



# Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 25 YEARS

## COEXISTENCE

The concepts of 'coexisting with wildlife', 'living in harmony with nature', and 'taking an eco-system approach to wildlife issues' have been around for many years now. However, while governments take full advantage in the progressive sound of these concepts, they have been very slow to actually implement supporting policies.

There is an increasing awareness that 'coexisting with wildlife' means butting heads with the practice of 'managing wildlife'. Managing wildlife is most frequently directed at single species and does not take into consideration the complex inter-relationships and dependencies between species. Furthermore, managing wildlife, more often than not, involves killing them so it is not surprising that it hardly jibes with coexistence.

So why is it that some governments seem to find it difficult to move away from the outdated practices involved in 'managing wildlife'? Is it just that change is simply hard or is there a bias towards those interests that view wildlife solely as a 'resource' to be harvested either for sport or commercial gain?

The self-serving irrational fear of wildlife that is often promoted by these interests is neither warranted nor helpful in a world that increasingly recognizes the need and benefits for everyone, not just children, in reconnecting with nature.

There is growing push back from a well-educated and politically cynical public that want progressive, humane and fact-based solutions for living with wildlife. The variety of people from all walks of life and from every corner of the province who are opposing the proposal by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to reinstate a spring bear hunt is testimony to where general public opinion rests.

Governments will continue to receive pressure with regards to environmental and wildlife concerns. It is widely recognized that governments don't lead, they follow. And, that change comes from the bottom up – from the community.

It is for this reason that the Centre's programs are so important. Educating young people, giving presentations and workshops for residents of all ages to promote a better under-



*Coyote pup: photo courtesy of Alberta Institute for Wildlife Conservation*

standing and respect for wildlife, equipping people with the tools needed to effectively resolve wildlife conflicts and working with communities to protect natural areas within their neighbourhoods.

## Coexisting with wildlife is more a philosophy than a skill set

For residents, it means becoming informed about what attracts wildlife to a property and taking a few home maintenance measures in animal-proofing for those vulnerable spots.

Then, you can relax and enjoy the distinct pleasure of watching squirrels perform their acrobatic feats high up in the trees, be amused by the single file of baby skunks following their mother on a foraging trip through your garden at dusk or a couple of cottontail rabbits playing tag on your lawn.

For municipalities, it means adopting prevention measures such as flow devices in storm water ponds, road culverts, etc. so they eliminate the outdated practice of trapping and killing beavers, a keystone species. Better still, municipalities need to switch to green infrastructure for storm water management recognizing the interconnectivity to the larger stream and river network. This will benefit fish and wildlife, the environment and save tax dollars to boot.

# Spring Bear Hunt Challenged

By Liz White  
Animal Alliance of Canada

Premier Kathleen Wynne's decision to reinstate the controversial spring bear hunt has shocked many Ontarians. Conservatives, under Mike Harris, cancelled the spring hunt 15 years ago because of the extreme cruelty in leaving hundreds of tiny orphaned bear cubs to die a slow death of starvation.



Photo courtesy Bear With Us

Bears are hunted over bait – often, pastry, rotting meat and fats – placed near blinds or tree stands. The bears, ravenous from months in their dens without food, are attracted to the site where they become easy targets. It is hardly hunting, more like target practice.

The government justifies the hunt by claiming that “it will remain illegal to kill a female bear with cubs”. Regardless, female bears with dependent cubs will die this spring. Mother bears hide their small cubs before approaching the bait site and most hunters simply cannot tell which is which. Furthermore, it will be left to hunters to report that they have illegally shot a female with cubs. How likely is that to happen?

## Government's Rationale Dishonest

The Liberal government states that a limited spring bear hunt is being introduced to address significant and growing public safety concerns in the north. Yet, statistics received through Freedom of Information from police in Sault Ste. Marie show that ‘nuisance’ bear incidents have **decreased**, not increased. Similar information has been noted in Sudbury where nuisance bear complaints dropped from 3,570 in 2008 to 543 by November 2013.

