

# Air Canada swan makes friend in Burnaby

BY LENA SIN, THE PROVINCE    DECEMBER 13, 2009



Two tundra swans at the wildlife rescue association in Burnaby. The one on the left is a male from Victoria, the other a female from Edmonton.

**Photograph by:** Jon Murray, The Province, The Province

The baby tundra swans make a lovely little pair, just as everyone had hoped.

Although too young to mate -- neither are a year old yet -- the two swans that were found alone in separate corners of the country were brought together at Burnaby's Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. last week and are now getting along just fine, according to its caretaker.

"We're never sure what those first few hours are going to be like when they're put together, because they're just like us, they could totally not get along. But it went very well," said Lani Sheldon, association team leader.

After a few initial squawks and nips to the neck, the young swans calmed down and have since become buddies.

"They're hanging out very, very well. So peace is reigning so far," Sheldon laughed.

The female swan hails from Alberta, where she was found lying in a field near Cold Lake with a broken shoulder in October. After recovering at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton, she hitched a free ride to B.C. with Air Canada last Wednesday.

The same day, a male tundra swan that was found alone and emaciated in downtown Victoria also arrived in Burnaby.

It's not certain where these young swans were headed when they were abandoned, but rescue workers are looking to release them into flocks that winter in B.C.

Sheldon said the swans may be released as early as late this week, at a site either in Delta or near Chilliwack.

- The Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. is encouraging people to adopt an orphaned or injured animal as a Christmas gift. Sponsors will receive a foster certificate and information about their sponsored animal. To donate visit [www.wildliferescue.ca](http://www.wildliferescue.ca).

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