



# NEWSLETTER

## SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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

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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.



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**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, June 12 Point Pelee:** Mark Calhoun will lead and present at this “Point Pelee” night, talking about his recent birding trip to the Point during the 2018 migration.

A peninsula of land, mainly of marsh and woodland habitats, that tapers to a sharp point as it extends into Lake Erie. It is a national park in Essex County in southwestern Ontario where it extends into Lake Erie. Point Pelee is known for many unique things, but it’s reputation for birds in migration is legend. This meeting is being planned to be very informative and well researched.

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

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

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**2018 Spring**

**Saturday June 16: Bird House Building:** Members event at the Workshop of Gerry and Mary Green. A special afternoon event to work as a group to hammer together some exciting bird nest designs for the club to use as Fund Raiser items at future events. Materials supplied, but please bring hammer, work gloves, goggle for eyes and other safety equipment if you have them. Event from 2-4 p.m. Please RSVP with Paul Harpley (phone 905-722-8021) before Thursday June 14, and for details and directions.



**Saturday June 23: Forest Birding and Nature Study:** Early summer Birding trip to the Pefferlaw Tract of the York Region Forest. We will concentrate on forest birds like thrushes, grouse, warblers and if we are fortunate maybe owls. Rare breeding birds can sometimes turn up unexpectedly in this forest, so be prepared. Later in the day we may do some hiking and general nature study in one of our local natural areas. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Coffee Time at Virginia on Highway 48. Dress for the weather. Bring binoculars etc. If you will be going directly to the forest phone 905-722-8021 for meet-up arrangements.

**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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## York Region Forest News

York Region Forest staff advise that the Region's TreeAzin™ Application to Ash Trees ( for the protection against emerald ash borer) has been awarded a contractor who will be undertaking work in various York Regional Forest Tracts beginning the week of June 11th. The operation is expected to last until mid-July.

For the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. Ash trees receiving treatment will be signed and spray painted with a blue band. Also, the Region's Invasive Plant Control contractor will be undertaking work in various York Regional Forest Tracts beginning the week of June 4<sup>th</sup>. The operation is expected to last until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Species such as Japanese knotweed, Manitoba maple, European buckthorn, garlic mustard and dog-strangling vine are being controlled.

For the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. Areas receiving any herbicide treatment will be signed in advance to notify users.

Please feel free to forward this information to other forest users. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact Dayna Laxton at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73119

The Region's Trail Mowing contractor will also be undertaking work in the York Regional Forest beginning on Monday May 21, 2018. The operation is expected to last up to five 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 Matthew Currie at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75249.

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## **SLSN follow-up Plastic Issue**

2018-05-04

**Members have been following the Plastics in the environment issue for a number of years. In recent SLSN newsletters feature articles have highlighted the serious problems with Plastic pollution internationally. Even in our own local South Lake Simcoe area we have all seen evidence in rivers and lake Simcoe of the situation.**

**Now, Some of Us organization's 97,000 members have called on Prime Minister Trudeau, Environment Minister McKenna and other Canadian Politicians to support M-151, the motion that would kickstart real action on plastic pollution.**

Since their campaign went viral last month, the Prime Minister has responded saying that he will meet with MPs about M-151. The **Environment Minister has also said that she will start a public consultation on plastic garbage.**

But we Sum of Us advises need to make sure that any legislation considered goes straight to the source: targeting single-use plastics from corporations such as Nestle and McDonalds.

They advise that recently while the Environment Minister will be a part of a beach clean up and see first the plastic bags that end up in our oceans, their friends delivered petitions to her in person.

Source: Amelia, Angus, and the SumOfUs team

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*More information:*

[Feds Launch Public Survey About Reducing Plastic Waste On Earth Day](#), Huffington Post, 22 April 2018.

[Can Canada reinvent the plastic economy](#), Margaret Atwood and Calvin Sandborn on Globe and Mail, 2 May 2018.

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## Local Community Environmental Groups Initiatives

2018-06-04

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[View this message online](#)



June 4, 2018

### Tribunal hears excuses from Town, facts from NGFA

At the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly OMB) hearing, which wrapped up last week, we asked the Tribunal to amend the Town of Georgina's Official Plan to **prohibit** the DG Group from destroying the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland.

Our request was opposed by the Town of Georgina, the Region of York and the DG Group.

According to the Town's submission, while it would like to protect the North Gwillimbury Forest and its wetlands by not allowing the building of a 1,073 unit residential development, it had failed to do so on the advice of its planning consultant and because of its desire to minimize the risk of a lawsuit from the DG Group.

We are expecting the Tribunal to release its written decision within the next two to four months.

Stay tuned.