Furthermore, two separate reports from bear and wildlife biologists in the Minister of Natural Resources own office, conclude that the re-introduction of a spring bear hunt will not reduce human/bear conflicts.

## Bear Wise Program Abandoned

Ontario's Bear Wise program was established by the Liberals in 2003 to help communities resolve human/bear conflicts through

non-lethal, humane, and responsible conflict resolution methods.

In 2009, six years after the program started, then Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield, ordered an evaluation of the Bear Wise program. Northern municipalities, organizations and citizens were invited to participate. The results of the evaluation found that *“There is overwhelming support for the program in general, particularly in the areas of response and community funding.”*

Despite the support and without any consultation, Premier Wynne's Liberals gutted the Bear Wise program in 2012, eliminating virtually all the active staff and leaving it as a shell, ignoring studies that show programs like Bear Wise reduce human/bear conflicts.

An example being the City of Elliot Lake, Ontario where, in 2003, before Bear Wise, there were 500 calls to report nuisance bears and three bears were killed. In 2004, just one year after implementing Bear Wise, there were only 87 reports and no killing.

## So what is really behind the Spring Bear Hunt?

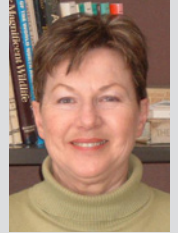
The reintroduction of a spring bear hunt is based on the most cynical type of political opportunism. As one individual commented in the Toronto Star *“the hunter vote is being courted for the next election, and with it the province sinks to its lowest moral level.”*

This is further confirmed by the ‘Urgent Bear Hunt Message’ sent by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) to its members stating *“Unfortunately, the same groups of animal right extremists respon-*

## Editorial

### A Reason for Optimism

I remain an optimist, although you might wonder why when reading the article on this page. But, amid the discouraging and regressive actions such as the controversial spring bear hunt, there is a growing movement demanding change.



You will see some of the changes that are occurring by the stories in this newsletter. While it might not be fast enough, as history shows, after decades of resistance, once change begins to happen, it moves very quickly.

Most encouraging are the changing attitudes toward wildlife in many different sectors, education, health, local government and business. But, it is the community that is the driving force. And, the Centre is proud to be assisting, in educating a new generation, in providing people the tools they need to coexist and in working with the community to preserve habitat.

Donna DuBreuil  
President, OCWC

*sible for the cancellation of the spring bear hunt in 1999 are flooding MPP's offices with 1000's of form letters demanding that the bear hunt pilot project be cancelled. If we do not fight back NOW, they will succeed again and the best chance of returning a full spring bear hunt will be lost”.*

After lobbying for the past 15 years to see the spring bear hunt reinstated in Ontario, the OFAH is not about to give up.

However, we know the majority of Ontario residents who want effective and humane solutions for living in harmony with nature are hardly animal rights extremists, rather they are ethical, compassionate and honest people who expect the government they elect to reflect these same values.

We will not give up the fight on your behalf.

For more information see <http://wildlifeontario.ca/campaigns/springbearhunt/submitpage.php>



## Animal Stories

# Wildlife we have Known and Loved...

I think there is a lot of truth in the saying that you have to be able to laugh at yourself, so it is with a smile I share some of our funny moments from the Wildlife Centre.

It was a winter afternoon and the handful of us that were working at the Centre in the off season were busy doing a 'big' clean on the squirrel cages in the library. We all were dressed in rubber boots and our greens. Donna was in the 4 ftx4ftx4ft cage with the red squirrels scrubbing the wire in the cage. I had just locked her in the cage. There was no lock on the inside so she had to trust we would let her out!

I looked up to see a fire truck speeding down the drive of the centre, lights and sirens going strong. Then came another, this one even bigger than the first. Before we could register what was going on, firemen were pouring out of the trucks and banging on the door and ringing the doorbell. I opened the door to a stern voice asking what I was doing in the building? I almost said 'locking my boss in a red squirrel cage', but his panic told me this wasn't a time to joke. He explained that the alarm company had gotten a fire indication warning and the fire department had been dispatched. I was certain there were no alarms sounding, and I was also pretty sure there wasn't a fire but we quickly shuffled out. Within a few minutes, they determined that there was no fire and it was actually a wiring problem that caused the alarm company to be notified.

