



MARS Wildlife Rescue

2017 Annual Report

Helping Wildlife Recover

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British Columbia Gaming Branch



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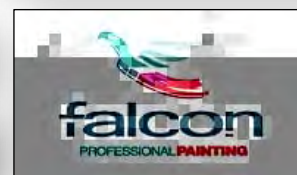


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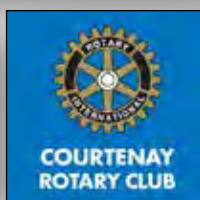
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MOUNTAINEIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

Helping Wildlife Recover 2017 Annual Report

Mountaineire Avian Rescue Society (MARS Wildlife Rescue) thanks all of our generous contributors for helping us continue wildlife rehabilitation and conservation efforts in 2016/17. These selfless contributions allowed for this year's programs to proceed.

We appreciate the support of the MARS Wildlife Rescue board of directors, staff, contractors and our many volunteers. Without you this could not have been possible.



SPECIAL THANKS: *We wish to acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia. The BC Gaming Branch was a significant contributor for our 2016/17 education program on wildlife protection and conservation awareness and our rehabilitation program.*

Comox and Strathcona Regional Districts (Directors Leigh, Grieve, Jolliffe and Nicol), Corporation of the City of Courtenay and the City of Campbell River. Local governments continue to be strong supporters of MARS Wildlife Rescue.

Other contributors included Art Martell (Comox Valley Nature), My Tech Guys (hosting our web site and providing tech support), John Hastie, Ecole Phoenix Middle School, Interfor Corporation, TimberWest, Western Forest Products Inc. Marine Harvest and Westview Ford, Cumberland Concrete, Bruce Jones, Al Kemp & Bill Adamson.

Support was also received from Wendy Kotilla of the YER Program, Connie Schaad Face Painting, Millie Coleing, Campbell River Tim Hortons, Campbell River Photo Tech foto-source and Cumberland Community School.

Groups and businesses that contributed to MARS events in some way include: Campbell River Logger Sports, Crown Isle Thrifty's, Campbell River Thrifty's Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society, Feathers in BC, Highway Four Rentals and The Raptors.

Publicity came from 97.3FM The Eagle Radio, Comox Valley Record, Campbell River Mirror and CHEK NEWS – Dean Stoltz and Shaw Cable.

Berwick Comox Valley, Comox District Consumer's Co-op, Comox Military Family Resource Centre, Comox Rotary, Courtenay Elementary, Ecole Phoenix Middle School, Fresh Start Health Retreat Centres, Friends of Comox-Lazo Reserve, Hornby Eagle Group Projects Society, Huband Park Elementary, Investors Group, Kiwanis Club of Courtenay, Lake Trail Middle School, Miracle Beach Elementary, Miracle Beach Markets Ltd, North Island College, Orca Probus Club, Strathcona Wilderness Institute Society, Unity Comox Valley, Wayne's Propane, Rotary Club of Courtenay and Courtenay Rotary, Ron Chamberlain and "Friends of MARS", Comox Valley Echo, Others that helped us in some way include, Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens, Realtor Liz Aldridge, Ripple Rock and Gem Club, Seasmoke "Sail with the Whales", Sharron Lewis, Silpada Jewelry (Lois and Peter Beck-Millman), the Public Conservation Assistance Fund (PCAF) and Woofy's, Dan and Wendy Davis and Outback Nursery.

The Wickaninnish Inn/Point Restaurant, WestJet, Harbour Hideout Vacation Rental in Ucluelet and Adventure Quest Tours donated prizes for our raffles. Pacific Coastal Airlines donated transport of injured wildlife, and BC Ferries gave free passage for wildlife rescue. Prime Chophouse, Campbell River Museum, River City Art Festival, Royston Roasting Company, Pier Street Farmers Market, Kitty Coleman, Foggy Bottom Fair, Driftwood Mall, Comox Mall and Filberg Lodge helped out.

Help from Veterinary Hospitals was amazing (as usual) and included Phoenix Rising Veterinary clinic, Van Isle Veterinary Hospital, Shamrock Veterinary Clinic, Sunrise Veterinary Clinic (thanks Stacey!), Puntledge Veterinary Clinic and Island Veterinary Hospital.

Steve Harding of Timberwolf Tree Service was and still is on standby to climb a tree to rescue an injured bird for us.

Several anonymous donors, and those who cared enough to contribute time and/or supplies also helped us out but are too numerous to mention. Every little bit helps to contribute to a lot.

Along with donors locally, we had generous support from our neighbours to the south: Newburyport (Maine), Holts Summit (Montana), Minneapolis (Minnesota), Newcastle and Vancouver (Washington), Holland (Pennsylvania), Dublin (Ohio), McCormick (South Carolina), Merritt Island and Tequesta (Florida), St Paul (Minnesota), Newark (Delaware), Glen Mills -Delaware County (Pennsylvania) and Santa Monica (California). And not to be outdone, our supports to the east included donations from Ottawa, Oakville, Woodbirdge, Stoney Creek, Napanee, Toronto, Kanata, Dundas and Kitchener (Ontario), Port Hawkesbury (Nova Scotia), Winnipeg (Manitoba), and Edmonton and Calgary (Alberta).

Many donors provided assistance directly to MARS Wildlife Rescue for animal care, the 1250 Club and MEWS funding, and through Canada Helps. Of particular interest (and excitement) is the growing number of people contributing through monthly automatic debit. These monthly contributions provide a level of certainty and are now up to **\$736 per month**. We thank all that have donated.

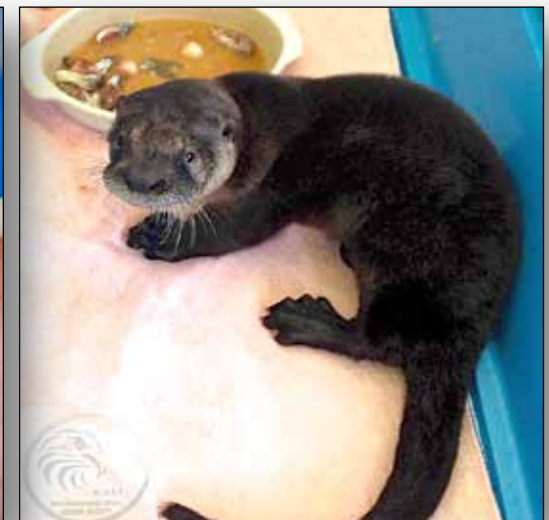
We apologize if we inadvertently missed any donors.



If you are looking for a simple, no-cost way to help MARS, pick up a Thrifty's card from MARS Wildlife Rescue and every time you use it to buy your groceries with the card 5% of your purchase value goes to us.

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS) officially opened its doors in 1995 and recorded a wildlife case load of **102**. Since 1995, we've received **9,177** animals. Our case load gradually increased until 2001 before leveling off to between 400 and 500 animals each year, but in 2014 our case load rose dramatically to **710**. Since 2014 we have averaged **652** injured animals per year (table 1); a continued sign that our new hospital will be put to good use.

Since 1995, we have expanded our mandate to include an active conservation and education component, and more recently we have been involved in greater amounts of conservation issues as well as research and monitoring. This important work helps educate the public and improve land management.

In 2016, we received **557** injured animals (**115** different species), **173** cases were released back to the wild (31% release rate) (tables 2 and 3). While this may not seem to be a high release rate, the base case level includes animals received DOA and animals that succumbed to injuries very shortly after we received them. Unfortunately many of the rest have serious injuries that rendered them unable to survive in the wild. From 1995 to the end of 2016, MARS has released **2,586** animals back to the wild; including **102** Bald Eagles.

One of the many important functions that MARS accomplishes is our contribution to recovery of species of interest (yellow listed), species at risk (blue listed) and endangered species (red listed). Endangered is when a species has a population so low and threats (e.g. habitat loss) are so high that there is a real chance these species could go extinct unless something is done. **Blue-listed** species are those that are showing population decline that could end up as red-listed if something isn't done. Yellow-listed species are those of particular interest.

We received and treated 59 yellow listed species in 2016 which included **36** Bald Eagles, **3** Little Brown Bats, **7** Anna's Hummingbirds, **2** Turkey Vultures, **7** Trumpeter Swans and **4** Merlins.

We received **21 blue-listed species** in 2016 which included **10** Great Blue Herons, **1** Marbled Murrelet, **3** Western Screech Owls, **2** Hairy Woodpeckers, **1** Stellars Jay, **1** Surf Scoter and **3** Northern Saw-Whet Owls.

