



# Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre

Building Our New Advanced Care Centre  
for Wild Birds  
Case for Support 2024

<https://wildbirdcarecentre.org>  
Canadian Registered Charity#893401380 RR0002

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## About the Ottawa Valley Wild Bird Care Centre



### History

Located in the city of Ottawa, Ontario, the Centre is the only rehabilitation centre exclusively dedicated to wild birds and is also 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. When it

could no longer operate out of its location of 30 years, the Centre moved to an interim location in 2021, while awaiting the construction of its new facility.

### Our Mission and Beliefs

Sadly, not all birds that need help are found in time 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 every day. Of the thousands of birds received annually, most arrive as a consequence of cat attacks, vehicle and window impacts, and other human interventions, to name a few.

Birds develop relationships, feel emotion and pain. They can even become depressed. At the Centre, we strive to undo some of the harm caused by human-related activities by providing critical emergency care to birds that need our help. Providing an individualized treatment plan, each bird is handled with the utmost care and compassion. The ultimate goal is to release birds back into nature where they can go on to mate, raise a family, and live a normal life.

Through education and outreach programs we inspire people of all ages to connect with nature, conserve bird populations and their habitats and otherwise help to reduce activities which are harmful to birds and their survival.

We believe that:

- Every living creature deserves compassion and our respect.
- Every bird's life saved is a life that can contribute to the survival of its species: every bird's life matters.



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

- Juliette Marczuk, Chair

- 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.
- Birds are nature's voice, connecting us to nature no matter where we live.
- Birds inspire, fascinate and delight us.
- With their songs and displays, birds enhance our communities, our everyday lives.



## Our People

The Centre is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Being staffed by a number of full-time and part-time employees, the Centre also hires additional staff during the peak summer months. Since the wild bird rehabilitation sector is ever evolving, we believe investing in staff and their training because doing so will ultimately provide the best care for our patients and thus increase more successful outcomes. Volunteers are also integral to our work, performing a variety of tasks including food preparation, cage cleaning, laundry, shopping for supplies and so much more. Administration is provided by volunteers, with some support from staff. Our Operations Manager works hand on with the birds and ensures bird care is provided, while our Avian Rehabilitation Specialist is one of only a handful of individuals in Canada who are Certified Wildlife Rehabilitators. The Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator certification program is administered by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council and recognizes rehabilitators who have achieved a higher standard of wildlife care through academic excellence.

## Funding

Funded primarily by individual donors, the Centre currently has an operating budget of close to \$700,000. Efforts are made to keep costs down to a minimum without compromising care.

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## Current Challenges

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

Lacking amenities, proper ventilation and insulation, the old building in the Stoney Swamp area was terribly energy inefficient and uneconomical to run. The working conditions for the staff and volunteers were difficult. Suboptimal conditions cause additional stress for the birds already dealing with the stress of an injury and captivity and increases the spread of disease and risks of infection. These circumstances lead to an increase the risk of death. Without the ability to expand, upgrade, or add vital outdoor aviaries, constructing a purpose-built facility was the most suitable and sustainable option if the Centre was to continue to save birds' lives and contribute to their conservation.

## Temporary Space

In July of 2021, faced with a building beyond repair and the construction of its new facility delayed due to pandemic-related issues, a temporary location was rented at C-822 Cedarview Road to serve as the Centre's base of operations. Providing a few critical amenities, larger space and better separation for bird care activities, the interim location lacks many of the critical features needed and is unsustainable to rent long-term. Thus, starting construction of the new facility as soon as possible is critical.

## Delays, Rising Costs

Though some delays were expected, the added impact of a global pandemic could not have been anticipated. Significantly impacting the timeline for the project, the pandemic has thus also affected the project's costs which are expected to be significantly higher than originally estimated in 2019. The



Centre will need to raise additional funds to cover inflation, but this will not prevent the project from moving ahead once municipal approvals have been obtained.

