



# NEWSLETTER

## SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

SLSN is an incorporated not-for-profit Member of Ontario Nature.

Post Office Box 1044 Sutton West, Ontario, L0E 1R0

Telephone 905-722-8021

([www.slsnc.ca](http://www.slsnc.ca))

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*Research Partner with The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe ([www.zephyrsociety.ca](http://www.zephyrsociety.ca))*

*Member: Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition*

*Member: Ontario Greenbelt Alliance*

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**Note: Please renew your membership to receive future Newsletters**

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## Meetings and Outings

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**Meetings:** All Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. at the York Region Police Building Meeting Room (Baseline Road between McCowan and Civic Centre Road) unless noted otherwise. No July or August Meetings. Members events (insurance compliance). Visitors welcome.

York Regional Police, 3 District Community Meeting Room  
3527 Baseline Road, Georgina.



Tuesday, Sept. 12 **The Shocking Decline of Birds in North America.** Since the seventies, millions of North American birds have disappeared and a third of species are now of high regional conservation concern. Experts agree that their long-term conservation will only be achieved by building transnational partnerships and involving local communities in citizen science projects. Club members research, presentation and conversation meeting on this concerning situation.

Phone Paul 905-722-8021 or Norma 905-476-4747 for further information about meetings.

NOTICE about Meeting hours – 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. only.

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**Outings:** All regular outings – Note: **Paid-up members may participate (for insurance compliance).**

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**2017 AUGUST**

***The Jackson's Point Planning Project organized by the Town of Georgina with The Planning Partnership consultants is proceeding. A SLSN Working Group has been organized of club executive members and member residents in Jackson's Point. A SLSN "Jackson's Point Harbour Re-development Study and Jackson's Point Harbourfront Redevelopment Plan" Report in attached. Field visits to the Jackson's Point area site and research are on-going by SLSN Working Group members.***

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***With the recent field and research work we have done since 2015 surrounding the proposed Ainslie Hill Development in Sutton, we have confirmed and documented some threatened and/or endangered species. Our continuing 2017 field work on Snapping turtle, breeding birds and specifically the endangered Chimney Swift meeting at the Sutton Rail Trail Head, meet at the Sutton District Parking Lot (south-west corner of SDHS) on the north side of Catering Road.***

*Contact Paul Harpley SLSN to join one of these outings.*

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### ***Mount Albert Forest under Threat of***

***Destruction: A natural Tamarack and mixed species wet forest and meadows area is under threat of destruction in East Gwillimbury. Mount Albert SLSN members and an SLSN executive working Group has been formed to undertake fieldwork and reporting, in support of the forest. The local community is preparing to appear at the OMB as a Party. More information will be available as this emerging issue develops.***

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***Snorkelling at Jackson's Point: Join an underwater expedition to the Marine Railway site and other important features. Diving mask is necessary, and snorkel and flippers are recommended. Contact Paul Harpley for details, expedition arrangements, and confirmation of participation. Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m.***

## **York Region Forest News**

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The Region of York Invasive Plant Control contractor will be undertaking work in the Bendor & Graves, Hollidge, Eldred King, Nobleton, Drysdale and Hall Tracts of the York Regional Forest and at our Doane Road Water Treatment Plant beginning on Wednesday June 14th . The operation is expected to last until October 1st at the latest, with the majority of work taking place between now and July 1st. The target species for control this year are dog-strangling vine, Manitoba maple, European buckthorn, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed and Giant Hogweed. Optional work may be carried out at Zephyr and Brown Hill Tracts to treat dog-strangling vine should previously treated areas prove to require control again this year.

If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact me at [Colin.Macdonald@york.ca](mailto:Colin.Macdonald@york.ca) or 905-830-4444 ext. 75258.

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2017-06-23 Update - This email is to notify you that the NCC will be conducting spraying of dog-strangling vine at the Happy Valley Tract June 27-29 (weather dependent). Further to this, the Region's

contractor may be spraying dog-strangling vine at Brown Hill and Zephyr Tracts as early as next week, depending on assignment.

If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact me by replying to this email to call Dayna Laxton at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73119.

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2017-07-05 Update - This email is to advise you that the Region's Trail Mowing contractor will be undertaking work in the York Regional Forest beginning on Friday July 7, 2017. The operation is expected to last up to six weeks .

For the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact me at [matthew.currie@york.ca](mailto:matthew.currie@york.ca) or 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75249.

