

# Summer Newsletter



## Art Walk & Silent Auction

### LOCAL ARTIST DONATES WILDLIFE ARTWORK

Have you visited the art walk we wrote about in the last newsletter? It's along highway 22 up the hill towards Banded Peak School. Most of the brilliant art works are by the students at the school, but nestled amongst them are a number of pieces by professional artists.

Two paintings by David Zimmerman are being auctioned in aid of Banded Peak School and Bragg Creek Wild. Here are photos of the paintings, and below is a button to the silent auction page on our website. Check it out, and bid on these gorgeous paintings.

[Place your Bid](#)

A poster for a silent auction. The background is a collage of two paintings. The left painting shows two bears in a forest, and the right painting shows a person's face inside a cave. The text on the poster reads: "SILENT AUCTION Two David Zimmerman Originals", "Bids accepted July 1-16", "Proceeds to go to Banded Peak School, the Artist and Bragg Creek Wild to promote peaceful co-existence with wildlife.", "Find out More Visit BraggCreekWild.ca", and a small deer head logo at the bottom.

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# BCW Presents to Rockyview Council

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE UNIQUE CONCERNS OF OUR COMMUNITY

For a year and a half now we've been getting our message out and bringing supporters in via social media, zoom meetings, guest speakers etc. We're really grateful for all the local people and visitors who've been so supportive up to now. This spring we received an invitation to present our group and our work to Rocky View Council, and spread the message further.

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, a group of Bragg Creek Wild members, volunteers and supporters went to Rocky View Town Hall to give a presentation to council about the group, the reasons it was founded, our work so far, our hopes for future work and our requests for help from RVC.

Renee Delorme made an impressive presentation to the council, with help from Laureen Harper, showcasing our work on traffic calming for fawning season and rutting season. There was also a focus on the various other projects we've worked on: harm reduction, collaboration with other local and environmental groups, as well as the fantastic work done by Banded Peak students for the science and art projects focused on wildlife and people living in community.

The outcome of the meeting was definitely positive. There was an overall feeling of goodwill towards BCW as well as openings for us pursue the following initiatives:

### **Traffic Calming and Mitigating wildlife-vehicle collisions.**

- Investigating the possibility of changes to road markings on West Bragg Road with a view to improving both human and wildlife safety.
- Gathering information on flashing wildlife crossing warning signs for local provincial roads
- The possibility of installing an additional Wildlife Corridor sign on hwy 22.



### **Preserving wildlife connectivity in the Hamlet of Bragg Creek**

- Pursuing the orchid area protection designation located next to the river, thus creating a wildlife corridor between Bragg Creek Provincial Park and Two Pine.
- Berm: Advocating for the addition of wildlife access to the river.

### **Land use planning**

- Continuing to expand our knowledge and understanding of how wildlife moves and what we can do to promote safe wildlife corridors.
- Hamlet expansion/ASP amendment (currently on pause): Recommend modeling on the existing Greater Bragg Creek Area Structure Plan and furthering the ASP with eco-system based analysis to show cumulative impact of human activities.

This was a lot to cover in the short time allotted, and Council members asked a number of questions about the different initiatives already begun, about our involvement with other organisations e.g. the Bow Valley Biosphere, and were impressed that one of our members is undertaking Wildlife Ambassador training with AEP.

[learn more about BCW](#)

# Who's A Cutie?

## THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CARING

The fawns, the baby moose calves, the little fox kits... not to mention the calves and foals in the fields. This time of year we're surrounded by beings that make us go "Awwww". What is it that makes us feel this way?

According to lots of research done over the last half century or more, there are a number of visual elements that contribute to animals looking "adorable", "cute", "sweet" etc., which also explains the overwhelming presence of cats and dogs on our social media feeds:

Big eyes, clumsy toddler-like movement, furry faces and bodies, button noses, large heads in proportions to their bodies etc. It all sets off a protective instinct - they loosely resemble human babies, so we feel as though we want to cuddle them. These animals have succeeded in being "charismatic" enough for us to care about. Most people are also drawn to care about protecting species that are big (polar bears and elephants), impressively fierce (lions and tigers), have human-like facial features (pandas and bush babies). Also, those that live in human-like family groups ( many apes, whales etc.) or are very colourful (certain butterflies and birds).

Unfortunately, some that need our protection are less attractive (wrinkly, smelly, slimy). The writer, evolutionary biologist and stand-up comedian Simon Watt wrote a book a few years ago called *The Ugly Animals: We can't all be Pandas*. In it he describes, for instance, the hagfish, the dromedary jumping slug and the giant Gippsland earthworm - all vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered. They all have roles to play in the complex networks of our eco-systems, and also deserve our attention. The disappearance of one species from a system can have far-reaching consequences, as was learned when wolves were extirpated and then reintroduced at Yellowstone National Park in the USA.

As we enjoy all the wildlife we see around us at this time of year, we could spare a thought for the small, the ugly, the slimy and the wrinkly ones as well!

