Autumn 2020

ON THE EDGE

A western painted turtle *Chrysemys picta bellii* hatchling peeking out at the world for the first time.

In This Issue:

Letter from Lance

Facing the challenges and saving Canada's wildlife

October brought much of the field work on our endangered species programs to a close for the year, and planning for 2021 begins. There is no denying that 2020 has been a real challenge for all of us but, reflecting back, I am uplifted by our teams' achievements. While it is never easy to single out only a few of our many successes, there have been some highlights this year.

• We released Oregon spotted frogs and western painted turtles in near record numbers to British Columbia's Fraser River Valley. Field monitoring reported an increased number of frog egg masses and turtle nests confirming that wild populations are re-establishing as a direct result of our conservation effort.

• Eastern loggerhead shrikes that we released in previous years were once again major contributors to the breeding population here in Canada. A first for migratory songbird conservation was the nesting in Ontario this year of a shrike that had been born in captivity with our partners at the Nashville Zoo. This amazing individual was born in Tennessee, transported to Ontario, released by us as part of our annual release last year, migrated south over the winter, and came back to pair up and nest here this year. Well traveled but proof that these birds know what they need to do!

• We released Taylor's checkerspot butterfly caterpillars to a completely new site on Hornby Island in BC. Upon returning later in the season we observed adult butterflies at the release sites on the island, for the first time in over 20 years.

• The development of innovative methods for reintroducing snakes at the Ojibway Prairie have brought us that much closer to saving the region's unique population of eastern massasauga rattlesnake.

• Our native pollinator team strengthened the model community science program with Pinery Provincial Park, enabling volunteers to contribute to conservation at one of the most important sites in Canada for a number of endangered species, including some of Canada's most vulnerable bumble bees.

• We led a major new collaboration with a strong network of partners to protect Canada's last remaining population of the blue racer, one of the fastest and most beautiful snakes in North America.

I am often asked how I remain optimistic in the face of unprecedented threats such as climate change and biodiversity declines. I am optimistic because I know that achievements like ours are being replicated by exceptional people across the planet. Positive change is happening and we are all a part of it.

Next up, getting ready for 2021. We have new conservation partnerships and projects already planned to help even more of Canada's endangered species next year. Thank you to all - dedicated staff and volunteers, generous donors, and valued partners - for making this possible.

I wish you a safe, happy, and healthy fall and winter,

Lance Woolaver Jr.

Dr. Lance Woolaver Jr.
Executive Director

Global tools for endangered species recovery come to Canada

By Jessica Steiner

The current biodiversity crisis requires immediate innovative, and coordinated recovery action to meet Canada's targets for biodiversity conservation. In today's world, where human activity is impacting all life around us, the view that species can be saved only by creating large areas of protected habitat is unrealistic. Now more than ever there is an increasing need for human intervention to prevent further loss of species. We must consider the full complement of tools available to us, and apply them strategically if we are to be successful.

WPC's hands-on techniques are an essential part of recovery efforts for many Canadian species. We have kept the eastern loggerhead shrike from disappearing and increased the chances of survival for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, reintroduced to their historic ranges through the efforts of our conservation breeding and release programs. Conservation breeding is an example of *"ex situ"* conservation, where activities occur outside of a species natural habitat. Although accepted by most other countries around the world, *ex situ* management techniques are still not widely accepted within the conservation community in Canada, the focus being almost exclusively on recovery activities with wild populations *in situ*, in their natural habitats. However, when used strategically, these methods can be a key tool for species conservation that complements field conservation efforts. The key to success is integration of efforts!

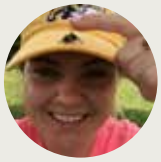
Founded in partnership by WPC and African Lion Safari, the Canadian Species Initiative will strengthen species recovery planning and implementation in Canada by promoting and applying an integrated approach to conservation, or the One Plan Approach. Promoted by the Conservation Planning Specialist Group, part of the Species Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the One Plan Approach bridges the gap between wild and captive population management. Key to the success of this process is ensuring full participation by all stakeholders from the planning stages, including field biologists, wildlife managers, land managers, governments, academics, and the zoo and aquarium community. The full complement of knowledge, skills, and strengths are brought together using a range of proven planning tools and workshop processes to identify the most effective conservation actions. Many of WPC's existing projects already serve as excellent models. In recognition of WPC's expertise in this area, the Canadian Species Initiative now serves as a Regional Resource Center in Canada for the IUCN Conservation Planning Specialist Group.