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## **Jackson's Point Planning Process**

### PETITION UPDATE

# **Value of Public Participation Over-stated in The Planning Partnership Process**



**S W**

Jacksons Point, Canada

JUL 31, 2017 — As the 3 revised plans developed by TPP from "public input" at Charrettes was revealed, it became very obvious that the public's input was over-ridden in many situations, by other STAKEHOLDERS such as "Council, Town of Georgina staff, the technical team, technical agencies and landowners" who did not participate actively in the charrettes.

The definition of a charrette is "a meeting in which all stakeholders in a project attempt to resolve conflicts and map solutions." Real pity that the council members, town planning staff, land owners from MSR Lalu and Ramada, and technical team were not compelled to contribute to the Planning Partnership Process at the charrette. Instead the input from these parties was secretly given to TPP who prioritized it over the maps created by the well-meaning public at the Charrettes.

If you have any doubt, check out option 3 with townhouse development situated on Lorne street, on public land! At no time was this discussed at the design Charrette.

TPP should be clear to the public that they are being used as pawns in this process, to "falsely demonstrate" public participation.

You need to let Mayor Margaret Quirk ; know your feelings. Please email the Mayor with your thoughts on the 1)TPP process, or 2) just tell her what you want to see and don't want to see at the Jackson's Point Park.

Everyone needs to write and email and make an impact. They can't keep ignoring us.

Check web site for more - <http://click.mail.change.org/expired.html>

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## **Town of Georgina Jackson's Point Planning Process Information**

As noted in the project work plan, our next step is to share and receive feedback on the Options that were summarized from the public workshop/charrette in June. The Planning Partnership (TPP) has collected together feedback from the public, Council, Town of Georgina staff, the technical team, technical agencies and landowners and has summarized the scenarios into 3 Options. We are now at the stage where we are looking for your input on the various elements within each Option. You may like or dislike various elements of each of the options. In the end, TPP will summarize the 'likes' into one preferred option (which could consist of various elements from each of the options). The preferred option will be presented to Council for consideration.

Therefore, we are offering you a few engagement opportunities for providing your input on the three options. You could attend in person one of four Roving Information Stations:

1. **Roving Information Stations** (visit the Town's booth)
  - Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> – Georgina Farmers Market - at the Link 20849 Dalton Road, Sutton  
  
Our Georgina tent will be set up from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
  - Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> – Music in the Jackson's Point Parkette  
  
Our Georgina tent will be set up from 4 p.m.- 6 p.m.
  - Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Festival on High Street - Sutton  
  
Our Georgina tent will be set up from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

- Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Movie in the Jackson’s Point Parkette

Our Georgina tent will be set up 7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

OR

2. Visit the Town’s website to complete a brief online survey or click on this link [Design Options Review – Survey](#).

If you would like to provide your input but are unable to attend one of the Roving sessions or complete the online survey, please let us know and we can work something out to obtain your feedback.

The results of the Design Options Review will be shared at an upcoming **Public Workshop #2** taking place on **Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada Hotel (3pm or 6:30pm)**. The team will report out on the results of the evaluation of the three Redevelopment Options and present the draft preferred Redevelopment Plan for Jackson’s Point Harbourfront. The public workshop will include a presentation, followed by table group discussions to obtain input on the preferred Redevelopment Plan. You are welcome to attend 3pm or 6:30pm session, pre-registration is not required.

Following the engagement sessions noted above, TPP will summarize the comments/feedback into a final report and the Preferred Option for Council consideration. The final report will be shared with Council at the **Special Council meeting to be held on Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Civic Centre - Council Chambers**.

We look forward to your feedback and assisting the Town in reaching the preferred option for consideration.

**Robin McDougall, B.A. KINE, DPA**

Director of Recreation and Culture

26557 Civic Centre Road, Keswick, ON | L4P 3G1

905-476-4301 Ext. 2236 | [georgina.ca](http://georgina.ca)

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**Serious Bird Decline !**

**Avian death rate continues to soar in Ontario**

OPINION Jul 30, 2017 by Robert Alison Wasaga Sun



Robert Alison - File photo

A recent report on the status of North American birds is an astonishing and chilling confirmation of the magnitude of avian losses over the past half-century.

According to National Audubon Society statistics, the bird population has been reduced by more than one billion in North America, compared with 50 years ago.

"We may have lost almost half the songbirds that filled the skies 50 years ago," said researcher Bridget Stutchbury.

