

From: Never Collide <nevercollideorg@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 11:00 PM
To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>
Subject: Support for Bird Safe Design Standards in Richmond Hill

To members of Council and Committee of the Whole

Never Collide is a volunteer organization that advocates for the implementation of mitigation measures to prevent bird glass collisions.

We know, from scientific research and citizen science data that migratory birds are dying at glass structures in extremely high numbers.

Scientists estimate up to 1 billion birds across North America are lost due to glass collisions, making it a leading cause of bird species decline.

We have reviewed the SRPBS.24.018 report produced by your staff in the Planning and Building Services department. Never Collide fully supports the recommendations in the report and we congratulate your staff on this important conservation proposal.

We would be thrilled to see Richmond Hill join surrounding municipalities that have implemented mandatory bird safe design standards. We also agree, Richmond Hill should make efforts to treat their own buildings with bird deterrent markers or other mitigation measures.

Also please ensure all outside lighting is dark sky compliant as part of the bird safe design standards. This means all outdoor lights face downwards.

Please ensure that all non essential lights are turned off during spring and fall migration from 11 pm to 6 am. This is the LIGHTS OUT program being implemented in many US states and cities, as well as in Toronto.

Texas is a leader in the LIGHTS OUT program with their cities going dark during migration season.

<https://tx.audubon.org/urbanconservation/lights-out-texas>

Finally, it is important to reduce the use of clear glass railings outdoors. They are causing many bird collisions. We receive calls from residents upset to find dead birds at the foot of these untreated glass railings. All outdoor railings should be opaque, acid etched, have a design, pattern or markers installed.

We have included the link for the City of Toronto Green Standard:

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/toronto-green-standard/toronto-green-standard-version-4/mid-to-high-rise-residential-non-residential-version-4/ecology-biodiversity/>

For more general information, please visit the American Bird Conservancy website, Facts about Bird-Window Collisions. Information is also available from Environment Canada, FAQ on bird collisions with glass windows.

There are many effective products and designs to prevent bird glass collisions. We are happy to share with you and your staff information on the options available.

Kind regards,

Pearl Shore

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