



# Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 25 YEARS



Photo: Courtesy of Sally Hansen

## Living With Wildlife Public Works and Government Services Canada Leads the Way

It is becoming increasingly understood that governments, environmental organizations, developers and private land-owners must work together if biodiversity is to be preserved.

Public Works and Government Services Canada is doing just that on the Carling Campus, a 360 acre site that has significant natural habitat and wildlife. It has conveyed that it supports the goal of developing a progressive and sustainable environmental model and wants to work together to develop strategies that minimize the impact on the flora and fauna at the Carling Campus.

Located in the west end of Ottawa, the campus was formerly home to Nortel Networks. It is part of Ottawa's Greenbelt and has a large wetland, along with a pond that frequently serves as winter habitat for a family of beavers.

The site is also home to the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre. After noticing a number of trees had been taken down by beavers several years ago, the Centre was concerned that it would result in the outdated and ecologically-damaging practice of trapping and killing them.

We were pleased, therefore, when Public Works and Government Services Canada responded quickly and efficiently to the Centre's recommendation this fall that the vulnerable ornamental trees on campus that were at risk be protected with wire mesh, while leaving smaller less valuable trees as food for the beavers.

Come fall, beavers work diligently to take down enough trees to store in the pond next to their lodge before ice forms. This food cache is needed to sustain them over the winter months. Beavers' preference is for poplar, aspen and willow branches, all fast growing trees that are meant to serve as natural food for beavers because they regenerate quickly, with a root system that helps to stabilize the shoreline. However, if pressed for time, beavers will take down other tree species, so it is important to protect them while leaving sufficient shoreline trees for their use.

There is growing recognition that beavers are critical to maintaining wetlands and the ecological functions they support. A recent study at the University of Saskatchewan adds to that knowledge by showing that beaver ponds have an even more far-reaching hydrological impact than first thought by maintaining the water table up to 2 kilometers away, mitigating drought, preserving tree cover and preventing the risk of forest fires.

*"We were most encouraged by Public Works and Government Services Canada's progressive and environmentally-sensitive response. Thanks to their vision, the wetlands and beaver pond on the Carling Campus will continue to benefit us all",* said Donna DuBreuil of the Centre.

The Centre is receiving an increased number of requests for information on 'Living with Beavers' from people across the province. It has prepared a Tree Protection plan, a summary of which is included on page 6.



*Did you miss the exceptional documentary 'The Beaver Whisperers' on CBC's Nature of Things? If so, see the back cover of the newsletter to find out how you can view it online.*

## Editorial

### Times are A Changing – For the Better



It wasn't that many years ago when someone would call the Centre, upset about a wildlife issue in their neighbourhood, but expecting us to take whatever action they thought was necessary.

So, it's pretty exciting to see the number of people now willing to get involved, either by joining others or taking the lead themselves.

Whether it's an octogenarian in Oshawa pushing for non-lethal solutions to living with beavers or a community that has come together on Vancouver Island, putting their money where their mouth is, to stop the slaughter of deer.

Or, an individual in Komoka Ontario who is organizing an EcoFest to help her community *'take care of their environment and all the creatures that call it home'* or people in London, Ontario who have joined together to protect a wetland that is under attack.

And, it's not just limited to those concerned about wildlife. Citizens wanting more of a say in planning matters, groups determined to save trees from Emerald Ash Borer in Ottawa and those wanting a more accountable and responsive public participation process with respect to the decisions of their local government are making their voices heard.

Kate MacNeil, the Centre's Education Coordinator, is also seeing this increase. While children have always displayed an instinctive interest in wildlife, Kate's work with the community and with university students, particularly in discussion groups, shows they are becoming keenly aware that our society must make some profound changes and want to know what they can do to make a difference.

There seems to be a cumulative mass forming of individuals and groups that want to be part of building a better community and a better society.

All of which is creating increased demands on the Centre. But it is certainly something that we welcome.

Donna DuBreuil  
President, OCWC

# Environmental Champions

It is a real pleasure to celebrate those individuals who contribute so heavily to a more informed understanding and appreciation for wildlife.



Photo: Courtesy of Ann Mayall

## Michael Runtz, Naturalist

The author of ten best sellers, Michael Runtz's passion, knowledge and stunning photography provide a compelling introduction to wild species and spaces. Well-known for his educational and conservation efforts, he has received numerous awards, including an Outstanding Service Award from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. He is a popular guest on television and radio shows.