The group of firemen, now stood in the library looking around, one asked what we did at the Centre. We gave a brief run-down of our



work. Then another one suggested they have a tour, in case they had to come back again they would know how the building was set up. Although this was a valid point I think it was more that they wanted to see the animals!

The final stop on their tour was the otters, who were happily swimming in their indoor pool. I don't know what was more spectacular, the amazing synchronized swimming show the otters put on or the reaction of the firemen. The room was packed, they were in their hats and fire gear, smelling smoky and looking very 'in charge' watching in silent amazement, you could have heard a pin drop. I so wish I had taken a picture of that moment. It was a great example of how magical animals can be.

Although I am sure we did not make a great impression on the firemen, in our rubber boots and locked in cages, I think the animals made a lasting impression on them, so that's even better!

## Another great rescue...

Although the majority of the time we were in greens and up to our eye balls in animal care and cleaning, occasionally we got to 'clean' ourselves up. In this instance, we had some City officials at the Centre for a lunch meeting.

After the meeting we were getting ready to go home when we got a call from someone reporting a skunk on the roadside nearby that was in need of help. The caller indicated the skunk seemed to have something wrapped around its neck and wasn't able to move very well. Since it was so close to us we jumped in the van to check it out. When we got there we saw the adult skunk on the patch of grass near the on ramp for the Queensway.

We could tell there was something wrapped around its paw and neck. We grabbed towels, gloves, nets and a carrier and were in pursuit of our patient. Just as we jumped out of the van, we looked at each other and realized we had forgotten to change. So there we

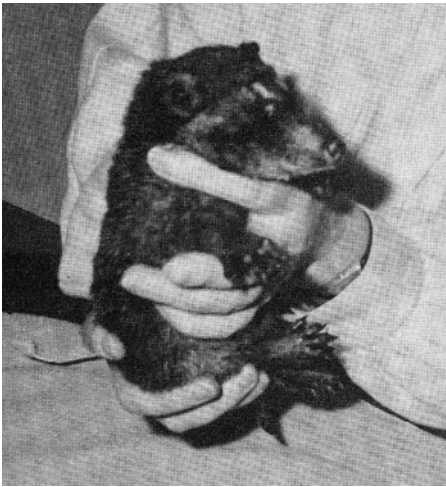
were, three ladies in skirts chasing a skunk on the roadside during rush hour traffic! Needless to say we heard a few car horns and got a few waves. I am happy to report we were able to safely contain the skunk and we didn't get sprayed. I won't comment on the gracefulness of our rescue. It turned out the skunk had gotten stuck in a plastic six pack holder. It was wrapped around one shoulder and neck, making movement and foraging very difficult. Without our help, it would have died a slow and painful death. After seeing this I always ask people to remember to cut up these holders before throwing them out. Taking a minute will really help wildlife!



# PUBLIC WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE ANIMAL ABUSE

The public is increasingly vocal in its message that animal abuse will not be tolerated in our society. But are the courts listening? As the two following stories, twenty years apart show, change is occurring within the courts but not nearly fast enough. There remains a large gap between community values and the meagre sentences handed out in the most despicable cases of animal cruelty.

The OCWC thanks the Ottawa Humane Society for the tireless work it does in bringing animal cruelty cases to justice and the commitment it has made toward the protection of all animals.



## Bernie

When we opened the box and looked at this tiny raccoon, burnt almost beyond recognition, we were heartsick, never before having witnessed a case resulting from such cruelty and callousness.

The little raccoon, just three weeks old, had massive burns on his face, scalp and

legs which were already starting to swell and blister. All of his fur had been singed off. The smell of smoke and burnt flesh was overwhelming. We didn't think he would survive the night. But he did and because he was clearly a fighter we decided he deserved a chance. We named him "Bernie".

