



Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

Wetland Complex Restoration On Carling Campus A Showcase For Wildlife-Sensitive Planning



Anita Vandenberg, MP Ottawa West-Nepean presented Certificates of Appreciation from the Federal Government to those who contributed such a great deal to the project's success.

Anita, as MP and champion of this multi-year project said, *"fighting climate change and protecting our environment takes action from everyone. The Federal Government is committed through its Natural Heritage Conservation Program to protect 30 per cent of ecologically-sensitive areas in Canada by 2030 to conserve nature and halt biodiversity loss. The role played by the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre in setting up a Natural Environment Stewardship Committee to bring partners together is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when government works directly with the community"*.

Anita Vandenberg, MP Ottawa West-Nepean and the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre hosted a special event recently to celebrate the restoration of the Carling Campus Wetland Complex and to recognize the partners that have made it such a great success.

A unique feature of the project has been the variety of government and community partners that have contributed to this success.

Wildlife-Sensitive Planning was and continues to be a key component of the commitment to protecting biodiversity and enhancing the natural environment on the Carling Campus. Kate MacNeil, Executive Director of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre gave a presentation showing the work undertaken in rehabilitating the three Naturalized Stormwater Ponds that are part of the Campus Wetland Complex.

Kate spoke of the effort made during the work to ensure that no species, large or small, would be accidentally harmed during construction. Permanent measures included the installation of flow devices in the Stormwater Ponds to pre-

vent flooding while keeping beavers and their ecological services in the ponds, along with the planting of 'beaver food' trees. Of the 200 trees planted, over half are poplar and willow that traditionally serve as sustainable 'beaver food' in that they regenerate quickly while stabilizing banks and preventing erosion.

"The work done on the Carling Campus will serve as a showcase for 'best practices' with respect to coexistence, helping to educate those taking part in the Centre's programs and the wider community," said Donna DuBreuil, president of the Centre.

The Partners

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) served as the lead, demonstrating that a major government employment hub can exist while respecting and protecting the natural environment.

"We are proud of the environmental work accomplished on the Carling Campus. Not only will it contribute to a healthier environ-

ment for people and wildlife but protecting and utilizing natural assets will result in substantial economic savings going forward," said Mario Hubert, Senior Director of Real Property Services, PSPC.

"During many challenging phases, this complex project relied on PSPC leadership and Mario Hubert's capable and steady hand," said Donna DuBreuil.

Linda Jenkyn, Director General, Property and Facility Management Service Line, Patrice Ramier, Asset Manager, RP-2 and Jessica Rivet, Portfolio Operations Advisor, RP-2 also represented PSPC at the event.

Stephen Lynch, Senior Project Director with BGIS during the project was recognized as well for overseeing the major renovation of the Wildlife Centre in 2017.

National Capital Commission (NCC)

Nathalie Roy-Patenaude, Director of Real Estate Management at the NCC spoke about the Carling Campus Wetland Complex as an important

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TIPS TO KEEP WILDLIFE SAFE

Birthing Season: Depending on the species, the time when there might be vulnerable babies on or around your property can extend from March through September. Keep in mind:



- Wildlife will often seek out a safe spot in a chimney, attic eave or under a step, as it's away from predators, to have their babies. Remember, it's TEMPORARY so please allow a short grace period
- Before taking down a tree or removing branches, check to make sure there aren't leaf nests or cavities that would be home to babies too young to escape
- A nest of baby rabbits in your garden should be left alone as the mother only returns during the night or at dusk to feed her young

Needless Threats: Videos showing a skunk with its head stuck in a jar might be funny to some but not to the animal that will die unless rescued:

- Always separate the dome lid from plastic cups before discarding. Let fast food outlets you use know why they should have this information prominently displayed
- Never leave a lid on by bending it inside the can as animals can get seriously cut and/or trapped this way. Remove the lid, rinse out the can and pinch the opening closed so animals are unable to get their head or paws stuck inside
- Rinse out glass jars and screw the lid on tightly before discarding
- Plastic peanut butter jars need special attention. Rinse in hot water before removing any bits of remaining peanut butter with paper towels. Rinse again to remove any smell before screwing the lid on very tightly
- Plastic six-pack can holders are also lethal to animals and birds. Cut before discarding so that animals can't get caught in them

You can make a contribution to wildlife by practicing and sharing these tips. With busy lives, we don't always take time to think about the consequences of our actions to wildlife. However, no one wants to see an animal suffer and almost everyone will be thankful for the information.

