

Baby woodpeckers and nest saved from tree faller's chainsaw

BY IAN AUSTIN, THE PROVINCE JUNE 17, 2010



Cynthia Brodowski

Photograph by: Jon Murray, PNG, The Province

Five baby woodpeckers are being syringe-fed after their nest was chain-sawed by a Delta faller.

Cynthia Brodowski had been carefully monitoring tree work near her Delsom Crescent home -- fallers are making way for a new park -- when she saw workers headed Tuesday for a tree containing the nest of a northern flicker and her babies.

"I told them, 'There's a nest in that tree,' but he wouldn't stop," said Brodowski. "He was cutting up the tree when I saw him stop and talk to another worker.

"I'm sure he saw the nest."

Brodowski said the workers piled debris to cover their actions, but after they left for the day, Brodowski followed her instincts and went by for a close inspection.

"The mom and dad were on top, looking through the thick pile and calling, out," she said. "As I got closer, I could hear the babies screaming."

Brodowski and a neighbour gingerly extricated the young birds and their nest -- which had been sawed in half -- and transported the birds and nest to the Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. in Burnaby, which is now feeding the motherless birds.

Wildlife rehabilitator Marcy Potter said the birds will be weaned off the syringe in two to three weeks, and will move on to self-feeding on "robin mix" -- berries, worms and egg yolk.

If all goes well, the chicks will be moved outside to acclimatize.

When the time is ripe the peckers will be reintroduced back into the wild.

Brodowski has volunteered to help relocate the birds, and has picked out the perfect spot -- an area of Burns Bog near her home in Delta.

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