the end of August this year the WRA Care Centre admitted 2,830 animals, compared with 2,755 animals in 2012. The average intake during the summer was around 20-25 animals a day but during one particularly hectic day in July, 43 animals were admitted.

### **Stretching the shoestring**

At one point in May, we were feeding 22 Northern flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) nestlings every 15 minutes and in July we took in a family of 12 Northern shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) and successfully released eight of them.

As well as taking in more animals,

*Continued  
on page 10*

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# TO THE RESCUE

VOL. 34 NO. 3 • FALL 2013

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WRA Wildlife Rescue Association of BC provides leadership in rehabilitating wildlife and in promoting the welfare of wild animals in the urban environment.

## Wildlife Rescue Association of BC

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**ADMINISTRATION** 604 526 2747

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**REGISTERED CHARITY** #131373490RR0001

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## BOARD of DIRECTORS' MESSAGE

# Time to Build a Nest Egg

By WRA Board of Directors

**Our Care Centre experienced another huge summer of intakes (over 1,600 animals admitted from the beginning of June until the end of August) surpassing even last year's historic total!**

We are currently taking in baby gulls in large numbers and most have been successfully rehabilitated. We are now getting ready for a fall intake of varied thrushes and Northern saw-whet owls that often arrive with window impact injuries.

To accommodate the increase in the number of patients we treat, we need to find new ways to fund our work and the arrival of fall will mark the start of a busy fundraising season at

the WRA. In 1992, 19 famous B.C. artists donated 75 signed prints each to help out Wildlife Rescue.

Over the years we sold several but still have a number in inventory. In August a print sale was held in the WRA Wildlife Garden and raised more than \$15,000 from the one event. We have decided to sell the remaining prints at reduced rates and use the funds where they were intended, to help support the WRA's sustainability.

We will be hosting the Wild Winter Gala on November 23; however, our next big event is Walk for Wildlife on September 29 and we look forward to meeting many of you there as we walk, visit, laugh and raise awareness and funds for local wildlife.

## Give a Hoot for Wildlife!



And join us on a 5km walk around Burnaby Lake to raise money for wild animals in need



Presented by



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Or Call us at  
604 526 2747

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## Welcome to Wild Child

The WRA education team is excited to announce a new membership program for children aged 6 to 15. Following the success of the day camp program which was fully booked during the summer, Wild Child has been launched to give more kids the opportunity to learn about our furry

and feathered neighbours. The Wild Child Membership will allow kids to support the WRA and get exclusive perks including a colourful Wild Child T-shirt, day camp discounts, invitations to special events and a dedicated magazine.

Wild Child magazine is a member-only publication. It will include upcoming events, educational games, animal stories, family outdoor activities and wildlife-friendly projects to help create great wildlife backyard habitats.

All kids who become a WRA Wild Child by December 20, 2013, will be invited to our exclusive Wild Child party on Monday December 30. This will be a holiday event filled with winter wildlife games, crafts and special treats.

Please call the WRA Administration line at 604 526 2747 or email us at [educate@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:educate@wildliferescue.ca) for more information about Wild Child.

### Upcoming Day Camps

WRA day camps will run on several professional development days during the upcoming semester and during winter and spring break on the following dates:

#### 2013

October 25  
November 22  
December 23

#### 2014

January 2 & 3  
February 28  
March 18-20 & 25-27  
April 28

WRA day camps are open to kids aged 6 to 12 and run from 9am to 3pm. Registration for all dates is now available.

**Tel:** 604 526 2747

**Email:** [educate@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:educate@wildliferescue.ca)

*By Krystal Brennan Education Coordinator*



## A Trip Down Glencarin Drive

For the first time in many years, the WRA will be hosting an open house. The WRA Community Open House on Sunday, October 27, will feature children's activities, Care Centre tours, a behind-the-scenes film, presentations and the chance to learn more about our patients and meet WRA rehabilitation staff.

Although the WRA education team runs an extensive outreach program and has regular day camps on site, the Care Centre has been off-limits to the public for many years to prevent disturbance to the animals in care.

