

Update from Bird Friendly Uxbridge



BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY
UXBRIDGE
TOWNSHIP

Presentation to Council November 25th

Carly Davenport

Canada's birds need our help!

In 50 years, North American migratory bird populations have declined by 3 billion

Birds are sensitive to environmental changes and can be used as overall indicators of ecosystem health

Rapid declines in populations, like we are witnessing now, signal the need for urgent conservation action!

Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City Program

Last month we joined 30 other municipalities that have been Bird Friendly City Certified across Canada.

Alongside Sarnia, Cornwall and Kitchener, Nature Canada proudly announced the **Township of Uxbridge** is now certified at the entry-level in a national press release that went out November 18th

Certification is based on efforts addressing:

1

Threat Reduction

Reduce threats to birds through educational and regulatory measures to create more opportunities for birds to survive and thrive.

2

Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency

Factor in the well-being of birds and communities when planning urban development projects to ensure that habitat conservation and restoration are prioritized.

3

Community Outreach and Education

Officially recognizing and celebrating days like World Migratory Bird Day will allow communities to celebrate birds and the diverse places they call home.

Spring 2024 World Migratory Bird Day with NDN:

NEWS

'Protect insects to protect birds': Uxbridge celebrates World Migratory Bird Day

Individuals can help protect bird population



Lights Out Uxbridge campaign:

A poster for the 'Lights Out Uxbridge' campaign. The background is a dark blue night sky with white stars. The text is in white. At the top, it says 'Lights Out Uxbridge' in a large font. Below that, it says 'Join our local movement to provide safe passage for migratory birds'. Then, 'Let's reduce light pollution in Uxbridge Township by turning off unnecessary lights at night during fall migration.' followed by 'Sept 25th to Oct 25th'. Below that, 'Homes, businesses, farms, and schools can participate by signing up using our form!'. At the bottom left, it says 'Sign up at:' followed by a QR code.

Lights Out Uxbridge

Join our local movement to provide safe passage
for migratory birds

Let's reduce light pollution in Uxbridge
Township by turning off unnecessary lights at
night during fall migration.

Sept 25th to Oct 25th

Homes, businesses, farms, and schools
can participate by signing up using our
form!

Sign up at: 

- Avoid over-lighting with new LED lighting (<3000K)
- Downshield essential exterior lighting
- Turn off interior lighting
- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Install motion sensors wherever possible

Lights Out Uxbridge is run by Bird Friendly Uxbridge, and is an initiative to help us achieve Bird Friendly City certification.



Advocate to keep rodenticide out of the environment:

Protect Great Horned Owls from Secondary Rodenticide Exposure in Durham Region



Started

March 6, 2024

16,818

Signatures

25,000

Next Goal

 Support now



Protect Great Horned Owls from Secondary Rodenticide Exposure in...

 Share on Facebook

 [Send an email to friends](#)

 [Send a message via WhatsApp](#)

Devote our time to community science projects:

eBird Canada



Project Nestwatch



Christmas Bird Count



Project FeederWatch

Partnered with a local business to bring bird-friendly coffee to Uxbridge:



**Treat our homes to
prevent window
collisions and provide
native habitat:**



Developed print outreach material:

Bird-friendly action #3: Reduce lawn, plant native!

Bird-friendly native plant suggestions for North Durham

you know that migratory bird species in North America have experienced net population declines of 29% since 1970? In response to this shocking figure Cornell Ornithology developed 7 simple tips we can do to help birds. Number 3 on this list is 'reduce lawn, plant native'. Bird Friendly Uxbridge volunteer team would like to help you out if you're curious to get started, here are some great suggestions of what you can plant in your yard to provide food and habitat for the birds!

Tall sunflower
Helianthus giganteus

Pale purple coneflower
Echinacea pallida

Grass-leaved goldenrod
Euthamia graminifolia

Cardinal flower
Lobelia cardinalis

Cup plant
Siphium perfoliatum

Wild thistle
Leucanthemum discolor

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Want to learn more? Check out Bird Friendly Uxbridge on Facebook at <https://naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/bfc/>

Bird-friendly action #7: Watch birds, share what you see!

Participate in community science

There are many ways to contribute observations through various different organizations. Observations are entered into the projects and used to inform research and conservation policy. Here are some of Bird Friendly Uxbridge's suggestions:

Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas
Next season is the final year for Atlas Three!

Global Bird Collision Mapper
Fall migration is coming soon, if you witness a bird-window collision please document it on the GBCCM.

Uxbridge Christmas Bird Count
This is an annual count, and don't worry, it doesn't take place on Christmas Day. To participate reach out to North Durham Nature Club VP Derek Connolly.

Project FeederWatch
This is a fun project to take part in over the winter if you have a habitat or a bird feeder you can watch from a window.

