



# Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Newsletter



(613) 258-9480

October 2009

## Fall Update

With the help of three summer students, dedicated in-centre animal care assistants, foster caregivers, release site providers, drivers and other volunteers, we have admitted approximately 280 small mammals this year. The vast majority of these were babies that were orphaned during the spring and early summer. Several late-born litters of raccoons and squirrels will need to be overwintered and released next spring.

This was also our first full season of working out of our new wildlife rehabilitation centre—a dream come true thanks to the generosity of the public, the Community Foundation of Ottawa, and more than 1,500 hours of volunteer labour. We celebrated with an official Grand Opening on June 13, which was attended by the public and our supporters.



Thank you to everyone for your continued support, donations and memberships. We wish you a wonderful autumn. We are introducing a new section in our newsletter—Youth Zone. Enjoy.

## Our Wishlist

If you would like to donate supplies from our wishlist, please call or email for the location of drop-off centres throughout the city.

### Rehabilitation Supplies

- dog kibble
- rodent block
- striped sunflower seeds
- walnuts, almonds, chestnuts, acorns
- towels, receiving blankets, fleece
- heating pads
- ceramic pet food dishes, water bowls
- heavy-duty gloves

### Cleaning Products

- dish and laundry detergent
- anti-bacterial hand soap and sanitizer
- bleach
- tissues, paper towels
- brooms, dustpans, mops
- metal garbage cans
- garbage bags
- disposable gloves

### Office Supplies

- stamps
- envelopes
- printer paper

### Construction/Caging Materials

- plywood
- 2x3s or 2x4s (not pressure treated)
- ½” and 1” welded wire mesh
- tin roofing
- vinyl flooring

## United Way Campaign

The United Way launched its Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign on September 11. The campaign’s goal this year for the National Capital Region is \$20.5 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 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 in 2009, which raised just over \$1,200!

## Annual Live and Silent Auction

Because of the economy and to allow more time for planning when we are not in the midst of animal rehab season, we are moving our Annual Auction to February or early March 2010. Stay tuned for details.

## Wild Residents

“Squiggly Emily” came to us as an orphan early in the season. Seeing a baby groundhog on its own is very rare and is usually a sure sign that it needs rescuing. Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks, are active during the day and feed mostly on green vegetation. Surprisingly, they are good swimmers and climbers. Groundhogs are true hibernators (Emily was sleeping by mid-October). Their body temperature can fall from almost 36°C to less than 4°C, their breathing slows to once every six minutes, and their heartbeat drops from more than 100 beats per minute to 4 beats per minute.



The Northern Flying Squirrel is quite common but, as a nocturnal squirrel, is seldom seen. They glide from tree to tree by spreading their legs and stretching their flight skin, which extends from their forelegs to their hindlegs. They use their tail as a rudder and pull upright at the last instant to land gently. The Northern Flying Squirrel is active all year and often takes advantage of woodpecker holes in tree hollows to make their nests.



We received our largest litter of orphaned Striped Skunks this year—eight skunks were brought to our centre in the course of a week after an adult, presumably their mother, was hit by a car. “Rusty’s skunks” were formula fed but quickly adapted to

solid foods. Skunks are primarily nocturnal and do not hibernate, but they may become dormant during extremely cold weather. We are always asked how we care for skunks—skunks usually only spray when they are threatened so we let them know that we are around and try not to startle them! Vaccinating skunks is always interesting!



The Red Squirrel, the smallest tree squirrel in our area, nests in trees, hollow logs or on the ground. The Red Squirrel is active all year. In the fall, they cut green pinecones and bury them in one or more large caches in the ground, in a hollow tree or at the base of a tree.



# 2009 Grand Opening

This year was our first full season of working out of our new wildlife rehabilitation centre—an extraordinary improvement over working in part of a farmhouse for the last four years. Our dream was made true thanks to the generosity of the public and businesses, Earl McRae, the Community Foundation of Ottawa, and more than 1,500 hours of volunteer labour.

