



Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Seeing the Bigger Picture

By Kate MacNeil

I think it is natural to sometimes focus so much on one aspect that you lose sight of the bigger picture. How does that saying go, lose sight of the forest for the trees? As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, I have been reflecting on the changes our organization has made and how these changes have allowed us to broaden our focus. To say that when we did rehabilitation it was all consuming would be the understatement of the quarter century. We did our best to incorporate education but the immediate needs of the animals trumped everything. We feel broadening our focus has allowed us to give wildlife a stronger voice while helping people develop a greater understanding and appreciation for wildlife and our natural world.

I think that our evolution has made us stronger as an organization as well as having a more positive impact on wildlife. We still get questions about why we do what we do, whether from a city planner, politicians or members of the public. I think many people look at us and think, "boy, they really like beavers or coyotes or raccoons, a lot!" Although, our main philosophy has always been that individual animals are important and should be valued, and we care for their well-being and advocate their right to exist, it is much larger than that.

Our evolution has taught us that individual animals are an amazing entry point to engage people on many wider issues that determine healthy environments which, in turn, directly affect our health. But, we have also learned to look beyond individual animals to species and ecosystem health, realizing they are all connected.

While attending the 'Living with Wildlife Conference' this fall it was nice to hear that others are also starting to look beyond their niche or specialization as well in realizing how closely linked things are.

People are seeing that there is an intrinsic and emotional value to wildlife and nature that although difficult to quantify, does exist. It is not enough to simply protect habitat, we have to consider and protect the species, particularly the ones that



Photo: Courtesy of Wendy Booth

have successfully adapted to live with us. We have to move beyond a narrow individual species approach such as managing deer solely for harvesting purposes and instead take a broader ecosystem approach.

Essentially we need to recognize the interconnectedness of things and that everything impacts everything else, even if we do not understand it all just yet.

Perhaps the most important viewpoint to consider is that of the general public. As I sat at the conference and got excited that the converted were all starting to get on the same page, it dawned on me that we are such a small piece of the pie. How do we engage the public and convince them that protecting wildlife or habitat or the environment is in their best interest. After all they think the only reason we help beaver is because we like them.

How can we get people to realize that beaver purify the water, prevent flooding and erosion and create habitat that sustains many other species, all of which is critical to healthy ecosystems? That without healthy ecosystems we will not have clean water to drink or clean air to breathe or options for sustainable food production. In that these basics are essential for all of us, how do we get more people on-side? I guess I will ask you to help in being an ambassador for nature. Perhaps if people hear it enough they may start to think it through themselves.

Editorial

Looking Forward to the Next 25 Years



This year marks an important milestone for the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre. It's our 25th anniversary in serving wildlife and the public in this region.

During the last 25 years, we have witnessed many changes. Some not so good, like the continuing resistance of the City of Ottawa to adopting progressive wildlife practices. But other changes offer a greater level of hope for more forward-looking approaches to enjoying nature and co-existing with wildlife.

There are two things that offer encouragement for a better future for wildlife. The stories in this edition of the newsletter will give you a glimpse into both. The 2nd Annual Living with Wildlife Conference in September brought together an eclectic mix of scientists, wildlife advocates, government agencies and individuals.

What I particularly noticed was that scientists, at least those confident in their professional credentials, are no longer concerned about demonstrating an emotional connection to wildlife. It used to be that many were fearful that their objectivity would be questioned if they showed compassion or viewed wildlife as sentient creatures.

A new order of scientist like Dr. Glynnis Hood from the University of Alberta whose research on beavers is gaining international attention, Dr. Faisal Moola, Director General, Ontario and Canada's North with the David Suzuki Foundation in speaking out about why protecting wildlife matters in a changing world or Dr. Shelley Alexander from the University of Calgary whose research on wolves and coyotes is unafraid to challenge political bias.

The other encouraging development is the growing number of individuals that are getting involved in their community to ensure more informed, progressive and humane practices that promote living with wildlife. Best of all, while these individuals won't back down from a fight in challenging misinformation and the status quo, they are committed to constructive solutions.