The need is urgent. Of Canada's 208 endemic species – those found nowhere else outside of Canada – nearly 40% have been ranked globally as Critically Imperilled or Imperilled. Canada has full responsibility to conserve this special group, with nothing less than extinction being the consequence of failure. By integrating the skills and resources of the zoo and aquarium community during recovery strategy development, we will give these species a better chance for a future in the wild. The Canadian Species Initiative will bring together people from all backgrounds and across all partner organizations, *ex situ* and *in situ*, to ensure that all potential recovery actions are used to the fullest, and Canada's unique biodiversity is preserved for generations to come.

Iconic species that call Canada home, like the swift fox, whooping crane and Vancouver Island marmot, among many others, have been saved from extinction with help from conservation breeding and reintroduction programs. Photo credit: Gordon Court

Native Pollinator Initiative

Bumble bee community science at The Pinery: Past, present and future

By Genevieve Rowe & Hayley Tompkins

Hayley surveying for bumble bees in the coastal dune system at The Pinery. Photo credit: Genevieve Rowe

If you've been lucky enough to visit one of Ontario's 45 Provincial Parks you know how special and beautiful these wild places are. One park that Wildlife Preservation Canada's Native Pollinator Initiative has been fortunate to spend a lot of time at is Pinery Provincial Park, or as the locals like to call it, The Pinery. The Pinery is home to rare oaks, savannah and coastal dune ecosystems, and a provincially significant wetland—the Old Ausable River Channel. An incredible diversity of plants and other wildlife can be found in these habitats, the park stretches along Ontario's west coast and boasts some of the most beautiful sunsets in the world! While many consider these parks simply as retreats for camping, fishing, or hiking, the provincial park system actually accounts for 8% of Ontario's landmass and exists primarily to protect natural and cultural heritage features.

Pinery: Past and present

As Canada's last known location for the Critically Endangered rusty-patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), The Pinery was an obvious place to launch our first ever pollinator community science program back in 2015. This program has brought together individuals from across Ontario year after year to conduct bumble bee monitoring in the park. Participants have not only delighted in the beauty of The Pinery but have now contributed nearly 2000 species-specific bumble bee observations to Bumble Bee Watch, a collaborative online community effort to track and conserve North America's bumble bees. While the rusty-patched bumble bee continues to evade the nets and cameras of WPC staff, program volunteers, and surveyors all across its historic Canadian range, volunteer observations at The Pinery have included many other threatened species, like the American bumble bee.

In previous field seasons our teams would have been surveying across Ontario and in fact managing the largest survey effort for threatened bumble bees in the province. However this year, to ensure for the safety and health of our staff, volunteers, and partner communities we decided to focus on one of most important sites we knew of for bumble bees, The Pinery. Not only have we maintained what is now our longest running bumble bee dataset, we were able to safely equip three of our most dedicated volunteers and to conduct independent bumble bee surveys in the park while socially distancing. Our cumulative survey efforts this year resulted in the submission of over 400 species-specific bumble bee observations to Bumble Bee Watch, including records of rare and at-risk species.

What's coming up at The Pinery in 2021

Our Bumble Bee Watch community science program will always have a home at The Pinery as long as we have dedicated, stalwart volunteers and the programming can be delivered safely. In 2021, in partnership with members of the Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Team, WPC will be participating in Ontario's first ever butterfly reintroduction program, and it's happening at The Pinery! Once common across southern Ontario, the mottled duskywing now lives in only a few small, isolated populations where the oak savannah and tallgrass prairie ecosystems that it calls home have not been eliminated. In recent decades, The Pinery has focused efforts on restoring its native ecosystem, and is now ready to support the reintroduction of mottled duskywing butterflies born in a conservation breeding program recently developed at the Cambridge Butterfly Conservatory, another member of the Ontario Butterfly Species at Risk Team. Our collaborative team of experts is in place to ensure success in the coming years, and WPC's Native Pollinator Initiative staff are thrilled to have another reason to visit one of our favourite provincial parks.

