

Wildlife Management Plan for the Historic Buildings Block of the Booth Street Complex

**Draft Report
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Submitted To:

Mary Jarvis
Canada Lands Company
Suite 601 – 30 Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, ON
K1P 5L4

KILGOUR & ASSOCIATES LTD.
2285C St. Laurent Boulevard, Unit 16
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1G 4Z6
Canada
T:613.260.5555
F: 877.260.4420
www.kilgourassociates.com
Project Number: CKC638



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kilgour & Associates Ltd. (KAL) was retained by the Canada Lands Company to develop three separate reports related to the protection of natural heritage elements present or potentially present within a one-block area of the Booth Street Complex in Ottawa, prior to any redevelopment of that area. This report is the wildlife management plan for that property.

2.0 PROPERTY INFORMATION

The subject block within the Booth Street complex is a highly developed, highly disturbed industrial area. Vegetation on the site is limited to small, ornamental trees planted within gravel beds or planters, a few small shrubs along building edges, and some very narrow fringes of mowed lawn around three edges of the block. None of the grassed areas are more than 2 m in width and they are bounded on both sides by paved sidewalks and roadways, or industrial buildings. The potential for wildlife on site is limited.

3.0 WILDLIFE ON SITE

Only limited numbers of animal species common to and tolerant of suburban environments may occur on site.

3.1 Birds

Three rounds of morning bird surveys were completed on site in June 2017. Birds observed there are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Bird species observed on site during site bird surveys in June and July, 2016.

Common Name	Species	Behaviour
American Crow	<i>Corvus branchyrhynchos</i>	Transiently present in the area but no nests apparent on site
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorus</i>	Transiently present in the area but no nests apparent on site
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Transiently present in the area but no nests apparent on site
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Transiently present in the area but no nests apparent on site
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Fly over
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	In the area but no nests directly observed on site. Nesting may be possible in Building 5
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Fly over
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Transiently present in the area but no nests apparent on site

All of the birds observed on or near the site are common, urban species. With the exception of Rock Doves (i.e. pigeons), it is highly unlikely that almost any of the observed birds actually reside on site. No nests were observed on the outside of any site buildings or within any site trees. It is possible however, that pigeons could be roosting within site buildings, or in nooks on the building roofs out of site. Pigeons however, were only observed in very small numbers (i.e. one bird on each of two occasions near the edge

of the site) and none were ever observed emerging from the buildings. Pigeons are not protected under any legislation.

3.2 Bats

Night surveys were conducted by KAL biologist Anthony Francis. On ten nights in June 2017, Dr. Francis visited the site to look for bats, Chimney Swifts and Common Nighthawks. The first six surveys (June 7, 8, 9, 11, 11, 12 and 13) each lasted half an hour to forty-five minutes. They were conducted at varying times, starting as early as sunset and as late as 02:00. During the surveys, Dr. Francis would slowly walk around the perimeter of the site several times, listening for and recording bat calls using an Echo Touch ultrasonic bat microphone. On three occasions, he recorded Big Brown Bats, always along Rochester St. (once at the north end, once at the south end, and once along the middle of the block). These bat observations were all made during surveys conducted after 11:30 pm, i.e. long after the bats would have emerged from their roosting locations. In each instance, the calls were only recorded over a very brief period (less than one minute) and suggested only a single bat was present.

The final four surveys (June 14, 16, 18 ,19) were conducted starting at sunset. During these surveys, Dr. Francis station himself near the locations where the Big Brown Bats had been recorded (one each night, with the last survey station along the east side of the site). During the surveys, he watched the buildings there, sweeping them with a spotlight, to note any emerging bats. One hour after sunset, he circled the entire block twice, again listening and watching for bats. No bats were ever observed emerging from any building or were recorded at any time during these surveys.

The bat survey results suggest that the Big Brown Bats observed on site were not resident within any of the site buildings. Those observed were considered to be transients, roosting in other locations within the broader vicinity.

3.3 Other Mammals

No other mammals were observed on site. The extremely limited treescape there does not provide sufficient habitat space to support even common urban arboreal species (e.g. squirrels). The grounds of the site are almost entirely hardened (i.e. paved) such that the potential for groundhog or other similar species presence is negligible. Rats or other vermin may be possible within the buildings but those species would not be protected.

4.0 WILDLIFE MITIGATIONS

While no wildlife is anticipated on site, the following standard wildlife protection protocols should still be implemented during construction for due diligence to ensure no impacts to site fauna.

- For work commencing after April 2018, a biologist must inspect buildings prior their demolition to identify any new wildlife issues (e.g., hibernating animals or nursing mothers and their young, etc.) and to inform or adjust mitigation plans as needed. This mitigation is aimed primarily at, but is not necessarily limited to, the presence of Big Brown Bats on site. While no Big Brown Bats are currently considered to be resident on site, they do occur in the vicinity and frequently roost in old buildings. Bat rooting/hibernation areas are most sensitive during the months of June, and

November through April. Outside these periods, bats can be safely removed by a qualified pest management company if present.

- Tree clearing should be planned to not occur April 1 and August 15. Prior to any tree clearing within this period, a biologist must first confirm the absence of nesting species. All nest searches must be conducted within four days of site clearing. If active nests are present, tree clearing must be postponed until after all nestlings have fledged.
- Areas to be cleared are to be pre-stressed to encourage wildlife to move away from a site prior to the onset of construction. Methods of pre-stressing include having one or more people walk the site while talking loudly or playing loud music, or placing pieces of cloth or other objects that carry a strong human scent into animal dens. Common pre-construction activities, such as surveying, or installing protective fencing, can contribute to pre-stressing.
- Contractors and other on-site workers are to be briefed on appropriate measures to reduce human-wildlife conflict during the work. Those measures must also be provided on a laminated handout to be kept on the site for review. Measures/information should include:
 - General provisions – e.g., do not harm, feed or unnecessarily harass wildlife; drive slowly and avoid hitting wildlife where possible; keep site tidy and secure;
 - Contact information for:
 - Project biologist / wildlife service provider
 - Wildlife rehabilitators and veterinarians (for orphaned or injured wildlife)
- Measures must be in place to address how to avoid attracting wildlife to the project area. The following common attractants must be controlled or eliminated:
 - Food wastes and other garbage – effective mitigation measures include waste control (prevent littering); keeping all trash secured in wildlife-proof containers, and prompt removal from the site (especially in warm weather).
 - Shelter – effective mitigation measures include covering or containing piles of soil, fill, brush, rocks and other loose materials; capping ends of pipes where necessary to keep wildlife out; ensuring that trailers, bins, boxes, and vacant buildings are secured at the end of each work day to prevent access by wildlife.