

Tree destruction impacts wildlife

Re: Trees under heritage assessment chopped without permit in Kanata North, June 19. *June 20'14 C4*

The destruction of a valuable wood lot by developers in Kanata is devastating. Not only is it a significant loss to the community as a potential place for passive recreation, the trees cut down will mean increased storm water run-off and poorer air quality.

But, there is an unseen side — the very negative impact this has on wild birds and mammals when they are most vulnerable: the nesting season. They are struggling to care for their young and many, still in the nest, could not escape the chainsaws.

Regardless of what charges are laid or how large the fines, it will not replace this forest, at least anytime soon.

This is not the first time this sort of thing has happened, nor will it be the last, unless

changes are made in how the city handles its land planning affairs. There needs to be a long overdue site alteration bylaw put in place. But, of greater importance, the city needs to take much more direct control in assessing and continuing to monitor, at regular intervals, lands proposed for development.

It makes no sense to have turned this responsibility over to developers and their consultants and expect that they will be inclined to fully identify the natural features and/or wildlife in reports that will limit the company's ability to develop a property.

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