

Submission to Office de la Consultation Publique regarding Prével's plan for development of the Domaine des Franciscains

Should Prével's plan prevail, I recommend the following two programs:

1. Preventing bird-window collisions

High rise condominiums and commercial buildings are often made with glass and all have glass windows. The reflections of the sky, trees, etc. cause birds to collide with the glass panes and windows. The organization FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program) has some excellent guidelines that all developers and even homeowners should adopt to avoid bird-window collisions. The city should require developers, architects, engineers, etc. to incorporate these guidelines into all their buildings

"The key to bird-safe buildings, says FLAP, is to include collision reduction strategies in building design, while applying bird-safe solutions to bird-building problems: BirdSafe standards and risk assessment are available through FLAP Canada."

We are already losing many birds, especially our song-birds, so that every effort should be made avoid the millions of deaths each year of migrating birds. As Montreal's downtown area grows and more condominium buildings go up, Montreal risks becoming a death-trap for birds as Toronto is (see the recent movie, *The Messenger*). Besides, the birds help us, by eating insects for one thing!

The best information available can be found at the FLAP website:

http://www.flap.org/commercial_new.php

Regroupement QuébecOiseaux can also be consulted: <http://quebecoiseaux.org/>

2. Light Pollution: Turn off or lower lighting to preserve the night sky for humans and animals

Lights from cities also attract birds and, it has been shown in a recent study, they often travel far out of their way because of city lights - adding unnecessarily to their fatigue.

Besides, we humans are deprived from enjoying the night sky by the over abundance of bright lights all around us (often depriving us of sleep).

The observatory at Mount-Mégantic has guidelines for low lighting, and whole towns and cities are implementing lighting practices that provide enough light for humans while making the environment better, for birds, animals and ourselves. Visit their website for explanation and full guidelines in English and French:

<http://ricemm.org/> and <http://ricemm.org/documentation/luminaires/>

Too much light at night causes sleep problems and and it prevents us from enjoying seeing

the stars at night. Lighting on the top of condominium towers where there are pools should follow these new guidelines. Much of the lighting we use is unnecessary - flood lights, etc. Special attention should be paid to the roofs of buildings where condo buildings now have pools and other venues for entertainment.

I recommend to the City of Montreal that the above guidelines (avoiding bird collisions and light pollution) be mandatory for all new development.