

Barrie Bird
Friendly City
Certification
Presented By
Dorothy
McKeown



Our Ask to City Building Committee

Aim: to attain support the following we are looking to achieve:

1. That City Building Committee support the efforts of Nature Canada, and through leadership of Nature Barrie, efforts to become certified as a Bird Friendly City by Nature Canada (e.g., letter of support to Nature Canada as part of our application).
2. That upon certification as a Bird Friendly City, staff be directed to explore partnership opportunities with Nature Barrie in an effort to communicate and celebrate the City's status as a Bird Friendly City.

The following presentation will highlight the rationale for this request and questions are welcome at the end.

Barrie Bird Friendly Team Co-Chairs

Phyllis Tremblay

Work Background:

- Retired RN
 - York County Hospital Newmarket now called South Lake and doctors offices
- Formerly Food services manager
 - St. Joseph's High School

Volunteer Background:

- Nature Barrie Board
 - past President, SwiftWatch coordinator, conservation chair, social convenor, education
- Formerly Brownie Leader at unit district and division level

Dorothy McKeown

Work Background:

- Retired 2021, from Bell Canada
 - finance for cross-Canada customer network hardware maintenance

Volunteer Background:

- Nature Barrie Board
 - past President, formerly Bluebird nest box coordinator
- Past Ontario Nature Board Huronia regional director
- Past Huronia Symphony Orchestra Board
- Simcoe County Historic Association member
- Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)
 - past President

Barrie Bird Friendly Team Members And Member Associations



Jim Coey

- Retired school Principal, Quest Nature Tour Senior Naturalist, Ontario Field Ornithologist (OFO), Nature Barrie Outings Coordinator

Gwen Petreman

- Retired Educator, Children's Book Author and Illustrator, Nature Barrie Education Displays

Darren MacTavish

- TELUS Senior Technology Consultant, Nature Barrie Vice-President

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
(NVCA):



Healthy Watershed, Healthy Communities

Naomi Saunders

- Education at NVCA

Taryn Arsenault

- NVCA Water Biology Expert, representing Friends of Minessing Wetlands

Dr. Kristen Mancuso, Birding Consultant

Matchedash Tiny Marl Conservation Association
(MTM):

Anne McArthur

- Important Bird Area (IBA) Caretaker

Kate Harries

- Past President of MTM, Aware Simcoe member, Return of the Native Nursery Owner, current Ontario Nature Huronia Regional Director



Wild Birds Unlimited:

Kristen Martyn

- Owner/Manager, Bird Friendly Products, Former Field Biologist with MNR



Barrie Hill Farms:

Morris Gervais

- Owner/Manager, Bird Friendly Farm Practices



Simcoe County Environmental Youth Alliance (SCEYA):

Lucy Duncan

- SCEYA Coordinator, Student

SCEYA

Barrie Bird Friendly Team Partners (present and pending)

City of Barrie: Ann-Marie Kungl (Ward 3 Councillor) and Stephanie Wideman (Parks)



CANADA
FLAPP



OISEAUX CANADA

BIRDS CANADA



BARRIE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE



Rotary Club of Barrie





→ Formerly Brereton
Field Naturalist Club
(BFNC)

→ Founded 71 years
ago, in 1951



- Registered charity
- Aims to acquire and share knowledge of natural history, protect and preserve wildlife, and stimulate public interest in nature and its preservation
- Monthly meetings 3rd Friday of the month with guest speakers at Northwest Barrie United Church, (Virtual meetings during Covid)
- Nature walk outings (pre-pandemic)
- 20-50 members, including families and students
- Many projects outlined later or in provided info

Nature Canada Certification Aim

Nature Canada has developed a certification standard to certify eligible cities as a “Bird Friendly City”, to recognize and celebrate the contributions they have made to save bird lives in their municipalities. The goal of certification is to provide local partners with a clear standard that reflects what a city needs to do to make it safe for birds. Certification is a badge of honor and a source of community pride. It tells the world that your city or town does things to help birds and reverse their declines in your own backyard. We are looking towards **World Migratory Bird Day 2022** as a timeline to certify at least thirty eligible Canadian cities as a Bird Friendly City.

Nature Canada Bird Friendly City Certification Video



Reasons for the City of Barrie to Achieve Bird Friendly Certification



- The City of Barrie will be promoted across Canada on the Nature Canada Website as a Bird Friendly City
- Ecotourism-bird watching a booming activity during pandemic. Quiet, clean, non-destructive. People travel, stay near birding sites

Certified Cities in Ontario include: London, Toronto, Burlington, and Hamilton

Pending Certified Cities include: Windsor, Peterborough, Guelph, and

➤ Orillia

The City of Barrie already qualifies for at least entry-level (as long as 3 mandatory criteria are met by the City of Barrie)

Initiatives that help birds help people:

- Birds
 - Insect control help prevent disease in humans, pets, and livestock
 - Insect control preventing crop damage
 - Pollination of Crops
- Trees and Native Plants
 - Healthy ecosystems
 - Combat climate change
 - Filter air and water
 - Prevent extreme weather disasters
 - Soil retention for crops, lower irrigation needs
 - Help fishing and other recreation activities
 - More efficient than manmade water filtration systems
 - Totally organic non polluting
 - Source for most medicines



Why the City of Barrie Qualifies for Certification

Threat Reduction

Measures Taken by the City of Barrie

- Controlled Cats Roaming at Large
 - Animal Control By-Laws
- Reduced Disturbance of Birds from Pets
 - Leash By-Law
 - Chain link fences between residential and natural areas
- Reduced Window Collisions
 - New urban design guidelines including bird-friendly designs
 - Anti-strike measures on new buildings
- Reduced Light Pollution
 - Illumination study aspect in planning and development that included compliance with Dark Sky Policies
- Reduced Pesticide Use
 - Barrie is a Bee City due to Pesticide Reduction Policy
- Reduced Plastic Waste
 - Single use plastics ban
 - Rethink waste on City of Barrie Educational Page
- Reduced Vehicle Collisions by Reducing Vehicles Near Important Bird Habitat Areas
 - Public transit to the Waterfront
 - Increased active transport routes (biking lanes and walking trails on the Waterfront)



Habitat Protection, Restoration and Climate Resiliency

- Natural Areas Protected
 - Plans to increase (separate from recreational area)
- Removal of Invasive Species
 - Invasive phragmites removal by RVH, NVCA, Nature Barrie Phragbusters, Georgian College and City of Barrie, at RVH, Georgian College, and E end Northshore Trail
- City Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Naturalization in Parks and Natural Areas
 - Increase urban tree canopy
- Plant Native Flora on Municipal Lands
 - Boulevard Gardens
 - Communities in Bloom

Habitat Protection, Restoration and Climate Resiliency

- Improve Breeding or Stopover Habitat
 - City of Barrie Adopt-A-Park or Trail Program
 - Rotary Islands: promote fish habitat and a protected area of shallow water for dabbling ducks
 - Gables Park: A designated Natural Urban Park. Improvement to Kempenfelt Bay shoreline to prevent erosion. By City of Barrie and Nature Barrie
 - Minesing Wetlands by NVCA
 - Tiny Marsh – Important Bird Area – MTM, Ducks Unlimited



Bluebird – Barrie Hill Farms



Eastern Bluebird

- Not Significantly Threatened
- population increased substantially in past decades, in part due to successful nest box program
- Eat ground insects

Bird Species	Year	Nests	Eggs	Chicks	Chicks Fledged
Eastern Bluebird	2010	3	14	14	13
	2021	23	78	63	54

Boxes are located near farm crops, back to prevailing winds, small entrance holes on a greased support pole to deter predators (cats, racoons, squirrels)

Currently 80 boxes surrounding Barrie

Tree Swallow



Tree Swallow

- Aerial Forager
- Least Concern
- 1966 – 2014 population down 49% probably due to nesting habitat loss and insect prey loss due to insecticides

Bird Species	Year	Nests	Eggs	Chicks	Chicks Fledged
Tree Swallow	2010	9	38	38	38
	2021	32	201	185	171

Tree swallows love our nest boxes and are our most prolific nesters.

Boxes are also homes for House wrens and Chickadees

Chimney Swifts

- Threatened in Ontario, Endangered in other provinces, example Nova Scotia
- Threatened defined as will become Endangered if steps are not taken to address factors threatening it
- These Swifts use chimneys because hollow trees are no longer available in most areas
- Chimneys used for roosting or nesting are protected by law
- Federal law – Government of Canada’s Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1994
- Provincial law - Endangered Species Act
- Eat 1000s of insects every day!



Unity Christian High School chimney – installing temperature data logger



© David Walsh

Queens Hotel chimney with Chimney Swifts diving down into it

2021 Chimney Swift Survey Statistics & Blitz Counts

- Spring Arrival Date: April 29th
- Departure Date: September 3rd
- 25 chimneys continued to be occupied by swifts
- 81 counts at 5 large roosting chimneys
 - Queen's - Spring & Summer Roost
 - Donaleigh's – Small Roost
 - BCC – Nesting
 - UCHS – Nesting
 - Jail – Nesting and Fall Roost

Results of 2021 National Population Roost Monitoring Blitz Counts

Chimney Location	May 17	May 20	May 26	May 30	June 3	June 7
The Queen's	71	51	150	98	83	68
Donaleigh's	3	1	0	0	0	4
Barrie Central Collegiate	2	1	0	0	0	4
Unity Christian High School	2	2	3	2	1	---
The Jail	2	2	3	3	5	4



Unity Christian High School chimney and camera (putting temperature monitor in)