Table 1 Number of Cases per Year

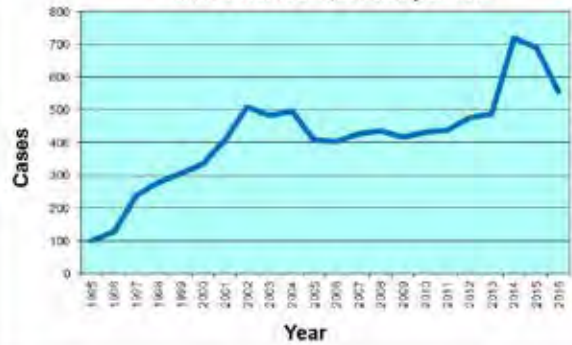


Table 2 Number of Releases per Year

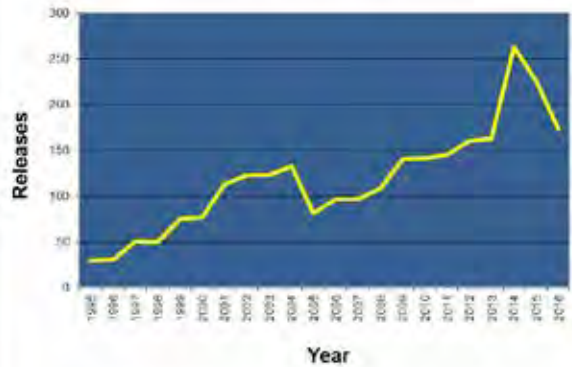
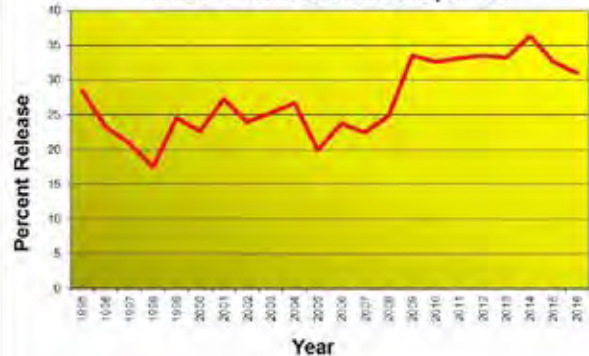


Table 3 Percent Release Rate per Year



The 2 red-listed species we received and treated in 2016 included 1 Barn Owl and 1 Brant's Cormorant.

To learn more about red and blue listed species and ecosystems on coastal British Columbia, check out the fact sheets on: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

During our 2016 fiscal year, MARS staff included Sarah Gibbins as Program Coordinator (first four months), and following Sarah's departure Robert McLennan as Manager. Also on staff were Laurie Ulm as Office Administrator; Allison Morrison was initially part time as Office Administrator but phased into a part time position assisting with the construction details at the new-MARS Wildlife Rescue site.

In 2016, the property formerly owned by our founder Maj Birch was sold to a young and very nice family. The need for our transition to the new property immediately became very real. The new property owners graciously allowed us to stay on their new property until May 31, 2017. Despite attempts to get designs completed early, it wasn't until fall that things started coming together.



During the summer, additional work continued on the wetland project (largely because of excavator and dump truck time being donated by Bruce Jones), building designs were finalized and site plans were being discussed. Millie Coleing, a visiting biologist from England helped develop an enrichment program for our ambassador birds.

We were very lucky to have a project coordinator step up. Bill Adamson managed large projects in the not-so-distant past, and was looking to help us out. Bill rallied many people behind him to complete tendering, lining up materials and contractors (building, septic, electrical, engineers), getting permits (Vancouver Island Health Authority, well water, building, etc.). Another fellow (Don Gulliver) from Houle Electric approached us wanting to give us a hand. His time, and the volunteer time of his crew saved us several thousand dollars. Barry Page of BP2 Construction donated \$20,000 back after completing phase 1 of the hospital and looked after many outside details for free. Cumberland Concrete donated the cement for the animal hospital footings.

Due to our late start, we began construction in January during a winter that broke records for number of days of rain in a row and least amount of sunlight; we came close to a snowfall record as well. Despite these challenges we are on schedule to open the phase 1 of the wildlife animal hospital by May 15. We have still not started the flight cages (which are critical to have) or the visitor centre, but they will be started soon.

We have close to 80 active volunteers at MARS Wildlife Rescue contributing in many ways ranging from animal care volunteers to our group of sewers led by Diane Pollack. Our volunteers contributed **11,562 hours** of their time in 2016. This is only from the volunteers that have submitted their time; the actual volunteer time is likely much higher. For example, our local veterinary clinics contribute an incredible amount of time, and Norm Snihur (who is always on standby to provide helicopter support for injured or sick wildlife) do not report their hours.

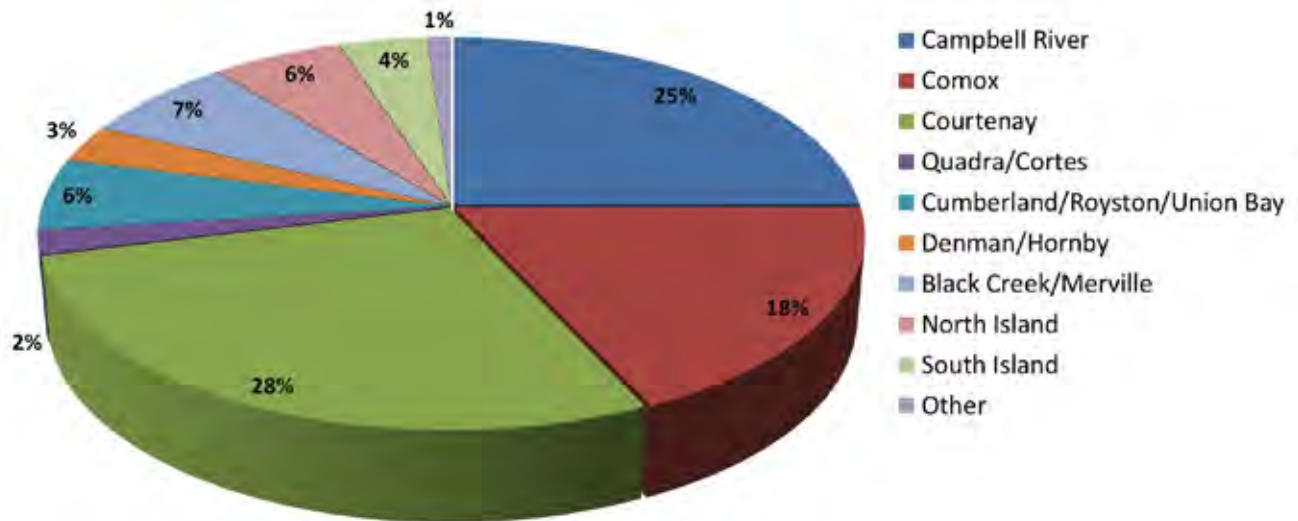
Our Board of Directors and associated committees have shown an incredible team effort that is not often seen in volunteer organizations. Our adopted educational birds (ambassador birds) are popular at many public events that we attend. The dedication and the quality of work of our volunteers and staff, is inspiring.

We received donations from people all over the world; many of the donations were small, but the sheer number cumulated to a substantial total. Donations are our single biggest funding source (thanks all!).

