

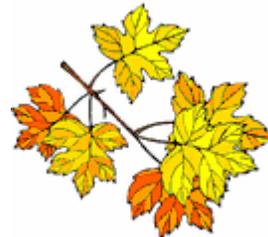
*The Responsible
Animal Care Society*

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Autumn 2005

aim

**animal issues
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President's Message ... for Christmas & the New Year

The Gift

Let us give a gift to the world,
a gift of joy and boundless peace.

Just for a moment,
let us see through the eyes
of those, so much weaker than us,
who suffer:

an infant prisoner, the veal calf,
crying in darkness for the mother
he has never known,
her milk collected for "higher" appetites

the egg-layer huddling painfully
in cramped confinement, destined never
to know the joy of sheltering chicks
beneath her strong wings

the suckling foal, force-weaned
and sold at auction
for his flesh—a number,
not a life.

Let us hear, just for a moment
the piercing screams of the doomed,
muffled by slaughterhouse walls
and hidden from human conscience.

It doesn't have to be this way.
But by what means, we ask,
shall the agony cease, and
peace prevail in all the world?

Let us start
by lighting a candle for mercy
in our own lives, illuminating
a small piece of darkness.

Let us not turn away
from the cries of those who need us,
nor give in to tradition, industry, or false doctrines.
Fear not what is right.

Let us live peacefully
in all ways, choosing
compassion over indifference,
empathy over violence.

Then, let us reach into the darkness
to help light the candles of others.

--For all life,
Sinikka Crosland



Captain Paul Watson Visits Kelowna, September 14th

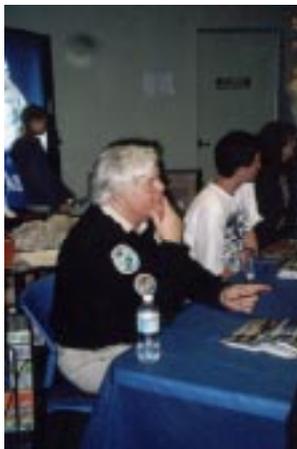
Renowned for azure skies and sun-dappled blue water, the Okanagan Valley sparkled with a special brilliance and intensity this September day. The morning began with "plugs" on local radio stations, thus heralding a visit from Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society.

My daughter Carmen and I were invited to share a delicious brunch with the Captain at the home of Brenda, Paul, and Cory Davis, who had offered to host him during his stay in Kelowna. Following our meal, Carmen and I escorted him to meetings with the media. Captain Watson was a dynamic guest on CKOV's "Kelowna Today" (host Dave Pears); later, an interview with the Kelowna Daily Courier resulted in a major article, entitled "ECO Warrior".

Joining the Captain for dinner, a group of about a dozen people gathered at Lake Tai Vegetarian Restaurant. That evening, Captain Watson's powerful speech at the Mary Irwin Theatre was enthusiastically received, resulting in a standing ovation and many inspiring offers of support. Clearly, his crucial and timely message about salvaging our fragile ecosystems was heard, understood, and applauded. Kelowna was just one of many stops for him during his September Canadian tour, and in every city from Victoria to Toronto, the reception was overwhelmingly supportive.



Sensitive, compassionate, and committed, Paul Watson shines with a unique resolve to do what others will not. As Abraham Lincoln stated, "Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought." Accordingly, Captain Paul Watson puts into motion what the rest of the world knows should be done, yet hesitates to carry out. It is this kind of insight, devotion, and courage that is vital to the future of our planet. In my view, freedom involves making the right kind of choices for our environment, for our animals, and for ourselves. This includes zero tolerance for those who would attack the integrity of our natural world, and a unified effort to rectify the damage inflicted by insensitive industries and government. My sincere gratitude is extended to Captain Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society for the superb work being done to defend our marine ecosystems and, ultimately, our earth.



Thanks to all who helped the Kelowna event to happen: Brenda and Cory Davis, directors of TRACS; Paul Davis; Carmen Crosland of Youth Against Animal Abuse and TRACS; and the many volunteers who assisted by distributing posters, delivering juice boxes, and being on site to help at the Mary Irwin Theatre.