© David Walsh

Old Jail chimney with Chimney Swifts diving down into it



Saving the Barrie Central Collegiate Chimney

Barrie's SwiftWatch Team 2018



Community Outreach/Education

- Educate public on native plants, animals – City signage, QR code signage
- Nature Barrie
 - sponsors students for Ontario Nature Youth Summit: How to be citizen scientists and community activists, Includes indigenous perspectives on conservation
 - Outings
 - Speakers
 - Christmas bird count
 - CBC4Kids
 - Educational display at events and festivals
- NVCA
- MTM
- Georgian College and Lakehead University
 - Birding workshops and Master Naturalist Course (LU)
- Barrie Hill Farms and Wild Birds Unlimited
 - Promote bird-friendly practices



Birding included in Tourism Barrie Website

E-bird Birding Hot-spots:

- City of Barrie Marine
- Allandale Station Park
- Minet's Point
- Centennial Park
- Dock Road
- Tyndale Park
- Wilkins Beach
- Lackie's Bush
- Little Lake Park
- Spirit Catcher
- North Shore Trail

What Does The City
Of Barrie Need To
Do To Finalize
Certification?



The Proclamation

- Written and sent to Lauren Wild
- Proclamation set for May 9th by Barry Ward, Deputy Mayor
- Events posted on Nature Barrie and Nature Canada Website
- Note: Spirit Catcher by Ron Baird of Beaverton represents a Thunderbird, a mythical creature. In Algonquian/Ojibwe culture the Thunderbird is considered to return from the 4 directions with migratory birds

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www.barrie.ca

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
Mayor's Office
"Committed to Service Excellence"

PROCLAMATION

I, BARRY WARD, Deputy Mayor of the City of BARRIE,

do hereby proclaim

May 14, 2022

as

World Migratory Bird Day

WHEREAS; The theme for World Migratory Bird Day in 2022 is "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night"; and

WHEREAS; Bird populations are in great decline, and their habitats in peril, it is of paramount importance to reduce the impact of light pollution on migrating birds. Artificial light is increasing by 2% per year globally and has profound impacts on many species. Migrating birds can suffer disorientation at night, leading to potentially fatal collisions with buildings, disruption of birds' internal clocks and interference with their ability to complete the arduous long-distance journeys that have occurred across our continent for millennia; and

WHEREAS; Barrie by virtue of its location on the sheltered shores of Kempenfelt Bay, is an important destination for migratory birds that stop off here to feed and rest; and

WHEREAS; The Barrie Bird Friendly Team, Nature Barrie, and Nature Canada invite you to celebrate, discover, and welcome our returning migrating birds, and address the problems that night-time lighting creates for them. Residents and neighbours of this city, young and old, are encouraged to join one of 6 expert-led walks from a network of parks, creeks, and bay areas in Barrie, or by visiting a bird friendly themed display at Lampman park. For more information see www.bfnclub.org, www.birdday.ca, and www.worldmigratorybirdday.org.

THEREFORE, I, Barry Ward, Deputy Mayor of the City of Barrie, do hereby proclaim **May 14, 2022** as "World Migratory Bird Day."



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry Ward".

Barry Ward,
Deputy Mayor

What else is required by the City of Barrie.

- Pass a council resolution supporting our municipality's efforts to be a Bird Friendly City within the first year of certification or letter of support from Acting Mayor. Ann-Marie Kungl has drafted a resolution.
- Include information about Bird Friendly City on the City of Barrie website.



How Can The
City Help Going
Forward?

- City Website
 - Birding hot spots
 - Bird friendly information
 - Education material regarding threats to birds from cats, light pollution, fireworks, window collisions and 'Goose Patrol', and the importance of Kempenfelt Bay for bird migration and tourism
- Reduce Light Pollution
 - Retrofitting standard street lights with down-facing street lighting
- Implementing Bird Friendly Standards for Windows in New Construction
 - Private members bill Rick Glover to amend Ontario Building Code
- Assist with City Wide Public Engagement of Choosing City Bird
- May Include Changing By-Laws
- Think Green In Your Choices
- Plant trees
- Less mowing

Keep up the good work!

Nature Canada Criteria for a Bird Friendly City

Bird Friendly City Rubric Click to Access



Barrie Bird Team Criteria_2022 Master Version 4.20220424.pdf

Our Ask to City Building Committee

We hope that you are supportive of our efforts and ask again, that:

1. The City Building Committee support the efforts of Nature Canada, and through leadership of Nature Barrie, efforts to become certified as a Bird Friendly City by Nature Canada (e.g., letter of support to Nature Canada as part of our application).
2. That upon certification as a Bird Friendly City, staff be directed to explore partnership opportunities with Nature Barrie in an effort to communicate and celebrate the City's status as a Bird Friendly City.



Thank you past and present Mayors, councillors, committee members and all city staff for supporting all our Bird Friendly City team members keep Barrie Bird Friendly, Healthy and a Naturally Wonderful place to call home!!!

Questions?

