

Unique in Quebec, Le Nichoir's Open House on Saturday July 18th will celebrate the unveiling of the Centre's new interpretation panels in the Clarke Sydenham Nature Reserve.



HUDSON - Le Nichoir, Hudson's wild bird conservation centre will hold its annual Open House on Saturday July 18th at 637 Main. The Open House is a great opportunity to learn about your local birds and the services Le Nichoir offers. This free event runs from 10 am to 2 pm and draws families from far and wide with activities for everyone.

"Our Open House is a fun and educational event for the public to see firsthand the impact human activity can have on birds and what is being done to help support these animals. We look forward to the public visiting the Centre to observe the birds, tour the facility and meet our team of staff and volunteers" says Susan Wylie, Le Nichoir's Executive Director.

Le Nichoir's Open House has activities planned for all ages including a hands-on education kiosk, bird observation walks, tours around the aviaries to learn about the birds the Centre cares for, children's crafts, face painting and more. This is also a great time to browse La Plume Verte, Le Nichoir's very own shop or have a bite to eat at our BBQ starting at 11 am.

Among the Open House special guests will be Chief Top Leaf from Mohawk Nation as well as other groups involved in wildlife and environment conservation including Bird Protection Quebec and Nature-Action Québec.

This year is especially important to Le Nichoir as we will be unveiling six new interpretation panels installed in the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Clarke Sydenham Nature Reserve. The unveiling will take place in the presence of Ed Prévost, Mayor of Hudson and Jamie Nicholls, MP Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Following the unveiling, guests are invited to see all the panels by joining naturalist Chris Cloutier on a bird watching tour in the reserve.

"The Nature Conservancy of Canada was very happy to hear that Le Nichoir was creating interpretation panels for the Clarke Sydenham reserve. We hope that the panels will encourage the public to visit the reserve as well as learn more about wild birds and strive to protect them and their habitats." says Annie Ferland, Project Manager at the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

About Le Nichoir:

Situated at the entrance to the Clarke Sydenham Nature Reserve in Hudson, QC, Le Nichoir's mission is to conserve wild birds as part of our natural heritage. Le Nichoir delivers its mission through: professional and compassionate care of injured and orphaned wild birds and the development and delivery of public environmental education programs. Le Nichoir admits over 1500 birds annually representing over 100 species from over 150 towns in Quebec and is recognized as the largest centre of its kind in Canada for songbirds. The Centre offers public education through multiple channels; 1) visits and tours of the Centre, 2) manning kiosks at various community events, 3) phone calls and emails and 4) formal environmental educational programs for children including *Bird Adaptations: Custom-made for Habitat* and *Avian Detectives*

The project: Promotion of the avian habitats of the Clarke Sydenham nature reserve

Le Nichoir is very fortunate to be right next door to a small but immensely valuable natural jewel, the Clarke Sydenham Nature Reserve. Owned by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, this 47-acre site is adjacent to Le Nichoir, and for many years has been a perfect haven for the centre to release many birds.

The reserve features several different habitats, from old forests to fields and temporary ponds, and hosts an impressive variety of fauna and flora. Last year Le Nichoir embarked upon a project to promote the reserve and its treasures. Supported by grants from the *Fondation Hydro-Québec pour l'environnement* and the *Fondation de la faune du Québec*, this project involved the design, production and installation of six interpretation panels, with information about the habitats and avian species along the trail through the reserve.

The panels were designed as part of Le Nichoir's on-site education program development but are also available for everyone to learn from and enjoy.

As part of the project, a current and detailed map of the trail system within the reserve was developed with the invaluable assistance from students from the Department of Natural Resource Sciences from McGill University.

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