The main causes of such massive mortalities are neonicotinoids and other crop-pest control chemicals, enormous bird predation by cats, and inestimable deaths caused by birds flying fatally into windows and glass-sided skyscrapers. None of these contributing factors is being remedied. The avian death rate continues to soar.

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## **Fungus threatens global frog populations**

OPINION Jul 30, 2017 by Robert Alison Wasaga Sun

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The scope of avian losses is unimaginable, worse than previously believed. Some bird species that were common, or even abundant, in our local area a few decades ago have almost disappeared.

Historically, barn swallows were the most plentiful swallows in the world. But more than two-thirds of them have vanished. Nobody seems to know why.

According to Breeding Bird Survey data, barn swallow numbers in Canada have collapsed by 78 per cent since 1970 and the rate of decline is especially grave in Ontario and B.C.

"It is sad and alarming that we are losing so many of them this quickly," lamented Krystyn Richardson at Bird Studies Canada.

The barn swallows that breed in Ontario winter in the Amazon Basin. Scientists have been unable to determine where, along their long migration route, major losses have been taking place. A new 'nano tag' program is underway to shed some light on the losses.

Bank swallows have declined by 94 per cent since 1966. Tree swallow numbers have dropped by 80 per cent, and cliff swallows are down by 93 per cent. Ontario's purple martin population has fallen by 91 per cent over the past five decades.

I remember when swallows in the hundreds used to perch on local hydro lines in late August, preparing for migration. It was a spectacular annual sight. The phenomenon has passed into history.

Civilization marches on, leaving inestimable avian corpses in its wake.

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## North Gwillimbury Forest Updates

[View this message online](#)



July 17, 2017

### **New evidence on the importance of protecting our wetlands**

The fundamental importance of the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Wetlands has been reinforced by a new Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) report that finds that these wetlands are next door to the North Keswick Wetlands, which are



also provincially significant. Both of these wetlands are located within the North Gwillimbury Forest, which is one of the ten largest forests in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

The MNRF's new assessment finds that the "North Keswick Wetlands have seven significant species . . . three provincially significant animal species and four locally rare plant species . . ."



The Western Chorus Frog is one of the species of special concern found in the North Keswick wetlands

It adds that "North Keswick is important for wildlife. Its treed swamps and associated upland forests support sensitive breeding forest bird species such as Black-throated Green Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, American Redstart, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow, Eastern Wood-pewee, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird and Ruffed Grouse . . . The swamps, forests and marshes also provide locally significant habitat for migratory songbirds and its mixed and conifer swamps provide wintering habitat for White-tailed Deer. Waterfowl stopover in the open water marshes and Canada Goose, Mallard and

Wood Duck breed in the wetlands."

While noting that these wetlands are in relatively good shape and that important natural connections remain intact between wetlands, upland forests and river systems, the report warns that "Alterations to water regimes, even minor ones, could have dramatic impacts on wetland communities and their resident species."

This is just more evidence that DG Group's plan for a thousand-unit Maple Lake Estates subdivision and golf course on the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland couldn't be a worse fit for this valuable natural area. As the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority considers DG Group's application for a wetland destruction permit, we hope it will take MNRF's new findings into account and slam the door shut on a plan that will do devastating damage to the wetlands and forests that make our area so special.

We also hope MNRF's findings will reinforce the province's interest in seeing this entire area properly protected and its wetlands kept off limits from development. We need the province to continue to stand strong in defense of the North Gwillimbury Forest and its priceless wetlands in the face of continuing pressure from both developers and municipal politicians looking to cut corners on proper planning.

Please pass this message on to your friends.

P.S. Please join the more than 800 people who have signed our petition calling on the Conservation Authority to conduct proper public consultations on the DG Group's request to destroy the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant

Wetland: [www.saveNGForest.org/petition.html](http://www.saveNGForest.org/petition.html)

Thank you,  
Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

416-260-2080 ext. 2  
[info@savengforest.org](mailto:info@savengforest.org)

[www.SaveNGForest.org](http://www.SaveNGForest.org)



Tell your friends and neighbours about how they can help! Forward this message.

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The North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance is alerting Georgina residents and visitors to the potential impacts of new development on the area's forests and waters. If you do not wish to receive future messages.

[View this message online](#)



July 20, 2017

## **It's black and white: the public has the right to review and comment on the DG Group's wetland destruction application**

The NGFA's lawyer, Leo Longo of Aird & Berlis LLP, has determined that there is no legal basis for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's refusal to make the DG Group's application for permission to destroy the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland publicly available now.