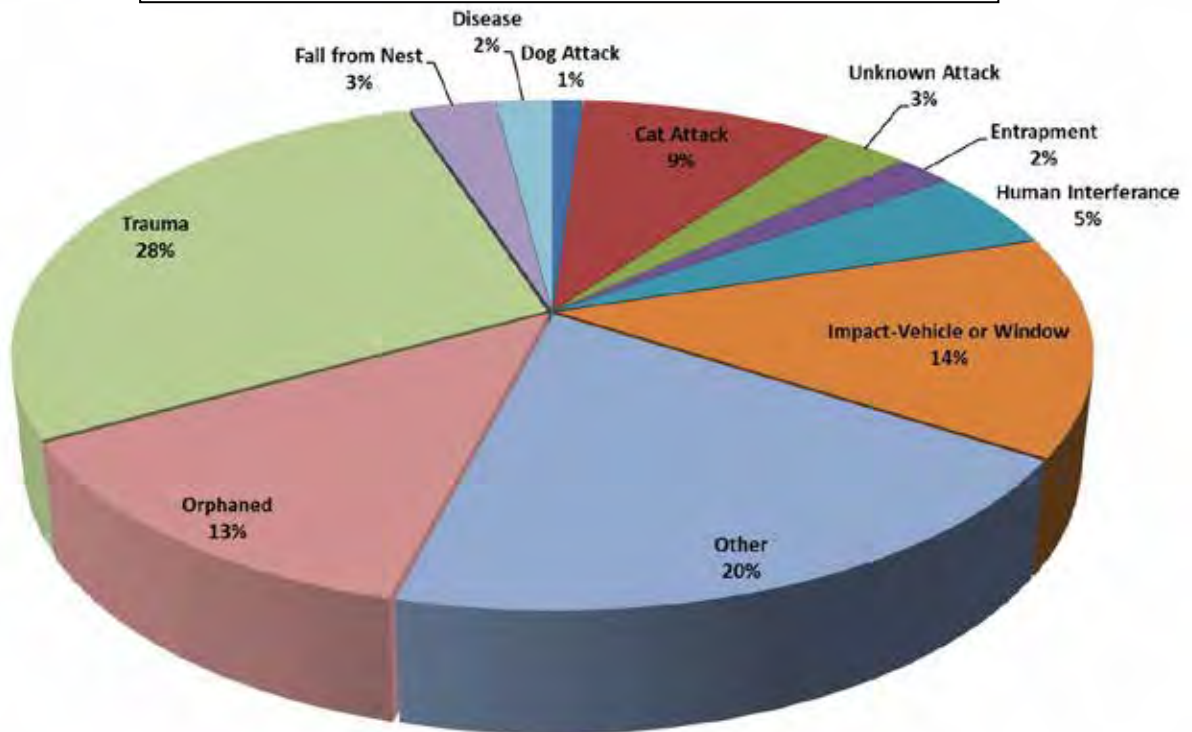
Warren Warttig, RPBio
President



Source of Injured Wildlife brought to MARS Wildlife Rescue



Cause of Injured Wildlife brought to MARS Wildlife Rescue



IN MEMORY OF MARY JANE (MAJ) BIRCH

1949 - 2015

Our founder, Maj Birch, slipped away very quietly at home with friends and family on November 18, 2015 only a few months after a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. We still miss her greatly. We think of her often as we are readying the new property for our move and we are guided by the massive amounts of input she provided for the hospital, wetlands, animal care buildings, MEWS, the property site plan and her desire for a Visitors Centre.

Most of Maj's estate was settled in 2016, most of which went to fund the construction of the new animal hospital.

Although Maj did not live long enough to see her dream become a reality, she will always be with us.

MARS Wildlife Rescue is a strong organization. Maj's values are embedded in our Constitution and policies. Her skills and knowledge in caring for injured and sick wildlife have been passed on to others. And, perhaps most importantly, Maj inspired a large caring community of MARS Wildlife Rescue supporters, people who are committed to carrying on her work.



CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society is Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (MARS)
2. The purpose of the Society is:
 - a. To rescue, transport, rehabilitate, and release ill, injured, orphaned, or oiled wildlife.
 - b. To educate the general public about wildlife issues through lectures, displays, workshops, reports and publications.
 - c. To contribute to the knowledge and understanding of wildlife by participating in research, and sharing that information with wildlife organizations and the general public through meetings, seminars, conferences, reports and publications.
 - d. To conserve and protect wildlife and promote conservation of wildlife habitat.
3. Upon winding up or dissolution of the Society, the ordinary resolution authorizing such winding up shall specify that any remaining assets belonging to the Society shall be distributed to a registered society having objectives similar to those of the Society, after all debts have been paid, or a provision for payment made. This provision is unalterable.

MISSION

To conserve and protect native wildlife and its natural habitat through education and rehabilitation.

GOALS

To reduce suffering of wildlife, often affected by human influences and educate the public about their effect on nature and how to reduce that impact.

OBJECTIVES

Provide a safe, stress-free environment for wildlife to recover. To contribute to the knowledge and understanding of wildlife by participating in research and sharing information with wildlife and professional organizations and the general public through meetings, lectures, displays, workshops, seminars, conferences, reports and publications.

PHILOSOPHY

We are a non-profit organization. Our energy is totally directed towards rehabilitation and education, and the funding for those endeavors. We abide by all governing laws and regulations under which we operate. MARS holds permits from federal and provincial governments that allow us to rescue, keep in captivity and care for wildlife.

The intensive care unit (ICU) at the centre and outdoors pens are off-limits to the public due to permit restrictions and because wildlife become stressed around people. We endeavor to maintain high standards of care and ethics and to work cooperatively with many related organizations.

We strongly advise against keeping any wildlife species as pets and make every effort to ensure that all wildlife patients remain wild. We work closely with several local area veterinarians and receive many referrals from the SPCA. Before admitting any case, every effort must be made to resolve the situation (e.g. reunite fledglings with their parents). We are not a relocation service for nuisance animals.

We are primarily concerned with treating those animals which are in distress due to human related activities (e.g. car, cat, oil). Human intervention (picking up fledglings off the ground) is discouraged and return to the parent should be immediate. Where it can be determined, we will not interfere with animals in distress due to a natural process (e.g. natural predator/prey interactions).

The responsibility of care of domestic animals falls under the jurisdiction of the Veterinarian Act. Therefore, we cannot accept or attempt to diagnose problems concerning domestic animals, accept them for treatment, housing, or try to find homes for them. This includes chickens, peacocks, domestic ducks and pigeons.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016/17

Warren Warttig – President Warren.Warttig@gmail.com Registered Professional Biologist, Interfor 3811 Mitlenatch Drive Campbell River, BC V9H 1J7 Home: 250 926-0001 Work: 250 616-8689	Paul Jackman - Treasurer pauljack@telus.net Retired Accountant 2175C Arlington Place Courtenay, B.C. V9N 9C5 Home: (250) 331-2627
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Lynda Hodgkinson pauljack@telus.net Retired Medical Office Assistant 2175C Arlington Place Courtenay, B.C. V9N 9C5 Home: (250) 331-2627 Cell: (250) 792-5075	Jamie Bryant jamie.lynne.bryant@gmail.com Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society Community Engagement Coordinator Box 587, Heriot Bay, BC V0P 1H0 iPhone: 250.895.0043
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Staff: Laurie Ulm, Volunteer Coordinator & Administration Laurieulm@wingtips.org Home Phone: (250) 337-5281	Staff: Allison Morrison, New MARS Campaign & Site Development. gak@shaw.ca Home Phone: (250) 335-2261 Personal Cell: (250) 702-3636



REHABILITATION SUMMARY

Animal Care Statistics

Passerines	279
Raptors	77
Waterfowl	84
Terrestrial Mammal	42
Marine Mammal	13
Shorebirds	51
Game Birds	0
Amphibian/Reptile	1
Other	10

Total: 557

Total Species 115

Disposition

Released	150
Transferred/Released	35
Deceased/ Euthanized/DOA	372
TOTAL:	557

Educational Ambassadors: 6

Final disposition statistics
(excluding invasive species and feral animals)¹:

- 31 % released
- 30 % euthanized
- 39 % died



MANAGERS' REPORT

I joined MARS Wildlife Rescue as manager in June, 2016 during an exciting year, full of challenges, changes and learning. I have been able to experience first-hand the care and dedication of our volunteers and how that contributes to the success of MARS Wildlife Rescue. Volunteers recorded 11,562 hours in 2016, a remarkable achievement.

Other programs come to mind when discussing MARS Wildlife Rescue's success. For example, the Youth and Ecological Restoration Program, under the careful guidance of Wendy Kotilla, will continue for another year. This opportunity to teach young people about the value of caring for the environment and wild animals is an important part of our culture.

¹ Ministry of Environment require euthanasia of invasive and feral animals

Our summer students, through their hard work and enthusiasm, helped us get through very busy times and will play a vital role in the transition to our new wildlife rescue centre this year. Students from Canada, France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Great Britain, Belgium and the USA brought with them a unique set of skills and went away with a sense of accomplishment and cultural enrichment. We are proud to offer such a diverse learning opportunity.

Caregiver Operating Procedures developed in 2016 will ensure wildlife care is carried out consistently and that caregiver safety is a priority. Level 1 procedures are complete with levels 2 and 3 being developed and employed throughout 2017.

Personally, I am looking forward to the transition to our new property and working with the most amazing volunteers in 2017.

Robert McLennan – Manager



REHABILITATION REPORT

A fawn named for a successful military operation in Afghanistan (code named Athena) was among nine fawns rescued and released in 2016. Athena was rescued near Tahsis, her rescuers having served in Afghanistan. They drove 200 kilometers to deliver the fawn to MARS Wildlife Rescue with a request it be named Athena. Caregivers were happy to oblige.



