



Scarborough Civic Centre: Fit for the Birds

It's fitting that Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, who spearheaded the *Lights Out Toronto!* campaign and supported the development of Toronto's *Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines*, should live in the city's most bird-safe ward. The latest and most exciting development in Glenn's ward (he campaigned for city funds to support this project) is the bird collision-prevention retrofit at Scarborough Civic Centre (SCC), a landmark building designed by renowned architect Raymond Moriyama. Sadly, like most buildings where glass is showcased, the centre has known its fair share of bird strikes (a FLAP Canada audit of the building a couple of years ago identified likely collision spots).

With busy Scarborough Town Centre close by and Consilium Place practically next door, the square acreage of glass in a small area of

Scarborough that migratory birds naturally funnel through is huge. But the application of Feather Friendly Technologies® window film (which uses a strong contrast marker-only application to the exterior glass surface) to Consilium and now to SCC is resulting in a substantial reduction in bird collisions.

FLAP Canada Executive Director Michael Mesure visited SCC in September and as he was taking photographs a woman came up to him and asked if the film would work. Obviously, she knew the reason behind the film and was hopeful that it would save birds' lives. Michael was impressed that our efforts and those of the city to teach people about the dangers that windows and mirrored panels pose for birds were paying off. He was quite happy to confirm that the

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film would do its job.

Michael and Glenn were less sanguine about the new library wing being added to the centre. The construction is beautiful with its myriad glass surfaces and there is a dotted pattern on all the windows with the desirable 4" x 4" spacing. Unfortunately, the fritting is on the second surface of glass – not the outside surface – and the dots are light grey, not a strong enough contrast to prevent bird collisions in all light conditions. Still, there's hope that a more effective window film will be affixed to the outer glass to solve this problem.

In the meantime, we have Glenn and Convenience Group (inventor of Feather Friendly Technologies®) to thank for providing a safer corridor for migratory birds in the northeast of Toronto.



Feather Friendly® "symmetry pattern" applied to the southwest entrance of the Scarborough Civic Centre.

Photograph by TODD VOGELBERG