In addition, Mr. Longo says the Conservation Authority needs to acknowledge that by law it should be open to public comments on DG's application.

To read Mr. Longo's letter please [click here](#).

Mr. Longo's letter was in response to a June 23rd letter from the Conservation Authority, which asserted that provincial privacy legislation prohibits "public review or comment" on the DG Group's application and that public review and comment "would contravene certain laws, could create an apprehension of bias and could cause significant delay and disruption in the duty to provide permit services in a timely fashion."

Mr. Longo makes short work of these claims, finding they have no legal basis whatsoever.

### **What you can do**

1. Please pass this bulletin on to your friends and neighbours
2. Make sure you have signed our petition asking the Conservation Authority to establish a process for receiving submissions from the public with respect to the DG Group's wetland destruction application. Eight hundred people have already signed and we'd love to have 1,000.
3. Please consider making a financial donation to the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance. It is very expensive to battle with the DG Group, the Conservation Authority, the Town of Georgina and the Region of York. We need your support now to continue our fight to save the North Gwillimbury Forest and its wetland forever. To make an online donation please [click here](#).

Thank you,  
Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

416-260-2080 ext. 2



info@savengforest.org

www.SaveNGForest.org



Tell your friends and neighbours about how they can help! Forward this message.

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## Tick Smart

Media Release

June 28, 2017

Be tick smart while enjoying the outdoors this summer

Spring tick surveillance program confirms blacklegged ticks in York Region

**Newmarket** – The Regional Municipality of York spring tick surveillance results show blacklegged ticks are present in York Region natural, wooded areas. The Region advises residents to take precautions when enjoying the outdoors this season.

Four blacklegged ticks were recently found in the York Regional Forest North Tract in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville and one blacklegged tick was found near Joker’s Hill and the Koffler Scientific Reserve in the Township of King. The results are part of York Region’s spring tick surveillance across 27 natural public spaces including municipal parks, conservation areas, Regional forest tracts and ravines.

“Ticks found through our spring surveillance program have been sent to the National Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg to test for the bacteria that causes Lyme disease,” said Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region’s Medical Officer of Health. “Not all ticks are infected with the bacteria, so not all tick bites spread Lyme disease. Residents are still advised to be smart when outdoors in natural, wooded areas and take precautions to protect both people and pets.”

Keep these tips in mind when visiting wooded or brushy natural areas:

- Wear light-coloured pants and long-sleeved tops to help spot ticks
- Choose closed footwear and tuck your pants into your socks
- Use an insect repellent containing DEET or icaridin
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors to wash off unattached ticks
- Search your body for ticks, especially the groin, scalp, back and underarm areas
- Safely remove attached ticks from your body as quickly as possible – instructions to do this are available at [york.ca/lymedisease](http://york.ca/lymedisease)
- Check your pets for ticks

York Region Public Health conducts active tick surveillance in the spring and fall and passive tick surveillance year round. Active tick surveillance involves dragging a white cloth through brushy, wooded areas to assess the establishment of blacklegged ticks that could potentially spread Lyme disease. The passive surveillance program relies on residents or doctors submitting ticks to York Region Public Health for identification and testing. It is possible to encounter a blacklegged tick in natural areas almost anywhere in Ontario.

In 2015, York Region found one blacklegged tick in the vicinity of Joker's Hill and, in 2014 and 2015, six ticks in the Rouge Valley in the City of Markham. All ticks tested negative for the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. The Rouge Valley has been identified as a Lyme disease risk area by Public Health Ontario.

More information on Lyme disease and ticks is available at [york.ca/lymedisease](http://york.ca/lymedisease) or by contacting York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653; TTY 1-866-512-6228.

The Regional Municipality of York consists of nine local cities and towns, and provides a variety of programs and services to 1.2 million residents, 50,000 businesses and 595,000 employees. More information about the Region's key service areas is available at [york.ca/regionalservices](http://york.ca/regionalservices).

**Media Contact:**

Joe Chawla, Community and Health Services, The Regional Municipality of York  
1-877-464-9675 ext. 77240, [joe.chawla@york.ca](mailto:joe.chawla@york.ca)  
After-hours: 905-806-1216, [chs\\_media@york.ca](mailto:chs_media@york.ca)

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Petitioning Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change



**Friends of GIFN** Canada



# Stand with #GIFNLakeGuardians

Support Georgina Island First Nation, guardians of Lake Simcoe. Don't allow York Region Municipality to dump contaminants into the lake.  
Sign the petition at [change.org/GIFNLakeGuardians](https://change.org/GIFNLakeGuardians)

Imagine not being able to drink from your tap water for over 2 years and finding out that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) received a proposal that will dump over 40 million litres of treated sewage daily into your only source of water.

