

## Wild times at farm fundraiser



**Wild times at farm fundraiser.** Melissa Kerr gets the affection of two goats at the Galloping Goat Farm. The fundraiser drew a large crowd of people over the weekend of April 10 and 11, and raised \$1,300 for the Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge. Jessica Cunha

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The Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge raised about \$1,300 over the weekend of April 10 during an open house at the Galloping Goat Farm in Dunrobin, which is to be the future site of the refuge centre.

The two-day fundraiser drew a crowd of hundreds eager to help get the wildlife centre up and running.

"I want to reach out to the community throughout Ottawa and let them know what we're doing so I can tap into the kindred spirits, the people who care about this sort of thing," said Lynne Rowe. "It's really a lot of community engagement that's going to make this thing successful."

With face painting, arts and crafts, pony rides, a magic show and a tour of the farm area, there was lots to see and do.

Melissa Kerr, a life-long Kanata resident, who works at West Carleton High School as a special needs worker, said she drives by the property everyday, and always wondered what it was.

When she learned about the fundraiser and the plans for the refuge centre, she said she couldn't pass up the opportunity to attend and see what it was all about.

"I volunteered for all of the options," said Kerr, whose boyfriend, Bryan Robertson, from Barrhaven, also signed up to volunteer his services.

"At the top of the page she had six or seven options of things she was looking for volunteers for, such as clerical work, building and construction, maintenance, socialization with the animals and care for the animals. I volunteered for everything because I'd like to be a significant part of the entire functioning of the refuge."

With all the work that goes into running and maintaining an animal refuge centre, Rowe said she is thankful for all the help she can get.

"When the people who care about wildlife and what's happening with them are volunteering and offering their support and encouragement, then we can make these things really happen," she said. "I'm trying to build up our volunteer capacity at this point. The more volunteers we have to pull things together the faster we can get it going and the more effective we can be."

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, there are over 10,000 collisions involving wildlife on the province's roads each year.

Ottawa has the highest number of collisions involving wildlife in the province, with around 1,000 reported each year, according to a fact sheet Rowe had displayed.

Most of those accidents involve deer.

"It's always sad to see animals that are hurt," said North Kanata Coun. Marianne Wilkinson, who turned up to offer her support at the event. "To have some place where you can bring them that's not too far away is going to be very useful to the community. It's a huge undertaking but if the community is supportive then it's really going to happen and that makes a big difference."

Rowe will be at the TD Canada Trust bank branch on Hazeldean Road on April 22 as part of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, which is a national organization with a grassroots focus that funds local projects dedicated to preserving the environment.

For more information about the Constance Creek Wildlife Refuge or to volunteer, visit [www.ccwr.ca](http://www.ccwr.ca).

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