

# West Carleton EMC

## Community members helping animals displaced in Beaver Pond forest

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BY TIFFANY WILLIAMS-LEPACK

EMC News - The birds, porcupines and other animals in Beaver Pond forest have lost their home.

Lynn Rowe, founder and executive director of Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge (CCWR), is hoping to welcome them to another safe and secure location just beyond the orange fences and no trespassing signs. Rowe, along with a dozen or more volunteers, has assembled wooden birdhouses and small shelters for porcupines on the public path in the Beaver Pond forest.

"The birds that live in the trees over there," said Rowe motioning to the trees that are being cut down by KNL Development Inc. (an Urbandale Corporation and Richcraft Homes partnership) for an approved new subdivision, "are desperately looking for new shelter from the elements and we wanted to offer them some alternatives."

The developers have received approval to proceed with the next steps of the planned development after local efforts to limit the project's scope failed. The land has been set for development since the 1950s.

The CCWR is located at 2494 Dunrobin Rd. It is a volunteer-driven centre founded by Rowe to help displaced animals. She became involved with the fight to save the South March Highlands forest after some people contacted her to see what they could do for the animals.

She wishes the developer had waited until the summer because there would have been an abundance of food for the hundreds of animals in the forest who are being displaced including groundhogs, porcupines, birds, reptiles and more.

"It's devastating especially because there are becoming fewer safe routes for them to migrate on in the middle of winter. They are expected to go to an unfamiliar territory and a lot of the animals are territorial too," said Rowe. "Especially in winter when the animals are defending their food. A lot more animals are coming into the problem that there won't be enough food and shelter for them."

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Tiffany Williams-Lepack, West Carleton Emc  
Lynn and Maeve Rowe hang a homemade birdhouse in the Beaver Pond Forest. A number of animals have been displaced due to the construction in the forest.

Last week she was also contacted because a dead porcupine was found in the forest. She hopes to prevent others from suffering the same fate. She has also set up a small shelter for other porcupines.

Kanata North councillor Marianne Wilkinson says what the volunteers are doing is wonderful. Her only concern is for those hanging the birdhouses to be careful.

"Right now with the animals running out of there I think it's a really good idea because it gives them some shelter as it's very cold out," said Wilkinson. "I think it is excellent because the time of year makes it very difficult for the animals."

Rowe says she sent a formal letter to Mary Jarvis, director of planning at KNL Developments Inc., to ask if she could go on the property to help the animals. To date she has not received a reply. Wilkinson also sent a letter to Jarvis expressing her support for the volunteer project.

Rowe does not have official permission to go on KNL's property. She has announced herself to security who have taken down her licence plate number.

"They (the security guards) are really not happy about it," said Rowe. "It's a hard call, I know I'm trespassing but if I can help an animal survive, I figure that's the more important role. Someone has to speak for the animals."

Rowe also posted an information sheet that residents can take for more information and she encourages anyone who would like more information to contact the CCWR at 613-222-4719, [wildlife@ccwr.ca](mailto:wildlife@ccwr.ca) or visit [www.ccwr.ca](http://www.ccwr.ca).

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