



VIRTUAL PRESENTATIONS ON COMPASSION FOR WILDLIFE

2022 Final Report for the
Ontario Wildlife Foundation



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SANDY PINES WILDLIFE CENTRE

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre (SPWC) is a wildlife hospital in Napanee, Ontario that rehabilitates sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. We admit over 6,000 patients every year, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. In addition to treating wildlife, our mandate includes offering advice to community members in conflict with wildlife and teaching children about wild animals in an educational program called 'Love Wildlife'.

'Love Wildlife' Education Program

The 'Love Wildlife' education program was launched in September 2019, with the aim of teaching students empathy and compassion toward wildlife. When the pandemic began in 2020, we halted in-person programs and started to offer virtual presentations. With the support of donors like the Ontario Wildlife Foundation (OWF), we have been able to keep the cost of virtual presentations free (with donations welcomed) and have expanded our reach to schools across the province.

Project Plan

Our plan for the education program was grouped into three categories: Program Design, Program Delivery, and Administration. The following is a **final report** on our work completed since September 2021 in relation to the grant received from the OWF.



SPWC Staff feeding an orphaned porcupine, 2022.



Bat with a wing fracture in triage, 2022.

PROGRAM DESIGN

From September 2021-July 2022, we anticipated completing the following tasks:

Review teacher feedback from 2020/2021 and update existing presentations based on feedback.

After reviewing feedback, we revised 2 out of the 3 existing presentations to make them more interactive with new games, problem solving activities, and more opportunities for body movement (i.e., dancing, singing, and more). The two updated presentations were 'Change for Wildlife' (with new fall, winter, and spring versions) for Kindergarten - Grade 3 classes and 'Working with Wildlife' for Grade 7-12 classes.

Gather footage of patients and staff with our existing camera and an upgraded microphone and create a series of new videos for the presentations using updated software.

New footage was gathered throughout the the school year including treatment of rare species like a Golden Eagle and Bobcat. Many species-at-risk were also filmed, including Gray Rat Snakes, Barn Swallows, and Blanding's Turtles. With this footage, we have added a greater diversity of wildlife to the presentation videos, which addressed feedback from teachers last year who wanted to see more animals. Video editing and exporting is notably faster using the new iMac and Final Cut Pro software. Additionally, the new lapel microphone has improved the quality of sound for our participants, especially during live virtual tours.



Juvenile Blanding's Turtle prior to release in spring, 2022.



Create a pre-visit and post-visit learning package for the 'Working with Wildlife' presentation.

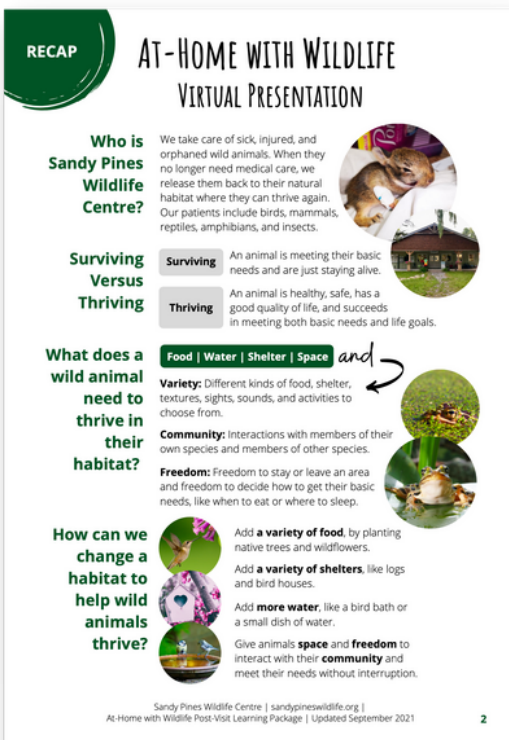
This task was started in fall 2021 and was completed in January 2022. The new learning packages are now available on our website for educators to download for free when they book a 'Working with Wildlife' presentation.



Update existing pre-visit and post-visit learning packages for 'Caring for Wildlife' and 'At-Home with Wildlife', to reflect new presentation content.