[Click here for wolf video](#)



# The Wild Questionnaire

CLINT DOCKEN - LAWYER, LONG TIME COMMUNITY MEMBER



1. What's your connection with this area? What's important to you about this place?  
Forty year connection. Appreciate the rural character.
2. Can you give us three words you think describe the Bragg Creek/Redwood Meadows area?  
Natural, peaceful, wild.
3. Share a treasured memory of being out in nature around here.  
Our many encounters with wildlife.
4. What's your favourite view / body of water/ high place in the area?  
Two Pine.
5. If you have free time in the area, what's your favourite thing to do?  
Hiking.
6. Have you ever had a 'close call' wildlife encounter? Where?  
Moose calf born in our back yard.
7. If you could come back as a local wild animal, what would you be?  
A moose.
8. What's your favourite season in Kananaskis?  
Fall.
9. Pick one: fat bike/x-country skis/snowshoes/cocoa by the fire.  
X-country ski
10. What was a really cool thing you saw around here recently?  
New born wildlife.
11. Can you tell us of any good books or documentaries about nature in Alberta/Canada?  
Any!
12. Is there one place you'd recommend to visitors to the area? Why?  
Two Pine.

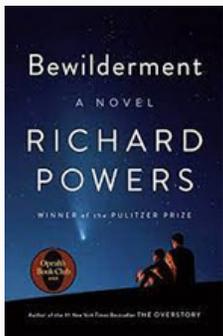


# Summer Reading

BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY BCW MEMBERS

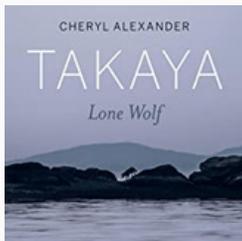
Click on each book cover image to take you to the order/ review webpage

Sally recommends "Bewilderment" by Richard Powers



The tenderness between father and son seem[s] so real and heartfelt that the novel becomes its own empathy machine. What's more powerful, though, is how the emotions Bewilderment evokes expand far beyond the bond of father and son to embrace the living world.--Ellen Atkins "Minneapolis Star Tribune"

Emma recommends "Takaya- Lone Wolf" by Cheryl Alexander



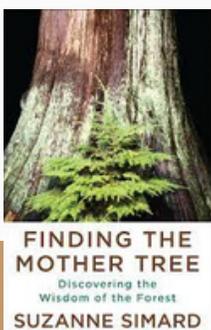
A powerful and moving portrait of Takaya, a unique wolf that left a deep print on the hearts of British Columbians. Takaya's story breaks the mould on how we understand these animals, and stands as a symbol for the great pressures we exert on wolves across Canada. - Harley Rustad, journalist, editor; author

Katherine recommends "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer



"Professor and botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer knows that the answer to all forms of ecological unbalance have long been hidden in plain sight, told in the language of plants and animals, minerals and elements. She draws on her own heritage . . . pairing science with Indigenous principles and storytelling to advocate for a renewed connection between human beings and nature." - Outside Magazine

"Finding the Mother Tree" by British Columbia-based professor and author Suzanne Simard has won the grand prize in the Banff Mountain Book Competition 2021.



"A powerful and personal meditation on nature, science and our interconnection with each other and the world around us."  
-Toronto Star



# Upcoming Events & Resources

FRIENDS - COLLABORATIONS - INSPIRATIONS



Bragg Creek Wild will be participating in the parade this year! Look for some friendly animal faces and say “hi” as we walk by. If you miss us at the parade please drop by our booth at the community centre to see what we’ve been up to this year and to learn about volunteer opportunities with our growing organization.



Our new website is live! check it out at [braggcreekwild.ca](http://braggcreekwild.ca). We continue to need your input for our citizen science wildlife mapping project . Please click on the image to take you to the wildlife reporting page. This data is extremely important to plan well for growth and for the preservation of what makes Bragg Creek special. Your information and the location of the sighting always remains private.



Stay informed <https://www.rockyview.ca>  
 Contact your Division 1 Representative Kevin Hanson: 403-463-1166  
[KRHanson@rockyview.ca](mailto:KRHanson@rockyview.ca)

## Handy Numbers

- Kananaskis Enforcement 403-591-7755 ext. 4 \*littering, illegal fire pits Kananaskis, including Bragg Creek PP
- Fish and Wildlife 403-932-2388 \*report a dead animal (not for random live sightings)
- Emergency 911 \*illegal fires
- Kananaskis Maintenance <http://tinyurl.com/Kananaskis-Contact-Us> \*use the form for all other issues

\*PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH INDIVIDUALS OR WILDLIFE YOURSELF\*



**CONNECT**

**PARTICIPATE**

**VOLUNTEER**

BOX 1033 BRAGG CREEK, ALBERTA, T0L 0K0  
[braggcreekwild.ca](http://braggcreekwild.ca)  
[info.braggcreekwild@gmail.com](mailto:info.braggcreekwild@gmail.com)