Check out www.wildlifeinfo.ca for more helpful tips on wildlife

Editorial

A Tale of Two Cities



Actually, it's the same city but seeing the difference between the Federal Government's commitment to Green Infrastructure on the Carling Campus and the City of Ottawa's struggle to make even modest progress on environmental and biodiversity concerns, they could be a continent apart.

As the cover story highlights, Public Services and Procurement Canada and the National Capital Commission along with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and local community associations have partnered in restoring a badly-debilitated wetland and rehabilitating stormwater ponds. All with progressive measures that put wildlife-sensitive planning at the fore.

The work recognizes that the Wetland Complex not only provides vital services to the community but is a critical ally in fighting the climate emergency. And, that beavers, as a keystone species are the single most important influence in the maintenance and health of these natural resources.

Thus, flow devices have been installed in the stormwater ponds to allow beavers to provide essential ecological services on the Carling Campus while mitigating the potential for flooding.

Meanwhile, the City of Ottawa has only recently expressed interest in protecting wetlands, having compromised many such areas for municipal drains to serve development in the past. And, city staff still don't get the critical role of beavers, trapping and killing 150 of them each year.

Public Engagement

On the other hand, Public Services and Procurement Canada welcomed the Natural Environment Stewardship Committee set up by the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre a number of years ago. It has brought government and community groups together in a unique partnership to protect the natural assets and biodiversity on the Carling Campus, with more exciting plans underway.

It is in contrast to the City of Ottawa which has shut out the community and discouraged real public engagement for years.

Glimmer of Hope

There is some promise, however, as a number of returning and newly-elected city councillors have expressed a commitment for more progressive policies. The goal, according to councillors, is for "a revised Wildlife Strategy that reflects modern day practices to coexist with wildlife in our city". Equally encouraging is the commitment to changing the existing culture at the city to one of greater transparency and public involvement.

Several recent well-attended public meetings on the city's Wildlife Strategy show that Ottawa residents will accept no less.

Donna DuBreuil
President, OCWC

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natural feature that the NCC owns and manages. *"The wetland provides many important values for the campus, nearby communities and the environment, such as flood and drought mitigation, water quality treatment and aquatic and terrestrial habitat, including that for species at risk. The Campus has rich biodiversity with 21 mammal species, 130 bird species, 14 reptile and amphibian species, and close to 300 insect species,"* said Ms. Roy-Patenaude.

She acknowledged those involved from the NCC along with the many other partners who brought unique ideas, best practices and energy to the project. Simon Comtois, Vice-President, Design and Construction at the NCC also attended the event.

Binita Chakraborty: was the Senior Municipal Engineer in Design and Construction at the NCC for many elements of the Project. Described by team mates as passionate, an entrepreneur and a doer who gets results. *"Most important, Bina is someone who embraced 'ecological engineering', that is working with nature, well before her time,"* said Donna DuBreuil.

Octavian Danes: Project Manager in Design and Construction was the NCC lead on the 2nd phase of the Wetland Restoration. He was valued as a collaborator and someone you could count on to get things done.

Lydia Bolam: Senior Municipal Engineer worked on the 2nd phase, providing important support on the design side in coordination with the consultants, Morrison Hershfield.

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA): Given that within the RVCA watershed, approximately 70% of the wetland cover has been lost since pre-settlement, it welcomed the opportunity to participate in the restoration of the Stillwater Wetland.

Jennifer Lamoureux, RVCA Biologist gave a captivating presentation, along with a great video, created by Emma Jackson, RVCA Communications Specialist, of drone coverage showing the remarkable improvements to the wetland. *"The environmental and social benefits of these efforts will be observed for years to come, however, even in the short term we have seen improved habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife, as well as improvements to the local hydrologic condition,"* said Jennifer.



Anita was surprised, following her acknowledgement of others, when a photograph of the Stillwater Wetland was presented to her in 'Recognition for her vision and leadership in the Restoration of the Carling Campus Wetland Complex'. The photograph was a gift from Jon Stuart (seen here), a Fine Art Photographer who happened on the restoration work between 2021 and 2022 and was intrigued by the positive changes taking place. Some of Jon's exceptional work that was exhibited at the event 'aims to capture the magic that has been created in this Wetland'.