Beginner to expert, all observations are valuable. Being a community scientist does not require any qualifications, just curiosity and enthusiasm.

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Bird-friendly Uxbridge

Even simple actions to help birds

Make windows safer, day and night
Have you ever heard the thud of a bird colliding with a window on your house? These collisions are more common than we realize, accounting for millions of bird deaths in North America each migration. Consider treating your windows with Feather Friendly*, you're interested in learning more, FLAP Canada has been working on the issue of bird-window collisions for the past 30 years, check out flap.org. And at night during peak migration periods and the summer you can do your part by turning off non-essential lighting. Take part in 'Lights Out Uxbridge' which is a voluntary pledge each spring and fall.

Keep cats indoors
Canada, cats kill 100-350 million birds a year. And did you know that indoor cats live six times longer than outdoor cats? By not allowing your cat to roam free, you protect them, save bird lives, and help control the spread of pathogens.

Reduce lawn, plant natives
Inoculate turf grass does not contribute to biodiversity. Why not make your lawn a thriving habitat that you can enjoy? To get some suggestions on what to plant to help the birds, check our guide!

Avoid pesticides
If you know the Province of Ontario has banned the cosmetic use of pesticides? This is to protect our own health as well as that of the birds, mammals, amphibians, and arthropods.

Drink coffee that's good for the birds
If coffee is grown in ways that aren't always sustainable. Consider choosing a shade-grown, organic, and fair-trade certified bird friendly coffee!

Protect our planet from plastics
This is an action we are all familiar with by now. Choose plastic-free packaging as much as possible and avoid single-use plastics.

Watch birds, share what you see
Participate in community science! There are many ways to contribute observations, through the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, Project FeederWatch, Project NestWatch, the local Christmas Bird Count with North Durham Nature Club, Nocturnal Owl Sunrises, iBirdWatch, and the list goes on. Beginner to expert, all observations count.

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Bird-friendly action #3: Make windows safer!

Guidelines for bird-window collision deterrent

Although there are many products on the market that claim to stop birds from hitting windows, many do not live up to their promises. Fortunately, by following a few simple guidelines, you can choose an effective option to avoid hearing that dreaded thud!

Key to stopping birds from flying into windows is to make the entire window like a barrier to birds. You can do this by applying dense patterns of markings (dots, squares, lines, etc.) to the side of your window. To be most effective, markings must meet these criteria:

- Markings must cover the entire window surface**
- Each marking must be no smaller than 6mm or 1/4 inch in diameter. Whether using dots or lines.**
- Markings must be high contrast, light coloured markings on dark tones or dark coloured markings on windows.**
- Markers must be in a dense pattern, with no gaps greater than 5cm by 5cm inches by 2 inches.**
- Markers must be on the outside of glass, the inside! This is essential to break up reflective property of glass.**
- Markers must be high contrast, light coloured markings on dark tones or dark coloured markings on windows.**

Whether you choose to use a commercial product such as Feather Friendly or do-it-yourself methods with oil-based paint markers, make sure you follow these simple guidelines so that your treatment will be effective!

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BIRD FRIENDLY CITY

The Bird Friendly Uxbridge Volunteer Team
Uxbridge has joined the growing movement of bird-friendly cities across Canada, thus pursuing certification in Nature Canada's Bird Friendly City program. We are a volunteer team, and welcome any new members! If you are interested in joining, please email carlyandavensport@gmail.com

What are the main threats birds face?

- Cats**
Roaming cats account for up to 75% of all bird deaths in Canada
- Collisions**
25 million birds in Canada die annually from colliding with glass. 90% of those collisions are caused by residential homes
- Loss of habitat**
Human expansion and development sprawl is greatly reducing breeding habitat

Why certification?
Certification provides a clear standard of what a community needs to do to make it safe for birds and allows for performance assessment over time.

- Badge of honour and source of community pride**
- Access to small grants through Nature Canada program**
- Ecotourism - Uxbridge as a birding destination**
- Be a part of a network of Bird Friendly Cities across Canada**
- Discounted Feather Friendly bird-window collision deterrent**

Want to learn more? Check out Bird Friendly Uxbridge on Facebook or visit <https://naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/bfc/>

Social media education campaigns:

**KEEP CATS SAFE.
SAVE BIRD LIVES.
BUILD HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES.**



Want to learn more?

Scroll through →

No-roam bylaws improve the welfare of cats, protect biodiversity and are important from a public health perspective.

If you are a pet-owner, consider keeping your cat indoors.