Two days before Christmas, a large female bald eagle was struck by a vehicle and found on the road near Woss in northern Vancouver Island. The rescuer, having no protective equipment, wrapped the semi-conscious bird in a ski jacket and drove to MARS, a distance of 170 kilometers. An examination of the six kilogram eagle revealed a fractured beak and damaged elbow. During recovery the strong, feisty bird dubbed 'Big B' was a challenge for caregivers. The release back to the wild on February 12 came just in time for breeding season.



A new European treatment offers hope for eagles and red-tailed hawks suffering from aspergillosis. The often fatal disease, caused by a fungus present in the environment, attacks the lungs of birds with depressed immune systems. Existing therapies are ineffective, causing the condition to worsen for five days before improvements can be expected. None of our birds managed to survive the initial treatment period. The situation is stressful for the birds, volunteers, and staff. The new European treatment looks promising and will be tested in clinical trials at MARS Wildlife Rescue.



Eight seal pups are back in the wild following treatment at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue Centre. When MARS rescues a seal pup, or larger seal posing a danger to the public, it is transported to the mammal rescue centre. MARS caregivers were able to follow the recoveries through the online patient list. For seals older than pups, a MARS rescue is dependent on the marine mammal centre receiving permission from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. It is government policy that no seal older than a pup be rehabilitated except when there is a risk to people.

A barn owl chick, discovered on the floor of the quick response hangar at CFB Comox, may have been startled by the test firing of a fighter jet. Air Force personnel could not find the nest to put the chick



back so MARS was called to the rescue. As the result of fostering at Raptors in Duncan, the barn owl was successfully raised and then released on the base with military personnel in attendance. A second barn owl was found starving after the second major snowfall of this past season. A member of the public spotted the bird unable to fly near the ocean in Comox. It took several days of liquid therapy before the barn owl could ingest solid food. It was carefully fed to obtain a healthy body weight and was kept through two subsequent snowfalls. The barn owl was successfully released with the original finder and her children in attendance.

Many young herons found out of their nests in the back gardens of Courtenay were likely victims of predation. A new heron colony in Courtenay was responsible for the surge in patients treated at MARS Wildlife Rescue. Most of the herons survived and were released back to the estuary between Courtenay and Comox. The releases were completed at low tide when no other herons were feeding in the area. This allowed the young birds to present themselves to the adults in a way that is optimal for preventing the aggression typical of the species.

The large number of returning Chum salmon was bad news for fish-eating sea birds, but good news for eagles. Last fall, while the Chum salmon were waiting for the right river conditions, they depleted the bait fish population resulting in starvation among gulls, ducks and other small seabirds causing an increased caseload at MARS Wildlife Rescue. Chum salmon spawn high up in wide, slow moving rivers making them an excellent food source for eagles, bears and other scavengers.

Salmonella outbreaks among pine siskins are down due in part to a public information campaign by MARS Wildlife Rescue to ensure bird feeders are kept clean. There was a substantial improvement over the previous year with pine siskin salmonella outbreaks on bird feeders. The lower disease rate and mortality was due in part to a dryer season and volunteer efforts through traditional and social media to get people to regularly clean feeders with bleach.

As is common, we saw some corvids (ravens, crows, and jays) with pox but there were not any major outbreaks in the region.

Seventeen young volunteers, most on six-week stays, logged 616 work days at MARS Wildlife Rescue in 2016. About half of volunteers are students on a summer break from universities in Canada, the USA and UK. The other half is young people interested in animal welfare and spending time exploring Canada, who are booked through an international organization. During 110 days on-site, the volunteers proved not only helpful, but a joy to work with every day.



Humpty, a young bald eagle, is one step closer to becoming an education ambassador bird. Following a thorough examination, Dr. Pavel has written a letter of support for the eagle to remain at MARS Wildlife Rescue. An application has been made to the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resources for approval and licensing. In 2015, Humpty was found at the base of a tree and thought to be dead. Five days later, the bird was observed moving slightly and MARS was called. An examination revealed he was severely emaciated and dehydrated. He was treated and eventually graduated to full diet. Over time, he was thought to have a brain damage as vocalization was rare and flight always uncertain. He has been good company for Hyacinthe, our ambassador eagle, and may be a foster parent for future eagle chicks. This would eliminate the need to transfer the chicks to other raptor centres.

Electrocution continues to be a major hazard, primarily for swans and bald eagles. The majority of accidents occur on Headquarters Road. All strikes brought to our attention are reported to BC Hydro. A meeting will be set up in the near future to discuss the issue. Six eagles, two swans and one gull were electrocuted in 2016. To date in 2017 there have been eight swans and three eagles electrocuted.

Thank you to our volunteers, donors, staff, board members and, of course, our wonderful education ambassador birds.

Reg Westcott, Supervisor of wildlife Care

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC PROGRAM REPORT

Staff, volunteers and education ambassador birds experienced yet another busy year carrying the message to protect wildlife.

Education volunteers logged 527.5 hours training with our ambassador birds and visiting schools, including 12, K-1 schools and two high schools in the region.

MARS has adopted a curriculum-based program to match school curriculums based on feedback obtained by participating in School District 71's professional development day. This will ensure students' needs and teacher's expectations are met.

Outreach volunteers attended 52 Community events with our education ambassador birds, including large, three-day events, for example, Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens, Comox Nautical Days and Logger Sports Day in Campbell River. There were also several smaller one and two-day events. At these events, MARS is able to reach thousands of people in our communities and talk about this important work with wildlife. And we have an opportunity to hear from local community members and visitors alike.

Robert McLennan, Manager

EDUCATION OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS SUMMARY

- Six site tours of the currently active MARS Wildlife Rescue facility.
- MARS Wildlife Rescue ambassador birds and their handlers attended 12 K-7 schools and two high schools in the Comox Valley and Campbell River School Districts.
- MARS Wildlife Rescue attended 52 community events with ambassador birds and handlers.
- MARS Wildlife Rescue gave two group presentations.

The majority of work of MARS Wildlife Rescue is done by volunteers:

- 2984 skilled animal care hours (volunteers with IWRC certification)
- 1882 unskilled animal care hours (volunteers without IWRC certification)
- 2900 Board Member hours
- 80 park maintenance hours
- 3189 hours for other activities.

TOTAL volunteer hours 11,562



SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

With the beginning of this fiscal year we had just over a year before we had to transition to the new property, the Special Events committee has been very busy raising money every way possible.

March Events

On Easter Monday, 2016 we hosted a Guided Nature walk in Oyster River. We raised a total of \$665 from the walk, totes, other merchandise and the 1250 club.

April Events

We hosted our annual Open House. Attendance was excellent as in previous years; the total for this event was \$3,859.80.

May Events

We attended the Kitty Coleman Spring Art & Bloom Festival. This was the launch of our summer raffle. Proceeds were \$2,410 in raffle sales and \$538.50 in merchandise and donations.

June Events

June 4 - The Comox Valley Fish and Game Protective Association Outdoor Show total was \$1,168.05 raffle sales, merchandise and donations.

June 18 - Comox by the Sea, we had a of total \$903.65 in merchandise raffle and donations.

June 25 - Drive 4 UR Community was held on at Westview Ford and the total from raffle sales, baking donations and test drives was \$1,202.

We started a Thrifty Smile Card Campaign whereby people can load their card with a certain amount of money and then use it when paying for their groceries. Thrifty's gives 5% of the loaded amount on each card, to MARS. These funds are earmarked for the flight pen.

July Events

Canada Day \$830 – raffle sales, \$145 – merchandise, \$121.50 & \$5.25 USD – donations for a total of \$1,101.75

Market Day July 16th - total of \$2,444.55 for MARS! (Merchandise - \$527, Donations - \$407.55, Raffle - \$1,510).

River City Art Festival in CR July 23rd. A total of \$1,048.95 for MARS (raffle \$650, donations \$168.95, and merchandise sales \$230)

The end of July and early August we attended Nautical Days raising \$3,827.65 (Donations - \$507.70, Membership - \$10.00, 1250 Club - \$100.00, Merchandise - \$959.95, and Raffle -\$2250)

August Events

Next was everybody's favourite competition, Logger sports at the Salmon Festival in Campbell River. Aug 5, 6, 7: Time keeping for the logger sports netted MARS \$2500, raffle ticket sales were \$280, Merchandise - \$30 Donations - \$27 for a total of \$2,837.