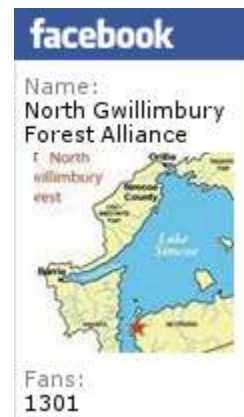
Thank you,  
Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

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.](#)



May 11, 2018

**Where the parties stand on protecting our forests and wetlands**

York-Simcoe's Liberal, NDP and Trillium Party candidates believe that the Minister of Municipal Affairs should issue a Zoning Order to prohibit development on the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) in the Town of Georgina.



PC candidate Caroline Mulroney says that "all parties must be at the table, working together to find a solution that protects these important lands while respecting the rights of the land owner."

On March 23, 2018 the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority illegally gave a big developer permission to build a 1,073 unit residential development on the PSW in the North Gwillimbury Forest. We need to elect a provincial representative who will stand up for our forests and wetlands.

Our OMB appeal of the Town's Official Plan, which permits development on the North Gwillimbury Forest's PSW, commences on Monday, May 28th at 10 a.m. at the Civic Centre in Keswick. The public is welcome to attend. Fighting at the OMB to protect our wetlands is expensive — [please do what you can to support our efforts! Click here to contribute.](#)

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

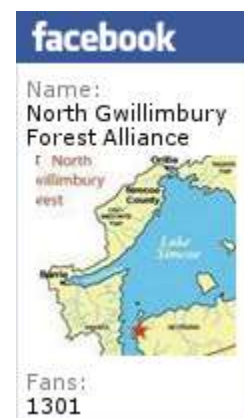
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[Tell your friends and neighbours about how they can help! Forward this message.](#)



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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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May 25, 2018

## Who will protect Lake Simcoe?

We asked the provincial election candidates in the 11 Lake Simcoe watershed ridings what they are willing to do to protect Lake Simcoe. Their responses are now posted on our web site: [www.LakeSimcoeWatch.ca](http://www.LakeSimcoeWatch.ca).



The Liberal, NDP and Green Party candidates believe that the Government of Ontario should develop and implement a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year by 2026 to protect our cold water fishery (e.g., lake trout and whitefish) and reduce weeds and algae blooms.

This goal is also supported by Jill Dunlop (PC candidate for Simcoe North).

Caroline Mulrone (PC candidate for York-Simcoe) was less specific, stating "I commit to being an advocate for the Lake and I will work with all local partners to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect its health."

The Liberal, NDP and Green Party candidates also believe that the province should work with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to develop and implement a plan to ensure that, by 2026, at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of *high quality connected* forests, wetlands and meadows.



Most of the PC candidates, including Christine Elliott and Laurie Scott, have not responded to our questionnaire.

To see your candidates' full responses to our questions, please visit our web site: [www.LakeSimcoeWatch.ca](http://www.LakeSimcoeWatch.ca)

Lake Simcoe Watch is a joint initiative of AWARE Simcoe, the Innisfil District Association, the Lake Simcoe Association, the North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance, the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists, the STORM Coalition and the West Oro Ratepayers' Association.

Thank you,  
Jack Gibbons

416-260-2080 ext. 2  
[jack@lakesimcoewatch.ca](mailto:jack@lakesimcoewatch.ca)

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

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## Phase out use of common pesticide

For the sake of the bees: Health Canada

Toronto Sun  
1 Jun 2018



OTTAWA — Health Canada is sticking with its proposal to phase out most outdoor and agricultural uses of a common pesticide, even though a recent study found bees are only affected by the substance in certain circumstances.

The recommendation comes the same day as more than 200 scientists published an open letter in the journal *Science* asking international governments to develop agreements to not use so-called neonicotinoids and to prevent similarly harmful pesticides to be developed and used in the future.

In 2012, Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency began studying nicotine-based pesticides known as neonicotinoids, commonly used by farmers and hobby gardeners to drive away pests like aphids and spider mites, after scientists linked them to high rates of honey bee deaths. The agency did multiple different evaluations of three different neonics and their impact on different organisms.

In 2016, it concluded one of the neonics, imidacloprid was building up in the surface and ground water and causing widespread death among aquatic insects. Its interim recommendation then was to ban imidacloprid from most agricultural and outdoor uses entirely.

That study didn't look at the impact on bees and other pollinators. The regulator did a separate evaluation on that front and concluded neonics only affect bees in certain ways and that if their application was banned on the main crops which are attractive to bees, the risk is "acceptable." Nonetheless, the earlier recommendation for a ban will stand, an official with Health Canada said Thursday. The department is accepting public comment on the report for the next 90 days and then will release its final plan in December.

Lisa Gue, an environmental health policy analyst at the David Suzuki Foundation, says Health Canada's results were not as complete as European work, but she remains pleased the agency is still moving to phase out the pesticide's use.

