

Our mission is: To engage the community through activities and awareness to conserve a truly unique naturalized urban park.

SHOW YOUR  
LOVE FOR  
FISH CREEK  
AND YOU  
COULD  
WIN \$10,000!

FUNDRAISER RUNS  
OCT 1 - 31,  
2022



The Friends of Fish Creek invite you to take part in our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual I ❤️ Fish Creek online fundraiser! By participating in I ❤️ Fish Creek, you will be helping to ensure that future generations can enjoy this park as much as we do today, and long into the future. Whether you are a member, donor, volunteer, and/or supporter, we hope you will join in the fun and help the Friends reach our fundraising goal of \$20,000!

- Bid on amazing silent auction items donated by local businesses and organizations
- Purchase your 50/50 raffle ticket online for a chance to win up to \$10,000
- Make a donation and receive a valuable tax receipt
- Share your favourite Fish Creek experience

By supporting the Friends through this fundraiser you can be sure that your contribution will be used effectively and efficiently right here in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

For more information please visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/love> Photo, Kevin Trickett



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# KINSMEN OF CALGARY SUPPORTS STEWARDSHIP VEHICLES

CHRIS LALONDE, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



In early 2020, our friends at InLine Pigging Solutions donated to the Friends a Dodge 5500, and at the end of 2021 they generously gave us a Ford F150. You may have seen these vehicles out on the pathways or within the city during the spring, summer or autumn. These trucks have proven to be essential for our stewardship activities like watering, tree-wrapping, hauling equipment and countless other activities in and around the park.

While the trucks were generously gifted to us, there are ongoing expenses associated with them, such as fuel, maintenance, repairs and insurance. The Friends would like to thank the Kinsmen Club of Calgary for their most generous contribution of \$24,000 through their Major Projects Program to assist with vehicle-related costs, which will be disbursed equally over the next three years.

We would like to also extend our gratitude to Ron

Friends volunteer Ron Deshayes, third from the left, at the Kinsmen cheque presentation at the Calgary Stampede on July 15. Photo courtesy of the Kinsmen Club

Deshayes, long-time Kinsmen Club member and one of our most dedicated volunteers, for helping to secure this very generous grant.

These trucks are incredible resources that enable the Friends to not only become self-sufficient, but also allow us to take on more tasks and increase our reach and scope of activities within the park. Thank you again to the Kinsmen Club of Calgary for supporting the long term sustainability of Fish Creek Provincial Park through this essential funding opportunity.



## THANK YOU CASINO VOLUNTEERS

On September 6 and 7 the Friends held our Casino Fundraiser at the Deerfoot Inn & Casino, and we would like to thank all of the volunteers who came out to help with this important fundraiser. Thank you to Christina Arnold, Sheila Carter, Joe and Toni Cavar, Ron Deshayes, Rita Dickson, Charis Falardeau and Michael Topham, Doreen Fulton, Phil Greer, Glenn Hamilton, Cathy Haugen, Susan Hoover, Stephen Hyde, Stanley Ingham, John and Annette Jerse, Murray and Susan Karn, Olivia Laing, Joe Lazowski, Shelley MacLellan, Amber McMunn, Wayne Meikle, Margaret Moule, Marnel Muller, Wes Mundy, David Pethrick, Neil Puffer and Joyce Crew, Doug Scott, Karen Sloan-Beitzel, Kevin Tanasichuk, and Rick Volpel. The Casino fundraiser takes place every 18 months, but due to the pandemic we had not held a Casino since 2018. It was great to return to the Deerfoot this year and reconnect with some of our amazing volunteers. Thank you again to everyone who came out. Photo, Pixabay



FISH CREEK SPEAKER SERIES

# SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS TO FISH CREEK ELC

KATIE BAKKEN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

We are so happy to announce that the Fish Creek Speaker Series is returning to the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre for the 2022/2023 season, and in an even more accessible format!

For over 15 years , the Fish Creek Speaker Series (FCSS) has been bringing in professionals from a variety of fields to share their knowledge and experiences. Although education is a key goal, the original intention of the series was to bring Friends’ members together regularly to build relationships and community.