What, in our estimation, makes Michael special is that he embraces all species of flora and fauna, truly understanding the interconnections and dependencies within the web of life. He is quick to rise to the defence of wildlife. A passionate supporter of the beaver as a Canadian emblem, he wasted no time in publicly challenging Senator Nicole Eaton who wanted to replace the beaver with a polar bear. When coyote killing contests were being advertised as a "family day" event, he called the idea appalling and repugnant, saying *"passing fear and hatred to innocent children is more than frightening; it is morally indefensible"*.

Nowhere is Michael more in his element than paddling through a beaver pond or howling with the elusive wolf in Algonquin Park. His willingness to so generously share these experiences as well as challenge misinformation and ignorance makes him the quintessential ambassador for nature.

Michael Runtz is one of Canada's most highly respected naturalists, nature photographers, and natural history authors.

An unparalleled educator, Michael has a significant impact on a large and varied audience. Over 2,000 people sign up every year for his Natural History course. Televised from Carleton University, this is the most popular course of its type in Canada, mainly due to his infectious and enthusiastic teaching style. We've met former students who, twenty years later, still refer to his classes as among their favourite.

Michael is also in great demand as a speaker for groups as diverse as outdoor educators, professional biologists, gardeners, schoolchildren, and naturalists' clubs. He reaches many thousands more through a weekly column in regional newspapers that both educates and always entertains, providing little-known facts about everything from the sex life of insects to how small birds survive extreme cold and how otters and seals share a common evolutionary background.

## Coming Next Spring

### "Dam Builders – a natural history of beavers and their ponds"

Michael Runtz's much-anticipated book, 20 years in the making, will profile not only beavers, but the overall dynamic of their ponds. Beaver ponds, he says, are some of the most complex and important habitats in the Ottawa Valley.

*"Given the growing international recognition of the critical role played by beavers in the environment, we are all very excited about this up-coming book"*, says Donna DuBreuil.



# Serving the Public

We are very proud of the wide range of audiences our programs serve. We think it is vital to invest in all people, 5 year olds who are fascinated with the vocalizations porcupines make, residents who may be having problems with beavers taking down trees or have questions about the coyotes they hear singing in the distance at night, or a community group who just want to better live in harmony with the natural world.

And while we also welcome and have had some positive experiences with people working in different positions within some municipalities in Canada, we remain committed to our primary focus of working with the public. We believe that governments often take the pulse of the public so this is where we can work to ultimately encourage more progressive policies that will have a positive impact on our environment. Here are a few ways we have been reaching out to the public:

## A Warm Welcome at South March Public School



The first thing that we talk about when we refer to our In-School Program is the students we have the great pleasure of working with each year, about 1,000 children annually. But, what are sometimes overlooked are the teachers we have been lucky enough to work with over the years. One in particular comes

to mind, Amanda Szucs, who teaches grade 1 and 2 students at South March Public School.

I have been visiting with Amanda's classes since 2008, first at Farley Mowat Public School then Westwind Public School now at South March. Amanda's passion and enthusiasm for teaching is evident the moment you step into her classroom. She not only believes in the importance of educating her own students about urban wildlife, she is also an advocate for the program. Through her accolades and praise of our Education Program we get a lot of 'business'. This year was no exception, after visiting her class, we were asked back to present to another eight classes at the school. So thanks to Amanda, and all the teachers for all they do to support our efforts and to help reconnect their students to nature.

## First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa - Meditation Garden



It was a perfect winter day, calm with big snowflakes gently floating in the air, almost as if they were not yet sure if they wanted to fall to the ground. We had just finished a presentation at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, and I was walking around their Meditation Garden.

The garden, which spreads over an acre of the property, is a celebration of our City's rich biodiversity. This outdoor sanctuary is home to a wide range of trees, shrubs, birds, frogs, insects and mammals and is a great place to reconnect to nature and for spiritual recharging. Things were very still and I

could imagine the contrast in a couple months when spring is in the air. Having seen pictures of this spectacular place in the summer, I made a promise to myself to come back to see it in its full splendour.