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## Vision of the New Centre

### The New Centre

The Centre is committed to the construction of its new facility. The property located at 8520 McArton Rd., Ottawa was purchased in 2019 and plans for development were started. A well was drilled in 2020 and the project is currently under municipal review. Construction will begin once approvals and permits have been obtained. Situated on 17+ acres, the Centre will have room to expand in the future as needs arise. Functionally, the building will have treatment and diagnostic areas and organized to provide suitable spaces for recovering birds, both indoors and out. The new advanced care avian facility will:

- Ensure there is a wild bird emergency care facility in the Ottawa Valley region.
- Include a modern medical suite and isolation spaces.
- Reduce bird stress and potential risks of infection and spread of disease.
- Help increase the chances of successful outcomes and releases.
- Provide information and expertise about wild birds to the public.
- include an informal, engaging interactive education/visitor centre where people of all ages can learn about birds, their habitats, and environmental stewardship.







Even though our patients are kept in captivity temporarily, their complex housing requirements still need to be addressed to better promote their recovery. Birds are high-stress animals. What may not seem stressful to humans may be extremely stressful for a bird, even fatal. To make them feel more at ease, the birds are provided with some of the comforts of home they are used to, features from their natural environment. To compliment the indoor aviaries, the new facility's outdoor aviaries are designed to provide a larger, open-air flight area while still protecting the vulnerable birds from predators.

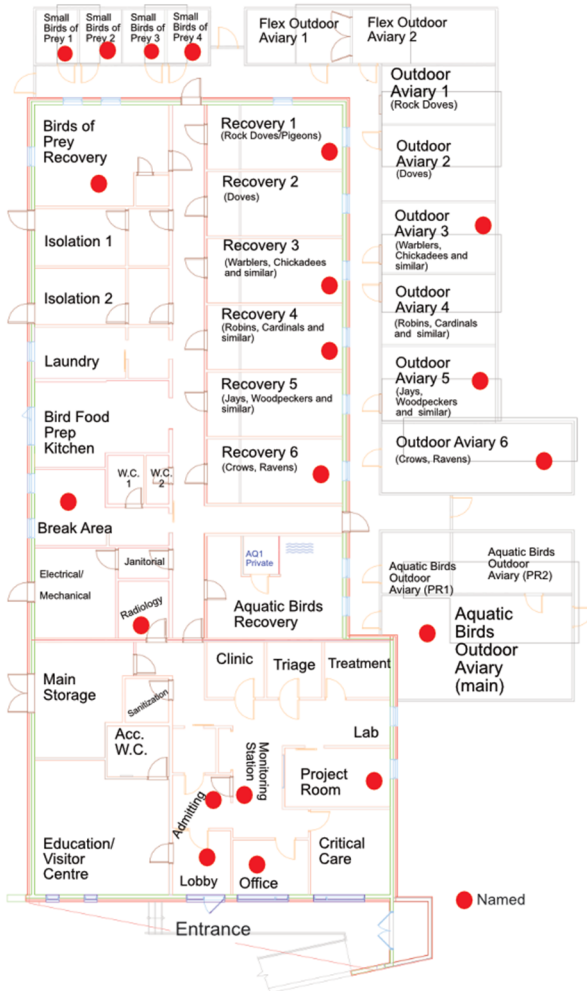
### **Fundraising Goal**

Started in 2019, the original fundraising goal of \$1.7M for the project was based on pre-pandemic pricing. Although the Centre successfully surpassed its original campaign goal in 2022, the Centre still needs to raise funds to cover the inflationary increases in costs. With the most significant funds in place, the project is due to progress as planned in 2024, once municipal approvals and permits are obtained. All funds raised for the Building Campaign will go towards the construction of the new building, including material upgrades, its site preparation, landscaping, and related costs.



# Donor Recognition & Naming Opportunities

## Naming Opportunities



Naming opportunities within the main building and attached aviaries start at \$10,000. For all naming opportunity inquiries, please contact Juliette Marczuk, Chair, Board of Directors.

## Donor Giving Level Recognition

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

Subject to the Centre's Policies:

- Donors giving \$100 or more to the building campaign will be acknowledged on the Centre's website, Contributor Honour Roll: <https://www.wildbirdcarecentre.org/building-fund-contributors>
- Donors giving \$500 or more to the building campaign will also be recognized on a digital donor wall which will be displayed at the new building.
- Each named room and outdoor aviary will additionally have an engraved plaque located at the room's entrance.

## Contact Information

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Saving the birds of today for tomorrow