



Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

Newsletter Spring 2012

Beavers and Wetlands



Wetlands "the wildest and richest gardens that we have"

Henry David Thoreau

Just a month or so after every luminary in the country it seemed had come to the beavers defence as Canada's rightful national symbol, two young beavers were trapped and killed, just a stone's throw from Parliament Hill.

The question is why do we remain so ill-informed about this species incredible contribution to our environment and why are we so unwilling to adopt the easy ways in which we can coexist?

We humans can clear cut a forest for our homes and it's called the 'cost of progress' but let a beaver take down a dozen trees for his home and it's called 'destruction'.

Fortunately, however, more people are starting to realize that if we give them a chance, beavers might just save us from ourselves.

Wetlands – Our Most Valuable Ecosystem

Wetlands make an immense contribution to our quality of life, in fact, to our very survival. Given climate change and increased risks of both drought and flooding, these areas will play an increasingly vital role.

The most significant social and economic benefit that wetlands provide is flood control. By acting as giant sponges, they absorb rainfall and control its flow into our streams and rivers, trapping sediments and lessening the impact of erosion.

Wetlands clean our water in a number of critical ways. Nutrients are taken up by wetland plants and pollutants such as phosphorous, heavy metals and toxins are trapped in the sediments of wetlands. They also filter up to 90% of bacteria in the water.

Wetlands are the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth, providing habitat for as many as 600 species of wildlife in Canada.

Sadly, the more populated regions of Ontario have lost over 70% of their wetlands as a result of agriculture and development.

Beavers – A Keystone Species

There is no other species that is as crucial to creating and maintaining wetlands as beavers. It is why it's called a 'keystone' species, given the dependence on it by so many other species along with the benefit that wetlands directly provide humans.

"Removal of beaver should be considered an environmental disturbance on par with in-filling, peat mining and industrial water extraction," said Glynnis Hood, lead author of an extensive study of the effects of drought, and an assistant professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Alberta.

It also explains why a number of U.S states, with concerns that range from flood control to drought mitigation to the impact that altered stream courses were having on fish stocks, decided to restore wetlands and reintroduce beavers. It soon became apparent that beaver-engineered wetlands beat human-restored wetlands hands down when it came to healthy ecosystems. And beavers work cheap.

The good news is that there is a growing awareness by municipalities and conservation authorities in Ontario, judging by the increased interest in progressive beaver management policies, that we must do things differently.

If this happens, it will be, in no small measure, due to the vision and determination of some of the people like those we'll be telling you more about in this Issue.

Editorial

Agents of Change



Short-sightedness and self-interest has been responsible for the loss of over 70% of vital wetlands in developed areas in Ontario. Scientists continue to tell us that these losses will come with a very high price tag. A recent report

'Advancing the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Canada', sponsored in part by Environment Canada, indicates *"we need to do more to ensure that the economy recognizes the true value of Canada's natural capital"*.

The report highlights studies that show, as just one example, the estimated value of Ontario's Greenbelt, a protected area around the Toronto region, at \$2.6 billion per year, urging that our economic 'balance sheet' needs to reflect nature's value.

Yet, we continue to eliminate wetlands and encroach on flood plains. Then, when our basements flood, we call in the engineers to build yet more storm water infrastructure, becoming as common in neighbourhoods as Tim Horton outlets.

Storm water facilities cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to build and maintain. In his 2011 report, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario warns the estimated lifespan of 5 to 15 years means that many have reached their life expectancy and will have to be rehabilitated, adding more cost.

If we had any common sense, we'd ensure that every bit of remaining wetland is protected and, as many regions in the U.S. are doing, we'd reintroduce beavers into these areas to provide important natural services for us for nothing.

Agents of Change

But, it is not just scientists that are counselling us on the critical free services that nature provides. Individuals across the country are speaking out within their communities on behalf of protecting biodiversity. This Issue celebrates these 'agents of change'. The good news is that an increasing number of municipalities are listening to them.