The miracle was that Bernie survived in spite of burns to over 80 percent of his body, resulting in the loss of most of both ears, several toes, and leaving huge gaping wounds down to muscle on several limbs. Under the supervision of our vet and months of painstaking treatment and medication, given gently and caringly by the Centre's staff, he slowly began to recover.

In spite of the enormous pain Bernie must have experienced, his strong spirit and gentle manner became an inspiration to everyone, including the homeowner who brought him to us.

Unwittingly, she had hired a company, listed in the yellow pages as providing

"humane removal", to remove a raccoon seen entering her chimney. Even though it was spring, she was not told by this company that it was almost certainly a mother raccoon seeking shelter for her newborn kits.

The company was anything but humane in that it had dropped a smoke bomb down the chimney, causing a fire. The Ottawa Humane Society filed a cruelty charge against the owner of the company but in spite of hard work on its part to get a conviction, the case was dismissed.

The judge made light of the charge, calling it the "*ra-coon caper*", to the dismay of many in the courtroom. And, not unlike the current case, the individual charged showed no remorse for his actions saying loudly as he left the courtroom "*I sure fooled him*".

Bernie survived and was fostered, along with a few buddies, to an exceptional volunteer family where he was successfully released.

## Raccoon killer jailed 60 days

In the fall of 2013, close to 5,000 people petitioned Ontario Attorney General, John Gerretsen, asking that the justice system finally take cases of extreme cruelty to animals seriously by handing our maximum sentences to those convicted of such crimes.

It was prompted by the sadistic actions of an Ottawa man.

Gregory Armstrong was charged after leading an Ottawa Humane Society investigator on June 12 to the adult raccoon he had skewered through the head with a BBQ rotisserie rod after capturing it in a trap two days earlier. A baby raccoon that a neighbour had called to report had been crying

and in distress outside the trap lay dead nearby. Armstrong said he bludgeoned it to death with a hammer.

Armstrong admitted to these charges in an Ottawa courtroom on January 28th. He showed no remorse for his actions. In fact, according to an article in the Ottawa Citizen he turned to complete strangers sitting behind him in the courtroom to confess some more "*what they don't know was there was a third,*" he whispered loudly.

Armstrong was sentenced to 60 days in jail, although the Crown had asked for up to 12 months and a 10-year ban on being around animals.

Bruce Roney, executive director of the Ottawa Humane Society, said the sentence wasn't harsh enough. "*There is no justice for these animals,*" said Roney. "*The baby watched its mother skewered with a barbecue tool before its head was smashed with a hammer. The punishment doesn't fit the crime.*"

Nevertheless, Roney and DuBreuil from the OCWC are guardedly optimistic that the courts are beginning to take animal cruelty more seriously, given that this is the first sentence handed down that sent someone to jail. Roney indicates that "it is a starting point". Ontario Court Justice Nadelle had said jail was justified in this case given the "*completely unnecessary and gruesome violence.*"



# "Humane" Traps are Seldom Humane



*Orphaned because of trapping*

'Humane' or 'live' traps supposedly capture animals without physically harming them. But, how humane are these traps when their use results in the deaths of thousands of animals each year?

While some animals sustain serious injury to themselves trying to escape the trap and others may die of stress or exposure to the elements, the real death toll caused by 'humane' traps is the newborn young that are left behind.

Too often, when a homeowner sees an animal on their property, they assume that trapping and relocating it to the 'forest' not only solves their problem but is a humane solution for the animal.

It is not.

Take the case of an Ottawa family who trapped and relocated a raccoon that was frequently seen in their backyard. Two days after relocating the animal, the family heard cries of baby raccoons coming from their attic. After cutting through drywall to access the area from where the sounds were coming, they found four baby raccoons about four weeks of age. Severely dehydrated, two of the baby raccoons were near death. The homeowner felt terrible. They were also left with the expensive job of having to repair the drywall.

What many people don't realize is that female squirrels, raccoons, skunks and groundhogs come closer to our properties each spring, seeking out covered shelter in eaves, chimneys, garden sheds

and under steps as a safe spot to have their young, away from predators, when their newborn babies are most vulnerable.

