

## **Canadian flag to fly permanently in Scarborough Civic Centre**

Flag was missed, says community activist

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It took some persistence and a little fishing line, but the Canadian flag is finally hanging permanently in the council chamber of the Scarborough Civic Centre.

Murraray Hedges, Canadian patriot and retired community activist, complained the Canadian flag was often absent from the chamber.

"They definitely were missing...The flags were hit and miss," he said.

The Canadian flag, along with the provincial flag, were placed in their permanent location high above where Scarborough community councillors meet monthly about 10 days ago. In keeping with respecting the dignity of the building, the flags were not mounted with bolts or poles from the wall, but rather with thin nylon fishing line hanging from the bulk head barely visible to the naked eye.

Tuesday's community council meeting was the first appearance of the flags at a meeting. Hedges, however, got a sneak peak following the installation.

The Royal Canadian Legion member has already taken two car loads of people to see it and has asked passerby's at the Scarborough Civic Centre what they think of the new permanent addition.

"Everybody loves it," he said. "I'm quite satisfied with it being there."

While Ward 40 (Scarborough-Agincourt) Councillor Norm Kelly said the flags have always been present during community council meetings, which he chairs, and now they will on display no matter the function.

"We have always had the Canadian and provincial and city and former city flags (on display) for community council meetings," he said. "(We've done this) to ensure these flags are flown no matter the day or time or organization."

It was Ward 43 (Scarborough East) Councillor Paul Ainslie who announced in January he'd convinced the city's protocol officials to make a change and that the flag would be permanently placed not only in the Scarborough chamber, but in the community chambers of North York, East York and Etobicoke civic centres as well.

"It's a small thing, but to us (it means a lot)," Hedges said. "I'm very patriotic."