----Sinikka Crosland

The Price They Pay for Fashion

According to the Fur Institute of Canada, urban sprawl is creating new wildlife “management” problems across this nation and the United States, and the institute is responding by publicly defending “pest” control programs that include, predictably, hunting and trapping. Meanwhile, popular magazines like Maclean’s continue to churn out articles extolling the revival of fur, despite the fact that the industry is continually mired in controversy, more so now than ever. “Fur the love of being seen” (Barbara Righton, Maclean’s, November 21, 2005) claims, “...fur is officially out of the closet and on every runway from Vancouver to Milan”. The article quotes Flare editor Lisa Tant, “who credits the industry’s comeback, in part, to the bling-happy rap movement. ‘Rappers and hip-hop guys wear a lot of fur,’ she says. ‘You can’t get any more in your face about being wealthy than by wearing it.’” Further, a statement from Paula Lishman, an Ontario fur designer, deserves special mention: “ ‘Sure we could go green,’ she says. ‘Or we could go spend!’ “

The discerning reader can easily pluck key words from the above that are either designed to mislead or to appeal to human vanity and greed. They are: management, pest, wealthy, spend, and being seen. Attempts to convince the public that pesky wild animals need to be “managed” are a common ploy used by fur industry proponents. Interestingly enough, the Fur Institute fails to mention that urban sprawl, resulting in habitat destruction, has placed certain species of animals in peril. Nor is it convenient to recall that so-called management techniques efficiently led to the extinction, for example, of a number of Maritime species such as the Newfoundland wolf, the Labrador duck, the Auk, the White bear, and the Walrus. The Hinterland Who’s Who states: “In the early twentieth century, Canada’s beavers were endangered because of the popularity of beaver hats.” Today, there is great concern about animals whose numbers have been affected by hunting and trapping, namely the following endangered species: the Swift Fox, the Piping Plover, the wolf, the marten, the caribou, and the grizzly bear.

Tant and Lishman’s comments are almost comical in their transparency. During this enlightened era of “conserve, protect, recycle, and go green”, their words ring hollow, callous, and self-serving. In truth, more consumers than ever before are aware of the cruelties inherent in the fur trade, and will neither buy nor wear fur. An ever-growing army of merchants is joining the Canadian seafood boycott, in support of efforts to end the commercial seal slaughter on the ice floes of the Maritime provinces. (See the websites of the Humane Society of the United States, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, as well as Harpseals.org.) In fact, an excerpt from an HSUS press release states:

WASHINGTON (November 22, 2005) – In a letter to Prime Minister Paul Martin released today, famous financial and business leader Edward A. Kangas warned that continuing the annual commercial seal hunt could bring ruin to Canada’s fisheries economy and the viability of that nation’s fisheries. Kangas, former global chairman and CEO of Deloitte & Touche and currently a member of the Board of Directors of four New York Stock Exchange companies, cited the increasing success of a boycott of Canadian seafood, instituted by The Humane Society of the United States, as a major factor in the multi-million dollar losses suffered by the commercial fishing industry.

The cruel clubbing and shooting of baby harp seals in their icy nurseries, for the purpose of procuring pelts, is fanning global outrage. The U.S. already prohibits Canadian seal products from crossing the border.

Awareness regarding other victims of the fur trade is growing as well. Consider this statement issued on June 20, 2005: "Imports of fur trimmings into the U.S., which have grown tremendously in recent years, have also been declining this year" (Sandy Parker Reports Weekly International Fur News).

Organizations such as the Vancouver-based Fur-Bearer Defenders continue to provide up-to-date information to the public about fur-related atrocities, including the trade in dog and cat fur stemming from China, the Philippines, and Thailand. As documented by the HSUS, Swiss Animal Protection, Care for the Wild, and EAST, these animals are regularly housed in dirty, deplorable conditions, are roughly and cruelly killed, and some have even been skinned alive. Imports of dog and cat fur are now prohibited in the U.S., and the EU is considering a 25-country ban.

