



*Ottawa Valley*  
**WILD BIRD  
CARE CENTRE**

Building a Dedicated  
Rehabilitation Centre  
For Wild Birds

**NO WILD BIRD IN NEED OF CARE  
IS EVER TURNED AWAY**

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## About the Centre

### History



Located in the city of Ottawa, Ontario, the Centre is the only rehabilitation centre exclusively dedicated to wild birds and is the oldest wildlife rehabilitation centre in the region.

The Centre is a Canadian registered charity and is licensed under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and federal Migratory Bird Regulations. The late Kathy Nihei founded the Centre in 1981 after she saved and successfully rehabilitated an injured hummingbird. From this small act of kindness, a legacy reflecting proudly on our entire community was built. In 1991, the Centre was incorporated and moved to the Stony Swamp Conservation Area.

Sadly, not all birds that need help are found and many birds die before they can be rescued. Countless others are never found at all. We see the impact of human-related activities on wild bird populations daily, 365 days a year. Of the thousands of birds brought in annually, most arrive as a consequence of vehicle and window impacts, cat attacks, and human interventions. Birds develop relationships, feel emotion and pain. They can even become depressed. Treating the injured, ill and orphaned birds with compassion and the best possible care enhances each bird's chance of successfully being returned to the wild.

Through education and outreach programs we inspire people of all ages to connect with nature, conserve bird populations and their habitats and reduce human-related activities harmful to birds and their survival.

### Our Mission and Beliefs

*Our mission is to assess, treat, and rehabilitate injured, ill, or orphaned wild birds for the purpose of releasing them back into their natural habitat. We also provide the public with information on bird intervention, safe handling techniques, and avian injury prevention. Our education programs are directed to people of all ages regarding the natural history, conservation, and rehabilitation of wild birds through guided tours and off-site presentations.*



*Conservation of a species begins with one small act of kindness, the saving of one life.*

*We believe that:*

- Birds inspire, fascinate and delight us.
- With their songs and displays, birds enhance our communities, our everyday lives.
- Birds are nature's voice, connecting us to nature no matter where we live.
- Birds are indicators of the overall health of the environment, the very ecosystems on which we all depend for our very existence.
- Found everywhere on earth, birds play a key role in the balance of ecological systems, such as forests, marshlands, wetlands and grasslands.
- Every living creature deserves compassion and our respect.
- Conservation begins with one small act of kindness, the saving of one life.
- Each and every individual bird's life matters.



## **Our People**

The Centre is governed by a volunteer board of directors who contribute countless hours, applying their unique skillsets wherever needed. The Centre is staffed by a number of full-time and part-time staff and hires students during peak summer months. Most of the staff have been with the Centre for over 10 years, and come from diverse fields of study, including forestry, environmental studies, biology, and veterinary sciences. Volunteers are integral to operations and perform a variety of tasks including food preparation, cage cleaning, laundry, shopping for supplies and more.

## **Funding**

Funded primarily by individual donors, the Centre has an operating budget of \$420,000. The staff and volunteers work hard to keep administrative and fundraising expenses to a minimum. Though an increase in fundraising costs is expected due to the new building campaign, every effort will be made to ensure the best value for each dollar spent.

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## **Current Challenges**

### **Inadequate Space and Amenities, Bursting at the Seams**

The current building and location no longer meet the Centre's needs. Treating thousands of birds each year, the number of birds admitted annually is expected to rise as the city grows. Many migratory species unable to be set free in time for migration overwinter at the Centre. The conditions are overcrowded, suboptimal, and isolation rooms are non-existent. There are no secure outdoor aviaries, therefore some species require transport to other rehabilitation centres after being initially stabilized. The current conditions increase bird stress significantly, place the birds at a higher risk of infection, spread of disease and risk of death.

The current building lacks proper ventilation and insulation making it terribly energy inefficient and uneconomical to run. The working conditions for the staff and volunteers are less than ideal. The washrooms consist of composting toilets and a small sink. There is no separate kitchen/break area for staff and volunteers.

The current location will not allow expansion, upgrading or modernization. With no opportunity to add vital outdoor aviaries, staying at the current location is no longer an option. A new building is desperately needed *NOW*.

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## Vision of the Future for Wild Birds in Need of Care



### The New Centre

The Centre is committed to the development of its new building. An ideal 17+ acre tract of land located at 8520 McArton Rd., Ottawa was purchased. Construction is expected to begin in early 2021 with completion in the fall of 2021.

The new building will be located on the property where it will have the least impact on the surrounding natural environment. Functionally, the building will be organized to maintain a quiet, isolated space for recovering birds while giving the public a chance to see some of the birds up close via webcam feeds.