The pandemic showed us the power of the internet to bring people together who might not otherwise be able to gather. Now we are putting technology to work to increase accessibility for audience members who may not be able to attend in person, and so we can bring in presenters from further afield.

For most of this year’s scheduled presentations, community members will have the choice of either attending in person or tuning in remotely. For a select few of this year’s events (mostly in the darker winter months), we have arranged geographically-distant speakers, and so those events will take place on the virtual platform only (no in person event).

**October** - Assessing Factors of Environmental Stewardship Success\*\*

**November** - Greater Sage-Grouse Adopt-a-Lek Program \*

**January** - Invasive Species in Alberta\*\*

**February** - Wild Wolf Watching in Yellowstone National Park\*

**March** - Environmental Impacts of Effluent Release\*

\*\*in person and online    \*online only

We are working to maximize accessibility for all, whether attending these talks in person or online. For



those who choose to attend in person at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre (ELC), hand sanitizer and masks will be available and chairs will be spaced a bit further apart than usual.

We understand that for many, the option of tuning in online from home may continue to be the most accessible option. With support from the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association’s Calgary Chapter, the Spring 2022 Fish Creek Speaker Series online events featured live captioning to improve accessibility for all, including those who are hard of hearing or deaf, and also for those who prefer visual stimuli.

We are in the process of determining whether or not we are able to provide this service moving forward. If you or someone you know would benefit from this virtual service, please call Katie at 403-238-3841 ext. 6.

We are seeking community feedback to increase accessibility of Fish Creek Speaker Series events - either in-person at the Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre or online via Zoom – for those who experience either visual or hearing challenges including deafness, hard of hearing, blindness or partial sight.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FCSSaccessibility>

*-Cont’d on next page*



FISH CREEK SPEAKER SERIES CONT'D

For the 2022/2023 Fish Creek Speaker Series season, refreshments will be supported through donations. If you feel refreshments are an important part of these events, please consider making a donation at the refreshments table, either via cash, cheque, debit or credit.

In an attempt to space our Speaker Series events out from partnering agencies offering similar events, we are now aiming to schedule FCSS events on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thursday of the month, however actual dates are, as always, dependent on presenter availability.

FCSS events are free for Friends Members, \$10 for non-members, and free for youth under 16 with a registered adult. For those tuning in online, only one ticket is required per device.

Lots of changes, but lots to look forward to, and we can't wait to gather together with you this fall!

2022 GET TO KNOW NATURE FREE FAMILY EVENTS

**Get to Know the Night Sky** - Saturday, October 29, 2022 - 7:00pm-10:00pm

Fish Creek Environmental Learning Centre, Shannon Terrace

Get an up-close view of stars and planets through a telescope

**Get to Know the Changing Seasons** - Saturday, November 26, 2022 - 1:00pm-3:00pm

Outdoors, Bow Valley Ranch, Try tobogganing and snowshoeing (If there is snow)

- Roast a marshmallow, listen to a story and warm up by the campfire
- Take in a walking tour, learn about birds and wildlife, hunt for tracks
- Discover how you can protect nature and wildlife when you visit parks and natural areas.

Thanks to the Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation and to everyone who donated during our Giving Tuesday Campaign in November 2021 in support of these Get to Know Nature events.

<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/know/>

Harry & Martha  
Cohen  
Foundation



The Friends are pleased to partner with Tru Earth, a Canadian company that focuses on creating eco-friendly household goods. Tru Earth's products are designed to function the same - or better - than traditional products, but without all the plastic and other chemicals that are harmful for the planet. Order your Tru Earth household products today and the Friends of Fish Creek will earn at least 20% profit

on every sale made through this exciting ongoing fundraiser. Check out Tru Earth and make a purchase to support the Friends of Fish Creek today. Visit the Friends' Tru Earth page at <https://bit.ly/37kyppt>

QUIZ QUESTION

During the autumn season you may see moose with their young out in the park. How many calves do moose typically birth each year?

