

Leave a little behind... Consider a bequest to the Centre

While annual donations are key to the programs the Centre is able to offer, the inclusion of a bequest in your Will can make a huge difference to its future. For example, it is unlikely that the Centre's exciting new direction on behalf of public education could have been undertaken had it not been for a thoughtful bequest from a retired school teacher who had an interest in the environment and wildlife. Planned giving can take a variety of forms:

Bequests: Your Will provides you with the opportunity to leave a significant gift to a charitable organization while still meeting the current financial needs of your family. Some people set aside a certain dollar amount. Others leave a percentage of their estate or any assets left over after their family has been provided for.

Life Insurance: There are different strategies for using life insurance that provide for a variety of tax benefits: They include

a) *Designating the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy* wherein you remain the owner of the policy but because you have designated a direct beneficiary, the death benefit would bypass the estate and avoid any probate fees,

b) *Name your estate as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy*, leaving instructions in your Will that the proceeds of the policy be paid to your choice of charities, meaning the death benefit would qualify as a donation, giving your estate a tax credit on your final income tax return, and,

c) *Transfer ownership of the policy to the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre* so that the annual premiums you pay qualify for a tax credit.

Publicly Traded Securities:

If you own stocks, mutual fund units or the like you will be interested to know that in May 2006 the Conservatives honoured a campaign promise to eliminate the tax on capital gains when appreciated listed securities are donated to a public charity. You don't have to be a multi-millionaire to reap the benefits. All you need is a desire to help a charity and own securities which have appreciated in value that you are prepared to donate, not only helping a good cause but reaping some significant tax savings in the process. The recent correction in the stock markets may also prompt some people to donate appreciated stock now before there is a further drop in value, locking in tax benefits.

You should talk to your lawyer or financial advisor about planned giving options prior to making any commitment.

The Centre's evolution over the past 20



Leave a little behind

Photo by JoLynn Taylor

years and the unique contribution it is making to providing understanding and respect for wildlife has depended on the vision and commitment of volunteers and community supporters like you. Its future rests with those who are able and willing to leave, no matter what size, a lasting legacy. Who will speak for wildlife, if not us?

Donation Coupon

Your donation to the Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre will provide progressive education for young people and effective, humane solutions for the community to live in greater harmony with nature. Enclosed is my donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please make cheques payable to: Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre, P.O. Box 11051, Station H, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 7T8. Contributions are tax deductible under charitable registration number 13224-0284-RR0001

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Mouse, continued from page 3...

- Some people successfully lure mice away from their living space by providing food (sunflower seeds or dry cereal) and shelter (a box of old towels) in a garage or shed for the winter months.
- Lethal control methods are never suggested for obvious humane reasons but also because you risk the likelihood of killing a mother leaving dependent young dying and smelling in your walls.