We were there to give a presentation on coexisting with wildlife. We were expecting our audience to be people who had questions about wildlife and solving conflicts they might be having. It was a nice surprise to have an eight year old, who wants to be a vet when she grows up and a university student who was counting the seminar towards a class project. We also had people who had a general interest in wildlife and nature as well as ways to coexist. The discussions and questions that followed the presentation did not disappoint, it was a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

## Engaging Tomorrow's Leaders



The Centre's School Education Program has been well established and is a mainstay in classrooms across the Ottawa area each year reaching 1,000 students from grades JK to 8 and their families. We are now expanding the program to the next level, to include high school and university students.

Engaging university students who will be tomorrow's leaders in such careers as ecology, municipal planning, environmental consulting and teaching and exposing them to timely wildlife topics as well as some of the on-the ground work that is being done is key to ensuring positive change.

As an example, we recently gave a presentation and facilitated discussion groups on a variety of wildlife topics to an Environmental Studies course at the University of Ottawa.

We were very encouraged by how engaged a wide variety of different age groups were on urban wildlife topics and how many of them want to know what they can do to make a difference.

# Surviving Against the Odds



By Donna DuBreuil

The adult deer pictured here is a survivor. We first noticed the deer on our semi-rural property about five years ago. She was sporting a left hind leg that was not only inoperable but hung from her body at an awkward angle.

Remarkably, this three-legged deer has not only survived but appears to thrive, in spite of the difficulty she has in navigating the steep ravine at the back of the property. We noticed that her tongue protrudes slightly from one side of her mouth and assumed it was because of the exertion in climbing the slope but now realize it's nerve damage, no doubt the result of the same injury affecting her leg.

We were amazed when one year she gave birth to a fawn. She has, in fact, had several fawns since then, skipping a year now and then. She is a devoted mother, spending much time grooming her youngster, a service that it returns, warming the hearts of those that have observed the ritual.

Unimaginatively, but affectionately named 'Gimpy' by neighbours in the area, we compare notes on her comings and goings. We get reports that she is seen crossing a field, moving to a wooded area on one person's property just before dusk. We know that she spends time lying with her fawn on a patch of groundcover under the shade of several maples on our property on hot summer afternoons. For the last four years or so, along with our neighbours, we have marvelled at

her ability to get around and her tenacity at carrying on in spite of her disability.

Some evenings, we see her heading in the opposite direction from normal at dusk, moving towards the shelter of our homes. Later, we are not surprised to hear the coyotes yipping in the distance. And, although there is little hunting in our area, her instincts seem to direct her to the same safer areas at that time of the year.

There is a great deal of enjoyment and very few downsides to living with wildlife in the country. For example, the Hostas we planted have become 'fair trade' food for resident deer but we figure if we were stupid enough to landscape with plants that deer eat, we can either fence the area or get to like our Hostas without leaves.

With respect to 'Gimpy', there is also a lesson that can be learned here as well. When we did wildlife rehabilitation, we would sometimes get calls from people with injured deer on their property. They almost always thought that someone should come and either rescue the deer or 'put it out of its misery'.

We would explain that there was little anyone could do, on a practical level, to capture and help a deer with a broken or injured leg. That, if the deer was still mobile and able to feed on its own, the best course was to give it a chance by leaving it alone. 'Gimpy' proves that was good advice.

## White-tailed Deer

(*Odocoileus virginianus*)

## Facts

- Prefer areas of open forest interspersed with meadows, clearings, grasslands, and riparian flatlands. The forests provide shelter and protection, the open areas provide the best forage.
- During spring and summer, their diet consists of leafy material from a variety of woody plants, fresh grasses, herbs and forbs. In winter, they depend on buds and twigs within their reach and congregate in deer yards to conserve energy.
- Breed in November/December. Most fawns born in late-May to mid-June. Single fawns are the rule for young does or where food is scarce.
- The doe leaves her fawn unattended for hours at a time. The natural camouflage of the fawn's spotted coat and its almost scentless condition conceal it from predators. The doe returns at intervals to suckle the fawn.
- People coming across a stashed fawn should leave it alone. Sometimes, fawns will move about, given a particularly hot day or pesky black flies, but the best course is to not interfere. Sometimes a fawn will bleat as a call to its mother but unless it is continually walking about and bawling you should not assume it is orphaned. If the latter case applies, you should seek the advice of a wildlife rehabilitator before taking any action.
- With more encroachment into natural areas, there is the potential for conflict with deer. However, following a few simple rules will allow us to co-exist. Check out which plants deer eat, i.e. cedar is a favourite and so are hostas, so don't plant them. Or, if you have an extensive garden, install deer fencing. It's relatively easy to erect and almost invisible so it doesn't spoil the view.



