

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: March 27, 2024

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR C. CASSAR.....

City of Hamilton, Bird Friendly City

WHEREAS, Hamilton is the home to many bird populations, including along migratory paths, who rely on its natural features including the Hamilton Harbour, lakes, ponds, marshes, creeks, and other natural waterways, forested greenspace, Greenbelt lands, and many other natural habitats for their survival;

WHEREAS, the Bird Friendly City program by Nature Canada provides recognition to municipalities that have worked to save bird lives and provides a framework for continual improvement, with the opportunity to earn higher levels of certification;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton has currently achieved an “Entry” status as a bird friendly city after taking initial steps, in 2022 and 2023, including naming the peregrine falcon the City’s official bird;

WHEREAS, in order to eventually achieve an “Intermediate” or “High” ranking as a bird friendly city, like Burlington, Guelph, London, Toronto, and Windsor have achieved, City Council must pass a resolution;

WHEREAS Hamilton is located within the Atlantic Flyway migration corridor and is one of the most biodiverse regions in Canada;

WHEREAS Hamilton borders three IBAs (Important Bird Areas) and, as a result, we have a duty to be responsible stewards of the land, air, water, flora, and fauna;

WHEREAS around 280 bird species use the area each year, including several Species at Risk; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2022, the City of Burlington put forward a similar motion that was passed by its City Council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That City Council supports Hamilton being certified as an “Intermediate” or “High” Bird Friendly City by Nature Canada as nominated by the Bird Friendly Hamilton Burlington group; and
- (b) That City staff, as determined by the City Manager, be directed to report back on the additional actions identified by the Bird Friendly Hamilton Burlington group to support the City’s Bird Friendly City “Intermediate” or “High” certification by Q4 2024.