

ED-24-31

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From: < M.F.I.P.P.A. 14 (1) >

Sent: Feb 10, 2024 12:12:28 PM

To: service@oshawa.ca

Subject: Glass Railings in Oshawa

Dear Environmental Advisory Committee, Glass railings have become increasingly popular, and they represent a significant bird conservation issue.

Many municipalities are incorporating bird-safe building design into their building standards because bird-glass collisions are one of the top three reasons for bird species' decline. Actions taken by municipalities to prevent bird-glass collisions include downward facing lighting, avoiding the use of large glass façades, and the use of visual markers on glass surfaces. The City of Toronto was the first in the world to implement a bird-safe building standard. Since then, other progressive municipalities have followed suit.

Today we are asking your municipality to take action to prevent the use of glass railings that are not bird-safe. The best solution is to use materials other than glass for railings, such as metal or wood. If glass is used, visual markers should be closely spaced on the outside surface of the glass to make birds aware of its presence. Also, opaque, etched, and patterned glass are available for use.

We hope your commitment to being an environmentally sustainable community includes reducing the threat to birds by making your residents and businesses aware of bird-glass collision issues and the available solutions to prevent them. We also respectfully encourage you to implement bird-safe building standards that include bird-safe glass railings.

For an example, please refer to 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/>

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You may also want to look at the City of Markham Building Standards.

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.

We are available to answer any questions and hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you for your time.

Pearl Shore

Diana Turchin

(Volunteers)

[www.nevercollide](http://www.nevercollide.com). <<http://www.nevercollide.com>>