

September 13, 2016

Re: UrbanEcology.ca Scholarship

Dear Dr. & Ms. Schaefer,

I really appreciate your generous scholarship. When I received the email from the scholarship office, I, at first, assumed a mistake had been made. Once I read about the award, I figured out that it was deliberate; that my research in Beacon Hill Park with the migrant passerines and artificial light meant something to others as well. It is really very encouraging to be acknowledged, especially by donors who are pioneers in "walking the walk" of urban ecology.

I live in Victoria, and I have a deep and abiding connection to this piece of earth and surrounding waterways. Studying at UVic has given me the opportunity to learn more about the place I choose to call home. Having been raised in a protected park, I realize how fortunate that experience was in shaping who I've become. Fostering a deeper connection to the local environment, even altered urban landscapes, is something that UVic, the School of Environmental Studies, and the Restoration of Natural Systems program do very well.

I hadn't planned on completing the RNS program when I began my ES degree. But a fortunate event, involving Dr. Schaefer covering a class for Dr. Lantz (expectant father at the time), lead to a conversation that opened a door for me.

I would like to pursue further studies in the field of Ecological Restoration. I hope to continue my journey of exploration at the University of Victoria. I look forward to furthering my education in a field that inspires me.

Once again, thank you both very much for acknowledging one individual's minor contribution to urban ecology.

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Drew Elves
4th year student, Environmental Studies
Hometown: Clear Lake, MB