

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.
 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 14 September 1999

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
 Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP. Councillor Gord Hunter

SUBJECT/OBJET **REQUEST FOR ANNUAL FUNDING
 WILD BIRD CARE CENTRE**

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee consider, for recommendation to Council, the request from the Wild Bird Care Centre:

- 1. to be included in the year 2000 budget considerations to receive a purchase of service in the amount of \$40,000;**
- 2. to be included in the budget considerations to receive purchase of service funding on an annual basis thereafter.**

PURPOSE

The Wild Bird Care Centre has been the only source of assistance to the Region for 18 years as an Ottawa-Carleton Wild Bird Emergency Response service.

Attached is a letter dated 7 September 1999 from the Founder-Director, Ms. Kathy Nihei that provides information on the service and their request. Ms. Nihei will be in attendance at the 21 September meeting to response to questions from Committee.

Councillor Gord Hunter

Attach. (1)

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

No funding has been provided in the 1999 budget for the Wild Bird Care Centre. Approval of the report recommendation to include funding in the development of the 2000 Draft Operating Budget would represent a \$40,000 increase over the 1999 Corporate base budget. Final funding approval would be subject to Council consideration during the 2000 budget review process.

*Approved by Tom Fedec
on behalf of the Finance Commissioner*



Corporate Service Committee
RMOC
111 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 2L7

September 7, 1999

Re: Wild Bird Care Centre

As an Ottawa-Carleton Wild Bird Emergency Response service, the Wild Bird Care Centre has been the only source of assistance to the region for 18 years.

Rehabilitative care has been available for the approximately 4,000 injured, sick or orphaned wild birds that are rescued and brought to the Centre by the public or agencies acting on behalf of the public each year. (See attached list)
Further educational, assistance and information services to residents of RMOC have been the never-ending 'other' aspect of the Bird Centre's mandate. (See attached list)

Unlike mammal wildlife, which is discouraged in inhabited areas, bird wildlife is enthusiastically encouraged. It is not unusual for a single family to spend \$500 / year on bird feeders, birdhouses, birdbaths and birdseed. In fact, an entire lucrative industry exists around attracting wild birds...from pet supplies stores, seed suppliers (agrosupplies), camera equipment stores, bird watching equipment suppliers, artwork supplies, art galleries, wildlife and/or native boutiques, advertising industry, clothing industry, jewellery stores, tourism and hunting, to mention just a few.

The economic ripple effect of attracting wild birds does not simply end with feeding, watering, providing birdhouses, bird watching, photographing, painting, etc. of these wild birds. When one becomes injured or is at risk, the automatic response of the average individual attracting those birds is to seek help. The Bird Centre must then resolve the conflict in attracting birds to the human habitat versus the hazards and injuries inflicted on wild birds in that same human habitat. Trauma to the birds includes window impacts, roaming cat predation, vehicle impacts, nesting problems, and unfortunately, human abuse.

Mailing Address: 73 Majestic Drive, Nepean Ontario, K2G 1C9
Administration: (613)828-2849 Bird Room:(613)828-2348 Fax:(613)828-2194

(2)

This results in the Wild Bird Care Centre receiving over 20,000 phone calls for advice and admitting 4,000 birds for care. It should be noted that most of the calls result in preventive information being disseminated to reduce needless 'rescues' and that only ¼ of those 20,000 calls result in an actual bird being delivered to the Centre for treatment. It should also be noted that almost every government agency, humane society, veterinary clinic, educational facility, etc. refers to this Centre for wild bird related problems.

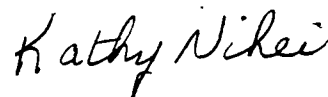
The Bird Centre is well-known by all levels of education for its excellent year-round training of co-op students. As well, the Centre has been actively involved with work-fare programs, community service placements, physically and/or mentally disabled individuals, and summer youth employment programs. The Centre has been recognized for its work and achievements by numerous awards and attendant honors for years.

In view of the de facto regional service provided by the Wild Bird Care Centre to government agencies and the residents of Ottawa-Carleton, I am requesting support funding for our existing program on an annual basis from Corporate Services, RMOC and would appreciate being included in the RMOC's budget considerations for the year 2000.

The Centre will be requesting \$40,000.

I can be reached at 828-2849 and would be available to meet with you at any time to discuss your requirements of us to proceed in this request.

