



On The Wild Side

Another busy year...

Welcome to our introductory issue of 'On the Wild Side'. This newsletter has been a long time in the making! Animal care is always our priority and with a major shortage of volunteers who have good desktop publishing skills, spare time for newsletters has been hard to find. But—we managed to make time!

2005 and 2006 (so far) were extremely busy here due to the mild winters that preceded them. Our total intakes of wildlife went through the roof! We admitted raccoons, squirrels, skunks, songbirds, owls, raptors, fawns, ermine, and opossums. An assortment of others (not native wildlife) that we took in and cared for rounded off the year and included a mink, (possibly an escapee from a mink farm), a Corn snake (an unusual find, likely an escaped pet) and two turtles, among many others. That's just a *small* sampling of what's come through these doors.

Raccoons continue to have a terrible time as we still see numerous cases of canine distemper virus (fatal in raccoons) in the local population. So far, in 2006, the casualties have been as high as they were in 2005. It is a virus they acquire from unvaccinated dogs and then pass on to other raccoons. We do our part by providing them a humane end to their suffering. It

should serve as a reminder to you, that if you really love your family pet, do the right thing, and be sure they are vaccinated.

Costs for care are very high this year, meaning that we have used up every available donation to pay for the needed milk replacers, medical care, supplies, vaccines, and food, leaving us with a serious funding shortfall this year.

You may or may not know that wildlife rehabilitation in the province is regulated by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). They issue the rehab licenses. The federal government is responsible for regulating the rehabilitation of and the protection of migratory birds. Neither they nor *any* other level of government (regional, city, etc.) provide funding for the work we do. Rehabilitation is considered a voluntary profession. This leaves us in the tough position of only being able to provide as much needed and highly specialized care for these wild animals as your generous and compassionate donations will support. When donations stop, we have to stop.

There is no paid staff here - my time is a no charge donation. Volunteering comes as naturally to me as it did to my mom. My experi-

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Food donations needed!

We are in *dire* need of high quality, name brand, dry dog and cat foods to get us through the remainder of this rehab season and into next spring. Sick and injured wildlife can't be restored to health by being fed a 'diet' (weight reduction) food, so we use a mixture of adult and puppy or kitten kibble for many of our species. We can also use some canned foods but they must be high quality, meat based and non-diet or high protein such as A/D diet.

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We're on the Web!



Grab your mouse and check out our website!

www.niagarawildlifehaven.org

We're developing a great information and resource site for you to help you learn about native wildlife in Niagara and the work we do.

Bookmark it, keep checking, and please 'bear' with us—we are working on it!

Our new email is:

info@niagarawildlifehaven.org

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Another busy year...cont'd

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ences in wildlife rehabilitation span more than two decades. In addition to my duties here, I am honoured to serve as the elected Chairperson of OWREN (Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Network) www.owren-online.org. Currently I am an instructor for OWREN's Wildlife Rehabilitation Basic Skills course and author of the Basic Skills Manuals.

I maintain professional memberships in international wildlife rehabilitation organizations such as the NWRA and the IWRC and other state rehabilitation groups. These allow me to remain up to date with the latest science, knowledge, and best practices in this profession. I've attended and presented papers at conferences, and written numerous articles for publication.

Many of you know that we remained at this location because we made a choice to stay and provide care and assistance to my parents. They have passed on and we now face a crossroad. To continue being a wildlife rehabilitation facility we need to relocate. Niagara's wildlife needs a place of its own - in Niagara - where the animals will receive experienced and skilled professional rehabilitation and care. We have the knowledge, we have the skill, and we certainly have the experience. We just need 'the place'.

Although we meet the standards set by the Ministry of Natural Resources for what we currently do here, and we pass all facility inspections, there simply isn't enough room here for us to work with all the different species that we get in. To remain here will severely limit what we keep and treat because we cannot expand. Animals we could easily help, we are now faced with having to transfer elsewhere. That is much easier said than done! With the exception of two facilities that specialize *only* in birds of prey, there

is no other facility in Niagara authorized (licensed) for *all* species. We are 'it' - as the expression goes. Other centres are too far outside Niagara and are in the same position - they fill to the brim with wildlife from their own areas. They cannot take ours at the expense of having to needlessly euthanize those from their own areas.

