



Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Newsletter



(613) 258-9480

Winter 2011

Winter Update

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (RVWS) admitted more than 520 animals in 2011, 200 more than last year and beyond our goal of 400 patients. Most of our 2011 patients 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 groundhogs, rabbits, chipmunks, flying squirrels, foxes and a single skunk. We also began rehabilitating injured turtles in 2011, most of which were injured while leaving the safety of water and crossing roads to lay their eggs on dry land. The warm weather got us off to an early start, and we were operating at full capacity during most of the summer. An unexpectedly-late second litter of squirrels kept us busy well into October. Most of the wildlife were released this fall, but litters of raccoons, eastern grey squirrels and red squirrels will be overwintered until the spring since they were too young or small (or bald, in the case of the red squirrels with mange) to be released this fall.



Our interns and in-centre volunteers were instrumental in providing excellent care for 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.

While the good news is that we admitted a record number of animals in 2011, the bad news is that it also meant that we had more expenses than ever to cover operational costs, such as feeding and housing the animals. RVWS is in need of financial support to carry us through the winter months and allow us to open in the spring of 2012. We depend solely on the gracious support from the public, foundations and local businesses. We urgently need your help.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who supports RVWS, whether through volunteering, donating items on our wishlist, rescuing wildlife or making financial donations. With you, we have been able to help more than 2,000 wild patients since 2005, and we continue to save more wildlife and improve our services to the community. Please consider a donation to help us re-open again for the 2012 spring season and give wildlife a second chance.

We wish you a lovely winter and happy holiday season!

Linda Laurus
Director



1% for the Planet

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. (www.onepercentfortheplanet.org)

RVWS would like to thank **IceGreen** for making RVWS the recipient of their 1% for the Planet donation in 2010 and 2011. IceGreen.ca has emerged as a leading international manufacturer of reusable bags. They are a Canadian owned and operated company.

Photos of Our Wild Patients

One-week-old Eastern Grey Squirrel (black phase)



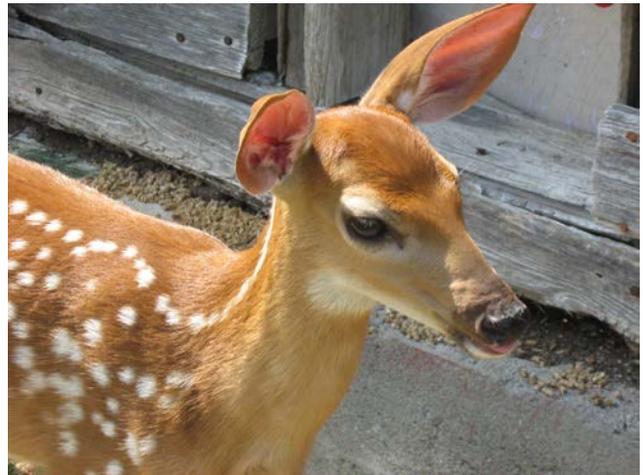
One-week-old raccoon kit (notice umbilical cord still attached)



Five-week-old raccoon kit



Juvenile White-tailed Deer



Six-week old Eastern Cottontail Rabbits prior to release



Two-week old Eastern Grey Squirrel (post surgery for removal of three bot fly larvae from abdomen)



Letter to the Editor

We love to receive feedback from our clients. Below is special note we received this fall, a reminder of why we do what we do.

“Hi Linda and rehabbers ...

Several months ago (after a severe March windstorm) I found four baby squirrels on my deck, three black and one grey. Knowing that the Mom of the black squirrels had been plucked from my roof by a crow, I brought the babies to your sanctuary. One of the three blacks did not survive; he was partially paralyzed, likely by the fall from the nest. But the two black squirrels and the grey did make it -- thanks to you and your staff. The three were released in my backyard in late summer.

Just wanted to let everybody know that the three are thriving. In fact, just a few moments ago, I spotted them in my Norway maple, frolicking around the squirrel box that you kindly left behind. They are the best of pals ...always together, and in great health, with glossy coats and a lively step. They often snack at my bird feeder and I leave oranges and nuts for them as well as a mineral lick. Don't know if they nest together, but there is a nest in another tree close by, and all sorts of nests in the neighbourhood. Occasionally they pop in and out of their squirrel box attached to the maple tree -- that seems to be a focal point of their visits.