Sincerely,



Kathy Nihei
Founder-Director



Wild Bird Care Centre

Providing Service to a Diverse Community - Bird Rescue, 1997

Birds rescued from:

Governor General's Residence

Parliament Hill

Britannia Yacht Club

Connaught Rifle Range

Hunt Club Golf Course

Bayshore Country Club

U and Me Stables

Fieldrow Tennis Court

Riverview Gardens

Copeland Park

Uplands Flying Club

Horse Arena (Aylmer)

Amberwood Golf Course

Tom Brown Arena

Dick Bell Arena

Nepean Sportsplex

Hyland's Golf Course

Rideau Tennis Club

Rideauview Golf Club

Jockvale Driving Range

Carleton Golf Club

Justice Department (Wellington)

OC Transpo

Ottawa International Airport

Environment Canada

Civil Service Co-op

Laidlaw Recycling Plant

Bayshore Shopping Center

Merivale Mall

Ottawa Congress Centre

Greenbank Square Mall

St Laurent Shopping Centre

Hampton Park Plaza

Southgate Shopping Mall

Place d'Orleans

Shoppers City East

Manotick Mews Shopping Centre

South Keys Shopping Centre

Byward Market

Lincoln Heights Plaza

Hazeldean Mall

Place de Ville Shopping Centre

Promenade du Portage

Heron Gate Mall

Beaconhill Mall

Billings Bridge Plaza

Shoppers City West

Terrace de la Chaudiere

and Veterinary Hospitals / Environmental Services

Ministry of Natural Resources

Canadian Wildlife Services

Lynwood Animal Hospital

Dunrobin Vet Clinic

Ottawa Vet Hospital

Kanata Animal Hospital

Alta Vista Animal Hospital

Carling Animal Hospital

Blair Animal Hospital

Hawkesbury Animal Hospital

Greenbank Animal Hospital

Westboro Animal Hospital

Bells Corners Animal Hospital

Gatineau SPCA

Dundas Veterinary Hospital (Winchester)

Wild Bird Care Centre

Providing Service to a Diverse Community - Bird Rescues 1997

Birds rescued from Public/Passive Recreation Locations:

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| McSkimming Science Centre | Lemieux Island |
| Bruce Pit (NCC) | Trenton Park |
| Presqu'isle Conservation Area (Quebec) | Craig Henry Park |
| Andrew Haydon Park | Experimental Farm |
| Innes Pointe Bird Observatory | Rockcliffe Park Rockeries |
| NCC - Island Park Bridge | NCC - Mud Lake |
| NCC - Aviation Parkway | NCC - Jack Pine Nature Trail |
| RMOC- Landfill Site | Jacques Cartier Park |
| Britannia Beach | Larose Forest |
| Westboro Beach | Mooney's Bay Park |
| Stanley Park | Baskin's Beach |
| Michele Heights Park | Trenton Park |
| Pinhey's Point (Marina/Historical Site) | Centrepointe Park |
| Kanata Lakes Park | Ste Cecile Park |
| Vincent Massey Park | Lemieux Island Park |
| Craig Henry Park | Green's Creek Sewage Lagoon |

and from Hospitals / Senior Residences:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Civic Hospital | General Hospital |
| Royal Ottawa Hospital | Elizabeth Bruyere Hospital |
| Queensway Carleton Hospital | Riverside Hospital |
| CHEO | Grace Hospital |
| St Vincent's Hospital | NDMC Hospital |
| Island Park Lodge | Bethany Hope Centre |

and from Regional / Municipal locations

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Cities of Nepean, Ottawa, Kanata (City Halls) | Sir John Carling Building |
| Youth Detention Centre | Ottawa Licensing Bureau |
| Fire Department | Alta Vista Post Office |
| Humane Society of Ottawa Carleton | Carleton Board of Education |
| Ottawa Carleton Detention Centre | Nepean Police - Greenbank |
| Royal Canadian Mounted Police | Smythe Road Transitway |
| Britannia Filtration Plant | Elgin Street Courthouse |
| Canadian Forces Base Uplands | Agriculture Museum |
| Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board | RMOC |