*The correct answer will be announced in the next issue of Voice of the Friends.*

# SUCCESSFULLY COEXISTING WITH BEAVERS IN FISH CREEK!

KATIE BAKKEN, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR

It's been over two years since the Province of Alberta's Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Program (WRRP) accepted our application to fund the first Beaver Coexistence Project in Fish Creek, and we're continuing to foster coexistence with our furry friends across the Fish Creek Valley.



Himanshu Sangale, right, and a Wild Outside Participant securing the pipe on a new flow control device in the wetlands near Sikome Aquatic Facility, Aug 8. Photo, Rose Ratliffe

This new initiative aimed to both alleviate pathway flooding in an area where beaver activity was causing severe pathway flooding and damage, while protecting the animals and their habitat so they can thrive and be the ecosystem engineers, water filtration experts and landscape artists that they are.

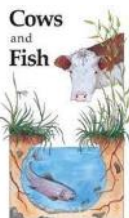
Thanks to the WRRP, project partners and our dedicated and skilled Beaver Coexistence Volunteers, the project has included the installation of five flow control devices in the area between Bebo Grove and Marshall Springs. The devices have successfully alleviated pathway flooding and only a few maintenance outings have been needed to keep the devices operational. The initial project engaged over 200 people, including land managers from nearby jurisdictions and members of the general public, highlighting the benefits beavers bring to the ecosystem.

This summer, our youngest Beaver Coexistence Volunteer, Himanshu Sangale, secured a grant to support the installation of an additional flow control device in the wetlands between Sikome and the Bow River. This project successfully engaged youth from the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Wild Outside and Canadian Conservation Corps programs.

Coming up this fall, we will be establishing the Beaver Tales interpretive trail starting at Bebo Grove. The trail will guide visitors on a 2km paved loop where they can learn fascinating things like the cultural significance of beavers to the area's Indigenous cultures, and also try new things, such as hunting for beaver-felled trees that have resprouted, and looking at decaying logs in a new light.

To maximize accessibility for new Canadians, each sign will have a QR code that directs visitors to a webpage where the sign content can be found in many languages. The webpage will also feature an auditory clip for those with vision challenges. Stay tuned to your email for information about the Grand Opening of this new, accessible learning opportunity in the park. We look forward to strolling the trail with you!

*See next page for info and link to Himanshu's latest Beaver Coexistence video*



BEAVER COEXISTENCE - CONT'D

2022 AUGUST SIKOME LAKE BEAVER COEXISTENCE PROJECT VIDEO

HIMANSHU SANGALE, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK VOLUNTEER



The Beaver Coexistence Project is an impactful measure in place to protect Fish Creek Provincial Park and everything that comes with it. Trails, wildlife habitats, and of course the beavers are all conserved under this stewardship program. On August 8, 2022, a dedicated team of Friends of Fish Creek volunteers, and passionate youth from WILD Outside (conservation-based, youth volunteer organization) installed a water flow control device, as part of the Beaver Coexistence Project. Learn more about flow control devices in the following video I developed - <https://youtu.be/c30xQ0sOOoU>

Photo, Tony LePrieur

THANK YOU RBC FOUNDATION

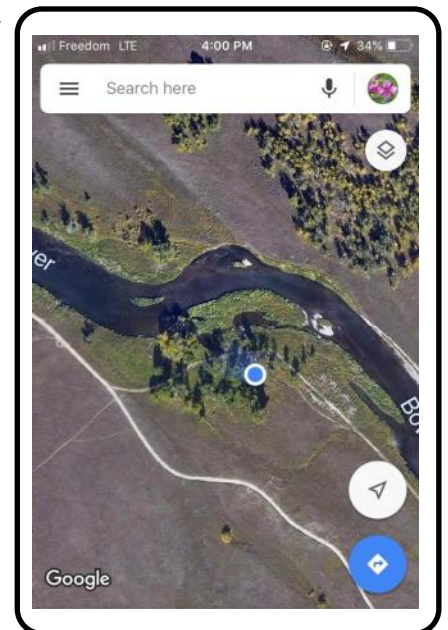
The Friends would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the RBC Foundation for funding our Protecting Native Biodiversity in Fish Creek Through Citizen Science project through the RBC Tech for Nature grant. We will receive \$40,000 over the next two years that will go towards technological enhancements within our stewardship and conservation programs.

