



Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Newsletter



(613) 258-9480

September 2008

Summer Update

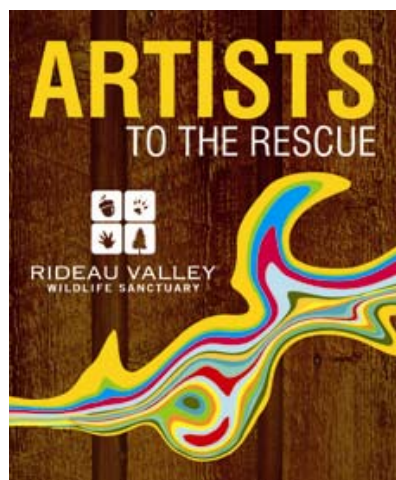
This spring and summer, RVWS has been busy as usual. We saw some surprises in the wildlife birthing season again this year. Both raccoons and squirrels, the two most common species we rehabilitate, were born very early this spring, even before the snow melted, meaning we filled up quickly. We also saw some very late season raccoons, some still on bottle-feedings, which will need to be overwintered and released next spring. The second squirrel litter, which usually occurs in late July or early August was very late this year—we are still receiving calls about orphaned baby squirrels—as opposed to no second litter in 2007.

Together with the help of more than 50 dedicated in-centre and foster volunteers, and two summer students, we were able to admit close to 200 animals this year with an above-average success rate, compared to 300 animals last year. Unfortunately we had a reduced capacity this year due to reduced funding for summer students. Funding through the federal Canada Summer Jobs program covered only two *part-time* summer students for 12 weeks in 2008, compared to five *full-time* summer students for 16 weeks in 2007. Luckily, with a much-appreciated grant from the Carleton University Charity Ball, we were able to extend the summer students' hours to full-time for the duration of the summer.

We were also busy (and still are) building our new wildlife rehabilitation centre. With the generosity of public donations, building materials from local businesses, and hundreds of hours of volunteer labour, we have a fully functional facility and will complete Phase 1 construction this year. We look forward to our official grand opening in spring 2009.

It seems that every RVWS newsletter follows a certain theme—the spring 2007 newsletter focused on education and tips on wildlife encounters; this newsletter is dedicated to the many people, businesses and foundations that have helped us over the last year, as well as the usual stories and photos of the animals in our care. We hope you enjoy. We also include a client feedback form—we welcome your comments and suggestions to help us improve our services to the community.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support, donations and memberships. We hope to see you at our annual fundraiser on November 12th —Artists to the Rescue! Wishing you a wonderful autumn.



Artists to the Rescue 2008

Mark your calendars! The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is holding its second annual fundraiser, Artists to the Rescue!, on **Wednesday, November 12, 2008**. The event will be held at the new Lago Bar-Grill-View, Dows Lake Pavillion (<http://www.lagobargrill.com>) from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Auctioneered by Codi Jeffreys and Steve Boyton from Majic100, the event promises to be a festive evening with a live auction showcasing modern and contemporary works by local artists, and a silent auction of unique gifts from local area businesses. This is the Sanctuary's only fundraiser to help cover our wildlife care expenses such as formula and food for the animals, veterinary care housing and enclosures. Tickets are \$50 and include delicious hors-d'oeuvres, door prizes and a tax donation receipt for \$30. Tickets can be purchased in advance by logging on to our website or sending a cheque to our mailing address. Please join us for this special night, sample some of Ottawa's best food, enjoy a cocktail and help a great cause. Visit our website (www.rideauwildlife.org) after September 29 to purchase your tickets and view an up-to-date listing of our generous art and silent auction donors.

Wild Residents

'Sinead' the skunk arrived almost completely bald except for her head and feet. As you can see from the photos, the infamous skunk markings are visible in the pigments of her skin. After medical treatment, she grew back a lustrous, full coat of fur.



An eastern grey squirrel came in with a major "privates" abscess, which kept us wondering if he would survive. After medical treatment and antibiotics, he healed just fine, if not a little "crooked." ☺

"Hat" the raccoon kit came in with a broken femur but an invincible attitude. His leg mended beautifully and he can now climb with the best of them.

Cuterebra larvae are grubs of a large fly. Immature larvae can enter a host animal through body openings or cuts in the skin. It creates a large growth, sometimes more than 1 cm long, but usually causes no ill effects except for possible secondary infection. Once mature, it leaves the host through a breathing pore in the skin. They are a common occurrence in rodents but we saw our first two raccoons with these icky creatures. Veterinary support was needed in this case and the raccoons mended just fine.



Most of the orphaned raccoons we receive are single kits, many likely lost during a nightly foray with mom and siblings. This year, we admitted many litters, some the result of trapping and relocating mom, others found on a road near a dead mother, one litter found huddled together in the middle of a busy highway.