Following reintroductions in 2021, the mottled duskywing will hopefully be the next species at risk safeguarded by The Pinery. Photo credit: Jessica Linton

Congratulations to our 2020 wildflower seed grant recipients!

Wildlife Preservation Canada has been providing wildflower seed grants to restore and build important pollinator habitat all across Canada. Grants of up to $2,000 were awarded to community groups and individuals. We have awarded the 2020 Wildflower Seed Grants to eight more outstanding projects across the country this year. Concerned people and organizations are stepping up to create and restore pollinator habitat for Canada's pollinators! You can find out more about this year's winners by visiting us at https://wildlifepreservation.ca/wildflowerseedgrants-2020/

The winning applicants submitted seed planting and stewardship plans that were well researched, and demonstrated their commitment to the project for years to come.

Adult blue racer. Photo credit: Jeff Hathaway

Reptile and Amphibian Initiative

Saving the blue racer

By Hannah McCurdy-Adams

Blue racers are endangered in Canada and are sadly now only to be found on Pelee Island in Ontario. They are one of the largest snake species in Canada and, true to their name, can move up to speeds of 7 kilometres per hour. A large-scale collaborative effort to save Canada's only blue snake is underway. WPC is working with a number of partners to better understand the threats to blue racer to conserve this beautiful species.

Habitat loss threatens the remaining population of blue racers in Canada, but fortunately there are ways to restore habitat for racers and other wildlife that use the same mixed grassland/forest habitats. Hibernation sites and nesting structures have been created and we will continue to restore habitat for blue racer, and other, grassland reliant species with a strong network of partners including Parks Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ontario Nature, the University of Toronto, Scales Nature Park, and Natural Resource Solutions Inc. A major part of ongoing research will be to evaluate current and past efforts and encourage other organizations and private landowners to restore optimal habitat for blue racers on their properties.

At the same time, this coalition of experts will be working together to learn more about the threats facing blue racers and carrying out actions to help them. These include:

· Surveys to estimate the current blue racer population size and distribution

· Research to guide actions to protect snakes from road mortality

· Studies to determine the genetic health of the population and inform whether the remaining blue racers will need supplemental releases from other populations to increase genetic diversity

· Partnering with local hunters to submit wild turkey crop samples for genetic analysis at Queen's University and the African Lion Safari to find out the impact of turkey predation on young blue racers

· Multi-partner community outreach events to highlight the work being done and engage local partners in the conservation program.

All of this high priority conservation work, recommended by experts and governments alike, wouldn't be possible without this collaboration, each partner bringing their own strengths to the effort to save Canada's blue racers.

How do you raise endangered toads?

Fowler's toads are Endangered in Canada, found only along the north shore of Lake Erie, and need hands-on conservation action. WPC will be assisting Dr. David Green and his PhD student, Jessica Ford, at McGill University and their team with Fowler's toad research for the 2021 season. Jessica is determining the effect Fowler's toad tadpoles have on their environment by raising them from eggs in large outdoor tub environments and measuring different characteristics of the water they are in. In doing so, we will be learning how best to raise tadpoles while determining the potential for us to launch a dedicated head-starting program, using similar techniques, for Fowler's toads in future years.

We will also be collaborating within a multi-partner program to protect Fowler's toads and their habitat at the Long Point Walsingham Forest. Innovative techniques and a strong network of partners will be the way forward for Fowler's toad conservation.

Banner year for the Fraser Valley's frogs and turtles

By Michelle MacKenzie

To say 2020 has been a challenging year thus far would be an understatement. And yet, in spite of all the uncertainty, wildlife and wild spaces carry on with a little help from us. Thankfully, this year has seen near record success at our Fraser Valley Wetlands program as we work to save western painted turtles and Oregon spotted frogs from disappearing from Canada.

