

**3. REQUEST FOR ANNUAL FUNDING
WILD BIRD CARE CENTRE**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AS AMENDED

That Council approve 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.**

DOCUMENTATION

- 1. Councillor G. Hunter's report dated 14 Sep 99 is immediately attached.**
- 2. Extract of Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee Minute, 21 Sep 99, immediately follows the report and includes a record of the vote.**

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.

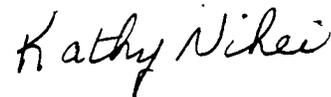
The Bird Centre is well-known by all levels of education for its excellent year-round training of co-op students. As well, the Centre has been actively involved with work-fare programs, community service placements, physically and/or mentally disabled individuals, and summer youth employment programs.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



2000 OPERATING BUDGET

Department: Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (WBCC)

Mission Statement:

The Wild Bird Care Centre's mission is:

- to provide assessment, treatment and rehabilitative services to injured/orphaned wild birds in order to release them back to the wild. Approximately 4,000 cases are admitted each year.
- to assist the public (residents, government agencies, businesses) in mitigating human interaction with wild birds by providing an Ottawa-Carleton Wild Bird Emergency Service to the RMOC. In assisting the public, the WBCC responds to over 20,000 telephone calls each year. In addition, the WBCC serves the public through radio and television interviews, newspaper articles, videos, school presentations, group tours, public displays, newsletters, educational flyers, InterNet and FreeNet Web sites.

Strategic Perspective:

The Wild Bird Care Centre has operated for 18 years providing an Ottawa-Carleton Wild Bird Emergency Service. Examples include: assisting region-wide building services departments (including RMOC headquarters) in preventing injury to birds, Emergency Support Team for the young Peregrine Falcons, assisting councillors and other public agencies in dealing with specific bird-related problems (ie: pigeons, etc., etc.).

The Wild Bird Care Centre is proposing to enter into with the RMOC, a private/public partnership for the purchase of service agreement on an annual basis in the amount of \$40,000. This funding will ensure the continuation of the Wild Bird Centre's comprehensive, cost-effective Emergency Service that other regional agencies would otherwise have to provide.

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, birdseed, bird watching, and landscaping to attract birds. This has resulted in a rapidly escalating financial and time burden on the meagre resources of the WBCC.

As a result, the WBCC receives over 20,000 phone calls for advice and admits 4,000 birds for emergency care on an annual basis. It should be noted that most of those calls involve preventive information being disseminated to reduce needless 'rescues' and that only 20% of those emergency calls result in an actual bird being delivered to the Centre for treatment.

2000 OPERATING BUDGET

Department: Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (WBCC)

The Wild Bird Care Centre is both a resource and an asset to the region. The Bird Centre has a strong base of community volunteers, providing work-hours equivalent to \$350,000 per year. The Centre has received commendation by educators for its excellent year round training of students: university, college, secondary and elementary. As well, the Centre has been actively involved with work-fare programs, community service placements (CSO), summer youth employment programs and placements for physically and/or mentally disabled volunteers. The WBCC enhances the quality of life in the region for which it has received the following awards: Canada 125 Award, Bicentennial Award, Nepean's first Environmental Award, etc.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS:

- In recognition of the WBCC's expertise, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies has requested that the Centre prepare a special flyer, for Canada-wide distribution, on preventing human-pigeon conflicts
- Bird Rescues: Elisha, the Chilean Flamingo – brought world-wide recognition to the Centre and to the region
Nestling Great Blue Herons – apparent first successful human raising and release of orphaned herons
- With a local veterinarian, the use of a drug, Itraconazole, was implemented for the treatment of aspergillosis and is now used world wide
- In recognition of our excellent training history, the WBCC has been asked to provide practical training for university students from as far away as France
- The WBCC has become the first line of emergency wild bird response for: police departments, fire departments, humane societies, government agencies (federal, provincial, municipal and regional), public institutions and even the 911 emergency service

2000 GOALS:

- To continue into the new century, the Ottawa-Carleton Wild Bird Emergency Response Service for the region
- To provide wider dissemination of educational brochures to the public
- To link the WBCC's website to the websites of the RMOC that relate to emergency services, eco-tourism and other environmental organizations
- To continue and augment our student placement programs which will enhance our Emergency Services
- To provide self-directed emergency services and resource information to visitors at the Centre's location and via the Centre's website

2000 OPERATING BUDGET

Department: Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre (WBCC)

	1999 Budget	2000 Budget
EXPENDITURES		
Bird Care:		
Salaries	138,298	149,700
Feed	10,000	12,000
Medical	1,750	1,800
Preventive Education	4,800	5,500
Utilities and Maintenance:		
Utilities (1)	17,000	20,000
Rent & Taxes	6,882	7,100
Building & Vehicle maintenance	2,500	5,000
Fundraising:		
License & Application fees	800	1,200
Direct Mail	5,700	5,900
Business Fees:		
Life Insurance	2,166	2,200
Banking fees/charges	850	1,000
Office Supplies	2,000	2,500
Miscellaneous:	4,000	5,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	196,746	218,900
 REVENUES		
Donation	155,796	138,800
Student Employment Rebate	10,000	9,000
GST Rebate	1,500	1,600
Foundation/Corporate Grants	850	-
Provincial (Lottery Corporation)	5,100	6,000
Raffle	6,500	6,500
Self-generated revenue (2)	17,000	17,000
RMOC	-	40,000
TOTAL REVENUES:	196,746	218,900
 Note (1) Utilities include: hydro, telephone, security, heating, snow removal, waste removal and building/liability insurance		
(2) Self-generated revenue includes: funds raised through auctions, wine sales, gift shop sales, etc.		