Donna DuBreuil
President, OCWC

Environmental Champions

We would like you to meet, from time to time, some of the people we work with that have contributed to a better understanding and appreciation of wildlife.



Christine Hanrahan

Naturalist Extraordinaire and her Dog Sasha

While Christine Hanrahan's contributions in instilling a love of nature go far beyond what can be shared

here, it seemed very appropriate to recognize some of her initiatives that closely align with this Issue's focus on beavers and co-existence.

A member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club for over 30 years, Christine's devoted efforts assisted in saving Larose Forest from development and have helped to conserve many other important natural areas in and around Ottawa.

Christine was Regional Coordinator for both Ontario Breeding Bird Atlases, collecting data, coordinating volunteers and organizing workshops and served on the

National Capital Wildlife Festival Committee for a number of years.

But she is best known for her work at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, where she has become the go-to person for wildlife information. Several years ago, a beaver was forced to spend the winter in the Garden's pond. While some thought the beaver should be 'removed', Christine used the opportunity to teach people about this amazing species. Through educational signage at the pond and her delightful article on the FWG website she has converted many to a whole new appreciation for beavers.

Christine embraces the 'whole' of nature - birds, insects, amphibians, mammals and flora, making her role as an educator a critical one for which we are most grateful.



Sherri Tippie

President and Director, Wildlife 2000

Sherri's life-changing moment came one day, while she was scrubbing floors with her TV on, and heard

about beavers that were going to be trapped and killed in a nearby town in Colorado. While involved in wildlife issues, mostly focusing on coyotes and mountain lion, she hadn't given a great deal of thought to beavers until then.

It angered her that beavers were to be killed doing what nature intended them to do. So began her mission to relocate beavers to places where they could carry out their work on behalf of the environment without threat of death.

What followed were many hilarious stories of how this hairdresser learned to live-trap beavers. But learn she did because she has successfully relocated hundreds of bea-

vers, always making the beavers' needs her first priority, keeping families together and choosing only safe sites.

But, it's even more inspiring to learn how Sherri's work on behalf of beavers has evolved over the years. She now educates landowners on the value of leaving beavers exactly where they are. By working with people like Skip Lisle of Beaver Deceivers International, an expert in flow devices that prevent flooding, they are educating whole communities about the benefits of co-existence.

Sherri's knowledge and love of beavers and practical, cost-effective solutions to living with them is now shared in a number of publications like "Working With Beaver - For Better Habitat Naturally", a Joint Project of Wildlife 2000 and The Grand Canyon Trust available at http://grandcanyontrust.org/documents/ut_workingBeaver2010.pdf

The Amazing *Castor Canadensis*



Photo courtesy of Sherri Tippie, Wildlife 2000

My first introduction to an adult beaver was at Audrey Tournay's, the founder of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. At the time, Audrey lived in a cozy house that had been 'modified' to suit the design preferences of her favourite species, beavers. I will always remember this big, yellow-toothed fellow sticking his head through a door that he had altered to suit his needs – a 'reverse dutch' door with the top half intact but no bottom.

Audrey had a wonderful relationship with beavers, always happy to share information about this special species and always willing to take beaver kits from us when they needed to move up to a large pond before being released.

Happily, there weren't a lot of orphaned beaver kits in those days but since then, with rapidly disappearing wetlands, beavers are under great pressure.

It has introduced us to some other very special beaver ambassadors. People like Sherri Tippie and Heidi Perryman who are featured in this Issue but first, a review of Beaver Facts 101, some of which is drawn from their writings.

Some Vital Statistics

The beaver is the largest rodent native to North America, weighing on average between 40 and 50 pounds. Ungainly on land, with its large webbed hind feet, it is a graceful and strong swimmer. The second toe, on the inside of their webbed foot, has a double claw, which they use like a comb when grooming, distributing a waterproofing oil (hence the name *Castor*) from a gland near the base of their tail.