"We receive absolutely no funding from any level of government (federal, provincial, regional, city, etc.,) for the work we do here caring for native Niagara wildlife."

The second drawback to transfers outside Niagara is that all wild animals, by law, must be released within 1 km of where they were found. It's stressful to send wildlife to another part of the province and transport it back for release when full grown. Unknowingly transporting wildlife disease to other areas in Ontario also makes transfer very risky.

What we need is rural property anywhere in Niagara with a minimum of 2 acres (more is better) with a residence not bounded by *any* urban development, preferably in a wooded area. We need to live onsite to be able to provide round the clock care. A barn or outbuildings that can be converted for rehabilitation use - for example, a wildlife hospital and medical clinic are also needed.

Developing an educational centre onsite where wildlife who cannot be released due to their injuries, can be housed for life and where children can come to learn respect for wildlife and wildlife habitats through public education programs is a part of our plan also. We would also like to incorporate a classroom for teaching

others how to become wildlife rehabilitators. You can help us make that vision become a reality!

We are taking the steps now to apply for charitable status and registering as a nonprofit corporation - eventually setting up a foundation ensuring the 'Haven' remains in Niagara after we are gone. That is the legacy I want Niagara's wildlife to have.

It would be ideal if Niagara Wildlife Haven could acquire such land and property through the generosity of compassionate donors. If you know of anyone willing to do so please have them contact us. The time has come to bring awareness to politicians and the public of the acute lack of services for injured and orphaned wildlife in Niagara and to embark on a major fundraising campaign to raise the needed funds for this project. Our target goal is to raise \$500,000.00.

Were we to acquire a donation of property and land, funding is still necessary for renovations, medical equipment and supplies, the construction of secure and environmentally enriched outdoor caging, ponds for waterbird rehab and recovery, flight training pens for raptors, secure and sheltered tracts of land for the rehabilitation of fawns, foxes, and other species that require privacy and minimal human contact in rehab for their recovery and to ensure they retain their wild nature. Buildings that will house orphaned and injured animals during the rehabilitation and recovery period will need water, heat, and hydro.

It may seem like a never-ending list but we firmly believe that one step at a time—we can get there. In the meantime, the work we do here at this location needs continued and ongoing funding.

Please see our 'Wish List' in this issue for other ways you can help. Food and

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Trash talk

When feeding orphaned and sick wildlife, it's inevitable that what goes in - come out - and never is that more evident than on our waste pick up day here. Our limit is two bags and we exceed it every

week. Most of this waste can't be recycled so it must go to landfill. Extra bag tags are \$1 each and they add up and dent our pocket! Won't you consider picking up a few extra bag tags and donate them

next time you buy some for yourself? We also need oversized extra heavy duty garbage bags, (bargain bags are not a bargain-they rip) and clean, bundled newspapers (*no* inserts, please).

Volunteers needed

The need has never been greater than it is now. The time has come for us to relocate and establish a regional wildlife rehabilitation facility in Niagara. To do this we need a small army of volunteers. Are you willing to help? Here's what we are looking for and need:

Enthusiastic Directors (and advisors to the Board)

We need folks with some or all of the following skills/experience

- ◆ financial/business qualifications
- ◆ proficient with Windows based programs/databases
- ◆ event coordination, organization and planning
- ◆ grant writing/fundraising experience
- ◆ volunteer management, or experience as an educator
- ◆ demonstrated proficiency and experience in desktop publishing/design
- ◆ veterinarian, biologist
- ◆ science/technology writing and editing
- ◆ dependable high speed access to the Internet.

We are looking for energetic individuals who are dedicated to the goal of caring for and protecting the wildlife in Niagara. We're looking for people who are willing to do more than just taking up space at the Board table.

