

# Wild Impact

YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

JAN 2025



## Biodiversity on the global stage



Photo: Biodiversity mural at United Nations Biodiversity Conference COP16 in Columbia (Lucero González)

You and I know the ongoing biodiversity crisis is a global one, which means finding solutions need a global stage — like the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16). **Your donations flooded the fund to send Conservation and Policy Campaigner Lucero González to COP16.** You made it possible for her to bring supporters like you live updates straight from Cali, Columbia.

**COP centres accountability**, ensuring countries stay on track to meet the goals set by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted two years ago in Canada. For us, this means demanding Canada translates those commitments into real action on the ground.

**COP16, a true testament of people power, went far beyond the government negotiation room.** Indigenous resistance and the protection of frontline land defenders were at the forefront. The best part? It resulted in a big win: a subsidiary body of Indigenous people was adopted under the Biological Convention. This is something Indigenous People have been advocating for over 20 years. This gives Indigenous voices a direct seat at the table in biodiversity congresses.

It's clearer than ever, real change happens after and outside those big meetings. Change happens on the ground, where life is more valuable than profit — and your donations allow us to make that change happen here in Canada. **Thank you for putting your gifts to work to support such incredible initiatives.**

## Solidarity with Grassy Narrows

Donors like you share our understanding there can be no conservation without justice. That's why **centring justice, equity, diversity and inclusion — especially decolonization — is a commitment we embody in all of our work.** Thanks to you we can put resources on the ground to show up when Indigenous communities call on us.

Last fall, we joined thousands of people in Toronto to walk with community members from Grassy Narrows First Nation for River Run 2024. **This annual march supports Grassy Narrows in their efforts to protect their territory from unwanted logging and mining claims.** And calls attention to their ongoing pursuit of government compensation for decades of mercury contamination to their lands, waters and bodies.

We put your gifts to work to organize bus transportation from Hamilton, bringing 50 people to hear from Grassy Narrows chief Rudy Turtle, elders and youth who travelled thousands of kilometres from their home in north-western Ontario, on Treaty 3 territory. It's crucial we demonstrate solidarity with Grassy Narrows as they raise awareness of the impacts of resource extraction on Indigenous Rights, way of life and health. **Your gifts mean you are there in solidarity too. Thank you.**



Photo: Grassy Narrows First Nation River Run 2024 (Grassy Narrows society)

## Award goes to turtle defenders



Photo: Tom, Rhonda and Jennifer Kirby accept our 2024 Eugene Rogers Environmental Award. (Rhonda Kirby)

Your support made it possible to recognize three incredible allies for their inspiring leadership and engagement with the community to protect the Serpent River watershed, wetlands and threatened Blanding's turtles. **We're proud to present the 2024 Eugene Rogers Environmental Award**, accompanied by a \$1,000 contribution, to Jenifer Brousseau, Serpent River First Nation member in Robinson-Huron Treaty Territory, and Rhonda and Tom Kirby from Township of the North Shore, Ontario.

For over seven years, the Kirbys have worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the potential detrimental environmental impacts of a proposed 100-year rock quarry near their home in the Serpent River watershed. Jenifer Brousseau, an Anishnaabe/Cree and French interdisciplinary artist and teacher from the traditional territory of Serpent River First Nation, has brought her creative energy and community connections to protect this watershed from destructive resource extraction. Through engagement with elders and youth, and her film "Ten Thousand Turtles," she is fostering and sharing Indigenous knowledge, ceremony and relationship building to guide the long term stewardship of these lands and waters.

The involvement of the Indigenous communities of Serpent River, Garden River and Mississauga First Nations has been a key factor in delaying the proposed quarry while consultation takes place. **Tom, Rhonda and Jenifer have all played important roles in sharing information so that communities are aware of the threats to water and wildlife.** Thank you for supporting individuals who demonstrate exceptional dedication to protecting the environment and fostering societal change.

## A lovely evening with you

We love interacting and sharing stories with you, our supporters, who make our work possible. So we were thrilled when many of you attended our first open house at our new downtown Victoria office on Vancouver Island. **It was great to have the office full of some of you amazing supporters, new and old friends and fellow activists.** You made it a lovely evening, full of storytelling, information sharing, a beautiful slideshow and great conversations. Not to mention the delicious food — to quote our Forest Campaigner "the snack game was killer."

Folks like you heard stories about our campaign to protect old-growth forests, including an update on what's new! **You listened when we shared ways to take action and stay engaged with campaigns all across Canada** — from rare forests and threatened wetlands in southern Ontario to protected areas besieged by logging in Manitoba to rivers, coastlines and towering mountains here in BC.

You didn't stop there and also took action buying holiday gifts from our store. **It was so nice to connect with everyone and reflect on the work you make possible and what comes next in 2025.** Thank you for making this night special!



Photo: Forest Campaigner Tobyne Neame speaks with a group of supporters during the Wilderness Committee Victoria office open house. (Agathe Bernard)

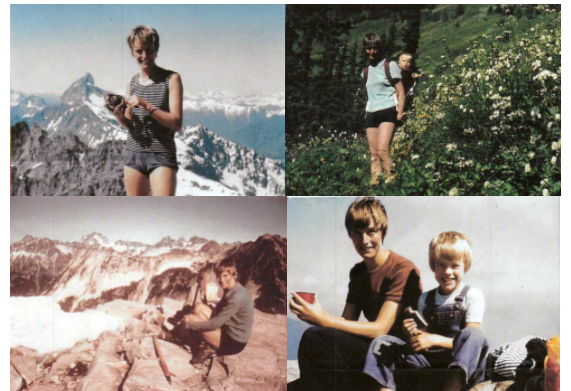
## Your impact in action...



Thought you might enjoy a few pictures of my wild spaces loving mom in her element. For as long as I can remember she had one of your calendars hanging in her kitchen. She very much believed in your relentless efforts in ecosystem preservation.



~notes from a tribute gift made in memory of Karen Morcke



*Thank you*

*Wild Impact* is a quarterly update about the Wilderness Committee and our work you make possible.

**Questions? Want to know more?** Contact Dena Ellery, Donor Relations Manager [dena@wildernesscommittee.org](mailto:dena@wildernesscommittee.org)