



# NEWSLETTER

## SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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

Post Office Box 1044 Sutton West, Ontario, L0E 1R0

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, November 13 Annual SLSN Autumn Event:**

**Dog-Strangling Vine: Plant invader and  
biodiversity loss in Southern Ontario !**

**Dr. Stuart Livingstone**

Stuart is currently a Course Instructor and Researcher at the University of Toronto-Scarborough. In his role as a Course Instructor he teaches Conservation Policy and Professional Scientific Literacy in the Masters of Environmental Science Program. As a researcher, he is broadly interested in conservation science and its role in informing sustainable development. He recently completed his PhD at the University of Toronto-Scarborough, where his research focused on the ecology and management of Dog-strangling Vine in southern Ontario. As you will hear, he is a strong proponent of interdisciplinary research and public engagement in local conservation issues.

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The special illustrated presentation from our guest speaker, will be followed by the annual silent auction and baked goods for sale as in past years, and other special features, and refreshments. Club members are asked to please donate a few, but unique auction items AND home-baking. **A new SLSN members Photo Salon is planned this year where club members can donate up to two colour or B & W prints 4'X5" in size of natural heritage subjects in the South Lake Simcoe area, for a special sale display at the Event – more information to come. Note: Staples can print high quality colour photos from digital files for under \$5.00 per image.**

***Paid up Club members reserve seats with \$2.00 donation. Non-members \$5.00. The event is at the Egypt Hall at 7:30 p.m.*** Phone Paul 905-722-8021 or Norma 905-476-4747 for further information.

**\* BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO THIS ANNUAL SLSN EVENT**

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**SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS**  
**Tuesday November 13**

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## **Dog-Strangling Vine**

**Plant invader and biodiversity loss in Southern Ontario**

**An illustrated Talk - Dr. Stuart Livingstone U. of T.**



P.H.

# **Annual Autumn Event**     **EGYPT HALL 7:30 p.m.** **Town of Georgina, York Region, 6757 Smith Blvd.**

Don't miss this must see presentation! Everyone welcome. There will be a silent auction and baked goods for sale as in past years. Non-members \$5.00. Phone 905-722-8021 or 905-476-4747 for further information.

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

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**2018 Spring**

## ***Saturday October 27: Lake Simcoe Birding:***

The Annual Autumn waterfowl roundup, and lake migrants surveying. We will also search for lingering shorebirds, ducks, and uncommon gulls etc. So now waterfowl are beginning to move through South Lake Simcoe. This year with the warm temperatures is a late migration, and timing later in October should catch key migrants. It can happen quickly for many species. Meet at Tim Horton's in Sutton at 8:30 a.m. Dress for the weather. Plan for about 3 hours.

**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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## **Outing Report**

**The Arnold C. Matthews Nature Reserve SLSN trip – Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Jack Gibbons joined eight SLSN members on a hike in the privately owned Arnold C. Matthews Nature Reserve at 8:30 am on a cool September day, the 22nd. We spent two and a half hours wandering through the woods. Paul Harpley led the tour, with Deb Harpley looking ahead to find any unusual things that might be missed.

We looked at several forest growth areas, found some desecration of old paper birches (we're hoping the person did not know that taking the bark from the entire girth would kill it -- are there ways to rescue them?) and some now rare "silver birch" . Besides the wildflowers, we found some pockets of dog strangling vine taking over from native milkweed, including one huge area. The hope is that some kind of defence can be developed.

The bird count was slow at the beginning, but as we headed into old forest, the count climbed. The bird count for the morning: 17 species.

Thank-you to Jack and the families that care for this beautiful section of Georgina.

Andrew Sibbald

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## Global Climate Action Needed - NOW!

2018-10-08 – Quartz News Service

**A key climate report warned that we must act now or face disastrous global warming.** The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the world is **wildly off-target in limiting the global temperature rise** to 1.5 C by 2030. Scientists warned that unless governments and the public make “rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society,” hundreds of millions will face drought, floods, and food shortages.

**UNPRECEDENTED CHANGES NEEDED**

# Everything you need to know about the new 1.5°C climate-change report

By Akshat Rathi October 7, 2018

Since the industrial era began, human activities—mainly burning fossil fuels and dumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere—have caused global average temperatures to rise approximately 1°C. Though that seems like a small number, its local effects manifest in horrendous ways. Some of the world’s recent extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and heatwaves, can be directly attributed to that rise in temperature.