Canada is lagging behind in many respects. According to government officials, "...cat and dog fur is perfectly legal in Canada, and there are no plans right now to stop the trade" (Robyn Stubbs, 24 hours News). In other words, at least *some of the fur available in our nation's stores right now is likely to be from animals considered to be our companions.*

Yet our treatment of wild fur-bearers is an issue no less important. Death often comes slowly in the painful leg-hold trap and, no matter how "padded" it may be, the cruel jaws cut off circulation and its snap-shut impact can break a bone. In this case, the captured animal has been known to literally wring its leg off and, severely disabled, limp away. Conibear, or body-hold traps, are often used as drowning sets in the trapping of beavers and otters. Snares are yet another atrocity that cause death by strangulation--or worse, render the animal helpless and suffering from starvation, dehydration, and exposure.



Photo credit: Neimancarcass.org

On fur farms, animals housed in bare wire cages meet death through barbaric means such as anal electrocution, gassing, strychnine poisoning, strangulation, or neck snapping. This is not humane euthanasia.

Why are these horrific practices still happening in Canada, a civilized Western nation? Powerful industries, inadequacy and corruption within government, and public ignorance and/or apathy are some of the reasons why widespread animal cruelty still persists. What can we do to change that? Here are some suggestions:

Educate the Industries

No business is too large or powerful to be immune to consumer pressure. The Canadian seafood boycott is a good example of this; the tide will turn when sealing becomes unprofitable. Consumers can make a big difference, individually, by participating in such boycotts, and by informing merchants that they will not patronize stores that carry fur.

Educate the Government

Your provincial MLA and federal MP have been elected to represent you, the constituent. Book an appointment *now* to speak with him/her about your concerns regarding the fur industry. In addition, contact the Hon. Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada at: Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa K1A 0A2; e-mail pm@pm.gc.ca ; fax 613-941-6900.

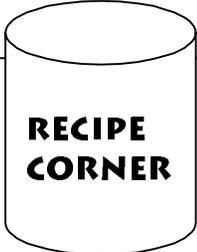
Educate the Public

Write letters to editors of your local newspapers, and encourage supportive radio talk show hosts to address the issue of fur cruelty. Organize public demonstrations, and distribute literature on the fur trade so that others will become more aware. Pamphlets, brochures, and stickers can be obtained from animal protection groups such as TRACS.

Spread the word that empathy will always be fashionable!



Tonkinese Cat
Sunnyside/Lakeview area
If you see her, call
769-5935, please!
Missing since Sept.



Spiced Lentil Soup

- ½ cup red lentils
- 2 Tbsp. olive or vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- ¼ tsp each ground coriander, ground cumin, cinnamon, turmeric, black pepper and cayenne pepper
- 1 large carrot, scrubbed or peeled and grated
- 1 large potato, peeled and grated
- 2 cups vegetable stock, tomato juice or water
- ¼ tsp. sea salt

Recipe courtesy of:



- ❖ Pour boiling water over lentils and let them soften while preparing vegetables. Drain before using.
- ❖ In saucepan, warm oil over medium heat. Add onion and cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until onion is transparent. Stir in garlic, spices, drained lentils, carrot, potato and stock. Cover and simmer over low heat until vegetables are cooked, about 15 minutes. Stir once in a while and add a little more stock if soup is too thick.
- ❖ Add salt, taste and adjust seasoning.

This excellent and caring society offers a fabulous 80-page cookbook, Very Vegan, for \$12 plus \$2 postage. To order, please make out cheque, money order or bank draft payable to Cowichan Family Caregivers Support Society, and mail to: P.O. Box 13, Shawnigan Lake, B.C., V8B 2W0, or contact Ranjana for more information. What a terrific Christmas gift idea!

Spectacular Websites

www.towardsfreedom.com
Towards Freedom

www.tracs-bc.ca/bigjulies/index.htm
Big Julie's Rescue Ranch—please note new web address

www.seashepherd.org
Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

www.animalalliance.ca
The Animal Alliance of Canada

www.humanefood.ca
Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals

www.vancouverhumanesociety.bc.ca/home.html
Vancouver Humane Society

www.zoocheck.com/

Tale of Five Kittens

We thought we were born to be wild, but life got pretty tough out there. With five hungry mouths to feed, Mom had her paws full, and we think she finally had to look around for someone who could help her. We don't know how it happened, but suddenly we were being fed—heaps of real food—and then we were given beds to sleep on...really soft beds, not leaves and twigs. Life is just about purrfect, but we're growing in leaps and bounds, and need to find homes of our own.

