

*The Talon*

Vol. 28, No. 8, August 2018



# 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.



**NOTE: Consistent with YRP recent procedures in place regarding evening use of their Community Meeting Room (CMR), attendees of SLSN meetings must be current members of SLSN in good standing, and may be asked to provide further information, as requested.**

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**Tuesday, Sept.11 Forest Wildfires in Ontario and beyond!: A topical forest ecology and human safety issue. More details to follow.**

**No Meetings or formal Outings July and August for Summer Break – September Meeting T.B.A.**

**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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## **Ainslie Hill I and II Development**

There is a Town of Georgina Council summer Meeting coming up on the evening of August 15 with Georgina Council and staff seeking approval for a Plan of Subdivision almost a year after many oral public submissions, and substantive public written comments asking for changes since before the past September 13, 2017 Council Meeting. This comment included an extensive 65 page SLSN submission authored by Paul Harpley, Gord Zwaigenbaum and William Shore. This submission was also followed up with a September 3, 2017 response to Town of Georgina regarding development Agent Michael Smith's response to SLSN comments (both reports previously copied to members with past newsletters). **The Town of Georgina has advised that this is not a public meeting so there will not be an opportunity for public comment.** More information can be found on the Town of Georgina web site.

**SLSN Club member William Shore in the area, with assistance from Gord Zwaigenbaum and Paul Harpley provided additional comment on the development, with regard to concerns with destruction of a section of the Catering Road Eastern White Cedar Woodland with this development, tree destruction compensation, and carbon sequestration woodland function. This resulted in Bill submitting a potential development "condition", as below.**

**Also, Bill and myself have been in communication with the Mayor, Council members and staff, in support of the proposed development condition, and other continuing key SLSN concerns with this development such as natural habitat for at risk and endangered bats.**

Paul Harpley

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Dear Madam Mayor and Councillors of Georgina,

Because the current plans for Ainslie Hill are going to do so much unnecessary damage to the local and worldwide environment, (and likely to the reputation of the Town), I am hoping that you will find the following condition (below) appropriate and reasonable. I suggest that you add it to the "7 5 to 100" that are currently expected for the August 15 meeting.

Trying to be helpful, I also suggest that next year's council can appoint a small committee to decide whether the Town intends to do it's best to maintain or exceed the carbon sequestration rate currently operating at Ainslie Hill. Once this is done, you can direct your tree experts to discover how science is able to help with the problem of finding the best estimate of the number of young trees which will be needed to replace a tree that must be cut down.

Last week, with help from the Canadian Forestry Services, I finally found a Canadian website which has considerable information about Canadian trees - including a quick carbon calculator.

I found that if I modified the USA notion of a "slow" growth rate to a very slow rate, then I could use the weight of a specified cedar tree in Canada to give me

about the same number of replacement trees I quoted you in my letter of June 12 this year!

Here is that website: <https://lapps-scf-cfs.rncan.gc.ca/calc/enlbiomass-calculator>

PS: I would like to speak at the August 15'h meeting, for a couple of minutes, and I hope I don't The subdivision applications for Ainslie Hill 1 & 2 should not be approved ...

... Until the 2016/07113 Tree Preservation and Conservation Policy ENG-10 has been completely revised to increase the number of replacement trees required whenever trees are needed to be cut down for a subdivision. This revised policy must dictate tree replacements for Ainslie Hill 1 &2, and for any road widening or other alterations to the municipal roads.

and ...

Until this increased number of replacement trees reflects the Town's commitment to use their best effort to follow current science, so as to maintain or exceed the total carbon dioxide uptake that the trees slated for destruction currently provide.

William Shore

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[View this message online](#)



July 6, 2018

**Conservation Authority issues wetland destruction permit — Town must act**



Earlier this week the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority issued a Section 28 permit that will allow the DG Group to destroy the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland in the North Gwillimbury Forest (NGF).

It is time for the Town of Georgina to finally stand up to the DG Group and save the North Gwillimbury Forest's wetlands.

Specifically, the Town should immediately issue an Interim Control Bylaw to prohibit

development on the wetlands while we wait for the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal's (LPAT, formerly OMB) decision on our request that it amend the Town's Official Plan to prohibit development on the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetlands. We expect that the LPAT will be issuing its decision by September.

Please contact Mayor Quirk and the members of Georgina Town Council and ask them to issue an Interim Control Bylaw at their next council meeting on July 18th to save the NGF's wetlands.

