

Discussion Item at the request of Stacey Wilson, Committee Member, re: **Peel's Residential Rat Program and Problem**

The issue is related to Peel's Residential Rat Program and problem. I would like to inquire as to what IPM measures the region/city are intending to use (are they using rodenticide that is non-targeting to other native species ie fox, coyote, birds of prey), and to propose a possible pilot program to introduce owl habitat boxes in all the woodlots through city parks where feasible—as a possible partnership with the conservation authorities and a possible research study. Below are some supporting articles and existing projects for this idea. Barn Owls are one possibility as a species to attract—but this would need expert guidance...it may be possible to target attraction for a couple of species of owls and provide appropriate nesting and habitat recovery to increase the city's biodiversity and habitat health—while also addressing growing rat problems.

https://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/articles/entry/natural_pest_control_method_taking_flight/

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2016-4-july-august/green-life/are-barn-owls-nature-s-best-pest-control>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/barn-owl-recovery-strategy>

https://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/plans/rs_barn_owl_eastern_population_proposed.pdf