

# Memorandum

To: Mike Kelly, B.Comm, ALC  
 Copy: Pam Whyte (Parsons), Richard Telmosse (Parsons)  
 From: Edward Malindzak  
 Re: Species at Risk Overview 530 Tremblay Road, Ottawa, ON

Date: June 30, 2016  
 Project: 475950

It is our understanding that CLV Group Inc. is currently considering acquiring the property at 530 Tremblay Road (Figure 1) for future redevelopment and requires an assessment of potential constraints. The property is approximately 1.26 hectares in size. The property is bordered by residential properties to the west and north, a vegetated area to the east, and the Via Rail line along its southern border.



**Figure 1-** Location of property.

The City of Ottawa has identified the potential habitat for a number of Species at Risk including: Butternut trees, Pale-bellied frost lichen, Tricoloured bat, Bobolink, Barn swallow, Chimney swift, Milksnake, and Snapping turtle to occur on the property. Additionally, the property was identified in the Urban Natural Areas (UNA) Environmental Evaluation as UNA 164- Eastway Garden Woods. This property was assigned a Low rating in the evaluation and is not designated as an Urban Natural Feature. According to the City, the property is not a priority securement parcel. Therefore the City of Ottawa has indicated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) “would likely not be a requirement” for further development of the property. However a Tree Conservation Report (TCR) that satisfies Element 2 (h) of the City of Ottawa Tree Conservation Report Guidelines is a requirement. The purpose of this memorandum is to satisfy Element 2(h) by considering “Species at Risk and their habitat” that may occur on the property.

**Methods**

Parsons gathered background information related to Species at Risk (SAR) from a variety of resources. An information request was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) on June 15, 2016.

In addition, the following on-line resources were consulted:

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada SAR Mapping (DFO 2016)

- MNRF Natural Heritage Information Centre (MNRF 2016a)
- MNRF Land Information Ontario (MNRF 2016b)
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Drainage Classification Mapping (OMAFRA 2016)
- City of Ottawa GeoOttawa mapping application (City of Ottawa 2016)
- City of Ottawa Official Plan
- Tree Conservation Report (IFS Associates, June 2016)

A single site visit was completed on June 24, 2016 to document the existing conditions on the site and to confirm collected background information. The property was traversed over four parallel east-west transects while making observations and documenting conditions via written notes and photographs. Observations were made with respect to the presence of habitat suitable for SAR, existing vegetation communities, and incidental observations of wildlife.

## Results

Observations of the existing vegetation community were recorded and are meant to characterize the vegetation community and are not intended as a comprehensive vegetation community inventory. The property is densely vegetated with very few open areas. The vegetation community is largely shrub thicket consisting of buckthorn (*Rhamnus* sp.) being the dominant species. Other species observed included Hawthorne (*Crataegus* sp.), Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), Burr oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), Trembling aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), and *Prunus* sp. Dead Ash (*Fraxinus* sp) were common, as were stumps of removed ash. Understory species included honeysuckle (*Caprifoliaceae* sp), Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). One occurrence of Red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) and three occurrences of fern (Pteridophyta) were noted.

No SAR were observed on the property. As previously noted, an information request requesting SAR information was submitted to the MNRF on June 15, 2016. At the time of this writing no response has been received. The City of Ottawa has indicated the following SAR to potentially occur in the study area.

Species	ESA Status (Provincial)	SARA Status (Federal)	Preferred Habitat	Preferred Habitat in study area	Likely to occur in the study area
<b>Butternut</b> <i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Threatened	Endangered	Butternut is mainly encountered as a minor component of deciduous stands, but large pure populations exist on certain flood plains. It grows best in rich, moist, and well-drained soils often found along streams. This species does not do well in the shade, and often grows in sunny openings and near forest edges.  In Ontario, the Butternut generally grows alone or in small groups in deciduous forests, commonly associated with trees such as Linden ( <i>Tilia</i> sp.), Black Cherry ( <i>Prunus serotina</i> ), Beech ( <i>Fagus</i> sp.), Black Walnut, Elm ( <i>Alnus</i> sp.), Hemlock ( <i>Tsuga</i> sp.), Hickory ( <i>Carya</i> sp.), Oak ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.), Red Maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> ), Sugar Maple, Yellow Poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> ), White Ash ( <i>Fraxinus Americana</i> ), and Yellow Birch ( <i>Betula alleghaniensis</i> ).	Yes	Does not occur on the property.
<b>Pale-bellied frost lichen</b> <i>Physconia subpallida</i>	Threatened	Threatened	The Pale-bellied Frost Lichen is an epiphyte on hardwood trees including: Ash species ( <i>Fraxinus</i> sp.), Black walnut ( <i>Juglans nigra</i> ), Hop-hornbeam ( <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> ), and Elm species ( <i>Ulmus</i> sp.). Pale-bellied frost lichen has also been collected from fence rails and rocks, including limestone.	Yes	No, no known local populations.
<b>Tricoloured bat</b> <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Endangered	Endangered	During the summer, the Tri-colored Bat is found in a variety of forested habitats. It forms day roosts and maternity colonies in older forest and occasionally in barns or other structures. They forage over water and along streams in the forest. Tri-colored Bats eat flying insects and spiders gleaned from webs. At the end of the summer they travel to a location where they swarm; it is generally near the cave or	No	No