# Embracing a Bigger Vision

In most organizations it seems there are one or two individuals that have been key supporting actors in its success. For the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre one of these people has been Francie Cochran.

A gift that Francie made in 2000 would be critical. Set up as an Endowment, it provided the security and confidence we required to launch our Wildlife Education Program, after the regressive policies and actions of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources forced us to discontinue the wildlife rehabilitation service.

While she eventually moved out west Francie maintains strong ties to the Centre. A traveler and keen observer, she has brought a varied perspective to the work and motivation of this Centre. That and her friendship, enjoyed over get togethers when she comes to town, have provided important support.

Always preferring her donation be anonymous, we have finally persuaded Francie to share her story.

By Francie Cochran

Early in the life of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, I heard an interview with Donna on CBC radio. This inspired a call to the Centre to learn more about their work.

At our first meeting, Donna and co-founder husband Gary, were setting up for an Open House in the original site, a cinder block garage-sized space in Ottawa's west end.

Seeing the numbers of young raccoons at the Centre was surprising. I learned quickly that between the loss of wild habitat as Ottawa built outwards and the raccoons using convenient human spaces such as open out-buildings or houses with masonry chimneys during the birthing season, exposes raccoon mothers and young to human impacts, usually with incident when discovered and often deadly.

All varieties of wild mammals and reptiles are potential victims to growth and development and were finding their way to the Centre injured and/or orphaned.

Domestic animals were a welcome part of my parents' home life and inspired interest and concern for wildlife that we would meet along the way. They died before the OCWC came to be, but my parents' empathy for the wild world lives on through the contribution that I was able to make to the OCWC Education programme.

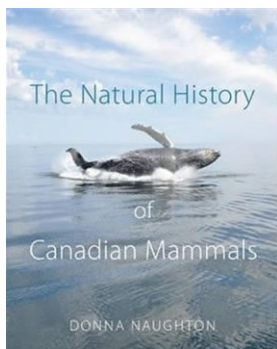
My donation to the OCWC was made on condition of anonymity – to me making the funds available was the whole point and still is. However, my original funds which went into an endowment are not enough to maintain and further nurture the work that the OCWC is doing with education on behalf of wildlife and their necessary



photo by Capt. 'Neil', SV Maple Leaf

habitats. Additional families and people looking toward the long term are needed.

Creatures like turtles and beavers have been around millions of years longer than homo sapiens. What can we do to decrease the damage that we are doing to their lives and eventually our own? What can we do to help?



I guess it is no secret that we like mammals, so something like the release of Donna Naughton's *'The Natural History of Canadian Mammals'* was big news at the Wildlife Centre. It is a complete revision of A.W.F. Banfield's *'Mammals of Canada'*.

In the fall we were pleased to attend the book's launch at the Museum of Nature. The walls were filled with beautiful illustrations from the book of some of the 215 known mammal species found in Canada.

It was a delight to hear Donna speak about what a labour of love producing this book has been. A biologist at the Museum of Nature, Donna Naughton has collected, illustrated, photographed and studied mammals for over thirty years.

At the launch, we were pleased to pick up our copy of the book. After having a few months to review it I can say it is even more than we could have anticipated. It is not only an extremely comprehensive guide to Canadian mammals, but the photos and illustration can only be described as art within themselves.

So whether you want to know that Least Shrews are rare in Canada and only can be found along the northern shore of Lake Erie or that the Humpback Whale, which graces the book's cover, have long migrations, some traveling upwards of 16,500 km each year, you will find it in this spectacular book.

# Protecting Trees Against Beaver Damage

## Specifications for Ontario Winter Conditions



Many cottage and property owners are coming to realize the significant environmental benefits of beavers but want to prevent damage caused by flooding or tree loss. Flooding can be avoided by the installation of flow devices in almost all situations - see <http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca/beaver.html> for information.

With respect to tree damage, it is well recognized that beavers, if displaced or dispersing, can move into an area overnight and very quickly take down ten or more trees. This is particularly the case in the fall months as beavers must build and/or repair a lodge and put down their winter food supply. They take down trees to construct food caches of branches which they place underwater close to their lodge, preferring trembling aspen, poplar, willow and birch, all common and fast regenerating trees that are meant to serve as a food source for beavers, but they will utilize other trees if necessary. Come spring, they shift from a woody diet to a herbaceous diet as new growth appears. During summer, beavers will eat grasses, herbs, leaves of woody plants, fruits and aquatic plants.

