



Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary Newsletter



(613) 258-9480

Summer 2011

Summer Update

Together with your support, and the help of dedicated interns and capable volunteers, the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (RVWS) has admitted 330 animals as of July 1, 2011, compared with 310 animals in all of 2010. This brings the total the total number of animals admitted to our facility to more than 1,800 since we opened in 2005. Many patients have already been released back to their natural habitats. But with more than 70 raccoons still in care and a second litter for some species expected soon, we will continue to be busy until the winter. We appreciate your support to help us through the rest of the summer and fall wildlife seasons.

We hope you enjoy our summer newsletter, full of photos and updates. Please visit our redesigned and updated website, which I am very proud of (www.rideauwildlife.org), and sign up for our e-news. Many thanks for your continued support and best wishes for the rest of the summer.

Linda Laurus
Director



BINGO!

Join us at the **Richmond Fair**, September 15 to 18, 2011, where the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary will be hosting (pending licence approval) four days of bingo, draws and games. Fun for everyone and all proceeds will benefit wildlife. Many thanks to Paula for organizing!!

Local Businesses Support RVWS

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. Recognition goes to:

Billings Bridge Animal Hospital
Global Pet Foods Bank Street
Global Pet Foods Barrhaven
Global Pet Foods Orleans
Karson Aggregates
Pet Valu Hazeldean Road
Pet Valu Ogilvy Road
Produce Depot Carling
Rabb Construction
Rainbow Natural Foods
Richmond Animal Hospital

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. We would also like to recognize our full-time volunteer interns who dedicate three to six months to caring for wildlife – Cassandra, Holly, Lieneke and Nathalie – and Michelle who helped to manage operations.

Thank you to our donors and everyone who donated supplies on our wishlist. Lastly, appreciation also goes to:

- Ben, who enlisted the help of Rabb Construction and Karson Aggregates to resurface our gravel driveway
- Jessica, Lois and Maggie for hosting a used book sale in Kemptville
- Nadia for asking for donations in lieu of gifts at her birthday party
- Hannah and friends for hosting a bake sale and selling bracelets
- Brian and Chris for building nesting boxes for our lucky squirrels
- The volunteer team from Intact Insurance for building two outdoor enclosures
- Love Your Pet, Kemptville, for collecting donations and donating proceeds from t-shirts sales
- Erica (www.hysterica.ca) for donating partial proceeds from her art show

Our Wild Patients

Thanks to Brett and other staff at Research in Motion in Kanata who helped us rescue five (only four pictured here) orphaned groundhogs, which have since been released.



Because of their need for large, costly enclosures, we usually transfer fawns to other Ontario rehabbers who already have facilities in place. However, those rehabbers were full this spring so we raised three orphaned fawns (one found orphaned, one rescued from drowning in a river and one hit by a car) at RVWS and found a perfect foster home until they can be soft-released in the fall. Thank you to their fosters!!



We normally care for 100+ raccoons each year. While most arrive as orphans, there are always a few notable stories, like the baby rescued from drowning in the Rideau Canal, and another who is still recuperating, but doing well, from head trauma and a broken jaw from being hit by a car.

Join the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary on *Facebook*!



Many of our patients arrive in a very poor state of health and require around-the-clock care and fluid therapy until they are stabilized enough to be introduced gradually to formula. This is best illustrated by the next two photos of the same Northern Flying Squirrel who arrived close to death, extremely dehydrated and emaciated; but who has now grown into a healthy young adult who is now ready for release.



We love turtles!

We are happy to have partnered with Turtle SHELL Tortue, a local organization that rehabilitates injured wild turtles but was not able to open this year because of limited resources. With their guidance, we have learned to clean wounds, provide pain management and fluid therapy, and repair shell injuries. For turtles with more severe injuries, we work with other Ontario rehabilitators, who then return the turtles back to us for recuperation and release. 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.

Below is a succession of three photos of our first injured painted turtle showing a large crack to her carapace and bridge, the temporary repair with epoxy and wire, and her contented release back home.



Wildlife Hotline Project

Thanks to the **Community Foundation of Ottawa**, RVWS has implemented a project to increase our resources to the community on ways to prevent and solve wildlife conflicts. Responding to telephone inquiries is a significant part of our work – we help the public identify when wildlife needs help and we are often successful in helping to reunite wild babies with their mother. We also provide advice on humane, cost-effective solutions to deal with common wildlife problems and ways to coexist with wild neighbours. This project also enabled us to improve our website resources (www.rideauwildlife.org), thanks to the expert services of Clearly Green Design, with plans to add even more information in the months to come.

My Beginning with RVWS

By Carol Kruse
RVWS Board Member

It was a typical Sunday morning on May 18, 2008. I woke up, made a pot of tea and grabbed the Ottawa Sun from my mailbox. I headed outside to my backyard to read the paper and enjoy my cup of tea.

And there it was on page 4, an article written by Earl McRae entitled, "Distress call goes out." The article was about a small wildlife sanctuary located in North Gower, which was in dire need for cash to convert an old stable into a permanent shelter. Linda Laurus, founder of the Rideau Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, had been housing and caring for small wildlife in her own residence and, due to high demand and lack of space, found herself turning away animals in need. It was this article that would change my life going forward. Not being in a position to help financially, I knew I was good with a hammer and saw and could somehow help. Thinking about the situation and trying to figure out what to do next, I called my brother, who is in the construction trade. Next I know, he's at my house to read the article too.

After making arrangements by contacting Linda, Mike and I, and his two daughters, headed to RVWS the next weekend to scope out the situation. It was a combination of seeing firsthand the great work that Linda and her small volunteer team was doing, together with their compassion and empathy towards the several hundred animals being cared for in such small cramped quarters – both Mike and I knew we had to help.

Three years have passed since that first meeting with Linda and I'm so proud to say that not only did we convert the old stable into a permanent shelter, we were also able to expand in 2010. Mike reached out to local construction contacts and friends, which resulted in a good majority of the sanctuary being built through donations of materials and services from local construction companies, together with the hard work of many volunteers over many months. Even our young volunteers, who couldn't handle the construction work, got involved with school fundraising activities and going door-to-door soliciting funds and needed supplies, such as towels.

Both Mike and I are still very much involved with RVWS and now both sit on the board of directors. Had it not been for that typical day in May 2008 where I grabbed the Ottawa Sun and read Earl's article, I may never have learned about RVWS and all the wonderful work they do.

Photos

1. After gutting the stable interior in 2007, work began in March 2008 to level 40 tonnes of stone dust
2. Framing and installing Envirowall
3. Bruce and friends designed and installed all electrical from scratch
4. The finished squirrel nursery exam station
5. From left to right: Susanne, Donny, Linda, Mike and Carol



More Wild Patients

Our first Eastern Grey Squirrels of the season. Being so pudgy, they had a good mom, but what happened to her?



Our first raccoon of the season, Hank, came in at 300 grams at the earliest date ever for a raccoon (April 5). Now at a hefty 4 kg or so, that represents a weight gain of 14 times in 3.5 months!



Our first fawn of the season arrived at a weight of 4 kg and fit easily into a small cat bed. He is now in an outdoor paddock with two other buddies.



Our first snapping turtle arrived on May 19. Her cracked shell was wired together in three places. After a few months of healing, she is back home in the wild.



Not a "first," but just a cute photo of cuddling raccoon babies sleeping in a hammock.



Our only Northern Flying Squirrel so far this year, showing off his condo created by Brian.



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



Our Wishlist

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
- printing sponsor

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)