

City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road,
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 3P4

March 17, 2023

We the undersigned support Mayor West's resolution and endorse Richmond Hill becoming a certified Bird-friendly City through Nature Canada.

Benefits of Birds

Besides the joy of watching and listening to birds there are many benefits they provide to human kind. Some of the services include pollinating plants, dispersing seeds, cleaning up carrion and controlling insects. They are early indicators of environmental hazards and have inspired inventions such as the plane and the zipper. Birds support the economy through people purchasing bird food and equipment. Birders will travel distances in pursuit of them. Birds feed us, their feathers keep us warm and they connect us to nature.

Protecting Bird Populations

There are simple things people can do to help bird populations such as planting native plants, avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides, making windows safer to prevent collisions, using less plastic, participating in citizen science and enhancing bird habitat in yards and urban parks.

Community Support

Nineteen municipalities have been certified Bird Friendly by Nature Canada. These include the adjacent municipalities of King Township and the City of Toronto. Vaughan passed a Member's Resolution June 18, 2022 to endorse the City's efforts to become a Bird-friendly City through Nature Canada.

There is already community support in Richmond Hill for the establishment of a Bird Team. A number of residents have approached City staff questioning whether the city will become certified. A Bird-friendly City will complement existing programs such as the Monarch Pledge and Bee City initiative. This is a feel-good program that will encourage community engagement.

Sincerely,

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