But open days are a great way to create goodwill and draw in new supporters to an organization and

staff have been working hard to create a day that will showcase our rehabilitation work while minimizing the stress to the animals which will not be on display. "Despite the fact that we treat more than 4,000 animals a year, its hidden location and our "no public tours policy" mean we sometimes fly below the radar," says the WRA's Team Leader of Wildlife Rehabilitation Linda Bakker. "By actively engaging with the community, we can share and celebrate the amazing work that we do here."

As well as nature-themed activities and presentations, food and entertainment will be provided. Admission is by donation and everyone is welcome.

### WRA Community Open House Sunday, October 27, 2013

11am-2pm

WRA

5216 Glencarin Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5B 3C1



Photo: Linda Bakker

**A Flurry of Flickers** A family of five Northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) nestlings arrived at the WRA at the end of May after being pulled out from behind the siding of an apartment building in Coquitlam.

The woodpeckers, which were just a few days old when they were rescued, were slightly dehydrated but otherwise unharmed and gaping well. They were fed using a pipette filled with a specialized “baby-bird” formula for their

first few days in care before graduating to 30-minute feeds and finally onto more varied solid food and eventually self-feeding.

Sadly, the weakest chick in the brood died soon after arrival but its siblings thrived and once they were ready to start flying, they were moved to larger outdoor aviaries where they were able to socialize with other orphaned fledglings and develop their flight skills.

Although the WRA has plenty of experience in caring for flicker fledglings, staff rarely see Northern flicker nestlings. They build their nests in cavities so the nestlings rarely fall out of the nest and remain largely unseen by the public until they have fledged. We more commonly see flickers as patients once they have left the nest and are more vulnerable on the ground.

After just over a month in care, the four were released at a parkland site in Burnaby.

**Protected Species** 2013 proved to be an exceptional year for the intake of flicker nestlings. A week after the Coquitlam nestlings arrived, a family of seven was brought in after being removed from a bale of peat moss in a barn in Pitt Meadows. Another family of seven found nesting in a set prop (an Easter Island head statue) in a Vancouver warehouse arrived the next day. Feeding them was a gargantuan effort and at one point, staff were feeding the three families every 15 minutes from dawn until dusk. Northern Flickers are a protected species and it is illegal to interfere with a nest with nestlings without a permit from the Canadian Wildlife Service. On both occasions WRA staff tried to re-unite the nestlings with their parents without success. Whenever possible, we ask members of the public to leave the nest alone until the birds have left the nest but sometimes that advice is received too late and once the babies have gone the parents leave the site.

*By Yolanda Brooks Communications Coordinator*



Photo: Paul Steeves

**Aerial Gymnast** This belted kingfisher (*Megaceryle alcyon*) suffered a concussion after flying into a window in Point Grey in Vancouver. During the initial examination of the female bird at the WRA Care Centre, it was noted that she was able to stand but reluctant

to walk and her right eye responded poorly to light.

She had trouble with her walking and was unsteady when trying to perch. An X-ray ruled out any fractures and she was kept indoors for several days for close observation. While she ate well at first her demeanor was very quiet and she did not move around much in her enclosure.

Her lack of movement was cause for concern as belted kingfishers have stocky bodies and small legs and calloused areas were starting to form on her hocks from the constant sitting.

Staff added extra padding to the enclosure and

encouraged movement and flight by changing the size of perches, adding a pool for bathing and making the food harder to access.

She began to perk up and once she was moved to a larger outdoor aviary her activity levels increased. She was observed performing amazing mid-air manoeuvres and after 48 hours of further observation she was returned to a park in Point Grey nine days after being admitted to the Care Centre.

*By Yolanda Brooks Communications Coordinator*





**The Long Goodbye** When an orphaned pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) fledgling arrived at the WRA in early June, rehabilitation staff knew they had a challenge on their hands.

While the Care Centre sees a handful of these woodpeckers each year, fledgling patients are extremely rare.

Pileated woodpeckers enjoy a longer-than-

average “childhood” and typically spend 10 months in the care of their parents before they gain their full independence in the wild.

It is standard operating procedure in the Care Centre for staff to limit the time the animals are kept in captivity. In this particular instance, they needed to find a way to accommodate the woodpecker’s extended adolescence.

