



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES, ON, 26TH CERTIFIED BIRD FRIENDLY CITY IN CANADA AWARDED BY NATURE CANADA

**Unceded Algonquin Territory - Ottawa, ON | May 22, 2024**

For International Day of Biological Diversity, Nature Canada is happy to announce that the City of Kawartha Lakes, ON is the 26th municipality in Canada to become [Bird Friendly City Certified](#), at Entry level (50% of eligible points awarded).

Birds play essential roles in our environments as indicator species. Their population declines can signal broader ecosystem shifts and represent the negative impacts of urbanization, biodiversity loss and climate change. Canadian municipalities of all sizes need to act now, and with their community, to protect, defend and restore their local bird populations for future generations to come. [The City of Kawartha Lakes and their local Bird Team](#) is really moving the dial to protect, defend, and restore their local bird populations through a variety of policies, practices and community engagement and citizen science initiatives.

The [Bird Friendly City of Kawartha Lakes \(BFKL\) Team](#) has hosted a variety of Bird Friendly Workshops this past fall for all ages at the local Bobcaygeon and Fenelon Falls library branches to educate community members on actions they can take at home to help birds like providing natural habitat through native planting and creating nest boxes to reducing light pollution and mitigating bird-window collisions. The City of Kawartha Lakes is also home to the Carden Plain Couchiching Conservancy with [Bluebird Ranch Nature Reserve](#). Learn more about their work [here](#).

### Quotes:

"We are thrilled that Nature Canada has awarded us Entry Level Bird Friendly City Certification! It is a recognition of the commitment to a Healthy Environment expressed in our Strategic Plan and the bird conservation efforts of many organizations within our municipality. Along with our Bird Friendly City neighbours, City of Peterborough and Selwyn Township, we look forward to continuing this important work." – Pat Warren, Councillor, Ward 2, City of Kawartha Lakes

"Becoming a certified Bird-Friendly City is not just a title; it's a significant milestone for our community," shared Thomas Luloff, who represents the Bird Friendly Kawartha Lakes (BFKL) team. "It underscores our commitment to environmental stewardship and highlights our dedication to preserving the natural beauty and biodiversity that makes Kawartha Lakes so unique. But our journey doesn't end here. As we celebrate this achievement, we also look forward to exciting new initiatives." – Thom Luloff, Bird Friendly Kawartha Lakes Team Member



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Nature Canada's [Bird Friendly City Certification program](#) encourages communities to take action to:

- reduce the number of human-related threats to birds such as roaming cats, the use of pesticides, and glass treatment on buildings with large windows;
- create safe environments for birds by promoting stewardship and ensuring that natural habitats are protected and restored;
- engage and educate citizens about the benefits of Bird Friendly Cities and celebrating birds in our communities.

Nature Canada is pleased to acknowledge the support of Environment and Climate Change Canada for the Bird Friendly City program and World Migratory Bird Day.

*Nature Canada is Canada's voice for nature. For 80 years, Nature Canada has helped protect over 110 million acres of parks and wildlife areas in Canada and countless species. Today, Nature Canada represents a network of over 175,000 members and supporters and more than 1,200 nature organizations.*

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For more information about **Kawartha Lakes Bird Friendly Certification** please contact:  
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