

# up front

THE T-REX DISCOVERY Centre in Eastend looks back at the dino age – and looks forward to improvements with its new funding.

## Calling All Manitobans, NEAR AND FAR

“You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet,” that rockin’ tune by Randy Bachman, is one of the official theme songs for Manitoba Homecoming 2010 – a year-long celebration of special cultural events, festivals and family fun throughout the province. Residents, ex-pats and visitors are encouraged to experience all that Manitoba has to offer during its 140th birthday. On May 15, 2010, Manitoba Homecoming will hold socials in various communities in an attempt to break the Guinness Record for the world’s largest birthday party.

[manitobahomecoming2010.com](http://manitobahomecoming2010.com)



## GREAT SCOTT! 🌱

“SCOTTY,” ONE OF the world’s largest *Tyrannosaurus rexes* ever discovered, has been drawing up to 10,000 visitors annually to Eastend. Now, with an extra \$200,000 in funding from the provincial government to improve the T.rex Discovery Centre, where Scotty’s fossilized remains are displayed, that number is expected to grow.

Scotty was discovered near the town in 1994, an eight-tonne reminder of southwest Saskatchewan’s prehistoric past – a time when the “terrible lizards,” with their gargantuan legs and bone-crushing jaws studded with 60 26-centimetre-long teeth, ruled

humid swamps and forests flanking an inland sea.

The discovery centre houses fossils, exhibits, and interpretive and educational programs, as well as a hands-on activity area, theatre, gift shop and research facility staffed by paleontologists. Dig excursions, led by experienced personnel, give amateur fossil hunters a chance to search for the next big discovery at the quarries. The new funding will be used to enhance exhibits, enrich programming and hire additional staff. Scotty would be pleased – dinosaurs know how crucial it is to keep evolving.

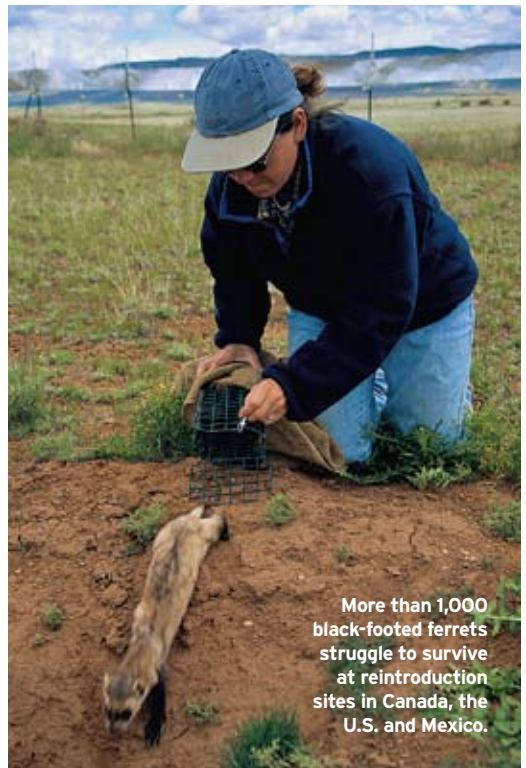
[trexcentre.ca](http://trexcentre.ca), [dinocountry.com](http://dinocountry.com)



## bandit of the prairie returns

**THEY VANISHED FROM CANADA in 1937**, and, by 1967, they topped the U.S. most endangered species list. Sightings dwindled, then stopped; experts believed the only species of ferret indigenous to North America had become extinct. But against all odds, 34 black-footed ferrets once again scamper over their native habitat in Saskatchewan's Grasslands National Park – thanks to being reintroduced in October 2009 by Parks Canada. • These nocturnal, playful ferrets have black feet and a robber-like mask that earned them the nickname “bandit of the prairie.” They were once an integral part of Midwestern ecology, inhabiting treeless plains from Canada to Mexico. But plowing of grasslands and eradication of prairie dogs, which ferrets depend on for food and shelter, decimated their populations. Then, in 1981, a surviving colony of just 18 was discovered in Wyoming. An intensive captive breeding program commenced and reintroduction of zoo-raised ferrets into the wild began 10 years later. Today, approximately 1,000 ferrets struggle to survive at 18 reintroduction sites in the U.S. and Mexico, while Parks Canada plans to release more in Grasslands over the next two years. • *Support recovery efforts by adopting a black-footed ferret at [prairiewildlife.org/adopt.html](http://prairiewildlife.org/adopt.html).*

 [blackfootedferret.org](http://blackfootedferret.org)



More than 1,000 black-footed ferrets struggle to survive at reintroduction sites in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

## WILD CRITTER CARE

**AN AILING OWL**, wounded raccoon cub or abandoned ducklings – what do you do if you find a wild animal that's hurt or ill? Jan Shadick, a member of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Saskatchewan (WRSOS), advises, “If you find a sick, orphaned or injured wild animal, call us. Our volunteer organization can answer questions, direct you to veterinarians and rehabilitators offering care free of charge, and assist with rescue and wildlife transportation.” And with rescue calls tripling compared to last year (up to 35 a day), such service is in demand.

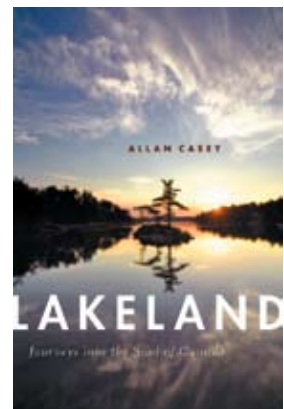
• The majority of animals rescued are injured not from natural hazards but from human-related interaction. “Windows, barbed wire fences, poisons, habitat destruction, even curious children and pets pose threats to a variety of wildlife,” says Shadick. “Wild animals never encounter predators as fast as a car. Hawks cannot



comprehend what a power line is, except that it offers a perch.” • Though guidelines for handling animals and a list of recommended vets are available on the WRSOS website, Shadick cautions it's best not to attempt to capture an animal if such action poses a risk to you or itself.

Instead, call the Wildlife Hotline (see below). She also points out that a baby animal may only appear to be alone, when in fact the mother is nearby; don't assume it's an orphan. • Shadick adds: “Volunteers are urgently required throughout the province. We need hotline assistance (which can be done from home), rescue help, drivers and folks interested in promoting the WRSOS. Since we're a charitable organization, tax-deductible donations are always welcome.”

 WRSOS Wildlife Hotline: 306-242-7177; [wrsos.org](http://wrsos.org)



### lakes charming

Take a page-by-page dive into some of Canada's most beautiful yet fragile lakes in *Lakeland: Journeys into the Soul of Canada*, by award-winning writer and Saskatoon native Allan Casey. Published by Greystone Books, the 255-page hardcover (\$29.95) is, as the liner notes go, “a journey of discovery to a country within a country, a celebration of the greatest freshwater territory on the planet.” 

 [dmpibooks.com/book/lakeland](http://dmpibooks.com/book/lakeland)