



# NEWSLETTER

## SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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

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*Research Partner with The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe ([www.zephyrsociety.ca](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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### **Sutton 33<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Bird Count - Saturday December 28, 2019**

A total of 40 observers tallied 2,637 individual birds of 56 species in the Georgina, East Gwillimbury and northwest Uxbridge areas. The air temperature ranged from a high of 4 degrees Celsius to low 0 degrees with winds from the east at 7 km./hour (variable).

A total of 56 species were documented on the day, one of the highest species counts in recent years, unexpected as fewer birds were seen at feeders, but with a fully open Lake Simcoe. Highlights for the count day were a count high of four Owl species seen or heard: Great Horned (4), Eastern Screech (2), Barred (1), and Snowy (6) owls. Nine Bald eagles were recorded, with all water still open except for Cook's Bay. Lots of waterfowl and expected gulls were seen on count day, with unexpected Cackling geese (3), and a high for Black ducks (14) and notables included Trumpeter swan (6), Red-breasted merganser (2), Hooded merganser (2), and Great Black-backed gull (1) for field birders.



Red-tailed hawk *Photo by Nicky Kravn, 2019-12-28*

Some of the southern migrating birds still lingering in our count area included Song sparrow (4), House wren (1), Common Grackle (5) and Red-winged blackbird (1). Northern finches' this year were limited to House finch (5) and American goldfinch (159) and documented, much restricted compared to last year. Though, White-breasted nuthatch (44) and Red-breasted nuthatch (9) were well represented this year, Brown creeper (2) was welcome. The Sutton Count highlights included a lingering Common loon (1) on Lake Simcoe and Rough-legged hawk (2) in the count area. As usual and expected Black-capped chickadees were the most common bird in the forests.

Thanks to all field birders and feeder watchers who participated in the count. The best bird observed in the count week on December 31<sup>st</sup> was an intergrade dark/white morph Snow goose in the Willow Beach area. Paul Harpley

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## Conservation Alert for our Birds!

**“Recent research has shown actual loss of birds in North America since the 1970’s is estimated at 3 billion birds, with different species variably impacted by percentages of populations, due to many factors ranging from habitat loss through urbanization and chemicals in the environment etc. Documented Climate Change is expected to be compounding these bird decline causes in complex ways, which bird research science can help illuminate”. P.H.**

**See summary of “Loss of 3 Billion Birds in North America” BirdLife Oct. 2019 article below in this Newsletter, in climate change update.**

## North America's 3 billion missing birds: where did they go?

Birdlife International; 2019-09-19

**A new study shows that the USA and Canada have lost more than a quarter of their birds over the past 50 years. This massive reduction in abundance involves hundreds of species, from beloved backyard songbirds to long-distance migrants. So what's going on?**



Evening Grosbeak © Jay McGowan, Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab of

Ornithology

By Jessica Law

**Can you imagine waking up** to a world without birdsong? Or looking out on your garden to find it completely empty of birds? New research shows that, unless we act fast, this terrible future may not be too far off. A study published today in the journal *Science* reveals that since 1970, bird populations in the United States and Canada have declined by 29 percent, or almost 3 billion birds. The results show tremendous losses across diverse groups of birds and habitats – from iconic songbirds such as meadowlarks to long-distance migrants such as swallows, as well as backyard birds including sparrows.

“Multiple, independent lines of evidence show a massive reduction in the abundance of birds,” said Ken Rosenberg, the study’s lead author and a senior scientist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and American Bird Conservancy. “We expected to see continuing declines of threatened species. But for the first time, the results also showed pervasive losses among common birds across all habitats, including backyard birds.”

Of nearly 3 billion birds lost, 90 percent belong to 12 just families, including sparrows, warblers, finches, and swallows – common, widespread species that play essential roles in food webs and ecosystem functioning, from seed dispersal to pest control. If we lose these species, it won’t just be bad for birds – it will be disastrous for humankind.

“The connection between birds and humans is undeniable—we share the same fate. This is a bird emergency with a clear message: the natural world humans depend on is being paved, logged, eroded and polluted. You don’t need to look hard for the metaphor: birds are the canaries in the coal mine that is the earth’s future,” said David Yarnold, president and CEO of National Audubon Society (BirdLife's partner in the USA).

Within these results, certain groups of birds were particularly hard hit. Grassland birds saw a 53-percent reduction in population – more than 720 million birds – since 1970. Shorebirds, most of which frequent sensitive coastal habitats, were already at dangerously low numbers and have lost more than one-third of their population. Furthermore, the volume of spring

migrations, measured by radar in the night skies, has dropped by 14 percent in just the past decade.

Since birds are indicators of environmental health, these worrying findings suggest that natural systems across the U.S. and Canada are now being so severely impacted by human activities that they no longer support the same robust wildlife populations. So what's driving these declines, and how can we stop them? ...