This is exactly what the people of Georgina Island First Nation (GIFN) have been dealing with. GIFN have been raising concerns about the impacts of the proposed Upper York Sewage Solutions treatment plant project on the Lake Simcoe watershed.

The York Region municipality is claiming the project will have no adverse impacts on the Lake.

In solidarity with GIFN, we are calling for the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change to explicitly reject the proposal as it stands.

## **GIFN leadership objections centre around:**

- The results presented in the Environmental Assessment only reflect studies conducted for a period of one year, meaning long term impacts on the ecosystem are not accounted for or considered
- The impact of pharmaceutical and personal care products on the water are unclear and no studies have been conducted on their impact on the Lake Simcoe watershed
- Traditional ecological knowledge of GIFN has not been incorporated

- No studies have been conducted on how the Lake and watershed will be affected overall by the developments in York Region and the waste and pollution that will be generated through this development.
- York Region has not submitted a project management plan for the UYSS project. It has been proposed that this plan will be completed upon approval. GIFN strongly disagrees with this approach and believes that the project management plan should be part of the EA.

Furthermore there has been a lack of commitment from the Ministry to ensure the cleanup of the site of the Thane aluminium smelter, shut down in 1997, which is an illegal waste site that is contaminating groundwater and seeping into Lake Simcoe.

Please sign this petition to urge the **Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change** to:

***Explicitly reject the Upper York Sewage Solutions project proposal as it stands and:***

1. Revisit the consultation process and actively seek the consent of GIFN
2. Include rehabilitation of water infrastructure on Georgina Island
3. Include clean-up of Thane smelter site

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## **Roundup – Pesticide**

Sum of Us 2017-05-25

A federal judge in the United States recently ordered Monsanto to release 250 pages of internal documents, and what they revealed is practically criminal: **Monsanto has known for 17 years that glyphosate, the main ingredient in its pesticide Roundup, could cause cancer.**

**And they launched a massive coverup to make sure we never found out.**

The released documents -- dubbed the "Monsanto papers" -- show the agricultural giant has been manipulating research, colluding with a senior government official at the US Environmental Protection Agency, and providing bogus articles to government agencies -- all to refute the fact that glyphosate is a carcinogen.

**Monsanto has proven itself completely untrustworthy and an ongoing risk to public health.** It should never be allowed to merge with Bayer -- which would only make both companies more powerful and give them control over our food supply from seed to plate.

Here's what happened: In 1999, Monsanto commissioned a researcher to study glyphosate and prove that it does not cause cancer. However, the scientist found just the opposite -- that glyphosate had properties likely to be carcinogenic.

**Rather than do the ethical thing and stop using glyphosate, Monsanto buried the study and began a massive campaign to "prove" that glyphosate did not cause cancer.**

Internal corporate communications uncovered by the courts show that Monsanto **conspired with an EPA deputy director to stop reviews of the effects of glyphosate** by government agencies. The same EPA official also tipped off the company to a glyphosate report released by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, giving Monsanto the time it needed to build a public relations onslaught against the findings.

The agri-giant paid for their own studies defending glyphosate use, and then hired scientists to write articles for academic journals using the studies. These articles were then used by the EPA and the European Food Safety Authority to determine that Roundup was safe to use on food crops.

**And we only know about the coverup because of a lawsuit by people claiming they got cancer from using Roundup.**

Now, even though the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified glyphosate as a probable carcinogen, Monsanto is *still denying* that Roundup is harmful.

**Monsanto needs to be held accountable for the damage it's done to the environment and to the people who use its products.**

SumOfUs is continuing our fight to stop Monsanto and Bayer from merging into the largest agribusiness in the world. We're continuing to pressure antitrust regulators in Europe and the U.S., using some of the best legal minds to prove that the merger is a violation of monopoly laws. We're campaigning along with farmers and consumers to show the public how harmful a Monsanto-Bayer partnership is, and we're reaching out to Bayer shareholders to let them know how much they'll lose in this merger.