Caring for a Cause -fundraiser put on by Thrifty's downtown Courtenay, Royston Roasting Co and The Record newspaper brought in a total of \$5,245.65 in raffle sales and donations

Pagan Pride - \$10 merchandise \$360 raffle and \$115.65 donations fundraiser at Lewis Park for a total of \$485.65.

Halbe Hall Aug 8 - \$200 raffle \$30 merchandise and \$40.55 donations.

Pier Street Farmers Market on August 23 outside Scotiabank raised \$468 (Aug 27 \$250 raffle and \$33 donations).

September Events

Kitty Coleman Woodland Gardens Fall Art & Bloom Festival - September 3, 4, 5. On the raffle tickets & draw we raised \$652.55 (\$600 in raffle sales, \$28 in merchandise and \$24.55 in donations).

Black Creek fall fair Sept 10 we raised \$273 in merchandise and \$160.75 donations.

Quadra Island Fair Sept 11, \$95 in merchandise and \$386.95 in donations was collected.

Rib Fest Sept 16, 17. \$141 in Merchandise, \$192.10 in donations was raised for a total of \$331.10.

Sept 18 Volunteer appreciation/open house. A total of \$1,573.00 was donated.

October Events

Foggy Mountain Fair Oct 1 - \$66 merchandise and \$92.70 donations was collected.

Merville Hall Fall Fair - \$159 merchandise and \$86.60 donations was raised for a total of \$245.60.

The 1250 Club campaign continues to be very successful and has generated revenue of \$59,870 as of Feb 28, 2017. This fund is a virtual purchase of square footage of our new animal hospital.

Table at Driftwood Mall Oct 15. A total of \$884.15 was raised for MARS (Membership - \$15.00, Donations - \$413.15, Merchandise - \$456.00).

Bossley's Grand Opening Oct 22 - total sales, donations - \$189

Cumberland Community School Presentation - \$41.50 in donations

Prime Chop house - Oct 27th total of meals, silent auction and donations - \$2,251.75

Halloween at CR Museum - \$265

November Events

Comox Mall on the 19th & 20th - \$575.05 sales and donations were collected

Giving Tuesday - we added this week long campaign to the already existing 1250 Club (proceeds were \$3,750).

December Events

Airport display/Mid Island Gifts anniversary sale. \$669.85 was collected for MARS (Membership - \$25, Donations - \$184.85, Merchandise - \$160, 1250 Club - \$300). At this time, Diane Weir, owner of Mid Island Gift Shop had a 15th anniversary sale and generously donated \$3,134.36 to MARS.

December 3 & 4 at the Comox Mall. \$15 membership, \$206.25 + \$20 USD, \$540 merchandise and \$100 for the 1250 Club was raised.

Filberg Lodge Christmas fair. \$1506.65 was raised for MARS (donations \$251.65 and Merchandise \$1,255.00).

Pier Street Market December 4. A total of \$281.55 was collected (merchandise - \$222, Donations - \$49.55 and Membership - \$10).

Pier Street on Dec 18. \$357.30 was raised (donations - \$67.30, Merchandise - \$290.00).

We took in \$229 in donations on Sunday Dec 11 at the Swanson CD release party (entry by donation to MARS)

February Events

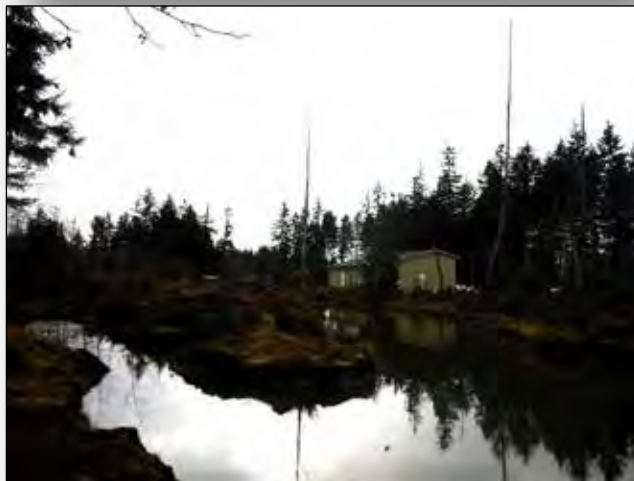
Due to lack of sponsorship, we could not host the 12th Bald Eagle Festival. Instead we had a garage sale at the Merville Hall. The garage sale was a huge success with staff and volunteers coming together to ensure the whole event ran smoothly. The public was very generous and we brought in a total of \$4,070.00.

It goes without saying that we could not accomplish what we do without the dedication of MARS volunteers. We have a very supportive staff and Board of Directors who are very approachable whenever we need them; which makes what we do much easier.



Kudos to Reg, our supervisor of animal care and the other bird handlers who help educate the public at the various events we attend. Whether at an event or a school presentation, children come away from these up close and personal encounters with our ambassador birds with an increased appreciation of wildlife and a sense of awe. Several kids have donated their birthday money to support what we do and this is evidence of the positive effect of our educational programs in the schools and at events as well as positive input from teachers and parents who instill these values in the children.

Lynda Hodgkinson – Chair, Special Events Committee



SPREADING OUR WINGS REPORT

At a strategic planning session four years ago, MARS members discussed some pressing problems: the caseload was increasing, straining the resources of our small wildlife hospital, and a larger flight pen was needed for recovering big bird patients. With no room to expand at our current location and no assurance that we would be able to continue operations because the property is in the Agricultural Land Reserve, the decision was made to find another, larger site.

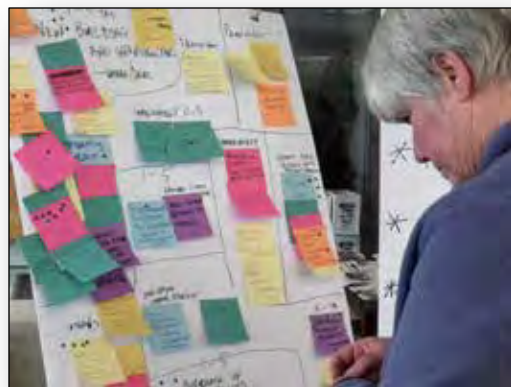
Just a few months later we learned that MARS was one of the beneficiaries of Michele Woodrow's estate. Michele's generous gift enabled us to put our plans into action. After a long and careful search, in February 2015, MARS purchased almost 11 acres of land near Williams Beach Road and the Old Island Highway (19A) in Merville.

In the past two years there have been many, many more planning sessions and hard concentrated work to raise the necessary funds and overcome obstacles that we did not foresee. There has also been a generous outpouring of support from our community. In addition to gifts of money, there have been huge donations of time and materials. We are reminded every day that we are building a wildlife rescue centre that belongs to and serves the community.

The new wildlife hospital is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy in a few weeks. The next priority is to build the large flight and conditioning enclosure ((120 X 40 X 24 feet high) to enhance our capacity to rehabilitate Eagles, and other big birds such as Snowy Owls, Sand Hill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, and Great Horned Owls.

Several businesses have stepped forward to sponsor new homes for our educational birds.

The last piece of our new wildlife rescue centre is the Visitor Discovery building which will be the first-ever home for our education program. We learned during the past year that a building designed for public assembly of more than 30 people requires an architect and were very fortunate to find an architectural firm in Victoria that offered to donate professional services to design this building. They share our desire to create a place where children and their families and people visiting the north Island can come to learn about wildlife and habitat and share their own knowledge and thoughts about living harmoniously with nature and wildness.



The estimated cost of all of this is close to \$1.5 Million. With fundraising, donations and estate gifts, MARS has invested almost \$850,000 to date to purchase and service the land and build the hospital. The next steps, construction of the flight pen and visitor building will require financing through a mortgage and more fundraising. Island Coastal Economic Trust will match our contributions up to a maximum amount of \$236,000 and the provincial government, through their Rural Dividend Fund, has given MARS a grant to hire staff to recruit volunteers and develop science based educational materials and displays for the Visitor Discovery Centre.

We began this development with the enthusiastic participation and support of our founder, Maj Birch. Unfortunately Maj is not with us today. If she were, Maj would almost certainly do a much better job of thanking you for your support and for inspiring us every day to continue her work. Thank you.

Pearl McKenzie, Vice President, Volunteer Board of Directors



2017 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The following Board members were elected for a two year term at the 2016 Annual General Meeting held on May 30, 2016 at the Merville Community Hall and will complete their term next year in 2018:

- Warren Warttig
- Julie Hunt
- Megan Burns
- Jamie Bryant
- Brian Mitchell
- Pearl McKenzie

Lenore Gibson and Laurie Ulm were also both elected to the MARS Board at the 2016 AGM but resigned during the year. We thank them for their valuable service on the Board.