General Volunteers

Folks with really big hearts, willing to help us on occasion with special events and planning, e.g. walkathons, Christmas memorial service, yard sales, or the distribution of flyers and posters. Per-

haps you can occasionally help us pick up any donated supplies or with the transport of injured or orphaned animals. Are you good at carpentry skills and can you help with cage building, or do you have general handyman skills, to sometimes help us with simple maintenance jobs? Computer whiz who can create databases or design brochures and flyers - we'd love to have you apply! Those with skills in general office and administration work (paperwork, recordkeeping, screening phone calls for assistance on our hotline during busy season) are also needed. Do you have really strong organizational skills? Then we need you! There are so many ways you can help!

*Time on your hands?
Put it to good use—be a volunteer!
There are so many ways
you can help out!*

General Animal Care Assistants

These jobs range from cleaning cages to preparing food and doing laundry in caring for the animals here at our facility. Rehabilitation work is not glamorous by any stretch because we can deal with a wide range of health problems in the animals. These jobs also may involve feeding, and other hands on care, depending on the species, and if you are

suited for the work. We will provide training for you however, those who are willing to take the OWREN (Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Network) Wildlife Rehabilitation Basic Skills course, will be given first consideration for any hands on care positions. You need proof of a tetanus vaccine, you must be reliable, dependable, have your own transportation, and be willing to make a minimum volunteer commitment of at least six months, working four hours per week. If you can offer more - that's even better. During peak rehab season, the animals depend on fixed routines for care and your reliability is a critical factor in their recovery.

Foster Care Providers—Animal Care

Foster care providers give care and rehabilitation to wildlife in their own homes. They work under our authorization, guidance and supervision. The work can be very time consuming and labour intensive depending on the species. It involves among other things, cleaning cages, animal laundry, food preparation, feeding, a knowledge of nutrition and basic medical skills. Volunteers in this category must be at least 18 yrs of age. You must be willing to register with the Ministry of Natural Resources as a foster care provider, and undergo premise inspections by the MNR and by us. Foster care requires an investment of time and may involve out of pocket expenses for animal care. For those who are willing to make this major commitment (and who

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What if....we are forced to close our doors?

Did you ever wonder what would happen to Niagara's wildlife if we weren't here to provide these services? We don't have to wonder - we know. Healthy orphaned wildlife, the injured and sick would be needlessly euthanized by local SPCA's or animal control agencies.

We don't want to close the doors, and we certainly don't want to see the inhumane and needless euthanasia of wildlife needing help. We cannot imagine being given only two choices - knowingly leaving a helpless baby wild animal to pain-

fully starve to death - or euthanize it. Rehabilitation should be *the only* acceptable option. No other facility in Niagara has the training, or experience to provide this specialized care for all native Ontario species.

You should not take matters into your own hands (the advice some vets and pet stores give just to sell you a can of formula) and try to raise these animals on your own without the proper training or legal permits. Vets and pet stores have no training in wildlife

rehabilitation and should *not* be in the business of dispensing feeding advice. It can be dangerous to you and a death sentence to the animal. Wild animal babies are not cats and dogs!



We need to keep our doors open. We can't stand by and 'do nothing'. We must all do what we can so no wild animal suffers needlessly.

Please, send a donation today
—from your heart.

Humanely evicting wildlife

Is there anything you can try before calling in a wildlife removal company? Yes, there is.

Wild animals - like humans - want three basic things: food, water, and a place to live. They need dark and quiet to sleep, dry shelter from the weather, and it needs to be safe and relatively quiet enough for their babies.) The place they pick is generally close to a food and water source. Attics, sheds, chimneys (which are like the inside of a tree trunk), provide them with these basic and necessary elements.

If a wild animal finds all three of these and it's on your property or in your house, to them it's like being in a five star hotel. The secret to humanely evicting them is to drop the rating of the accommodations you inadvertently provided for them to something that resembles a rent by the hour motel room that doesn't even rank a half a star. They don't want to live in one of those! Your job is to humanely make it unpleasant for them.

