

Care and handling of injured wild raptors



Wildlife artist Burland Murphy holds the Barred Owl he found injured alongside the Trans Canada Highway.

by Jim Morrow

While driving west on the Trans Canada Highway just west of Baddeck wildlife artist Burland Murphy recognized a round face with dark eyes in the grass along the roadside.

Mr. Murphy (better known as Murf) stopped and sure enough he discovered an injured Barred Owl.

With as little handling as possible, he took the bird of prey home. Giving it a sense of security by placing it in a small box to keep it cozy, he kept the bird warm and well watered.

"Animals can get very dehydrated when they are under stress," he said.

He made contact with a raptor rehabilitation veterinarian at the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. He made arrangements to meet the veterinarian near Truro the next day.

In the mean time the owl ate some cat food pate and appeared to be quite interested in what was going on around him.

The following morning Murf drove the injured bird to Bible Hill where he

met with Dr. Helene Van Doninck from the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.

After seeing how well he had taken care of the bird and how he understood its requirements she asked Murf if he would be willing to be a drop-off centre for raptors in the Cape Breton area.

Without a great deal of hesitation Murf agreed.

If you find an injured bird of prey (owl, hawk, eagle, osprey or falcon) you can call Murf at 295 2904.

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CARD OF THANKS

MacLellan

We, the family of the late Rhodena MacLellan, would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who have supported us during her illness and passing.

Our Mother received the best of care and was able to pass away at home. A heartfelt thank you to her homecare workers: Maureen, Carolyn, Rose, Amanda and Linda; the home support nurses: Debbie MacKenzie, Debbie, MacLeod, Sandy LeBlanc, Margie MacRae, Heather MacIntosh, Shirley Fraser and Anne Trickett; Dr. Chow, Dr. Ritter, Mary MacLeod and palliative care and the doctors and nurses at Victoria County Memorial Hospital.

Thank you to Father Hughie for coming and staying with us the morning of Mommy's passing, you were such a comfort to us.

Thank you to David and Shawn Dunlop of MacAskill's Funeral Home, Baddeck and Dooley's Funeral Service, North Sydney for their care and compassion.

Thank you to all who attended the wake and funeral, made visits to our homes, all who phoned, e-mailed, sent food, cards, masses, flowers and made donations.

Thank you to all who participated in the Funeral Mass: Father Paul Abbass (what an amazing homily!), Father Sandy MacNeil and Father Hughie MacNeil; Readers - Robert MacKinnon and Arlene MacLellan; Intentions - Elizabeth MacNeil; Gifts - Lily and Logan MacLellan; Eucharistic Ministers - Wendy MacNeil and Sharon MacNeil; Hospitality - Neil James MacNeil and John Joseph Bonaparte; Altar Servers - Colin MacNeil, Neil MacNeil and Jimmy (Hector) MacNeil; Pall Bearers - Alexander MacAulay, David MacAulay, Robby MacKinnon, Kaleb MacLellan, Dan Joseph MacNeil and Charlie MacLean; St. Columba Choir, Janet Gillis (choir director), Tracey Dares-MacNeil (organist), Shelly Campbell (fiddler), Paul MacNeil (piper) and Gaelic singers led by Mickey (John H.) MacNeil (The music was beautiful).

Thank you to Gregory MacNeil for tending to the grave.

Thank you to the CWL, especially Pauline Campbell, Wendy MacNeil and Sharon MacNeil, for the tea during the wake.

Thank you to the Grandona Legion for providing supper for us on Friday evening and for such a beautiful reception and delicious lunch after the funeral. Thanks for everything. We are so lucky to live in an area where people care so much!

Moran taing agus Dia'gur beannachadh uile!

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