

NEWS RELEASE

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City First in the World to Implement Migratory Bird Protection Policy

City Adopts Guidelines to Prevent Bird Collisions with Buildings

Toronto, ON -- City Council unanimously adopted a resolution on January 31 that will protect migratory birds through controlling light from buildings, public education, and bird rescue. For all new buildings in Toronto, the resolution specifies *“that the needs of migratory birds be incorporated into the Site Plan Review process with respect to facilities for lighting, including floodlighting, glass and other bird-friendly design features.”*

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker states *“This is an historic day -- The City of Toronto, instead of having 10,000 birds killed downtown each year, is working toward saving 10,000 birds. That’s a magnificent thing for the City to do.”*

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP), a Toronto-based charitable organization, has been working to address the issue of bird collisions with structures since 1993. It was the first organization of its kind in the world; similar organizations have since sprung up in Chicago and New York.

“FLAP has dreamed of this day. Finally, through policy, a city has recognized the need to address the tragedy of bird collisions with its buildings and is setting an example for other cities around the world to take action” says Michael Mesure of FLAP.

FLAP conservatively estimates 1 to 10 birds are killed at every structure each year. With 940,000 structures in Toronto, one quickly realizes why collision with structures is the leading cause of death to migratory birds.

FLAP, the City of Toronto and others have formed a partnership known as *Lights Out Toronto*. This April, in time for spring migration, the *Lights Out Toronto* partnership will launch a public awareness campaign on how Torontonians can prevent the deaths of thousands of migratory birds by simple acts like turning lights off. This will also greatly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and save millions of dollars each year.

“It’s a win-win-win situation - We encourage everyone to contact Mayor David Miller to congratulate and thank the City of Toronto for taking a leadership role in migratory bird conservation,” says Mesure.

To view the full report visit:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/council/cc060131/plt1rpt/cl005.pdf>

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