

Reflection from the LAAMB

Near the end of March Lore's sister Margaret from Saskatchewan came to visit her mother at the Hanover Hospital. During her time in Ontario she called us from Hanover, asking about coming to visit us in Wiarton. We told her that we all needed to wear masks, social distance and could sit out on our back veranda. She arrived the next day at 9am on a beautiful sunny morning. With our masks on we began walking to the Bruce Trail behind the water plant. We couldn't go on the spiral staircase which lead up to Spirit Rock and the remains of the McNeill Estate Conservation Area because of the ice on the upward pathway. However, we did enjoy seeing the ice on the lake which was already starting to breaking up.

When we got back from our walk and were sitting around the veranda, it was getting near lunch so we ordered hamburgers from Dockside Willies. While we were eating lunch, Lore's sister Margaret said, "my friends in Saskatchewan will never believe me when I tell them that we were sitting outside with our winter coats on eating Wiarton Willie's hamburgers while sipping tea! Ha!"

However, the story gets better. As we were eating, to everyone's surprise, a fox appeared from the small path behind Trinity church. We all went silent as we watched this fox stop and stare at us. He looked at us as if to say, "I smell Wiarton Willie Hamburgers". Then he turned around and went back the way he came. Marg asked if we had ever seen him before. No we hadn't, it was quite a surprise for Lore and I. We have seen skunks, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons and chipmunks but no foxes.



Well just the other day while I was outside early in the morning having a cup of tea I saw the fox. He came the same way through the little path behind Trinity Church. This time he came closer and not far from our two compost bins. Maybe he



was smelling something from the compost? But he didn't go closer to the compost, he simply stared at me. I didn't move but kept watching him. It was as if he was trying to have a staring contest with me. Ha! NOT! I think we were both memorized by each other, waiting to see who would move next. I wasn't going to move! I wanted to see where he would go. Maybe he was thinking the same thing! Ha! Then after what seemed like 10 minutes, it was probably less, he turned around and went back down the path behind Trinity church.

I felt so lucky to see his beautiful red coat, his dark coloured eyes and his fluffy tail. It made me think how fortunate we are to see these majestic creatures close up. At times, we can become so preoccupied by the pandemic, the virus numbers, the deaths, the overcrowded ICU's, the overworked nurses and doctors, it can all be so overwhelming. And yet, as I became focussed on the fox, for that short time, I forgot everything about this challenging time. I simply concentrated on my relationship with that fox. It made me think about how fleeting, how precious, these moments are in our lives. One minute they are here and

the next minute they are gone. Maybe we are given these moments to stop and recognize that God's creation is no different than us. We are curious, cautious, precious, beautiful and only have fleeting moments to make things better around us! As Bishop Desmond Tutu once said, "**Do** your little bit of **good** where you are; it's those little bits of **good** put together that overwhelm the world." Go live those little bits of moments; make your little part of the world better!

Perry

Red Fox Facts

- Foxes can jump high fences and swim well.
- There are 3 color morphs of foxes, but the most typical is red.
- A fox uses its tail, also known as a "brush," as a cover in the winter when laying down.
- Red foxes are omnivores.
- Fox predators include coyotes, bald eagles, gray wolves, bears, mountain lions, and humans.
- A fox can live up to 10-12 years in captivity, but only about 3 years in the wild.
- Foxes make scent posts with urine or feces to mark their territory.
- Foxes can make 12 different vocal sounds. Kits can produce 8 sounds.
- Red Foxes are nocturnal.
- Red Fox pounce on their prey to catch it.
- Foxes have excellent senses. They can hear an animal underground!
- Foxes constantly hunt for food. Even if they are not hungry, they will save it for their next meal.

Red Fox Habitat

Red foxes live in a wide range in the Northern Hemisphere. They live in grasslands, deserts, mountains, forests, and even suburban areas. They adapt very well to different environments, but prefer wooded areas the most. When it is breeding season, foxes will build dens and stay in them. When it is not breeding season, foxes sleep in the open.

What Do Foxes Eat?

Foxes are omnivores who hunt mainly small rodents, birds and rabbits. However, they will occasionally eat vegetables, fruit, mice, and fish.....

...AND CAN SMELL A WIARTON WILLIE HAMBURGER FROM MILES AWAY!!!! Ha!