"Jennifer is highly regarded as an expert in her field, passionate and fearless. She and Bina have worked together for years, resulting in many significant contributions to the Region's environment," said Donna DuBreuil.

Attending from RVCA were Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, General Manager; Kristin Strackerjan, Chair of the RVCA Board of Directors; Theresa Kavanagh, RVCA Board Member and City Councillor for Bay Ward.

Crystal Beach Lakeview Community Association (CBLCA) is very proactive on all issues that impact the quality of life for its residents. That includes protecting natural areas and wildlife.

Ian McConnachie who was chair at the time of the CBLCA Transportation, Transit and Infrastructure Committee played an important role on the Natural Environment Stewardship Committee, saying *"we are delighted with the work being done on the Carling Campus and are sure to remain involved as was the case when large numbers of our community turned out to plant trees during the wetland restoration."*

Attending from CBLCA were Nic Martinez, President, and Kate Twiss, Chair, Transportation, Transit and Infrastructure Committee.

Belltown Neighbours' Association (BTNA) values the natural areas that are part of their community.

Leah Travis is a member of the Natural Environment Stewardship Committee, a long-time supporter of the OCWC and is currently the Secretary-Treasurer on the Centre's Board of Directors.

Michael Brownell is on the Belltown Neighbours' Association Executive. Michael and Leah have played an active role in the protection of the environment on the Carling Campus, saying *"it's fulfilling to be part of something that makes a tangible contribution to the environment while helping to educate the larger community."*

Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre (OCWC) has made it its mission since 1987 to protect wildlife and habitats by raising awareness of the value of natural areas and the benefits of living in harmony with nature. The Centre's location on the Carling Campus presented both the opportunity as well as the responsibility to educate and advocate in protecting these critical natural assets. *"We are grateful to have such a committed partner as Public Services and Procurement Canada in advancing progressive environmental goals,"* said Leslie James, member of OCWC's Board of Directors.

Living with Coyotes

Not that many years ago, the land on which our community now stands was home to abundant wildlife. Coyotes, like many species, have adapted to live with us. They don't have much choice given that development has eliminated forests, meadows and farmers' fields at a relentless pace in Ottawa.

The first myth is that coyotes prey on people's pets. It's true that if we leave a cat out overnight or a small dog off leash in a natural area, we risk losing them to a coyote but, more often than not, it's a fisher that is the culprit as far as missing cats are concerned.



Courtesy Michael Davies

Coyotes have lived in cities throughout North America for many years. Once we learn about their biology and behaviour as well as practical tips to avoid potential conflicts, it is easy to coexist.

Coyote Biology

The Coyote (*Canis latrans*) is a medium-sized member of the dog family that includes wolves and foxes.

The Eastern Coyote that lives in this area weighs on average between 30-40 pounds.

Coyotes are an extremely intelligent and adaptive species and are thus able to take advantage of a wide range of habitat.

Mating takes place in February with, on average, four to six pups born in April and May. Both parents are involved in raising the young and the male assumes the responsibility of bringing food to the den for the female and the young.

The growing pups are very playful, much like domestic pups. Even the adults show affection among themselves and occasionally high spirits, tossing sticks about.

Coyote Behaviour – Fear is furthered by ignorance. And, what we humans fear, we kill.

It is not only proven to be unwarranted but also ineffective in solving any perceived or real conflict.

Understanding why a species acts in a certain way is crucial to responding in an informed way.

A study on urban coyotes showed that the foundation of their diet was small rodents, primarily mice and voles, augmented by rabbits, hares and squirrels. Surprisingly, 23% of their diet consists of fruit, one of the reasons they are often seen around properties with crab apple trees in the fall.

Without foliage on our trees and shrubs, coyotes are more easily seen in late fall and winter as they extend foraging times and territory to compensate for food being harder to find. But, the biggest reason they are seen on our properties is that they are simply following their primary diet – mice – and, as we all know, mice move closer to our heated homes come fall.

As for coyotes being a threat to people, consider that only two humans have ever been killed by a coyote in all recorded history. In contrast, on average, twenty human deaths are attributed to dogs each year in the U.S.

Challenging the Term 'Habituated'

All urban/suburban wildlife have had to adapt to living amongst us to survive.

