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Subject: Vancouver Bird Week 2016

Greetings Mayor and Council-

I'm writing to update you on the upcoming activities and events of Bird Week 2016. City and Park Board staff are collaborating with the Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee (VBAC) in the organization of this year's Bird Week.

The fourth annual Vancouver Bird Week is to take place May 7-14, 2016. Bird Week is a week-long series of events to celebrate Vancouver's birds. It was inspired by World Migratory Bird Day, a United Nations-sponsored initiative that recognizes the importance of birds as key indicators of our environment's health.

Arts, Awareness and Education is one of five action areas in the Vancouver Bird Strategy (approved in January 2015). The first recommendation under this area reads "Increase awareness through the continuation and expansion of Bird Week and other events". Bird Week has proven to be an excellent tool to educate and raise awareness about the importance of birds to Vancouver.

The first Vancouver Bird Week occurred in 2013, featuring bird-related workshops, walks, talks, exhibitions and lectures across Vancouver. In 2014, Bird Week occurred again with similar programming and the addition of a City Bird Competition to elect an official City Bird for the following year. The Black-Capped Chickadee became the first elected City Bird for the year of 2015. Bird Week 2015 had a rare bird theme, shown most prominently through the candidates for the second annual City Bird competition. The Peregrine Falcon won the City Bird election, making it the official City Bird for 2016.

Bird Week 2016 is themed "Birds in our Garden" to bring attention to common species residents can find in their own backyards or in the various gardens throughout the city. Highlighting birds Vancouverites can see on a daily basis has proven to lead to more effective public engagement during Bird Week. It will also provide a great opportunity to teach the public what they can do on private property to create bird-friendly habitat and reduce building collisions and predation from domestic cats.

The City Bird competition won't be held in conjunction with Bird Week this year. A VBAC subcommittee has been established to reconsider and explore future options for the City Bird campaign and how it can best be aligned with the International Ornithological Congress to be held in Vancouver in 2018.

During Bird Week 2016, there is an exciting lineup of bird-related workshops, walks, talks, exhibitions, and lectures across Vancouver. All events, listed below, are free except for a Sea Safari of Howe Sound. Bird Week 2016 event details can be found at vancouverbirdweek.ca/

DATE	DESCRIPTION
Saturday, May 7	Garden Plants for Birds Sale; UBC Plant Sale; Birds and Plants: A Walk in the Garden
Sunday, May 8	Dawn Chorus Walk (QE Park); Mother's Day Theme Introductory Birding Walk (2); Bird Photography Workshop
Monday, May 9	Meet the Photographer (at bird photography exhibition); Owl Prowl
Tuesday, May 10	Create Graphic Stories based on Backyard Birds workshop
Wed, May 11	Create Graphic Stories based on Backyard Birds workshop; screening of The Messenger with introduction by David Suzuki
Thurs, May 12	Bird Taxidermy workshop; Chinese Brush Painting workshop
Friday, May 13	Create Graphic Stories based on Backyard Birds workshop
Saturday, May 14	Various Bird Walks in Vancouver; Sea Safari of Howe Sound; Build your own Nest Box workshop; Workshop on Drawing Birds; Bird Week "Big Day" and 2016 Finale