

# LE NICOIR NEWS

February 2013

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## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### *Warm Weather Made for Busy Fall at Le Nichoir*



As seasons change and the temperature cools, birds busily forage for food rich in fat, and many of them get ready for the long migration south. This is also the time when normally Le Nichoir slows down from a manic summer to a quiet winter. But that wasn't the case this past fall, as the lingering mild weather in the Montreal area meant that Le Nichoir was kept busy, and for longer than usual.



Whereas work typically slows down by mid-September, in 2012 Le Nichoir received a steady number of injured birds until mid-November, with additional arrivals right up to Christmas Day. Most of the birds brought to Le Nichoir in that time were aquatic birds, including a Black-crowned Night Heron, the Common Loon, a Ring-necked Duck and Common Mergansers. The Centre also admitted a couple of Pine Grosbeaks and our usual songbirds, such as chickadees and cardinals.



### *Dedicated Volunteers, Healthy Birds*

There was nothing unusual about spring and summer, which were busy as in past years. The season started early, on April 20th, when we received our first nestling bird, a Northern Cardinal. This is the earliest in spring that we have ever received a young bird.



The season really kicked into high gear on May 16th, as we rolled out our stellar volunteer program. By the end of the year, more than 77 bird-care volunteers had contributed over 4,000 hours of service, with an additional 50 volunteers supporting Le Nichoir in other capacities. Thanks to their hard work, in 2012 the Centre was able to rehabilitate 1,502 birds covering over 100 different species. Words cannot describe the endless hours of dedication and compassion all the volunteers show towards the birds, Le Nichoir and its staff.



Among the 103 species the Centre received, our most unusual guests were a Scarlet Tanager, a Wilson's Snipe, a Kirtland's Warbler, and a nest of three Yellow Warblers that also included a Brown-headed Cowbird. The most unique nestling Le Nichoir raised and released was a baby Woodcock (who ate over 800 earthworms during its stay!) We also cared for threatened species, such as Common Nighthawks, Barn Swallows and Chimney Swifts, with a release rate of 90 per cent.



Reasons Le Nichoir received birds varied, the most common being kidnapping

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among nestling and fledgling birds, and wing injuries and cat attacks among adult birds. Unfortunately, we've seen an increase in the number of birds that become entangled in fishing lines. If you find any used lines along the shore, please dispose of them!

### *Upcoming Events*

Warm weather or not, this year promises to be a memorable one. Thanks to your generosity, we are happy to announce that we have enough funding in place to start construction of the new songbird aviaries this summer. We look forward to seeing you all at the grand opening this coming year!



The first big event of 2013 will be a fundraiser on March 9th organized by Christopher Dodds, which you can read about in this newsletter. Mark your calendars and see you all then!

### CAUGHT AND RELEASED

As winter approaches, many birds are at the tail end of their migration south. But sometimes these birds run into obstacles during their journey, suffering from exhaustion or the effects of inclement weather, like the Mallard Le Nichoir received in December.

The Centre got a call from a distressed individual who had an injured Mallard in his bathtub and was urgently looking for a rehabilitation centre to care for it. The man had been referred to Le Nichoir, and a short time after the call, the bird was brought to us.

When Marilyn and Frank – both long-time volunteers – and I received the duck, it was apathetic and in severe respiratory distress, with fluids pouring out of its nares (nostrils). The bird had a pink, waxed string wound tightly around its neck, to the point that it had dug into and cut the skin 3mm deep. The caller had found the duck caught by the neck and drowning in a lake. Luckily for the bird, the man, a big animal lover, had gone into the water to rescue him.

