



Newsletter

(613) 258-9480

Spring 2007

Spring Update

We successfully released our over-wintering patients this spring, including nine eastern grey squirrels, four red squirrels and three raccoons. Spring has been busy, as expected, with the first babies arriving in April. Already this year, we have admitted more than 200 animals, including squirrels, raccoons and groundhogs, as well as some rarer orphans, such as a fox, beaver, weasel and flying squirrel.

We have a wonderful team of about 30 in-centre volunteers and, thanks in part to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's Canada Summer Jobs program, we have hired five full-time summer students, all of whom are pursuing careers in a veterinary-related field.

Our Board was hard at work this past winter working on our fundraising strategy. We are grateful to have received grants from the Shell Environmental Fund for caging, HIVA Environmental Fund for operating expenses, and the Community Foundation of Ottawa for renovations to expand our facilities (see articles later in the newsletter).

Thank you again to everyone for your donations and support these past few years. It has made a big difference in the number of animals we are able to help (95 in 2005, 275 in 2006 and more than 400 expected in 2007).

Stay tuned for our special summer issue, which will contain tips on co-existing with our wild neighbours, solving common wildlife situations, and what to do if you suspect an animal needs help.

Linda Laurus, President



How Your Donation Helps

While we have the person-power and funded projects to help even more animals this year, we are in great need of donations to cover our operating expenses for the rest of the season.

We don't normally ask for help so blatantly, but our coffers are low. Your donation will help to cover the rehabilitation supplies for the animals currently under our care and will allow us to take in even more animals during the late summer birthing season.

If you have ever wondered how your donation helps, here are some examples of our rehabilitation costs.

\$5	vegetables for one juvenile groundhog for one week
\$10	rodent food for 25 squirrels for 1 week
\$15	nesting box for one litter of squirrels
\$20	dog kibble for 20 juvenile raccoons for 1 day
\$25	small wire cage for one litter of squirrels
\$30	cleaning products for one week
\$35	formula for one raccoon for six weeks
\$50	outdoor pre-release cage for one litter of squirrels
\$55	insulated nesting box for a litter of raccoons
\$100	medium-size outdoor enclosure for raccoons
\$150	formula for 25 raccoons for 1 week
\$250	large outdoor enclosure for skunks
\$530	large outdoor enclosure for raccoons

If you would like to help make a difference, any amount would be greatly appreciated. You can make a donation online at www.CanadaHelps.org or by mailing a cheque to our address listed on the back of this newsletter. Tax-deductible receipts are issued for donations or memberships over \$10.00. We also gratefully accept donations of items on our wishlist. Thank you for your help.



Our Residents

A very lucky baby fox was found near Albion and Lester. After 3 cars straddled the fox in the middle of the road, a 4th car pulled over to rescue him. Although a traumatic experience, he came out of it safe and sound.



Some of you may have read the sad story in the papers about Bucky the Beaver, who had to be euthanized after being caught in a leg snare trap. On a happier note, this baby beaver, found wandering along the side of the road near Albion and Leitrim, took happily to doing laps in the bathtub. Baby beavers can take to the water inside their lodge within a half hour of being born and are usually skillful swimmers within a week.



We have three Northern Flying Squirrels in our care this year. These allusive, nocturnal creatures have flaps of skin that stretch from the wrist of their forelegs to the ankle of their hindlegs. Using these gliding membranes, and their tail as a rudder, a flying squirrel can glide from tree to tree for an average distance of 6-9 meters, though up to 45 meters and longer has been observed. Our three flying squirrels will be placed in a large "pre-flight" cage prior to release.



Most of our 70 raccoons were orphaned because their mother was relocated, intentionally killed, or hit by a car. Most animals we admit are severely dehydrated and require fluid therapy before being gradually introduced to formula. Van Gogh, a shy juvenile raccoon, came to us last month. Missing one ear, likely from birth, Van Gogh will survive just fine in the wild.



Puff, an Eastern Gray Squirrel, came to us with severe abscesses on his scalp and feet, but fully recovered after medical treatment and a round of antibiotics. Puff and his new buddy Rocky are expected to be released within the next month.



Youth Action Day

United Way/Centraide Ottawa, in partnership with Volunteer Ottawa, undertakes two Days of Caring each year – one for workplaces and one for youth. Days of Caring provide people with a unique opportunity to volunteer and allow them to experience first hand the impact of a wide range of community programs in our community. Youth Action Day brings volunteers together to meet the practical needs of agencies and organizations needing help.

Special thanks go out to Meredith, Samantha, Kaleigh, Taelor, Ashley, Melanie, Janel, Alisha, Rachel, Cassandra, Sarah and Chris, who spent the entire day on May 5 building three intermediate outdoor enclosures for raccoons and other medium-sized mammals. All three cages are housing real wildlife now!



Volunteer Spotlight

We have an amazing team of volunteers, ranging from cage builders to drivers, and in-centre animal care assistants. One of our new volunteers deserves special mention—Sarah Trowsdale has become a fundraising force pro. In addition to volunteering eight hours per week with the animals, Sarah, a high school student, took it upon herself to approach and provide information on our organization to numerous local businesses.

