

## The Otters Are Home

It was a day to remember, and indeed it will be, since the new denizens are constantly visible. It began with an idea, moved forward by Ed Schillemat and Kelly French, to engage artist Wendy Klemperer to create otter sculptures for the Nelson School (the otter being the school mascot). That began last winter, and the concept was immediately met with strong support. In fact, fundraising was so successful that a fourth otter was able to be added!

The goal was not just to get these otters on the rocks, but to engage the students in awareness of the creative and production process.



*Wendy demonstrates the process to the students who visited her studio a few days before the project was completed.*

The day (Saturday, October 28) began with an excellent pancake breakfast sponsored by the third and fifth grades, and Halloween fun from the Nelson PTO. Student waiters provided top notch service to their customers.

This in turn was the culmination of the school's community week, which saw visits from the local animal sanctuary, the post office, and more.

Nelson School includes students from Sullivan as well, so over breakfast Nelson and Sullivan folks had the opportunity to visit –always a good thing.

After breakfast people gathered outside in the perfect weather.

Nelson's Fire Department was on hand to provide some additional entertainment for the kids. There was some mention of a well-intentioned effort to wash the police cruiser, not realizing that the rear window was slightly open - we'll say no more about that.

Finally the moment came. The otters (under sheets and looking an awful lot like ghosts, as befit the proximity to Halloween) were unveiled by eager groups of students. Principal Nicole Gordon gave some welcoming remarks, and Wendy spoke briefly about her life-long connection to Nelson. She spent childhood summers here at her grandparents' place, where she now has a studio and spends about five months of the year.



Folks were in no hurry to leave. And when they did, it was with the assurance that the school is now well watched over by the Otters, who also cast their gaze in the other direction, to the wetland where their real-life counterparts reside.



Nelson grown produce,  
micro greens  
cut flowers

Jenna and Tyler Rich  
49 Henderson Rd  
Nelson NH 03457  
[partnersgardens.com](http://partnersgardens.com)

*Find us on Facebook and Instagram, and at the Peterborough Farmers' Market Wednesday 3 - 6.*

