



Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Newsletter



(613) 258-9480

November 2010

Fall Update

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (RVWS) was able to care for almost 300 animals in 2010. Most were orphaned babies requiring from 4 to 24 weeks of rehabilitation before release, depending on their species and age. As usual, the majority of our patients were squirrels and raccoons, followed by skunks, groundhogs, rabbits, chipmunks and a mink. An early birthing season and the unseasonably warm weather got us off to an early start, and we were operating at full capacity during most of the summer.

With donations from local businesses and volunteer labour, we were able to build two more rehabilitation rooms and a storage room, just in time for the spring rush. Having a dedicated, quiet “skunk room” was appreciated by all. The other room housed juvenile raccoons. Even so, we needed more space, so our office became a raccoon nursery in the spring, and a squirrel nursery when the second litter started arriving in mid-summer.



Our in-centre volunteers and interns were instrumental in providing excellent care of our wildlife patients. Close to 30 in-centre volunteers helped with regular weekly shifts and many more helped with fostering, releasing animals, construction, driving, fundraising, and cage and nestbox building.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of you who answered our pleas for help this year—we were in need of support to meet the demand in the spring and again in late summer as our coffers dwindled—we could not have succeeded without your help. And of course, thank you to all of you who rescued wildlife in need and gave them a second chance.

Please accept our gratitude for helping us to help the animals. We wish you a lovely winter and happy holiday season!

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.
~ Margaret Mead

Silent Auction...from the comfort your home!

RVWS is holding its first **ONLINE silent auction**, just in time for Christmas. Get great deals on museum and theatre tickets, dancing lessons, CDs and more.

Auction website: www.32auctions.com
Auction ID: **RVWS2010**
Auction password: **wildlife**

Auction runs from November 1-30, 2010. Winning bidders will be contacted to arrange for pick-up at several convenient locations across the city. Payment can be made through Paypal or by cheque. If you would like to contribute to our auction, please call 613-258-9480 or email info@rideauwildlife.org.

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN
BE UNITED



You can direct a specified amount of your United Way gift to RVWS by checking the directed donations box on the donation form and including our business name and charity registration # **82731 7744 RR0001**. Thank you for your support!

Join the Rideau Valley Wildlife
Sanctuary on *Facebook!*

Our Wild Patients

One rescuer was walking by a house being renovated when he saw a roofer toss a nest to the ground. He investigated and found it to be a nest of baby squirrels, which he promptly brought to RVWS. Fortunately, the babies did not suffer any injuries and were successfully released this fall.



Some passengers waiting at an O-Train stop noticed that an adult skunk had been hit, and rescued two orphaned babies who were huddled close by.



A raccoon kit was found stuck in a fence, hanging by its head, likely the result of a mishap during a nightly walk with his mother. Fortunately, "Teddy" did not suffer any permanent injuries and was released at a hefty weight this fall.



Three raccoons were left abandoned in a cardboard box near the parking lot at Old Quarry Trail in Kanata. A concerned citizen called RVWS after he noticed that the raccoons were still there three days later. Although they were severely dehydrated and emaciated, they recovered and were successfully released.



Six baby squirrels, with their tails intertwined, were rescued by the Ottawa Humane Society. Occasionally, a nest of babies will have tangled tails due to dirt or sap, and the mother is not able to separate them. In this case, a local vet was able to untangle the squirrels and five were released back where they were found. The sixth required a partial tail amputation and recuperated with an RVWS foster caregiver until release.



We received quite a few neonate squirrels during the second litter in late summer. Affectionately called "pinkies," some were as small as 20 g and required drop-by-drop, around-the-clock feedings for the first few weeks.





1% for the Planet exists to build and support an alliance of businesses financially committed to creating a healthy planet. It's about businesses recognizing that industry and ecology are inherently connected. Since 2002, 1% for the Planet has inspired members of the business community to contribute 1% of sales to environmental groups around the world.

RVWS would like to thank IceGreen for making RVWS the recipient of their 1% for the Planet donation in 2010.

IceGreen.ca, a Canadian company, manufactures and distributes reusable eco bags made from recycled paper, tree-free paper, nylon, woven and non-woven materials. Their generous donation came just as we started receiving our first spring babies, and helped us to purchase much needed formula. Visit www.onepercentfortheplanet.org.



