

**TRACS**

*The Responsible  
Animal Care Society*

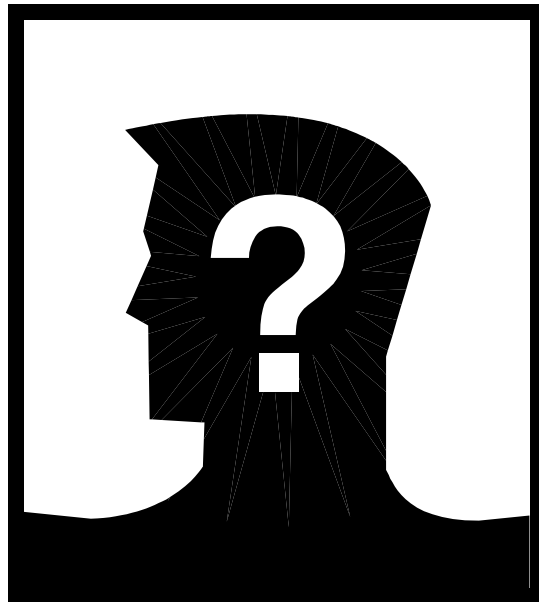
PO Box 26097  
Westbank, BC  
Canada V4T 2G3  
Ph/fax: 250-768-4803  
tracs@shaw.ca  
www.tracs-bc.ca

Summer 2006

**aim**

**animal issues  
magazine**

**SAVE: Stop Animal Violence Early**



**\$1500 REWARD**

## **President's Message: Geese Under Fire and Foie Gras**

When pondering Kelowna City Council's September 11<sup>th</sup> decision to allow the killing of up to 200 Canada geese next year, I ask myself—is there any species so wondrous, intelligent, or beautiful that it will automatically be protected from lethal retribution doled out by human "stewards"? History tells us that homo sapiens have made a habit of destroying whatever stands in the way of progress and convenience. Nothing appears to be exempt from human encroachment, nor from decisions that impact unjustifiably and cruelly upon animal populations. Animal advocates and environmentalists have a full time job on their hands as they continue to educate legislators, industries, and the general public about humane and ecologically sound methods of handling wildlife conflicts.

But there is hope on the horizon for Canada geese. Cities such as Mississauga, Toronto, Dundas, Etobicoke, Chicago, and New York are equipped with city park personnel with commendable levels of insight, wisdom, and compassion. They have successfully applied habitat modification, relocation, and other humane management methods to areas where human/goose conflicts have occurred. May their light shine upon the Okanagan Valley, where warfare against wildlife is another "tool in the toolbox", and where it is apparently acceptable to snuff the life out of Canada geese in the early dawn, when the chance of being seen is less risky. These actions supposedly protect water quality and tourism. Meanwhile, houseboats continue to churn in the lake, and there is no system in place to control the dumping of human sewage. Our beaches and golf courses might as well have "Welcome, Geese" banners attached to them—the grass is kept close-cropped, so that succulent young shoots are readily available for grazing, and our barrier-free beaches offer wide landing strips for airborne birds in search of a convenient runway. It doesn't have to be this way. Parks, beaches, golf courses, and other recreational areas can be modified to render them unattractive to geese, yet still pleasing to the human user. In all fairness, specific aquatic areas should be set aside for the geese to call home.

Please contact Kelowna's legislators if you are concerned about the way in which City Parks is handling this issue. Letters addressed to Mayor Sharon Shepherd and copied to "Kelowna City Council" can be faxed to: (250)862-3399 or e-mailed to: [mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca).

In August, foie gras was banned in the City of Chicago. This "delicacy" is created by forcing a tube down the throats of geese and ducks and pumping partially-cooked corn into the apparatus, thus causing a fatty liver condition in the birds. The practice has been condemned as inhumane, and finally legislators in not only Chicago but other U.S. cities are recognizing that force feeding must be outlawed. Foie gras can be found in some Canadian restaurants and is marketed widely online. Once again, our federal, provincial and municipal legislators need to be made aware that such acts of blatant cruelty are not acceptable to many Canadians.