Slides in the new 'Wildlife-at-Risk' virtual presentation for Grades 6-8, 2022.

The learning packages for 'Change for Wildlife' (formerly 'Caring for Wildlife') and 'At-Home with Wildlife' were updated to reflect new content. They are now available on our website for teachers to download free of charge once a presentation is booked.



Set up a new 'Mindful Wildlife Observation' project on iNaturalist.ca.

Upon reviewing the iNaturalist project piloted in 2020/2021, we chose to close the project this year due to a lack of participation. Instead, we have focused on adding more opportunities for mindfulness practices in our virtual presentations. This is most notable in a new presentation launched in fall 2021 called 'Wildlife-at-Risk' for grades 6-8. In this presentation, students learn about species-at-risk in Ontario and how to help their populations thrive through a series of breathing, visualization, and reflection activities.

This presentation is connected to a 5-part video series launched in April 2022, which was accompanied by 5 lesson plans. Each lesson includes a section to share about personal experiences with wildlife, connections between wildlife and one's life, Indigenous allyship in connection with wildlife advocacy, taking action for wildlife, and reflections on one's experience of the content. These lessons were created with the support of former Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ) Environmental Services Supervisor Nicole Storms ~ Karennenha:wi who offered themes for lessons and full review of the content. The lesson plans are available for free on our website and the videos are available on our YouTube channel.

Create a new presentation on Turtles and Turtle Island, with the support of Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (MBQ).

At the time of writing our grant application, we were working with Nicole Storms ~ Karennenha:wi of MBQ who expressed interest in supporting this project. Since then, Karennenha:wi left MBQ and a new Environmental Services Supervisor has stepped into the role. In winter 2022, we connected with the new Environmental Services Supervisor - Megan Murphy - who has partnered with us on this project. Filming began in spring 2022 and is expected to be completed in fall 2022. The new presentation launch is now scheduled for January 2023.



Footage of students at the Haudenosaunee Opportunity for Personal Education (HOPE) Alternative Learning Program building turtle nest protectors in Tyendinaga, 2022. Footage will be used in the new Turtles of Turtle Island virtual presentation.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

With the support of the OWF, we were able to purchase new computers for the Education Coordinator and Wildlife Educator. This allowed us to offer presentations on all three platforms permitted at schools; Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, and Zoom. As a result, we have been able to teach at more school boards -and teach more classes - across Ontario compared to previous years.

From October 2021 - June 2022, we aim to deliver more than 250 presentations. The following provides a summary of our program delivery statistics from October 1, 2021 - June 28, 2022.

Virtual Platforms Used (% of total classes)

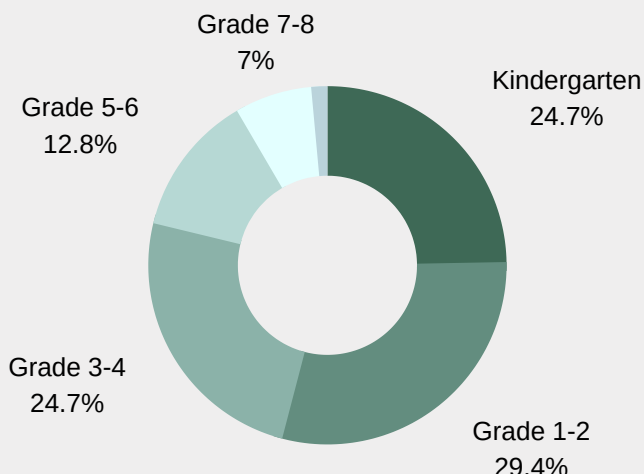
Google Meet	45
Microsoft Teams	36
Zoom	18

Over
7,000
Students
Reached

42
School Boards
Participated

358
Programs
Delivered

Participating Grades



ADMINISTRATION

The chart below provides a summary of our administrative work for the 'Love Wildlife' education program from September 2021 - July 2022.

Task

Status

Design a new poster for marketing on Canva.

Complete, with the OWF logo included on the poster.

Organize two survey draws for prizes from Lee Valley and the Urban Nature Store.

Complete. The first draw was in January 2022 and the second was in June 2022.

Evaluate the virtual presentations project and write project reports.