You also have to allow a bit of time and exhibit some patience because the majority of wild animals who take up refuge in homes are females with their young. Every mother has at least two or three alternate den sites she can use. She chose yours because it's 5 stars! The mothers *will* move their babies but you must give them a few days time. There are three specific things you can do that will get them to move on their own.

When you know where she is (chimney, attic, eaves, under your deck) your first step is to 'turn on the lights'! Can you sleep with the lights on 24 hrs a day? Neither can she! It's bothersome for her

babies because safety for them means darkness. Plug in a safety work light as close to the area as you can or use a flashlight you tape down and leave on, so that the area is illuminated all the time.

Step two - make it noisy. Get a portable radio or plug one in and turn it on to a talk radio station. Turn it up but not so loud that you disturb your neighbours or yourself. The constant sound of people talking is annoying to them.

Step three - add some unpleasant smells. Get some Amex™ (ammonia cleaner, don't use pine scented, use it plain) and put some old rags into an empty margarine container. Sprinkle ammonia on them, put the top on and poke holes in it. Place these in the area they are in and all around the path they take to get in and out of there. If you have to, toss them into the attic space as close to where they sleep and ensure you leave one at the entrance to this area. This will give off an annoying but harmless odour for a few days and then evaporate away. Don't use mothballs as repellents - some types are carcinogenic.

Now you wait. She will begin to move her babies one at a time to an alternate den site. It may take 3-4 days but she will move them if these three things (lights, sound and odour) remain constant. When you hear no more noises and she has left, you must make the necessary repairs to your home that allowed them access in the first place.

Cap the chimney, cover the space under the deck, patch the hole in the shed, etc. This is *your* responsibility as a homeowner and if you are a tenant and renting, then your landlord must make these re-

pairs. Living with wildlife in the house can be a health and safety hazard.

With time and patience, you will get this wild animal to move. It picked your home because it was the nicest of them all. Make it 'not nice' and your problem is humanely solved!

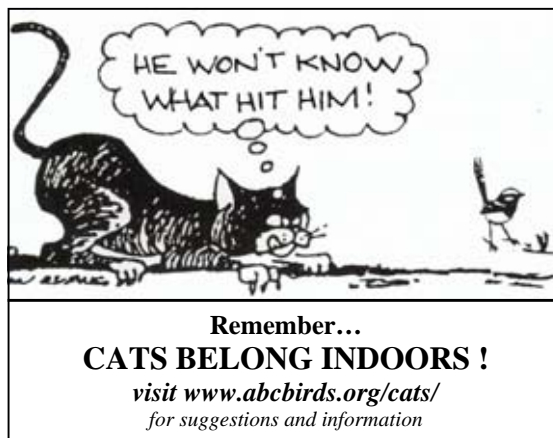
Keep in mind that some mothers are reluctant to move babies when they are under 3 wks of age. If you can determine their age, it might be advisable to wait to do this until they are a bit older and she can move them with less difficulty.

It's a good idea also to ensure that neither you nor your neighbours are providing easy access to food for wildlife. Don't feed your pets outside, don't feed stray cats or dogs outside either because you aren't doing them any favours and you are attracting all manner of other wildlife to the area. You may think you are helping some poor unfortunate homeless domestic animal but what you're doing is setting them up for predation by attracting wildlife to that area using the food. Life outside for cats in harsh weather conditions is no life at all. Keep your trash bags secured in containers.

Rarely you may encounter a rather stubborn animal that won't move out. Generally they're males and if that proves to be the case, you may need a wildlife removal company to assist you. Before you hire someone, give us a call. We recommend *only* companies we know who meet our standards and who do the work humanely, legally, and ethically. We *never* refer to companies whose answer is to kill or relocate the wildlife.

Relocating any wild animal more than

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Direct deposit donations

Direct deposit donations can be made at any TD/Canada Trust branch for
Niagara Wildlife Haven
Account No: 0129-5999330
Transit No./Institution No: 01292-004
Our branch is - TD/Canada Trust,
144 Main St. E., Welland ON, L3B 3W6.
(Don't forget to send a copy of your deposit receipt to us (or email it) so we may acknowledge you. Thanks!)