The following Board members, who were elected in 2015 and are finishing their term this year, have indicated that they are willing to continue to serve as directors on the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society Board for a two year term to end in 2019. I nominate:

- John Turner
- Paul Jackman
- Lynda Hodgkinson

I also nominate three people who are new to the MARS Board but have been active volunteers with MARS:

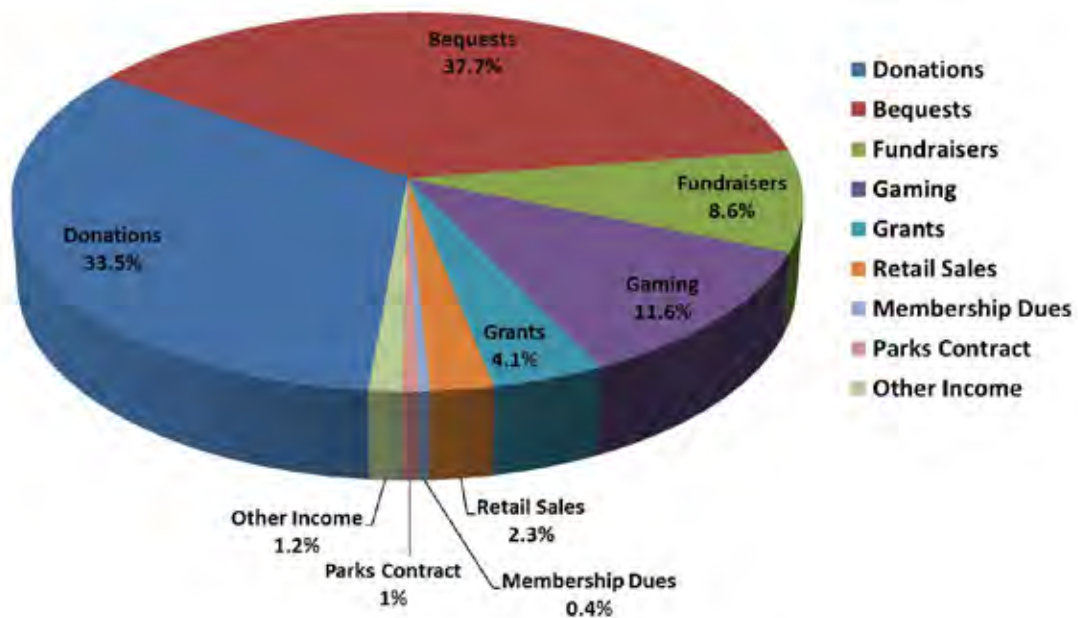
- Sue Sundby, worked closely with MARS for a number of years to develop and maintain our website;
- Ruth Hibberson, who has been a caregiving and education volunteer for some time; and
- Coral Taylor. Coral was appointed to the Board on March 22nd of this year to fill a vacancy. According to our bylaws, that appointment ends with the next annual general meeting, which is today. So, I take pleasure in nominating Coral Taylor to the Board of MARS. Coral is also a wildlife patient volunteer caregiver.



In summary, I am nominating to the MARS Board of Directors: Coral Taylor, Ruth Hibberson, Sue Sunby, Lynda Hodgkinson, Paul Jackman and John Turner.

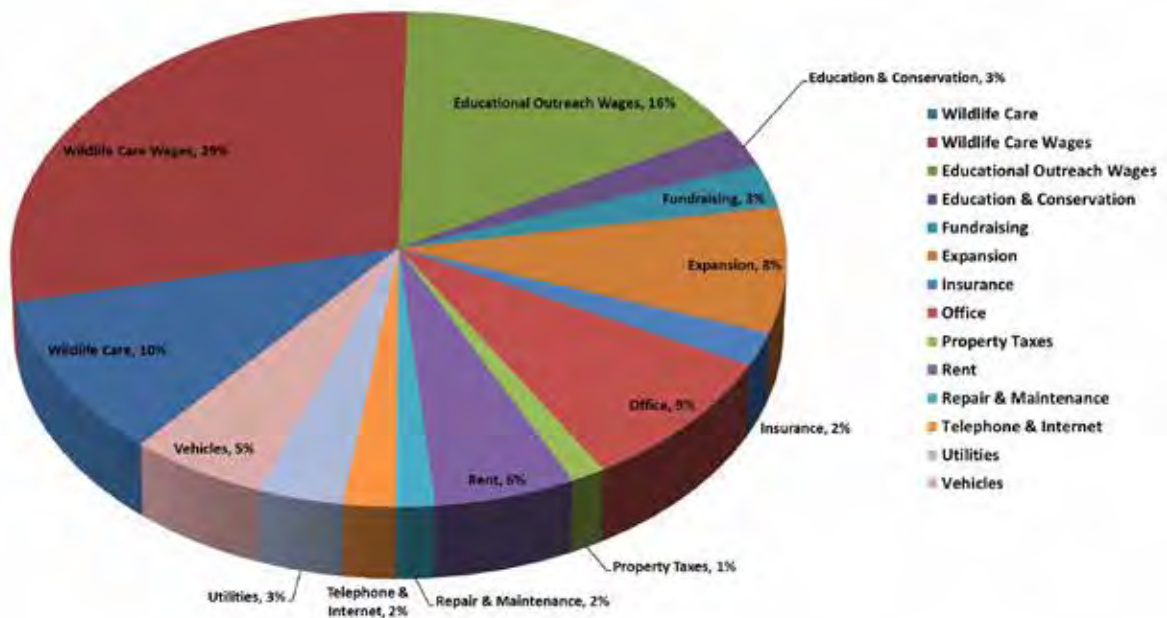
Pearl McKenzie, Chair of the Nominating Committee

Funding Sources



Total Income: \$533,010

Use of Funding



Total Expenditures: \$217,552

2017 AGM REVIEW ENGAGEMENT

MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY
Financial Statements
Year Ended February 28, 2017
(Unaudited)

MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY
Index to Financial Statements
Year Ended February 28, 2017
(Unaudited)

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Statement of Changes in Net Assets	3
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Statement of Cash Flows	5
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Kent A. Moeller, CPA, CA*
Kyle E. Matthews, CPA, CA*
* Incorporated Professional

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society,

We have reviewed the statement of financial position of Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society as at February 28, 2017 and the statements of revenue and expenses and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, accordingly, consisted primarily of inquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the Society.

A review does not constitute an audit and, consequently, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

In common with many charitable organizations, the Society derives revenue from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory verification using review procedures. Accordingly, our review of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Society and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenues over expenditures, current assets and net assets.

Based on our review, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of revenue from donations, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Campbell River, British Columbia
April 28, 2017

MOELLER MATTHEWS
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS



CHARTERED
PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS

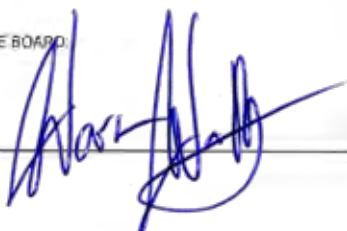
MOUNTAINE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AT FEBRUARY 28, 2017

	General Fund \$	Gaming Fund \$	New Mars Fund \$	TOTAL 2017 \$	TOTAL 2016 \$
ASSETS					
CURRENT					
Cash	21,316	21,683	342,788	385,787	161,367
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	60	188	25,428	25,676	1,203
Inventory (Note 5)	900	-	-	900	-
Prepaid expenses	3,624	-	8,300	9,924	660
	25,900	21,871	274,516	322,287	163,230
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (Note 6)	61,811	-	598,540	660,351	458,011
INTERFUND LOANS	(7,517)	129	7,388	-	-
	80,194	22,000	880,444	982,638	621,241
LIABILITIES					
CURRENT					
Accounts payable (Note 7)	9,921	-	38,927	48,848	7,413
	9,921	-	38,927	48,848	7,413
NET ASSETS					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	7,482	22,000	-	29,482	2,572
INTERNALLY RESTRICTED FUNDS	1,000	-	242,977	243,977	153,245
INVESTMENT IN PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	61,811	-	598,540	660,351	458,011
	70,293	22,000	841,517	933,790	613,828
	80,194	22,000	880,444	982,638	621,241

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:


Director

MOUNTAINE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

AT FEBRUARY 28, 2017

	General Fund \$	Gaming Fund \$	New Mars Fund \$	TOTAL 2017 \$	TOTAL 2016 \$
SURPLUS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	99,880	22,088	491,860	613,828	487,509
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(29,607)	(88)	349,557	319,962	126,319
SURPLUS - END OF YEAR	70,273	22,000	841,417	935,790	613,828