Bee colony collapses began occurring in substantial numbers about 15 years ago and led to hundreds of studies to find out what was happening.

Mites were responsible for some, but neonicotinoids were also connected. Many scientists and beekeepers say mites and weather might be what ultimately kills the bees, but neonics weaken them and make them more susceptible to those things.

The loss of bees represents a significant issue for food sources, since about one-third of food crops require pollinators for production.

Ontario beekeepers reported catastrophic losses of colonies over the last winter, with one-third reporting that 70% or more of their colonies had died. Almost half of beekeepers in the province reported losing 50% of their colonies.

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## International Day for Biological Diversity!

Bird Life International

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11 May 2018

**American Bird Conservancy**



Today we are celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity! This day marks a global call for individuals, organizations, and governments to join forces to protect the most threatened and vulnerable species on Earth.

Let's celebrate this day and work together to halt extinction. Contribute today to our **Race Against Time Campaign**.

The clock is ticking for many species. In the Americas alone, **90 bird species** are critically endangered, and many others are spiraling toward extinction.

Habitat loss has caused the Brazilian endemic Cherry-throated Tanager to go unseen for 50 years—today, as few as 50 individuals are left in the world.

Halting extinction is one of our specialties. We protect close to one million acres of bird habitat across 14 countries, and create reserves in collaboration with local partners through land acquisition to protect and restore native habitats.

The rarest birds require focused and immediate action.

Several ABC board members and other supporters have teamed up to provide \$250,000 in 1:1 matching funds through June 30 to help ABC advance our work to safeguard the rarest birds and protect species. that are

Source; Amy Upgren, Alliance for Zero Extinction Program Officer, American Bird Conservancy

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### **Palm Oil Plantations- Rainforest Destruction and Wildlife Impact**

While you are reading this, football fields of pristine rainforest are being cleared in Indonesia to make way for palm oil plantations, devastating the homes of orangutans, and in the process orphaning hundreds of baby apes.

Unless we act now and stop greedy companies destroying our environment, orangutans will go extinct within ten years. It's not too late to turn this around, but we need your help, Paul.

In three weeks, big industry execs are meeting in Paris for the so-called “Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil”. With your help, we will send a campaigner to the meeting and confront the palm oil buyers responsible for the greatest environmental disaster of the 21st century.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is an **industry group that seems mainly to just help big companies greenwash their image**. But it could be so much more, if only it would punish its members for forest destruction and human rights violations instead of looking the other way.

**That's where SumOfUs members come in:** where they can push the RSPO to expel members and enforce a stronger set of criteria. That's the **best chance to protect the orangutans and ensure their survival**.

But the clock is ticking. If we don't act now, our children and grandchildren will only know orangutans from picture books.

Because of SumOfUs members taking action together in the past, **we've pushed some of the biggest companies in the world to adopt responsible palm oil policies** -- Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, and McDonald's only moved because they were pressured.

Source: Anne, Kat, Fatah and the team at SumOfUs, 2018-06-09.

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More information:

[Conflict Palm Oil](#), Rainforest Action Network.

[Our Snack Addiction Is Killing Orangutans](#), HuffPost, 10 May 2018.

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SumOfUs is a worldwide movement of people, working together to hold corporations accountable for their actions and forge a new, sustainable path for our global economy.

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**Bill C-69: changes to Canada's water, environmental and energy laws**

2018-05-21

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Tomorrow, a key decision will be made about Bill C-69, an omnibus bill that makes sweeping changes to Canada's water, environmental and energy laws. In fact, this Bill hands even more power to corporations in environmental, water, and energy decision making.

At 9 p.m. on Tuesday, the Liberal-dominated Environment Committee will shut down debate on the Bill and force a vote regardless of whether or not the committee has finished debating amendments from opposition parties.

So far, the Committee has only debated 38 pages of the more than 400 page Bill. Amendments include important issues such as Canada's commitments on the environment, climate change and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote you when the Environment Committee began clause-by-clause debate and you joined nearly 7,000 people who resoundingly called on committee members to extend debate on this lengthy and complex bill. Thank you for taking action!

Democratic debate on these important water and environmental legislations – which will impact generations to come – is crucial, and you can help ensure it happens.

Bill C-69 includes the new Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA), which was supposed to restore protections gutted from the 99% of lakes and rivers by the former Harper government at the advice of Big Oil associations.

But the CNWA fails to restore protections and introduce modern safeguards that the Trudeau government promised.

Call your Member of Parliament and tell them you want democratic debate extended on Bill C-69.

Add your voice – there is too much at stake for water, air and land. We need the federal government to make bold changes to ensure our water and energy security, challenge unbalanced corporate power and respect Indigenous rights.

Source: Emma Lui, National Water Campaigner, The Council of Canadians