Thanks to Sarah's efforts and the generosity of those she approached, we are pleased to recognize the following businesses for their support and donations:

- Pampered Pet, Southgate Mall
- Loeb, Southgate Mall
- Grand and Toy, Billings Bridge
- Produce Depot, Bank Street
- Giant Tiger, Blossom Park
- Salvation Army

Expanded Rehab Facilities

Our plan to expand our facilities has become a reality. With a total project budget of just over \$27,000, we have raised \$21,000 in donations and volunteer support to renovate an existing building on the property. We will begin interior demolition this summer with construction beginning in September. We welcome the help of volunteer electricians, plumbers and carpenters.

This project was funded in part by a grant from the **Community Foundation of Ottawa**, a public, non-profit organization created by and for the people of Ottawa. It connects donors who care with causes that matter and serves as a trusted resource for addressing issues and leveraging opportunities in the community. It attracts and manages a growing endowment, the invested earnings of which provide grants to charitable organizations.

The Foundation's role is as neutral broker in support of all charitable causes that contribute to the community's quality of life. With a growing profile, the Community Foundation of Ottawa has built an enviable reputation for astute financial management, high-quality donor services, strategic grantmaking and innovative partnerships. For more information, visit www.cfo-fco.ca.

Wildlife Housing Project

This summer, we are building additional indoor cages and outdoor enclosures to accommodate the increasing numbers of wildlife requiring rehabilitation.

This project was funded in part by the **Shell Environmental Fund**. Created in 1990, the Shell Environmental Fund is a national program intended to make a local difference. The SEF has granted more than \$12 million to environmental projects across the country. Individuals, schools, community associations, service clubs and environmental groups have used the grants, of up to \$5,000 per project, to improve and protect their environment.

If anyone is willing to help out at one of our cage-building weekends, please give us a call.



Our Wishlist

Rehabilitation Supplies

- towels, sheets, receiving blankets, fleece
- heating pads, hot water bottles
- cat litter boxes, cat condos
- extra-large pet carriers
- pet food dishes, crocks and water bowls
- hamster water bottles
- Esbilac powdered puppy formula
- rodent block
- striped sunflower seeds
- walnuts, almonds, pecans, chestnuts, acorns
- apples, bananas, grapes
- yams, broccoli, corn, carrots
- leafy greens, dandelions

Cleaning Products

- dish soap, detergent, bleach
- tissues, paper towels
- brooms and dustpans
- mops and water buckets
- garbage cans
- trash bags

Services

- printing
- bookkeeping/accounting
- construction and trades (heating, electrical, plumbing)

Office Supplies

- paper, post-its, envelopes, etc.
- postage stamps

Veterinary Supplies

- disposable gloves
- syringes, needles
- lab coats, scrubs
- incubators, heat lamps

Construction/Caging Materials

- lumber (2x2, 2x3, 2x4)
- plywood
- ½" and 1" welded wire mesh
- tin roofing
- fencing materials
- central air conditioner
- freezers (energy efficient)
- linoleum or other cleanable flooring

Call for Board Members

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is looking for additional Directors to complement its already dedicated board. The RVWS Board is a working board—this means that all board members are expected to undertake additional work, such as finance, grants/fundraising, publications and education, in addition to their duties as Directors. Directors are elected at our Annual General Meeting for a period of two years and are expected to contribute 4-8 hours or more per month. We are also looking for a Treasurer to oversee the overall financial health and performance of the organization. If you are committed to the goals of our organization, have previous board experience and are interested in becoming a board member, please call us for an application form.

Our Supporters

Many thanks to local businesses, veterinarians and foundations for their support and donations:

- HIVA Environmental Fund
- Community Foundation of Ottawa
- Shell Environmental Fund
- 76design Inc.
- Berry's Your Pets Choice (Bank and 2nd)
- Boomerang Kids (Richmond Rd)
- Russell Food Land
- Dr. Robert Turmel, Richmond Animal Hospital
- Dr. Andrew Sparling, Osgoode Veterinary Clinic
- Dr. Jeanne Vachon, Clinique Vétérinaire Lafontaine





About Us

The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, founded in April 2005, is a registered charity (#82731 7744 RR0001). We are the only volunteer, Authorized Wildlife Custodian for small mammals and rabies-vector species (raccoons, skunks, foxes) serving the Ottawa area.

Our mission is to care for injured or orphaned wildlife and return them to the wild. Our goal is to increase community understanding of wildlife and their environment and help prevent and solve human/wildlife conflict through education.

Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
 P.O. Box 266
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 Fax. 613-258-2601
 Email: rideauwildlife@ripnet.com
 URL: <http://www.rideauwildlife.org>

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. In 2006, the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary helped more than 275 orphaned, sick or injured wild animals, but there were many more that needed help. With your support, we can help give a second chance at life to even more animals in 2007.

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
Province:	PC:
Email:	
Phone:	Date:
Donation: \$	
Membership:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior \$15/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> School \$35/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$500	
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Business \$100/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$1000/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash:
For secure Credit Card payments, please visit 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 kaarina-wildlife@amphibious.ca # 82731 7744 RR0001).

Volunteer Opportunities Available

*Release Site Provider * Animal Care Assistant * Foster Caregiver * Cage Builder * Fundraiser * Construction*