When the Centre did wildlife rehabilitation over 50% of orphaned wildlife calls were the result of homeowners and or their neighbours trapping and relocating adult females, unaware that these animals have dependent young.

Trapping is never the solution. Consider these facts:

- When a nursing female is trapped and relocated, her young are left to face a slow death of starvation.
- Even if rescued, thousands of "created" orphans have to be euthanized every year because of the limited number and capacity of overwhelmed rehabilitation centres.
- Birthing and rearing begins in March and lasts until mid-October for several species of mammals. Even trapping outside the birthing season, prior to or during winter, is a death sentence for the animal as it is unlikely to find a winter denning site or food source before dying of exposure.
- Relocated animals often do not survive in new territory where they have no food source or denning site, and are frequently driven off by resident animals.
- "Humane" trapping to rid a property of "nuisance" wildlife does not solve any perceived or real problem. Urban wildlife is usually plentiful enough that trapped and relocated animals are soon replaced with others of the same species.
- It is also illegal, under the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, to relocate any wild animal beyond 1 kilometer from where it was found, making trapping quite pointless.

## A Better Way

If an animal has taken up residency on your property in some of the areas mentioned above during the birthing season, you should assume that it is a female with babies. The good news is that this is a TEMPORARY situation. The safest and most humane option is to give a brief grace period until the babies are weaned and coming out with the mother. The family will then move to a natural area and you can go about doing the necessary animal-proofing.

It is also in a homeowner's best interest to resist taking wildlife problems into their own hands as abandoned hungry babies, in inaccessible areas in soffits, can fall between walls, requiring expensive drywall removal. Or, if they are under steps, immobile babies will die and create lingering bad odours.

Never risk barricading an animal as they can cause damage in trying to get back to their young or in trying to escape. Do not attempt to smoke an animal out of a chimney (see opposite page story on Bernie) as babies would be unable to escape and you could cause a chimney fire.

Research all your options before taking any action. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure when it comes to wildlife concerns. Take advantage of the experienced advice at [www.wildlifeinfo.ca](http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca) and keep this site handy for all your wildlife questions throughout the year. You'll be glad you did.



# Why we should all go out and play!

A large component of our education and outreach programs are aimed at helping foster an appreciation for our natural world, among people of all ages.

In an urban setting, communing with nature may be a walk along a nearby nature trail, or even observing squirrels in your backyard. Living in a city that has such a wide diversity of species and an abundance of natural settings just a stone's throw in every direction is a valuable resource. From a personal perspective, since I was a young child, nature was a place where I experienced exhilarating adventures, peaceful contemplation as well as found a sense of calm and wonder.

As time passes, it seems there is more and more evidence of the positive powers of nature for people of all ages.

We have talked a lot about Richard Louv's book, 'Nature Deficit Disorder', which looks at the vast difference the relationship today's children have with nature, versus past generations, and the negative impacts this is having. Kids today don't go outside and play for hours, climbing trees and exploring their surroundings. Instead they are spending time indoors, sending hundreds of texts each day or watching hours of television.

A documentary called 'Play Again' which investigates the consequences of a childhood removed from nature and encourages action for a sustainable future, has a powerful segment in which children are shown logos for McDonalds, PlayStation, Target which are recognized almost immediately. But when children are shown a picture of a dandelion in seed, they are stumped. I have seen this dozens of times and it still gives me a lump in my throat.

The benefits of having a connection with nature to children is far reaching, encompassing mind, body and spirit. Playing outside and exercising will help us combat childhood obesity and all



the associated health risks. In addition, exposure to natural settings may be effective at reducing ADHD symptoms and children's stress levels have been shown to fall within minutes of seeing greenspace.