Donna DuBreuil
President, OCWC

Environmental Champions

We would like you to meet, on occasion, some of the people we work with that are contributing to a more informed understanding and appreciation for wildlife.



Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications

Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, British Columbia

Adrian's quiet diplomacy and his 'let's just get it done attitude' is making a big difference for communities

wanting to live in harmony with beavers in Canada. Through the Association's Tails and Trails campaign, Adrian is working with an increasing number of municipalities to implement non-lethal solutions to beaver management. These unique management alternatives improve local ecosystems by creating new wetland habitat and help municipalities build a better public image.

Adrian says he likes seeing solutions at the end of the day, as opposed to just finger pointing or calls for action. *"It's much more satisfying and productive to provide resources to make change happen"*, he says, making him a good fit with an organiza-

tion that continues to expand its horizons through positive collaborations and partnerships like the work done with the Cornwall Ontario community in July and the Living with Wildlife Conference in Toronto in September.

His excellent presentation on *"Beavers: motivating municipalities and creating communities"* was a highlight at the 2012 Living with Wildlife Conference. It can be found at <http://furbearerdefenders.com/lww-2012>.

Adrian brings to the Association a rich history in the environmental sector, specializing in marketing and social media for non-profits. His environmental background is proving to be a strong backbone for his involvement in wildlife management and co-existence campaigns.



Michael Callahan, Owner and Operator Beaver Solutions LLC, Massachusetts

Mike has become a key resource in North America for communities wanting to coexist

with beavers. He arrived at this mission in a rather roundabout way. When Massachusetts held a referendum in 1996 restricting types of trapping, he and his wife, Ruth, were employed in the medical profession. But the trapping issue was pitting homeowners concerned about flooding against people concerned about beavers, challenging Mike and Ruth to find some middle ground.

They recruited 50 volunteers and installed 40 flow devices to prevent flooding, all the while doing research and learning from others in the field about non-lethal solutions.

In launching Beaver Solutions a few years later, Mike's goal was to create a model business that could be replicated elsewhere. True to his word, he is always willing to

give advice and join others in giving back to the community, as he did in Cornwall this summer working with Adrian. Mike has also produced an excellent DVD that gives a step-by-step demonstration in building and installing flow devices for different situations.

The past 14 years, Mike has designed and installed over 900 successful flow devices for over 120 municipalities, as well as for government agencies, utilities, railroads, businesses and others. Mike has come to really appreciate the exceptional environmental services provided by beavers and says *"it is so rewarding solving problems for people AND coexisting with beavers with their many benefits"*. Visit www.beaversolutions.com for more information.

Encounters with Canada



Tree planting ceremony at Encounters with Canada's 30th anniversary

Through our Education and Outreach programs we have been very fortunate to meet some amazing people and work with some fantastic organizations. This year was no exception. In the early spring, Marina Mognon-Loyer, Acting Program Coordinator with Encounters with Canada got in touch with us.

Encounters with Canada, a program of the Historica-Dominion Institute, is our country's largest and foremost youth forum. Every week of the school year, 120 to 148 teens from across Canada (ages 14 to 17) come to Ottawa. Here they discover their country through each other, learn about Canadian institutions, meet famous and accomplished Canadians, explore exciting career options, develop their civic leadership skills and live an extraordinary bilingual experience. The program is held at the Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre located minutes from downtown Ottawa. This residential facility has been specifically designed with youth in mind. To date, over 91,000 youth have lived the EWC experience since 1982!

This spring, during the Ecology and Environment week, a group of students spent the day at the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre. Students were given a presentation on urban wildlife and ways to co-exist. They enjoyed an interpretive hike, including a visit to the Centre's beaver pond and lodge, something that some of the city-dwellers had not had the privilege of experiencing before. They also participated in group discussions about some of the concerns people have with wildlife and ways to co-exist. They also brainstormed about ways to help educate people about co-existing, messages that they will be able to take back to their communities, as these issues are pretty much universal ones. It was a great day!