The Oregon spotted frog recovery plan calls for conservation breeding, head starting and release to reverse declining wild populations. To start our season off strong, we released 91 frogs to the wild that had over wintered with WPC, at the conservation facilities at the Greater Vancouver Zoo. In April, an additional number of 1,458 captive bred tadpoles were released into the wild! In September we released an additional 378 froglets for a banner year.

Michelle releases an Oregon spotted frog to one of our recovering populations in the Fraser Valley.

Working with endangered species can be disheartening at times, but 2020 supplied us with plenty of reason for restored optimism! This year was the first that we were able to confirm Oregon spotted frog breeding activity at their reintroduction site through the presence of 3 beautiful egg masses! This location is a reconstructed wetland, restored in 2009 for the purpose of supporting released Oregon spotted frogs. This is the first spring, since the start of their introduction here in 2010, that we have confirmed breeding in the wild at this site, a major achievement for the recovery programme.

To save the Pacific Coast BC population of western painted turtles from disappearing, our recovery team protects at risk nests and collects and artificially incubates eggs to head start hatchlings for release into the wild. This summer, we protected more than 30 nests laid in dangerous locations. In addition, 355 eggs were collected from nests to be artificially incubated in our care. At our head starting facility, we set up a new biofiltration system for our 2020 hatchlings, which utilizes water from their natural wild site. This encourages the growth of natural bacteria and fungi on the skin and shell of turtles, most closely replicating conditions found in the wild. By mid-September a total of 252 hatchlings had hatched and are now thriving in the temporary home we provide for them. The hatchlings will remain in our care for at least one winter, until deemed releasable when they have reached a size of 30 grams – big enough to be safer from predation in the wild.

While our 2020 young turtles were busy hatching and growing, we chipped away at releasing head started older turtles from previous years which had over wintered at our facility. Most of these individuals were from our 2018 and 2019 head starting seasons. In total we released 154 turtles across 8 locations in the Fraser Valley. In addition 107 turtles that didn't quite make the size cut this summer will be spending the winter at our facility, bulking up for a 2021 spring release!

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike

Barb, the adorable loggerhead shrike ambassador!

By Jane Hudecki

Meet Barb, the newest species ambassador for loggerhead shrikes! Barb was hatched and hand-raised this past summer at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), one of the Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Program's Conservation Breeding facilities. Barb will eventually hold the important role of teaching the community about our impact on nature and wildlife, and about what we can do to help conserve species-at-risk like the loggerhead shrike. Close-up encounters with Barb will help foster love, appreciation, and connection to the natural world.

Barb at 17 days old. Photo credit: Leighann Cline

Named after the unique impaling behaviour loggerhead shrikes employ when storing food (often on thorny bushes and barbed wire), Barb quickly won over the hearts of everyone she met. She was hand-fed a unique diet rich in vitamins and nutrients that are specific to the needs of a growing loggerhead shrike while being raised, and is now happily feasting on a daily diet that includes crickets, mealworms and mice. She is monitored closely by facility vets and keepers to ensure the highest calibre of health and welfare. For SCBI keeper Leighann Cline, hand-rearing a loggerhead shrike has been one of her professional goals since she became involved with the program in 2017. "They are such an amazing species, but it is very difficult to get visitors excited about their conservation when they cannot see one up close," Cline said. SCBI primarily breeds shrikes with the goal of reintroducing birds into their native habitat. Therefore, interaction between release birds and people is kept to a minimum. Barb is the exception. "Barb is a highly energetic and charismatic bird who enjoys interacting with her keepers," Cline said. "We are certain she will easily win over the hearts of visitors and raise awareness to the alarming plight of not only loggerhead shrikes but of many of our native grassland species."

While cuddling with a young songbird may look cute, it should only be undertaken with proper permitting and with appropriate resources. Do not try this at home! Barb will undoubtedly excite and engage everyone she encounters, which will give community members the opportunity to foster a strong connection with loggerhead shrikes and the grasslands they live in. If you want to find out how you can help the loggerhead shrike, visit our website at www.wildlifepreservation.ca and be sure to visit our conservation breeding partner facility at www.nationalzoo.si.edu to follow Barb in her role as Shrike Ambassador!