#### **Council members**

Mayor Margaret Quirk - [mquirk@georgina.ca](mailto:mquirk@georgina.ca)  
Deputy Mayor Naomi Davison - [ndavison@georgina.ca](mailto:ndavison@georgina.ca)  
Councillor Charlene Biggerstaff - [cbiggerstaff@georgina.ca](mailto:cbiggerstaff@georgina.ca)  
Councillor Dan Fellini - [dfellini@georgina.ca](mailto:dfellini@georgina.ca)  
Councillor Dave Neeson - [dneeson@georgina.ca](mailto:dneeson@georgina.ca)  
Councillor Frank Sebo - [fsebo@georgina.ca](mailto:fsebo@georgina.ca)  
Councillor Dave Harding - [dharding@georgina.ca](mailto:dharding@georgina.ca)

[Please pass this message on to your friends.](#)

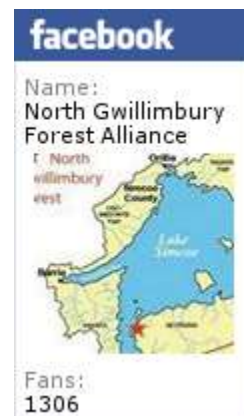
Thank you,  
Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

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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View this message online



July 23, 2018

### Town will wait and see on DG Group's next steps

Last Wednesday (July 18th) Georgina Town Council unanimously passed a motion stating that a special council meeting will be convened if the DG Group applies for a permit from the Town to facilitate the destruction of the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland.



Earlier this month the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority **illegally** gave the DG Group permission to destroy the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland in the North Gwillimbury Forest.

According to [a recent Ontario Streams report](#), if this occurs it will be by far the single largest destruction of wetlands in the Lake Simcoe Watershed during the

past 15 years for a residential development.

In May we asked the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly the OMB) to amend the Town's Official Plan to prohibit development on the North Gwillimbury Forest's wetlands. Unfortunately, the Town spent \$71,000 of Georgina taxpayers' money opposing our appeal to save the wetlands. We hope the town will take a more enlightened approach if a special meeting does need to be called.

[Please pass this message on to your friends.](#)

Thank you,

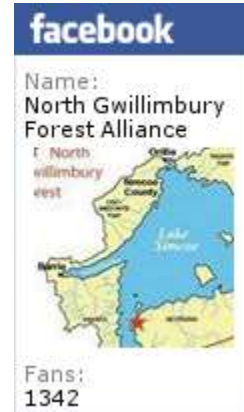
Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

416-260-2080 ext. 2  
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[Tell your friends and neighbours about how they can help! Forward this message.](#)



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**Local North Gwillimbury Forest area resident and recent SLSN member Christine Legree, working with Jack Gibbons of the NGF Alliance, has initiated a new Petition regarding the future of the D.G. Group lands in the Keswick Secondary Plans location. See information below.**

**P.H.**

Christine Legree: Save the North Gwillimbury Forest

Dear Georgina Residents:

The North Gwillimbury Forest and Wetlands, part of the Greenbelt, and under provincial protection and York Region protection are under threat and we need to act now, especially near municipal election time which is in October. DG Group has been given a permit to build 1,073 residential units in the Deer Park and Metro Road area, Keswick. This permit was given by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. It is up to us THE PEOPLE OF GEORGINA, to send a strong message that North Gwillimbury Forest is our natural heritage and needs to be kept intact in its pristine condition. In areas south of us, area residents have been successful in preserving their Greenbelt heritage and we can too!

Growth in Georgina areas is possible away from the forest and wetland. There are plenty of fields around the Georgina area. There is no need to destroy protected forests and wetlands!

On July 18, 2018, Jack Gibbons, Steve Sandler and myself - Christine Legree spoke at the Georgina Council meeting to let Council members know that the North Gwillimbury Forest and Wetlands are not open for destruction and development. Those lands are to remain in natural condition for Georgina residents, our future children and tourists who love this area for the

natural beauty. There is support in the Georgina council for our cause, but our members need much more support in the face of aggressive developers and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

You can take action now by signing the petition below:

Name	address	contact	signature
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If you wish to offer ideas or become active in this cause, please contact me, Christine Legree at [christinabluewater@bell.net](mailto:christinabluewater@bell.net). There is also on-line information available at Save the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance and other conservation groups. Please feel free to take one sheet home and have friends and family sign. I can be available to collect the signed petition at your convenience and location.