During our examination, we worried that the cut on the bird's neck was so deep the skin might have fused over the string, which would make removing it difficult and surgery necessary. The volunteers and I were also concerned that the bird could die due to the stress of the examination and the difficulty he had breathing. So we covered the bird's head and worked quickly as a team to locate the string and remove it. Fortunately, because the string was waxed, the skin had not

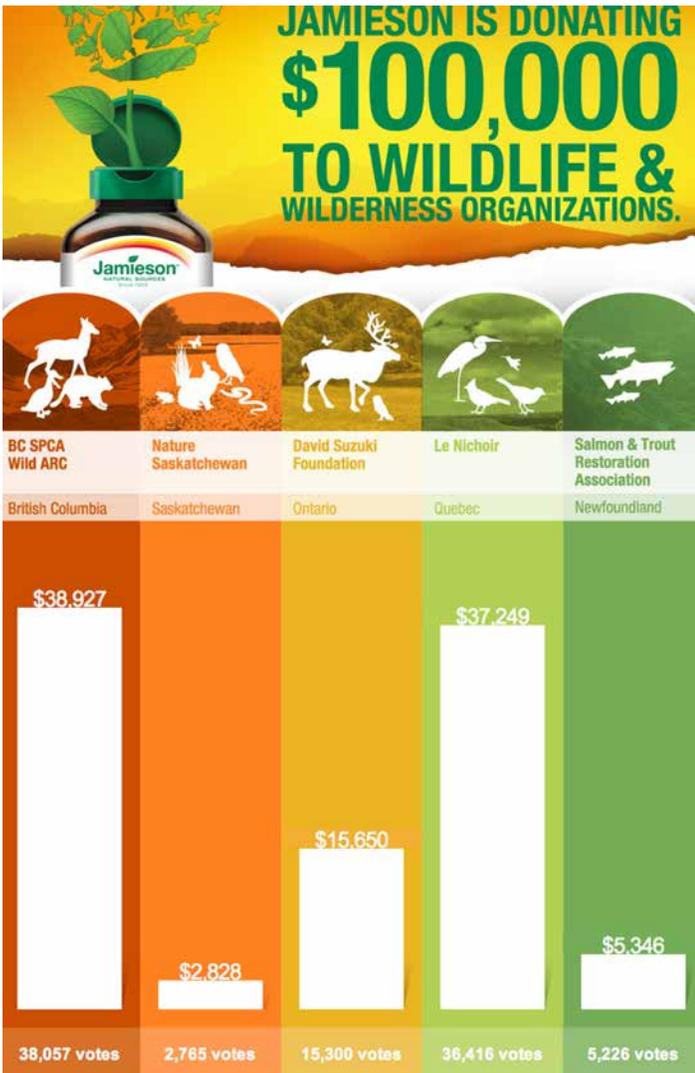


managed to bind to it and once cut, the string fell right off the neck. It was amazing to see that the skin had already completely healed and there were no open wounds. Once the string was cut, the bird's breathing stabilized, and the duck regained its strength within minutes.

We cared for the bird by providing it with fluids, pain relief and heat. Within a week the bird was alert, aggressive and ready to go!



## PUBLIC VOTE HELPED LE NICHOR SECURE JAMIESON GRANT



Last summer, Jamieson Vitamins offered Le Nichoir a unique opportunity to grow our finances and public profile. Le Nichoir was one of five Canadian non-profit environmental organizations chosen to participate in the third annual Call for the Wild! campaign. Public voting on Facebook over a five-week period determined how \$100,000 would be shared among the five organizations.

From the start, Le Nichoir considered itself to be the hummingbird of the campaign. We had just begun to dabble in social media and had only months earlier launched an email newsletter. It was to be an interesting challenge to try and reach out and engage people during the campaign.

Part of Le Nichoir's strategy was to encourage supporters to sign up for daily voting email reminders. Each morning of the campaign, our team sent out roughly 600 reminders, along with a photo of the day taken at the Centre. On average, Le Nichoir received over 1,000 votes a day and was frequently in the vote-count lead. The result at the end of the campaign was a generous grant of \$37,249, which Le Nichoir has put towards the New Centre Project.

We would like to thank all those who cast votes for Le Nichoir. The Centre was overwhelmed by the support we received during the campaign.