If you would like to meet us, please call Bill or Joan at: 250-768-3242. We're still a little shy, but your love and patience will change all that. (Hey...they say we've been "spayed, neutered, and vaccinated by TRACS"...whatever that means. Must be some kind of awesome new cat treat, 'cause it seems to be what everybody's talking about!)

Anyway, here are some photos of us.... Aren't we adorable?





Kudos...from the Critters

...to Captain Paul Watson and his crew, as they prepare to prevent Japanese whalers from illegally killing 935 minke whales as well as endangered fin whales in Antarctic waters

...to Steve Thompson, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society volunteer, for singlehandedly persuading Costco to pull seal oil off their shelves

...to Amy Meekison of Vancouver for working so hard to arrange a talk show about seal issues on CITR (UBC radio), and for encouraging Bennetton to sign a pledge form in support of ending the Canadian commercial seal slaughter

...to TRACS' dynamic youth team and Youth Against Animal Abuse for their amazing work regarding a Student Choice Policy on dissection, which will now be brought to the table for debate in School District #23.

Interested in joining the TRACS Alerts list to receive timely news updates? Please e-mail us: tracs@shaw.ca

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Caring For Their Future

Animals need long-lasting protection, and TRACS has a proven history of acting staunchly and valiantly on their behalf. Please consider making a bequest to The Responsible Animal Care Society and your compassion will help the animals for years to come...



Newsletter Editor
Carmen Crosland

Hot Off the Press!

School District #23 Considering Student Choice Policy

In recent news, the hard work and persistence of our TRACS youth team has opened up a whole new "can of worms", according to School District #23. Jennifer Smith, staff reporter for the Capital News, writes: "What are school officials to do when a student objects to his Grade 11 dissection project on the basis of personal belief?..Under the province's learning guidelines, that student should be offered other options, like a virtual CD-ROM guide to the task, allowing the student to learn what they need without breaking skin on a formaldehyde-drenched critter corpse...Despite the ministry-entrenched directive, the Central Okanagan School District is taking another look at the issue, debating the merits of a personal choice policy spanning objections from religious beliefs to cultural considerations, and yes, concern for the fuzzy, slimy and shriveled creatures who wind up under the student knives" (Nov. 25/05, Capital News).

At a school board meeting on November 23, 2005, trustee Cheryl Wiebe noted, "I think what's important here is that students and parents are aware of their choice if (things are) offensive to them." Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council president Sharlene Drohomereski expressed her concern that "there are problems with the current system as students are not always aware there are other alternatives available". Despite director of instruction Hugh Gloster's comments that there are very few students who object to dissections, the issue was referred to the board's General Affairs Committee for further discussion and consultation.

Congratulations to Cory Davis and Carmen Crosland for raising this crucial issue in their school district, and for pursuing a formal policy even after their initial request had been turned down last year.

For more information on dissection, humane alternatives to the use of animals in the classroom, and Student Choice policies that have been passed in Vancouver and Toronto, please visit: www.frogsarecool.com.

CCFA ad campaign asks Canadians to *Be Human, Be Humane*

"A new public service ad (PSA) campaign launched in May by the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals asks Canadians to think about the way farmed animals are raised. The 30-second PSA, titled *Be Human, Be Humane*, is the first Canadian-produced television spot to focus on farm animal welfare.

"The PSA juxtaposes images of Canadians engaging with farm animals in a positive way against images of sow stalls and battery cages. The goal is to make Canadians think about the way farm animals are raised, and to let people know they have purchasing options."

--excerpt from *Food Animals (Vol. 8, #1)*, a project of Animal Alliance of Canada and Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals; please visit www.humanefood.ca for more information.

Shocking Statistics: Almost 665 million animals were slaughtered in Canada in 2004. Of these, 2,342,287 were found DOA (dead on arrival). 13,350,163 carcasses were condemned. Source: Canadian Food Inspection Agency; courtesy of Canadians for the Ethical Treatment of Food Animals.



Join TRACS....

Help us continue our crucial work for the animals—become a member and receive our quarterly newsletter.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

e-mail: _____

I am enclosing the following (please check):

_____ \$15 for Individual Membership

_____ \$20 for Family Membership

_____ Donation \$ _____

Return to: TRACS, P.O. Box 26097, Westbank, B.C.
V4T 2G3 Canada

Thanks from the animals!