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WILD BIRD CONSERVATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Case for Support



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Nichoir Photos: Susan Wylie

Proposed Wild Bird Conservation Centre



"This new Centre will be an invaluable asset for the region and the residents of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, and a unique international window for the protection and rehabilitation of birds. The Centre will also provide an incomparable reference site for the entire educational mission that it plans to perpetuate."

Gilles Farand
Prefect
MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Qc
October 2009



Nighthawk

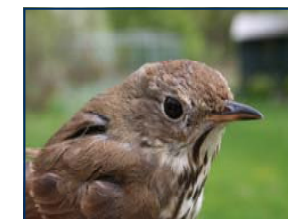


Pied-billed grebe

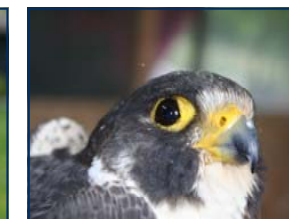


American robin

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. It is an opportunity for the whole world to recognize the importance of biodiversity for all life on Earth, to reflect on our achievements, to safeguard biodiversity, and focus on the urgency of our challenge for the future. **Now is the time to act.**



Ovenbird



Peregrine falcon



Ruby-throated hummingbird



The new Wild Bird Conservation Centre will have a reception area, an emergency room, an intensive care unit, a nursery with incubators, several outdoor aviaries and research facilities.

The Centre will also have a classroom to accommodate youth groups and visitors.



JOIN THIS NATURAL LEGACY... FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Since 1994, Le Nichoir has been protecting our natural world by saving wild birds, educating the public and promoting avian research. It has become the largest rehabilitation centre for songbirds in Canada and is unique in the Province of Quebec.

Make a difference today by taking part in the new Wild Bird Conservation Centre Project:

- Help create hands-on learning opportunities for more students and researchers;
- Enable Le Nichoir to increase educational and rehabilitation activities;
- Help create more exciting jobs for the youth of our community;
- Become a partner of this unique Canadian landmark and a leader in conservation;
- Invest in a regional tourist destination;
- Help Le Nichoir strengthen its programs and move the Centre's mission forward.

We invite you to join other donors, corporations, foundations and partners in supporting this natural legacy for future generations by making a gift towards the new Wild Bird Conservation Centre Project.

The Project's donors and partners have the opportunity to name specific areas in the new facility. Le Nichoir will establish a Legacy Donor Wall in the main lobby of the Centre.



THE HEART OF LE NICOIR: DEDICATED STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Le Nichoir attracts a wide range of age groups as volunteers. The Centre is fortunate to have more than 60 volunteers with a wide range of expertise such as: biology, horticulture, communications, veterinary sciences, nursing, engineering and business administration.

Le Nichoir staff attend the annual IWRC Conference to continue improving their technical skills. These conferences allow staff to learn about new rehabilitation techniques, to interact with wildlife experts and to learn more about endangered species and public education. By investing in professional training, a thriving work environment is created which contributes to successful conservation efforts. The Centre also offers precious hands-on learning to students who are studying wildlife biology, veterinary technique or veterinary medicine.

Thanks to our loyal donors and supporters, we are directly investing in the education and development of future conservation and community leaders.

TAKING THE LEAD

Taking the Canadian lead in wild bird conservation is an impressive task. With the new Wild Bird Conservation Centre, this endeavour is in fact the most ambitious project in the history of avian conservation in Canada.

To realize this project, Le Nichoir is building on 3 **Pillars of Strength**:

| Performance | People | Place |
|---|---|--|
| <p>We continue to succeed year after year on many levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased public awareness and visibility; • increased rehabilitation success rate; • constant growth of donor base, volunteers and partnerships; • countless scientific collaborations and contributions. | <p>Le Nichoir attracts and retains qualified staff and volunteers who are committed and constantly striving for excellence. Combined with a diversified group of business leaders and professionals, Le Nichoir has truly dedicated people led by a committed volunteer Board of Directors.</p> | <p>Thanks to the leadership of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Canada's leading non-profit land conservation organization founded in 1962, the new Centre will be located on NCC land known as the Clarke Sydenham Nature Reserve. The Reserve is one of Hudson's last natural properties and is part of an eco-regional circuit opened to the general public.</p> |



"I have followed and supported the work of Le Nichoir almost from its beginnings over 16 years ago. I've watched it grow from a small compassionate group of volunteers rehabilitating wild birds in their homes to become a respected rehabilitation facility. Science rehabilitates birds but education protects their future. Le Nichoir has always involved children and young people in their work and taught them about the birds we live with. Providing a place for children to learn about the nature that surrounds us is an important step towards conserving our wild birds."

Robert Bateman, O.C.
Naturalist and Painter

Le Nichoir WILD BIRD CONSERVATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Le Nichoir has embarked on what is the most important project in the history of avian conservation in Canada.

The construction of the new **Wild Bird Conservation Centre**, on land donated by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, will allow more educational and research activities, with 4-season rehabilitation space.

The new Centre will be equipped with care and research units and a classroom to accommodate children and visitors. It will improve year-round activities and allow for a new revenue stream from educational and youth programs activities, as well as organized bird watching tours. In the reception area, a Green Shop will display Canadian wildlife art and environmentally-friendly treats for visitors to purchase.

