



*Come on In! - Explore, Discover, Learn & Play*

## THANKSGIVING: More than just a day...

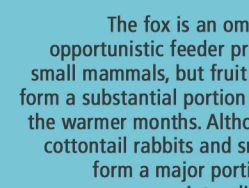
It's October once again, which means that in addition to pumpkin spice and cozy socks'n sweaters, it's also a time for expressing heartfelt gratitude for all the wonderful things we have...like you, our Donors, Sponsors, Volunteers and Staff.

On behalf of the Allan Brooks Nature Centre, we're exceptionally grateful to you and the generosity you've shown. Your support is invaluable - your thoughtfulness and sacrifice are appreciated beyond words; and so, in the spirit of giving thanks, we sincerely hope this season serves as a wonderful reminder of the best and most important things in life...the people and the memories we make.

Together we can and are making a difference - Thank you for being there for us.

Sincerely,

Allan Brooks Nature Centre and the critters who call it home.

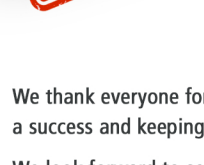


The fox is an omnivorous, opportunistic feeder preying mainly on small mammals, but fruit and invertebrates form a substantial portion of their diet during the warmer months. Although, in the winter cottontail rabbits and small rodents will form a major portion of their winter diet.

Source: [https://www.inaturalist.org/guide\\_taxa/340263](https://www.inaturalist.org/guide_taxa/340263)

## MEGA GARAGE SALE

During a season of relentless wildfires, the ongoing pandemic, and the loss of a day due to extreme winds – it was another successful year for our annual Fall MEGA Garage Sale! Having raised approximately \$15,000 we're exceptionally pleased; and in spite of the challenges, it was a wonderful opportunity to connect and reconnect with so many people in and around the community!



### Success takes a community

Events like these are really about "community" and "coming together". The success of our annual garage sale wouldn't have been possible without the hard work from our dedicated team of volunteers who worked tirelessly for weeks to ensure guests received a wonderful experience, our wonderful donors who graciously donated items in need of a new home, and garage sale enthusiasts who so kindly made space in their hearts and homes for their new-found treasures...and of course, [Elephant Storage](#) for providing cover throughout the garage sale.

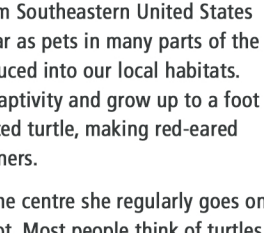
We thank everyone for their contribution in helping to make our 2021 fall garage sale a success and keeping nature alive in the Okanagan!

We look forward to seeing everyone again in the spring for our annual plant sale!

## CRITTER SPOTLIGHT: Smile the Turtle

By Kellie Montgomery ....ABNC Volunteer

Here at the Nature Centre we have a lot of fun critters that run around during the Summer months that you can spot, anything from yellow bellied marmots, birds of every shape and feather, and gopher snakes.



But inside the Centre we have a wide variety of animals to see as well, one of the animals we have here is our red-eared slider named Smile. Smile, unlike the native painted turtle, is an invasive species that originates from Southeastern United States all the way down to Brazil. Red-eared sliders are popular as pets in many parts of the world, this is likely how this species of turtle got introduced into our local habitats. Red-eared sliders can live for as long as forty years in captivity and grow up to a foot in length, about 5-6 inches bigger than our native painted turtle, making red-eared sliders a challenging pet to own for unprepared pet owners.

Smile is a wonderful pet full of personality though, at the centre she regularly goes on walks through the garden or basks in a secure sunny spot. Most people think of turtles as slow but she's anything but, during the warm Summer months, she likes playing hide and seek in the Oregon grape bushes, so much so that we wish we could tie a balloon around her, so we always know where she runs off too. Another of her favourite activities is giving you a heart attack as she tries to do parkour, climbing up and over rocks, and trying her hardest to climb trees. Everywhere you don't want her to go, she will, whether it be making a break for the hill, the door, or the dense prickly bushes, she always keeps us on our toes.



## TIPS & ADVICE

Have you noticed an increase in bear activity lately? Maybe you've seen one wandering the streets of your neighborhood or maybe you caught a glimpse of one scouting about on your security cam! As the temperatures dip, bear sightings tend to increase as they wander around foraging for food prior to settling down for hibernation.

Pre-hibernation is an important time for bears which is why they eat day and night and rarely turn down a snack – in fact, brown bears can eat up to 90 pounds of food a day during this time. Which is why it's important we all do our part to help keep bears...and ourselves safe.

### Safety Tips

- If you're concerned about safety while jogging or hiking, bear spray is an effective way to protect yourself as well as bears, but always make sure you know how to use it and keep it within easy reach.
- Avoid inviting bears into your home by keeping doors and windows closed... and locked!
- Consider removing bird feeders until mid-December.
- Ensure pet food, livestock feed and trash are kept indoors or in bear-proof containers.
- For chicken coops, beehives, gardens and compost consider installing an electric fence can be very effective...turns out bears don't like to be zapped!

## NATURES FARE 3% CLUB

Did you know you can support ABNC by simply doing your grocery shopping? That's right, we're a member of the [Nature's Fare 3% CLUB](#) – a program designed to help nonprofit organizations, just like us, raise funds.