## CALENDAR ERROR NO APRIL'S FOOL



After discovering an error in its 2013 calendar, Le Nichoir is working with the printer to offer supporters a free replacement copy. Le Nichoir realized much to its regret that the original calendar shows the 1<sup>st</sup> of April falling on a Tuesday, when it actually falls on a Monday.

If you purchased a calendar from us, you can order your replacement by calling 450 458 2809 or emailing [communication@lenichoir.org](mailto:communication@lenichoir.org). Le Nichoir will then arrange for delivery of your replacement calendar.

We offer our most sincere apologies for the inconvenience this inadvertent error may have caused.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR A NIGHT OF STUNNING NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH CHRISTOPHER DODDS



**Date and time:** Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** John Abbott College Casgrain Theatre  
21275 Lakeshore Road, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC H9X 3L9

Join Canadian nature photographer Christopher Dodds for a special evening presentation benefitting Le Nichoir. On March 9th, Chris will run a slide show of his photos designed to be both entertaining and informative, for nature lovers and photographers alike!

During the show, Chris will blend adventure stories with natural history facts and tips that will help you to improve your photography techniques, be it with a camera phone, a point-and-shoot camera or a professional SLR camera system. Chris will showcase over one hundred images, many of them for the first time.

Advance tickets are only \$18 (\$20 at the door). Everyone is welcome and all proceeds raised go to Le Nichoir! Don't miss this chance to win raffle and door prizes, dessert and the chance to meet Chris at intermission.

### About Chris

Christopher Dodds has combined his life-long passion for nature with highly technical expertise to become a top nature photographer. Chris follows the call of the wild to the most breathtaking locations around the world and captures the true soul of nature through his camera lens. An inaugural member of the Canon Northern Explorer of Light and elite X-Rite Coloratti, Chris has over 27 years' experience as a full-time freelance nature and wildlife photographer, nature photography workshop & safari leader, photography educator, blogger and lecturer. His widely-read blog ([www.naturephotographyblog.com](http://www.naturephotographyblog.com)) has become the "go-to" resource for nature photographers around the world. Chris' images appear in many of the world's leading magazines and newspapers as well as in countless private collections.

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VOLUNTEER...

It is Mary's first day as a volunteer at Le Nichoir. Given that it is the first week of July, as she walks into the Centre she is hit by a wave of bird calls. All 400 birds on-site are anxiously waiting to be cleaned and fed by volunteers and staff. Mary quickly hangs up her jacket, rolls up her sleeves, and gets to work.

After an orientation with one of the staff, Mary has been asked to help clean the duckling and fledgling songbird cages and replenish their food bowls. She starts her day by cleaning the mesh cage of two Northern Cardinals. First, she gently picks up the birds separately using the bander's grip, e.g. by holding the bird with its head between your index and middle

finger. She places the birds in a temporary cage to minimize any stress on them while she cleans their cage. Mary then quickly washes the cage and places a clean pillowcase on the floor. She rearranges the mirror so that the cardinals can see their reflection – a way for them to believe they have more companions. She arranges the Cedar branches and perches to make sure that the set-up is safe for the birds. Mary carefully cleans and refills their food bowls with seeds, millet, mealworms, crickets, sunflower seeds, fruit salads and veggies.

Once the cage is ready, she places the cardinals back in. The birds are quick, with one jumping onto a perch

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and the other exploring the replenished food bowls. Mary smiles as she watches the Cardinals hop and chirp happily, content in their clean space. She continues her day by cleaning the cages of other birds at the Centre, including blue jays, chickadees, swallows and robins.



After the cleaning is done, Mary is asked to help two of the staff, who are releasing Song Sparrows. One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering at Le Nichoir is knowing that the birds are well taken care of and that they will be released back into the wild. Mary helps to capture a Song Sparrow in the outdoor flight cages. The bird sits quietly in her hands waiting for its big moment! Both the staff are watching from a distance as Mary releases her grip and the bird eagerly flies out of her hands. It flies high, right to the top of a large Maple tree: the release was a success. After observing the bird up in the tree for a few minutes, Mary heads back into the barn to continue with her duties.