The new advanced care avian rehabilitation centre will:

- Ensure there is a wild bird emergency care facility in the Ottawa Region.
- Greatly improve the standard of care provided to injured, sick, and orphaned wild birds.
- Increase the chances of survival and release for each bird brought to the Centre.
- Include a medical suite with a large triage area, treatment room, and a lab.
- Include outdoor aviaries, a safe place for birds to acclimatize to being outdoors, gain strength and test their wings before release.
- Provide information and expertise about wild birds to the public.
- Provide an informal, engaging interactive education/visitor centre where people of all ages can learn about birds, their habitats, and environmental stewardship.
- Include examples of how people can make a difference for birds and the environment.
- Have plenty of room to expand, serve the Centre's needs now and well into the future for many decades to come.







The building will be wheelchair accessible and strive to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED) certification. Incorporating energy-efficient designs and systems will help keep energy costs low. Bird-friendly techniques for reducing bird window collisions will be showcased.

Even though injured wild birds are kept in captivity only temporarily, their housing requirements are complex. Having large species-specific rooms will ease bird stress, aid in recovery, and reduce the risk of disease. The indoor bird rooms will have features that will decrease cross contamination and enable easier cleaning. The attached outdoor aviaries will have easy to clean features and provide both sheltered and open areas in which the birds can fly, become accustomed to being outdoors again.

### Our Goal: \$1,700,000

The construction is planned to be completed without having to borrow any funds.

Quickly reaching our fundraising goal of \$1,700,000 will enable completion of our new centre without delays.



### Budget Estimate

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Land Purchase (incl. related taxes, fees)                                 | \$245,000   |
| Development Fees** and Permits  | \$161,500   |
| Project Management, Site Plan Reports, Drawings, Operational Requirements | \$203,000   |
| Excavation*, Servicing* and Landscaping*                                  | \$64,500    |
| Concrete* (foundation, slab, etc.)  | \$80,500    |
| Metals* (rebar, structural steel, etc.)                                   | \$94,000    |
| Millwork/Carpentry  | \$15,000    |
| Thermal and Moisture Protection*  | \$164,000   |
| Doors and Windows*  | \$43,000    |
| Interior/Exterior Walls, Finishing, Washroom Products*                    | \$243,500   |
| Well and Septic System*   | \$70,000    |
| HVAC, Plumbing and Electrical*  | \$205,000   |
| Subtotal:   | \$1,589,000 |
| HST** (construction, materials portion):                                  | \$153,725   |
| Total:  | \$1,742,725 |

*\*Includes labour. \*\*Rebates, reimbursements received will be used towards equipping the centre.*

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## Donor Recognition

### Naming Opportunities

| Room*                                    | (Each)   |
|--|----------|
| Birds of Prey Recovery Room              | \$55,000 |
| Aquatic Bird Recovery Room               | \$55,000 |
| Outdoor Birds of Prey Aviary             | \$55,000 |
| Education/Visitor Centre (reserved)      | \$50,000 |
| Outdoor Aquatic Bird Aviary              | \$40,000 |
| Critical Care Room                       | \$35,000 |
| Triage Room (reserved)                   | \$30,000 |
| Procedure/Surgical Room (reserved)       | \$30,000 |
| Isolation Rooms (2 available)            | \$30,000 |
| Lab/Pharmacy                             | \$30,000 |
| Bird Recovery Rooms (6 available)        | \$30,000 |
| Outdoor Aviaries (6 available)           | \$30,000 |
| Flex Outdoor Aviary (2 available)        | \$25,000 |
| Bird Food Kitchen                        | \$25,000 |
| Main Storage Room                        | \$20,000 |
| Laundry Room                             | \$15,000 |
| Accessible Washroom                      | \$15,000 |
| Staff/Volunteer Break Room               | \$15,000 |
| Lobby                                    | \$15,000 |
| Janitorial/Mechanical Room               | \$10,000 |
| Main Office                              | \$10,000 |
| Project Room                             | \$10,000 |
| Bird Care Monitoring Station             | \$10,000 |
| Bird Admissions Area                     | \$10,000 |
| Small Birds of Prey Aviary (4 available) | \$10,000 |

\* Contact us for details and current availability:

[naming@wildbirdcarecentre.org](mailto:naming@wildbirdcarecentre.org)

### Donor Giving Levels

| Levels      |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Heron       | \$100,000 or over   |
| Eagle       | \$50,000 - \$99,999 |
| Owl         | \$25,000 - \$49,999 |
| Woodpecker  | \$15,000 - \$24,999 |
| Cardinal    | \$10,000 - \$14,999 |
| Blue Jay    | \$5,000 - \$9,999   |
| Robin       | \$2,500 - \$4,999   |
| Chickadee   | \$1,000 - \$2,499   |
| Hummingbird | \$500 - \$999       |