On a brighter note, please see page 5 of this publication for information on exciting upcoming events. TRACS always welcomes newcomers to our dinners and get-togethers, so be sure to mark down these dates...and share the information with anyone you know who is interested in any aspect of animal and environmental protection.

--Sinikka Crosland

## *Hot Off the Press*

### **Canadian Seal Slaughter on Downward Spiral?**

On September 6, 2006, the European Parliament issued a declaration asking that the EU ban the importation of Canadian seal products. This was met with immediate resistance from Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Loyola Hearn, who told CBC that he is prepared to wage a war to protect the Atlantic seal hunt. The DFO had proclaimed its support of a 2007 seal slaughter, alleging that it is lucrative and a way of life for some fishermen. Downplaying worldwide opposition to what has been described as "Canada's shame", the fisheries ministry has ignored pleas by Paul McCartney, Heather Mills McCartney, Brigitte Bardot, and other celebrities to stop the slaughter, and has to date refused a multimillion dollar offer from CEO and founder of RRAI Beauty, Cathy Kangas, which would assist sealers to retire from participating in the annual killing spree. Meanwhile, support for a boycott of Canadian seafood has continued to grow, and a tourism boycott of the sealing provinces has been launched. In very recent news, Newfoundland Premier Danny Williams announced that banning of the hakapik should be considered, due to its negative "public image" (no mention of humane concerns). Further information on the seal slaughter issue can be found on the following websites:

[http://www.hsus.org/protect\\_seals.html](http://www.hsus.org/protect_seals.html) (Humane Society of the U.S.);

<http://www.tour-newfoundlandlabrador.com/> (Tour Newfoundland and Labrador/ a tour of truth);

<http://www.seashepherd.org/seals/> (Sea Shepherd Conservation Society)

### **Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Prepares for Whale Wars**

Captain Paul Watson writes: "In November, the ruthless killers of the whales of Antarctica will depart from Japan to the cheers of those who delight and profit in the sadistic slaughter of the gentle giants of the deep. Now, in Melbourne, the *Farley Mowat* is being prepared. The Sea Shepherd helicopter is being serviced and volunteer crewmembers are being recruited and trained. In the Caribbean our second ship, the faster *Leviathan*, is being prepared for the long trans-Pacific voyage to Australia where she will join the *Farley Mowat* for a scheduled December 2nd departure from Melbourne. Both ships will head south to the remote and hostile shores of Antarctica in search of the Japanese whaling fleet. The objective of the Sea Shepherd expedition is to uphold international conservation law in accordance with the principles established by the United Nations World Charter for Nature. But Sea Shepherd will also be upholding Australian law because 9 out of every 10 whales killed last year by Japan were slain in the waters of the Australian Antarctic Territory. At the end of this year, Japan will be targeting 850 Antarctic piked (Minke) whales, 50 endangered humpbacks and 50 endangered fin whales. Again 90% of the whales that are targeted will be in the Australian Whale Sanctuary" ([www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org)).

## Horse Whisperings: Update on Sweet Nothing

In our previous issue of AIM, we told the story of Sweet Nothing, a Big Julie's Rescue Ranch horse who experienced an amputation and limb replacement. We are pleased to report that this remarkable mare is thriving in her wonderful Vancouver Island home! She has adjusted well to her prosthesis and receives visits from her veterinarian every two weeks. Her story has been covered by major newspapers, including the Calgary Herald and the Globe and Mail.



*Sweet Nothing*

---

*"In a lunch session at the slaughterhouse, a lamb jumped out of its pen and came unnoticed up to some slaughtermen who were sitting in a circle eating some sandwiches; the lamb approached and nibbled a small piece of lettuce that a man was holding in his hand. The men gave the lamb some more lettuce and when the lunch period was over they were so affected by the action of the lamb that not one of them was prepared to kill this creature, and it had to be sent away elsewhere - showing that within each human soul there is an element of pity, compassion and love in varying degrees. It is our duty to encourage the higher qualities to bloom and blossom wherever possible in each individual."*