RBC Tech for Nature began supporting the Friends in 2020 and we are very grateful to continue this partnership with this community-focused organization.

*“Using our more than money approach, RBC is excited to partner with charitable partners, along with the required experts, to build the type of multi-partner partnerships that can truly address the environmental challenges we are facing,”* said Mark Beckles, Vice-President, Social Impact & Innovation, RBC. *“It’s this collective action that will drive the innovation and change we need to ensure a greener future and healthier planet for all.”*

Over the course of the Protecting Native Biodiversity in Fish Creek Through Citizen Science project we will continue to train and equip volunteers in high-level positions using ArcGIS mapping technology. This will help us to expand our scope of work here in Fish Creek and to pilot new strategies in different areas of the park. With the support of the RBC Foundation, the Friends

will continue to learn and develop our own skills through engaging our expert partners, and evolve our Citizen Science programs to engage more volunteers in higher levels and new roles. Thank you again to the RBC Foundation for supporting the long term sustainability of Fish Creek through the RBC Tech for Nature grant. Stay tuned to this newsletter for updates on our progress.



Technological advancements supported by the RBC Foundation help the Friends identify issues in the park. This map is indicating the location of a fort near Mallard Point.





## SUMMER STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

DYLAN BARNES, CITIZEN SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Summer is an exciting time of the year for restoration. It's the result of all the planning made during the previous autumn when the last season ended. The number of triumphs and learning opportunities increase each time we step out into the field, and this restoration season has been no different. Below are some of the highlights from the summer 2022 season.

The Friends kicked off the summer with a significant amount of poplar planting early in the season. I was very impressed with how many people came to help us plant trees in the park in May and June. We planted 333 trees all of which were mapped out on ArcGIS with the help of the mapping, monitoring, and maintenance volunteers.

Riparian Health Assessments were performed this year to improve the park and locate the areas of the park in greatest need of restoration. This year we continued to survey the area between Votier's Flats and Macleod Trail with our volunteers.

Twice a week throughout the summer the watering crew has been spraying the new plantings at the restoration sites. Even in the excessive heat this summer, our plantings have a really good chance for survival thanks to the watering crew's efforts.



Riparian Restoration near Glennfield, August 30.

Finally, the new flow control device near Sikome, which was planned as far back as April, was installed in August. Volunteers spent over 100 combined hours on the installation of this device. The new flow control device has improved the park by lowering the level of water near the pathway. It will also help keep the beavers in place, thus protecting trees in other areas of the park. Healthy trees in the Sikome area were also wrapped to discourage beavers from chewing on them. *See page 6 for more info about this project.*

Each season we strive to keep improving our programs so we can continue improving the park. Every time someone comes out to volunteer with us, they lend themselves to a story of restoration, one that is written in the height of trees yet to grow.

## MEMBERSHIP SHOWS YOU CARE!

Now is the best time of year to renew your Friends of Fish Creek membership or to become a member. We are now providing memberships for 2023, which will be good until December 31 of next year. The Friends of Fish Creek enjoy our role as the link between the community, partnering organizations, local business, and Park Management. Membership fees are: \$35 - individual, \$45 - family, \$25 - senior individual, \$30 - senior family. Your membership contribution will go a long way in helping us to create a community of informed park users and in turn benefit the park landscape. Friends members receive benefits like admission to our Fish Creek Speaker Series programs, a discount on the popular Birding Courses, a discount at select local businesses, and the ability to vote at our Annual General Meeting. To renew your commitment to Fish Creek Provincial Park please mail in the membership form on the last page of this newsletter or visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/membership>