Complete. A work plan has been created for the upcoming school year to keep improving our program.

Promote the virtual presentations.

Complete. A volunteer supported us in marketing the program in winter 2022.

Coordinate bookings with teachers using our Google Calendar.

Complete. With the influx of bookings, we purchased automated booking software.

Send pre-visit and post-visit learning packages to all teachers who book a presentation.

Complete. Links to the packages were sent with confirmation and reminder emails.

Record data after each presentation (i.e., number of children who attended).

Complete. All program statistics are organized in an Excel Spreadsheet.

Send follow-up surveys to teachers using Microsoft Forms to gather feedback on the program.

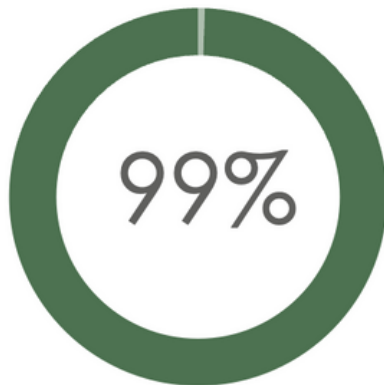
Complete. We received feedback from 145 educators in the 2021/2022 school year.



1. Poster promoting the virtual education program, 2022.
2. Page from the updated 'Change for Wildlife' post-visit learning package, 2022.

PROJECT BUDGET

Percentage of OWF Grant Spent



Summary

TOTAL INCOME FROM OWF

\$4,714

TOTAL EXPENSES WITH OWF FUNDS

\$4,687

BALANCE

\$27

Project Income from OWF

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Ontario Wildlife Foundation	\$4,714.02

Additional Confirmed Project Income

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre	\$10,000.00
CFKA: Community Foundation	\$5,309.81
Trailhead Kingston	\$1,625.00
Donations for the Education Progr.	\$5,477.00

Total Project Income

\$27,125.83

Project Expenses with non-OWF Funding

September 2021 - July 2022

ITEM	AMOUNT
Salary (Coordinator)	\$17,286
Salary (Educator)	\$5,721

Total Project Expenses

\$27,694.68

Expenses from OWF Funding

ITEM	ANTICIPATED \$	ACTUAL \$
Laptop	\$1,298.37	\$1,017.89
Desktop Computer	\$1,806.87	\$1,772.97
Final Cut Pro	\$451.99	\$451.99
Rhode Wireless Mic	\$293.79	\$271.19
Rhode Lavalier Mic	\$112.99	\$115.35
Standing Desk	\$220.35	\$192.10
Canva Subscription	\$155.88	\$149.99
Zoom Subscription - Due in May	\$193	\$100.00
Bluetooth Headphones 1	\$90.39	\$71.24
Bluetooth Headphones 2	\$90.39	\$0.00
Multiport Adaptor for New Desktop		\$95.99
Microsoft 365 for New Desktop and Laptop		\$123.17
External Hardrive for New Desktop		\$158.53
Rhode Patch Cable for New Mics		\$22.59
Calendly Software for Booking		\$144.32
TOTAL	\$4,714.02	\$4,687.32

PROJECT BUDGET COMMENTARY

Project Income and non-OWF Expenses

In addition to receiving funds from the OWF, we also received a grant from the Community Foundation for Kingston and Area and Trailhead Kingston. The latter funds supported the salary of both educators as they developed and delivered the virtual presentations.

With a higher number of bookings than anticipated, we went over budget by \$568.85 on the salary of our educators. We have adjusted the number of classes we teach per day for the upcoming 2022/2023 school year to ensure we stay within our budget parameters.

Expenses from OWF Funding

We had anticipated paying full price for all items described in the original budget, but were able to source many of the items at a discounted cost. In addition, upon purchasing the new iMac, we no longer needed two sets of headphones as our existing headphones were compatible with the iMac.