**PREVENT CONFLICTS
WITH WILDLIFE.
KEEP YOUR DOG ON A
LEASH.**



**SLOW DOWN,
STAY ALERT,
AVOID DRIVING AT
NIGHT WHEN POSSIBLE.**



Uxbridge Farmers' Market community table:



**Collaborated with
Native Plants in
Claremont to do
an outreach day:**

BIRD FRIENDLY OUTREACH DAY

**THURS AUG 22
10-3 PM
AT NATIVE PLANTS
IN CLAREMONT**



**BIRD FRIENDLY
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Native Plants
IN CLAREMONT
PERENNIALS, SHRUBS & GRASSES



SWIPE!



Represented Uxbridge at Durham Region Climate Roundtable:

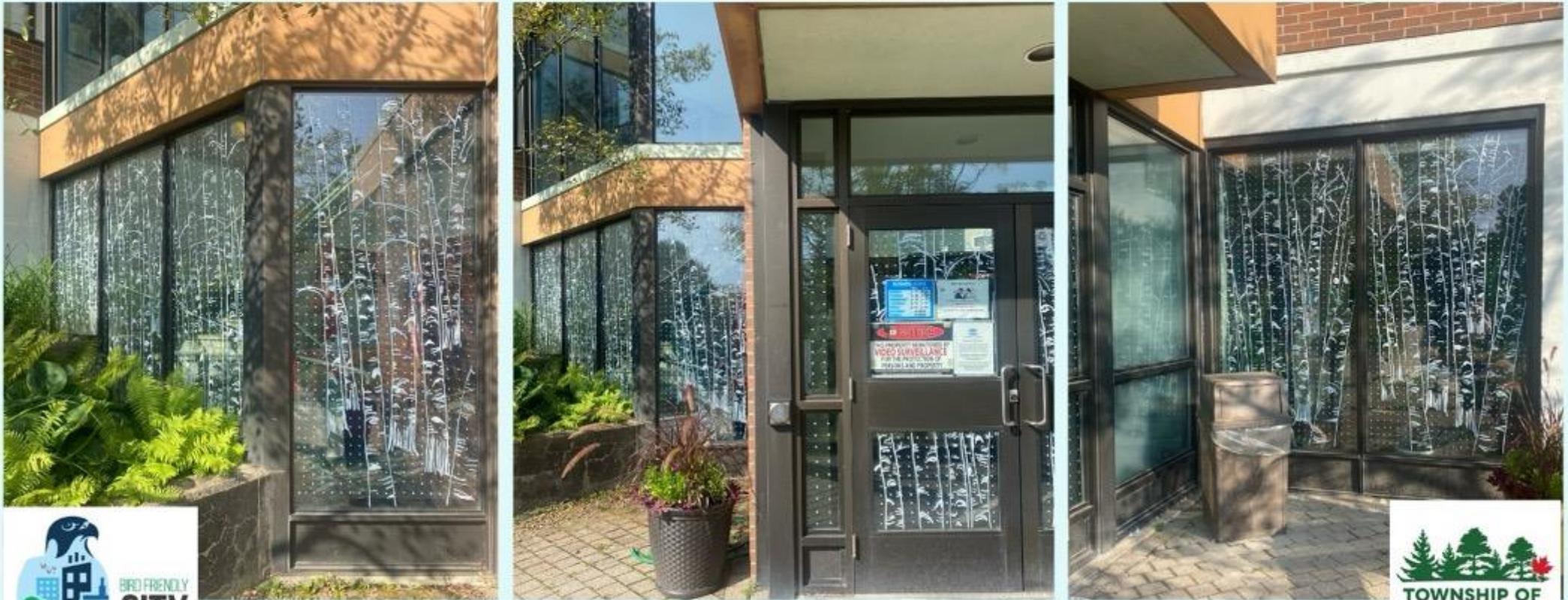


Volunteered with the Brook Never Sleeps event:



Designed and donated a mural:

Bird Friendly Windows at Town Hall



Thank you Bird Friendly Uxbridge!



What went into preparing application:

15 hours of meeting time

14 hours at Uxbridge Farmers' market

13 hours Brook Never Sleeps (meetings, prep, actual day)

12 hours drafting application and compiling appendix

10 hours for mural (including prep)

9 hours of researching and drafting letters

6 hours of graphic design

6 hours Durham Climate Roundtable

6 hours Outreach Day at Native Plants in Claremont

6 hours World Migratory Bird Day (including prep)

3 hours emailing

Total 100 hours

We will need Municipal support to maintain this certification:

- Program visibility on Township of Uxbridge website
- Permanent bird-window collision deterrent treatment of a municipal building
- Policy to reduce light pollution
- Support with our education campaigns
- Tree bylaw
- Prohibit active vegetation management on municipal land during nesting season
- Public displays spreading awareness of the benefits of bird friendly actions

Thank you!



@birdfriendlyuxbridge



Bird Friendly Uxbridge



carlyanndavenport@gmail.com



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