Fortunately, the fledgling, which was found in Burnaby, was in excellent health so staff were able to focus on getting her to self-feed and learn to fly.

On arrival she was hand-fed every 45 minutes, her indoor aviary was outfitted with lots of logs, and food was hidden to encourage her to forage.

After a week, she was eating food from a dish and as the feeding schedule lengthened, she started to pick at logs in search of food.

She was first released in the yard of a WRA volunteer living in Burnaby. When the bird was found soon after in a neighbouring shed it was brought back to the WRA for a slower transition into its natural habitat.

She spent another two weeks in an outdoor aviary with as much hands off care as possible before being released into the WRA’s Wildlife Garden.

For the first few days she stayed close to WRA buildings and called out to people around the grounds. She also had access to an open aviary at night to smooth the transition.

As time goes on there are fewer sightings of the woodpecker, she spends more time in the trees and staff are hopeful that she will be fully independent by late fall.

*By Yolanda Brooks Communications Coordinator*

**First Class Travel** On a voyage south from Alaska, the cruise ship Diamond Princess gained a stow-away in the form of a Cassin’s auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*). Despite the best efforts of the crew to persuade the seabird to fly away, and attempts by passengers to feed it cupcakes, it grew attached to its new home and spent several days on the ship before it docked in Vancouver.

The young bird was finally forced to disembark in a cardboard box and he was driven to the WRA. The auklet had no injuries, it was able to feed itself and its feathers were in good condition. The bird just needed a day or two to recover and a good meal before release.

However, auklets live on remote islands and rarely come into contact with civilization let alone interact with humans. When collected from its enclosure the auklet often hid away and staff took extra care to ensure its stress levels were kept to a minimum during its stay.



*Photos: (L) Linda Bakker, (below) Yolanda Brooks*



Because Cassin’s auklets are usually found on offshore islands along the BC coast and are rarely seen at the WRA, getting the bird to a suitable release site was going to be tricky. Luckily, staff were able to call on the services of helicopter pilot Norm Snihur who runs a volunteer wildlife rescue and transport service for numerous rehabilitation centres around BC.

Norm picked the bird up from Burnaby Lake and flew it to BC SPCA’s Wild ARC facility in Metchosin on Vancouver Island. From there the auklet was released a few days later off Tower Point in the Juan de Fuca Strait - an over wintering site for large flocks of Cassin’s auklets.

*By Yolanda Brooks Communications Coordinator*

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[www.dignitymemorial.ca](http://www.dignitymemorial.ca)  
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*Anaesthesia is administered using specialist avian endotracheal tubes.*

**Every Donation Helps** With money in short supply, wildlife rehabilitation centres often have to make do and improvise with donated equipment that has been designed for use with humans or domestic pets. So we are always grateful when we get the opportunity to purchase specialized equipment that will improve the quality of care.

Care Centre staff first came into contact with Wayne Diakow, who serves on the board of the BC Waterfowl Society (BCWS) last year when we were looking at potential release sites for the pelican that was in our care. The conversations sparked a wish to provide financial support for our work and a generous donation of \$5,000 was made on behalf of the BCWS.

The donation enabled us to acquire an induction chamber which we use to sedate small birds with an inhalant to prepare them for surgery. This reduces stress for our patients and enhances chances of survival.

Avian endotracheal tubes were another purchase made with the grant. The old tubes we used were donations from hospitals and were too long and curved and they had to be modified to use on birds.

Now that we have a specialized set, we can treat all of the birds we see with ease.

With the donated funds we were also able to buy a second avian intensive care unit and we purchased shade cloth that was used to refurbish new “fledgling aviaries”. When birds grow from nestlings to fledglings, their needs change and the larger fledgling aviaries provide the perfect stepping stone for these energetic birds that are learning how to fly but are still handfed throughout the day.

Without a doubt, each new piece of equipment or technology raises the level of care that we can provide for all animals we treat.

