



SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

SLSN is an incorporated not-for-profit Member of Ontario Nature.
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Research Partner with The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe (www.zephyrsociety.ca)
Member: Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition
Member: Ontario Greenbelt Alliance

2016-06-08,(2016-07-11 updated) Ontario Greenbelt Alliance (OGA) Key Issue Submission, Review Greenbelt Proposed Plan 2016.

South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Key Issue:

“Growing the Greenbelt at Pefferlaw (Growing the Protected Area of the Greenbelt) at South Lake Simcoe in northern York Region”.

Our organization sees natural habitat conservation of existing wildlands, wetlands and stream, rivers and lakes as the most important priority for the Ontario Greenbelt. Key natural heritage areas of **core and corridor natural heritage habitat** must be preserved and where these areas were not protected in the original Greenbelt in 2005, they must be included **now** by the Province of Ontario at this 10-year 2016 Review.

The Greenbelt must be expanded in Pefferlaw area of the Town of Georgina in the Region of York where the very large Secondary Plan area of the Georgina Official Plan includes significant parts of three public York Regional Forests (Pefferlaw Tract, Cronsberry and Godfrey Tracts) and on a Provincial Nature Reserve (Duclous Point P.N.R.). We (SLSN) opposed this back in 2005 when the Greenbelt was established. **Specifically, Greenbelt Proposed Plan (2016) Sections 3.0 (pp.14), 3.2 (pp.20), 3.2.5 (pp.26-29) and 5.5.1 (pp. 57, 103) are affected.**

This “**Ridiculously large**” Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area, with very little growth possible there in the future, and the tremendous natural and agricultural farm areas needs Greenbelt protection. Consequently, the **“Where will the wild things go”** article ran in the Toronto Star on Saturday October the 11th,

2014 and although the reporter mixed up some growth numbers, the basic planning problem of the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan area was exposed.

The Town of Georgina Council Meeting (May 13, 2015) of the proposed report "2015 PROVINCIAL CO-ORDINATED LAND USE PLANNING REVIEW- Report No. PB-2015-0026, **recommending that the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan area be "Shrunk" (Growing the Greenbelt)**. We concur with this, being our recommendation since 2005. **The Georgina Council unanimously supported the Report recommending, stating "The contraction of this (Pefferlaw) Settlement Area boundary would more accurately reflect growth forecasts, more effectively implement the Town's Official Plan growth management policies, better protect natural heritage/hydrologic features and Prime Agricultural Lands, address an optics issue regarding the physical size of the Pefferlaw Settlement Area and assist the Province in their desire to grow the Greenbelt"**.

At its meeting held on May 21, 2015, the Council of The Regional Municipality of York the Town of Georgina Report No. PB-2015-0026 was endorsed by Regional Council. **The progression of the Shrinking of the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan** is seen in the three(3) **Figures** appended. **Amazingly, the Town of Georgina has not shrunk the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan area in its recent Official Plan Review, and proposed new Official Plan. And, the Province has not acted to "Grow the Greenbelt" (Grow the Protected Area of the Greenbelt) at Pefferlaw either. It is not shown as a Proposed Addition of "Lands added to the Protected Countryside" in Proposed Appendix II, in the Greenbelt Proposed Plan (2016) page 103.**

Review of final boundaries beyond what the current Town of Georgina Council Recommendation maps. We have calculated this to be almost a 60% size reduction, resulting in thousands of acres of agricultural fields, and important forests and meadowlands now recommended to be in the Greenbelt. This is a great improvement to the biodiversity, and the long-term sustainability of Southern Ontario.

Paul Harpley

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Fellow International, The Explorers Club

Fellow, The Royal Canadian Geographical Society

Fellow, McLaughlin College, York University

Figures:

Showing the progression of the Shrinking of the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan, and thereby the Growing of the Greenbelt.

Original Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area (2005)



Aerial View of Reduced (shrunk) Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area (proposed 2015-05). Town of Georgina Report No. PB-2015-0026,



Plan Map View of Reduced (shrunk) Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area (proposed 2015-05)

