



SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

SLSN is a not-for-profit Member of Ontario Nature.

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Member: Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

Member: Ontario Greenbelt Alliance

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Re: Greenbelt Review, Town of Georgina

Ontario Government Coordinated Land-use Review Process, EBR 012-7195 --

Proposed Greenbelt Plan (2016); 012-7197

Dear Ms. Tan and Ms. Peters,

South Lake Simcoe Naturalists (Ontario Nature) Coordinated Review Submission

The South Lake Simcoe Naturalists (SLSN) respectfully submits the following recommendations in response to the government's proposed plan amendments to the Greenbelt Plan, 2016 (GP).

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The Land-use Plan affecting our organizations interest most directly is the **Greenbelt Plan**. For over 2 years we (SLSN) have been intimately involved in Open Houses, meetings, and presentations and technical comment on the Greenbelt Plan (Ontario Government Coordinated Land-use Review Process) workshops in Southern Ontario. At the same time we have also engaged in meetings, presentations and technical comment on the Town of Georgina Official Plan Review (including comment for Regional Review) that has important implications for the need of Provincial direction and changes in South Lake Simcoe with regard to long-term natural heritage and agricultural land use conservation in the Town of Georgina. In this regard we made detailed written submissions regarding our two (2) key issues detailed before directly to the Province (**SLSN Greenbelt Submission May 28, 2015**) and to the Town of Georgina regarding the Town Official Plan Review and the Provincial Review of the Greenbelt (**SLSN Georgina Official Plan/Greenbelt Submission July 31, 2015**). **We have worked very hard with the Town of Georgina Council and staff, who have enacted our original recommendations as Policy in two separate Reports and Amendments passed unanimously by Council directly asking the Province of Ontario to act to effect changes to the current Draft Greenbelt Plan. We seek today to make sure the extensive and comprehensive planning work and political support in our area of Ontario is reflected in Final Policy, landuse and Mapping of the Greenbelt Plan.**

Two key issues define our needed and recommended improvements

1. Growing the Protected Area of the Greenbelt by Shrinking the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area in the Town of Georgina (thereby Growing the Protected Area of the Greenbelt in the Town of Georgina).

The Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area should never have been as large as it is from 2005, when the first Greenbelt Plan was designated. It 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.) other significant forests and wetlands and agricultural areas.

It is a central mandate and motivation of our organization over 25 years in South Lake Simcoe to ensure actual planning actions to effect conservation of natural heritage lands and to strengthen core and corridor lands for wildlife consistent with the guidance of landscape ecology science. Consequently, we are extremely supportive of the current Provincial governments' priority of "Growing the Greenbelt" especially where important

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natural areas lands are in Secondary Plan areas as potentially developable, with minimal or no potential development, and not in the protected Greenbelt.

Our recommendation to “Shrink” the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area” as an act of the Greenbelt Review and implementation (thereby Growing the Protected Area of the Greenbelt in the Town of Georgina) **makes excellent planning logic and sense, and is**

1. **Good Planning**
2. **In the Public and natural habitat and wildlife conservation interest**
3. **Consistent with the Province of Ontario focus of Growing the Greenbelt and managing growth in a controlled, planned and consistent manner. It is also the right time to recommend this important planning initiative, through an action of the Provincial Greenbelt Review and finalization now.**
4. **In the interest of the community of the Town of Georgina as per Report No. PB-2015-0026 (attached).**
5. **Is a geographically defined and identified area that can be represented in an Official Plan**

Moving forward the current Draft Greenbelt Plan, is particularly distressing in light of 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, (For Georgina Council Consideration May 13, 2015) and later to York Region recommending that the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan area be “Shrunk” (thereby Growing the Protected Area of the Greenbelt in the Town of Georgina).

Refer to Figure 1 attached for Town of Georgina Approved Report. The shrinking of the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan has been determined by consultants to be approaching 60 percent.

2. **Urban River Valley Designations in the communities of Keswick, Sutton and Pefferlaw (Maskinonge River, Black River and Pefferlaw River) in northern York Region (Town of Georgina).**

At this point none of the rivers north of the Oak Ridges Moraine are designated in the new Urban Valley Designations even though many of our rivers are degraded through very significant environmental challenges of phosphorus loading, invasive species, erosion, old institutional, municipal and industrial services and site constraints among other things. They are in need of new Policy, future rehabilitation, restoration and funding potential that this designation will hopefully in the future allow. This is

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particularly important for Georgina in relation to the **Lake Simcoe Act and Plan** moving forward. **Map 1 (below) provides visual context to the three rivers draining off the Oak Ridges Moraine north to Lake Simcoe to the historical and growing communities of Keswick, Sutton and Pefferlaw, not designated as Urban River Valley Designation in the Draft Greenbelt Plan. The Town of Georgina has supported the Province of Ontario making this Urban River Valley Designation as a component of the new Final Greenbelt Plan (September 28, 2016 Council Meeting Resolution PB-2016-0495). Refer to Figure 2 attached.**

Finally, we are concerned about Developers having made 600 requests to the Province to take forests and farmlands out of the Greenbelt despite the fact that they already have access to over 46,000 hectares of land slated for development outside the Greenbelt (bigger than all of Mississauga and Oakville combined!).

In the Town of Georgina, the DG Group is seeking permission to build a 1,073-unit subdivision on prime farmlands in the Greenbelt between Deer Park and Boyers Roads despite the fact that they have undeveloped lands in south Keswick by the Highway 404 exit is also concerning. In this regard we support the Ontario Nature (ON) and the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance (OGA) submissions regarding final recommendations to the Ontario Government Coordinated Land-use Review Process, which we have reviewed and endorsed.

Please move our detailed initiatives and recommended improvements forward to their incorporation into the new Greenbelt Plan for Ontario.

Yours truly,

Paul Harpley

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Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Ontario

Region of York Council members

Attachments: Via e-mail. Figure 1: Report PB 2005-0026 Summary Narrative & Maps (3) Town of Georgina. Figure 2: Urban River Designation Town of Georgina 2006-09-28 council meeting Resolution NO. c-2016-0495

Map 1 Georgina Three Urban rivers – current and future development