Jimmy (Durante) was an orphaned raccoon that ended up with a slice off the top of his nose and a nick in his ear. Both healed well and make him easy to identify. Jimmy and his new siblings will likely spend the winter with us as they are too young and underweight to release this fall.



'Acorn' the eastern grey squirrel arrived with a broken leg but an A+ attitude. Being so young, his leg mended quickly and he was using his leg within days.



Construction of New Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre

With building plans in hand and crossed fingers, construction on our new rehabilitation centre began on February 29, 2008 with a delivery of 40 tons of stone dust to lay the foundation for the floor. The project consisted of renovating an existing stable on the property in two phases: Phase 1, renovating approximately 1300 square feet, is our immediate goal; Phase 2, the remaining 1200 square feet is a future dream.



A small team of volunteers worked every weekend for months under extreme weather conditions to lay the floor, install framing, and run electrical wiring. Most of this work is thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Ottawa and the leadership of two amazing volunteers—Kim and Bruce—who we thank profusely.

However, while we had made a great start, we were running out of funding. In March, journalist Earl McRae heard of our plight and came to our rescue. Following a front page article in the Ottawa Sun on March 18 (<http://rideauwildlife.org/OttawaSun051808.htm>), the public responded immediately. Support from the community resulted in more than \$20,000 in donations (including a single donation of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor!). We can tell you that we shed many tears of joy—our dream was coming true!



Many people also stepped up to offer their services. Two Kanata residents, Carol, who works in the IT business and her brother Michael, who works in the construction business, contacted us to see how they could help. They visited the site on May 24 to get a first hand look at what remained in terms of building materials and labour to complete the project.



As a result, “Project Wild Thing” has been a huge success! Together with community donations, building materials and services from local area businesses, and more than 1,500 hours of volunteer labour over about 26 consecutive weekends, we have gone from a gutted stable to a fully-functional wildlife rehabilitation facility. We are happy to report that we moved into the new wildlife centre on Monday, August 18. Although the centre meets our current needs, we still have work to do over the fall and winter. We cannot wait to show off the new facility at our official Grand Opening in spring 2009.



There are so many people and companies to thank. Our sincerest appreciation and gratitude go to everyone for helping us get this far— the Community Foundation of Ottawa, Earle McRae, the Ottawa Sun and, especially, every concerned citizen who saw a need to help Ottawa’s native wildlife and contributed to a centre that will provide them with the care they need to return to the wild. The volunteers who have given up their personal time and companies who have donated materials or provided significant discounts have been outstanding! We cannot thank everyone enough.

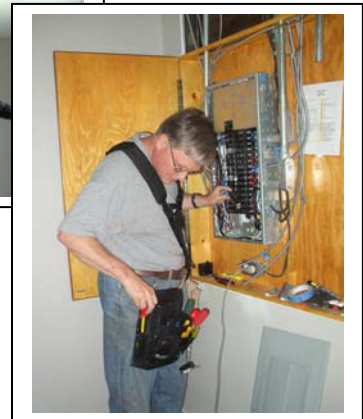
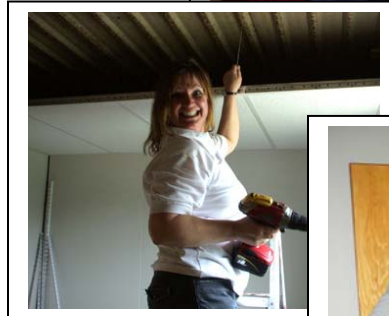


Construction Volunteers

Aimee D, Al C, Alanna V, Astrid, Brandon M, Bruce P, Carol K, Charlotte F, Christina G, Christine D, Darcy M, Don F, Donna V, Fran K, Gail M, Gary, Hailee L, Hailey K, Hazel U, Jamie D, Jane S, Jessie T, Jim L, Kevin L, Kimberlee M, Kim P, Krishna K, Linda L, Margaret P, Mark R, Michael K, Michael S, Michelle F, Mike C, Natasha K, Peter A, Phil D, Randy K, Rick B, Rick G, Rob, Robin C, Shayna V, Sue B, Trevor P, Wally F, Walter C