Wish List - gently used or new things we need!



- ⊔ Towels, blankets, comforters, absorbent sheets/bedding, diapers, receiving blankets
- ⊔ Paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper (used for animal bedding)
- ⊔ Electric heating pads (in good working order)
- ⊔ Snugglesafe microwave heating disks
- ⊔ Incubators, brooders, heat lamps
- ⊔ Roof or pipe heating cables
- ⊔ Heated electric water bowls/buckets
- ⊔ Cages and kennel cabs – all sizes; clear plastic ‘pocket-pet’ totes w/lids
- ⊔ Bird cages, large with bars very closely spaced together
- ⊔ Cat or Ferret Condo type cages or large sturdy parrot cages
- ⊔ Stainless steel cage banks
- ⊔ Dog runs, screened gazebo (for aviary)
- ⊔ Tip-proof feeding dishes, crocks & water bowls
- ⊔ Heavy ash trays, non-rusting lg frying pans/pots (used as non tip food bowls for wildlife)
- ⊔ Stainless steel or rubber large buckets for water
- ⊔ Water bottles (cage mounted) large and small
- ⊔ Medical supplies, medications, equipment (microscope, centrifuge), clinging roll bandages, stretch roll bandages, cast padding, disposable gloves, needles/syringes, Vetwrap/ Coban, exam table or stretcher.
- ⊔ Stuffed animals, all sizes and types
- ⊔ Durable plastic kids toys & blocks, dog chew toys, rope toys
- ⊔ Lumber and materials to build cages: 2x4s, 1x2s, plywood (4’ minimum size pcs), Fence boards (1 x 6)
- ⊔ Tin or aluminum (for cage roofs and windbreaks)
- ⊔ Plastic PVC or Coroplast panels
- ⊔ Stone: 3/4 inch gravel or pea gravel
- ⊔ Wire mesh—1”, 1/2” and smaller - heavy gauge rolls
- ⊔ Litter pans; kitty litter - any type
- ⊔ Pine or Aspen shavings (no cedar)
- ⊔ Dry puppy chow, Kitten chow good quality name brand – (low-cal diet food can’t be fed to sick or injured wildlife)
- ⊔ Esbilac™ puppy, and KMR™ kitten, powdered milk replacer formulas.
- ⊔ Bird seed: dove or finch, sunflower seed, wild bird seed mix.
- ⊔ Walnuts, chestnuts, acorns & fresh fruit or veggies in season
- ⊔ Rodent block in bags
- ⊔ Crayfish, minnows, feeder mice, earthworms, mealworms, crickets
- ⊔ Rubbermaid tote boxes - all sizes w/lids, lg trash cans w/lids
- ⊔ Storage containers lg and sm (w/lids)
- ⊔ Bleach, Disinfecting cleaners, Tide laundry detergent
- ⊔ Garbage bags – heavy gauge oversized
- ⊔ Garbage Bag Tags
- ⊔ Welding gloves and other heavy leather gloves
- ⊔ Pop up canopy tent, folding tables, display unit, literature racks (for public education displays)
- ⊔ Clean newspaper (no inserts please) folded & bundled
- ⊔ Laser printer, Colour inkjet photo printer, Fax machine (laser) Photocopier, Printer paper, #10 and large manila envelopes
- ⊔ Old (large) fleece housecoats, lab coats or any size scrubs (used as feeding cover-ups)

Volunteers needed...cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

will reap the rewards of their work) we will certainly assist you to the extent that we are able. Because we are licensed and certified to work with rabies vector species (raccoon, bat, fox, skunk) anyone who handles these species must have (or be prepared to get) their pre-exposure rabies vaccinations. Additionally those working with RVS off site as foster care

providers *must* take the MNR provincial RVS course and exam and obtain a passing grade to be certified to handle RVS.

Our immediate need however, is building a strong, dedicated, and *forward thinking* Board of Directors. We need people who truly care. We are also recruiting enthusiastic volunteers willing to make a commitment to help Niagara’s wildlife, and help us to educate people to

live in harmony with our native wildlife.