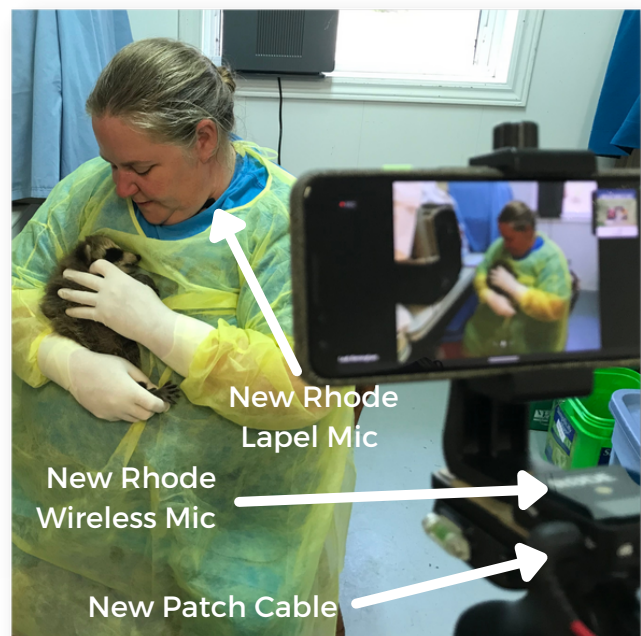
With the money saved, we purchased additional items that we did not originally anticipate, but proved necessary for the new equipment to function in the way we needed.

This included a multiport adapter for the iMac to accept SD cards from our camera and an external hard drive to store all video footage from SPWC,

We also needed a patch cable for the new microphones to work with our existing phone during the live virtual presentations.

With the influx of booking requests that went beyond our predictions, we also purchased an automated booking software called Calendly to reduce the growing administration costs of scheduling teachers manually. With this upgrade, we have allocated more time to program development and delivery.

Lastly, we required Microsoft 365 on the new iMac *and* new laptop to build the new presentations (PowerPoint), write our presentation scripts (Word), track project finances (Excel), and collect feedback from teachers (Forms).



SPWC Staff using new equipment funded by OWF in a live virtual presentation, 2022.

APPENDIX A: TESTIMONIALS

The following are comments offered by teachers in the post-visit survey, after receiving a presentation in the 2021/2022 school year.

"We absolutely loved our presentation with Sandy Pines! The presenters connected with the students and presented in a way that was engaging to them and appropriate for their age. I would recommend this experience to everyone!"

- Kindergarten Teacher, ALCDSB

"This program encompassed everything I hope for my students to understand about animals in order to care for their well being as they grow up. Not only did my students learn about the harm simple human actions can have on local wildlife, they also gained a greater understanding of animal adaptations and real changes they can do to help support our local wildlife! I highly recommend these presentations, as virtual activities for this age group (k-3) is not an easy task, and our presenter Janet was highly engaging!"

- Grade 2 Teacher, TVDSB

"Our Instructor was patient and full of energy! Jess did an amazing job navigating my very talkative class, ensuring that all of my students felt heard and stayed engaged. There was a great balance between the interactive games, videos and conversations. It was a perfect ending to our Living Things Unit, and there were many connections to the Science Curriculum. After the presentation there was a lot of excitement, and my students couldn't wait to draw and write about all that they had learned!"

- Grade 1 Teacher, PDSB

"This presentation was exceptional. We have done many virtual presentations this past year and this was by far the best; in quality, content, fun, and just overall well done. The content focused a lot on indigenous peoples and their land thoughtfully which was so appreciated and connected well to modern issues we speak about in our classroom.

The focus on meditation, thoughtfulness and mindfulness was incredible and truly engaged my students. I cannot say enough about how amazing this presentation was (Wildlife at Risk Grades 6-8) as well as the video series. Absolutely fantastic."

- Grade 5/6 Teacher, PVNCCDSB

"What a wonderful presentation! It was so interactive and engaging with lots of opportunities for the kids to interact and move their bodies. We loved learning how we can be kind to animals."

-Kindergarten Teacher, RCCDSB

"Sandy Pines models true compassion, knowledge, and respect for animals."

- Kindergarten Teacher, LDSB

"SPWC is a great support to have when teaching Biodiversity and connections to the land. My students were very interested in the care these animals receive as well as the variety of animals that are under your care. The online program we participated in (Grade 5/6, Wildlife At Risk) was engaging and well planned."

- Grade 5/6 Teacher, ALCDSB