
From: Kerry Hill [REDACTED]

Sent: December 9, 2024 9:09 PM

To: City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofkingston.ca>; Stephen, Wendy <wstephen@cityofkingston.ca>; Amos, Don <damos@cityofkingston.ca>; Chaves, Paul <pchaves@cityofkingston.ca>; Cinanni, Vincent <vcinanni@cityofkingston.ca>; Hassan, Jamshed <jhassan@cityofkingston.ca>; Tozzo, Brandon <btozzo@cityofkingston.ca>

Cc: Oosterhof, Gary <goosterhof@cityofkingston.ca>; Osanic, Lisa <losanic@cityofkingston.ca>

Subject: Bird Friendly Certification application to be studied December 10th, EITP

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Would you please forward this email to all members of the EITP committee prior to their meeting on December 10th?

To EITP Committee prior to December 10th meeting:

I am writing regarding the recommendation to the committee to apply for Bird Friendly status as set out by Nature Canada. Kingston lies within the Atlantic Flyway and poses significant threats to both migratory and over-wintering birds.

Threats as outlined in the Nature Canada bird friendly application:

1. window collisions – current evidence belies any attempts to reduce these, apartment towers are being constructed without any requirement to build in bird safe features, downtown near the Inner Harbour and in the east end at Cataraqui/Elevator Bay. Both locations are identified as major locations for migratory birds.
2. outdoor cats, domestic and feral – spayed and neuter program – does this even exist? No access to the document. Last mention in the Whig was 2019.
3. light pollution – towers currently being constructed have bright lights all night long

It is not good enough to continue to remove trees and hedgerows without significant consultation with citizens and established citizen groups concerned with any and all aspects of our natural environment. I can furnish you with a list of these groups, but a good place to start would be the Kingston Climate Justice Coalition (<https://www.facebook.com/climatecoalitionca/>)

Windows are not mentioned in the seven points put forward. With the multiple high rises being constructed in Kingston, there will be many avian lives lost unless developers are required to install bird friendly facades or blinds on windows.

Also not mentioned is recognition and protection of trees, hedgerows, woodlands and wetlands within the city, urban and rural. A case in point – 4085 Bath Rd development will require removal of a mature maple tree in a school yard, and removal of all trees on the south side of Bath Rd to make way for a sanitary sewer pipe to the local pumping station.

Why does the NKT official plan not include parks, community gardens, etc. that would provide bird friendly habitat easily accessible to the public (for their use and education)?

Why is the tower being built at Queen and King lit up with bright white lights at night?

Cataraqui/Elevator Bay and Kingston Inner Harbour are both well recognized migrating bird hotspots. The pair of towers to be constructed at the former, and multiple towers downtown will be sites of many fatalities if developers are not required to build in a bird friendly manner.

I saw no discussion of writing new municipal bylaws that would require new builds to be bird friendly.

The city seems to be heading in a direction away from making itself bird friendly, so I am concerned that this project is simply a catch up to all the other cities in Ontario that have received bird friendly certification since the program began several years ago.

I ask the committee to address how the threats to birds is currently being addressed by the City, and what specific actions will be taken before they apply for this certification.

Thanks for your continued work to make Kingston a thriving city for all that live here.

Kerry Hill

