



Re: Barn Swallow Survey – Participation Request

Dear Community Association representative:

Nature Canada, a national charitable organization based in Ottawa, is currently leading a project focused on Barn Swallow conservation and stewardship in the Ottawa region. One of our project objectives is to identify key local nesting and feeding areas for Barn Swallows, a species listed as *Threatened* under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. To help us achieve this, we would like to invite the members of your community association to participate in a short survey on their local observations of Barn Swallows.

The survey is available here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Ottawa_Barn_Swallows

We are particularly interested in Barn Swallow nesting and feeding activity over the last 2 years within a 20 km buffer around the National Capital Region's Lac Deschênes-Ottawa River Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBA), one of the most significant local wildlife areas we boast. The 300 km² IBA (map on reverse) is internationally recognized for the birds and other wildlife that use the site throughout the year.

As your community falls within, or is close to, the 20 km buffer around the IBA in Ontario, we are sending out this request to engage residents in your area. The results of this survey will help us at Nature Canada better understand how Barn Swallows – formerly a very common species – are doing in the Ottawa region.

This project is part of our local NatureHood program to connect people to nearby nature through celebration, greater awareness, stewardship and wildlife observation, which you can learn more about at <http://naturecanada.ca/what-we-do/naturehood/>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me, Alex MacDonald, at Nature Canada with any questions or comments you might have, by phone (613-562-3447 x. 300) or email (amacdonald@naturecanada.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex MacDonald".

Alex MacDonald, MSc
Senior Conservation Manager – Species at Risk, Urban Nature & Protected Areas

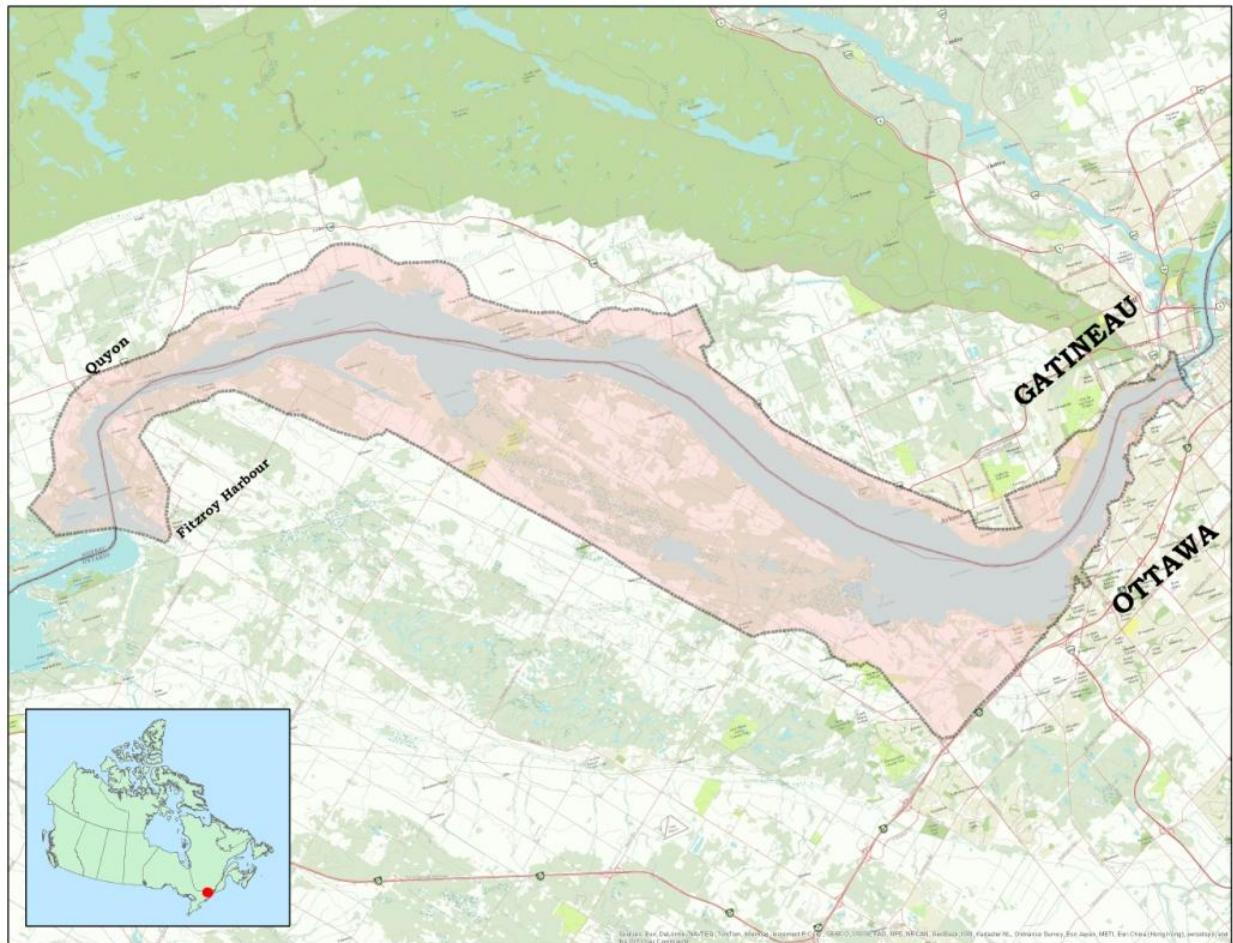


Figure 1 - Map of the Lac Deschênes-Ottawa River IBA boundary, spanning both the Ontario and Quebec sides of the Ottawa River.