## Birds and Conservation





## American Bird Conservancy

Every year, **free-roaming cats kill an estimated 2.4 billion birds in the U.S.**, making these feline predators the single greatest direct, human-caused threat to America's birds.

Public officials can curb the staggering toll on birds by passing ordinances that restrict cat roaming and promote responsible pet ownership. **But the vast majority of our local governments have yet to pass even rudimentary laws, allowing cats to wreak havoc on vulnerable birds.**

It's time we change that by asking elected officials to pass humane laws that reduce bird deaths by prohibiting cat abandonment, strengthening sterilization efforts, and encouraging safe alternatives to unrestricted roaming.

The birds that inhabit our backyards and neighborhoods need protection from cats now: **Tell elected officials in your county and municipality to keep birds safe from free-roaming cats by passing laws that encourage safe pet ownership.**

Since domestic cats have been introduced around much of the world, the impacts have been disastrous. Cats have contributed to the extinction of 40 bird species and are now one of the world's most harmful invasive species. **Without immediate action, more extinctions are only a matter of time.**

And the impact on birds goes beyond direct attacks. Studies have found that even a cat's presence can be stressful enough to reduce bird survival and reproductive success, shadowing their lives in debilitating fear.

As if that wasn't bad enough, **free-roaming cats are more likely to carry dangerous diseases—rabies and toxoplasmosis, among others—that pose a risk to the health of our families.**

Local ordinances that limit free-roaming cats can help reduce the spread of these diseases. **They also benefit cat owners and cats, protecting beloved pets from speeding cars, backyard predators, and other dangers.**

Keeping cats safe is good for birds, cats, and our communities: **Call on local officials to prioritize bird protection by adopting smart measures to restrict free-roaming cats.**

**Free-roaming cats kill more than twice the number of birds killed by all other direct, human-caused threats combined.** But working together, **we can begin to turn the tide, building a safer, sustainable world for birds**—and cats.

Grant Sizemore  
Director of Invasive Species Programs

Banner photo: Deborah E. Bifulco

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## **Bird-friendly beef showcased by Hilton Hotels**

Bird Studies International, June 15, 2018

**A new mode of farming is taking off in South America. The pampas is one the world's most important grassland biomes: but intensive farming is wearing it down. Now, a scheme for sustainable, bird-friendly meat is getting prestigious recognition.**



Ranchers herding sustainably-raised cattle © Grasslands Alliance  
*By Samantha Moreno and Daniela Paz*

**Just six months after** making its debut in Europe, bird-friendly beef is making a splash across the continent. This April, it was showcased at Hilton Hotels Food and Beverage Conference: an event organized to promote quality foods to hotel and restaurant chefs from across Europe. For the Southern Cone Grassland Alliance, it was the perfect opportunity to connect with industry professionals and tell the story behind their product.

The story is an inspiring one, concerning a landscape that lies deep within the heart of South America's cultural identity – but one that risks being lost altogether. The pampas covers almost a million square kilometers, uniting Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. It supports a staggering wealth of biodiversity, including 280 bird species. But 35 million people also depend on it to survive, most of them through agriculture and ranching. And that's where the problem presently lies.

Industrial farming is sapping the soil of its nutrients. Cattle are increasingly confined to concentrated indoor feedlots, and the pastures that they once roamed are being replaced by intensively grown arable crops. It is estimated that 60% of the region's soil now suffers from erosion. And that is a lot of soil: between 1970 and 1999, 23 million tons of nutrients were lost as a result of soy, wheat and corn cultivation.

At the moment, protected areas such as nature reserves cover only 2% of the pampas. So how can we balance wildlife with livelihoods? The answer lies in sustainable, organic farming – something that NGOs and governments are currently working together to advance. Their aim is to marry the three priorities of social development, economic growth and conservation into one initiative.

The Southern Cone Grassland Alliance unites BirdLife Partners in the region to promote organic, sustainable beef ranching that preserves native grassland and the wildlife it supports. The result is high-quality, ethical meat from cattle that are allowed to roam freely and enjoy a good quality of life.

This April in Barcelona, the Alliance was invited to display the results of its work at the Hilton Hotels Food and Beverage Conference. Around the same time, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) organized its third Sustainable Livestock Forum. The Southern Cone Grassland Alliance held two workshops about its methods, spreading the word of its regional impact and unique techniques further.