In September we were pleased to attend the reception marking Encounters with Canada's 30-year anniversary. The President of The Historica-Dominion Institute, Anthony Wilson-Smith, and the

Encounters with Canada Director General, Linda Brunet, thanked their many volunteers and partners for their support and assistance in making Encounters with Canada the success it has been for the past 30 years. Students and volunteers from across the country, dignitaries and guests from the greater-Ottawa area were on hand to celebrate this important day.

After the reception there was a tree-planting ceremony in which a student from each province and territory placed water and soil on the tree. From our perspective, we felt this exemplified our important connection with the natural world. The event was followed by a citizenship ceremony, a nice finish to a wonderful celebration.



Students enjoying their visit to the Centre's beaver pond

Know Someone Between 14-17 Years Old?

Young people living in Ottawa might think Encounters with Canada has nothing to offer them, given that they live in this city, unlike the majority of students that come from outside of Ottawa. But they would be wrong.

It would offer them a chance to not only see the capital's institutions with fresh eyes but benefit from a vibrant cultural exchange with others from every province and territory in the country. A week-long experience of living in residence, sharing meals, adventures and unique learning opportunities with other young people has offered "*amazing lessons and friendships that I'm sure I'll remember for a long time*", said one participant.

There are 12 exciting themes that allow young people to explore potential career paths, learn more about their country and share their hopes and dreams. You might come from a western or eastern province or a northern territory but you leave as a Canadian.

The Centre saw first-hand the benefits of the program for young people during the day they spent with us, learning about wildlife and biodiversity issues that can be applied to communities they live in.

Sound interesting? Contact Marie Geoffroy at Encounters with Canada (613) 288-9503 for more information. You'll be glad you did.

WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS RESIGN FROM CITY OF OTTAWA'S WILDLIFE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

Wildlife organizations, appointed to help develop a Wildlife Strategy for Ottawa, recently resigned in frustration.

Donna DuBreuil, president of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre (OCWC) said *"we regret having to make this decision because we were instrumental in bringing the proposal for a progressive Wildlife Strategy forward to Council. However, we cannot endorse the Wildlife Strategy Report because it will not change the very negative climate for wildlife in Ottawa and, in fact, further entrench outdated attitudes"*.

Liz White, spokesperson for the Ontario Wildlife Coalition (OWC) and a member of the Wildlife Strategy Working Group, also submitted her organization's resignation. *"I have very serious concerns not only with the substance of the report but the process used. It seems the community organizations were simply used as window dressing and that staff had never any intention of implementing real changes to the status quo, explaining why the process was dragged out for two and a half years,"* said White.

The development of a Wildlife Strategy was prompted by Ottawa residents who were angry and embarrassed with the City's long-standing approach to wildlife in the Nation's Capital that included shooting moose, trapping beavers and coyotes and gassing groundhogs in neighbourhood parks.

Pressure from groups like the centre and the coalition, along with support from environmental interests, resulted in a motion being passed by Ottawa City Council on February 24, 2010 stating that *"staff be directed to develop a comprehensive and integrated wildlife strategy for the City of Ottawa, centred on wildlife-sensitive planning, with a focus on public education and awareness programs and involve appropriate City departments, the National Capital Commission, the Ministry of Natural Resources, other relevant agencies and community stakeholder organizations in its development and implementation"*.

Although the above motion directed that it be involved in the development and implementation of the Strategy, the Wildlife Strategy

Working Group has not met in a year and a half. There was no consultation on the report's recommendations or the demonstration projects already underway. *"It is understandable why the City would want to keep the report under wraps given the glaring discrepancies between the goals of the Wildlife Strategy and the negative outcomes proposed in this report"*, said DuBreuil.