*All donors giving \$100 or more to the building campaign will be acknowledged on the Centre's website, and in the annual report.*

*All donors giving \$500 or more to the building campaign will also be recognized on a donor wall which will be displayed at the entrance of the new building.*

*Each named room will additionally have an engraved plaque located at the room's entrance.*

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## Campaign & Building Contact Information

Juliette Marczuk

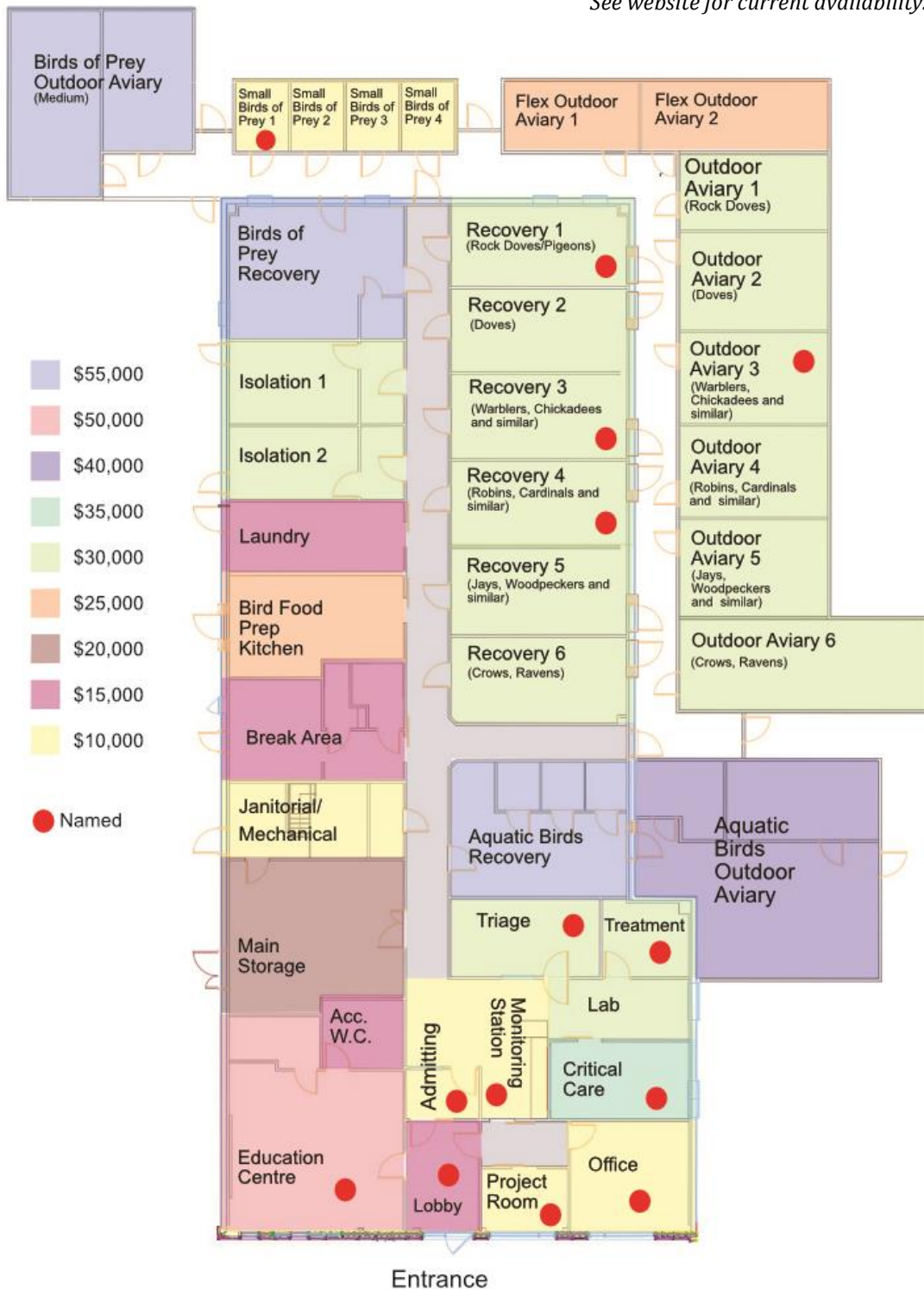
*Chair*

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# Conceptual Layout

See website for current availability.



*Thank you to our media sponsors:*



<https://wildbirdcarecentre.org/>