It looks like word of the Alliance's success is beginning to get out. Since last year, its bird-friendly beef has been selling well throughout Europe, distributed by its Netherlands-based partner company, Nice to Meat. We hope that the Alliance's involvement in conferences such as these will continue to advance the dialogue on how to preserve South America's precious grasslands.

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## **Caribou Conservation in the Boreal issue – continuing**

**SLSN have explored this issue in the past in member research meetings. The real threats to caribou in Canada continue.**

# **As governments argue, at-risk woodland caribou decline**



**WWF**

APRIL 20, 2018

Canada's woodland caribou are in trouble. They are falling through the cracks of our approach to protection and recovery of species at risk. Boreal populations of woodland caribou have decreased by more than 30 per cent over the last 20 years. More concerning: 73 per cent of herds are not self-sustaining, meaning they likely need conservation interventions, [such as relocations](#), to build viable populations.



*Woodland caribou (Rangifer tarandus) in the boreal forest (c) GaryAndJoanieMcGuffin.com*

With a federal report on the protection of woodland caribou expected later this month, and growing provincial complaints about the costs of implementing required conservation actions, it is time for all parties to stop passing the buck and instead work collaboratively to protect critical habitat for this at-risk species

The continued declines of woodland caribou are illustrative of a systematic failure of our protection and recovery of at-risk species in Canada. WWF-Canada's [Living Planet Report Canada found an average decline of 28 per cent in populations of Canada's federally designated species at risk for the period 2002 – 2014](#), a result that indicates significant ongoing declines for our most imperiled species, despite legal protections.

The boreal populations of woodland caribou were listed as Threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) in 2003. An extensive consultation process followed for the creation of a recovery strategy that involved industry, Indigenous, provincial and territorial government



representation – a process that was unprecedented for a species at risk in Canada and took nearly a decade to complete. The recovery strategy was released in 2012, four years past the legislated deadline.



*Woodland caribou (Rangifer tarandus) in the boreal forest with antlers in velvet stage. (c) GaryandJoahnieMcGuffin.com*

Following this, provinces and territories were tasked with developing their own action plans, which, after five years, were due this past fall. These plans are to be assessed in a report later this month by Environment and Climate Change Canada to determine whether the prescribed actions are sufficient to protect the critical habitat woodland caribou need to thrive.

In the 15 years since being legally listed, boreal caribou numbers have continued to decline. Logging, mining and gas development have cleared large areas of intact forest or fragmented it through the construction of roads, seismic lines and hydro corridors, restricting the movement of caribou and making them easier prey for wolves.

At this point, the challenges faced by woodland caribou are abundantly clear. We know the barriers and we know the opportunities. Some might even say that we've studied the species nearly to death. Governments and industries have had more than a decade to develop plans to act. And yet, we're hearing from [Alberta's environment minister Shannon Phillips](#) and [Quebec's minister of forests, wildlife and parks Luc Blanchette](#) that protecting

caribou is not worth the cost. Similarly, [Ontario's Minister of natural resources and forestry Nathalie Des Rosiers](#) has allowed exemptions of the forest industry from the Ontario Endangered Species Act to continue.



*Boreal forest in Northern Alberta (c) Global Warming Images/WWF*

If we can't work through these issues now, for one of the most iconic Canadian species, despite years of consultation and process, how can we expect to recover the other 620 wildlife species listed under SARA?

We don't have to look far to see what is in store for boreal herds if governments and industries continue to defer actions: just this past weekend [the Selkirk herd of southern mountain caribou was declared "functionally extinct"](#) after the root causes of their decline wasn't addressed.

The solutions for woodland caribou are right in front of us if governments, industries and communities work collectively to:

1. Protect critical habitats.
2. Sustainably manage industry projects in the boreal forest, including oil and gas, forestry and mining, to ensure stable or increasing caribou populations.

3. Collaborate between communities and industries to create local plans and solutions.
4. Use federal budget incentives as a carrot and protection orders as a stick to bolster regional protections.

Now is the time for action, not blame. Despite the population declines and government delays, we have an opportunity to act now, before the species becomes further imperiled and recovery becomes even less likely. There have been good examples of leadership from Indigenous communities, the Forest Stewardship Council of Canada, and non-governmental organizations such as Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Wildlands League, Wildlife Conservation Society, Alberta Wilderness Association and Ontario Nature that we can follow. And we can all play a role: the federal provincial and territorial governments, industries and communities.