The most distinctive physical feature is its large flat tail which serves as a rudder in the water, for balance when sitting up and chewing on trees or holding building materials such as sticks, stones and mud. It is also used as an effective means of communication in slapping the water to sound alarm.

They have small eyes and are nearsighted and while their ears are small too, their hearing is very acute. Their keen sense of smell helps them find and select food and also identify family members.

Beavers have long, sharp bright orange incisors that grow continually with which they are able to fell very large trees. They have a flap that closes behind their incisors, enabling them to carry branches and food underwater.

Housekeeping

Beavers construct dams to maintain sufficient water level to keep their families safe from predators as well as allow access during winter freeze up. They build lodges which include a feeding den, a sleeping chamber and usually two underwater entrance tunnels to be able to escape predators.

In fall, they construct food caches of branches underwater close to their lodge to sustain them over winter. They prefer trembling aspen, poplar, willow and birch, all common and fast growing trees. They shift from a woody diet to a herbaceous one as new growth appears in the spring. During summer, beavers eat grasses, herbs, leaves of woody plants and aquatic vegetation.

Family Values

Beavers have an elaborate society in which the family is the basic unit and the female the central figure. As a matriarchal family, it is the female that directs the dam and lodge building.

Adults mate for life. If the female loses her mate, she remains with her family, when another male will join her in the mating season. Mating occurs in January and February and following a 100-day or so gestation period, three or four kits are born in May or June.

Kits nurse about six weeks, however, four to fourteen days after birth, they start eating tender shoots, most often brought to them by their father. Once kits are weaned, all family members take part in raising them. Kits stay with their parents for two years before they leave home to find a mate and create a habitat of their own.

Beavers Contribution

Beaver dams create diverse habitats. By opening the tree canopy, sunlight is able to reach the water and triggers an explosion of biological activity. Grasses, sedges, bushes and saplings grow on the perimeter of the pond. These plants provide food and cover for foraging animals.

As for water quality, beaver dams improve the flow and quality, functioning as natural sponges that store runoff water and slowly release it. Beaver ponds also recharge our drinking water aquifers, stabilize the water table, and maintain stream flows during droughts. There isn't a single species that benefits our watershed more than beavers.

Let's Allow Beavers To Save Us from Ourselves

Quite apart from their exceptional service to our environment, there is much to admire about beavers. Their work ethic, devotion to family and peacefulness makes the beaver a very worthy Canadian emblem. We humans now have to prove that we are worthy of them.

Anita Utas Beaver Advocate

Anita Utas contacted the Centre last fall when the city of Ottawa was in the midst of trapping a pair of beavers in her Stittsville community. She was outraged that these beavers, driven out of an adjoining wetland and forced to spend the winter in a local pond, were to be killed. She promptly set about to stop it.

With an honours BA in Art History and a Bachelor of Education, a teaching career that took her overseas for seven years and an art career that has her paintings in Ottawa and Kingston galleries, she seemed an unlikely activist.

But Anita quickly became an effective voice. She delivered notices and organized a community information session that saw a packed meeting learn about beavers. The Centre gave a power point presentation on beavers' important environmental role, measures such as tree wrapping and flow devices to prevent flooding, and heard about the safety risks to children and pets when kill traps are used in recreational areas.



Anita at the lodge created by Lily and Lucky, the two beavers over-wintering at Paul Lindsay Pond.

Anita, and a group of community volunteers, wrapped the vulnerable trees around the pond. She worked with other volunteers from the Ottawa Animal Defence League to ensure there was someone at the site at night when the trapper was likely to return.

The controversy gained media attention in Ottawa and across the country. Anita gave countless interviews, putting a face to the plight of these beavers and the ill-informed and outdated practices some cities still employ in handling human-wildlife conflicts.

Anita launched a campaign that saw almost 2,000 people protest the City's actions by writing to the mayor and urging that Ottawa adopt progressive and humane wildlife practices. Children took up the call, naming the beavers Lily and Lucky.