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## Meetings and Outings

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**Meetings:** All Meetings start at 4:00 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 and January Meetings. Members events (insurance compliance).

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 meeting 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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### **Sunday February 9: " Birds of South Central Ontario, and Beyond".**

Film presentation by local photographer and filmmaker Wendy Michael. Wendy will show her film on birds of south-central Ontario ranging in from the Greater Toronto Area to Algonquin Park. Film screening will be followed by conversation and questions about wildlife photography methods and technical information and of course about the birds in the film. **This is the club Annual Meeting, administration review and**

**election of the coming year officers will be undertaken.**

**Sunday March 8: "Palm Oil"** One of the greatest conservation issues of our time for loss of forests and important wildlife species is happening daily, and with concurrence from our daily lives.

**What can we do!** Come out and learn about this world conservation issue, how urgent it is, and what we can all do to influence change and conservation in the future. Club members research, presentation and conversation meeting. Note: Daylight Savings Time begins.

**Sunday April 19: Iceland, Travelogue – Gord Zwaigenbaum**

SLSN member will present an illustrated talk on the "Land of Fire and Ice". A naturalists wonderland. From the magnificent waterfalls, moon like lava fields to the snow-covered mountains, there are really no words to describe the inspiring natural beauty of Iceland. Gord has recently returned from a trip and will show us his experiences in this wild world. **Note: This meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in April, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday is Easter Sunday.**

**Sunday May 10: Plastic in our Environment- details to follow.**

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

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**2019 Winter**

**Friday February 14: Winter Trail Outing:** A traditional club afternoon adventure in a local Regional Forest location in the South Lake Simcoe area. Actual details of the trip will depend on weather and existing conditions on the day for snowshoeing, skiing, or

hiking. **Meet at Coffee Time, Highway 48 south of Baldwin at 2:30 p.m.** Dress for the weather. Phone 905-722-8021 if you plan to participate.

**Monday April 6: Hiking and Nature Study Expedition:** An afternoon adventure exploring early spring for early bird arrivals, pop-up spring trees waking up, and ferns and their allies, in a forest and field area. **Meet at 3:30 p.m. at the Coffee Time in the Baldwin Plaza parking lot, Highway 48, south of Baldwin.** Dress for the weather. Bring binoculars etc.

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Members, please consider writing and submitting an article to the Talon Newsletter.

Phone Paul 905-722-8021 or Norma 905-476-4747 for further information about meetings and naturalist outings.

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## SLSN Highlights 2019

### South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Conservation Issues:

- Bill 66 Review: Report writing, municipal, regional and provincial government reports, letters presentations. Successful in stopping this legislation.
- Ainslie Hill I and II proposed development, Town of Georgina/Sutton, detailed science reports, consultant critique, council presentations, lands conserved, at risk species documented. Town of Georgina moved ahead and approved the destruction of a large natural area forest/corridor habitat area. Long-term (over 10 years of SLSN involvement, final plan of subdivision better than without SLSN input.
- Moose Management Review: Review of research and literature. Ontario situation and beyond. P. Harpley prepared comments and recommendations to the then Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (see later in this Newsletter).
- Rescue Lake Simcoe – Launch meeting – Link Georgina, Spring 2019 – 4 SLSN attended, Lake Simcoe Plan Review – awareness event, Queen’s Park – 3 SLSN volunteers attended.

## **Planning Process for Local Municipality Local Issues:**

- Keswick Secondary Plan Review – SLSN initial involvement, review and executive members’ participation in process.
- Black River watershed – water quality impact. Sod company applying biosolid (human waste) on fields during intense rain storms, contrary to nutrient management act. Involved with MOEE reports by Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe.

## **Meeting Presentations and member research contributions – subjects**

### Environmental Conservation Presentations and Initiatives:

- The Challenges, Arctic Winter Visitors – Birds.
- “Environmental Conservation: The Challenges” – Planning in Ontario – Gord Zwaigenbaum.
- Salamanders – Spring has Sprung.
- Honduras Adventures: Norma Knowlton presentation.
- “Introduction to Astronomy” Jeffrey Boylin.
- Loggerhead Shrike – endangered species and the Carden Plain - ANNUAL SLSN Autumn Event – Egypt Hall: Hazel Wheeler, speaker from Wildlife Preservation Canada. Display on SLSN grassland habitat research and restoration projects.

### **Outings**

- Spring and Autumn General Nature Study and birding Expeditions.
- Spring and Autumn Lake Simcoe Birding.
- Birding to Lake Ontario hot spots, Thickson Woods and Oshawa Second Marsh – Spring migrants.
- Fungi, Ferns and their Allies Nature Study Outing.
- Sutton C.B.C. Bird Count.