We are at a critical juncture that requires us all to act.

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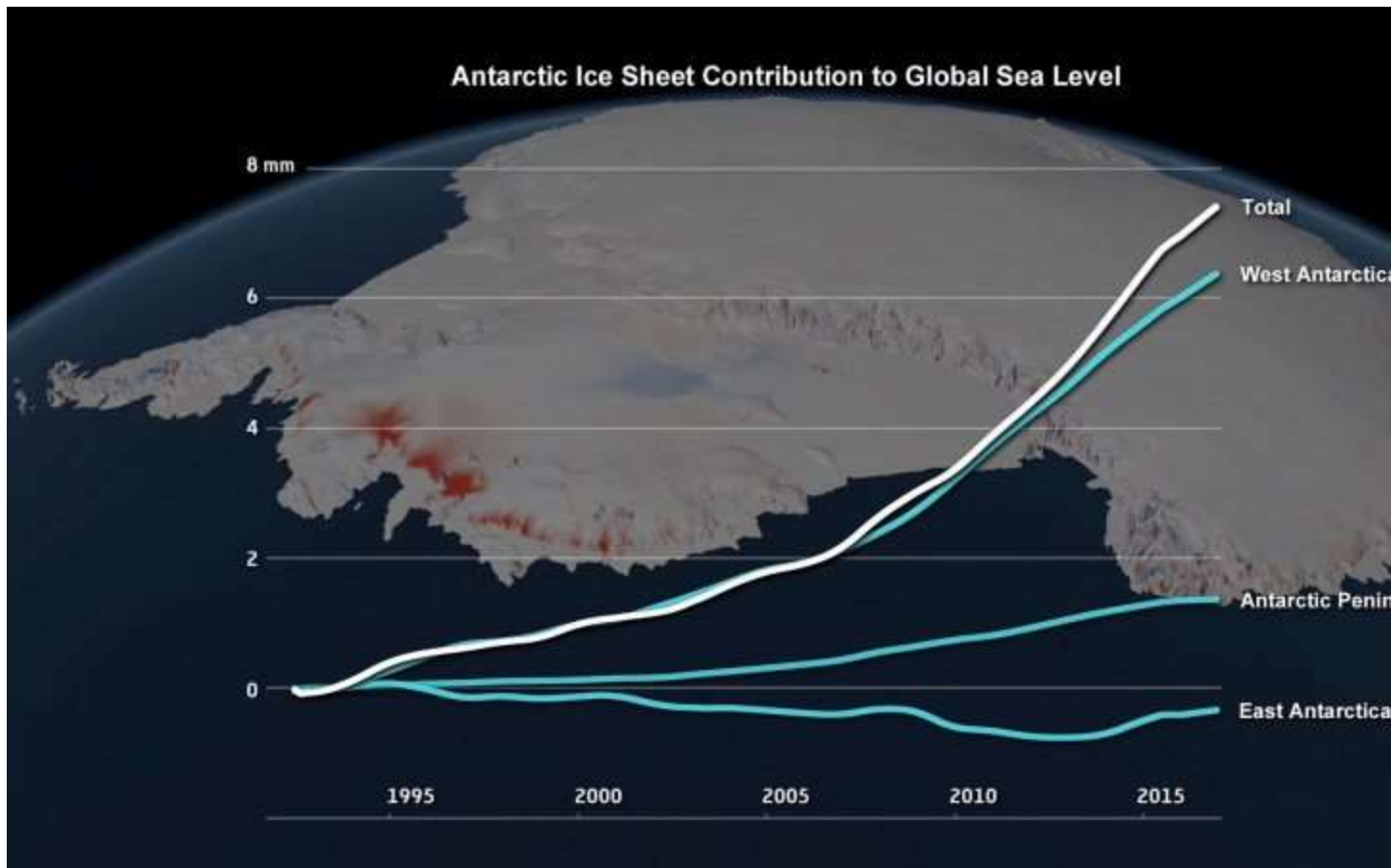
## Climate Change Science News

### Ice losses from Antarctica have tripled since 2012

Deborah Byrd - EARTH | June 15, 2018

Ice melting in Antarctica has raised sea levels by 7.6 mm since 1992, with almost half of this rise coming in the last five years.





Changes in the Antarctic ice sheet's contribution to global sea level, 1992 to 2017. Image via IMBIE/Planetary Visions/NASA JPL.

