



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: PLAN2024-062
Meeting Date: November 5, 2024
Title: City of Kawartha Lakes Official Bird
Description: Recommending adoption of City's Official Bird
Author and Title: Mark Jull, Supervisor of Policy Planning

Recommendation(s):

That Report PLAN2024-062 **City of Kawartha Lakes Official Bird**, be received;

That Council of the City of Kawartha Lakes adopt the Osprey as the City's Official Bird;
and,

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting of September 12, 2024, the Committee adopted the following resolution:

EAC2024.044 Number

Moved by: Jamie Morris

Seconded by: Pat Warren

Be it resolved that:

Whereas the Osprey has been a key element in CKL Communications Dept. branding;

And whereas in a recent online poll to determine a Bird of the Year, conducted on the City's Jump In site, the Osprey was, by a large margin, the favourite;

And whereas a number of Ontario cities have chosen an official city bird (the Peregrine Falcon for Hamilton, Belted Kingfisher for Barrie, and Tufted Titmouse for Windsor, for examples);

That CKLEAC recommends the Council of the City of Kawartha Lakes name the Osprey as the City's Official Bird.

Carried.

This report addresses that recommendation.

Rationale:

Bird Friendly City

Kawartha Lakes is a certified Bird Friendly City.

A Bird Friendly City is a community where threats to birds are reduced, nature is restored so native bird populations can thrive, residents are actively engaged in admiring and monitoring local bird populations, and organizations host events to protect birds. When a city is certified as Bird Friendly, it means they've met important standards to keep birds safe. Certification is a badge of honour and a source of community pride.

It tells the world that our city helps birds and is doing its part to stop them from disappearing.

Bird Friendly Kawartha Lakes (BFKL) worked with Nature Canada and the City of Kawartha Lakes to become a certified Bird Friendly City. The BFKL group consists of representatives from the Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee, Kawartha Conservation, Kawartha Land Trust, Fleming College, Kawartha Field Naturalists, Kawartha Wildlife Centre, and Kawartha Bird Control.

The City of Kawartha Lakes received certification as a Bird Friendly City on March 22, 2024.

Bird of the Year

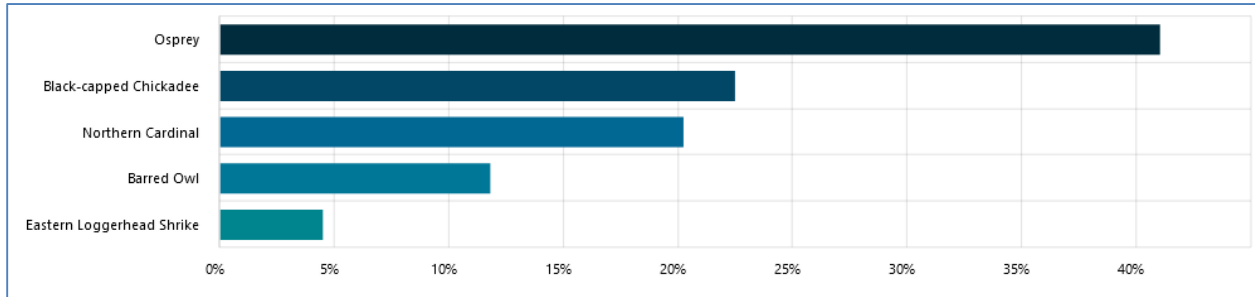
In April 2024, Bird Friendly Kawartha Lakes (BFKL) launched an online poll to determine which favourite species of bird should be declared the official 2024 Kawartha Lakes Bird of the Year. More than 500 participants took part in two rounds of online voting, with the first round of voting narrowing 11 species down to five finalists.

The Osprey soared ahead and took the lead, winning the contest and being declared the official winner.

The Osprey is central to the Kawartha Lakes logo and a common sight to see throughout the municipality. There are Osprey nests perched atop many trees or hydro poles, a sign of efforts made by the community decades ago to ensure the Ospreys made a comeback from dangerously low numbers. Dubbed "Ontario's fishing hawk" the Osprey is always near water, such as the shorelines of large lakes, rivers, and ponds.

According to Thom Luloff, Professor Conservation Biology, Fleming College and BFKL member, "The osprey is a magnificent raptor that symbolizes the natural beauty and rich biodiversity of our region. Its presence near our lakes and rivers highlights the importance of healthy, clean waterways and thriving ecosystems."

The runners-up in the contest were the Black-capped Chickadee, placing second, and the Northern Cardinal, securing third place.



City's Official Bird

With the Osprey named City of Kawartha Lakes' Bird of the Year, the Bird Friendly Kawartha Lakes group brought a recommendation to the City of Kawartha Lakes Environmental Advisory Committee that the Osprey be named the City's Official Bird. Along with the Osprey winning Bird of the Year by a large margin, that the Osprey is central to the City's branding and that other cities haven't chosen their own official city bird, the Environmental Advisory Committee passed a motion on September 12, 2024 to recommend Council formally adopt the Osprey as the Official Bird of the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Other Alternatives Considered:

A number of other birds were included in the public poll, but the Osprey won out by a large margin.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

Declaring the osprey the City's Official Bird supports the Strategic Plan's priority for a Healthy Environment as it highlights the natural beauty and rich biodiversity of the City. Supporting the interconnectedness of nature helps develop an exceptional quality of life. Naming the osprey as the City's Official Bird follows a public voting initiative; democratic engagement is inherent Good Governance.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no financial impacts.

Consultations:

None

Attachments:

None

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Department Head: Leah Barrie, Director of Development Services

Department File: N/A