



Developing an Effective Wildlife Response



Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre

December 4th, 2014

Today's Presentation

- Who we are
- What all cities are facing when it comes to wildlife
- Challenges present opportunities
- Partnerships and getting started
- Questions

City of Ottawa

- Canada's 4th largest City
- Over 900,000 people
- In terms of landmass , City of Ottawa is the largest major city in Canada
- 80% of this is rural land but has only 10% of population.
- Throughout the City is NCC Greebelt.
- 50,000 acres of greenspace and farmland from one end of the City to the other.

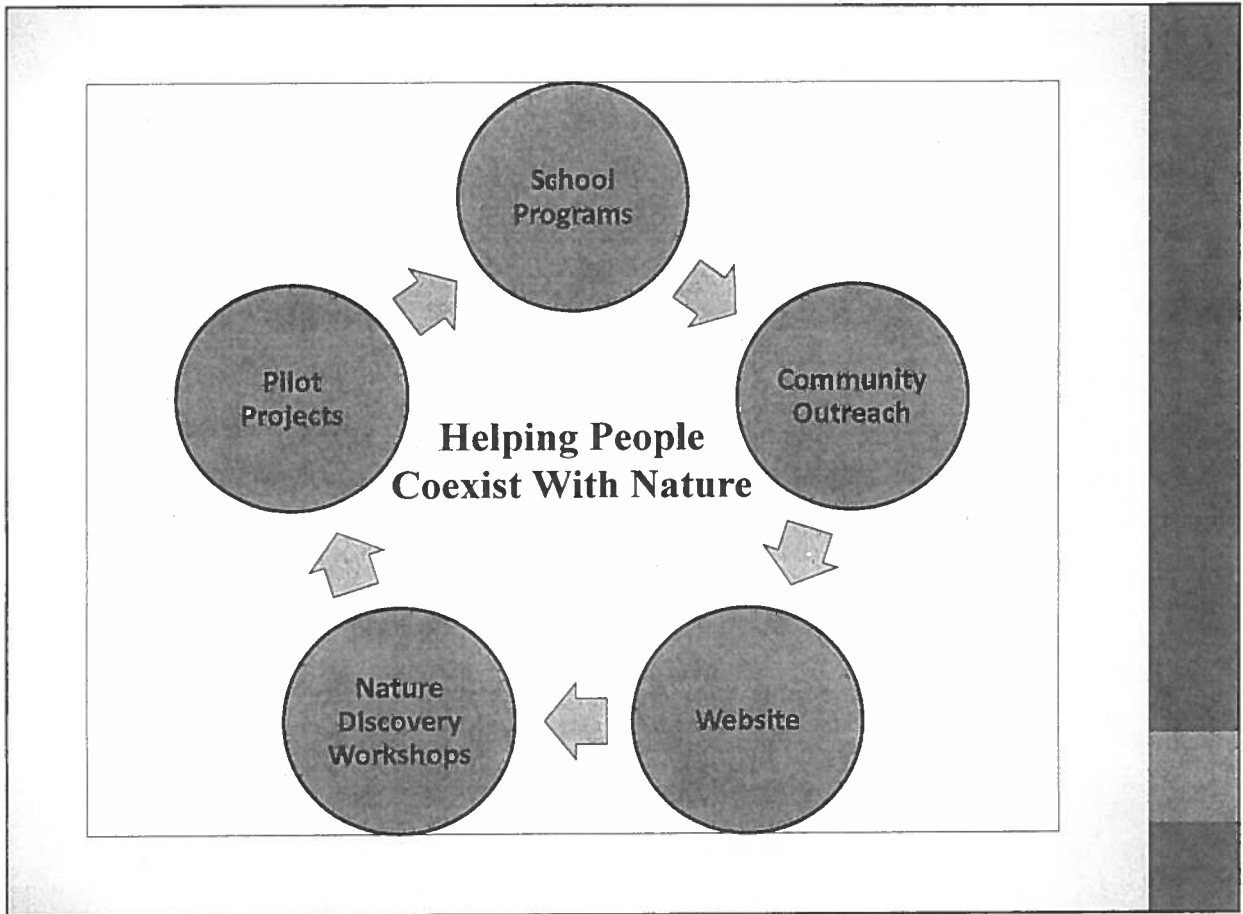


Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre



Animals we have helped...





OCWC at work...



London Is Not Alone

- Development and habitat loss
- Natural resource agencies not handling
- Changing demographics
- Public safety concerns about lethal control
- Science recognizing important role of all species
- Economic and environmental pressure for green infrastructure



The Challenges

- Wildlife is very good at coexisting with people
- Wildlife removal never solves the problem
- Removal often causes more problems
- Wildlife issues can divide a community
- Takes up the time and energy of City councillors and staff