*--Gordon Latta*

# Upcoming Events...

- **Wednesday, October 18, 2006** at 7 p.m.: Our TRACS Annual General Meeting will be held at Debeans Specialty Coffee ("loft" area), 103-2106 Harvey Ave., Kelowna (next to A&W). Please come and support our ongoing work for the animals! The coffee house requests that all guests purchase a drink or food item while using the premises (we invite you to contact TRACS prior to the AGM if this presents a problem for you: 250-768-4803). Voting privileges are granted to those with an up-to-date membership in TRACS.
- **Saturday, December 9, 2006** at 5:30 p.m.: Come and join the fun at our holiday potluck dinner at the EECO Centre, 2363 Springfield Road at Mission Creek Park (Springfield Road and Durnin). We will provide more details in the Autumn issue of AIM, but please plan to join us and bring a vegan (plant-based) dish to share. After-dinner speaker will be Brenda Davis, registered dietitian and TRACS Director. Brenda is due to return home soon from the Marshall Islands, where she has worked as the Nutrition Director and Health Educator of a diabetes research intervention project. She will have lots of information to share, and we welcome Brenda, Paul, and Cory Davis back home to Kelowna again!
- **Tuesday, February 20 and Wednesday, February 21, 2007**, in Penticton and Kelowna, respectively: The Okanagan Health Forum returns, along with several highly acclaimed speakers who will address issues such as anti-aging and disease prevention. TRACS supports the Okanagan Health Forum and its message about the positive benefits of plant-based nutrition, which is the very best for animals and the environment, too! We'll provide more details in the next issue of our newsletter.

## TRACS Directors

*President:* Sinikka Crosland    *Vice-President:* Linda Janicki    *Treasurer:* Anna Schmidt  
*Secretary:* Louise Adams    *Director of Nutrition & Food Animal Issues:* Brenda Davis  
*Directors of Youth Programs:* Cory Davis & Carmen Crosland  
*Directors-at-Large:* Michael Hooper, Alice Hooper, Brent Forder, Courtney Murray, Joan Smythe,  
& Lauren Gaglardi

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Carmen Crosland

### Some interesting facts everyone should know...

- A vegetarian saves 5600 animals in a lifetime!
- Sixteen times more land is required to feed a meat-eater than a vegan.
- By cutting out meat from your diet, you could enormously reduce the risk of developing many types of cancers, as well as various other diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.
- Dairy products may actually increase the risk of osteoporosis.

## Recipe Corner...

### Black Bean Salsa Salad Dip

1 can (19 oz/340 ml)	black beans, drained and rinsed
1 cup	cubed avocado
1	large tomato, chopped
1 small	yellow pepper, chopped (optional)
1/3 cup	chopped red onion
1/4 cup	chopped fresh cilantro or use parsley (optional)
1/4 cup	fresh squeezed lime juice
2 tbsp	olive oil
1 tbsp	seeded minced jalapeno pepper (or use from jar)
1/2 tsp	salt

Place beans, avocado, tomato, onion, yellow pepper, and cilantro in large bowl.

Sprinkle with lime juice, oil, jalapeno pepper and salt. Toss gently.

Salad can be covered and refrigerated for up to 8 hours. Makes 4 cups.

Serve with pita triangles or tortilla chips.

**VEGAN**

*Courtesy of Lauren Gaglardi*

## SAVE: Stop Animal Violence Early

In response to mysterious serial killings of cats, as well as slingshot-and-bat-wielding assailants wounding and slaying rabbits in Kelowna, TRACS has reactivated a reward fund that was originally set up during the 2004 cat killings. SAVE (Stop Animal Violence Early) seeks to encourage community involvement in bringing to justice those who brutalize and viciously kill animals. Unchecked, such bizarre behaviour can progress to violent crimes against people.