### Supplying Supplemental Food for Beavers:

At sites where trees are being wrapped, if beavers have been seen or, if they are likely to appear from time to time, consideration should be given to planting some fast-growing species, such as poplar, closer to the water's edge to discourage the beavers from having to move too far up the bank in removing more valuable trees. The root system of these species also helps to stabilize the slope and prevent erosion. Species such as willows and poplars can be easily grown if you take cuttings from these species during the winter months when the trees are dormant. See [www.wildlifeinfo.ca](http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca) for instructions.

### Materials Needed to Protect Trees:

We strongly recommend the use of 2" x 4" galvanized (to prevent rusting) welded wire, sometimes called utility fencing. It should be at least 14 gauge so that it is sturdy enough to stand freely on its own. Remember, the smaller the gauge, the stronger the wire, i.e. 14 gauge is stronger than 16 gauge. We have found that 14 gauge 2" x 4" is a good strength for tree protection.

The fencing comes in 50 to 100 foot rolls that are 4 to 6 feet high. Depending on the number of trees to be wrapped, the larger roll is more cost effective. The fencing must extend 2 feet higher than the highest snow level. We have found that in medium snow belts like southwestern and eastern Ontario, the 4 foot high fencing works fine. Any less than this though is not recommended.

Leave sufficient space around the tree to allow it to grow (5"-6") and cut the bottom of the wire to fit a sloping ground, or to protect prominent roots from chewing. Replace as needed with a larger diameter cylinder to allow for trunk expansion.

**Chicken wire should never be used as it is simply not strong enough to stand on its own which defeats the purpose of keeping the beaver away from the tree and also risks damaging the tree.**

For larger jobs, we suggest ordering hog rings and hog ring pliers or a hog ring stapler to reduce the time and labour of joining the wire together.

### Abrasive Tree Paint Protection

This might be an alternative where there is a large stand of trees that need protection. A mixture of **latex** exterior paint and fine sand (30 mil or 70 mil) in a ratio of 5 oz sand per quart of paint can be applied to tree trunks to discourage beavers from chewing. This is visually discrete as the paint can be selected to match the tree trunk. It is also relatively quick to apply. Mix only the amount you will use as it does not store well and remember to stir the mixture often as the sand will settle. Do not use this method for saplings less than six feet high, so protect them with wire fencing. For best results, do not paint every tree, leaving some for beaver food.

Using the foregoing information to protect those trees that you don't want damaged is a very effective way to allow you to co-exist with beavers, gaining all the remarkable ecological benefits they provide.



# Wildlife we have Known and Loved

There is something of the marvelous in all things of nature.  
~ Aristotle



By Kate MacNeil

Anyone who knows me can attest that I love wildlife. Some of my friends share this passion, some are indifferent and a few treat it like my dirty little secret. Since I was a child, I have had a passion for nature and wildlife. I can vividly remember being about 6 years old and being on a camping trip. There was a family of rabbits that I would watch and follow for hours. I can honestly say I don't know what was my bigger wish, taking them home to live with me or if somehow I could turn into a rabbit and live with them in the woods. Obviously I had a rich imagination, and I owe this to spending so much time exploring nature.

As an adult, I still find solace in nature, especially during difficult times. The peace and balance that is restored in me when I walk in the woods or even watching the deer trying to raid the bird feeder at the Centre, is immeasurable. Watching nature never disappoints in its show.

When we did rehabilitation we had endless opportunities to observe and marvel at wildlife. But since we live in a city which is so rich in species diversity, I still have many opportunities to see wildlife. At lunch time, Donna, Gary and I sit at the table in the kitchen and watch the red squirrels celebrate winter. They tunnel through the snow and leap around with bounds of energy and enthusiasm, even when it is 20 below. It puts a smile on my face no matter what. We often reminisce about some of the animal adventures we have had over the years and thought we would share a few with you.

## The Great Escape

It was the fall when the Humane Society brought in a young short-tailed weasel, also known as an Ermine. With winter fast approaching it was clear this little guy would be with us over the winter. With a classic weasel body, roughly the length of a pencil, he did not disappoint with his agility.