The preamble in the report states *"Council's emphasis on an ecosystem approach reflected the desire to move past reactive policies and actions based on immediate concerns for particular species; it reflected a desire for proactive policies and actions that facilitate and foster a more harmonious relationship with all wildlife."*

There is a serious disconnect between this rhetoric and the report's recommendations below, showing nothing has changed in Ottawa:

- the on-going trapping and killing of beavers throughout the city
- the labelling of wildlife as "nuisances"
- the inclusion of lethal trapping or live trapping in combination with euthanasia as options for dealing with "nuisance" wildlife
- a large mammal response that remains secretive and unaccountable to the public
- demonstration projects to evaluate flow devices where there is little risk and, even if there were, the devices installed have been designed to fail
- education and outreach projects that will provide little benefit to the majority of Ottawa residents

Last fall, groups learned that an alternative Wildlife Strategy had been submitted through the City's Rural Affairs Office. Referred to as 'Your Basic Trappers' Manifesto' by staff, wildlife organizations are concerned that this document was not provided to the Working Group for consideration. *"We wonder how much of an influence it has had in producing*



Lily and kits forced to take refuge on shore after the City of Ottawa destroyed their lodge

a very disappointing Wildlife Strategy. One that reflects a continuation of the 'shoot, shovel and shut up' practices on the part of the city that the community has been so critical of in the past", said DuBreuil.

This includes the action the city took against a family of beavers in a Stittsville storm water pond this summer. First, destroying their lodge during the birthing season, leaving the female and two small kits homeless and the male mysteriously gone. Then trapping and relocating these beavers, against the advice of experts that it was too late in the season to give them much chance of survival.

Ottawa's Wildlife Strategy confirms what a growing number of Ottawa residents see as a concerning trend - that the City is unwilling and unable to work with the community. From a wildlife perspective, the strategy will mean more needless deaths of animals as well as public frustration and controversy, with Ottawa continuing to be seen as the **"most wildlife unfriendly city in Canada"**.

An on-line campaign set up by Stittsville resident, Anita Utas, has resulted in over 2,500 emails sent to Ottawa mayor, Jim Watson, insisting that the city develop a Wildlife Strategy that respects wildlife by implementing humane and progressive methods for dealing with human-wildlife interactions. Many said, *"it's the very least one should expect of the nation's capital"*.

For more information on the Wildlife Strategy visit <http://www.animalalliance.ca/campaigns/human-wildlife-conflict.html> near the bottom.

'Living with Wildlife Conference' Attracts Municipalities



Donna DuBreuil speaking on Panel: *Why Your Municipality Needs a Wildlife Strategy*

It would be challenging enough for a non-profit organization to put on a major national conference in its own city but, for the second year in a row, the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, based in British Columbia, delivered a first-class, full-day event in Toronto. Kudos to Leslie Fox, Adrian Nelson, Andrea Assaly of the Association and their team of volunteers.

Building on the success of last year's conference that saw experts from across North America offer progressive solutions for living with wildlife, this year's event took it to the next level. Getting these solutions implemented within our communities.

Panel Discussion: 'Why Your Municipality Needs a Wildlife Strategy'

– kicked off the event with presentations from Liz White of Animal Alliance of Canada, Donna DuBreuil of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, Bonnie Bergsma, Ecologist Planner from the City of London and Donna Doyle, Senior Environmental Policy Analyst, Town of Oakville. The panel examined human-wildlife conflicts, traditional methods along with the public pressure for changing approaches to dealing with such conflicts in an urban setting. The goal being to provide municipal governments and residents with the tools to develop wildlife strategies geared to the needs of different communities and changing demographics.

Some 13 Ontario municipalities registered for this year's conference, showing the interest in this topic as well as the overall importance of the conference.