The City's labelling a coyote 'habituated' became a convenient excuse for killing coyotes last fall, rather than adopting the effective measures used by progressive cities such as wildlife-sensitive planning, targeted public education and aversion conditioning for specific coyotes when considered necessary.

Ottawa's By-law and Regulatory Services indicated *"the behaviours of the identified 'habituated' animals as – (a) accessing composters (b) 'hunting' domestic pets (I guess the coyote didn't get the city memo that tells them the difference between a rabbit and a free-roaming cat) (c) they entered a trap (obviously baited with food) easily and quickly"* - really!

To have identified 'suspect' coyotes and killed them on the basis of the foregoing does not meet even a minimum standard of commonsense.

The two incidents when a coyote was known to have taken a pet hardly warrants a full-out campaign against coyotes, especially when you consider that the city of Ottawa receives 350-400 reports annually of people bitten by dogs.

Going Forward

The City has confirmed that coyotes will be considered on an ecosystem basis within the Wildlife Strategy Review. We are reassured that coexistence is the goal and that the proper measures will finally be put in place to support this objective.

Wildlife Strategy Review – Change Long Overdue

Will Ottawa finally get the humane and progressive wildlife policies that residents have long demanded?

Perhaps. We were encouraged by the positive response to the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre's pre-election Survey from many of those elected to the new Council. Even more so by the recent meetings with councillors who say they want to see *"a revised Wildlife Strategy that reflects modern day practices to co-exist with wildlife in our city."*

Additional public pressure came about this year because of the unwarranted killing of coyotes and a young bear. Three coyotes were trapped and killed by the city in Riverside Park South. Residents witnessed a fourth coyote dragging a leg-hold trap, while a fifth coyote was found in a horrifically cruel neck snare.

The bear shot in Kanata saw a group that has attracted thousands of supporters, demanding a more effective and transparent Large Mammal Response.

Learning from History

Determined leadership is needed from councillors to ensure past mistakes are not repeated. It means standing up to city bureaucracy and challenging a culture of secrecy, control and obstruction.

In 2010, it was also the killing of coyotes that caused public outrage. It prompted our Centre and other organizations to apply pressure, resulting in Council approving the development of a Wildlife Strategy to be based on *"proactive policies and actions that facilitate a more harmonious relationship with all wildlife"* and the appointment of a Working Group.

However, in spite of the hard work of community organizations on the Working Group, a controversial Wildlife Strategy was produced by staff that still has the city trapping and killing wildlife.

Access to Information documents later exposed that a hunting and trapping advocacy group, aligned with the OMNRF, had met in private with the mayor's office,

receiving support for its 'alternate proposal' - a proposal that categorizes urban wildlife as 'nuisances' subject to removal.

The hijacking of both the process and the intent of the Wildlife Strategy a decade ago has led to the city's on-going lethal approach to wildlife and growing public anger.

A Way Forward

Fortunately, solutions are available and they do not need new resources. If implemented, they will save city taxpayers substantial money. A progressive Wildlife Strategy will include the following recommendations made by community organizations that were ignored a decade ago:

1) Implementing Best Practices

Use modern flow device technology to eliminate potential damage to infrastructure while keeping beavers and their essential ecological services on the landscape, crucial given the climate and biodiversity crisis.

While the \$150,000 a year Ottawa spends on a trapper is more than any other jurisdiction in North America, it is only a fraction of the tax dollars wasted on city staff that inspect and unblock culverts and break up dams, requiring equipment and manpower. There are 30-50 beaver management sites that receive inspection weekly or more frequently during critical times of the year. It is the protection of this unnecessary, often overtime, work that is behind the resistance by city staff to using flow devices as prevention measures.

Use evidence-based solutions for coexisting with coyotes as in other Ontario cities.

Use eco-corridors to ensure connectivity, lessen road mortality, insurance claims and human-wildlife conflicts in neighbourhoods. Adopt best practices, i.e. Edmonton's 'Wildlife Engineering Design Guidelines'; form funding partnerships with federal government for eco-passages.

2) Public Education

Broad-based public education is essential. The city is fortunate to already have a resource that provides this service free of charge. The Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife



Centre, with over 35 years of experience, provides wildlife education in schools, nature discovery workshops at the Centre and to a wide variety of community groups of all ages and backgrounds. The Centre is well positioned to work with the city in developing education messages and materials for dissemination by councillors and city staff.