*Totals do not include value of volunteer services and purchases
in the estimated amount of \$350,000

REQUEST FOR ANNUAL FUNDING
WILD BIRD CARE CENTRE

- Councillor G. Hunter's report dated 14 Sep 99

Councillor Hunter introduced the report by explaining the Wild Bird Care Centre (WBCC) had been in operation for many years. The Councillor explained a similar facility, the Ottawa-Carleton WildLife Centre, operates for wild animals that had been injured and the WBCC provided a parallel service for birds. Councillor Hunter stated the Region provided a purchase of service to the WildLife Centre for their service which allowed the organizers to carry on its operations of a care nature, rather than having to concentrate on fundraising. The Councillor acknowledged he had been a skeptic and did not necessarily favour funding outside agencies to do work of their own interests. However, Councillor Hunter believed if the WildLife Centre received funding, the WBCC should also be on an equally footing during budget considerations.

In closing, Councillor Hunter reported that during a visit to the WBCC, he discovered a tremendous business with ample tourist potential. He stated the Centre cared for exotic birds and was located in a natural wooded environment, providing an opportunity for visitors to get close to nature's inhabitants.

Speaking to the report recommendations, Councillor Hunter proposed a change to the recommendation to illustrate the Committee recommending to Council the request from the WBCC to be included in the 2000 budget considerations and on an annual basis thereafter. The Councillor noted the recommendations were not a commitment for financial support, but would allow the agency the opportunity to have equal consideration during budget deliberations.

Councillor Stewart inquired if there was a mandate under the *Municipal Act* for municipalities to rehabilitate birds. M. Beckstead, Chief Administrative Officer, did not believe the *Municipal Act* included this specific and any funds expedited for that purpose would be at the discretion of Council. Councillor Stewart referenced the mandate for *nuisance* wildlife, particularly under public health considerations, as it could be deadly due to rabies, noting recent cases. Councillor Stewart pointed out the Region did not fund the rehabilitation of wildlife, which was entirely funded by the private sector through volunteers and corporate donations. She confirmed the service the Region funded under the WildLife Centre was the hot line that dealt with the serious nuisance wildlife calls. She stated the rationale was that if the agency disappeared, the eleven lower tier municipalities would be inundated with public calls resulting in an expense for municipal governments.

Extract of Minute
Corporate Services and
Economic Development Committee
21 September 1999

The Councillor wondered about the consequences of the disappearance of the WBCC. She believed the Centre desired support, however, she wanted to make the distinction between the two agencies.

Councillor Beamish inquired on the timing of the request and a previous request from the organization in 1998. Councillor Hunter confirmed the Oct 98 request was for emergency funding as a result of ice storm damage, in which Council approved staff work with the group to attempt to receive funding under the Ice Storm Disaster Relief Committee. *Ms. Kathy Nihei, WBCC Founder/Director*, reported they were unsuccessful in receiving Regional or Ice Storm funding as they had received \$15,000 from the City of Nepean for ice storm relief. In addition, their request for Regional operating funding in 1998 was submitted too late to be considered during the 1999 budget process. Councillor Hunter explained the report recommended their request be included in the 2000 budget for consideration with the other requests during budget deliberations.

Councillor Cantin expressed support for the report and service. He noted the request for a purchase of service was a long term commitment, to be considered annually during budget deliberations.

On a point of clarification, Councillor Stewart explained the lower tier municipalities requested the Region to assume the funding for the WildLife Centre and explained the need for stable annual funding.

Councillor Hill inquired if the WBCC received funding from the lower tier municipalities. *Ms. Nihei* reported some 1999 funds was received through the lottery corporation via the various municipalities. Councillor Hill referenced the many regional services, priorities and pressures. *Ms. Nihei* provided information on the organization's budget.

Councillor Stewart inquired why corporate donations were not included in the 2000 budget. *Ms. Nihei* explained they had been unsuccessful in receiving corporate sponsorship, noting corporations preferred to sponsor Canada-wide and higher profile agencies. She confirmed they would continue to attempt to solicit corporate donations, however, they could not be relied on in developing a budget.

In response to a question from Councillor Stewart regarding similar agencies in other cities, *Ms. Nihei* stated the service existed in Toronto and Guelph. Councillor Stewart pointed out there was not a jurisdiction in Ontario, of any size, that did not have some sort of *wildlife response agency*, noting in some cases it was a municipally operated service due to the loss of volunteer networks.

Extract of Minute
Corporate Services and
Economic Development Committee
21 September 1999

In closing, Councillor Stewart reported she would support forwarding the request to be considered during the 2000 budget considerations. She stated the need for municipal support to reinforce the value of the natural environment and its creatures. Councillor Stewart believed if the networks such as the WBCC and Ottawa-Carleton WildLife Centre failed, it would be difficult to reinvent the service, therefore, becoming a municipal issue and expense.

Moved by G. Hunter

**That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee recommend
Council approve 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.**

CARRIED as amended
(D. Beamish and B. Hill
dissented)