Thanks to Anita's efforts, these beavers turned out to be 'lucky', for mayor Jim Watson and Stittsville councillor Shad Qadri announced a halt to trapping at this pond, saying *"the City recognizes that advances in beaver management practices and technologies provide a range of alternatives to lethal trapping"* and agreed to accelerate the development of a Wildlife Strategy.

When a pair of beavers were killed in a trap approved by Parks Canada and the National Capital Commission a few months ago, Anita once again strongly protested this action, stating that she will "not give up the fight for humane and progressive wildlife practices in Ottawa".

Anita's passion and determination proves that one person can indeed make a big difference for wildlife.

Heidi Perryman 'Worth a Dam'

When her city of Martinez, California decided to kill beavers that were residing in a local creek, Heidi Perryman started making videos and protested to the city council. Little did she know that this act would lead her to become one of the most effective advocates for wetlands and beavers in North America.

The threat to the Martinez beavers in 2007 resulted in a huge public response that pressured council to form a "beaver subcommittee". As a newly-minted advocate for the beavers, Heidi was appointed to the committee. Their first task was to bring on expert Skip Lisle from Vermont to install a flow device that could manage dam height and maintain safe water levels to allow the beavers to stay.



How Heidi, a child psychologist with a busy practice, has also ended up as a very influential beaver advocate is another story. Under her guidance, a non-profit organization "Worth A Dam" was organized. It has held community education events, visited class rooms and organized the first annual "beaver festival" in 2008. This summer will be their fifth!

But, without question, it is the www.martinezbeavers.org website that has cemented Worth A Dam's reputation as

the 'motherhouse' for beavers and Heidi as the resident mother superior.

The outreach provided by the website is phenomenal, connecting people all across North America. It is an excellent resource for expert advice and support but its uniqueness is in drawing attention to those who are making a difference through in-depth interviews on 'Agents of Change'. It offers distance-learning at its best.

The website is also a lot of fun. It recognizes the 'good guys' while using humor and satire to take a poke at those who haven't quite caught up. Listen to the Ballad of Beavers – it's sure to get your feet tapping.

Designing with Nature in Mind



By Donna DuBreuil

Cynthia Kasem demonstrates that developers can be a friend to nature. Too often, in the construction of our homes, we end up destroying the homes of wild species. But it doesn't have to be this way as shown by the example of Cynthia's country estate lot development, Julia Estates.

The project, named for Cynthia's daughter, Julia, now 21, stands as a testimonial to this mother and daughter's mutual respect for animals and the environment.

Cynthia grew up on a farm in northern Greece where she developed not only a love for farm animals but spent a great deal of time in the remote forests in the region, learning about wildlife.

She came to Canada when she was 10 years old, first living in Toronto and then moving to Ottawa to attend university.

She became a mortgage broker and came across an opportunity to buy a magnificent piece of property in Dunrobin. The sixty (60) acres overlook the Gatineau Hills with large mature trees and stone outcroppings. The website for Julia Estates www.juliaestates.com tells you something of the developer in that it invites you to 'Meet Your Neighbours', showing a cheeky red squirrel, a fawn nestled in the tall grass and a wee bird in a nest.

You quickly realize though in talking to Cynthia, this is not just about marketing the project, given her contagious enthusiasm and the tangible steps she's taken to protect the environment. As

she says, *"I didn't set out to maximize a profit with this development, I wanted to put something back"*.

Cynthia did this by first reducing the number of lots from 25 to 21, saving a great many trees in the process. To encourage geothermal heating, working with Fred Carmosino and Brian Saumure, two young and innovative nature lovers

who own Maple Leaf Homes, she provided people a \$10,000 discount on their purchase price to use geothermal.

Her decision to delay the project for almost a year to protect nesting birds while a bird study was done, earned her the respect of City of Ottawa planner Jeff Ostafichuk. And, when trees were removed, it was done individually so as to give any remaining animals a chance to escape. Of course, all of this meant more costs but Cynthia says *"spread over 20 years, it was easy to justify, considering the benefits to the environment"*.

