

SLSN Meeting Reminder and Conservation E-Blast 2017-03-12

South Lake Simcoe Naturalists

Reminder March 14th Meeting

Tuesday, Mar. 14 **Mining-The environmental Cost:** Mining of rock, ore and precious stones is an activity well known to Canadians. Infact it is responsible for much of our historical and contemporary wealth. Much of this activity occurs in Canada but also and increasingly in other countries in the world by Canadian Mining companies. This meeting will be a broad brush look at mining and practices and what impact this activity has on natural ecosystems, wildlife, water and other things here in Canada and abroad. Club members research and presentation.

Annual SLSN Earth Hour Hike

EARTH HOUR

Saturday March 25th at 8:30pm

Join the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Club for a Nature Walk

Meet 8:30pm at Sibbald Park Main Entrance

- **Poster attached.**
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Conservation and Wildlife News – Ontario's Greenbelt

Ontario Greenbelt Association (OGA) News – 2017-03-10

New Neptis research released yesterday:

Yesterday, the Neptis foundation released new information that has serious consequences for farmland, natural heritage and leapfrog development outside and adjacent to the Greenbelt. The report focuses on urban sprawl that has been allowed outside of the growth plan urban growth centres, contrary to the Growth Plan. In addition to the sprawl that has been allowed, the province has allowed upper tier municipalities to count this growth as intensification. Very troubling is the fact that the province is considering a change in the growth plan definition of the "Built Boundary" to include these rural towns and villages as places that are included - something that would be detrimental to the growth plan, and put even more pressure on the Greenbelt.

Please see the Neptis report briefs attached below.

Here is the [Toronto Star article](#) covering the new research that ran yesterday. In response, the SC prepared a press release that went out yesterday. The Moraine Partnership as well as Environmental Defence also put out releases. Click on these links to see them. I've also included the text of the OGA email at the end of this message.

What you can do to help

Please help by sending out the OGA release to your media contacts in your area that you are in touch with. We know papers are trying to wrap their heads around Neptis' work, and our take can help with that. Special thanks to Kevin Thomason of Smart Growth Waterloo, Kathryn Enders of Ontario Farmland Trust and Margaret Prophet Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition for their quotes.

What's next?

The Steering committee is busy preparing a new petition and social media campaign. Our new petition for Premier Wynne, will asking her and the government to stand strong against developer pressure to weaken both the Greenbelt and Growth Plan policies. We will be in touch Monday with the details, and how your organization can help with this last push to protect the Greenbelt and ensure a strong, iron clad Growth Plan.

This work is even more urgent, as we have learned that the development industry is hosting a lobby day at Queen's Park on March 20th.

In solidarity,

Erin Shapero
Greenbelt & Smart Growth Senior Program Manager

Environmental Defence Information

Don't let greedy developers pave over Ontario's Greenbelt!

The Greenbelt is at risk from some developers who want to pave over Ontario's Greenbelt with low-density cookie-cutter sprawl and highways. Don't let them destroy Ontario's Greenbelt!

Got to website:

http://action.environmentaldefence.ca/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19813&Email



The Greenbelt protects some of the province's most sensitive natural areas and best remaining farmland in Canada. It provides us with local food, access to nature, and is a source of clean drinking water for millions of people in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, which includes the GTA.

Currently, there are over **650 requests** to take out land from the Greenbelt. Many developers are calling for even bigger areas to be removed. If Ontario approves these requests, even more developers will ask to remove land from Greenbelt. And before we know it, the Greenbelt will begin to disappear and it won't be long before it's gone.

Tell Ontario to keep the Greenbelt strong for today and future generations. Demand that Ontario turn down greedy requests from profit-driven developers to take land out of the Greenbelt. Now's the time to save the Greenbelt for good!

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