Donated/Discounted Building Supplies and Services

Aecon Buildings Ottawa – Mike K
 Alaska Wood Industries Company Ltd. – George I
 Aries Contracting (Ottawa) Inc. - Keith K
 Armstrong
 BBS Construction (Ontario) Ltd. - Richard B
 Carling Animal Hospital
 Carmec Plumbing & Heating Ltd. - Andy R
 Clean Water Works Inc. - Kyle P
 CRS – Contractors Rental Supply Ottawa, Jim B
 Dilfo Mechanical Ltd. - Danny D
 Earl Karr Electric Ltd. - Doug V
 Envirowall Partition Systems Ltd.
 Exel Contracting Inc.- Ian & Tracy R
 Geo. A. Kelson Company Ltd. – Bernard R
 Gratien Proulx Building Materials Ltd.
 Home Depot Kanata – Kyle S
 Latcon Ltd. - Scott Saunders
 LTR Industries– Brian V
 Maple Leaf Property Management – Phil D and Peter A
 Merlin Door System Ltd. - Hal H
 Morin Brothers
 Phoenix Glass & Aluminum Ltd. – Barry, Allan & Sue
 Piamonte Painting & Wallcovering - Leonard M
 Sapacon Drywall Ltd. - Paul G.
 Signs.ca Visual Communication- Jim H
 Transit Glass & Aluminum Ltd. – Bill B
 Valley Sanitation Services Ltd.



Kudos!

Our in-centre volunteers, foster caregivers, release site providers and other volunteers are integral to helping the animals and we thank them for their support and dedication.

Kudos to our 2008 volunteers:

Aaron and Becky, Sue B, Samantha B, Stephanie C, Lynn C, Maritza D, Lynn G, Angelo D, Lorraine E, Jane S, Christina G, Tracy I, Nicole and Dominique, Chelsea L, Kristen M, Kimberlee M, Celine O, Joanne P, Corrie and Ron, Dina S, Misha T, Karrie T, Amanda W, Michelle F, Karin R, Jamie T, Rebecca M, Sarah and Selena, Anya, Josee L, Linda A, Sydney A, Stephanie D, Kari F, Diane G, Lee-Anne G, Linda H, Audrey, Heather and Steve M, Donna M, Evelyn N, Sharon N, Margaret P, Hillary, Andrea S, Michael and Jennifer B, Linda and Harry B, Linda H, Jason and Robin C, Mike M, Deb and Deb, Donna O, Pat G, Josie B, Patrick K, Geoff B, Sue B, Rick B, Scott and Mario, Patrick G, Laura and Sarah G, Joelle M, Karin W, Kelly K,

Our sincere gratitude goes to Lindsey D and Sarah C, our summer student interns, who spent many a hot, rainy, smelly, dirty, mosquito-filled day to help the myriad of animals in our care this summer. We are sad to see them go but wish them the best of luck in their continuing studies.



Thank you to everyone who helped to implement our Trillium Foundation Grant to increase our internal outreach and rehabilitation capacity: Stephanie C, Alexandra C, Jane S, Bev M, Catie M, Veronica P, Aimee D, Susanne P.

Special appreciation goes to Sheila and Dave A, our wishlist angels, for their support and generosity. They have donated most of the large items from our wishlist (e.g. brand-new washer, dryer, freezer) plus most other items. They continue to drop off fruits and vegetables, dog food, cleaning supplies and even treats for the volunteers. This has allowed us to focus on the main task at hand—caring for the animals. Dave is also custom-building stackable squirrel cages and Sheila continues to help with fundraising. Their moral support is also endearing.

We were touched this year by the outpouring of caring, dedication and resourcefulness shown by our youth supporters, all of whom went out of their way to help the animals. Applause and appreciation goes to:

- Hailey K, Natasha K, Shayna V, Alanna V, Charlotte F,

Jessie T, Haylee L and Christine D for helping at construction weekends, raising donations door-to-door, making animal toys, and helping with the animals and chores.

- Haddon, Jack and Ben for hand-delivering newsletters and canvassing door-to-door to raise funds to help the animals.



- Samantha K. for raising donations at her birthday party, all of which went to help orphaned wildlife.
- Selina and Sean-Daniel N for selling lemonade to help Acorn, the orphaned squirrel they rescued, and the other animals at the centre.
- Alexander M (age 6) for auctioning his artwork and donating the proceeds to help the animals.

With Sheila A's skills as 'Raccoon Dietary Coordinator,' we are grateful for the donations of dog food from:

Berry's Pet Food, Second Avenue, Kemptville
Global Pet Foods, Strandherd Drive
Grenville Dundas Veterinary Clinic, Kemptville
Love your Pet, Kemptville
Allison's Feed and Farm Depot, Winchester Springs
March Road Pet Grooming, Kanata
Paws A Bit, Merrickville
Pet Valu, Barrhaven Crossing, Manotick Mews, Southgate Shopping Centre
TSC Store, Kemptville

Thank you to Dr. Rob Turmel and staff from Richmond Animal Hospital, who continue to provide exemplary veterinary advice and services to our critical care patients.

Rehabilitating wildlife is a messy business. Our appreciation goes out to Brookstreet Hotel – Rolando A, and Holiday Inn Kanata – Jeff, who donated truckloads of towels and linens to help keep our critters clean and comfy.



