



# NEWSLETTER

## SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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

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([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.



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**Tuesday, Feb. 13 Winter Birds in Ontario:** A wide ranging conversation of winter birds in our area and beyond. Informed by the results of our Annual Sutton C.B.C. on Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup> this

subject is an appropriate February subject in the depth of this cold, snowy winter. Club members research and presentation. **This is the club Annual Meeting, administration review and election of the coming year officers will be undertaken.**

***Tuesday, March 13* Hurricanes:** How are they formed and what is their impact on our lives with Bill and Doris Major, exploring personal experiences of recent hurricane Irma in Cuba.

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

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**2017 December**

***Saturday, Feb. 17* Winter Trail Outing:** A traditional club afternoon adventure in a Regional Forest location in the South Lake Simcoe area. Actual details of the trip will depend on weather and existing conditions snowshoeing, skiing, or hiking. Meet at Coffee Time, Highway 48 south of Baldwin at 1:00 p.m. Dress for the weather. Phone 905-722-8021 if you plan to participate.

***Saturday, March 3* Deer Census in Rouge National Urban Park:** Call for more information, and to register 905-722- 8021. Dress for the weather, based on winter conditions.

**Members, please consider writing and submitting an article to the Talon Newsletter. Submit to one of the Executive members.**

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

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## **Jamie Huntley – Memorial Service**

On Thursday January 25 a Memorial Service was held for long-time SLSN member Thomas Jamie Huntley, to commemorate his death on January 22, 2018. A number of SLSN members were in attendance.

Jamie, with his wife Margaret, long-time member of SLSN have an important rooted sense of place and natural heritage in this part of our world. Jamie's historical knowledge and experience of the forests of York Region was extensive and enlightening, and his past MNR work life always connected to people I had known and worked with in my distant past. Knowing, working and great conversations with him will always be strong memories on mine. He with Margaret had many surprises also, his recollections of trips to northern Ontario and Arizona are a only a few that come to mind. He will be missed.

Paul Harpley SLSN

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## York Region Forest News

The Region's [\*Ash Removal Harvest in the Brown Hill Tract\*](#) contract will commence February 7, 2018. The operation is expected to last 3 weeks.

For the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. Please feel free to forward this email to other forest users. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact at Colin Macdonald R.P.F. at [1-877-464-9675 x75258](tel:1-877-464-9675).

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[View this message online](#)



Feb. 9, 2018

### When is the Conservation Authority going to reject the DG Group's wetland destruction application?

More than nine months ago, the DG Group submitted an application to the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) seeking permission to build a 1,073 unit subdivision in the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) in the



North Gwillimbury Forest.

Nine long months later, the LSRCA has still not rejected the DG Group's application despite the fact that its *Watershed Development Guidelines*:

1. Prohibit residential developments on PSWs; and
2. Require it to complete its review of applications within 30 to 90 days.

What is going on? Why are we still waiting for the LSRCA to protect Lake Simcoe's watershed?

Mayor Margaret Quirk and Deputy Mayor Naomi Davison are the Town of Georgina's representatives on the LSRCA's board. At the LSRCA's February 23rd meeting they should move a motion to request the LSRCA to reject the DG Group's wetland destruction application.

Please contact Mayor Quirk ([mquirk@georgina.ca](mailto:mquirk@georgina.ca)) and Deputy Mayor Davison ([ndavison@georgina.ca](mailto:ndavison@georgina.ca)) and ask them to do so.

Please pass this message on to your friends.

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, [click here](#).

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## Christmas Bird Count Results - 2017

On Saturday December 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 many birders (including SLSN members) in the field and registered feeder watchers in the Georgina, East Gwillimbury and northeast Uxbridge areas participated in the 31st annual Sutton CBC. The day started off fully overcast for owling with an extreme low temperature of almost -20 degrees Celsius. As the day went on the temperature rose to -9 degrees by mid-afternoon. A light persistent wind (10 km/hour) from the southeast

shifting to northwest by afternoon occurred throughout the day. Light snow off and on throughout most of the day was followed by intense snow squalls late in the afternoon. The very cold early in the morning during the owling and relatively low winds, resulted in optimum owling conditions. Lake Simcoe was completely frozen and snow covered.

**Sutton C.B.C. Bird List – 2017-12-30**

Revised 2018-01-10

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of Individuals</u>	
American Black Duck	2	-
Ruffed Grouse	5	
Wild Turkey	71	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	
Cooper's Hawk	2	-
Bald Eagle	2	
Red-tailed Hawk	10	-
Ring-billed Gull	1	-
Rock Pigeon	64	
Mourning Dove	293	
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	
Great Horned Owl	2	
Snowy Owl	2	
Barred Owl	1	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	20	
Downy Woodpecker	44	
Hairy Woodpecker	22	
Northern Flicker	2	
Pileated Woodpecker	2	
Blue Jay	196	
American Crow	146	
Common Raven	11	
Horned Lark	12	
Black-capped Chickadee	358	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	19	
White-breasted Nuthatch	41	
Brown Creeper	8	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	
American Robin	27	
Northern Mockingbird	1	
European Starling	315	
Cedar Waxwing	21	
Lapland Longspur	2	
Snow Bunting	500	
American Tree Sparrow	144	
Dark-eyed Junco	275	
White-crowned Sparrow	1	
Northern Cardinal	65	
Red-winged Blackbird	1	
House Finch	16	
Purple Finch	10	
Pine Siskin	2	
American Goldfinch	173	

House Sparrow	46	Total Individuals – 2,943
Count Species Total	<b>44</b>	

Count Week Birds: Canada Geese, Tundra Swan, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon

Compilers: Paul and Debra Harpley

A total of 44 species on the day (lower than most years – not unexpected given the weather), and four count week bird species were recorded. With a lot of December snow before the count it was noted by birders that some birds were generally hard to find away from feeders. Highlights for the count day were a count high of three Owl species heard (Great Horned (2), Barred (1) and Screech (4) and one Snowy owl (1) seen. Two Bald eagles were recorded, down from 12 last year when the lake was still open. Almost no waterfowl or gulls were seen on count day (because most all water was frozen, except fast moving streams). However, two Black ducks were found and one Ring-billed gull seen by field birders. Southern birds still in our count area were limited, but Golden-crowned kinglet (2), Mockingbird (1), White-crowned sparrow (1), and Red-winged blackbird (1), three of them at separate feeders were of note and considerable interest. The much talked about northern finches irruption predicted across southern Canada did not appear in the Sutton Count area. House finch (16), Purple finch (10) and Pine siskin (2) were considered low for expectations. Interestingly, Lapland longspur (2), Horned lark (12) and Snow bunting (500) were welcome, but not rare winter species additions to the count. The four significant Count Week birds (not seen on count day) were Canada geese, Tundra swan, Northern goshawk and Peregrine falcon. Thanks to all field birders and feeder watchers who participated in the count.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Sutton Christmas Bird Count, is one of hundreds of Official Counts (C.B.C.'s) in North America and the world under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. The results of these bird surveys over many years have been essential to scientific research on many aspects of avian ecology, populations and particularly to climate change impact and related critical science. The Sutton Count is supported by the Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe Research Foundation ([www.zephyrsociety.ca](http://www.zephyrsociety.ca)) and the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists ([www.slsnc.ca](http://www.slsnc.ca)).