A jammed-packed agenda saw an exciting list of presenters during the day: Nathalie Karvonen, Executive Director of the Toronto Wildlife Centre gave the opening remarks on the importance of coexistence from the perspective of wildlife rehabilitation; Dr. Faisal Moola, Director General, Ontario and Canada's North of the David Suzuki Foundation spoke about "*Landscapes of regret or opportunity? Why protecting wildlife matters in a changing world*"; Brad Gates, owner and President of AAA Gates' Wildlife Control talked about "*Wildlife Control – An Industry in Crisis*"; Adrian Nelson, Director of Communications for the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals on "*Beavers: motivating municipalities and creating communities*"; Colin Higgins, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources on "*Living with Deer – Advice and tools to help prevent and handle conflicts*"; Linda Wall, Provincial Coordinator of the Bear Wise Program, OMNR on "*Challenges of Coexistence with Bears*"; Lesley Sampson, Founder, Coyote Watch Canada on "*Conflict to Celebration: Co-existing with Coyotes*"; Dr. Shelley Alexander, University of Calgary on "*Co-existence with Coyotes*"; and Michael Howie, Journalist spoke about "*Understanding media sensationalism*".

The Media's Role in How Wildlife are Depicted:

One of the presenters at the conference, Michael Howie, is an award-winning journalist who has taken his sharp eye for crime reporting and focused it on the environment. He has dedicated himself to better understanding the natural

world through countless interviews, review of documents and the writing of dozens of in-depth features. We first met Michael when he contacted the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre to learn more about the coyote-killing contests in eastern Ontario a few years ago. We were impressed with his thorough follow up and research on the issue and delighted that he would share his expertise on the media at this conference.

"The media frequently is wildlife's worst enemy, using sensationalized accounts of wildlife encounters and fear mongering about little risk wildlife diseases, it has made wildlife organizations very wary about dealing with reporters", said Donna DuBreuil of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre during her presentation.



Mike Howie, journalist, speaking on media sensationalism

Michael shared his insight into the three basic components of a news story - the facts, the angle and the commentary, relaying that every journalist takes the facts and retells them and every journalist has an angle. He provided

numerous examples of how wildlife stories are sensationalized and what to look for in separating the facts from the angle.

"I've been accused of being pro coyote but that's not accurate – I'm pro education, giving people both the human and the animal side of the story based on the facts and I've tried to instill in my newsroom, having it right, rather than having it first", said Michael Howie. Like other presenters at this conference, his valuable insider tips and ethical standards gave participants something to be optimistic about.

The Last Word: In summing up her thoughts about this year's event, conference organizer, Leslie Fox, Executive Director of the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals said, "*It was particularly encouraging to see such a large and growing attendance along with the very balanced mix of government, wildlife organizations and individual citizens – a good foundation on which to build a better future for wildlife in Canada.*"

Community Outreach Over the Last Few Months...



Kate MacNeil giving presentation on Living with Coyotes

Helping With Coyote Questions in Country Place

We were pleased to be asked to give a presentation on coexisting with coyotes at the Country Place Community Association's Annual General Meeting. There were about 60 residents in attendance. We talked about the biology and behaviour of this amazingly adaptable species that can be found in many major cities in North America. We looked at the vital role it plays as an apex predator, keeping populations

of small rodents in check, which comprise 42% of its diet. Tips on coexisting, such as never feeding coyotes, intentionally or unintentionally, along with ways to keep pets safe were covered. Residents were also given a Living with Coyotes Fact Sheet.



Enjoying the wonders of nature

Nature Discovery Workshops at the Centre

One of the groups that visited over the summer was a Sunday School Group. When requesting the visit the teacher wrote, "I had the opportunity of visiting your Centre and taking part in an awesome day full of hikes and awareness about nature with our school. I would like to reserve a date for Sunday School students. Good citizenship, kindness to animals and sharing space with others,

moderation in spending are all some of the values we are covering and I'm hoping this 'field trip' will solidify that for them. I loved the walk we went on last time and hope we can do it again. Sometimes it takes an expert to help us focus and see things in nature that we would otherwise just walk by and not appreciate." The kids came for the day and the feedback was very positive.

Cornwall Chooses Best Practices

As nature's engineers, beavers are second only to humans in their ability to alter landscapes. Although the wetlands they create are critical to many species, they can also cause problems by blocking culverts, resulting in flooding.

It is becoming broadly accepted that flow devices prevent flooding, are more environmentally friendly than trapping and are also more cost efficient. It has led to many municipalities across North America implementing these progressive solutions to beaver conflicts with great success.