We celebrated our official Grand Opening on June 13, 2009, which was attended by the public and our supporters. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony was officiated by construction managers Mike Kruse and Carol Kruse, with speeches by Earl McRae, Ottawa Sun columnist, and Pierre Poilievre, MP for Nepean-Carleton. Zip.ca generously sponsored the fabulous barbeque and “The Grateful We’re Not Dead,” a band dedicated to helping local causes, kept us entertained. Myka and Krishna created a wonderful kid’s zone with face painting, games and more. The highlight of the afternoon was a tour of the new facility and watching through the special one-way viewing windows as the baby raccoons, squirrels and skunks were fed. Our sincerest appreciation and gratitude go to everyone for attending, organizing and volunteering at the event. Thank you to Bev, Andrea and Kasia for the photos.



## Kudos!

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

Laura O, Stephanie P, Jessica P, Dave W, Margaret P, Lynn R, Melissa and Trevor, Ashley M, Erika C, Lorraine E, Patrick S, Evelyn N, Ben R, Nicky W, Kristen and Teal, Natalie F, Joanne P, Brian and Jacquie, Jennifer K, Lindsay H, Genevieve G, Eve D, Aaron and Becky, May A, Em, Karyn B, Kimberlee M, Kelly M, Christine E, Lisa J, Shayna L, Samantha M, Josée L, Linda A, Paula C, Lee-Anne G, Audry M, Andrea S, Andrea W, Deb and Deb, the five Js, Christa J, Laura and Sara, Honey and Ron, Samantha B, Kari F, Linda and Harry B, Karin W, the Kruses, Gina, Willy and Hanny, Shannon Y, Zach M, Chris M, Jenny H, Rachel A, Vicki R, Marilyn C, Kathleen T, Laurie C, Maria P, Myka and Patrick, Diane C, Karen and Phil W, Lynda H, Ricardo B, Bruce P, Stephanie D, Joan H, Carole B, Bev M, Jessica Y, Andy G.

Our gratitude goes to Lindsey, Chelsea and Shawna, our summer student interns, who excelled in caring for the animals this summer. We are sad to see them go but wish them the best of luck in their continuing studies in veterinary technology. Sincere thanks also go to Lisa for her tireless help and support.

Applause and appreciation also goes to.

- Hailey, our Youth Ambassador, and her friends for organizing, and to the Grade 6 students at Roch Carrier Public School for participating in a Looney drive for RVWS
- Veronica and Rebecca for their leadership and to the students of Roland Michener Public School for contributing much needed donations from our wishlist
- Students of Sir Winston Churchill Public School for their donation to help wildlife in need
- Johnny for raising donations at his birthday party to help feed the animals
- Sheila and Dave A, our wishlist angels, for their continued support and generosity
- Shawn for your continued support and concrete expertise
- Dr. Rob Turmel and staff at Richmond Animal Hospital, for their veterinary advice and services to our critical care patients
- Jennifer and her team from Bell Canada, who spent the day with us in the spring to build six intermediate outdoor enclosures

## Deloitte Impact Day

On September 26, Deloitte staff from across Canada once again joined together for their fifth annual Impact Day—a single day when staff are encouraged to volunteer their time for locally-organized community improvement projects. Some employees from Deloitte's Ottawa office, together with students from South Carleton High School, worked tirelessly at RVWS on a myriad of projects, ranging from cleaning the wildlife centre to repairing cages and nesting boxes, landscaping and sorting donations. It was a memorable day for everyone involved. Thank you also for the donations from our wishlist!



## Construction Update

Phase 2 of our construction plan will provide another 1,200 sq ft of space for wildlife care. Phase 2 is funded solely through the generous donations of construction materials and labour from Ottawa-area businesses. This year we installed a concrete floor, plumbing and cabinetry. We will be constructing more quarantine rooms to be ready for the 2010 season. The following companies have been outstanding, donating 100% of their goods and services.