In 2015, the world came together to find ways to avoid catastrophic climate change. The 195 countries and international bodies who signed the Paris climate agreement agreed to keep global average temperatures from rising “well below 2°C” and to try to keep limit rises to less than 1.5°C.

As part of the agreement, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world’s foremost body on the subject, was required to publish a report in 2018 to help the world’s policymakers hit the more ambitious goal of 1.5°C. In Seoul today (Oct. 8), the IPCC report was published. Here is a summary of what you need to know:

## What is the difference between a 1.5°C world and a 2°C world?

Quite a lot. The report puts it this way: “By 2100, global sea-level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C. The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2°C. Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all would be lost with 2°C.”

Dig deeper: Carbon Brief’s interactive comparing the impact of 1.5°C vs 2°C.

## So a 1.5°C world is less bad. Are there other upsides?

Beyond cutting down on harm, the IPCC report says that adapting to warming of 1.5°C would be easier and less expensive. A study published in May showed that the savings for the world, if it were to hit the more ambitious climate goal would be as much as \$30 trillion. “By the end of the century, we find the world will be about 3% wealthier if we actually achieve the 1.5°C target relative to 2°C target,” Marshall Burke of Stanford University told the Guardian.

## How are we doing?

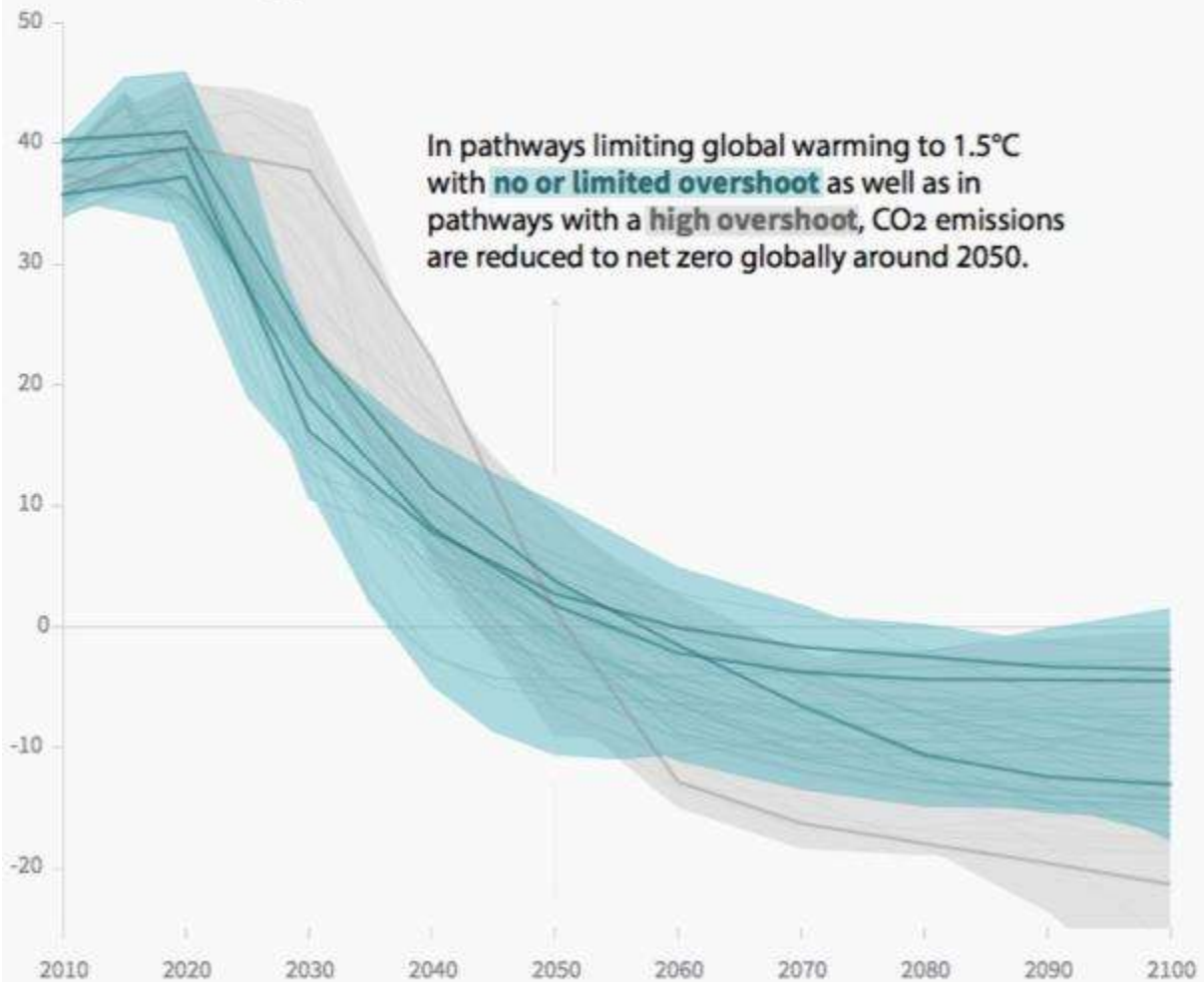
We are nowhere close. “Limiting warming to 1.5°C is possible within the laws of chemistry and physics but doing so would require unprecedented changes,” said Jim Skea of Imperial College London and an IPCC co-author.