Barb at 5 months, enjoying her perch in a hawthorne tree. Photo credit: Erica Royer

Don't count your butterflies before they fly

By Michelle Polley

We were thrilled to release our first group of captive-bred Taylor's checkerspot caterpillars on Hornby Island this past spring. With only two other wild Taylor's checkerspot populations remaining in Canada, this was a landmark event. The release of the caterpillars was made possible by extensive habitat restoration in Helliwell Provincial Park, with over a dozen partners, and many years of captive breeding by our WPC team.

Since the mid-90's, checkerspots have been missing from Hornby Island – re-establishing a population there was one of our long-term goals. As we gently placed our caterpillars onto the island this spring, we had high hopes for them, even while knowing we shouldn't necessarily "count our butterflies before they fly".

In the wild, only a small fraction of caterpillars survive to adulthood. Caterpillars face many challenges – finding food plants and spots to bask, avoiding predators and parasites, and selecting a safe place to make their chrysalis. It was hard, after all the care we had taken to raise them, to leave the caterpillars on Hornby Island to face these challenges alone. At the same time, releasing animals to the wild to save their species is one of the most rewarding things we can experience as conservation biologists.

In May, our partnering biologists were back on Hornby Island, hoping to see some orange-black-and-white signs of success. And our Hornby caterpillars did not disappoint! A total of 72 adult checkerspots were seen – the first Taylor's checkerspots to fly on the island in over twenty years. That means that at least 72 of our caterpillars were able to overcome all of the obstacles on their way to adulthood. Because so many caterpillars succeeded, we know that the habitat can support that part of the checkerspot lifecycle. It's a very encouraging sign!

A successful adult butterfly must do more than look good and flap one's wings in an elegant fashion. The important task is reproduction – make more butterflies! The adults needed flowers for nectar, mates nearby, high quality plants to lay eggs on, and the magic ingredient – sunshine. Again, we've left them alone on Hornby Island, and will look for the results of their efforts, this time in the form of caterpillars! Seeing caterpillars in the spring of 2021 will prove that our first generation was able to reproduce successfully. If we find them, we will know that Hornby has what it takes to support the whole lifecycle of the species, and you can bet we will be doing a happy dance on the shores of Hornby Island.

A female Taylor's checkerspot butterfly on Hornby Island this spring. Little does she know, she is a very big deal! Photo credit: Bonnie Zand

While our new Hornby Island population has been facing the challenges of multiplying in the wild, WPC has been breeding and raising reinforcements with partners at the Greater Vancouver Zoo for next year's releases. The 2020 breeding season has been a highly successful year for captive breeding, producing more than 1300 new caterpillars.

Because insect populations tend to fluctuate widely from year to year, several caterpillar releases will likely be needed on Hornby before the new population is secure. We are also continuing to add new wild individuals to the breeding program, so that there is sufficient genetic diversity. In spring of 2021, once we have surveyed on Hornby Island for caterpillars that were born there, we'll release our 1300 new recruits to join them.

This release of captive-bred butterflies is a landmark event in the field of insect conservation. In the coming seasons, we plan to seize this opportunity to watch, record and learn, as Taylor's checkerspots colonize Hornby Island. We will learn how the Hornby population is using their new habitat, expanding their range on the island, and how successful they are at reproducing there. We celebrate these successes with you, made possible by your support for WPC, and with our valued partners that worked so closely with us to bring checkerspots back to Hornby Island.