*By Linda Bakker Team Leader of Wildlife Rehabilitation*

**Find out what other items are needed in the WRA Care Centre by checking out our wish list on page 8.**

## VOLUNTEER UPDATE

**World Class Volunteers** Each summer, over 120 volunteers help to make our wildlife hospital run smoothly by providing operational support in the form of cage cleaning, dishes, laundry, and other supportive tasks.

Senior volunteers also provide support to staff by completing patient check-ups, feeding fledgling and nestling birds, and mentoring new volunteers. Though each of our volunteers provide amazing help for four hours every week (we wouldn't be able to do it without them!) it still leaves gaps when volunteers need to take holidays or go back to school, etc.

This is where our international volunteer placement programs come in to save the day. Wildlife Rescue hosts between three to six international volunteers each summer. Many come from the U.K., Germany, Scandinavia, and Japan. These volunteers choose to come to the Lower Mainland for an eco-tourism holiday, where they work between 20-40 hours per week at Wildlife Rescue, and spend the rest of their time exploring B.C.

The WRA works with placement agencies around



*Joëlle Swoboda and Maike Hausmann from Germany were among the overseas volunteers who contributed a total of 1,500 hours of volunteer time in the Care Centre this past summer.*

the globe to develop a volunteering holiday that suits the wishes of each individual. These agencies arrange homestays for volunteers, provide support for any preparations such as completing work permit documents, and offer ongoing support to

manage life and culture shock in Vancouver.

Because these international volunteers work several days in a row versus the usual four hour weekly shift, they provide crucial overlaps between shifts, allowing for better communication between volunteers. There is always so much activity going on in the Care Centre, and they help to manage priorities and achieve the daily goals with the help of the regular volunteers.

The international volunteers are a very joyous part of our summer here at Wildlife Rescue, as we often get very attached to them. We love making new friends from around the world who share the same passion for wildlife; however, when their placements are finished, we never want to send them home!

If you're interested in becoming a homestay for an international volunteer, or if you would like more information about our international volunteer programs, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator. **Tel:** 604 526 2747; **Email:** volunteer@wildliferescue.ca.

*By Stefanie Broad Volunteer Coordinator*

## IN Memory

*Our donors remember those who have had special meaning in their lives with a special tribute.*

Irene Gault  
Kazumi Kawaguchi

## Faithful Friends

*Our donors say a fond farewell to the companion animals that have a special place in their hearts.*

Harley

## Donor Thanks

### **Burnaby Sanitation**

**Department:** Regular donation of garden greenery.

### **Bee Cee Wicks and Wax:**

Donated candle-making supplies.

**Cintas:** Quarterly donation of towels.

### **Fred's Custom Tackle:**

Bulk supplies of fresh, whole salmon.

### **Greater Vancouver**

**Foodbank:** Ongoing donations of household supplies.

**Lulu Lemon:** Supply of yoga mats for the summer camps.

**Pickering Safety:** Ongoing donations of oxygen.

**PODS Burnaby:** Free storage.

**Price Smart:** Summer supply of Romaine lettuce

**Quest Food Exchange:** Regular donations of salmon, grains & produce.

**Thrifty Foods:** Regular donation of food for WRA events.

**Walmart:** Ongoing donation of towels.

**Susan and Scott Wickham:** Donation of a digital scale for the Care Centre.

## WISH LIST

### Food Supplies

- Fresh or frozen fish
- Frozen or fresh berries
- Gift cards for local grocery stores
- Canadian Tire money
- Distilled water (jugs)
- Vitamin B1, B-complex tabs

### Outdoor Supplies

- Hose nozzles
- Greenery (evergreen, cedar is best)
- Soaker hoses
- 55-gallon water barrel (2)
- Tarps
- Floating pool thermometer
- Astroturf for perch covers
- Garden rakes
- Brooms

### Household items

- Portable fans

- Plastic laundry baskets
- Chlorine bleach - 5 litre size (we use one 5L jug per day, on average)
- Unscented laundry soap
- Garbage bags (industrial size)
- Mop heads (large industrial size)

### Medical Supplies

- Hand-held blood chemistry analyzer
- Veterinary ultrasound machine
- Lactated Ringer's Solution (sterile, unopened)

### Miscellaneous

- Pen lights
- Duct tape/scotch tape/masking tape
- Gardening tools
- Calculators
- Cable ties (AKA zap straps or zip ties)
- Chainmail lined gloves
- Digital thermometers

Please call the WRA Administration Line at 604 526 2747 before delivering any items.



