

To: Fraser Valley Regional District Board
From: Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: 2018-07-24

Subject: Elizabeth's Wildlife Centre

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board consider authorizing a regional grant-in-aid to Elizabeth's Wildlife Centre in the amount of \$5,000 to support the ongoing efforts of the foundation for 2018;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to bring forward an option for ongoing financial support during 2019 budget discussions.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

BACKGROUND

the FVRD was invited to attend the Elizabeth Wildlife Center (further information on the organization is attached to this report) to see first-hand the work they do in supporting our communities with their emergency management of wildlife and the support they provide for these animals while convalescing. Staff, along with the FVRD Chair and Vice Chair, attended the tour and were suitably impressed with the number of interactions they have with our residents in the Fraser Valley.

The facility runs primarily on the kindness of donors with a couple of corporate donors including the City of Abbotsford.

DISCUSSION

From the numbers indicated above, Elizabeth's Wildlife Center certainly supports our region. Staff in our Animal Care Center confirm they regularly receive calls and refer community members in all our jurisdictions to this center and appreciate their managing the requests referred rather than people showing up to the center with injured animals.

While we have not received a formal request to provide some financial support to this center, staff would like to gauge the board's support for such a consideration.

COST

\$5,000.00



Elizabeth's Wildlife Center was established in 1986, and became a non-profit organization in 1999. Elizabeth Melnick, founder and primary caregiver of the Center, is a qualified registered nurse and wildlife rehabilitator. What first began as a rescue center from her home, expanded into Elizabeth's backyard with construction of aviaries and small housing facilities.

The Center is now a fully functioning, independent facility, capable of handling hundreds of injured/orphaned wild birds and animals. The Center has 4 buildings that serve as care-giving facilities. We have pre-release buildings, and a waterfowl pond for rehabilitation purposes.

Each year we admit over 1000 birds/animals and approximately 50% are fully rehabilitated and released. Each animal that enters our facilities is assessed, given necessary treatment, rehabilitated, and if fully recovered, released to their natural environment. Our goal is to continue our Rehabilitation and Release Program. Our Community Education Program is also an intricate part of the Center.

Tours of the facilities is against government policy. The Center receives over 4,000 phone calls per year with questions regarding situations involving small wildlife that are injured/orphaned. This service is provided during normal business hours, daily from 9 am to 5 pm.

The Center offers a mutually beneficial solution for both animals and humans by providing a permanent and safe place for wildlife to be rehabilitated while at the same time educating the public. This is the only Wildlife Center in the Abbotsford area that provides this service. The Center receives animals from the local police and fire departments, the SPCA, veterinarians and residents of Abbotsford and the Lower Fraser Valley -- serving approximately 200,000 community members. The purpose of the Center is

Elizabeth's Wildlife Center

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THE MALL DOES NOT ALLOW
ANIMALS**

P.O. Box 15015, Sevenoaks
Abbotsford, B.C.
V2S 8P1

**TO DROP ANIMALS OFF FOR CARE
- YOU MUST CALL FOR A
LOCATION**

Open daily 9am-5pm
(604) 852-9173
Call for drop-off location

to preserve wildlife. These invaluable animals, whose natural life cycle has been disturbed by human interaction, would otherwise be euthanized.

We evaluate our success by the number of animals released, education evaluation forms, financial support within the community, the number of phone calls received, and volunteer involvement. Our goal is to increase awareness and knowledge about wild animals.

To reach Elizabeth's Wildlife Center, call (604)852-9173, or [email](#) us.

<http://www.elizabethswildlifecenter.org/>