Scientists in the U.S. and Europe reported this week (June 13, 2018) on what they said was the most robust assessment to date of ice loss in Antarctica and its contribution to global sea level rise. The assessment – funded by NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) – combines 24 satellite surveys of Antarctica and involves 80 scientists from 42 international organizations. Its results are that ice losses from Antarctica are moving at a faster rate now, with the rate tripling since 2012. The result has been that global sea levels have risen by 0.12 inch (3 millimeters) in that timeframe alone. A statement from NASA said:

According to the study, ice losses from Antarctica are causing sea levels to rise faster today than at any time in the past 25 years.

The peer-reviewed journal *Nature* published the recent results of the Ice Sheet Mass Balance Inter-comparison Exercise (IMBIE) on June 13, 2018.

The late summer sun sets over mountains and icebergs around Adelaide Island, Antarctic Peninsula, as 24-hour daylight gives way to the long polar night of winter. Image via Hamish Pritchard, BAS/NASA JPL.

Assessment team co-lead Erik Ivins at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, said:

This is the most robust study of the ice mass balance of Antarctica to date. It covers a longer period than our 2012 IMBIE study, has a larger pool of participants and incorporates refinements in our observing capability and an improved ability to assess uncertainties.

NASA said:

The team looked at the mass balance of the Antarctic ice sheet from 1992 to 2017 and found ice losses from Antarctica raised global sea levels by 0.3 inches (7.6 millimeters), with a sharp uptick in ice loss in recent years. They attribute the threefold increase in ice loss from the continent since 2012 to a combination of increased rates of ice melt in West Antarctica and the Antarctic Peninsula, and reduced growth of the East Antarctic ice sheet.

Prior to 2012, ice was lost at a steady rate of about 83.8 billion tons (76 billion metric tonnes) per year, contributing about 0.008 inches (0.2 millimeters) a year to sea level rise. Since 2012, the amount of ice loss per year has tripled to 241.4 billion tons (219 billion metric tonnes) – equivalent to about 0.02 inches (0.6 millimeters) of sea level rise.

West Antarctica experienced the greatest recent change, with ice loss rising from 58.4 billion tons (53 billion metric tonnes) per year in the 1990s, to 175.3 billion tons (159 billion metric tonnes) a year since 2012. Most of this loss came from the huge **Pine Island** and **Thwaites** glaciers, which are retreating rapidly due to ocean-induced melting.

At the northern tip of the continent, ice-shelf collapse at the Antarctic Peninsula has driven an increase of 27.6 billion tons (25 billion metric tonnes) in ice loss per year since the early 2000s. Meanwhile, the team found the East Antarctic ice sheet has remained relatively balanced during the past 25 years, gaining an average of 5.5 billion tons (5 billion metric tonnes) of ice per year.

Antarctica's potential contribution to global sea level rise from its land-held ice is almost 7.5 times greater than all other sources of land-held ice in the world combined. The continent stores enough frozen water to raise global sea levels by 190 feet (58 meters), if it were to melt entirely.

Knowing how much ice it's losing is key to understanding the impacts of climate change now and its pace in the future.



The Antarctic Peninsula from the air: although the mountains are plastered in snow and ice, measurements tell us that this region is losing ice at an increasing rate. Image via Pippa Whitehouse, University of Durham/NASA JPL.

Crevasses near the grounding line of Pine Island Glacier, Antarctica. Image via I. Joughin, University of Washington/NASA JPL.

Bottom line: A new assessment – combining 24 satellite surveys of Antarctica and involving 80 scientists from 42 international organizations – show that ice losses from Antarctica are moving at a faster rate now, with the rate tripling since 2012.

Deborah Byrd

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# Race Against Climate Change

Tracy Sherlock in News | June

#817 of 817 articles from the Special Report:

**National Observer**

Jim Anderson, the Philip S. Weld professor of chemistry at Harvard, says it's not enough to gradually reduce fossil fuel emissions. Photo courtesy Harvard University

We need to stop all fossil fuel emissions if we want to prevent irreversible climate change. Expanding a pipeline to transport fossil fuels is not a step in the right direction, a Harvard University climate change expert says.

Jim Anderson is the Philip S. Weld professor of chemistry at Harvard, a "titanic force" behind saving the planet from disintegration of the ozone layer. Anderson's "smoking gun" research — identifying the culprit damaging the ozone layer — catalyzed the 1987 Montreal Protocol to phase out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). He now says it's not enough to talk about slowly decreasing carbon emissions, like Canada's Paris Accord pledge to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

"When you look at the hard evidence, that is completely incapable of handling the problem," Anderson said in an interview. "What's required is terminating CO<sub>2</sub> and methane emissions from the extraction, distribution and combustion of fossil fuels and then actually extracting CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere."

