

Memo



To: Melinda Bessey, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
From: Kate Roper, Dillon Consulting Limited
Christie Cestra, Dillon Consulting Limited
cc: Joel Doherty, HIP Developments Inc.
Date: September 10, 2019
Subject: Barrie Central Collegiate Development - Species at Risk Screening
Our File: 16-4873

1. Introduction

Dillon Consulting Limited (Dillon) has been retained by HIP Developments Inc. (HIP) to complete a Species at Risk (SAR) Screening for the proposed Barrie Central Collegiate development, located along the western side of Bradford Street, south of Dunlop Street West, in the City of Barrie, Ontario (refer to attached Schematic Site Plan). A SAR Screening of the proposed development area (the Site) was requested by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA; email correspondence, August 15, 2019) in lieu of an Environmental Impact Study due to the potential for species at risk to occur within the Site.

As per the City of Barrie's Official Plan (2018), Environmental Protection Areas are defined in section 4.7.2.1 as those lands that include "*significant habitat of threatened and endangered species*" (among other features). Further, as per policy 4.7.2.3 (a), "*Development and site alteration in...the significant habitat of threatened and endangered species is contrary to the Provincial Policy Statement and will not be considered...*".

For the purposes of this SAR Assessment, the species included are those listed as Endangered (END) or Threatened (THR) under the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List (Ontario Regulation 230/08) of the provincial *Endangered Species Act* (ESA), last amended July 1, 2019.

Note that the lands located between Dunlop Street West and the proposed new municipal road (as shown on the attached Schematic Site Plan) were previously owned by HIP and are referred to herein as the adjacent lands.

2. Methodology

The information contained in this memo is based primarily on existing published data and data made publically available through various public agencies at the time of the SAR screening preparation. The SAR Screening background review included the Site and surrounding lands within 120 meters to obtain a list of potential SAR in the general area of the Site. A field investigation was undertaken by a Dillon biologist in 2016 to determine the potential for SAR to occur within the Site and the adjacent lands. One SAR, Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), was known to occur in the chimney of the Barrie Central

Collegiate building located within the adjacent lands. Chimney Swift surveys of this chimney were therefore also undertaken in 2017 and 2018.

3. SAR Screening Information Sources

The following information sources were reviewed to identify the SAR that may have the potential to occur within the Site:

- Mammals of the Western Hemisphere (Patterson et al. 2007);
- MNRF Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC; Land Information Ontario, 2019);
- MNRF Regulated Habitat (*O. Reg. 242/08*);
- Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas (OBBA; Cadman et al. 2017);
- Ontario Christmas Bird Count (Birds Canada, 2014-2018)
- Ontario Butterfly Atlas (Toronto Entomologists Association, 2019);
- Ontario Odonata Atlas (MNRF, 2019); and,
- Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (Ontario Nature, 2019).

3.1. Identification of Potential SAR Habitat

Following the identification of potential provincial SAR from the background review, an assessment of their potential to occur within the Site and the adjacent lands was conducted. This assessment was based on the habitat preferences and requirements for each SAR, the natural heritage features identified within the Site and the adjacent lands through secondary source background mapping, and the results of the 2016-2018 field investigations.

3.2. SAR Screening Results

Based on the secondary source background search and potential habitat identified within the Site and the adjacent lands (buildings), the following SAR were identified as having the potential to occur within/directly adjacent to the site:

- Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*; THR);
- Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*; THR);
- Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; END);
- Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*; END);
- Little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*; END); and,
- Eastern Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis leibii*; END).

A field investigation was undertaken in 2016 to determine the potential for SAR to occur within the Site and the adjacent lands. No Barn Swallow or Barn Swallow nests were observed within the Site and the adjacent lands and no suitable bat habitat was identified. In addition, no suitable Chimney Swift habitat was identified, with the exception of the Barrie Central Collegiate building chimney previously known to provide habitat for this species. Chimney Swift surveys of the Barrie Central Collegiate chimney were undertaken in 2017 and 2018 and the species was confirmed to be present. Note that the chimney is currently located on lands owned by the City of Barrie, and not on lands owned by HIP. It is our

understanding that the City of Barrie will be relocating the chimney within the next 12-18 months to another City-owned parcel of land. No other SAR has been identified within/adjacent to the Site.

Impacts to species at risk and/or the habitat of species at risk are not anticipated as a result of the proposed development within the Site (i.e. on lands owned by HIP).

4. Conclusion

A SAR Screening of the Site was requested by the LSRCA due to the potential for species at risk to occur. As presented in this memo, habitat of threatened and endangered species does not exist within the Site. As a result, the Site does not contain lands defined as Environmental Protection Areas, and policy 4.7.2.3 (a) does not apply.

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