My heart soars when they visit and they seem to acknowledge, if not recognize, me ...

Thank you, again, for making this, and everything you do, possible. I thought an update might brighten your day.

Cheers,
Kaye Fulton”



Turtle Rehab now a Permanent Service of RVWS

Having partnered with Turtle SHELL Tortue in 2011, a local organization that was not able to open this year because of limited resources, arrangements have been made for RVWS to take over turtle rehabilitation for 2012 and beyond to ensure this valuable service remains available in the Ottawa region. With seven of the eight species of Ontario turtles now listed as species at risk, saving even one turtle can make a difference.

Most turtle injuries occur as a result of being hit by cars. All turtles must leave the relative safety of their aquatic habitat to lay their eggs on land. Females often cross roads to reach nesting sites or lay eggs in the gravel along roads. If you see a turtle on the road, and if it is safe to do so, you can move it in the direction it is heading. Be careful when moving a snapping turtle as it can reach back to the midpoint of its shell—use a board or shovel to coax it across the road.



Tribute to a Good Friend – Earl McRae

In the early hours of October 16, 2011, the RVWS board heard of the untimely passing of Earl McRae, notable journalist. Too soon. Too sudden.

Most of us likely know Earl from his articles in the Ottawa Sun – sometimes funny, sometimes controversial, usually both and usually true.

To RVWS, Earl McRae was a remarkably caring person who is responsible for where we are today, in particular, our wildlife rehabilitation centre. Through the involvement in RVWS by Earl's wife, Bev, and daughter, Catie, Earl took an interest in our work. One day, he sat with me in my former dining room amid cages of baby raccoons screaming for their morning formula (and believe me, you need ear plugs when a room full of raccoons are hungry), with volunteers bumping into each other, and me, nervous as all get out at being interviewed by "the" Earl McRae, trying hard not to laugh at what must seem to be the sheer lunacy of the situation. But Earl didn't laugh (much), spent hours getting to know what we do, and why and how. Thus began my admiration of the man, his work and his character.



Earl's first article appeared on the front page of the Ottawa Sun on May 18, 2008. We expected an article but not the front page coverage. In the days and weeks to follow, Earl's article obviously touched the hearts of many and eventually raised \$20,000 in public donations to help us build a new wildlife rehabilitation centre. It also brought Mike and Carol to us, a brother/sister team who raised an additional \$40,000 in donations of construction supplies from local businesses. Mike and Carol also coordinated the efforts to build the centre, amounting to more than 1,500 hours of volunteer labour over 26 consecutive weekends in 2008. Mike and Carol remain on our board of directors to this day and continue to help plan for RVWS's future.



The wildlife centre is far and beyond anything I ever expected, and would not "be" without Mr. Earl McRae. I would have been happy with four walls and a plywood floor, but we are proud to have a fully functional wildlife rehabilitation facility with full plumbing, electricity and heating. Together with donations from the community, we have food prep facilities, storage, laundry, examination rooms and quarantine rooms.

Earl continued his support for RVWS throughout the years with follow-up articles, through donations from the Elvis Sighting Society and promotion of other articles in the Ottawa Sun. Fittingly, Earl officiated at the grand opening of the wildlife centre in June 2009.

Though Earl McRae was a huge part of RVWS's success, and many other causes, it is Earl, the person, who I respect and miss the most. When you read personal stories about Earl, you usually hear about how he made people feel special. This was so true! When you were in his presence, whether he was wearing his journalism hat or not, you were always the object of Earl's attention – he was always welcoming, had a way of making you feel special and comfortable. He was down to earth, funny, and a great story teller. He was an entertainer.



When we last spoke, we had planned a night of pool at the Orange Monkey with one of his pool-shark friends, but I regret it didn't pan out. I really wish it had. I miss you Earl, you were a grand person and the world is a better place because of you.