Le Nichoir is seeking financial support of \$1.2M to realize this important project in the Hudson – Vaudreuil-Soulanges region by 2011. These funds will be used for construction, facilities and equipment. A portion of the funds raised will be used to create a Nichoir Endowment for the long-term maintenance of the new Wild Bird Conservation Centre.

A UNIQUE CONSERVATION STORY

Le Nichoir's activities started in 1988 when a group of volunteers began to care for sick, injured and orphaned wild birds in their homes. Demand grew and volunteers decided to expand their operations by renting a 175-year old barn located in Hudson, Quebec (1994). The un-winterized barn offers limited space.

Today, Le Nichoir is a well-known non-profit organization and a reliable resource, providing educational activities, research opportunities and an excellent rehabilitation success rate. The Centre is also part of an international network of prominent conservation organizations, including the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC) and the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA).

OUR MISSION

Le Nichoir's mission is to conserve wild birds as a part of our natural heritage for future generations. Le Nichoir is committed to increasing awareness with respect to the protection of wild birds and, by taking positive action, acknowledges the important relationship between healthy ecosystems and human well-being.

Le Nichoir is a Canadian registered non-profit conservation organization that uses science-based methods to protect wild birds.



EDUCATION, REHABILITATION AND RESEARCH

EDUCATION ...

The Centre provides advice and information about wild bird conservation through educational programs, public events, and publications, which are all free of charge. More than 5,000 telephone calls and 1,000 e-mails are answered annually. Le Nichoir's website is a great resource for information and help.

"Birds in our Backyard" is an interactive program delivered in schools which helps children understand the importance of wild bird conservation and how to recognize bird species. Le Nichoir also has a Junior Volunteer Program which gives youngsters the opportunity to learn about nature and team work.

REHABILITATION ...

Each year the Centre provides care for hundreds of injured, sick or orphaned wild birds and waterfowl with the goal of releasing them back into their natural environment. We alleviate their pain, treat their injuries and illnesses, provide food, water, warmth, and a safe place where they can recuperate.

During the summertime, the Centre takes care of approximately 1,200 birds. The staff feeds hungry beaks every 15 minutes, 12 hours a day; volunteers clean cages continuously. Once they are strong enough to fly and feed on their own, birds are released back into their natural environment where they can join others of their species. In the fall, the Centre receives many birds with migration injuries; several birds spend the winter at the Centre.

RESEARCH ...

Le Nichoir offers hands-on experience for intern students registered in Vanier College's Ecological Technology and Veterinary Programs; an internship program for students at the Bachelor's level who will pursue a professional career in wildlife management is being developed.

The Centre works with scientists and researchers from the Canadian Wildlife Services (Environment Canada), McGill University, Université du Québec à Montréal and the Montreal Biodome.

Le Nichoir participates in bird banding programs with Canada and the United States and collaborates with scientists who study avian nutrition and rehabilitation.



Wild birds brought to Le Nichoir:
35% baby birds,
26% novices,
18% fledglings,
21% adult birds.



LE NICHOKR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Largest rehabilitation centre for songbirds in Canada
- Unique in the province of Quebec
- Successful conservation, rehabilitation and education since 1994
- Care provided for more than 14,000 wild birds and waterfowl
- Education for hundreds of children, adults, interest groups and corporations
- More than 60 dedicated volunteers and summer student hires
- More than 1,200 supporters, including foundations and corporations
- Partnerships with 18 organizations and institutions

WORKING TOGETHER

Le Nichoir partners with other organizations and institutions. To protect a part of our natural heritage, we have established partnerships with:

- Bird Protection Quebec
- Care and Rehabilitation of Injured Birds
- Concordia University
- Ecomuseum, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
- Federal Government – Canadian Wildlife Services
- Gouvernement du Québec - MAPAQ
- International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
- McGill University
- Montreal Biodome
- National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association
- Scouts Canada
- The Nature Conservancy of Canada
- The SPCA of Montreal
- The Town of Hudson
- Union Québécoise pour la Réhabilitation des Oiseaux de Proie
- Université de Montréal
- Université du Québec à Montréal
- Urban Animal Advocates

Wildlife Facts

Each wild bird is a living creature with a role to play in nature:

- Birds are among the indicators of the health of our planet, signifying problems often before we notice them;
- Birds assist in pollinating flowers and trees, spreading seeds;
- Birds add beauty to the world through their beautiful songs, colourful bodies, and soaring flight;
- Birds are an integral part of the food chain;
- Each bird is part of the biodiversity of our world, which is rapidly decreasing every day.



"On behalf of the Town Council, I congratulate Le Nichoir on being one-of-a-kind in Quebec as well as an integral and important part of the Hudson Community. We are so proud to have this organization in our midst and hope that you will continue to support them as they kick off their fundraising campaign to build a new year-round centre in Hudson."

Elizabeth Corker
Mayor (2003-2009), Hudson, Qc
Le Nichoir's "For the Birds"
Benefit Dinner and Auction,
April 24, 2009



"Who has not, as a child, found an injured bird and felt, instinctively, a responsibility to help it fly again. For many of us, that first contact with nature was the defining moment when we become aware that other living beings share our environment and that, therefore, it is our duty to protect the natural habitats which they and we, depend on for survival."

Natalie Zinger
Regional Vice-President, Quebec
Nature Conservancy of Canada
October 2009