By “unprecedented changes,” Skea means essentially two things. First, the world needs to start cutting emissions. Instead in 2017, the world’s emissions a new record high. Second, we need to reduce those emissions very quickly.

This is not going to be easy, as the chart below shows. Roughly, it translates to emissions reductions of 45% below 2010 levels by 2030, and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

## Global total net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>/yr



## Wait, why are annual emissions in that chart going in the negative?

We've delayed climate action for so long that, to hit our climate goals, the world will not just have to reduce emissions to zero but even pull some carbon dioxide from the air. There are a handful of "negative-emissions technologies" that we can deploy to do that, but the report says that "the effectiveness of such techniques are unproven at large scale and some may carry significant risks for sustainable development."

Dig deeper: [Quartz's ultimate guide to negative-emissions technologies](#)



# What do other climate scientists make of the report?

Many scientists welcomed the use of “net-zero emissions” as the target. The goal has a clarifying message: every sector of the economy needs to get to zero emissions if we are to stabilize our climate and the sooner we do it the better our chances.

“Governments agreed on the 1.5°C goal in Paris in 2015 and knew exactly—and without any further IPCC assessment—that this would mean deeper mitigation faster,” said Oliver Geden of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs. “It hasn’t happened yet.”

## Is there any good news?

“The good news is that some of the kinds of actions that would be needed to limit global warming to 1.5°C are already underway around the world, but they would need to accelerate,” said Valerie Masson-Delmotte, director of French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission.

Those actions are deploying more renewable sources of energy to displace fossil fuels, scaling up energy-storage technologies, cutting emissions of the fossil fuels we use through the use of carbon capture and storage, and developing negative-emissions technologies.

“It’s clear that the benefits to the world of mitigating climate change are greater than the costs of mitigating climate change,” concluded Kristie Ebi of the University of Washington.

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2018-10-13

## Cap and Trade – Climate Change – Quartz News

This has been a remarkable week for conversations about climate change. It started with an International Panel on Climate Change report warning that anything short of dramatic action could spell food shortages, irreversible harm to the planet, and tens of *trillions* of dollars in damages to the world economy in just 20 years.

Then, the Nobel Prize in economics went to William Nordhaus and Paul Romer for explaining how climate change and technological progress impact long-term economic growth.

Meanwhile, the US and India continue to feel the devastation of Hurricane Michael and Cyclone Titli, respectively. Such extreme weather events are telltale signs (paywall) of global warming.

Part of the solution to climate change, as Nordhaus has shown, is to levy a universal carbon tax. This would punish carbon emitters and incentivize the development of greener technologies. While work is needed to integrate climate change into economic models, many leading economists agree a global price on carbon is the way forward.

Politics gets in the way. In the US, the Trump administration is determined to roll back environmental standards. Even among countries that put a price on carbon, most don't have a tax high enough to meet climate targets, according to a recent OECD report.

Meaningful action isn't out of reach. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development now says solar- and wind-power plants are cheaper to build than fossil-fuel plants, almost everywhere in the world. The World Bank has vowed not to fund coal-power projects. Climate activists are going after pension funds that finance fossil-fuel firms (paywall). Insurance companies now hire climatologists to better price the risks the world is facing (paywall).

Even if officials imposed a stiff tax on carbon tomorrow, it wouldn't mitigate all the harm coming our way. That doesn't mean we should make perfect the enemy of the good. Human development has been a story of squeezing more output from the same amount of resources. That makes one of the newest Nobel laureates optimistic about our capacity to combat climate change. I tend to agree.—*Akshat Rathi* – Quartz News

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## New UN report demands immediate urgent action on climate change

October 12, 2018 - 9:27am - Council of Canadians



The **UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** issued a report that says governments must make "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" to avoid disastrous levels of climate change.