**How it works:** Every time you shop at [Nature's Fare Markets](#) they donate 3% of the total (before tax) to us when you give us your receipts. Every little bit counts...and they can really add up!

### Donating is as easy as 1, 2... 3!

1. Shop at Nature's Fare Markets
2. Bring your receipts to Allan Brooks Nature Centre to be added to our 3% Club box
3. Tell your friends and family!

If you've supported us via the 3% CLUB, we thank you for your contribution. If you weren't aware we're a 3% CLUB member, we hope you'll consider donating your receipts the next time you shop Nature's Fare Markets.

When you donate, you're helping to bring nature to life in the Okanagan!



the  
**3%**  
CLUB

Community  
giving  
program

## SEASON COMING TO A CLOSE

It's that time of year again...the time of year when the days get cooler, the nights get longer, and Allan Brooks Nature Centre bids farewell... until spring.

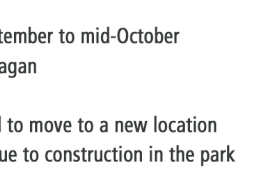
It's been a remarkable year – our summer students and volunteers have helped share laughter, knowledge, and community spirit in their efforts to bring nature to life. Watching everyone work together to fulfil a shared vision it's easy to understand what "community" is all about.

We thank you for your support and for being an inspiration to us all. We look forward to teaming with you once again in 2022 and continuing to make a difference together.

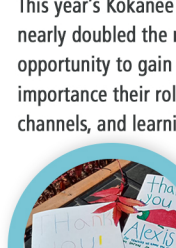
**The Interpretive Centre will be closing for the season end of day Saturday, October 23 until spring of 2022.**

While the Interpretive Centre is closing for the season, our **grasslands remain open year-round** Tuesday – Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM! We welcome you to join us on the hill... to unplug, explore nature's landscape with family and friends, or take in the glorious views on your own for quiet moments of reflection...maybe take a photo or two or use the opportunity to capture family photos!

We thank everyone for their support throughout 2021 and look forward to seeing you in Spring 2022!



## 2021 KOKANEE SALMON PROGRAM



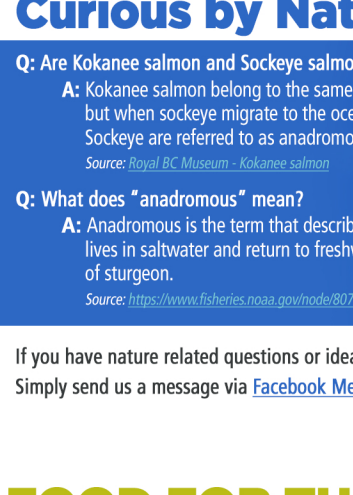
### Program Highlights:

- 21 salmon programs between mid-September to mid-October
- 12 schools throughout the North Okanagan
- 570 students (and 1 bear!)
- Bear appeared on day 1 - we had to move to a new location
- New location ended up closing due to construction in the park

And that's a wrap...our [Kokanee Salmon program](#) for 2021 has come to an end! It's been a crazy hectic but incredibly rewarding few weeks.

Our Kokanee Salmon Program is a learning adventure that offers students the opportunity to acquire knowledge in the salmon's natural environment - which in turn helps students build better, stronger relationships with nature and their natural surroundings.

This year's Kokanee Salmon Program was well received by North Okanagan schools and nearly doubled the number of programs we've done in the past years. Students enjoyed the opportunity to gain a better understanding the life cycle of the kokanee salmon and the importance their role plays in the ecosystem by discovering the salmon's habitat, spawning channels, and learning about the hazards salmon face during spawning.



Cards from Grade 4  
St. James School students.

### A very special Thank you to:

- All of the schools and teachers who brought their students to [Creekside park](#) to participate in our programming and experience the Kokanee Salmon spawning.
- The [District of Coldstream](#) for working with us to help make the experience a success – the delivery of a porta potty for the students was greatly appreciated.
- Grade 4 students from St. James School for gifting us these wonderful cards!

## Curious by Nature

**Q: Are Kokanee salmon and Sockeye salmon the same?**

**A:** Kokanee salmon belong to the same species as sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), but when sockeye migrate to the ocean to grow to maturity, Kokanee remain in lakes. Sockeye are referred to as anadromous fish while Kokanee are landlocked.

Source: [Royal BC Museum - Kokanee salmon](#)

**Q: What does "anadromous" mean?**

**A:** Anadromous is the term that describes fish born in freshwater who spend most of their lives in saltwater and return to freshwater to spawn, such as salmon and some species of sturgeon.

Source: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/node/8071>

If you have nature related questions or ideas, you'd like to share - we'd like to hear from you. Simply send us a message via [Facebook Messenger!](#)

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

With Thanksgiving over and Halloween just around the corner rather than toss your pumpkins in the trash, why not transform them into healthy snacks for critters of all kinds...birds, squirrels, porcupines, foxes, deer, insects and other creepy-crawlies too!

Both the seeds and flesh of the pumpkin can be enjoyed by critters. Many animals roaming nature's wild-side will happily enjoy the pumpkin whole, while others prefer it served as a bit-sized snacks.

However, you choose to serve it, critters will appreciate the tasty treat - just be careful not to feed pumpkins that have been painted, as the paint could be toxic.