Volunteers are the heart of Le Nichoir and the reason the Centre can care for more than 1,500 birds every year. With only one full-time staff and four summer students, the Centre depends on the help of volunteers to keep up with bird care, organize events and fundraising, give tours, and provide education and communication to the general public.



Whether you are looking to commit to volunteering on a weekly basis or every once in a while, Le Nichoir always welcomes your help. This year, the Centre is in need of volunteers for both bird care and a variety of other tasks. Here are some examples:

**Bird care**, including cleaning cages and aviaries, replenishing food, providing environmental enrichment

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for birds, hanging laundry, and participating in releases, is at the core of the Centre's operation. The amount of hands-on care for birds will depend on the hours you are able to commit to the Centre.

**Ambulance driving** is a task with which Le Nichoir needs the most help during the summer. This involves picking up birds from the SPCA of Montreal and bringing them directly to Le Nichoir.

**Tour guides** are needed to lead visitors and children around the Centre, and to lead nature walks on the Nature Conservancy's property adjacent to Le Nichoir. The Centre provides the information, field guides and binoculars!

In order to operate, the Centre needs volunteers to help with **fundraising**. Volunteers do not need to have previous experience, and opportunities range from organizing fundraisers or setting up your own small fundraiser (e.g., a garage sale) to doing pick-ups, hanging posters and volunteering at an event.

Along with rehabilitation, **communication** is very important to Le Nichoir. The Centre is now issuing e-newsletters to our supporters, including all volunteers, throughout the year. If you are interested in becoming a special contributor to the newsletter, taking photographs for our

communication pieces or giving us a hand with social media tools, please get in touch with Le Nichoir!

For more information about volunteering at the Centre, or to receive an invitation for a volunteer orientation at the end of May, please contact Susan by email:

[info@lenichoir.org](mailto:info@lenichoir.org)

We look forward to hearing from all future volunteers!

## LE NICHOR COLLABORATES WITH LOCAL RESEARCHERS – BY SEAN LOCKE

In 2012, Le Nichoir helped out local researchers, working on fish parasites.

That's right, fish parasites.

This story begins over 20 years ago, with media reports of local tomcod turning up blind. At the time, many people figured these fish were suffering from the effects of water pollution, but scientists at Environment Canada and Concordia University had other suspicions. In the end, the problem turned out to be a parasitic fluke that occurs naturally in the eyes of freshwater fish. Like many parasites in freshwater fish, this one was a larval form. To develop into an adult and complete its life cycle, the parasite must be consumed by a fish-eating bird.

Since that discovery, Environment Canada, Concordia and McGill have done a lot of work on parasites of aquatic wildlife in the Montreal area that examines, for example, how these stressors interact to affect the health of animals and ecosystems. One of the major challenges in such research is telling parasites apart. They are so tiny and have such simple morphology that it is difficult to classify them into different species – especially the larval forms.

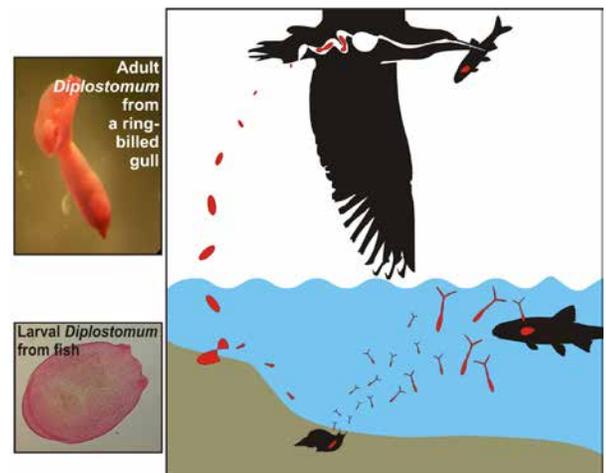
Which is where the birds come in. The intestines of fish-eating birds are where many of the larval worms mature into adults, which have fully developed genitalia and other structures that can be used to distinguish species. When the adult form is identified as a known species, the larval stage is linked to a larger body of research on that particular parasite.