If you want to get involved - we want to hear from you! The need is great and the time is now. Without this support from the community - and you - we will be forced to close and that’s not a pleasant thought. Who will be there then? Call or email for an application: volunteers@niagarawildlifehaven.org

Evicting wildlife...cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

one kilometre from it’s origin *is against the law* and should never be done. It’s a death sentence to that animal.

With common sense, compassion, and patience, we can learn to peacefully co-exist with native wildlife in Niagara!



6-yr old ‘mom’ raccoon recovering from a head injury after she was hit by a car.



2-wk old orphaned baby raccoons, whose mother was needlessly killed.

How do they get here?

You may wonder about the stories behind the wildlife we care for. Some become orphaned by humans intentionally, others unintentionally. 'Woody' a black phase grey squirrel was orphaned and slightly injured when a tree was cut down and the property owners didn't realize that there were babies nesting in it. His siblings were killed when the logs were being cut up and stacked. Woody was found later and came in with a broken tail. Fortunately for him, he'll be ok. Squirrels can have two litters, the first usually in the early spring and some will go on to have a second litter mid July to August. It's a good idea to check trees before cutting them down, to ensure that a wild animal or a bird hasn't made a home in one. Old trees make good habitat for any number of wild animals.

'Sprout', a 4-wk old orphaned grey squirrel was cruelly injured when some children in Port Colborne found him and her three siblings on the ground. It's a good guess their mother was killed and they tumbled from the nest, hungry and in search of her. The children took the babies and tied fishing line tightly around their necks and then tied the other end of

the line to the back of their bicycles. For fun and games, they pedaled as fast as they could over stones at the side of the road, dragging each innocent baby down the street! When they were finally stopped, three had already been killed and the kids scattered. The fishing line severely cut Sprout's neck and she's badly bruised but we expect her to heal and eventually be released. As for those children?

We worry about them and wonder about their parents and what lessons they have taught their kids. Statistics prove that children who cruelly abuse animals, grow up to do the same to human beings. That, is a scary thought!

Another common occurrence is when someone finds a wild baby and takes it home. They know they should turn it over to a rehabilitator, but they can't resist the urge to rush out and buy it some food, to 'rescue' it. They may give it to their kids who want to 'raise' it because



Thank goodness someone found us and took us to Niagara Wildlife Haven!

they think it would be a good learning experience. When the animal begins to sicken and die, and starts to fade away they then take the time then to find help for it. Usually it's too late. We've had birds brought in that were fed bread soaked in milk - that died. Tiny baby birds, have come in with

worms jammed down their throats (from pesticide treated lawns). They died. We've seen our share of baby squirrels fed raw egg, corn syrup and canned milk mixes that folks 'found' on the Internet - they died.

Ask yourself when was the last time you saw a wild bird in the grocery store, shopping for bread and milk? Or a raccoon or squirrel shopping for corn syrup and eggs? Wild animals have distinctly different nutritional needs and dietary requirements. Leave that to us, we're the specialists in that field. Don't feed or give water to any wild animal under any circumstances. It may be the last meal that animal ever has.

Events—mark the dates down!

**December 10, 2006
(Sun) 6 PM.
8th Annual Animals
Christmas Tree
Memorial Service
and Open House**



Pencil this date on your calendars and key it into your Blackberry! Please join us as we remember and honour the animals and friends of animals who are no longer with us. Share some fellowship and catch up on the past year. Memorial brochures and flyers will be available in early Nov.—call us to find out where you can pick yours up. If you can help distribute them, please let us know! Call or email.

**February 6-10, 2007,
Annual OWREN Conference
in Niagara Falls, Ontario.**

Of interest to anyone interested in wildlife rehabilitation or those who work in

related professions. The OWREN Wildlife Rehabilitation Basic Skills course will be held that week. Visit the OWREN website for more details: www.owren-online.org.