3) Protocol for the Protection of Wildlife during Construction

Must revert to the original intention for a Protocol as a policy document with applicable conditions, as opposed to it having been downgraded to a Guideline only, based on pressure from the development industry.

4) Large Mammal Response

Requires **public education in advance** of the predictable times of year, i.e. bears coming out of hibernation. The NCC, having trained conservation officers, needs to be the lead as these animals live on NCC managed lands. Relocation, only as a last resort, and then always back to the nearest natural area. Requires a transparent protocol, outlining roles of NCC, City By-Law and Police in an MOU with cost-sharing details.

A Progressive Wildlife Strategy in 2023?

The true test of whether the city of Ottawa is committed to finally implementing a progressive approach to coexisting with wildlife will be how quickly it puts in place the above basic measures.

And, how collaboratively, the City is willing to work with local community organizations on an on-going basis.



Photo: Bear With Us

BEARS AND US

We are privileged in Ottawa to be surrounded by natural areas. The National Capital Greenbelt, of 50,000 acres, stretches from Mer Bleue in the east to Shirleys Bay in the west, providing many residents with nature literally in their backyards.

The Greenbelt is home for many wild animals, including bear, deer and coyotes. River and hydro corridors provide additional habitat and permit essential wildlife movement.

It should not be at all surprising, therefore, when one of these animals, as happens most years, ends up temporarily in a residential neighbourhood. It is often during predictable seasons and can be successfully managed with appropriate public education in advance of these times.

For example, bears coming out of hibernation in the spring, when there is not yet a significant natural food supply out there, will seek out birdfeeders, composters or crab apples in the fall when they are having to add natural sugars to their diet before hibernation.

Bears are not aggressive animals. They might wander into a backyard to take advantage of seed at a birdfeeder but they are not after the women and children. The young bear that was shot 14 times by the police in Kanata was trying to flee, as reported by the traumatized residents who witnessed it. It was dusk and had it been left alone, there was no threat to people in their homes.

The over reaction, as happened in Kanata this past spring, resulted in a young bear being unnecessarily killed. Other bears have been relocated but that is certainly not the answer. Moving bears that live on the Greenbelt to unfamiliar distant counties, where they will face competition for the same limited food supply, compromises their survival.

Rather, education is needed. With the knowledge of what not to do, other bear sightings across the City have been handled differently. People shared information with neighbours about sightings, urging them to put bird feeders away and garbage out only on the day of collection, saying *"Let's get it right this time and give these bears a fighting chance!"*

THE BEAR FACTS

Bears are normally dormant from November until March, denning underground in a cave or rock crevice, beneath the limbs of a fallen tree or in a hollow log

The cubs – normally 2, occasionally 1 or 3, are born in the winter den in January or February. They are very tiny, weighing only 7 to 12 ounces or not much bigger than a hamster. Not weaned until August, they stay with mother for 1 year which is why females only have one litter every other year

Much of their diet consists of roots, berries, nuts, buds, twigs and insects

Many dependent cubs are orphaned when adults are killed during Ontario's controversial spring and fall bear hunt

PUBLIC EDUCATION – AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A SUCCESSFUL WILDLIFE STRATEGY

The controversial actions that resulted in the killing of coyotes and a bear in Ottawa this past year could have been avoided if the City of Ottawa had a Public Education program. It was one of the key recommendations made by community organizations on the Wildlife Strategy Working Group that was ignored a decade ago.

Experience Provides the Proof

The Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre operated a successful Telephone Hotline that

annually assisted 7,000-8,000 people resolve a wildlife concern they were experiencing on their property. This detailed advice is now available at www.wildlifeinfo.ca. The Centre also provides broad-based public education on wildlife through a wide variety of on and off-site programs.

From this first-hand experience, we know that if you provide people with information about the biology and behaviour of a particular species, along with practical advice on how they can resolve a concern, you



empower them. Giving people the knowledge and control over the situation will be the only effective way to achieve coexistence.

It is essential that the City of Ottawa work collaboratively with experienced wildlife organizations such as the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and others to deliver public education.

We Need Nature and Nature Needs Us

The evidence is in about the benefits a connection to nature has to offer. In children it has been shown to improve concentration, build confidence and promote creativity. For those of us that are only children at heart, it still has much to offer, from reducing stress to promoting happiness and well-being. One study suggests it even enhances our social interactions. Simply put, we need nature.