The panel's report, released earlier this week, says the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels by as early as 2030, increasing the risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods and food shortages for hundreds of millions of people.

According to CNN, "the planet is already two-thirds of the way there, with global temperatures having warmed about 1 degree C. Avoiding going even higher will require significant action in the next few years."

"This is concerning because we know there are so many more problems if we exceed 1.5 degrees C global warming, including more heatwaves and hot summers, greater sea level rise, and, for many parts of the world, worse droughts and rainfall extremes," Andrew King, a lecturer in climate science at the University of Melbourne, said in a statement.

CNN reports that global net emissions of carbon dioxide would need to fall by 45 per cent from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach "net zero" around 2050 in order to keep the warming around 1.5 degrees C. Lowering emissions to this degree, while technically possible, would require widespread changes in energy, industry, buildings, transportation and cities, the report says.

"The window on keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees C is closing rapidly and the current emissions pledges made by signatories to the Paris Agreement do not add up to us achieving that goal," added King.

The report makes it clear that climate change is already happening – and what comes next could be even worse unless urgent international political action is taken.

"One of the key messages that comes out very strongly from this report is that we are already seeing the consequences of 1 degree C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes," said Panmao Zhai, co-chair of IPCC Working Group I.

Even if warming is kept at or just below 1.5 degrees C, the impacts will be widespread and significant.

CNN states, "Temperatures during summer heatwaves, such as those just experienced across Europe this summer, can be expected to increase by 3 degrees C, the report states.

More frequent or intense droughts, such as the one that nearly ran the taps dry in Cape Town, South Africa, as well as more frequent extreme rainfall events such as hurricanes Harvey and Florence in the United States, are also pointed to as expectations as we reach the warming threshold.

Coral reefs will also be drastically affected, with between 70 and 90 per cent expected to die off, including Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Countries in the southern hemisphere will be among the worse off, the report said, "projected to experience the largest impacts on economic growth due to climate change should global warming increase."

The Council of Canadians is part of a global movement that is calling for urgent and immediate action on climate change.

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## York Region Forest News

Natural Resources Canada will be undertaking work in the Metro Road Tract of the York Regional Forest related to emerald ash borer biological control research on either October 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>. Due to the trail layout in this Tract we will be temporarily closing the Tract to all users to allow for a secured work area. The operation is expected to last 1-2 days. Notice signs have been posted at the site to notify regular forest users of the upcoming closure, and a sign

will be posted at the parking lot entrance on the day(s) of closure, coupled with construction pylons in the driveway. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact Dayna Laxton, 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73119.

The York Region's Access Trail Reconstruction contractor will be undertaking work in the Bendor and Graves Tract beginning approximately the middle of October. The operation is expected to last one week if the contractor has good weather.

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. The Region advises for the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. The parking lot and Dog Park at Bendor and Graves will be closed for the public during construction. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact Colin MacDonald at 905-830-4444 x75258.

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Where the candidates stand on protecting wetlands

No Images? [Click here](#)



### Candidates tell us where they stand on protecting the North Gwillimbury Forest

We asked the candidates for election to Georgina Town Council the following question:

*Do you believe the Town of Georgina should take all the necessary actions to ensure that the proposed Maple Lake Estates residential development is NOT built on the Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland in the North Gwillimbury Forest?*

#### **Candidates for Mayor**

Boris Godzinevski and Margaret Quirk said “yes” to our question.  
Susan Jagminas did not respond to our questionnaire.

#### **Candidates for Regional Councillor**

Naomi Davison and Rob Grossi said “yes” to our question. Lee Dale did not indicate “yes” or “no” in his response.

## Candidates for Ward 1

Charlene Biggerstaff said “yes” to our question. Mike Waddington and Glenn Wittenberg did not respond to our questionnaire.

## Candidates for Ward 4

Wayne Phillips, Frank Sebo and Greta Zinck said “yes” to our question.

Candidates in Wards 2, 3 & 5 were acclaimed.

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April 10, 2018

## Questions for Lake Simcoe’s Provincial Election Candidates

Lake Simcoe Watch is a new initiative by a number of organizations concerned about the health of our watershed that is focused on keeping residents informed about where provincial election candidates stand on key environmental and planning issues.

**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.**

We are asking candidates running in the provincial election where they stand on four issues that are vital to the health of Lake Simcoe and its watershed. Their responses will be posted on our [LakeSimcoeWatch.ca](http://LakeSimcoeWatch.ca) website, where you can search responses by riding (you can find your riding by postal code or via a watershed riding map).