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**Moose Populations in Ontario are in a very disturbing decline, and in other parts of North America**

Paul Harpley recently submitted comments to the Ontario Government (MNR) with recommendations to their investigations, process, planning and policy initiatives regarding this disturbing situation (below).

2019-09-26

I understand the key concerns with moose in Ontario today are focused on the low and, in some cases, declining recruitment of calves into the breeding population, and timing of the rut, or breeding period for moose, relative to the timing of hunting seasons. Additionally, some area moose populations are declining, though in others this is not the case.

From review of the Big Game Management Advisory Committee findings, I feel that although there are some good work here and recommendations, some important changes are still needed to arrive at an appropriate future Moose Management Plan for Ontario now. I note the committee consists of members with diverse knowledge and experience in moose management and quota review, moose hunting, tourist outfitter operations, and previous experience on wildlife advisory committees. These organizations are important but there are many more diverse organizations that need to be represented. Please change the composition of BGMAC to be more representative of all Ontarians.

Also, end the calf hunt completely, establish and protect moose refuge areas, and commit more resources for enforcement, monitoring and research.

Regarding wolves: Proposing to open up hunting of wolves and coyotes across the north to address declining moose populations is misadvised. The evidence doesn't add up. Wolves, coyotes and moose have lived together in a complex predator-prey relationship for thousands of years. This relationship naturally regulates itself, benefitting each species and the ecosystems they rely on.

**Paul Harpley** BSc. (Hons.) M.A.

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## **Moose populations on alarming decline in North American parks**

### **Disease, predators and climate change take their toll on calves**

By Pippa Wysong, for [CBC News](#) Posted: Oct 15, 2015 5:00 AM ET Last Updated: Oct 15, 2015

#### **Moose: A Year in the Life of a Twig Eater – The Importance of Calf Survival**

An alarming number of moose calves are failing to survive their first year, pushing moose populations into decline in many parts of North America.

Why that's happening isn't clear, although a variety of factors are certainly contributors, says wildlife biologist Seth Moore. These include disease, predators and climate change.

Moore provided his expertise as a consultant for the new documentary *Moose: A Year in the Life of a Twig Eater*, **airing on CBC-TV's The Nature of Things on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 8 p.m.**



*Moose: A Year in the Life of a Twig Eater* follows the first year in the life of a Jasper National Park moose calf, seen here when it was just five days old. The documentary will air on *The Nature of Things* on Oct. 15 at 8 p.m. (CBC-TV)

Shot in the wilds of Jasper National Park, the documentary follows a newborn calf and her mother over a 12-month period. It takes a close, personal look at the challenges a calf faces in its natural environment.

"The first year of life is the toughest for calves," Moore said. "They are easy prey for wolves and bears, and many succumb to diseases and other health issues. A film like this can help with the understanding of what happens, and provide clues on out how to help these populations."

Moore works at the Grand Portage Trust Lands in Minnesota, where 90 per cent of moose calves die each year.

"We lose about 75 per cent of calves in the first couple weeks of life, mostly to predators, then another 15 per cent due to natural health issues," he said.

## **Liver flukes, wolves, collisions**

Moose in Jasper are also facing problems, according to Parks Canada. There, the decline is attributed to the deadly liver fluke, wolves and collisions on the railways and highways that run through the park.

What happens to moose populations varies according to where they live, according to Ryan Brook from the University of Saskatchewan, also a consultant for the documentary.

"Canada has several populations undergoing alarming declines, such as in the Duck and Porcupine Mountain areas in Manitoba," he said. Minnesota, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and several U.S. states have all seen declining populations, too.



Shot in the wilds of Jasper National Park, the documentary follows the newborn calf and her mother over 12 months. It takes a close, personal look at the challenges a calf faces in its natural environment. (CBC-TV)

Declines haven't happened everywhere, but they certainly raise a red flag and are "something we really need to think about and take immediate action" on, especially if the reasons for declines could spread into areas with stronger populations, Brook said.

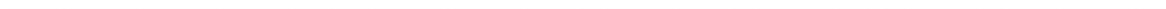
Some places have seen increased numbers of moose, such as the southern half of Saskatchewan. Over the last 30 years, moose populations have spread from forested areas into farmland. As well, moose are now appearing in the Arctic Tundra in larger numbers in many areas.

## No standardized monitoring program

What this all means is hard to say because there is no nationally or internationally standardized moose population and health monitoring program, Brook said.



Play Medi





Jan. 16, 2020

### **Georgina Town Council moves to prohibit development on Maple Lake Estates' wetlands and woodlands**

At its meeting yesterday, Georgina Town Council examined the implications of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) decision on Maple Lake Estates (MLE) released just before Christmas.

Town staff confirmed that the LPAT decision has amended the Town's Official Plan so that almost all of the MLE property is now designated Environmental Protection Area, and that this obliges Council to rezone the property accordingly. Mayor Margaret Quirk responded, "I think we need to be very clear to the public that the zoning will be changing on the property."