Protecting the resident Beavers

But what has endeared Cynthia most to her neighbours who have enjoyed this beautiful site for many years is that she sees the beavers that maintain a pond and creek on the property as a great asset. Fortunately, so do the people who have built homes on Julia Estates.

Carole and David Merritt nestled their home so perfectly into the woods it's hard to see. Their children, Madeleine 10, Sam 9 and Eddie 5 spend their time happily exploring. The family love watching the abundant wildlife while Carole says she *"hopes the creek will soon have deep enough water to attract the beavers back"*.

Cynthia credits David Spence a well-known local naturalist and beaver expert for his help and advice on how to coexist with these amazing animals and nearby resident, Dave Scribailo, who has supplied poplar branches for the beavers' winter food supply so that they aren't tempted to try the new plantings.



Cynthia Kasem understands the key contribution this Beaver Pond provides to wildlife habitat on Julia Estates

Thanks to the vision and passion of Cynthia Kasem, a whole new community is getting to enjoy the natural world first hand, right on their doorstep.

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Supports Wildlife Education

Since 1990 the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has supported over 20,000 grassroots environmental projects in communities across Canada. Projects include wildlife rehabilitation; education programs for children; environmental cleanups; tree planting campaigns and conservation and recycling initiatives.

The TD Friends of the Environment is very proud of the fact that since the TD Bank Financial Group covers all management and administrative costs of running the foundation, 100% of every dollar donated goes directly to environmental projects.

The Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre is pleased to announce that our Wildlife Education and Community Outreach Program is one of the many worthy projects the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation is supporting this year. Thanks to its grant of \$5,300 we are able to work with students and the broad community to provide an understanding of wildlife along with the practical tools for living in harmony with nature.



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

CO-EXISTING

Practicing What We Preach



By Kate MacNeil

Last winter we had raccoons at the Centre for the first time since 2002. The only difference being that instead of being in a cage they were living in the attic of the Centre!

The first signs were the occasional sighting of a raccoon on the roof. Next was a bigger clue, pieces of soffit on the ground. There was the usual denial that maybe they could not get in and moved on! Then we started hearing noises coming from above. There was no denying, we had non-paying tenants.

Given that we have talked to thousands of people with problems like this, we knew the Centre had a great roof for animals, with many places where two roof lines intersect. This meant the raccoons could sit on the lower roof and work their way in through a weak point in the soffit. As with many homes, our soffit was just held in place by gravity or weakly secured. People are often amazed at the small space animals, particularly a raccoon can fit through. We used to say their bodies were like marshmallows that could squeeze through a space the size of their head!

Gary and I got out our trusted ladder and went into the attic to assess the situation. We discovered our attic was an excellent raccoon condo. Although the main portion of our attic is very large and you can stand up in it, this is too exposed for raccoons. Instead they chose the confined soffit area that is inaccessible to people.

Like most things in life, timing is everything when working to evict unwanted tenants. With wildlife, one of the vital things is to be certain you are not risking creating orphans. When we did wildlife rehabilitation many of the orphans we received were a result of people taking inappropriate actions. If you chase mom away, or block her out, the babies, which are immobile can suffer and die or fall between walls. This is not only inhumane but it has left many homeowners with a bigger mess to clean up.

Baby raccoons could be present as early as late March. With time getting tight, we decided to wait until the end of the birthing season. This decision was taken in consultation with the company that had been retained to do the work. We agreed it was worth waiting until the animal-proofing could be done humanely as well as properly so we would not be facing the problem again in the future.

The babies that were born were on opposite sides of the attic. Their trills could be heard throughout the day, and it gave us a new appreciation of what dedicated moms raccoons are.

The company that did the work was Rainbow International. We found them to be exceptionally professional and very easy to work with. They took the extra time and effort to ensure that the animal-proofing would stand the test of time and raccoons' persistence by securing welded wire mesh before reinstalling the soffit.

