



EMC photo by KATHRYN GLYNN

Galloping Goat Farm owner Lynne Rowe feeds the goats on her farm located on Dunrobin Road. An open house was held at the farm last Saturday and Sunday. The event featured a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, craft table, a barbecue and wildlife education. Rowe offered visitors free posters and spoke about her plan to create a wildlife rehabilitation centre on the property.

Wildlife centre in the works

By KATHRYN GLYNN

Special to the EMC

EMC News—What began as a small farm for Lynne Rowe and daughter Maeve to accommodate a few pets and a pony to ride will soon become a much-needed wildlife rehabilitation centre in West Ottawa.

The owner of the Galloping Goat Farm, a 10-acre operation located at 2494 Dunrobin Rd., expects Ministry of Natural Resources approval as early as June. What will come from that will be known as the Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge.

The idea to setup a sanctuary began last July when a neighbour brought her an orphaned fawn, hoping Rowe could care for it.

Rowe did some research and discovered that Ministry rules required wildlife rehabilitation and that

"So I quickly did a web search and found the closest sanctuary was in Napanee."

After the two-and-a-half hour drive, Rowe was met by Sue Meech owner of the Sandy Pines Wildlife Sanctuary.

It was Meech who encouraged Rowe to get her Wildlife Custodian.

"There is a desperate need in the Ottawa area," Meech said in an interview last Sunday. "I take in about 20 deer every year and it is a death sentence for those we have to turn away."

Meech is passionate about her cause.

"We need to redress the wrongs mankind has done to these animals. It is not natural. Nature didn't cause the problem, fishing lines, cans, urban sprawl; that is the problem," she said.

The centre's owner of 25 years says she takes in approximately six deer from the Ottawa area a year.

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The decision to take the exams and become an accredited wildlife custodian was a natural one for Rowe.

"I see such a huge need. I have so many of the resources. I have the land, the experience with goats, a friend that is a vet and I feel I am well suited to the job," she told the EMC. "Deer are very similar to goats. They have the same digestion, the same health issues and illnesses and deer can be fed goats milk."

A local veterinarian and friend has agreed to provide services at the centre and R.W. Tomlinson has donated a much needed office trailer that will house an indoor observation room and adjoining clinic where vaccinations and medical care will be given. The local construction company is also looking to provide fencing needed to enclose areas for the animals.

The final hurdle for Rowe is complying with strict regulations to develop an accurate tracking system for the animals.

"The deer must be released back into the

wild within 15 kilometres of where they are found," explained Rowe. "This means that each animal must be tagged and accurate data kept to provide proof that you are releasing the animals back into the correct location."

The data management co-ordinator for the Ottawa Sandy Hill Community Health Centre already has some ideas about how to do this.

"This is the biggest challenge and one of the main reasons most people won't run a centre," Rowe explained.

She is preparing to house a dozen deer to start, heeding advice from Meech, to not take on too much in the beginning.

"But, I will work really hard to expand if the need arises," she stated.

Caring for the animals on her farm has been a welcome antidote to the stress Rowe finds working in an office.

"More animals means more work but it never causes me stress, I find it relaxing," she noted.

This past weekend, Rowe held an open house at her farm, welcoming the public to tour her extensive pet-

ting zoo of goats, chickens, alpacas and ponies. She offered pony rides, face painting, a magic show, free barbecue and information and education about wild-life preservation.

"What most people don't realize is that mother deer leave their young for the day, causing many to believe the fawn is orphaned. The mother will go back to look for her young for three days. People need to know how to deal with wildlife so they do no harm," Rowe stated, adding approximately 300 people attended the two day event.

Rowe is excited by the enthusiasm in response to her project, adding that "we raised just under \$1300, and many people signed up to volunteer."

The rehabilitation centre will have to rely on private and corporate donations to operate.

Rowe is hoping that someone will come forward to donate some needed equipment for the clinic and perhaps cupboards from a kitchen renovation.

To contact Lynne Rowe to donate or book her mobile petting zoo and pony rides call 613-222-4719.



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Chris and Robyn Fleming brought their family to the Galloping Goat Farm's open house last Saturday. One-year-old Leah-Rose is surrounded by goats at the farm after a bale of hay is dispersed at lunch time but her brother, one-month-old Liam sleeps during the feeding frenzy. The event drew a large number of people over the two days it was held.



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Volunteers Jamie Leigh, Lynsey McKay and Charlotte van Walraven don't mind cleaning the stable for the opportunity to spend time at the Galloping Goat Farm. The Galloping Goat Farm located on Dunrobin Road held an open house for the public last weekend. The event featured a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, craft table, a barbecue and wildlife education. Owner Lynne Rowe offered visitors free posters and pony rides