Here's what we are asking:

- Do they support developing and implementing a plan to reduce phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year by 2026 to protect our cold water fishery (e.g., lake trout and whitefish) and to reduce algae blooms?
- Do they support developing and implementing a plan to ensure that at least 40% of Lake Simcoe's watershed consists of *high quality* connected forests, wetlands and meadows by 2026? This natural cover is critical for filtering the water that flows into the lake and as a habitat for wildlife.
- Should the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority be required to listen to the public when it is considering applications to destroy wetlands?
- Should the *Development Charges Act* be amended to allow municipalities to recover 100% of their additional infrastructure costs to service new residential and commercial projects from developers? That is should growth pay for growth?

### Responses are In!

Check out Survey and broad results at  
<http://lakesimcoewatch.ca/municipalities-responses/>



Lake Simcoe Watch is dedicated to informing watershed residents about where our leaders stand on important environmental protection and planning measures.

### Some Georgina candidates call for action to improve Lake Simcoe water quality

In response to Lake Simcoe Watch's questionnaire, 6 of Georgina's municipal election candidates have said that the Town of Georgina should work with the Lake Simcoe Region

Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the Government of Ontario to develop and implement a plan to reduce Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to 44 tonnes per year by 2026.

The candidates who are calling for Lake Simcoe's phosphorus loadings to be reduced to 44 tonnes per year by 2026 are: Margaret Quirk, Naomi Davison, Rob Grossi, Charlene Biggerstaff, Wayne Phillips and Greta Zinck.

According to the *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, to improve the water quality of Lake Simcoe (including reduction of weeds and algae blooms) and to protect our cold water fishery (including lake trout and white fish) Lake Simcoe's annual phosphorus loadings must be reduced by 40% to 44 tonnes per year.

Source: Jack Gibbons,  
North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance



Oct. 10, 2018

### Which candidates have promised to protect our lake, forests and wetlands?

The North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance (NGFA) and [Lake Simcoe Watch](#) (LSW) have asked the Georgina municipal election candidates where they stand on five key issues that will affect the health of the lake. Our questions covered issues ranging from whether they support putting limits on discharges of phosphorous, which cause weed growth and algae blooms, to their





commitment to ensure that at least 40% of the Lake Simcoe watershed consists of high quality connected forests, wetlands and meadows.

We also asked the candidates if they believe the Town should take all necessary actions to prevent development in the *Paradise Beach-Island Grove Provincially Significant Wetland*.

The following candidates said "yes" to all five questions: Boris Godzinevski (Mayor), Margaret Quirk (Mayor), Naomi Davison (Regional Councillor) and Rob Grossi (Regional Councillor).

The following candidates said "yes" to four of the five questions: Charlene Biggerstaff (Councillor – Ward 1), Wayne Phillips (Councillor – Ward 4) and Greta Zinck (Councillor – Ward 4).

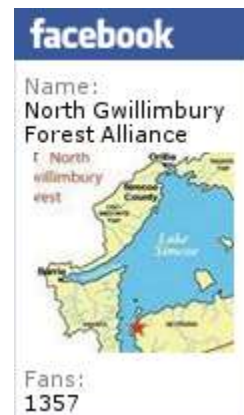
Frank Sebo (Councillor – Ward 4) said "yes" to one of the five questions.

The remaining candidates did not respond to both questionnaires.

You can vote on Saturday, October 13th, Thursday, October 18th or Monday, October 22nd.

Thank you.

Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance



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## Fire clears the way for a new ecosystem in Simcoe County Forest

Non-native invasive Scots pine trees will be replaced by new native species; It's hoped forest will become new home for rare Kirtland's Warblers

Source: Jessica Owen, Simcoe County Newspaper

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While driving around Barrie or Springwater on Wednesday, you may have seen some smoke plumes in the sky.

Simcoe County is trying to get back to basics with a controlled burn in part of the Simcoe County Forest in Midhurst this week, getting rid of about 30 hectares of non-native species of trees. In its place, new native vegetation that will boost the ecosystem and help some endangered wildlife to thrive in the forest will be planted.

“In this case, this is a part of a larger habitat restoration process. We’re trying to zoom in on a particular type of tree planting and a particular type of habitat on this site,” says Graeme Davis,

a forester with the county, who is responsible for the Simcoe County Forest and overseeing rural growth and management.

The controlled burn this week served multiple purposes such as reducing fire risk on the site by burning debris, clearing debris to allow for reforestation and helping to reduce some of the non-native invasive species currently on site.