Access Rigging Services  
Aecon Buildings Ottawa  
Alaska Wood Industries  
Bytown Paving  
CBM – Canada Building Materials  
Clean Water Works Inc.  
CRS – Contractors Rental Supply  
ema Architects Inc.  
Garage Doors of Ottawa  
Merlin Door Systems Ltd.  
Ottawa Valley Glass  
Piamonte Painting & Wallcovering  
Signs.ca  
Site Preparation Limited

# Youth Zone

Welcome to our new Youth Zone section, where you will be able to learn and have fun at the same time. Enjoy!

## Wildlife Online

Winter is approaching and, as we all get set to spend more time indoors, it's a good time to explore some fun and interesting ways to get your wildlife fix—online.

## Websites

- The Canadian Wildlife Federation's WILD Education program features learning, classroom activities and outdoor projects. <http://www.wildeducation.org>
- EcoKids is an environmental education program that offers interactive, fun, educational games and activities. [www.ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/index.cfm)
- Hinterland Who's Who offers factsheets on Canada's wildlife, things you can do to help wildlife and wildlife videos. [http://www.hww.ca/index\\_e.asp](http://www.hww.ca/index_e.asp)

## Blogs

- The EcoKids Blog is a great way for kids to learn about wildlife and environmental issues. [www.ecokids.ca/blog](http://www.ecokids.ca/blog)
- The Nature Conservancy's Cool Green Science blog captures news, opinions and updates on wildlife issues around the globe. <http://blog.nature.org>



Releasing a wild animal back to its natural habitat is our ultimate goal and the best part of our job. This is a photo of a raccoon exploring his new home and searching for food within minutes of release. Raccoons are omnivores, meaning that they will eat almost anything including insects, grapes, nuts, berries, crayfish, fish, eggs, small mammals, etc.

## The Story of the Hungry Raccoon

Find the right word from the list below to complete the story!

**flying oak branch berries friends dark insects  
firefly food light hungry smacking crayfish forest**

One night, when it was \_\_\_\_\_ and the moon shone through the forest, a hungry raccoon named Hugo was searching for \_\_\_\_\_. Fiona, a bright firefly, was \_\_\_\_\_ about. Hugo, now sitting on an old stump he found in the forest, watched with excitement as Fiona flew around the trees, leaving a trail of \_\_\_\_\_ behind her. Unable to contain his excitement, Hugo leaped excitedly towards Fiona, \_\_\_\_\_ his lips the whole time. The \_\_\_\_\_ was not so easily caught. Hugo followed and eventually lost his way. Feeling tired and all alone, Hugo rested at the base of a large \_\_\_ tree when he heard a faint whisper. It was Fiona the firefly perched high on a \_\_\_\_\_. Peering down at the raccoon, Fiona said, "Why are you trying to eat me?" Hugo didn't know what to say except that he was \_\_\_\_\_ and that raccoons eat \_\_\_\_\_. Fiona explained that she might be hard to catch and that she wanted to be his friend. Fiona suggested that they look together for food, since raccoons eat almost anything, like \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. The two became very good \_\_\_\_\_ and Fiona offered to light their way as they headed out into the \_\_\_\_\_, looking for food.



## Our Supporters

We are very grateful to all our sponsors, benefactors and volunteers for helping us to help the animals. The following foundations or local business contributed much-needed donations and supplies in 2009:

Adobe  
 Bell Canada  
 Booth Centennial  
 Camino Modular  
 Canada Summer Jobs Program  
 Carleton Ford (Duffy Pettes)  
 CIBC  
 Deloitte  
 Elvis Sighting Society  
 Global Pet Foods  
 Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites (Ottawa-Downtown)  
 Independent Linen Service  
 Ottawa Citizen  
 Pet Valu (Southgate Shopping Centre)  
 QPonz  
 Rainbow Natural Foods  
 S. C. Johnson and Son, Limited  
 The Trillium Foundation  
 ZIP.CA

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](http://WWW.RIDEAUWILDLIFE.ORG)  
[RIDEAUWILDLIFE@RIPNET.COM](mailto:RIDEAUWILDLIFE@RIPNET.COM)



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