**Niagara Wildlife Haven
Volunteer Meeting
(Oct. or Nov.) Date TBA**

An orientation for committed individuals to help organize and prepare for the spring baby season. Call or email if you want to make a difference for wildlife in Niagara. Visit our website for more info: www.niagarawildlifehaven.org



Southern Flying Squirrels (*Glaucomys volans*) travel by gliding from tree to tree. Vulnerable to predation by cats on the ground and by owls when gliding in trees.

Presentations available

Did you know that we're available to give educational presentations and talks for schools, community groups or other groups? We can structure the talks to a specific age or interest group and cover a wide range of topics pertaining to Niagara's native wildlife. We can also do a short seminar on providing temporary interim care and safe handling for injured or orphaned wildlife, until it can be transferred to or picked up by a licensed rehabilitator; triage for wildlife to assess the most common injuries and emergency treatment, and how to determine if the animal actually needs help for humane society, animal control or veterinary clinic staff. Presentations also include wildlife proofing, what to do if you find an injured or orphaned animal, etc.

Please contact us to discuss your needs. We'd be glad to bring our informative presentations to your group or classroom.

To feed or not to feed—wildlife in the winter

It's not a good idea to provide back up food for wildlife in the winter. In order for that wild animal to survive, it needs to find it's own natural food supply. The more they become dependent on humans for handouts, the more problematic the animals can become. There's a thin line between that cute raccoon or squirrel coming up on your porch for supper and then ripping your windows off to get inside when the food fails to arrive on time if you get sick or sell your house and move. When that animal starts showing up at the neighbours, it's no longer cute or fun. It's a nuisance and can result in the animals death.

Wild birds on the other hand, can benefit from feeders in the winter but even then, keep in mind that attracting them to a feeder, will also attract predator species such as hawks and owls. Hawks aren't the only predators attracted to bird feeders, so too are raccoons, squirrels and

others who scavenge spilled seed from the ground. Keep in mind that wild animals don't care who you are trying to attract, if the food is free - they will dine there. A congregation of birds is also going to attract every free-roaming neighbourhood cat, whose owner seems to think that cats belong outside.



Don't feed every day - allow wild birds to find natural foods.

If you set up feeders, research the species you are trying to attract and buy only the specific seeds for them that are part of their natural diet in the wild. Corn is not part of any birds diet (other than a pigeon) and too many bad food choices, e.g. a diet of nothing but sunflower seeds, to some birds, is the equivalent of you and I subsisting on potato chips

alone. Another tip is to not feed every single day, allow the bird to search for its natural foods; they are available even in the winter. Feeders need to be cleaned once a week - rinse in a bleach solution and allow to dry in the sun. Spilled food needs to be picked up daily. Peanuts are *not* a natural food and they can be toxic to birds and squirrels. Invest in some good quality rodent block and for an occasional squirrel treat give the odd pecan, walnut, chestnut or acorn.

Another busy year...cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

formula are *always* in short supply and we appreciate donations of these and other items. We are currently experiencing a *major* food shortage and are in need of dry, high quality brand name cat and dog food (not diet foods) and some tinned cans with meat as their primary ingredient. Donations of Esbilac™ and KMR™ or other powdered kitten and puppy milk replacers would also be greatly appreciated.

To those of you who helped last year

and this year - our deepest gratitude. We simply could not have done it without you! We truly value your support. Each life we saved and subsequently returned to the wild—*was because you cared.*

Thank you on behalf of all wild things!



Adult porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) hit by a car. Primarily nocturnal they are active year round. They can weigh up to 30 lbs and be 3 ft long.

Technical thanks!

Glen Bowes,
Bowes IT Solutions -
*Building Better
Computer Networks.*

For a certified professional in network installation and service, there's only one option - call Glen! He hosts our site, provides computer advice, support and assistance. Email: glen@bowesit.com; Phone: 905-732-7314 (1-866-874-1791) Visit: www.bowesit.com



Don Horvath, bass guitarist with the classic rock band 'Revival' -

Breathing Life Into Classic Rock.

Book them for your next event!