At Environment Canada and Concordia University, I have been using DNA to distinguish species of larval parasites in fish. This work has revealed four times more species of larval parasites in fish around Montreal than have been recorded in Canada's entire territory and fish fauna. Which was a big, unexpected jump in diversity and a useful step forward, but it didn't tell us the names of the species – they might be new species, they might not. To address that question, we need to study adult worms.

In cooperation with Le Nichoir, I have been sequencing DNA from parasites taken from birds that could not be rehabilitated and had to be euthanized. These adult specimens are extremely valuable for our work. Genetic matches between adults and larvae have already provided very useful information on the life cycles of local parasites. The data reveal that there is still much to learn about basic aspects of the biology of these very common parasites of aquatic wildlife: where they occur, what hosts they use, and how many species there are. If we think of them at all, we typically consider parasites to be bad news. And it's true, they can weaken (even kill) animals we value, for example by reducing product quality in fish in recreational or commercial fisheries. In that sense, knowing more about them is of potential practical value. However, parasites are also an age-old part of the natural world. They can provide information on how the ecosystem is functioning. In fact, in most systems, an absence of parasites is a sign of perturbation. In studying these issues, species identification is extremely important, and Le Nichoir has been exceptionally helpful in this regard.

*Sean Locke is a postdoctoral fellow working at Environment Canada in Montreal*

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*Common life cycle of parasitic flukes in freshwater systems. Adult worms reproduce sexually in the gut of a fish-eating bird, and eggs are shed in feces. Eggs hatch in water and release a free-living stage that penetrates a snail. Asexual reproduction in the snail leads to large numbers of another free-living stage that penetrates fish. Birds become infected by eating infected fish.*

## BRENDA McOUAT



It was a very sad day when we learnt that volunteer Brenda McOuat had passed away on April 30th, 2012. Her free spirit, smile and love for the birds was greatly missed this past summer.

Brenda's enthusiastic support of the new aviary gave the project its initial momentum and we will remember her fondly when the facility opens.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A BIRD HITS A WINDOW ...

An adult Common Redpoll was found in a snow bank just below the large window of a house. The bird had collided with the window after being frightened at a nearby bird feeder.



Window collisions are among the most common reasons adult birds are brought to Le Nichoir. Here's how the Centre cared for the injured Redpoll, plus what you can do to protect birds from window mishaps.

**Treatment:** The Redpoll was extremely stressed when it was admitted to Le Nichoir. The Centre provided it with warmth and oral fluids, and within an hour, the bird was walking around and perching. It had hit the window so hard that its right wing had a coracoid fracture, so the bird was given anti-inflammatories and painkillers.

**Captive diet and caging:** The bird was fed a variety of seeds, including safflower, sunflower, pumpkin, millet and Nyger. The Centre also offered broccoli, to which the bird took a great liking. The Redpoll was placed in a soft-mesh reptarium cage with natural perches, Cedar branches and the top of a Balsam fir Christmas tree. It needed to be kept in a small environment,

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which limited its mobility and allowed its wing to heal.

**Outcome:** Once the wing fracture healed, the bird was placed in an outdoor flight cage where it could practice flight and regain its strength before being released. After more than two weeks of care at Le Nichoir, the bird was successfully released with a flock of wild Redpolls.

**Did you know?**

The Common Redpoll can tolerate very cold temperatures (up to minus 54° C) and migrates irregularly from Northern Canada to Montreal, following the food supply (available seeds).

Every year, between 100 million and one billion birds are estimated to die from window collisions in North America.