But, utilizing flow devices instead of the established response of trapping and killing the beavers is a change, and change is hard for many of us. This means that some are slower to adopt or even consider these options. So when we heard of a situation in Cornwall, Ontario, just a stone's throw away, we were very excited.

Thanks to a group of concerned citizens, led by Rebecca Sorrell and Wyatt Walsh with the help of reporter Jamie Gilcig of the Cornwall Free News, 'Save the Cornwall Beavers' was formed. The group was able to encourage the city of Cornwall to explore alternatives to trapping and killing beavers.

The Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals made a generous offer to the city of Cornwall to come from British Columbia to inspect and install flow devices in the areas where flooding was a concern. Adrian Nelson, from Fur Bearers traveled to Cornwall as did Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions in Massachusetts. Cornwall volunteers as well as the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre were lucky enough to assist with the installation of flow devices at three sites.



Volunteers helping to install flow device in Cornwall, ON

We are pleased to report that the work in Cornwall was a success, not only in implementing beaver friendly solutions for flooding problems but also in that we were able to learn from the experts about the latest technology as well as develop partnerships that will help our collective efforts be more far reaching.

As the Cornwall group expressed, they hope we are able to use this best practices model to encourage equally progressive approaches in Ottawa, the nation's capital.

Ruth Wesenberg – An Animal’s Best Friend

Ruth Wesenberg’s commitment to helping animals extends to those domestic and wild. It also transcends geography as this Vancouver resident says “I like the education work being done by the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre – it is critically important to reach the younger generation and instill in them values of stewardship”.

Ruth’s recent generous donation of \$30,000 comes at a crucial time to help the Centre broaden even further its education reach. The Wildlife Education School Program is valued because it takes the Centre’s hands-on past experience in working directly with wildlife into the classroom where teachers say they have neither the time nor expertise to deliver. The program focuses on small class sizes because it permits greater interaction with students and encourages a deeper interest in specific wildlife issues.

The Education Program also continues to grow well beyond the classroom with day-long Nature Discovery Workshops at the Centre, offering field trips and hikes on the surrounding trails.

And, the Centre’s Community Outreach Program is responding to an ever-increasing number of requests for presentations on a wide variety of wildlife topics from community associations, environmental groups, seniors clubs and youth organizations.

The Wesenberg’s established the ‘Ruth and Ray Wesenberg Wildlife Fund’ at the Centre with a \$70,000 endowment in 2008. While Ray’s charitable interests lean towards helping people, particularly within the health field, Ruth’s very much favour animals. Ruth supports the Critter Care Wildlife Society and the C.A.R.E.S. Cat Shelter in British Columbia and, while at their winter home in Scottsdale, Arizona, she volunteers at Foothills Animal Rescue. The couple’s three dogs and two cats also get to enjoy the winter get away in Arizona.

Ruth’s connection to the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre happened almost 25 years ago, just around the time we were getting started.

She had forwarded a gift made in memory of Donna’s favourite aunt, also a great animal lover, who died in 1989. It came about because Ruth is a close friend of Donna’s cousin, Sharon, who had suggested the Centre when her mother died. Ruth has been a member and supporter ever since.

Ruth is a strong proponent of living with wildlife, saying “*we have many different species of wild animals around our property in Arizona and have learned to happily coexist with them by taking a few sensible precautions with our pets*”.

Over the years, caring for a family and developing their businesses took up much of Ray’s and Ruth’s time. They have two children, both adults now, a son and a daughter. Not surprisingly, both share Ruth’s love of animals.

Ray founded Western Inventory Service and built it into a large national company while Ruth headed up Tara Leasing, a subsidiary that offered vehicle rentals and leasing. The companies were sold a number of years ago but Ruth and Ray remain very active in retirement.

“*The Centre is very lucky indeed to have the support of Ruth and Ray Wesenberg whose leadership and generous philanthropy knows no bounds or borders*”, says Donna DuBreuil.