Visit their website at:

<http://home.cogeco.ca/~ferret29/>

Multi-talented and master of more than just guitar strings he also provides computer and website assistance,



and is well versed in animal protection legislation through his extensive experiences as an Ontario SPCA Inspector at the Niagara Falls SPCA.

Don also serves as the President on our Board of Directors.

Our sincere thanks to both for their technical assistance this year!



Singing their praises!

Mac and Shelagh Moolman own and operate Niagara-on-the-Lake Jewellers and Precious Metals Studio. For years they took up donations for us through a collection jar in their studio at 38 Market Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. (Phone 905-468-7667). Please visit them at the studio and thank them for their support! They remember a little orphaned raccoon that found them following a

tornado in NOTL. We nick-named him 'Tommy Tornado'. Because of their help, he survived to be successfully released as did many others since then. Their hearts are made of gold and that's the most precious metal there is! THANK YOU BOTH!



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Visit us on the Web!
www.niagarawildlifehaven.org



Our Mission:

To provide experienced, skilled, and specialized care and rehabilitation for orphaned, injured, sick and displaced wildlife in Niagara, and return them in a healthy state back to the wild.

Authorized as a Wildlife Custodian
by the Ministry of Natural Resources for all species.
RVS (rabies vector species) certified to provide safe care,
handling and rehabilitation for raccoons, foxes, skunks, bats.

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Like to build?

If you have some spare time and spare materials laying around, we can use your help! We need handy people to build den boxes for squirrels and raccoons and nest boxes for birds and other species. We'll give you the plans and you build the boxes for the animals! You can do this at home and then drop them off to us.



When we wean orphaned wildlife to solid foods, they go to outside pens for pre-release conditioning. Once our birds are self feeding, they go outside to the aviary to get acclimatized to learn to fly. We are always in need of simple wooden boxes to be used as den/nest boxes. Many of these boxes are then taken to the release site and placed there to allow the animal a chance to get used to its new surroundings before it moves on to find it's own preferred lodging.

Boxes are 24 x 24 inches or smaller (depending on the species that will live in them) and have different sized entrance holes. Plywood or pine works well for building and they are simple to construct. We also need a small pigeon coop. Please contact us if you think you can help us with this important work!



Large numbers of late-born squirrels have arrived! Den boxes and 'rodent block' (food) are needed!

Food donations...cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Additionally we are in short supply of foods for the other species in our care: birdseed - dove/finch mix and other *quality* seed mixes; duck and chick starter and grow formulas (non medicated); dry ferret kibble (forms part of a specialized and necessary diet for our avian patients); crickets, mealworms, rodent block and/or monkey chow biscuits, assorted mixed (unsalted) nuts in shells; and litter and bedding such as pine shavings (not cedar - it's toxic) or clumping cat litter for various species is a necessity because what goes in, inevitably comes out, as the expression goes!

Reptile patients need pelleted turtle food, feeder mice, and our specialized avian patients require dried or frozen insects, such as krill, bloodworms, shrimp, mysotis, and daphnia (in the fish section in pet food stores).

And of course, the never ending need we have for powdered puppy & kitten milk replacers such as KMR™, Esbilac™.

When you're out purchasing for your companion animals, remember the wildlife and pick up an extra container of food for them. It will be put to good use and you will help save a wild life. Thank you!

Please share this newsletter with others!



This fledgling American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) got stuck in a brick wall and was unable to fly. She had been injured in the fall and had limited use of her toes and talons. She's now recovering the grip and balance she'll need to be released. Often called sparrow hawks (they aren't hawks) they are the smallest members of the falcon family.

'Wendy' the Weasel'...is a juvenile Ermine (*Mustela erminia*). Also called short tailed weasels they have a black tip on their tails. Found as a tiny neonate she has grown into a curious and energetic wild thing! When winter comes her coat will turn white to blend in with the snow (the black tip remains). In spring, the brown upper colour returns for camouflage. They have the ability to hunt for prey under deep snow. At birth they weigh less than half an ounce.



REDUCE!
REUSE!
RECYCLE!