Wild Bird Care Centre

Providing Service to a Diverse Community - Bird Rescues 1997

Birds rescued from Learning / Youth Institutions:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ottawa West Community Centre | St. Elizabeth School |
| Grant School | Knoxdale Public School |
| St Margaret Mary Catholic School | Ottawa West Middle School |
| Sir Winston Churchill School | Robert Smart Centre |
| Holy Trinity School | Manotick Public School |
| Algonquin College | Canadian Police College (RCMP) |
| Carleton University | Ottawa University |
| Woodroffe High School | J S Woodsworth High School |
| Briar Green Public School | Manordale Public School |
| Turnbull Private School | St Pius X High School |
| D. R. Kennedy Public School | GEC Catholic School |
| Trillium Elementary School | Bells Corners Public School |
| Sir Robert High School | Brookfield High School |
| St Gregory's School | Notre Dame School |
| Jockvale School | Bell High School |
| Vincent Massey School | Castlefrank School |
| FJ MacDonald School | Cedarview Middle School |
| Canterbury High School | St Mary's School |
| St Paul's High School | Bridlewood School |
| Our Lady of Peace School | Lisgar High School |

and also Churches:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Woodroffe Temple Church | The Life Center Church |
| St Basil's Church | Merivale United Church |

Wild Bird Care Centre

Information Service Provided through Public Listings with:

| | |
|---|--|
| Canadian Donors Guide | Dunn & Bradstreet |
| Ottawa Carleton Regional Police | 911 (occasionally accessed) |
| National Capital Commission | Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) |
| Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) | Ottawa Field Naturalists |
| Veterinarians throughout Eastern Ontario | Canadian Wildlife Federation |
| Pelee Point Bird Observatory | Ottawa Valley Field Trips |
| Humane Society of Ottawa Carleton | Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre |
| Fire Departments | Gatineau SPCA |
| Quebec Fish and Wildlife Ministry | Guelph University |
| McSkimming Science School | Dalhousie University |
| Agriculture Canada | Algonquin College |
| All area School Boards (co-op ed programs) | Individual schools in region |
| Youth Groups (Guides, Scouts) | Royal Ottawa Hospital |
| National Defense (Shirley's Bay) | Pet Stores |
| Cushing Lodge (Quebec) | Nova Scotia MNR |

Libraries (Community Bulletin Boards) Nepean, Ottawa

International Wildlife Rehabilitators Council (USA)

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (USA)

Ontario Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Network

Also: The Bird Centre has special sections or notices in:

Ontario Birding News (3 times per year)

The Ottawa Citizen (every Saturday)

McGillivray's (4 times per year)

REHABILITATION

EDUCATION

PARTNERSHIP

RESOURCE

To continue providing and expanding our existing educational programs that:

- *raise the profile of environmental awareness*
- *increase public knowledge and opportunities to mitigate human interaction with wild birds,*
- *promote protection and appreciation of wild birds within our ecosystem*

On-going Educational Program Highlights

- Internet Web Site: www.wildbird.cyberus.ca
- Email Address: wildbird@cyberus.ca
One of the few facilities with a web presence - now being contacted for advice from around the world
- Tours:
Approximately 80 per year - Tour groups includes classes, guides scouts, seniors, disabled, and many other special interest groups (local, national and international)
- Presentations:
On-site & off-site - To many special interest groups including schools, veterinarians, environmentalists, nursing homes, etc.
- Professional:
Seminars for Veterinary/Vet Lab Technicians and other rehabilitators.
- Displays: Wildlife Week, shopping malls, schools, businesses
- Open House: twice yearly for the general public
- Daily Visiting Hours: open to tourists / general public
- Printed Flyers: baby birds, pigeons problems, fostering, volunteering, etc
- Newsletters: two issues a year to members / public
- Media: broad range of educational messages carried by all media
- Video: "On a Wing and a Prayer"

Phone Assistance:

- Over 20,000 calls are received each year for advice and assistance. The Centre has two phone lines to accommodate the high volume of calls from the public. The Bird Centre location is well-known to urban and rural residents of the National Capital region. To avoid unnecessary rescues through human interference and prevent causal 'drop-off' of healthy juveniles, calls must be responded to, as the 'bird-in-crisis' emergencies occur.

Immediate response allows the Centre to assess when the situation is urgent and prevents a lot of human interference when the situation is not urgent.
- 25% of all calls may result in an injured bird being admitted
- 75% of all phone calls deter needless admission or address other issues such as: handling injured birds, feeder sanitation to prevent disease, discouraging unwanted species (pigeons, ducks), roaming cats, redirecting callers to other agencies, etc.