			underground location where they will overwinter. They overwinter in caves where they typically roost by themselves rather than part of a group.		
<b>Bobolink</b> <i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Threatened	No Status	Bobolinks historically occupied tallgrass prairie and other open meadows and have adapted to living in hayfields. Bobolinks often build their small nests on the ground in dense grasses.	No	No
<b>Barn swallow</b> <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Threatened	No Status	The species is attracted to open structures that include ledges where they can build their nests, which are often re-used from year to year. They prefer unpainted, rough-cut wood, since the mud does not adhere as well to smooth surfaces.	No	No
<b>Chimney swift</b> <i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Threatened	Threatened	The Chimney Swift spends the major part of the day in flight feeding on insects. Flocks can often be seen near bodies of water due to the abundance of insects. Chimney Swifts historically nested in the trunks of large, hollow trees, and occasionally on cave walls or in rocky crevices but adapted to house chimneys. Today, the species is mainly associated with urban and rural areas where the birds can find chimneys to use as nesting and resting sites. However, it is likely that a small portion of the population continues to use hollow trees.	No	No
<b>Milksnake,</b> <i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	The Milksnake is best known for occurring in rural areas, where it is most frequently reported in and around buildings, especially old structures. However, it is found in a wide variety of habitats, from prairies, pastures, and hayfields, to rocky hillsides and a wide variety of forest types. Two other important features of good Milksnake habitat are proximity to water, and suitable locations for basking and egg-laying.	No	No
<b>Snapping turtle</b> <i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Special Concern	Special Concern	Snapping turtles spend most of their lives in water. They prefer shallow waters so they can hide under the soft mud and leaf litter, with only their noses exposed to the surface to breathe.  They nest from early to mid-summer in gravelly or sandy areas along streams. The preferred habitat for the Snapping Turtle is characterized by slow-moving water with a soft mud bottom and dense aquatic vegetation. Established populations are most often located in ponds, sloughs, shallow bays or river edges and slow streams, or areas combining several of these wetland habitats. Although individual turtles will persist in developed areas (e.g. golf course ponds, irrigation canals), it is unlikely that populations persist in such habitats.	No	No

No watercourses, drainage features, or aquatic SAR are indicated on the site. The City of Ottawa has identified “ditches” along the rail corridor to the east and west of the property, however these do not appear to be connected to downstream areas and are likely intermittent.

Incidental wildlife observations included eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), racoon (*Procyon lotor*), and grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*).

#### Additional Considerations

A review of available online resources indicates the property is considered as Woodland and Wetland. A woodland is defined at “Treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits such as erosion prevention, water retention, provision of habitat, recreation and the sustainable harvest of woodland products. Woodlands include treed areas, woodlots or forested areas and vary in their level of significance” (City of Ottawa 2009). It is our opinion that the property is a woodland, however the property has limited ecological importance due to the dominance of an invasive species and relative isolation from any identified natural heritage systems. Furthermore the property does not meet the requirements of a Significant Woodland as it is not a mature stand of trees 80 years or older, does not contain interior forest habitat, and is not adjacent to surface water / groundwater / wetland features (see below) (City of Ottawa 2009).

A wetland is defined as “Lands that are seasonally or permanently flooded by shallow water as well as lands where the water table is close to the surface; in either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic or water tolerant plants” (MNR 1993). The vegetation community displays characteristics of an ephemeral wetted area such as deposits of organic debris (e.g., leaves, twigs) in the bottom of shallow depressions in the forest floor. No standing water or saturated soil was observed during the site visit.

The site clearly holds water seasonally and the observed vegetation community contains moisture tolerant species, however there were very few observations of vegetation requiring wet soils and those species were not present in sufficient numbers to suggest they dominate the vegetation community. It is our opinion that the property is not a wetland.

#### **Potential Developmental Constraints**

No SAR or potential habitat for SAR were observed on site. Eight SAR were identified by the City of Ottawa as potentially occurring on the site. The results of the background investigation, the site visit, and a review of the habitat needs of these species indicates there is low potential for six of these species habitats to occur on site.

Suitable habitat for Pale-bellied frost lichen does occur on site, however the site does not occur within the provincially defined geographic area of the regulated habitat for Pale-bellied frost lichen. Additionally, habitat protections under the ESA (2007) would only apply to a particular area if and when the species is documented as present.

Although potential habitat for butternut trees does occur on site no Butternut trees were observed during our site visit nor are any reported in the Tree Conservation Report.

#### **Mitigation for Identified Constraints**

Based on the results of our background review and site visit, it is unlikely that SAR occur on the site and therefore there are no recommended mitigation measures for SAR. Please note that a response from MNR regarding SAR information is pending. Additional SAR species requiring consideration may be identified in the pending response.

We do recommend that the City of Ottawa *Protocol for Wildlife Protection during Construction* (City of Ottawa 2015) be followed during construction activities.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned with questions or concerns.  
Kind regards,



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