Reduce window collisions by following these tips:

- Bird feeders should be placed either 10 meters away from a window or less than half a meter from the window and not in between
- Use window decals in any shape or pattern. Use multiple decals uniformly, covering the windows for maximum effectiveness. Single decals do not work
- Keep your windows covered with blinds or shades
- Move any house plants away from behind windows so birds don't mistake them for somewhere to perch

Statistics and further information: [www.flap.org](http://www.flap.org)

## MURDER MYSTERY EVENT

Le Nichoir's first murder-mystery auction and dinner fundraiser, held at St James church hall in Hudson on April 14, was a huge success! Tickets sold out a full three weeks before the event, and over \$33,000 was raised (a record high!) The funds raised included \$11,605 earmarked for building a new multi-unit aviary for songbirds and insectivorous birds.

Le Nichoir thanks all those who attended, along with the sponsors and volunteers, for their generosity and enthusiasm at the event.

A huge thank-you also goes out to all auction donors and sponsors, who graciously provided the gifts and services that made this event so successful



Photos courtesy of Tom Disandolo

2 BARN OWLS  
 ROBERT BATEMAN  
 HEATHER BISSETT  
 MARCEL BRAITSTEIN  
 BRASSERIE MCAUSLAN  
 WANDA BRAY  
 MELINDA BREWER  
 BROME BIRD CARE  
 SUZANNE CARON  
 LINDA COBBETT  
 CORANCO CORPORATION LIMITED  
 JANICE CUNNINGHAM  
 CLAUDIO D'ANGELO  
 LINDSAY D'AOUST  
 DENIS D'AOUST  
 MAUREEN DECELLES  
 DÉCOR & TISSUS SERENITY  
 DENTISTES LITTNER BAKER KOPYTOV  
 MARK DRAKE  
 ECOMUSEUM ZOO  
 ELEPHANT MAUVE  
 FERME COPERATIVE TOURNESOL

JOE AND MARGARET GARDINER  
 KEITH HOLMES  
 HUDSON FILM SOCIETY  
 HEATHER AND BURT MARKGRAF HUDSON  
 PRODUCTIONS  
 HUDSON VILLAGE THEATRE  
 CHLOE HUTCHISON  
 KARMA DESIGNS/KI THERAPIES  
 LA CABANE D'OISEAUX  
 LA PIVOINERIE D'AOUST  
 MARY LAMB  
 SANDRA AND MICHAEL LAWRENCE  
 LES DELICES DE DAWN  
 LIBRAIRIE CLIO  
 MATT AND NAT  
 MICHAEL McMASTER  
 DIANA McNEILL  
 MON VILLAGE RESTAURANT  
 MORGAN ARBORETUM  
 SCOTT NOBLE  
 OLIVE AUTHENTIQUE  
 PHYSIOSPORT HUDSON

ANDRÉ PIETTE  
 PITOU MINOU & COMPAGNONS  
 POINT PELEE NATIONAL PARK  
 PRISCILLA'S BEAUTIFUL FINDS  
 PURE ART INC  
 ROBERT RAVEN  
 HILARY RAVENSCROFT FORD  
 REGROUPEMENT QUÉBEC OISEAUX  
 RESTAURANT CARAMBOLA  
 RESTAURANT CAROUSEL  
 RESTAURANT SAUVE  
 RICHARD AND RITA REYNOLDS  
 HELENA RICHARDS  
 PAMELA RICHARDSON  
 FRANK ROYLE  
 ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH  
 SHARON VEYSEY  
 VIA RAIL  
 ELISE VILLENEUVE AND HER TEAM  
 TERI WALDRON  
 NANCY WILSON-FINNIE  
 YE AULD CURIOSITÉ BOUTIQUE

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## BIRDS CAPTURE BIOLOGY STUDENT'S HEART AND MIND

My first job in biology, the field to which I wanted to dedicate my life, was at Le Nichoir in the summer of 2010. Like many of my peers, my career interest at the time was to work with mammals. But Le Nichoir was offering me a great opportunity and hands-on experience with wildlife. At the Centre, I would be able to see birds up-close and care for them instead of having to observe them from afar – an amazing job for a first-year biology student like myself. I thought I could always reorient my interest back to mammals afterwards.