Connecting corridors for Ojibway's wildlife

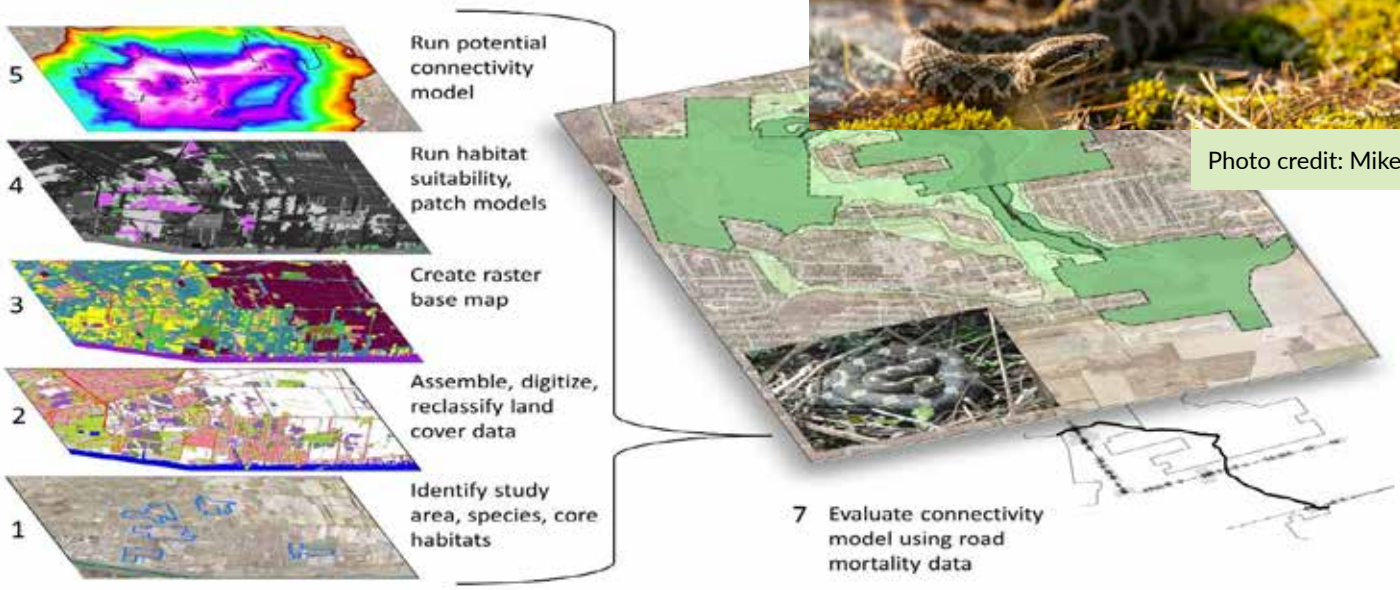
By Jonathan Choquette

An important part of the Ojibway Prairie Reptile Recovery program is that we share the results of our endangered species recovery work with the wider scientific community. This allows for conservation practitioners to learn from each other. One way that we share our work is by presenting results at conferences and in professional society newsletters. The gold standard, however, is to have our work published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. This ensures that our methods, results and interpretations have undergone scrutiny by other researchers, and provides the reader with confidence in the results being presented. Also, the process of preparing our work for publication provides a renewed opportunity to reflect on the work and to substantially "polish" the communication of our research projects. But of course, all this is easier said than done! You can imagine that it takes a lot of time to have research results formally submitted - and after multiple rounds of revisions - accepted for publication. With many competing projects on the go at any given time, it can be difficult to squeeze in this important, but time consuming process leading to many late nights and long weekends.

On that note we are very happy to announce the recent publication of one of our projects in the open-access and peer-reviewed journal Land, titled "Identifying potential connectivity for an urban population of rattlesnakes *(Sistrurus catenatus)* in a Canadian park system." This project is the culmination of what originally began as a Master's thesis, and was recently revived with new analyses, figures, and interpretations. The study was a collaboration between myself and Matthew Macpherson, both of WPC, and Dr. Robert Corry of the University of Guelph. We used Geographic Information System software which allowed us to layer several different types of maps with different kinds of information on top of one another. The result was the identification of seven potential connectivity corridors between five core habitats for massasauga rattlesnakes at Ojibway Prairie. We also evaluated the corridors using aerial imagery and snake road mortality data. It was interesting to see that four of the potential corridors intersected roads through or near snake road mortality hotspots. The full paper can now be downloaded online from WPC's website at www.wildlifepreservation.ca

The approach we used will provide guidance for others needing to create corridors for endangered reptiles in urbanizing landscapes. This study has also helped guide the work we are doing in identifying where conservation interventions aimed at recovering will be most effective for massasaugas and other endangered reptiles in the globally rare tallgrass prairie ecosystem at Ojibway Prairie. For example, the installation of barrier fencing, location of proposed ecopassages, and creation of a 5km long wildlife corridor, are all projects that have already been informed by this research. The full results of the analysis that only a few have been privy to, however, will now finally see the light of day for others to adapt and use to save endangered species.