Last spring, customers at Whole Foods in West Vancouver were invited to take part in a reusable bag program. Everyone who brought their own bags to the store was given a .10 cent discount for each reusable bag. They were then given the option to put the discount towards the cost of their groceries or donate the money to one of three charities including the WRA. As well as keeping thousands of plastic bags out of circulation, more than \$3,000 was raised for the WRA. We would like to thank the staff at Whole Foods in West Vancouver for their community spirit and their customers who saved an eye-popping 30,000 plus bags while supporting the WRA.



Wild Winter Gala  
Saturday, November 23, 2013  
Riverway Golf Clubhouse, Burnaby  
Tickets cost \$125 or \$1,100 per table

Tickets on sale now!  
Tel: 604 526 2747;  
Email: gala@wildliferescue.ca  
www.wildliferescue.ca

In Association with





# WILD WINTER GALA™



The final countdown begins for the Wild Winter Gala, which is expected to be the WRA's biggest and most glamorous fundraiser of the year. The performers have been booked, the MCs are polishing their script and the organizing committee is finalizing some amazing live and silent auction prizes.

Auction items include West Jet flights and a five-day stay at an Hawaiian hotel, a Gillian Armitage lithograph, a hot air balloon ride and a 30-bottle wine collection.

JRfm personalities Docc Andrews and Amanda Panes will be hosting the gala, adult contemporary pop artist Lara Matiation from the Sunshine Coast is headlining the evening, while classical jazz guitarist Howie Able will be performing during the intermission.

"This is the first time the WRA has

**Saturday, November 23, 2013**  
**Riverway Golf Clubhouse, Burnaby**  
**Tickets cost \$125 or \$1,100 per table**

done an event on this scale and the positive feedback and excitement around the gala has been tremendous," says Marcy Potter, chair of the organizing committee. "The gala committee, with the help of sponsors and the generosity of local companies has spent the last 10 months creating what promises to be an extraordinary evening and we really hope that as many of our supporters as possible will join the celebration."

At the time of going to press, 50% of seats for the event had been reserved. Tickets cost \$125 each or \$1,100 per table.

For more information, call our office administrator Heather Gill on 604 526 2747 or email: [gala@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:gala@wildliferescue.ca).

*By Yolanda Brooks Communications Coordinator*

## Free Workshops

The Wildlife Rescue Association of BC, in partnership with the Douglas College Foundation will be hosting a series of six legacy workshops.

The one-of-a-kind series is part of a two-year program that will take place in Coquitlam, New Westminister and Burnaby. Experts in the areas of financial planning, wills and estates, tax planning, end-of-life care, housing options, funeral arrangements, pet care, travel and insurance preparation will lead the workshops.

*The first workshop Enjoying the Journey – Travel & Travel Insurance* presented by Marivic Cregan of Carlson WagonLit will take place at on Saturday, October 5 at the Coquitlam campus of Douglas College.

Entry is free but registration is required. Please call the WRA administration office on 604 526 2747 to register for the event or email: [info@wildliferescue.ca](mailto:info@wildliferescue.ca).

*Enjoying the Journey - Travel & Travel Insurance*  
**Saturday, Oct. 5**  
**9am - 10:30am**  
**Douglas College,**  
**Room B3011, 1250 Pinetree**  
**Bldv., Coquitlam, V3B 7Z4**

## Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Walk 4 Wildlife is just around the corner and the WRA is calling on all supporters to sign up or pledge a walker taking part in the event being held on Sunday, September 29.

In 2012 dozens of walkers raised \$11,000 at Walk 4 Wildlife. In 2013 we hope to raise even more!

As well as the 5km walk which winds around sections of Burnaby Lake, participants will be treated to a free BBQ and refreshments served by the Burnaby Rotary Club.

Teams and individuals are invited to sign up for the event and registration costs \$25 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$10 for youth (under the age of

18). Team registration costs \$60 for the first four members and \$10 for each additional walker.