However, the opposite happened that summer: Le Nichoir reoriented me. I discovered how interesting and complex the world of birds is, and that gave me the desire to learn more about them.

With this new fascination for the feathered kind, the following summer I applied to and obtained a job as a research assistant working on a study on Red-headed Woodpeckers. There I discovered that Le Nichoir had provided me with knowledge that proved to be useful. Birds communicate mainly through calls and songs. No respectable bird community survey will ignore the panoply of trills, chirps and whistles that says more about what surrounds you than what your eyes can register. Although there are not as many species of birds at Le Nichoir as there are in the wild, the alarm and begging calls and the occasional song I heard there paved the way for the array of sounds that was necessary knowledge in order for me to survey the avian communities that summer.



This past summer, my hands-on experience at Le Nichoir was put to use when I performed in birds-of-prey shows. Even though manipulating birds in falconry is quite different from working with birds in rehabilitation, handling so many birds at the Centre gave me a confidence that is useful when interacting with beaks and feathers no matter the context. This assurance also helped me that fall while I volunteered at a bird-banding station.

Without Le Nichoir, I would likely not be where I am now or know what I know. This is probably why I was at the Centre working part-time every fall after that first summer and why I am now developing Le Nichoir's education program. I have been given the chance to transmit, like Le Nichoir showed me, how interesting, complex and important birds are.

## DOUGLAS MACAULAY



A long-time friend of Le Nichoir's, Douglas Macaulay, passed away on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Doug was a volunteer at Le Nichoir for many years. He helped with general maintenance at the Barn and with the occasional rescue of injured local birds.

Doug also produced maple syrup every spring by tapping the maple trees on Le Nichoir's property. It was always a pleasure to speak with Doug and to listen to his many stories of adventures in the great outdoors. He will be sorely missed.

## NEW CENTRE PROJECT GETS BOOST IN 2012

Last year, the New Centre Project took three important steps forward. The biggest one was signing a 99-year lease to formalize Le Nichoir's occupancy of the buildings and property at 637 Main Road. This lease allows us to build the new centre on the site that has been Le Nichoir's home since 1995.

Before signing this lease, Le Nichoir was a tenant without the right to undertake major construction on the property. Le Nichoir reached an agreement in principle back in 2009 that allows us to build on the site, then started the process of determining the framework and obtaining subsequent approvals. Le Nichoir thanks the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Town of Hudson for their support throughout this process.

Another big step was the design of a new aviary complex and a campaign to raise funds for its construction. Aviaries play a key role in the successful rehabilitation of birds and are a critical part of our infrastructure. The New Centre project plan had called for a new aviary complex to be built after the main building goes up, but the increasingly dilapidated state of the existing aviaries required us to adjust our priorities. Donations by generous individuals and grants from TD Friends of the Environment, Greygates Foundation and LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics mean that construction on the aviary should get underway as soon as conditions allow access to the site. (To learn more about the aviary design, visit our website and click on the keyword "aviary".)

The third important step was on the funding front. A bequest, a grant from Jamieson Vitamins and a matching donation by an individual through our annual campaign added over \$65,000 to the New Centre building fund.

This year, Le Nichoir will focus on building the new aviary complex and continue to raise funds for the construction of the main building.

Le Nichoir could not undertake this project without the generosity of individuals committed to the development of a first-class wild bird rehabilitation centre. Donations specifically for the New Centre project can be made on our website or by contacting us by phone (450 458 2809) or email ([communication@lenichoir.org](mailto:communication@lenichoir.org)). Don't hesitate to ask if you'd like more information on the project!

## LE NICHOR FEATURED TWICE ON FRENCH-LANGUAGE TV



Last summer, Le Nichoir was lucky to have two of Radio-Canada's francophone television shows visit the centre and interview its staff. Le Nichoir summer student Myraim Haineault was interviewed for the very first episode of a new show called Brigade Animo. Myraim spoke to Aurélia, one of two assistants to veterinarian, Dr Sébastien Kfoury. Brigade Animo is a children's program with a mission to introduce young viewers to the animal kingdom and show them how to care for all its creatures.