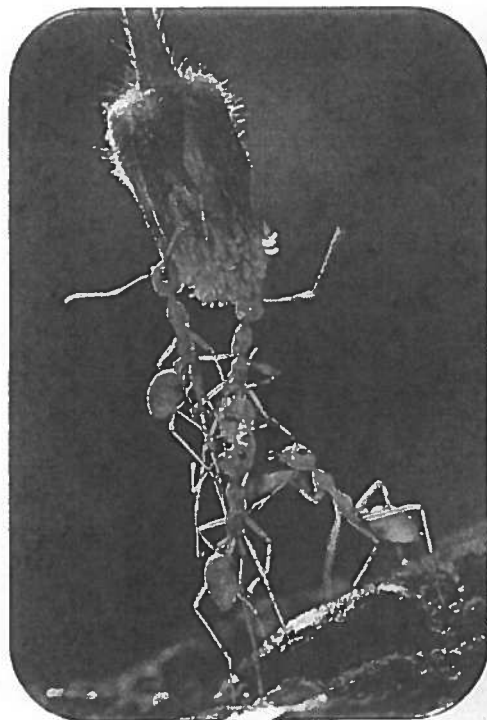


Challenges Present Opportunities

- Information empowers people
- Helping people solve problems themselves reduces pressure on the public purse for reactive and repetitive responses
- A proactive plan based on coexistence
- Clarity for residents and staff

Partnerships are Vital

“Alone we can do so little,
together we can do so much”



Getting Started ...

- Start small
- Utilize expertise in Community
- Use pilot projects
- Promote successes

Tree Protection Formula:

- Educate residents
- Protect Trees
- Plant Trees
- Celebrate success

Pilot Project...

Graham Creek Community Initiative

LOCAL NEWS

Nepean residents prove it is possible to live in harmony with nature

SUBMITTED BY DONNA DUBREUIL, EMC Chair — Residents of Graham Creek have turned the hopeful environmental aspiration of living in harmony with nature into action in their community.

Last spring, unhappy with advice from various authorities that juvenile beavers that were taking down large trees had to be trapped, homeowners decided on a more progressive course. They felt killing the beaver was a purely reactionary measure that would not provide a sustainable long-term solution.

After contacting the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, they learned that the beaver is a keystone animal that played a very important role in maintaining wetlands and creating healthy habitat for other species.

Kate Partridge, one of the local homeowners, said "It was wonderful to partner with the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre to find a progressive solution to living with wildlife within such proximity. Via such simple measures as wrapping the older, larger trees and planting a food source for the beavers in the future, we were



College ward Coun. Rick Chiarelli on the left, with City of Ottawa senior forester Tracy Smith, and landscape architect Jennifer Shepherd on the right, flank some of the Graham Creek residents getting ready to plant 150 trees along Graham Creek.

able to implement some cost-effective, long-term, preventative problem-solving measures as an alternative to the advice of trapping and killing the beavers."

"This is a model project in Ontario that demonstrates you can protect biodiversity through the initiative of

homeowners and the cooperation and support of city governments like Ottawa," noted Donna Dubsault, president of the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre.

On a recent sunny Saturday, the next phase of the project was undertaken. More than a dozen resi-

dents, along with supporter College ward Coun. Rick Chiarelli, gathered to help plant in excess of 150 trees and shrubs along the steep ravine at the back of their property.

"The City of Ottawa, through its community tree planting grant program,

was pleased to supply the trees and the expertise," said Coun. Chiarelli. "While the property is owned by the city, residents of Graham Creek have put a lot of sweat equity and their own resources into the project, showing how much they value this exceptional natural area."

"The City of Ottawa forestry service has a mandate to increase, enhance, and preserve forest cover in the city," said Jennifer Shepherd, landscape architect with the city's forestry services, who directed the tree selection and planting.

"This is accomplished through tree planting, maintenance, and community forest management programs. Community initiated naturalization planting such as the one at Graham Creek help to enrich the City of Ottawa landscape and vegetation diversity."

Graham Creek homeowner Sue Towle, said "Working with the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre and City of Ottawa forestry services has helped residents to understand human-beaver conflict. We have used environmentally friendly methods to protect the existing woodland, avoiding reactionary and cruel beaver trapping. The tree-planting scheme is helping us repopulate trees along the creek. Overall, we will all benefit from the beauty of Graham Creek, including the hugely diverse wildlife."

Some Ideas...

- Environmental Groups/Animal Protection Groups working together
- Let's Talk Science
- Wildlife Construction Protocol
- Wildlife Speakers Series
- Speeding Costs You Deerly

Getting the Word Out...

- Website
- Social media
- City publications
- Community newspapers

living with wildlife

By Donna DuBreuil

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The United Nations has declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. In celebration, The EMC, in partnership with the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, will feature some fascinating stories and helpful tips on living with wildlife over the coming months in this column.

But first a little about the Centre. It's almost 23 years old, during which time it cared for more than 10,000 wild mammals, the majority of which were orphaned or injured due to development and habitat loss. They consisted of 24 different species, ranging from river otters to deer. The Centre also handled more than 100,000 calls from Ottawa residents seeking information on how best to resolve a human-wildlife conflict.

So it has a lot of first-hand experience. Since



works with other community organizations to develop constructive strategies on behalf of progressive environmental goals.

Although it's no longer able to do wildlife rehabilitation due to unworkable government regulations, the Centre is making a difference at the most fundamental level – helping people co-exist with wildlife.

Ottawa residents are extremely fortunate to have an abundance of greenspace and an amazing variety of wildlife in

or a skunk sauntering down a street in the Glebe late at night. Don't worry, they only spray if really threatened.

So, stay tuned to this space. You will find the answers to questions like what animal weighs less than a pound at birth but grows to over 300 pounds as an adult, what different purposes does a squirrel's tail serve and what mammal is considered to be the 'ump of the forest night'. Along with answers, you will find helpful suggestions for dealing

In Closing...



In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous

Aristotle