This year 5% of the proceeds from the walk will be donated to Edmonds Community School in Burnaby.

Team and individual registration forms can be downloaded from the WRA website at [www.wildliferescue.ca](http://www.wildliferescue.ca).

**Walk for Wildlife**  
**9am-12 noon**  
**Sunday, September 29, 2013**  
**Burnaby Lake Rugby Club**  
**3760 Sperling Avenue**  
**Burnaby, BC V5B 4X5**



Proud to support the First Annual Wild Winter Gala

We are working together with the Wildlife Rescue Association as the Premium Sponsor for the Wild Winter Gala to make a difference in our communities.



M04198 (0610)

## Fall fundraising

Continued from page 1



**One of our long-stay patients tries to avoid the limelight during a 40-day stay.**

the WRA continues to host more long-stay patients. With the experience and expertise we have, we are able to treat a wider range of animals and provide more treatment options. We also successfully treat and release animals that would not have previously survived.

For example, this summer we had a common merganser (*Mergus merganser*) orphan (pictured on front cover) which spent 77 days in the Care Centre before being released. We also cared for several juvenile great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) including one which stayed for 40 days. We also raised an orphaned wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) which was released after 42 days in care.

These long-stay waterfowl patients played havoc with our fish stocks and without emergency supplies from volunteers and supporters, feeding the hungry would have been an even bigger challenge.

With more animals come larger bills for food, medicine and equipment. We've also had to build fledgling enclosures as there was no room in the Care Centre to accommodate their specific needs. Space continues to be a limited resource and the organization is looking at ways to expand its facilities to house orphaned birds.

"While we were able to successfully treat and release more animals than ever before, our donations have not

kept pace with the demand," says Board Treasurer Cathy Lange. "We've managed the increase in animals with the same number of staff and a committed team of volunteers but the current situation is not sustainable. We are going to be working with our current supporters and talking to new ones to ensure that the WRA is in a strong position to meet the growing demand for our services."

### Building a nest egg

The WRA can no longer perform miracles on a shoestring and over the next year the organization will be hosting more fundraising events, looking at new ways to raise its profile and attracting more corporate support. As well as Walk 4 Wildlife on September 29 and the Wild Winter Gala on November 23 (see p9), we are hosting the WRA Community Open House on Sunday, October 27, which is

our first such event in over a decade.

"For 34 years the WRA has been providing care for wild animals that need our help," says Cathy Lange. "Now we need your help to ensure that we have the resources to help us keep pace with the soaring demand for our services."

As admissions to the Care Centre taper off, we are focusing our energies on our fall fundraising campaign. So please walk, pledge, visit, dine and bid to support our efforts to raise record-breaking funds to match our record-breaking growth. 🐦

To stay in touch with the latest WRA news and events go to:

[www.wildliferescue.ca](http://www.wildliferescue.ca)

[www.facebook.com/WildlifeRescue](https://www.facebook.com/WildlifeRescue)

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# Foster Me: Glaucous-winged gull



Photo: Paul Steeves

*This young gull was one of several birds treated last summer at the WRA after becoming entangled in fish hooks.*

trying to get out of a garden in New Westminster and was brought into the WRA Care Centre where staff discovered the hook embedded into its beak.

The hook had penetrated through the mandible and while it remained intact, and there was no bone damage, the surrounding tissue was inflamed and infected.

Rehabilitation staff have been cleaning and flushing the wound daily to remove dead tissue and ensure the infection doesn't spread. They are now playing the waiting game to see how it heals.

The gull has been taken off medications and once the wound has healed sufficiently, it will be moved into an enclosure on site with other gulls where it will be able to socialize and adapt to colony life before release.

## Problem Solved

By Yolanda Brooks

Communications Coordinator

A discarded fish hook left this fledgling glaucous-winged gull (*Larus glaucescens*) facing a slow, painful decline. At the time of rescue, the gull was still being fed by its parents

and despite the injury, it was well fed and its body condition was good - improving the odds for its long-term survival.

The gull was spotted in late August



Photo: Janelle Foyle

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