CAPTURE NATURE 2022

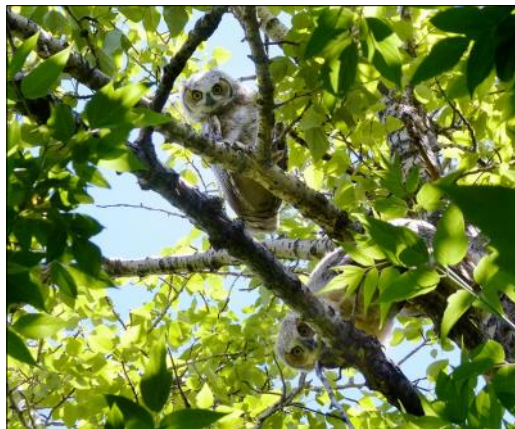
# ANNOUNCING OUR PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

SHANA BARBOUR, FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK VOLUNTEER



For the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row, we held the *Capture Nature* photo contest. This contest challenged participants to submit their best photos that fit within four new and exciting themes: *Peekaboo!*, *Seasonal Highlights*, *Repetition* and *Shadow & Light*. It's always interesting to see how the themes are interpreted, and we enjoy the opportunity to encourage people to experience Fish Creek from their own creative perspective.

The contest ran from May through July, and our prize winners were announced on September 1. Take a look



at the winning photos on the [Capture Nature webpage](#), and view all of this year's photos submissions via the [online gallery](#).

**Congratulations to this year's winners!**

**Public Vote** (most votes in our online gallery):

**Youth Winner - Aiden Ducharme (*Peekaboo!*)** – Bebo Snake (left)

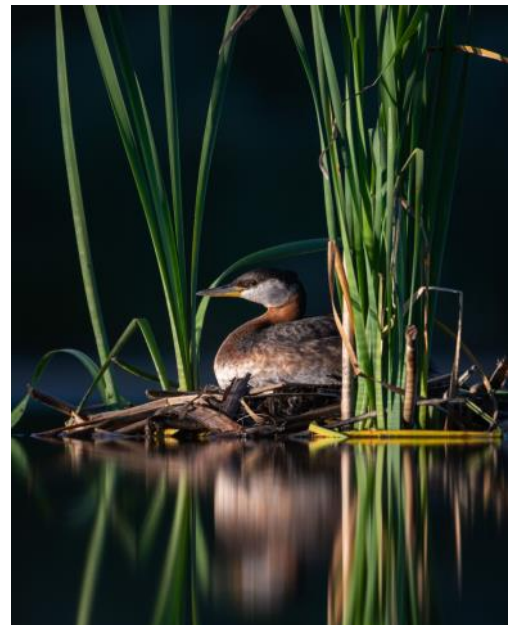
**Adult Winner - Marilyn Patterson (*Peekaboo!*)** – Baby Owls Ranch (bottom left)

**Juror Vote** (evaluated on originality, composition, lighting, focus, and theme suitability):

**Youth Winner - Aiden Ducharme (*Peekaboo!*)** – Bebo Snake

**Adult Winner - Richie Hannah (*Shadow & Light*)** – Marshall Springs Morning Sun's Spotlight (bottom right)

Many thanks to the 2022 *Capture Nature* sponsors, who generously supported this fun competition by donating prize packages: [Vistek](#), [RMB Photography](#), [The Apothecary in Inglewood](#), [Elements Outfitters](#) and [SportChek](#).



Special thanks to the volunteers who effortlessly coordinated the program and who once again led another spirited round of voting.





# CREEKFEST - GET TO KNOW HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

Creekfest - Get to Know Nature took place on Saturday, July 16 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at the Bow Valley Ranch and this was the 12<sup>th</sup> year we hosted Creekfest since the event started in 2011. Creekfest is an important component to the Friends Watershed Stewardship Public Awareness Campaign and this year the event was folded into the monthly Get to Nature outdoor outreach program.