Consider the case of Keith Jespersen (Bashing Gophers and Slaughtering Cats and Dogs, [http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial\\_killers/predators/jespersen/cats\\_5.html](http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/predators/jespersen/cats_5.html)):

*...by the time Keith Jespersen was six, he had gotten his first taste of killing living things by bashing in the heads of gophers while still in British Columbia. By the time he was twenty, while living with his parents in the Washington State trailer park, Keith got his first taste of killing larger animals when he began dragging stray dogs and cats into a field near the park where he would beat them to death with a shovel, strangle them with his bare hands, or shoot them with his BB gun. He discovered that he enjoyed it.*

*"I was Arnold Schwarzenegger," Jespersen bragged to a reporter. "It was like I was playing war. When I looked at those dogs, they would squat and pee. They'd be so scared that they'd tremble." By his own admission, Jespersen enjoyed the fear he instilled in these animals, and took great pleasure in watching and feeling the life literally drain out of the animals until they succumbed to death.*

*"You come to the point where killing something is nothing," Jespersen said. "It's the same feeling," he said, whether he was strangling a human being or an animal. "You've already felt the pressure on the throat of them trying to grab air. You're actually squeezing the life out of these animals and there isn't much difference. They're gonna fight for their lives just as much as a human being will."*

*Nowadays, it's no secret that those who have shown a propensity toward animal violence and abuse during their younger years sometimes move on to more violent crimes later on in life that are directed at human beings.*

*"It's in the crime journals of all major law enforcement agencies," Jespersen once wrote from his prison cell at Oregon State Penitentiary, where he eventually became a permanent resident. "Abusive behavior towards animals is one of the symptoms on the road to being a murderer."*

*He wrote that it was in his early childhood that his aggression toward animals began, and explained that his father once witnessed him throw a cat against the pavement and finish it off by strangling it to death. Jespersen wrote that his father had appeared proud of how he had dealt with the cat, and bragged to others about how Keith had gotten rid of the stray cats and dogs in the mobile home park where they lived.*

*"All this did is spawn in me the urge to kill again," Jespersen said. "I began to think of what it would be like to kill a human being. The thought stayed with me for years, until one night it happened. I killed a woman by beating her almost to death and finished her off by strangulation," he said...*

Thanks to private donations, our SAVE fund now holds \$1500, and this amount will be paid out to any citizen providing evidence that leads to the successful conviction of animal serial killers and abusers. (All related calls and messages will be treated with strict confidentiality.) It should be noted, however, that animal abuse can take many forms. Farmers can brutally beat their livestock, or starve them to death. Hunters can be poachers, shooting out of season, or they can recklessly wound wildlife without killing their prey. Crimes against animals can happen during loading or transport from feedlots or auction marts. While the majority of animal abusers will not progress to become serial killers like Jespersen, we feel that their non-human victims deserve to be represented.

It is our hope that community watchfulness initiated by SAVE will succeed in reducing violent crimes in the Okanagan, making our valley a safer place for both people and animals to live.

*To Those Who Have Touched Our Lives...*



*In loving memory of dear little Suzybear Rabbit*

*August 2, 2004-May 24, 2005.*

*Forever loved*

*Forever missed*

*Forever remembered.*

*--Emily Stuparyk, <http://www.mts.net/~stuparyk/>*

*"When Only the Love Remains"*



*Remembering Linden, "the most gentle, loving dog we've ever had..."*

*--Diana Knowles*



## Brigadier's Law

Early this year, the Toronto Police Mounted Unit suffered the tragic loss of one of their members, "Brigadier" a 7-year-old Belgian cross horse. The horse was part of a law enforcement team, but no charges could be laid against the person who had caused his death.

According to witnesses at the scene, Brigadier and his rider, a police officer, were deliberately struck by an irate driver. He fled the scene, leaving the officer and the horse in the roadway. The officer was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. But Brigadier could not be saved; he had sustained massive traumatic injuries, and was shot and killed for humanitarian reasons on the street by officers at the scene. Although the driver of the vehicle was arrested, and charged with "dangerous operation of a vehicle causing bodily harm", the death of Brigadier was not considered in the charge.

In Canada, there is no mention of "Law Enforcement for Service Animals" anywhere in the Criminal Code of Canada. For this reason, purposefully killing a police dog, horse or other service animal comes with NO additional charges. This is different in many states and countries that do protect their Law Enforcement Service Animals.

The Toronto Humane Society urges, "It is very important for every Canadian to realize the importance and critical function Law Enforcement Service Animals provide on a daily basis; from Search and Rescue, Community Oriented Policing, Public Safety and of course building a bridge between the community and the police." The organization initiated a course of action to provide much needed protection for Police Service Animals: a letter-writing campaign to the federal government proposing an amendment to the Criminal Code of Canada. The proposed amendment was nicknamed "Brigadier's Law".

