



Press Release

For immediate distribution

Over 500 people attended the open House and Donor BBQ A record number for Le Nichoir!

Le Nichoir's volunteers and staff were delighted with the outcome of this year's Open House. More than 200 adults and 145 children attended the event held on July 24th. The objective of Open House is to educate and raise awareness about nature and avian conservation. This year the visitors were allowed to visit with 5 ducks recently rescued from the oil spill in the St. Lawrence River, a hot topic these days considering the situation in the Gulf of Mexico.

With the help of professional rehabilitators, children were able to watch wild bird releases. *"We released a cardinal and a Baltimore oriole. This is always very appreciated by visitors and the most satisfying part of our job here at Le Nichoir"* explains Susan Wylie, the Centre's Executive Director. Young visitors also learned how to make nutritious food treats to attract wild birds and bird watching excursions took place on the Nature Conservancy of Canada's (NCC) property, the Clarke-Sydenham Nature Reserve. Wildlife experts Greg Rand (City of Saint-Lazare) and Chris Clouthier (Morgan Arboretum) were thrilled to share their identification skills with visitors. Thanks to Mountain Equipment Co-op for giving 20 binoculars for the Centre's Birds in our Backyard Program and thanks to Pitou Minou & Compagnons – GLOBAL for lending bird feeders and for sponsoring this very unique event.

That evening, 200 guests were gathered at Le Nichoir for the Centre's Annual Donor Gourmet BBQ. In attendance were Gilles Farand (Prefect, MRC Vaudreuil-Soulanges), Michael Elliot (Mayor, Town of Hudson), Madeleine Hodgson (Councilor, Town of Hudson West) and Nathalie Zinger (Vice-President, NCC Quebec Region). *"This evening, we are all gathered here to support a project that is proving to be one of the most important in the history of bird conservation in Canada. In fact, Le Nichoir is a well-known organization in our region, and world-wide as well. And it is projects such as this one that are contributing toward the development of our regional economy"*, said Farand after welcoming Le Nichoir's special guests.

About Le Nichoir:

Le Nichoir Wild Bird Rehabilitation Centre is a registered non-profit organization located in Hudson. Founded in 1994, the Centre has cared for thousands of wild birds, as well as hundreds of ducklings and returned them to their natural habitat. Le Nichoir hires students for the summer to provide daily and necessary care but volunteers are also at the heart of daily activities. Le Nichoir has become an educational resource well known for its expertise and is the largest rehabilitation Centre for songbirds in Canada. Le Nichoir's mission is to conserve wild birds as a part of our natural heritage.

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