The Centre is seeing a dramatic increase in interest in our programs from people of all ages and backgrounds. In the last few months, we've developed and delivered presentations for schools, youth groups, community associations, new Canadians, retired educators, homeschool parents and children and retirement home residents. It's a very positive sign that more people are valuing a connection with the natural world.

My connection with nature started at a young age and although my relationship with nature has changed over the years, I have always considered it a friend. As a child it was a place of endless wonder and adventures where our imaginations could run wild. As a parent, it was a place I could share my love of wild things, a place to bond with my child and watch her explore and develop.

I also have the privilege of nature being my workspace. I get to share these wonders with people of all ages and help them discover their own relationship with nature.

But all relationships take work, even one with nature. Not only is it important for each of us to do our part to protect it but we also need to make time for nature in both our lives and our children's lives – it is worth it!

Making a Nature Connection

When we shifted our focus to education and outreach, we needed to come up with a few words or a 'motto' to summarize the vision for our work. We came up with: **Nature...Discover, Enjoy, Protect.** After almost 2 decades, these few words still capture the fundamental components of our work.

We remain committed to helping people of all ages discover and enjoy nature and all it has to offer. Through our Education Programs delivered in schools, as well as our on-site programing, we work to engage and excite participants about local wildlife and the valuable role all species play in healthy ecosystems. Like anything else in life, we work harder to protect the things we love and value.

We also work to ensure the protection of wildlife and natural spaces. By partnering with individuals, community groups, other organizations as well as government, we are able to make a difference for nature. From small projects that help residents coexist with beavers by wrapping targeted trees and planting alternate food trees to the larger undertaking of a wetland restoration, which is celebrated in this issue.

We are pleased, after 35 years, to still be going strong and remain committed to helping people Discover, Enjoy, and Protect Nature.



We also take 'our show on the road', visiting youth groups such as this Girl Guide group in Barrhaven seen here testing the beaver dams they created.



The Gary DuBreuil Outdoor Centre is being put to great use with our Nature Discovery Workshops.



OCWC's School Program brings nature to local classrooms

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Local elementary students and their teachers from a Kanata school spend the day at the Centre seeing tangible examples of designing with 'nature in mind', and how it benefits people and the environment.

Here is what some participants had to say...

"Thank you for the incredible programming the Centre ran today, it was absolutely spectacular. The students really enjoyed their time and when asked about their favourite part, they replied everything. The kids and educators were so inspired!"

Senior Elementary Educator

"We had the huge privilege to visit to learn about the local animal species, build some miniature beaver dams and do some snowshoeing through the woods with you. You were such a dynamic presenter and teacher, it was just such a wonderful and memorable experience for the kids."

Program Coordinator, Children's Centre

"Thank you again for coming in to chat with our classes. It was such a great morning of learning for them. They had so much to say and write about after your presentation and they still talk about the animal facts you gave us. Thanks again!"

Grade 2 Teacher

"I really enjoyed the Wildlife Centre's presentation today. You folks are doing such excellent work in education. Bravo!"

Member – Education Retirees Association of Ottawa

Nature Discovery Workshops

We hold these sessions year-round at the Wildlife Centre and incorporate outdoor trails, the restored Wetland, and the Naturalized Stormwater Ponds into our programming. Participants learn about 'Wildlife Sensitive Planning' and see firsthand the coexistence success story occurring on the Carling Campus, demonstrating how a major employment hub can value nature and be good stewards of the land.

This winter saw a tremendous interest in our snowshoeing programs at the Centre with dozens of youth groups and school groups taking part. Children discovered the vast range of species that not only call our Campus home but are also living in and around our neighbourhoods throughout the city. They learned interesting things about these species, as well as ways we can coexist. Visits also included a snowshoe session, with lots of hands-on activities for the children.

School Programs

Although it is wonderful when children can visit the Centre, snowshoeing under moonlight or learning about coexisting with beavers by looking at a flow device, the reality is not all groups have the ability to visit. So, we always find time for our School Programs and do our best to bring nature to them, with lots of hands-on materials, like deer antlers and porcupine quills.



Enjoying a snowshoe adventure on the trails at the Wildlife Centre

Thanks to Our Supporters

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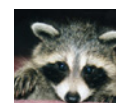
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