



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Resolution to Trumpeter Swan as the Municipal Bird
TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Councillor Paul Sharman, Ward 5
Date to Council: November 14, 2023

Motion for Council to Consider:

WHEREAS Burlington was certified by Nature Canada as a Bird Friendly City in April 2022, with re-certification required every 2 years;

WHEREAS Nature Canada's criteria for Bird Friendly Cities include the selection of an official City Bird through a public engagement process, with the result endorsed by council;

WHEREAS The Trumpeter Swan was chosen as Burlington's City Bird through a public engagement process conducted by Bird Friendly Hamilton Burlington from December 2021 to March 2022;

WHEREAS The Trumpeter Swan's special connection to Burlington played a pivotal role in its recovery from extirpation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Trumpeter Swan be identified as Burlington's official City Bird; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated with Bird Friendly Hamilton Burlington.

Reason:

The designation of the Trumpeter Swan as Burlington's Official Bird contributes to the continued recognition of the City as a certified "Bird Friendly City" by Nature Canada. The "Official Bird" selection process was conducted by Bird Friendly Hamilton Burlington

through a public poll in early 2022 with the trumpeter swan, northern cardinal and black-capped chickadee coming in first, second, and third place respectively.

The Trumpeter Swan is the largest swan species in the world. Once extirpated from eastern Canada, the population of the Trumpeter Swan has recovered to self-sustaining levels thanks to the efforts of the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program, which was established in the early 1980's. The efforts of the program led to Pig Pen, the first Trumpeter Swan to nest in Ontario in over 200 years, reestablishing the migration route of Trumpeter Swans to Burlington in 1993. The recovery of the Trumpeter Swan is one of Ontario's greatest conservation success stories.

LaSalle Park is now home to over 100 Trumpeter Swans from December to March and has a dedicated group of volunteers from Trumpeter Swan Conservation Ontario that work tirelessly towards the continued conservation and restoration of the species. The Trumpeter Swan's significance to Burlington's history and the City's continued role in the species' recovery make it a meaningful and appropriate choice for City Bird.

Outcome Sought:

Seeking council support for the resolution to officially designate the Trumpeter Swan as Burlington's City Bird, in line with Nature Canada's criteria and the community's choice. This designation not only enhances Burlington's status as a Bird Friendly City but also strengthens our commitment to wildlife conservation and celebration of the natural beauty and biodiversity of our city.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

(check those that apply)

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, Ward 1

Share with Senior Staff

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: This item only requires a political resolution of Council, therefore a staff report is not required.

City Manager: Staff have reviewed the motion memorandum and determined that no additional reporting is required.