Photo credit: Mike Kent



Introducing Stephanie, Canada's 31st New Noah

By Stephanie Winton

I have always thought that I somehow stumbled upon the path of conservation biology, but when I look back now it is obvious that I was destined to be in this field. There were lots of hints along the way: catching frogs in my aunt's garden pond (much to her chagrin), spending days at the lake watching hatchling turtles, bringing magnifying glasses on family hikes, going to zoo camp every summer, and constantly reading Jane Goodall's books on wildlife. Seems pretty clear right?

That was not the case when I was faced with the dilemma of deciding what program to take at university. I was torn and very nearly pursued a degree in math (gasp!). It was in a first-year course on ecology and evolution at the University of British Columbia that I started to realize how deep my interest was in the field and prompted me to major in zoology. After that is when things really started to get exciting! I took field courses in mammalogy, visited Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, and even travelled to Costa Rica to assist on a dolphin and whale research project.

Finally, in my last semester of undergrad I had the opportunity to participate in a field studies program in East Africa. I spent three months traveling through widely diverse landscapes; from rain forests full of monkeys to the savannah where I encountered the magnificent African elephant. I even travelled to an island in the Indian Ocean for the first time (Zanzibar – not Mauritius). While East Africa is an area of natural wonders and inspiring people and wildlife, it is also an area faced with rapid change and tremendous social, economic, and environmental pressures. This life-changing opportunity allowed me to experience new cultures, learn from international scientists conducting research in this challenging environment, and gain perspective on aspects of conservation work that are not typically prevalent in Canada.

When I returned home, my first job was with the Calgary Zoo Centre for Conservation Research, conducting surveys for northern leopard frogs (a favourite childhood pastime, if you recall) in the beautiful native prairies and rolling foothills of my home province of Alberta. I next had the opportunity to work on the zoo's black-footed ferret reintroduction and black-tailed prairie dog monitoring program in Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan. Spotting an elusive frog hidden in thick cattails, witnessing the emerald eyeshine of a wild ferret peeking out of a burrow, encountering a covey of sage grouse, and feeling the thunder of a roaming bison herd were remarkable moments that left a lasting impression on me and deepened my passion for wildlife conservation. The successes of the Calgary Zoo conservation research projects opened my eyes to the possibilities of science-based conservation initiatives, and the commitment and dedication of my colleagues, even in the face of many challenges, encouraged me to pursue further studies in conservation ecology at Thompson Rivers University.

At Thompson I conducted research on a community of at-risk amphibians and reptiles in the South Okanagan, BC, an area of unique habitats well as other threats. When I started this research, I had no idea how impactful my research would be. The results of my analysis highlighted the severity of the effect of road mortality on rattlesnake populations and led towards informing policy and the installation of eco-passages to reduce roadkill of snakes and other wildlife. I have been fortunate enough to see this on-the-ground application of my research and was honoured to receive the Governor General's Academic Gold Medal in recognition of my work.

Much of my experience has been in ecological research and I am looking forward to learning more about different facets of conservation as Canada's New Noah. I am excited to be working with people at the forefront of endangered species recovery in Canada and around the world.

Conservation continues with your help

Wildlife Preservation Canada is as committed as ever to our conservation work and to being Canada's last defence for endangered species.

Our dedicated animal keepers continue to take care of and coordinate the management of animals - butterflies, bumble bees, birds, snakes, turtles and frogs - in our essential conservation breeding programs.

Our field teams will continue to release animals back to the wild, monitor wild populations, and work with partners and local communities to save these animals from disappearing from Canada.

These animals rely on us for their survival.

Please consider supporting our efforts today as we work together toward a brighter future. Your charitable gifts will ensure that we remain as active as ever.

Donate securely online: wildlifepreservation.ca/donate

Established in 1985, Wildlife Preservation Canada is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to saving critically endangered wildlife species from extinction.

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