

February 24, 2015

Review of draft Wildlife Protection Protocol during Construction ~ City of Ottawa

Dear Councillor Leiper,

I am writing as a resident of Kichisipi ~ Ottawa to recommend that you and fellow councillors support the proposed *Protocol for Protecting Wildlife during Construction* in our city. Such a protocol is long overdue for respecting and preserving fellow flora and fauna in their habitats within the urban-suburban areas in Ottawa.

I have seen many new infill developments taking place during all seasons of the year in my Westboro neighborhood without consideration for wildlife. This has resulted in significant losses in trees and wildflowers. Each tree provides shelter and food for resident and migrating birds, and mammals, and for countless forms of insect life.

These losses in the diversity of life in our urban and suburban places make us poorer rather than richer. Most of us, given the choice, would not want to live in places of concrete and flat expanses of asphalt without plants, animals and wild places. The proposed *Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction* would help to enrich our daily lives by conserving wildlife and natural habitats. This gives us opportunities to get to know the varied lives of plants and animals around our residences and along our streets.

A visitor last autumn from London, England, who lived in an inner-city neighborhood, was excited to see squirrels as we walked along my neighborhood streets. He said there were not many wild creatures near his London apartment. We also watched with fascination a Monarch Butterfly sipping nectar on native purple asters, fuelling-up for the long journey to its wintering place in the mountain fir forests near Michoacán, Mexico. We wished this and fellow Monarch Butterflies well for their flight South.

These kinds of uplifting experiences in our neighborhoods depend on people and their City government supporting innovative protocols and policies for protecting, preserving and creating natural habitats for wildlife.

Once again, please support the proposed protocol for protecting wildlife and their habitats during construction. We now have a growing body of knowledge, experience and tools for practising the best forms of planning for wildlife and people, and for persons who work in construction businesses.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Lorne Peterson  
Kichisipi ~ Westboro ~ Ottawa

cc: Amy MacPherson, City Planner,  
David Chernushenko, Chair of Environment Committee,  
interested residents, and naturalist, wildlife, conservation groups