Volunteer Spotlight

We could not continue our mission without the help of our dedicated volunteers. Thanks go to all of our in-centre volunteers, fosters, release site providers, drivers and builders:

May A, Sheena B, Sarah B, Harry B, Katherine B, Ricardo B, Laura B, Sara B, David B, Jean B, Lisa B, Carole B, Linda and Harry B, Calvin and Heather C, Kelly C, Stephanie C, Susan C, Tina C, Eve D, Nathalie D, Lorraine E, Willy E, Catherine E, Lisa F, Sylvia F, Megan F, Andrea F, Sarah G, Genevieve G, Yolaine G, Lindsay G, Robert G, Sarah G, Lee-Anne G, Doug H, Peter H, Darby H, David H, Melissa H, Jake K, Priscilla L, Michelle L, Coralie L, Anne L, Eva L, Kathy L, Jane M, Kristen M, Teal M, Linda M, Kimberlee M, Sarah M, Elizabeth M, Carolyn M, Samantha M, Evelyn N, Sharon N, Jess N, Jennifer O, Marg P, Nathalie P, Wendy Q, Ben R, Dustin R, Lynn R, Tammy R, Honey and Ron R, Lynne R, Margaux S, Sarah S, Melissa S, Emmeline S, Andrea S, Angela S, Lori T, Joe, Austin T, Robert T, Katie T,

Misha T, Carol T, Alexandra V, Katie W, Isabel W, Karin W, Andrea W, Debbie W, Jessica Y.

Our gratitude goes to Chris, Debbie, Michelle, Stephanie and Tammy, our tireless and dedicated interns, who deserve much of the credit for successfully nurturing and releasing our wildlife patients this year. This year marked our first volunteer internship program. Interns volunteer full-time (and often over-time!) for a minimum of three-months and maximum of six-months, gaining valuable skills in wildlife husbandry. Application information is available on our website. Applicants must be able to work in Canada and demonstrate a willingness to work long hours under stressful conditions, and commit to a full three- to six-month term between April and October.

Our appreciation also goes to.

- Brian S. for building and donating the materials for more than 24 deluxe nesting boxes for our lucky squirrels
- Children from the RPPS Homework Club for making donation boxes, and collecting donations and supplies
- Ben R for his devotion to animals and continued fundraising for orphaned wildlife
- Sydney F for raising money for the animals at her 9th birthday party
- Dana and the Rideau Valley Roller Girls for sponsoring RVWS at their June bout
- Dr. Robert Turmel and Krista, Richmond Animal Hospital, for their veterinary advice and services to our critical care patients
- Dr. Alison Seely, Carp Road Animal Hospital, for providing chiropractic care for an injured squirrel

Construction Update

In June 2009, we celebrated the grand opening of Phase I of our new wildlife rehabilitation centre, thanks to generous donations from the Community Foundation of Ottawa and the public, and 100% volunteer labour.

In spring 2010, with support from our volunteer construction team and 100% donations of supplies from construction companies, we built two more wildlife rehabilitation rooms, which housed skunks and raccoons, and a storage room for food and supplies.



Our Corporate Supporters

Thank you to our supporters:

- Community Foundation of Ottawa
- Elvis Sighting Society
- Global Pet Foods
- HIVA Environmental Fund
- IceGreen Reusable Eco Bags
- Les Kom Wealth Advisory Group, BMO Nesbitt Burns
- Medi-Cal/Royal Canin Veterinary Diet
- Natural Chemistry Inc.
- Peter Wilson, General Manager, Holiday Inn and Suites – Downtown Ottawa
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation



(...) I would like to renew my membership or make a donation!

We rely entirely on donations from the community, foundations and corporations to continue our work to help wildlife. With your support, we can help give a second chance at life to even more animals.

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Tribute gifts are the perfect way to say you care about someone, and about wildlife! Your gift recipient will receive a 4" by 8.5" color certificate, with a hand-written, personalized message on the reverse side. For guaranteed delivery before Christmas, please ensure your donation is delivered to our office by December 10, 2010. If you donate through Canada Helps, please give us a call or send an email.

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Personalized Message (20 words)

For secure **Credit Card** payments and gift donations, please visit our website at www.rideauwildlife.org or www.canadahelps.org and search for Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
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Charitable Registration # 82731 7744 RR0001