



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre & Launch of the Final Phase of the Building Campaign

EVENT

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 1, 2024 at the new 17-acre site of the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre on 8520 McArton Road. The new state-of-the-art wild bird care facility, which will be just over 10,000 ft², is scheduled to be completed in late February, 2025. The final phase of the fundraising campaign has now been initiated on the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre website <https://www.wildbirdcarecentre.org/building> to raise the additional \$2M that will be required to complete the construction.

More than 30 individuals attended the ceremony. Karen McCrimmon (MPP, Kanata-Carleton) gave an inspiring speech and thanked everyone for their passion and for proving the leadership to make this dream of a state-of-the-art facility for wild bird care a reality.

Glen Gower (Councillor, Stittsville, Ward 6) followed up with expressing his support for the need for such a facility to service the region and Eastern Ontario. He also conveyed Mayor Sutcliff's greetings and that the mayor looks forward to attending the grand opening of the Centre.

Juliette Marczuk (Chair, Board of Directors) reflected on her role and vision to build a new Centre when she became the Chair in 2018. She spoke about the alarming decline in wild bird populations in North America since 1970, with a loss of 1 in 4 wild birds or 2.9 billion birds. She emphasized that it is even more critical now to save our wild birds and the need for this Centre to protect wild birds now and in the future.

Dr. Robin Roscoe, who has provided veterinary support to Centre since the early 1990s, was the final speaker of the event. She became a certified avian specialist in 1994 and remains one of only 8 avian specialists in Canada. She highlighted how the wildlife rehabilitation sector has changed over time with the introduction of new courses, and how the Centre has transformed over the years from its early days. She also emphasized how the new Centre will greatly improve wild bird care with large aviaries for rehabilitation, and a medical suite with imaging and a lab that will expedite the diagnosis and treatment of injured wild birds.

The ceremony ended with pictures of the groundbreaking with the distinguished dignitaries and the Board of the Directors for the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre. See attached pictures.

Event Photographs:

- 1) Left to Right - Groundbreaking with Glenn Gower, Karen McCrimmon, Juliette Marczuk
- 2) Left to Right - Groundbreaking with Board of Directors: Susan Phillips, Juliette Marczuk, Murray Kronick, Christina Zeigler, Robert Burns and Ted Yuzyk (missing Robin Jackson and Jeff Roswell)

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