In particular, burning will reduce the seed and regrowth of Scots pine. According to Davis, Scots pine is a European species that was brought over to Canada with early settlers. It is still produced in some Ontario areas deliberately as Christmas trees, and thrives on dry, sandy sites.

It doesn't serve much of a purpose for forestry or restoration, however, due to rising awareness around choosing to plant native versus non-native species.

Fire was the best approach to get the job done, he said.

"To simply remove them, number one, would have been extremely expensive. You'd need a lot of heavy equipment and have to mulch up the entire site. You'd spend a lot more money and still not get the kind of success we're going to get with the fire," says Davis.

"One of the nice things about the fire is, it should burn hot enough to kill off any seeds left behind as well. If we would have just pulled them, there would have been a lot more Scots pine growing back," says Davis, adding the fire also releases nutrients into the soil.

The company responsible for the controlled burn, Lands and Forests, has conducted up to 300 controlled burns across Ontario for various reasons.

"Everything is very carefully planned," says Davis. "You don't expect things to go wrong, but in case they do, we've got secondary control measures in place."

After the burn is completed, the county will plan approximately 160,000 native trees and make a home for the Kirtland's Warbler, an endangered bird species.

The Kirtland's Warbler is a globally endangered and rare migratory bird.

Orillia's Ken Tuininga, a species-at-risk biologist with Canadian Wildlife Service, was present at the burn and is looking forward to the creation of a habitat for the special warbler in the space left.

"This is a bird that uses an early-successional ecosystem," says Tuininga. "A young Jack pine, young Red pine...young oak. When that stuff is from five to 20 feet tall, that's the time when the Kirtland's Warbler will use that."

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# Bird Conservation News

## Once-in-a-lifetime Events Leave Lasting Impression for Birds



Festival opening parade Photo: Ellen Jakubowski

Source: Bird Studies Canada

After a long period of preparation and anticipation, the **27<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress** and first-ever **Vancouver International Bird Festival** took place in Vancouver from August 19-26. Together, these events represented a formidable success for birds, ornithology, and conservation! Bird Studies Canada was proud to bring these events to life as a Co-host of the congress and Community Partner of the bird festival.

Throughout the week, the Vancouver Convention Centre buzzed with energy as bird experts and enthusiasts gathered – not only to celebrate their shared passion for birds, but also to exchange cutting-edge information and ideas, and to forge and strengthen relationships that will enable us to move forward together on current issues in ornithology and conservation. The attendance numbers were impressive: around 1600 delegates from 74 countries for the congress and 33,000 participants for the festival! Among the attendees were 19 members of Bird Studies Canada's staff, plus board members and volunteers. Each Bird Studies Canada staff member reported making valuable connections during the events that will support their work going forward.

Here are just a few of Bird Studies Canada's top highlights and accomplishments from the events that we're pleased to share with you:

Twenty of you (Bird Studies Canada's volunteers and supporters) came out to a morning birding event in Stanley Park, where one ten-year-old saw his first Great Blue Heron!

Bird Studies Canada led or co-led 29 presentations and activities as part of the congress and 7 public events as part of the bird festival.

Our scientists co-convened very well-attended science symposia on wildlife tracking, Citizen Science, and invasive species on islands (the rooms were overflowing!).

Twenty-four presentations at the congress featured the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, representing international growth in this collaborative research network. Possibilities for installing Motus receiving stations in two new countries – Mexico and Brazil – were identified.

One hundred and fifty champions for bird stewardship attended a Stewardship Roundtable co-hosted with the Stewardship Centre for BC. The roundtable included workshops about bird habitat on agricultural lands, cats and birds, bird-glass collisions, and more. As part of this event, over \$1000 was raised to sponsor 'Budding Birder Kits,' which Bird Studies Canada will place for lending in BC libraries.

Three new student prospects were recruited for the Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program.

A highly successful Canada Evening reception co-hosted with the Society of Canadian Ornithologists drew 1350 attendees. Featured speaker Margaret Atwood presented remarks on bird conservation and the inspiration behind her graphic novel series, *Angel Catbird*.

The impact of the congress and festival was far-reaching! Footage of the festival's exuberant opening parade was broadcast live on CBC's The National, and other stories about the festival and congress were distributed through nearly 150 media outlets.

Our team at Bird Studies Canada would like to acknowledge all of our partners, and their volunteers, for the hard work they poured into the congress and festival, as well as the sponsors who made these events possible. We would also like to thank all of our friends, supporters, and fellow bird lovers who came out to the events or followed them from afar.

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