MOUNTAINE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

AT FEBRUARY 28, 2017

	General Fund \$	Gaming Fund \$	New Mars Fund \$	TOTAL 2017 \$	TOTAL 2016 \$
REVENUE					
Donations and Fundraising	80,206	19,427	374,803	484,436	216,199
Grant revenue	11,252	42,000	2,000	55,252	106,375
Memberships and other income	5,196	2	1,489	6,687	13,168
In-kind revenue (Note 5)	158,251	-	120,094	278,345	240,471
Eagle Fest revenue	620	-	-	620	4,745
Parks revenue	3,100	-	-	3,100	3,100
	<u>268,625</u>	<u>61,429</u>	<u>496,382</u>	<u>826,416</u>	<u>584,058</u>
EXPENSES					
Advertising	3,503	-	535	4,038	6,381
Amortization	9,886	-	1,189	11,072	9,166
Freight	12,284	-	250	12,522	14,475
In-kind (Note 5)	158,251	-	120,094	278,345	240,471
Insurance	158	2,287	2,250	4,695	2,210
Interest and bank charges	1,777	22	-	1,799	1,416
Office	6,295	244	1,341	7,880	5,224
Professional fees	4,430	-	75	4,505	5,219
Property taxes	-	-	2,968	2,968	852
Rent	4,650	6,750	-	11,400	9,000
Repairs and maintenance	2,970	277	241	3,488	1,284
Subcontractors	2,631	-	-	2,631	7,920
Supplies	17,152	4,920	12,441	34,525	44,551
Telephone	810	3,735	-	4,545	3,917
Utilities	3,253	4,063	1,157	7,473	4,815
Vehicle	8,084	2,319	160	11,572	10,396
Wages	62,110	38,898	5,982	104,970	90,040
	<u>298,232</u>	<u>61,517</u>	<u>148,705</u>	<u>508,454</u>	<u>467,739</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>(29,607)</u>	<u>(88)</u>	<u>349,657</u>	<u>317,962</u>	<u>116,319</u>

MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AT FEBRUARY 28, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	\$	\$
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN):		
Operating Activities		
Excess of revenue over expenses	319,962	126,319
Charges to income not involving cash:		
Amortization of property and equipment	11,072	9,166
Contributed assets	-	(7,375)
	<u>331,034</u>	<u>128,110</u>
Change in non-cash working capital:		
Changes in accounts receivable	(24,472)	9,121
Changes in inventory	(900)	-
Changes in accounts payable	41,435	(13,744)
Changes in prepaid expenses	(9,254)	(104)
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>337,833</u>	<u>123,383</u>
Investing Activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(213,413)	(12,000)
Cash flow used by investing activities	<u>(213,413)</u>	<u>(12,000)</u>
Financing Activities		
Repayment of short term debt	-	(30,000)
Cash flow used by financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(30,000)</u>
Change in Cash and Equivalents During Year	124,420	81,383
Cash and Equivalents - Beginning of Year	<u>161,367</u>	<u>79,984</u>
Cash and Equivalents - End of Year	<u>285,787</u>	<u>161,367</u>

MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended February 28, 2017

Unaudited

1. PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society (the "Society") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated provincially under the Society Act of British Columbia. As a registered charity the Society is exempt from the payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The Society operates to conserve and protect native wildlife and its natural habitat through education and rehabilitation.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Fund accounting

Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The General Fund accounts for the Society's program delivery and administrative activities. This fund reports unrestricted resources and restricted operating grants.

The Gaming Fund reports revenues and expenses, assets and liabilities related to the Community gaming grant as granted by the British Columbia Gaming Commission. Use of these funds is subject to specific limitations as specified by the British Columbia Gaming Commission.

The New MARS Fund reports assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses related to the expansion of the Mountaineer Avian Rescue Society's new hospital and interpretive centre.

Donated services and materials

The operation of the organization depends on the contribution of time by volunteers; donated materials from various sources, and donated services by professionals. The fair value of donated materials is determined at the time of donation, while the fair value of services are based on specific price lists and the value of donated time is based upon the British Columbia Gaming Commission guidelines of \$10/hr for general labour and \$25/hr for professional labour. The guidelines changed during the year so that all in-kind labour would be assigned a value of \$20/hr but this was not fully implemented by the Society during this fiscal year, as this change in no way impacts the net assets for the Society no adjustment was made.

Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFP).

(continues)

MOUNTAINE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended February 28, 2017

Unaudited

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes only cash on deposit with accredited Canadian financial institutions.

Property and equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Property and equipment is amortized over its estimated useful life on a declining balance basis at the following rates and methods:

Buildings	4%	declining balance method
Equipment	20%	declining balance method
Motor Vehicles	30%	declining balance method
Computer Equipment	50%	declining balance method
Furniture and fixtures	20%	declining balance method
Parking lot	8%	declining balance method

Property and equipment acquired during the year but not placed into use are not amortized until placed into use.

Revenue recognition

The Society follows the restricted fund method of accounting for revenue. Any restricted revenue not allocated to a specific fund is accounted for with the deferral method through the General Fund. The remaining revenue is recognized in the period received.

Financial instruments policy

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended February 28, 2017

(Unaudited)

4. PLEDGES

Included in the accounts receivable balance is a \$20,000 pledge. This was recognized in revenue during the current year as it relates to construction of the new hospital.

5. INVENTORY

The Society records inventory at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

6. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

	2017		2016	
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Cost	Accumulated amortization
Land	\$ 389,500	\$ -	\$ 389,500	\$ -
Buildings	228,362	11,856	47,777	10,360
Equipment	6,029	5,020	6,029	4,978
Motor vehicles	43,836	28,096	40,548	22,033
Computer equipment	4,207	4,207	4,207	4,207
Furniture and fixtures	32,935	23,793	32,935	21,507
Parking lot	29,640	1,186	-	-
	<u>\$ 734,509</u>	<u>\$ 74,158</u>	<u>\$ 521,096</u>	<u>\$ 63,085</u>
Net book value	<u>\$ 660,351</u>		<u>\$ 458,011</u>	

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

	2017	2016
Accounts Payable	\$ 44,330	\$ 4,643
MasterCard Payable	992	-
El Payable	360	278
CPP Payable	674	545
Federal Income Tax Payable	835	1,119
Vacation Payable	1,258	828
GST Payable	399	-
	<u>\$ 48,848</u>	<u>\$ 7,413</u>

8. LONG TERM DEBT

The Society has been offered a loan from Community Futures Strathcona for up to \$45,450 to assist with the construction of their new facility. The loan is repayable over five years with monthly payments of \$552 which contain both interest and principal portions.

MOUNTAINAIRE AVIAN RESCUE SOCIETY

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended February 28, 2017

Unaudited

9. IN-KIND DONATIONS

	2017	2016
Donated Labour In-kind	\$ 158,251	\$ 180,323
Donated Labour In-kind New MARS	120,094	19,114
Expensed Labour In-kind	(158,251)	(180,323)
Expensed Labour In-kind New MARS	(120,094)	(19,114)
	\$ -	\$ -

In-Kind labour is calculated using guidelines from the British Columbia Gaming Commission. During 2017, the Society received 3,033 hours of skilled labour (4,211 – 2016), 6,827 hours of general labour (4,287 – 2016) and 3,853 hours of Board member time (1,971 – 2016). General labour is assigned \$10/hr while skilled and Board member time is charged at \$25/hr. Each hour is treated as revenue and expense resulting in no impact on the excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses.

The guidelines changed during the year so that all In-kind labour would be assigned a value of \$20/hr but this was not fully implemented by the Society during this fiscal year, as this change in no way impacts the net assets for the Society no adjustment was made.

10. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides information about the Society's risk exposure and concentration as of February 28, 2017. There has been no change in this analysis from the prior year.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The majority of the Society's accounts receivable is due from the Government of Canada. The Society is currently not exposed to significant credit risk.