But what about those of us who are not kids anymore, what does nature have to offer? As I have indicated my list would be endless, but for some who may not be quite as convinced as I am, there are a range of positive impacts that research is suggesting. People walking on an outdoor track moved at a faster pace, perceived less exertion and experienced more positive emotions than those walking on an indoor treadmill. Another study indicated that looking at natural scenes, such as mountains and forests, activates parts of the brain associated with balance and happiness. A Japanese study has shown that women who spent 2-4 hours in the woods on two consecutive days had an almost 50% increase in the activity of cancer-fighting white blood cells. One study even suggests that spending more time in nature can make us nicer and enhance our social interactions.

So even if only some of these benefits are valid and applicable to each of us, I think it is worth taking a chance on nature, so get out and play!

This is no doubt why our programs appeal to such a wide range of audiences. In addition to working with hundreds of students in area classrooms in the past few months, the Centre has also been called upon to work with residents of a nearby community association on ways to protect local green space as well as to give a seminar at a community day on the diversity of backyard wildlife they share their spaces with. Expanding our involvement with the health sector, we were asked to give a workshop about wildlife by social workers at CHEO to teens with anxiety disorders and to seniors who wanted to learn more about wildlife in their city.





Photo: Michael Davies

When I heard Dr. Stan Gehrt, world renowned wildlife ecologist from Ohio State University, was going to be the first speaker for the City of Ottawa's Wildlife Speakers' Series I was very excited. Having read about his research and the insight it has been providing on how people in urban and rural developments can coexist with coyotes, I was very interested in hearing more about Dr. Gehrt's work. I also thought it was great news that the City was starting their Speakers series by looking at positive solutions for coexisting with wildlife and hope it will set the tone for the rest of the speaker's series.

Dr. Gehrt began by talking about how adaptable coyotes are, having expanded their territory to include most major cities in North America, in many instances, moving into areas where literally millions of people don't want them there. He has been conducting research for 24 years and to-date 750 coyotes have been included in the study. Some ani-

# Coexisting with Coyotes

## Some interesting things...

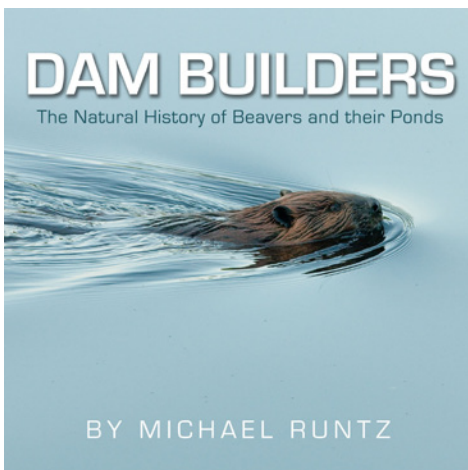
- Coyotes respect and fear people, living their entire lives with people but do not become habituated.
- Despite all of the coyotes living literally next door to humans, only 4% ever became a problem.
- In these cases the animal was sick or people had been feeding them
- 70% of mortality results from car hits
- scat analysis has shown diet to be 42% rodents; 12% rabbits/birds; 23% fruit; 22% deer and 1% human related foods including garbage and cats
- They can eat approximately 3000 rodents per year
- Litter size can range from 3-15, but usually is between 4-7 and is based on food supply and sensitivity to their population density
- Dens aren't used year round, only for about 6 weeks while raising young. Males usually don't go into the den.
- Coyotes are highly monogamous. Pairs remain very close and devoted to one another and spend much of their time together, even outside of the mating period.
- Footage showed an alpha female that lives in downtown Chicago, near Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium and Soldier Field. She has been there for about 3 years. 70,000 people live in her territory, but no one really sees her. She crosses hundreds of roads a night, even Lakeshore Drive, by waiting for gaps in traffic to cross safely.

mals were monitored for 10 years and spent their entire life within a few yards of people, but in most instances people did not even know they were there. It seems that coyotes have done a very successful job at adapting to live with people and by becoming informed we can ensure

they are peaceful neighbours. There are small things we can do to coexist such as not feeding coyotes and keeping dogs on leash, especially in natural areas.

Visit <http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca/coyote.html> for more ways to coexist with coyotes.