The global climate is becoming more unstable, and much of that instability starts and ends in the Arctic, he said.

"In the last 35 years, we've lost 75 to 80 per cent of the permanent flowing ice in the Arctic," Anderson said.

Climate change is reaching a point of irreversibility, due to smaller changes with significant implications, Anderson said.

"It's the flow of heat into the subsystems of the climate that is controlling the timescale for irreversibility of the climate that is so profoundly worrisome," Anderson said.

Greenland is a case in point. The Arctic ice cap serves as a cooling structure that keeps the Greenland ice structure solid all year. But as the Arctic ice cap is lost, then the entire structure becomes more unstable, he said.

“Greenland isn’t going to melt, it’s going to disintegrate. The forefront of research right now is forecasting how quickly that will happen and Greenland contains seven metres of sea level rise worldwide in its ice melt volume,” Anderson said.



Because of the costs of wildfires, storms and droughts, climate change is becoming a major economic consideration, Harvard scientist Jim Anderson says. Photo by Becka Rosette

### **Economic impacts make action a priority**

Extreme weather events are expensive and as the difference between tropical temperatures and polar temperatures shrinks, they become more common, Anderson said.

“Last year, in 2017, severe storms, wildfires and droughts in the United States alone reached a loss of \$320 billion. This is becoming a major economic consideration now,” Anderson said.

The answer is switching to renewable sources of energy, like wind and solar power, Anderson said.

"Nature provides us with 5,000 to 7,000 times as much energy created by the sun than all of humanity uses," Anderson said. "It's not as though Mother Nature hasn't supplied us with the obvious ways to do this."

Both North America and China, which cover very large areas, have the potential of enough renewable energy and enough space to implement and operate the technology to more than meet their energy needs, Anderson said.

The move away from fossil fuels into renewable energies can also invigorate the economy, he said.

"It creates technical innovation and it creates jobs from the entire spectrum of the economic system," Anderson said. "You need high end research, you need research and development, you need production and you need installation of the systems."

Investing in and building fossil fuel pipelines – such as Canada is now doing with the Trans Mountain pipeline – is not a wise move, he said.

"If you're putting in pipelines and you're building systems that burn whatever is going through that pipeline, you're becoming less competitive economically than by moving to renewables," Anderson said.

But Anderson remains convinced that change is possible, in time to prevent irreversible climate change.

"It's completely feasible, both technically and economically. There's no technical or human barrier to this," Anderson said.

*Tracy Sherlock - The National Observer*

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## International Wildlife Conservation News



## Palm Oil – continuing conservation issue



This Orangutan Tried to Stop a Bulldozer From Destroying His Home

Care2 Team

To: Dan Bane, CEO of Trader Joe's

**The footage is devastating. An orangutan runs across a felled tree and tries to fight off a bulldozer clearing his natural habitat in West Borneo.**

International Animal Rescue filmed the video in 2013, but just released the footage this week. It's a heartbreaking reminder of the plight critically endangered orangutans face. Over the past 20 years, orangutans have [lost](#) 55% of their natural habitat due to deforestation. Their population has decreased 50% over the past 60 years, due in large part to this loss of habitat.

**All for the production of palm oil.**

Each year, 50,000 square miles of tropical forests are [cleared](#) to produce palm oil, which is then used in everything from household products to cosmetics to food. As a consumer, it can be challenging to find products that don't contain palm oil because it is so ubiquitous. Unfortunately, the more products we buy that contain palm oil, the more forests we lose.

It's hard to make an impact with individual consumer choices, but what if stores took a stand and stopped carrying products containing palm oil? That could make a real impact.

**That's why we're calling on Trader Joe's to be a leader in the fight to save orangutans and stop selling products with palm oil now.**

Trader Joe's has a history of being progressive. The much-loved grocery store has been named one of the greenest companies, and it agreed to only sell sustainably-sourced seafood. Now, Trader Joe's has an opportunity to take a stand against disastrous deforestation.

**BirdLife International is asking people to please join in urging Trader Joe's to do the right thing and refuse to sell products containing palm oil today by signing the Care2 petition.**

*BirdLife International*

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