Ruth and Ray Wesenberg

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF OTTAWA - 25 YEARS OF DOING GOOD IN THE COMMUNITY



The Community Foundation of Ottawa is celebrating its Silver Anniversary this year – 25 years of helping important causes to thrive and grow in our community.

The Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre is also celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. And, the Community Foundation of Ottawa has been a valued supporter from the very beginning.

The Centre’s mandate is to establish a better understanding and respect for wildlife in the

face of rapid development and habitat loss while providing the public with the tools to resolve wildlife conflicts in a humane and effective way.

While the Centre has built a solid foundation in providing wildlife education to students in area schools, there has been a growing demand to further expand this education into the community. “We are increasingly asked to give presentations on general as well as specific wildlife topics to community associations, environmental organizations,

seniors clubs and youth groups”, said Donna DuBreuil, the Centre’s president.

A generous grant of \$7,800 that was received this year from the Community Foundation of Ottawa will help the Centre respond to this demand.

“*We celebrate the Foundation’s many achievements on its Silver Anniversary and wish it continued success in the years to come*”, said Donna.

Giving Fox Pups a Hand

By Kate MacNeil

I'm excited to be writing this animal story. We got a call this summer from a supporter of the Centre who lives by the river, near us. She noticed a fox had pups near her home and wondered if they would be ok. I reassured her it sounded like an ideal place for an urban fox. There was great coverage for denning and the nearby fields would provide good opportunities for foraging for food, such as mice and rabbits.

A few days later, around 10pm, I saw Mom and two pups walking across the road, between the Centre and the caller's property. The pups looked to be in good shape. It's amazing the wildlife that come out when most of us are curled up in bed. What is normally a busy road is transformed into a quiet street, making it quite safe for mom and her pups.

A couple of weeks later, I saw what I thought were two fox pups, where I saw them the

first night. As I got closer I realized it was one pup and an adult. Sadly the adult had a severe case of mange and would likely not survive.

Mange is a skin disease caused by a microscopic mite which causes inflammation, itchiness and hair loss. As the condition worsens the animal has trouble thermo regulating and its immune system becomes compromised. Although it's easily treatable, you need to get the medication into the animal. Its normally given via injection but in the wild an animal can be dosed through their food. Sadly, the adult never came close enough for us to get medicated food to her.

We were still optimistic we could help the pups. We would see them out during the day, sometimes in compromising situations near busy roads. We called the supporter and brought her up-to-date. She was very supportive of our plan to feed the pups near the den. Our thought was if we could supplement their feeding, they would stay closer to the den in a safer environment. Once we got them in the habit of feeding in this location, we would put



medication in the food. It was a long shot, but we had to try something.

Throughout the summer we did our food run. I am happy to report I saw one of the pups in early fall in a field near the Centre, no doubt looking for mice. Its growth was right on track and its fur looked fabulous. I'm not sure how the story will end, but it was certainly rewarding to be able to give even a small hand to Mother Nature. After all, she does so much for us.

In Memoriam



Iris Bethel Buckland's untimely death due to cancer on April 3, 2012 will leave many to mourn, including her daughter, Melodi Letcher and son-in-law Denton Hunter, her sister Lorena and husband Melvin Forbrigger.

Iris had a lengthy and successful teaching career where her devotion and dedication to her students made her many life-long friends. A lover of animals, Iris had been an active member in the Rideau Terrier Club, showing her prized Dandie Dinmont terriers.

Those of us at the Centre came to know Iris through her love of animals – domestic and wild. For many years she nurtured orphaned baby raccoons until they were old enough for safe release, watching out for them on her rural property until they had made the transition back to the wild. Even in illness, Iris maintained her concern for animals. Although just recovering from surgery, she arrived at the Centre one day with a car full of food for animals that were being rehabilitated. A strong and talented woman, Iris was also a very accomplished artist, as a wonderful painting done by her of the Centre's mascot 'Ernie' shows. We will miss Iris's humour, kindness and loyalty.

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Le bien...toujours



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