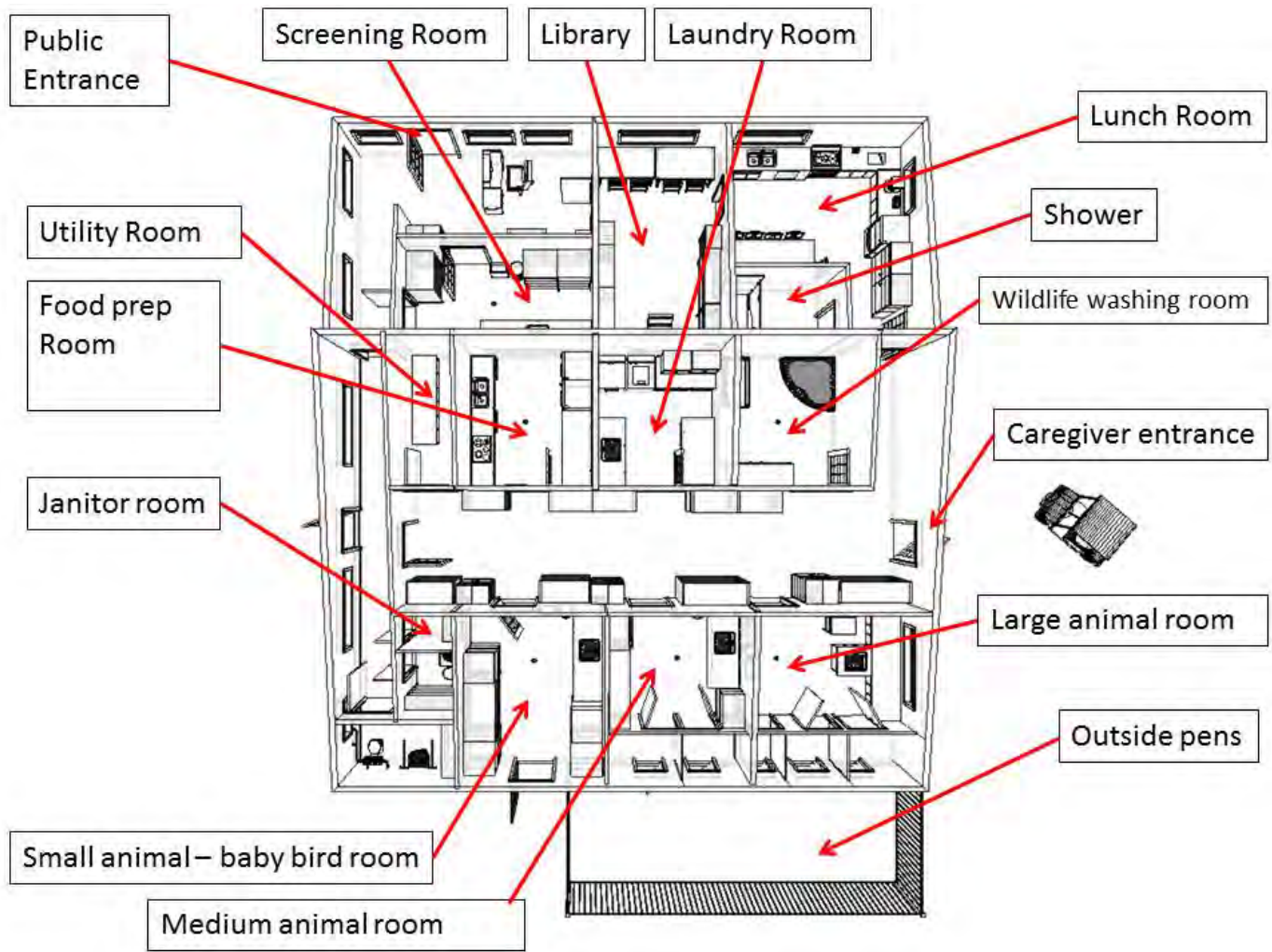
Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Society is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its receipt of funds from its funders and donors and other related sources and accounts payable. Due to its cash position, the Society is currently not exposed to significant liquidity risk.

APPENDIX 1 – PROPERTY DESIGN OF NEW-MARS 2016



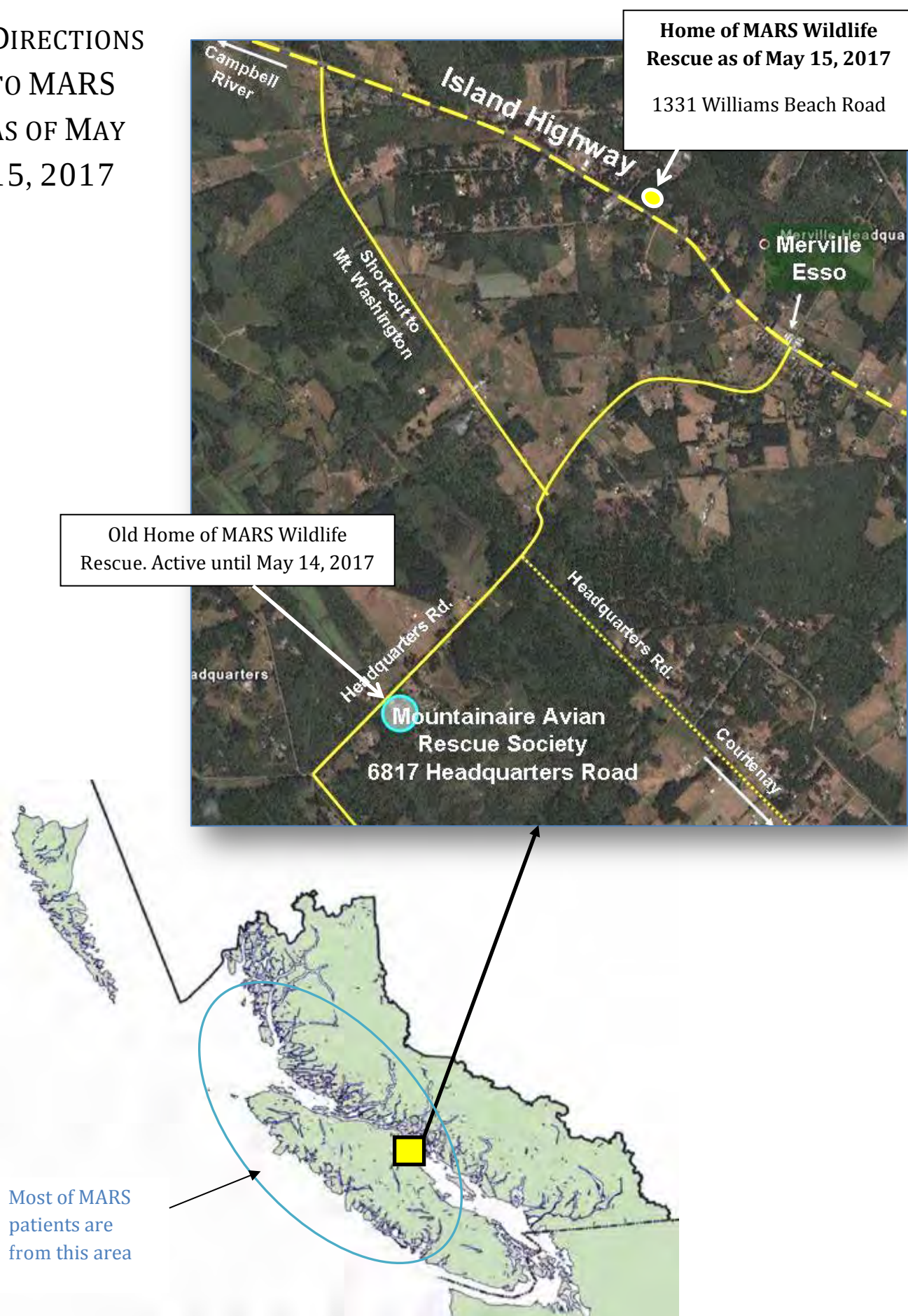
APPENDIX 2 – ANIMAL HOSPITAL FLOOR PLAN (PHASE 1 AND 2)



Check out our Flight Club. You can own a virtual square foot of the new flight cage
www.marswildliferescue.com



DIRECTIONS
TO MARS
AS OF MAY
15, 2017



Please find my cheque enclosed for my membership: Membership Category: Individual \$15, Senior/Student \$10, Family \$25

Plus an additional donation for a total Amount of: \$

MARS Wildlife Rescue, Box 415, 1331 Williams Beach Road, Merville, BC Canada, V0R 2M0

Tax Receipt Requested?		Yes	No	(Receipt cannot be issued for membership fees)

Please charge my:	Visa	MasterCard
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[illegible]

A one time charge of: \$ _____

A monthly charge of: \$ _____
(I may cancel this authorization at any time with written notice)

Signature: _____

Name:	
Address:	
City & Postal Code:	
e-mail:	
Phone Number:	

All information will be kept within MARS and NOT made available to anyone else without your written permission.

Please call (250) 337-2021 if you have any questions.