When it was time for him to move to his big cage, we bought endless lengths of pvc piping, some straight and some with curves, so he would have lots of places to explore and hide. He would take little blankets, his toys and even his food into the pipes. We would see the occasional sneak peek of his head and we would hear him inside the pipes but for the most part he was pretty low maintenance.

Over the Christmas holidays we had some community members in for a visit, and an older lady mentioned she saw a white mouse on a library bookshelf. We did have some mice running around the Centre but none of them were white. So, we thought she was mistaken, our bad! A week later we opened the filing cabinet to find a chunk of beef. This was the food we fed the ermine. Hmm, the penny dropped, our little ermine was able to get out of his cage. So sometimes he was in there, but other times he was out. These animals were just too smart! With some work we did manage to live trap him and were able to release him in the spring. We did not doubt his cleverness would serve him well in the wild!

## The Nut Crackers

We have told many stories about the river otters we have cared for at the Centre. They were such entertainers and so much fun to watch, it seems like we have endless stories about them. The first pair we had, I admit we (ok, it was me!) babied them a bit. I gave them warm towels to dry off, extra fish and extra swim time. I would even cut there fish up into small pieces that were easy to eat.

Since they were going to be with us over the winter, we would try to constantly introduce new toys and foods for them, so they would not get too bored waiting for spring and their freedom. One day I brought in some walnuts in the shell. I thought they could roll them around and play with them and maybe eventually eat them. Wrong again! The female walked over, gave a sniff, put it in her mouth, raised her chin and gave a crunch. The walnut was now in a dozen pieces. Wow, I knew their jaws were power houses, but this was amazing!

It dawned on me that maybe I need not be cutting up their fish. They next day, they demolished a foot long walleye. There was not a scale to be found!



# The Comeback of the Beaver

If you missed 'The Beaver Whisperers' on the CBC Nature of Things last month, you are in luck as it is still available for viewing at <http://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/beaverwhisperer/film.html>

This is a beautiful film that gives us a first-hand view of the magical aquatic world and life of the beaver. We believe it will take its place as a seminal work in featuring and communicating the growing evidence about the importance of beavers to our environment and our well-being.



Photo by Michael Runtz. Michael is one of the Beaver Whisperers in the documentary, recognized for his lengthy career studying beavers and their habitat and his captivating images like this one. He is profiled as our Environmental Champion on page 2 of the newsletter.

The Beaver Whisperers refers to the scientists, conservationists and naturalists in the film whose ground-breaking work is contributing to this knowledge. Dr. Glynnis Hood explores the ways in which the humble Canadian icon increases the presence of open water, improves biodiversity and recharges groundwater reserves.

In Oregon, hydrologist Suzanne Fouty, has been studying the beavers' potential to mitigate the effects of climate change, the extreme flooding and periods of drought forecast for the region in coming decades. In Nevada, Carol Evans, a custodian of fish and wildlife for the state has seen that minor changes to cattle grazing has allowed the return of beavers, a return that has been

responsible for the major impact in restoring the watershed.

Closer to home, Michel Leclair's work in Gatineau Park has pioneered ways in which we can cohabitate with this animal. His passion prompted the creation of Eco-Odysee, a tourist destination in Wakefield that introduces people to an aquatic maze through a marshland and the world of beavers <http://www.eco-odysee.ca/>.

However, it is the efforts of Michele Grant, a wildlife rehabilitator and co-founder of Wild for Life in Muskoka, in caring for and successfully returning an orphaned beaver 'Timber' to the wild that gives this documentary its 'heart'.

The fact that Jari Osborne, the Director of the Beaver Whisperers, shares this view demonstrates her ability to combine a science-informed piece with the story of an unsung hero. "It's not just about valuing the beaver for what it can do for us but how getting to know and respect the beaver, and all wildlife for that matter, can make us better people", said Donna DuBreuil of the Centre.

Jari Osborne is a multi-award winning documentary filmmaker and journalist. Her work spans the areas of human rights, social justice and popular culture and is characterized by intelligence, humour, and deep empathy for her subjects.

As part of The Beaver Whisperers, you can follow the daily activities of a beaver family in their lodge through a live webcam at <http://www.cbc.ca/nature-ofthings/beaverwhisperer/meet.html>.

## OUR THANKS

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