## Dam Builders – The Natural History of Beavers and their Ponds



Michael Runtz's much-anticipated book, 20 years in the making, is now available. Beavers are one of the most remarkable and important animals in the world. They have many adaptations for life in the water including the most versatile tail of any animal on the planet. Beavers need water and dam streams to create habitat for themselves. In doing so they create habitat that supports myriad plants and animals, and that also maintains water tables.

But even after beavers leave a pond, their efforts continue to affect other

organisms. When a beaver pond drains, a new habitat soon arises, one that supports a great variety of species including wolves and moose.

This highly visual book explores the complex world of beavers and the diverse array of plants and animals that benefit from their activities. It is sure to become a treasured read and resource for all of us who admire the amazing beaver. It is available at bookstores for \$35.00.

# IN MEMORIAM

Wildlife lost a long-standing and devoted friend in Elizabeth Murray who died this past December.

Elizabeth was a strong advocate for animal protection and took a particular interest in wildlife rehabilitation. She started the Orphaned Wildlife Foundation in 1983, a local organization that cared for orphaned and injured wild mammals. This was at a time when there was little or no help available for wildlife in distress.

In 1987 she joined the newly founded Coalition for Wildlife that later became the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre. Elizabeth was definitely a pioneer and the Centre's programs today are due, in no small measure, to the early vision and commitment made by wildlife rehabilitators and advocates like Elizabeth.

Elizabeth was born in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) on a tea plantation managed by her father. She also lived in Egypt and Australia before arriving in England in 1945. In 1950, she joined the Royal Navy as a Wren and trained as an aircraft mechanic. She loved flying and whenever possible she would ride in the back seat of an aircraft during test flights.

Later, on a posting to Scotland, she met and married Bob Murray, a Canadian naval pilot. In 1954 they moved to Canada where they initially set roots in Nova Scotia, until moving to Ontario in 1972.

## A Family Affair

Elizabeth's venture into wildlife rehabilitation had the full support of husband Bob. A LCdr. in the RCN, Bob was also a very talented

builder. Elizabeth's special interest in raccoons led to Bob constructing an amazing pre-release cage on their country property that became known as the "Coonrad Hilton Hotel".

Elizabeth and Bob became key volunteers and supporters of the OCWC. When the new building opened in 1992, Bob, along with Calvin Franklin and Gary DuBreuil, committed many hours to constructing all of the outdoor cages and other structures needed to provide temporary care for hundreds of animals each year.

Elizabeth continued caring for orphaned wildlife as well as volunteering at the Centre. On one such occasion when she was 'staffing' the telephone hotline, her no nonsense approach left a lasting impression. Overheard speaking to a caller who wanted to keep wildlife off his property, Elizabeth advised, with a cultured British accent, that he should "stake out his territory by urinating around its border". We would have loved to have seen the caller's expression.

Sadly, Elizabeth was diagnosed with Alzheimers in 2004 and thus began the family's long good-bye. Bob and daughter Valerie (Hemphill) provided amazing support to Elizabeth over these years while son, Michael, did so from the greater distance of Halifax.

At the celebration of Elizabeth's life, Michael's wonderful eulogy prompted many fond memories and much laughter. He recalled his mother's passion for raccoons "remembering as a teenager opening the fridge to grab a snack only to see a large bowl filled with what-



*That's formula, not beer, by the way*

*ever the coons would be eating, including dead mice or frogs".*

But it was his words about her character that resonated "independent, courageous, committed and honest – she was a caring, loving and bright individual who marched to her own drum and tried her best to make a difference for the better".

We can add that she was also a gracious hostess with a wicked dry sense of humour and a loyal friend. A remarkable lady and a remarkable family.

## OUR THANKS

OCWC gratefully acknowledges:

*Ruth and Ray Wesenberg  
Wildlife Fund*



Special thanks to:

Ryan Kelson, Design - RyanKelson.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](mailto:ocwc@ncf.ca)  
Contributions are tax deductible.  
Information is used only by the OCWC.  
It is not shared.

**OCWC Website** [www.wildlifeinfo.ca](http://www.wildlifeinfo.ca)