Kat and the team at SumOfUs

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For More Information:

[Documents Prove Monsanto Has Known Roundup Was Dangerous For Years](#), *Konbini*, March 21, 2017

[Monsanto Weed Killer Roundup Faces New Doubts on Safety in Unsealed Documents](#), *The New York Times*, March 14, 2017

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## Round-Up

### Care 2 Petitions Information – U.S.

2017-07-07





## Demand Labels On This Cancerous Product

Jaime M

**11,251** SUPPORTERS

**12,000** GOAL

**Chances are you've got a bottle of Roundup on your garage shelf** and it's definitely been sprayed on the majority of the crops you consume. But did you know that the World Health Organization named its active ingredient - glyphosate - as **a possible carcinogenic?**

Now, California will require Monsanto - and other companies that sell products that contain glyphosate - to include a warning label on any product that contains it. Under Proposition 65 California is required to publish a list of chemicals known carcinogens or cause other serious health issues. **This move gives California consumers the tools they need to decide whether or not they want to use a chemical that could possibly make them sick.**

**But what about your state? Is it protecting you from the potential harm of this cancer causing product?** Tell your state representatives that dangerous chemicals like glyphosate must come with warning labels. We have the right to know whether or not a product we purchase could do us harm. Sign the petition today.

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## Bees and Neonics – Current science Reports

Science: SSSA – 2017-07-18 Source EcoJustice

**Science 30 Jun 2017:**

Vol. 356, Issue 6345, pp. 1393-1395

DOI: 10.1126/science.aaa1190

# Effects of neonicotinoid-treated crops on three bee species

B. A. Woodcock<sup>1,\*</sup>,  
J. M. Bullock<sup>1</sup>,  
R. F. Shore<sup>2</sup>,  
M. S. Heard<sup>1</sup>,  
M. G. Pereira<sup>2</sup>,  
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J. Peyton<sup>1</sup>,  
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M. Sárospataki<sup>3</sup>,  
C. Saure<sup>4</sup>,  
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E. Genersch<sup>6</sup>,  
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R. F. Pywell<sup>1</sup>

+ See all authors and affiliations

## Abstract

Neonicotinoid seed dressings have caused concern world-wide. We use large field experiments to assess the effects of neonicotinoid-treated crops on three bee species across three countries (Hungary, Germany, and the United Kingdom). Winter-sown oilseed rape was grown commercially with either seed coatings containing neonicotinoids (clothianidin or thiamethoxam) or no seed treatment (control). For honey bees, we found both negative (Hungary and United Kingdom) and positive (Germany) effects during crop flowering. In Hungary, negative effects on honey bees (associated with clothianidin) persisted over winter and resulted in smaller colonies in the following spring (24% declines). In wild bees (*Bombus terrestris* and *Osmia bicornis*), reproduction was negatively correlated with neonicotinoid residues. These findings point to neonicotinoids causing a reduced capacity of bee species to establish new populations in the year following exposure.

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## Chronic exposure to neonicotinoids reduces honey bee health near corn crops

N. Tsvetkov<sup>1</sup>,  
O. Samson-Robert<sup>2</sup>,  
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**Science 30 Jun 2017:**

Vol. 356, Issue 6345, pp. 1395-1397

DOI: 10.1126/science.aam7470

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## Abstract

Experiments linking neonicotinoids and declining bee health have been criticized for not simulating realistic exposure. Here we quantified the duration and magnitude of neonicotinoid exposure in Canada's corn-growing regions and used these data to design realistic experiments to investigate the effect of such insecticides on honey bees. Colonies near corn were naturally exposed to neonicotinoids for up to 4 months—the majority of the honey bee's active season. Realistic experiments showed that neonicotinoids increased worker mortality and were associated with declines in social immunity and increased queenlessness over time. We also discovered that the acute toxicity of neonicotinoids to honey bees doubles in the presence of a commonly encountered fungicide. Our work demonstrates that field-realistic exposure to neonicotinoids can reduce honey bee health in corn-growing regions.