I am happy to report that while snowshoeing around the Centre I saw two very large raccoons squeeze into a tree cavity and that the attic is resident free this winter!



Rainbow International – A Company that Knows How to Work With Nature

Animal-proofing work might be new to this company that specializes in cleaning and damage restoration but by applying excellent workmanship and working collaboratively and incorporating the expertise of the OCWC they did an outstanding job.

Peirre Lacasse is the Ottawa Service Manager of Rainbow International. Shown here are Brandon Boyd and Claude Ladouceur who did the work at the Centre.

Nature's Simple Pleasures

By Diane Ingram

On a sunny morning earlier this spring, I saw a group of no fewer than six, black, honey-bear and gray, squirrels cavorting around the back yard and trying their climbing skills in the bushes and trees.

The trunk of the tree by my bedroom window is so broad that, of course, who might be lurking on the other side remained an unknown. These pint-sized squirrels, obviously last year's Fall models, seemed to avoid forays into the upper branches, not necessary when the trunk was such fun! Or, perhaps, from observa-

tions Roy and I made years ago, they had been so-instructed; we'd noted squirrel mothers to be very strict. Sudden encounters spawned high-speed collisions, one or both falling to the ground, only to race off again. Surprise could precipitate the same result, one so shocked at the sudden appearance of another rounding the stout trunk, it too dropped to the ground.

Continued on page 7

WITH WILDLIFE

Co-existing – What Does It Really Mean?

By Kate MacNeil

A popular phrase we use a lot is co-existing with wildlife. While it sounds well and good, what does it really mean?

However, before talking about what co-existing means to our organization, I want to clear up what it does not mean. It doesn't mean putting wildlife before people, as was suggested by an MNR biologist in a recent Ottawa Sun article when he commented that people "treat animals like Disney characters, like doe-eyed Bambis". In my opinion, his comments couldn't be further from the truth with respect to our Centre's philosophy.

Wildlife is part of our landscape, whether you live in the city or in the country. Like it or not. Wildlife is great at adapting and when they live near people, they change or adapt to put up with us. This means finding food and shelter in places that sometimes causes problems for people.

In responding to these problems, after years of talking with people, giving advice and researching solutions, we feel the best approach is to supply people with the information and tools they need to co-exist. It means accepting that animals are here to stay but that we are not powerless in protecting our property. If you restrict food sources and secure entry points to sheds, roofs and chimneys, it means that wildlife can live in the area but not be in direct conflict with us. The result is that we can enjoy their presence while better appreciating the environmental niche they fill.

Some people think the answer lies in removing animals. Now, I know that on the surface this seems like a good idea but, for most people, when you explain why this doesn't make good sense, they get it. First, when wildlife are relocated, they seldom do well in an unfamiliar environment, secondly there is a serious concern about the dependent young that are left

behind. But, just as important, if you take one animal away, whether you shoot it, trap it or take it to the 'woods', it will not solve the problem. Another animal will simply move in to utilize the resources.

Now, resolving some conflict situations may take more effort, like installing a proper chimney cap, wrapping trees to protect them from beavers, or securing roof vents so animals can't access the attic. But the end result is the same, you have altered the attraction to prevent a problem. So, the raccoons will still be in the neighbourhood but not in your chimney or eating from your green bin, the beavers may be in the creek but not taking down your prized trees. This is what we mean by co-existing.

But, as the stories on these pages show, most people have no problem co-existing – in fact, wildlife give them special pleasure, something the experts say is why we need to reconnect with nature more.

Continued from page 6

Nature's Simple Pleasures

It was not all rough play! Two stretched out later, nose-to-nose on a low branch of the tree. One began meticulously grooming the face, head and ears of the other, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the attention. Task completed, the groomed party immediately returned the compliment, every bit as diligently. Then, they remained nose-to-nose but entwined their front paws and fell into a deep sleep in the warm later morning sunshine.

