



City of Toronto's Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines win Excellence in Planning Award

September 12, 2008 – The Ontario Professional Planners Institute has awarded the City of Toronto an Excellence in Planning Award for **Bird-Friendly Development Guidelines**

Environmentalists and bird watchers have long been concerned about the fate of migratory birds in Toronto. The birds become disoriented by the light pollution and reflective surfaces in the downtown area, and crash into high-rise office and apartment buildings, falling to the pavement below. To reduce the incidence of these collisions, the City set up a committee of staff members and community partners to identify bird-friendly development options to be used by architects, planners, urban designers, building owners and managers, tenants and homeowners. The extensively illustrated guidelines identify hazards and appropriate alternatives in building exteriors, lighting techniques, and building management methods. The City has also launched a public awareness campaign to reduce light pollution, and has long maintained a program of rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured birds.

The Excellence in Planning Award recognizes innovation, creativity, professionalism, problem-solving, and communications in four categories: urban and community design, planning studies or reports, research/new directions, and public education. This year's winners were chosen from 30 entries. The other winners are:

- Regions of York, Halton, Peel and Durham and the cities of Toronto, Mississauga and Hamilton for the Smart Commute initiative
- Niagara Economic Development Department and peter j. smith for "Energizing Niagara's Wine Country"
- City of Ottawa for Urban Design Guidelines for the Development Review Process
- Town of Markham for Markham Small Streams Study
- City of Brampton and MMM Group for the Incineration and Waste Processing Transfer and Disposal Study

The awards ceremony will take place on the evening of Thursday, September 18, 2008, Clarion Pinewood Park Resort in North Bay. The ceremony is part of the 2008 symposium of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Its more than 3,000 members work in government, private practice, universities, and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. For further information, go to: www.ontarioplanners.on.ca

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