Julie Huard of Radio-Canada's C'est ça la vie also visited Le Nichoir to explore the Centre's activities and interview the staff and volunteers. The

TV program focused on the rehabilitation of birds at Le Nichoir, including the type of care we provide and how we prepare birds for release (such as bird-banding by the McGill Bird Observatory).

If you didn't catch the C'est ça la vie episode featuring Le Nichoir, you can see it on TOU.TV as follows: C'est ça la vie (episode 7) - [www.tou.tv/c-est-ca-la-vie/S2012E07](http://www.tou.tv/c-est-ca-la-vie/S2012E07)

JUST IN - LE NICHOR ACCEPTED AS A 1% FOR THE PLANET NONPROFIT PARTNER

Le Nichoir is pleased to announce that it is a new non-profit partner of 1% for the Planet and eligible to receive donations from 1% member companies.



1% for the Planet is a growing global movement of over 1,250 member companies in 43 countries that donate one percent of their sales to nearly 3,100 environmental organizations such as Le Nichoir worldwide. To learn more about 1% go to: [www.onepercentfortheplanet.org](http://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org).

DID YOU CATCH LE NICHOR AT THESE COMMUNITY EVENTS?

From dancing to bluegrass music to cheering on Santa Claus, Le Nichoir's volunteers were active at a flurry of events this past summer and fall. Even the hottest day of the year couldn't dampen their enthusiasm, as volunteers helped the Centre to host its annual open house on July 21<sup>st</sup>. We'd like to give a big thank-you to the tireless volunteers and guests young and old who came out in the sun to support us. We're also grateful to organizations, such as the McGill Bird Observatory, Regroupement Québec Oiseaux, and Club ornithologique Vaudreuil-Soulanges, for their participation in open house activities.



St. Patrick's Day Parade



Open House 2012



LUSH Charity Pot Party



Clarence and Cripps Fundraiser



Hudson Christmas Parade



Hudson Christmas Merchand Sale

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## SUPPORT LE NICOIR THROUGH ONE OF THESE FUN ACTIVITIES!

We are looking for individuals of all ages to help Le Nichoir raise funds and spread the word about the work that we do! There are many ways to get involved.

One way is to organize a small or large fundraising event for the Centre. Here are some ideas:



*Mount Pleasant Elementary School  
Green Team Raffle Fundraiser*

- Host a garage sale, bird-seed sale or bake sale
- Organize a walk-a-thon, bottle drive, show or exhibit
- Donate proceeds from an already planned event to Le Nichoir (e.g. company Christmas party, a concert)
- Get your whole school involved! Create a line of loonies destined for Le Nichoir (a foot of loonies equals \$11; a mile constitutes \$60,730)
- Sponsor the rehabilitation of a songbird (\$45), an aquatic bird (\$65) or a threatened species (\$100) by purchasing a group gift with friends, co-workers or your classroom.



In the past, children have asked their friends to make donations to Le Nichoir in lieu of birthday gifts. Each child receives an appreciation certificate from the Centre to acknowledge their contribution.

Looking for more inspiration? Then visit Le Nichoir's website ([www.lenichoir.org](http://www.lenichoir.org)) for more fun ways to get involved!

## SHOP AT LE NICOIR



After much demand, Le Nichoir is excited to announce that we have started selling bird-friendly products. We have Squirrel buster feeders for sale, one for finch seed (\$55) and the other for black sunflower (\$30) along with Le Nichoir packaged finch seed and sunflower seed.



One of our best sellers is our blank bird photo cards made on 100% recycled paper (3 for \$10) and black and white cards with bird images by artist Sue Porter (3 for \$7.50).

These items can be purchased by phone 450 458 2809 or at the Centre during the summer. New items will be sold this spring including window decals, which help reduce window collisions.