



## **Record Number of Chimney Swifts Roosting at King's**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 10, 2013**

The threatened Chimney Swift is flourishing at King's University College, Western according to the McIlwraith Field Naturalists counts this week.

This fall the number of roosting swifts at King's has been much higher than usual. In fact, the astounding 1604 swifts counted here on September 7 is by far the highest number of swifts tallied in a single building on a single night since the McIlwraith Field Naturalists began monitoring swifts in London about ten years ago.

Please see the list below for 2013 numbers to date. The high numbers in May and early June represent migrants passing through on their way north. Lower numbers in June and July are indicative of the nesting season. In August and September, large waves of migrating swifts have been overnighing in the Wemple building chimney on their way south. It is not possible to predict how much longer the King's chimney will be used by migrating swifts this fall – perhaps a week or possibly as long as three or four weeks. How late in the season swifts occupy the Wemple chimney in any given year is entirely up to the swifts to decide and can vary considerably from one year to the next.

**Media are invited tonight, Tuesday September 10**, to see the amazing spectacle of large numbers of Chimney Swifts diving/dropping into the chimney for the night. Best viewing time runs from about a half hour before sunset to about 15 minutes after sunset. Sunset today is at 7:44 p.m. Media will be escorted to the roof of Wemple building at 7 p.m. for an optimum view.

Chimney Swifts at King's College, Wemple Building, 2013 (up to Sep 8)

May 17 – 28+ (incomplete count)

May 22 – 106

May 26 – 381

May 30 – 72

June 3 – 124

June 18 – 24

June 25 – 8

Jul 16 – 19

Jul 28 – 36

Aug 1 – 158

Aug 5 – 143

Aug 9 – 170

Aug 25 – 320

Aug 27 – >1000

Sept 1 – 450

Sept 2 – 500

Sept 4 – 1000

Sept 7 – 1604

Sept 8 – 1000 (incomplete count)

Sept 9 - 670

Please rsvp if you want a spot on the Wemple Roof tonight (weather permitting). Wemple Building is located at 266 Epworth Ave, just east of Richmond and the Western gates. Parking is available in Lot 1 by indicating you are with the media. We will gather at the front door of Wemple at 7 p.m.

**For more information please contact:**

Jane Antoniak

Manager, Communications & Media Relations

King's University College

[communications@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:communications@kings.uwo.ca)

519-433-3491 x 4384

226-236-1846 cell

[www.kings.uwo.ca](http://www.kings.uwo.ca)

[@kucatuwo](https://www.instagram.com/kucatuwo)