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Find Petition Here: [https://www.change.org/p/stand-with-gifnlakeguardians-and-urge-the-ontario-ministry-of-the-environment-and-climate-change-to-reject-the-upper-york-sewage-solutions-project?recruiter=49559826&utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=share\\_email\\_responsive&utm\\_term=774973](https://www.change.org/p/stand-with-gifnlakeguardians-and-urge-the-ontario-ministry-of-the-environment-and-climate-change-to-reject-the-upper-york-sewage-solutions-project?recruiter=49559826&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive&utm_term=774973)

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**Ticking Lyme Bomb in Canada. YOU are at RISK. Sign now!**

Change.org 2017-07-07

Petitioning [Health Minister Jane Philpott](#) and [4 others](#)

**Canadians Concerned About Lyme Disease**

**Lyme disease is one of the fastest spreading infectious diseases in the world.**

Please **sign this petition** asking the Canadian Government to **reject the current draft** Action Plan (Framework) for Lyme disease and **FIX IT**. The Framework must recognize the seriousness of this disease for all of us. Time is ticking. Canada has NO Plan. **You could be the next BITE.**

Lyme Disease is carried by ticks, which are **migrating all across Canada** at an alarming speed. Canadian scientists predict that by the year 2020, **80% of the population** in Eastern Canada (including Manitoba) will be living in a tick-populated area. [1]

The Lyme bacteria can also be passed from **pregnant mother to her child** in the womb[2] and there are concerns this infection may be **sexually transmitted**.[3] Babesia, a Lyme Co-Infection, has been found to be in the U.S. **blood supply**.[4]

According to the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), there are 300,000 NEW cases of Lyme in the US every year most of which occur within 400 miles of the Canadian border. The numbers in Canada are also growing FAST.[1]

In 2014 Bill 442 was passed, requiring the Canadian Government to create a Lyme Action Plan (Framework). The draft Framework was released on February 7, 2017 for public comment. This draft Framework **fails to take real action**, has **no funding**, and **fails to protect Canadians** from Lyme. We need you to **sign this petition** to demand this **draft Framework be rejected** in its current form.

**All Canadians are at risk.** All it takes is a walk in the grass, a hike on a trail, a day of gardening or golf and for our kids - playing outside in the schoolyard or in a park. Your pets can bring ticks into your house. Who would think that a tick the size of a poppy seed you may never notice, has the impact of a bomb going off in your body and your life?

In this video, you will meet Nicole Bottles, a 24 year old from Victoria B.C., who explains her 9-year battle with Lyme disease from her wheelchair. She was just 15 years old in Grade 10, when her life as she knew it changed forever.

Nicole highlights the problem we are all going to face. **A tick explosion is underway.** Canada is currently NOT equipped to prevent, educate, diagnose or treat people who get infected. Nicole saw countless specialists and endured endless testing including the flawed Canadian test for Lyme. She was forced to leave the country to receive proper diagnosis, testing and treatment.

Canadian families are currently **paying out of pocket** for treatment. Lyme patients report spending tens of thousands of dollars on necessary care, placing families in financial jeopardy. Nicole's family and friends all pitched in tens of thousands of dollars to cover some of her costs. **Who will pay for your care if you need it?**

Nicole's hope for ALL Canadians is that the Action Plan for Lyme will be the "catalyst for change".

Nicole and thousands of other Lyme sufferers across Canada are devastated to see that this Framework has **NO ACTION** at all. The draft Framework is a violation of Public Health's mandate, Bill 442 and possibly the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (s. 7) granting all Canadians the right to life, liberty and security of the person.

On March 7, 2017 the **window will close** for public feedback.

*[APRIL 29th UPDATE: Minister Philpott, despite numerous requests, has not agreed to talk to or meet with us despite almost 40,000 signatures and over 10,400 comments. Sue Faber and Jennifer Kravis are headed to Ottawa on May 2nd for the second time to raise these Canadian voices to Members of Parliament. Follow their journey here: <https://www.facebook.com/lymehopecanada/>*

*[MARCH 9TH UPDATE: Yesterday (March 8, 2017) Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) stopped accepting public feedback. PHAC received notice of over 36,000 signatures before their cut-off date. This Petition will continue until the original goal, to have Minister Philpott reject the draft Framework, is met.]*

*[JUNE 8th UPDATE: Federal Health Minister Jane Philpott announced the release of the final Framework on May 30th, as well as \$4 million in funding. The final Framework DOES NOT address in any meaningful way ANY of the serious issues raised in this Petition (see the Update on this Petition: the Final Framework has NOT been fixed. Please continue to sign and share until Canadians are adequately protected.)*

Please **sign this petition** asking the Canadian Government to **reject the current draft** Federal Framework for Lyme disease and **FIX IT**. The Plan must recognize the seriousness of this disease for all of us. Time is ticking. Canada has NO Plan. **You could be the next BITE. #TickingLymeBomb**

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