We were pleased to welcome the following organizations and individuals to Creekfest—Shawnee-Evergreen Community Association, Fish Creek Watershed Association, Elbow River Watershed Partnership, Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society, Bettina Sieger - Artist, Jim Pescott - Artist, Don Hladiuk - Astronomy Enthusiast and Starman on CBC Radio, Youth Central, Alberta Invasive Species Council, Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area, Calgary River Valleys, Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley/Wildsmart, Weaselhead/Glenmore Park Preservation Society, Alberta Environment and Parks, Decathlon Calgary, Alberta Community Bat Program, Friends of Kananaskis Country, Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, Bow Habitat Station, Venturers Society, Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation, and Get Outside and Play.

Bud Edgar, Joker & Trick Roper, provided roving entertainment to visitors at Creekfest (pictured above, photo courtesy of Bud Edgar) . Bud’s family has an important place in the history of Fish Creek and the Bow Valley Ranch as his father worked as Head Herdsman when this area was part of Patrick Burns’ ranch. Also, Dennis Burns, a direct descendant of Patrick Burns, led a historical tour of the Bow Valley Ranch, and we sincerely appreciate his time and effort in leading this tour.



We would like to extend our gratitude to all of the volunteers who helped the event run smoothly. Over 300 community members attended Creekfest and enjoyed the exhibitors, tours, entertainment and informational booths.

The BVR Visitor Centre was open and we had a full complement of volunteers. The Friends had several tables set up for our different programs such as Calgary Captured, ReWilding, Invasive Species, Birding, Beaver Coexistence, and firepit safety.

Thank you to Creekfest sponsors the Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation, Alberta EcoTrust, the Calgary Foundation, The City of Calgary, and Alberta Environment and Parks.

*Get to Know Nature* events take place each month until November. These free-family outings provide kids and families with info about a wide assortment of nature-related topics. To learn about monthly *Get to Know Nature* events see Page 4 or visit

<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/programs/know>

Harry & Martha  
Cohen  
Foundation



QUIZ ANSWER - SUMMER ISSUE

In what year did the Friends launch the Beaver Coexistence project and in what area of the park did this program focus?

**Answer:** The Beaver Coexistence project was launched in 2020. The focus of the project was to develop ways to mitigate the impact that beavers can have on park infrastructure, with a focus on the Marshall Springs area where beavers had been very active. The Beaver Coexistence project also helps to raise awareness within the community about the positive effects of beavers on the larger environmental scale. This program’s major funding source was Alberta Environment and Parks’ Watershed Resiliency and Restoration grant. For more info please visit <https://friendsoffishcreek.org/beavers>

STAFF

Executive Director -	Nic Blanchet
Communications Manager -	Chris Lalonde
Community Engagement Facilitator -	Katie Bakken
Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator -	Emma Stroud
Citizen Science & Stewardship Coordinator -	Dylan Barnes
Visitor Services Coordinator -	Kumiko Kamiike

Summer 2022 Canadian Conservation Corps Interns

Justin Le  
Amber McMunn  
Marnel Muller

Staff contact information available at  
<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/contact-2>

2022 EXECUTIVE

Chair -	Bob Morrin
Vice-Chair -	David Mitchell
Treasurer -	Phil Greer
Governance Chair -	Henry Villanueva
Secretary -	Kari Horn
Director at Large -	Christina Steed
Director at Large -	Neil Groeneveld
Director at Large -	Michael McCreadie
Park Liaison -	Andrew Schoepf

Learn more about our Board of Directors  
on the new web page  
<https://friendsoffishcreek.org/board>

Membership Form -

The Friends of Fish Creek, PO Box 2780 Stn M Calgary, AB T2P 2M7  
403-238-3841 [info@friendsoffishcreek.org](mailto:info@friendsoffishcreek.org) [www.friendsoffishcreek.org](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org)

For info about the Park Protector program visit [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/park-protector-signup)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address and postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will

Membership: Individual  \$35.00 Family  \$45.00

Senior (+60 years of age) Individual  \$25.00 Family  \$30.00

Donation:  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

To pay online: [www.friendsoffishcreek.org/membership](http://www.friendsoffishcreek.org/membership) or donate on [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org)

Please Fill out: Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Charitable Registration #891199747 RR0001)

Signature of donor or member: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to become members. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more or if requested.