United Way Campaign

The United Way launched its Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign on September 8. The campaign's goal this year for the National Capital Region is \$19 million. While the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is not a direct beneficiary of United Way funding, you can choose to designate a specified amount of your United Way gift to us by including our business name and BN/charity registration # 82731 7744 RR0001. Thank you for your support in 2007, which raised just over \$700!



Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Network (OWREN)

OWREN, Ontario's association for Wildlife Rehabilitators, is holding two Wildlife Rehabilitation Basics Skills Courses this fall. The course is a basic educational component of wildlife rehabilitation for those who wish to become authorized wildlife rehabilitators in Ontario, or learn the basics of wildlife rehabilitation. This allows them to volunteer at rehabilitation facilities or work with wildlife in related professions. The two-day, hands-on course covers the basics such as triage, examinations, diseases and husbandry.

October 25-26, 2008
Haileybury, Ontario, Northern College
Deadline to register: September 27, 2008

November 15-16, 2008
London, Ontario, University of Western Ontario
Deadline to register: October 17, 2008

OWREN's next conference will be held February 9-14, 2009 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Visit www.owren-online.org for more details and registration.

Our Wishlist

Rehabilitation Supplies

- towels, receiving blankets, fleece
- heating pads
- cat litter boxes, cat condos
- x-large plastic pet carriers
- tip-proof pet food dishes, water bowls
- heavy-duty gloves, welding gloves
- rodent block, striped sunflower seeds
- walnuts, almonds, chestnuts, acorns
- fruits and vegetables
- dog food, dog food, dog food!
- video camera

Cleaning Products

- dish soap, disinfectants, bleach
- tissues, paper towels
- brooms, dustpans, mops
- garbage cans
- trash bags
- disposable gloves

Services

- printing
- accounting

Office Supplies

- stamps, envelopes
- fax machine
-

Construction/Caging Materials

- plywood
- ½" and 1" welded wire mesh
- tin roofing
- fencing materials

We are very grateful to all our sponsors, benefactors and volunteers for helping us to help the animals.



RVWS CLIENT FEEDBACK FORM

If you have dealt with the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, we would appreciate your feedback. When completed, this form is confidential and used only to help improve our services. Please e-mail the completed form to rideauwildlife@ripnet.com or mail it to Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, P.O. Box 266, North Gower, ON K0A 2T0 tel 613-258-9480.

Date: _____ What is your neighbourhood (if Ottawa) or town? _____

1. How did you learn about us? _____ Was it easy to find us? Yes Somewhat No

2. Why did you contact us? orphaned wildlife injured or sick wildlife help reuniting mother and baby
 wildlife in attic, under porch, etc. wildlife rescue nuisance wildlife (describe) _____
 referral contact info (e.g.turtles, birds) other _____

3. Was your contact with us by: phone in person other _____

4. If you left a message on the hotline, was your call returned: w/in 6 hrs w/in 12 hrs w/in 24 hrs not at all n/a

5. Did we provide you with useful information and advice? Yes Somewhat No n/a Comments _____

6. Did our advice or information help? Yes Somewhat No n/a Comments _____

7. If your contact was in person, was the staff courteous and helpful? Yes Somewhat No n/a

8. If you wanted to bring us an animal, were we: able to admit the animal full and not able to take any more animals n/a

9. If we were full and not able to admit an animal, did you: foster it for us take it the Ottawa Humane Society find another rehabilitator
 take care of the animal yourself let nature take its course other _____

10. Do you find our re-designed website helpful and informative? Yes Somewhat No Comments _____

11. Do you find our newsletters helpful and informative? Yes Somewhat No Comments _____

12. Do you believe the Ottawa area needs wildlife rehabilitation and hotline services? Yes Somewhat No

13. Do you believe that government should fund wildlife rehabilitation and hotline services? Yes Somewhat No

14. What other services would you like to see us provide? _____

15. Please list any other issues or suggestions to improve our services: _____

16. Please provide your name and phone/email if you would like us to contact you:

Name _____ Contact by: _____

THANK YOU!
The Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary values your feedback and suggestions.



How You Can Get Involved in Wildlife Rehabilitation

Construction/Trades

Help with building and maintaining our new facility.

Fundraiser

Help raise funds from the public, foundations and corporations.

Animal Care Assistant

Help to care for the animals at the sanctuary.

Foster Caregiver

Care for wildlife in your own home.

Release Caregiver

Provide a release site for rehabilitated wildlife.

Cage Builder

Build indoor caging, outdoor enclosures and nesting boxes.

Office Support

Help with newsletters, mailings and data entry.

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:

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)

WWW.RIDEAUWILDLIFE.ORG
RIDEAUWILDLIFE@RIPNET.COM



RIDEAU VALLEY
 WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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