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Wildlife Word Search

B T V W G G R X V I F R C L J
 D P J I O E L G X K M H L E M
 N V R I H O O B D S I J C S F
 E U K S M C D M L P D V M A I
 A J I J M N I C M I E H W E L
 R F S K U N K U H F E G A W V
 D N F J K I N S M U R H X I Y
 M I R S B K Q F Y A C S S E W
 C O T T O N T A I L B K Q K X
 H H U A N F L M G P Y M U E I
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 O L V J P N I U W E N E E W T
 N O O C C A R H M T U K L N R

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|-----------|------------|
| CHIPMUNK | COTTONTAIL |
| DEER | FISHER |
| FOX | MINK |
| MOUSE | MUSKRAT |
| RACCOON | SKUNK |
| SQUIRREL | WEASEL |
| WOODCHUCK | |

Corporate and Foundation Supporters

A special thank you to our 2011 donors:

- Cactus Commerce
- Community Foundation of Ottawa
- HIVA Environmental Fund
- IceGreen Reusable Eco Bags
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Ottawa Chapter and Ottawa Valley Chapter

Contributions from Local Businesses

We sincerely appreciate the support of local businesses who donated supplies and services in 2011, and we encourage our readers to support them as well. Our heartfelt thanks go to:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Ainger Communications | Beechwood Animal Hospital | Berry's Your Pet's Choice 2 nd Ave |
| Billings Bridge Animal Hospital | Blackburn Animal Hospital | Blair Animal Hospital |
| Carling Animal Hospital | Fisher Glen Animal Hospital | Global Pet Foods Bank Street |
| Global Pet Foods Barrhaven | Global Pet Foods Eagleson Road | Global Pet Foods Orleans |
| Karson Aggregates | Love Your Pet Kemptville | Montreal Road Animal Hospital |
| Pet Valu Earl Grey Drive | Pet Valu Hazeldean Road | Pet Valu Innes Road |
| Pet Valu Ogilvie Road | Pet Valu Rockland | Pretoria Pet Hospital |
| Produce Depot Carling | Rabb Construction | Rainbow Natural Foods |
| Richmond Animal Hospital | The Pampered Pet Bank Street | Valley Stream Manor Inc. |

Internship Program

Our gratitude goes to Cassandra, Holly, Lieneke and Nathalie, our tireless and dedicated interns, who deserve much of the credit for successfully nurturing and releasing our wildlife patients this year. 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 Wishlist

Thank you to all of our wishlist donors! We are always grateful for donations of new and gently-used supplies:

- receiving blankets, towels, sheets, fleece
- electric heating pads
- cat litter boxes
- tip-proof pet food dishes, crocks, water bowls
- puppy/dog kibble
- striped sunflower seeds
- natural foods (walnuts, chestnuts, acorns, pinecones)
- fruits (apples, bananas, grapes, berries)
- vegetables (yams, broccoli, corn, leafy greens)
- kleenex, paper towels
- x-large trash bags
- dish soap, bleach, laundry detergent
- liquid hand sanitizer
- disposable and rubber gloves
- modern computer, screen and keyboard (or laptop)
- telephone (preferably speaker capability)
- video camera
- postage stamps
- paper, envelopes, etc.
- lumber (all sizes), plywood
- ½” and 1” welded wire mesh

I would like to help injured, sick or orphaned wildlife!

Our work is made possible through the generous donations from the community, foundations and corporations. With your support, we can help give a second chance at life to even more animals.

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
Province: PC:	
Email:	
Phone:	Date:
Donation: \$	

Membership:

- () Individual \$25/year
- () Family \$40/year
- () Student/Senior \$15/year
- () School \$35/year
- () Life \$500
- () Small Business \$100/year
- () Corporate \$1000/year

-
- () Cheque () Cash:
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For secure **Credit Card** payments, please visit our website at <http://www.rideauwildlife.org> or **CanadaHelps** at <http://www.canadahelps.org> and search for Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mail to:
Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
P.O. Box 266
North Gower, Ontario K0A 2T0

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO HELP THE ANIMALS!

Tax-deductible receipts are issued for donations or memberships over \$10.00

(Charitable Registration # 82731 7744 RR0001)