Going the Extra Mile

Royleen Robinson had enjoyed the shade and abundant wildlife entertainment that two huge old ash trees in the backyard of her condominium had provided for many years. Unfortunately, as a result of Emerald ash borer disease, these two magnificent trees had to be taken down last Fall.

However, Royleen was aware there was a nest of baby squirrels high up in one of the trees when she was first notified the trees were to be taken down. She immediately went into high gear, getting a delay until the babies were coming out on their own. However, it soon became apparent that the whole family was intending to stay the winter as they started to build an even larger drey.



Photo courtesy of Royleen Robinson. Nesting box supplied by the OCWC

Although accepting the trees had to come down, Royleen was determined that the squirrels were not to be left without any shelter for the winter. Thanks to her passion and the support of Axia Management, Ottawa Valley Tree Experts placed a squirrel nesting box made by the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre into an adjoining tree. As the photo shows, the squirrels seem grateful for their temporary new digs.

Educating the Community – One Group at a Time



Engaging the public on a wide range of urban wildlife issues is a big part of our education programs. It may be talking to school-aged children about some of the neat facts on wildlife they share their spaces with or it may be talking to municipalities about more progressive ways to solve beaver problems.

Last November we had the opportunity to participate in a great event organized by Earth Day Canada. The EcoMentor Youth Conference was a day-long event held at St. Paul University. It brought together youth from across the province to learn the skills needed to become environmental leaders in their community.

Speakers represented a range of organizations such as Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots, Ontario Nature and The Climate Reality Project as well as the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre. Our workshop

looked at the challenges facing urban wildlife and some of the ways today's youth can help change people's attitudes about wildlife and educate them on ways to coexist.

Here are some of the other things we have been working on over the last few months:

- Visited 5 schools and worked with 500 students from Grades JK- Grade 7
- Presented at a community meeting in Stittsville, speaking with residents about ways to co-exist with beavers
- Held Nature Discovery Workshops for Girl Guides and Boy Scouts at Wildlife Centre
- Gave presentation to seniors on urban wildlife at the Old Forge Community Resource Centre
- Participated in a mini-documentary on the lack of wildlife rehabilitation services in Ontario
- Gave a presentation on beavers to the City of Ottawa Forests and Greenspace Advisory Committee

In Memoriam



Margot Mignault died at home on October 3, 2011, in the loving care of her husband John Sylvain. We were shocked last

summer when Margot told us she had cancer. She was 59. Gentle, kind and spirited Margot was dedicated to all life, wildlife in particular. We will remember her engaging stories about the animals she invited to share her space - the squirrels who raised their families in the

boxes she and John provided, the bold little chipmunks, or the cardinal that returned repeatedly to perch on her decorative milk churn, fly into the glass doors, pick itself back up, unhurt, and do it again. Margot loved them all. John gave her the best gift a husband could, caring for her at home where she could enjoy the beautiful wildlife garden they had created together in their backyard. During her illness her sisters Joyce and Dorothy, her brother Gerald, and her cousin Cathy came and stayed, surrounding her with love. Her little dogs snuggled close, and warmed everyone's hearts with their devotion. We are saddened by the loss of our dear friend, we will miss you Margot.

OUR THANKS

OCWC gratefully acknowledges:

*Ruth and Ray Wesenberg
Wildlife Fund*



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

Community
Foundation of
Ottawa



Fondation
communautaire
d'Ottawa

For good...forever Le bien...tousjours



Special thanks to:

Ryan Kelson, Design - kelson.rk@gmail.com
and Debbie Lawes, Editor

Donation Coupon

Yes I want to help wildlife

☐ \$35

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please make cheques payable to:
Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre,
P.O. Box 11051, Station H,
Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 7T8.

email: ocwc@ncf.ca
Contributions are tax deductible.
Information is used only by the OCWC.
It is not shared.

OCWC Website www.wildlifeinfo.ca