A website (<http://www.torontohumanesociety.com/petitions/brigadier.asp>) was set up for people wishing to sign the Brig's Law petition online, and an incredible 53,827 signatures were gathered. It was sent on to the appropriate authorities and will be presented to Council sometime in the fall.

Brigadier's death was a tragedy; but there is a good chance that the amendment to the Criminal Code will help prevent the intentional harming and killing of service animals in the future; caring people have an opportunity to assist with this project by writing letters to their Members of Parliament.

--Elli Kohnert

~~~~~

The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to ban horse slaughter, and while this promising step still requires Senate approval, many are hopeful that the long, stoic battle fought by U.S. horse advocates and backed up by celebrities such as Bo Derek, Willie Nelson, and Clint Eastwood, will culminate in victory for the horses. Will Canada take the same path? This nation sent 48,715 horses to slaughter last year. Yet an Ipsos-Reid poll conducted May 18-20, 2004 revealed that the majority of Canadian citizens (64%) do not support the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Citizens are being encouraged to contact their MPs about their concerns, and to seek the support of horse industry representatives in order to move this issue forward. Online information is available at: [www.defendhorsescanada.org](http://www.defendhorsescanada.org).

## thredz clothing co.

KRISTI BEILMAN  
OWNER

#118 2330 Hwy 97 S  
Westbank, BC • V4T 2P3

Phone: 250.768.9500  
Fax: 250.768.8467

*thredz clothing co. is proud to be...  
...fur-free!*



*Cats Meow Motel*  
BOARDING CATTERY

**(250) 861-MEOW (6369)**  
FAX: (250) 862-9491

*Whilst you're away  
your cat can play!*

Pat and Peter Newton  
1301 Glenmore Rd. North, Kelowna, BC V1V 2C6

*A home away from home for your  
feline companion....*



*Lake Tai Vegetarian Restaurant*

*Food for your health*

101-3010 Pandosy St., Kelowna, BC V1Y 1W3  
Tel: (250)860-1588 Fax: (250)860-1588

*For an incredible dining experience!*

## **Loving Home Needed!**

A pair of one-year old cats need a home as soon as possible, and hopefully can be placed together. They have been spayed and vaccinated, and are both DSH, solid gray in colour. One is friendly and docile; the other (a Siamese cross) requires socialization. They are currently being cared for in a foster home and need a warm hearth to call their own. Please contact Helen if interested: (250)542-0392.

## **Lament for Species Lost**

I stand with the Tiger as they make their last stand.  
I stand with the tiger against the ravage of Man.  
I stand with the animals pushed to the wall.  
The Rhino, the Panda, I stand with them all.  
I stand with the great Apes. The gorilla's my kin,  
and I wouldn't want to live in a world they're not in.

I stand with the wolf, the she wolf and cub  
against steel jawed traps that would leave them a nub.  
I stand with the Whale. I stand and I weep  
over all of their blood that was shed in the deep.  
I stand with the elephant, so noble and bold,  
who are killed for their tusks that are hacked off and sold.

I stand with the animals. I love one and all,  
and I think to myself, surely this is Man's fall.  
We're burning the Garden. We're cutting her trees.  
I stand and I beg, I plead, people STOP, PLEASE!  
Yet my heart knows that this won't be enough.  
If we stand with the Tiger, we'll have to get tough.

For this is our last stand. We're all on the brink.  
We have to just stop it, and take time to think.  
We must face the truth that we're killing our self.  
We must start to value our planet's true wealth.  
It's not in the gold that is hid in her soil,  
and it's not in the steel, and it's not in the oil.

It's not in the stuff that these things will build.  
For what good is it all after everything's killed?  
What joy in a world if we're in it alone,  
with her beauty destroyed, and our hearts turned to stone?  
Oh we might still live on, but surely not well,  
for we will have turned our fair Garden to Hell.

--by David Nazar

**Shocking Statistics: 48,715 horses were slaughtered in Canada in 2005 for human consumption overseas. 7,409 horses were shipped live to the United States for slaughter in the same year (source: Agriculture Canada).**



## 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!*