Council directed staff to report back this spring on the required rezoning. However, it is still possible that the landowner, Maple Lake Estates Inc., could request a review of the LPAT decision (the deadline for doing so is January 20). If a review is requested, council noted that any rezoning would be put on hold until the outcome is known.

Jack Gibbons  
Chair, North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance

## **Forest Sustainability in Ontario**

Suzuki Foundation – 2020-01-14

**Tell Ontario to prioritize habitat protection**

The Ontario government wants your feedback on its new Forest Sector Strategy. It's crucial that you voice your concerns about the proposal, which prioritizes industrial logging expansion over habitat protection for vulnerable species, and risks opening even more of Ontario's forests to business.

Even at current logging levels, the province's biodiversity is threatened. With the forest industry already exempt from the Endangered Species Act's recovery requirements, habitat disturbance is proceeding at a pace that is driving species such as the at-risk woodland caribou toward local extinction. The new proposal puts Ontario's plants and animals at even greater risk.

It also misses the mark on current societal trends. With ever more Canadians calling for action on climate change and for truly sustainable products, accelerating the role of single-use products is irresponsible and flies in the face of the need to reduce excessive consumption.

Ontario's imperilled species can only survive alongside the forestry industry when limits, supported by science, are enforced. The science regarding what caribou need for a chance at surviving is known. It's time to put those measures in place and create a sustainable industry that does a better job of sharing the land with the other animals and plants that inhabit the forests.

More Information: [https://davidsuzuki.org/action/protect-ontarios-forests/?utm\\_source=mkto-first-ontario-banner-header&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=timeToCreateASustainableForestIndustry-ontariosPlantAndAnimalsNeedYourHelp-en-14jan2020&mkt\\_tok=eyJpIjoiTkdkGaVpEQTFaakZpWXPBeSIsInQiOiI5NSStOT3FzdFZNSmZORm1nOW5YUE5DRFd5YzRmUldsUzNqbmhpNGt0MzBQMvYxQkhBa3ZQdVZvZ1M3cWdVQTk0d2ZDU1pTbitXSEVvZkFMa1pVamdhRk8rOXJwU1JNb2ZPWEdZVXBmNzlnakZReEo4dzZwd0dVNEt1bnp3RnIRZSJ9](https://davidsuzuki.org/action/protect-ontarios-forests/?utm_source=mkto-first-ontario-banner-header&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=timeToCreateASustainableForestIndustry-ontariosPlantAndAnimalsNeedYourHelp-en-14jan2020&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTkdkGaVpEQTFaakZpWXPBeSIsInQiOiI5NSStOT3FzdFZNSmZORm1nOW5YUE5DRFd5YzRmUldsUzNqbmhpNGt0MzBQMvYxQkhBa3ZQdVZvZ1M3cWdVQTk0d2ZDU1pTbitXSEVvZkFMa1pVamdhRk8rOXJwU1JNb2ZPWEdZVXBmNzlnakZReEo4dzZwd0dVNEt1bnp3RnIRZSJ9)

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2020-01-17

## Wildlands League

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[VIEW AS A WEB PAGE](#) [WHAT WE DO](#)



## ***Ford government to deal crushing blow to species at risk***

Species at risk in Ontario have been neglected by the provincial government for more than a decade and NOW the Ford government is proposing to deal a crushing blow: a permanent exemption for forest operations from protecting and recovering species at risk.

Quietly introduced on the Friday before Christmas, [the proposal](#) will roll back the clock to 1994 when mitigating harm was the standard for the forest industry when it came to vulnerable critters.

Wildlife like boreal caribou, Blanding's turtle and common nighthawk have never been protected to ensure their recovery under the *Endangered Species Act* and if the Ford government has their way, they never will.

That this is happening in an extinction crisis and climate emergency is shocking and irresponsible. It will also harm the reputation of Ontario's wood and paper products internationally and in the marketplace. This proposal must be stopped.

Tell Ontario now. Stop any plan to amend legislation until Ontario figures out how to meet the dual needs of protecting and recovering species at risk and sustainably managing forest operations.

Please email Ontario at [cfsaspeciesatrisk@ontario.ca](mailto:cfsaspeciesatrisk@ontario.ca) and let them know what you think.

**Dave Pearce**

Forest Conservation Manager



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# **Climate Change Chronicles**

**The missing factor in conservation**

Climate change is the greatest threat humanity faces – and we aren't the only ones at risk. Global warming will harm millions of other species, including iconic endangered animals such as polar bears and tigers. Despite this, conservationists often don't take climate change into account, meaning plans to preserve these species are doomed to fail.

To take one example, millions have been spent on attempts to save the Iberian lynx. Its numbers are now rising, but efforts have focused on the southern part of the Iberian peninsula, where conditions will become too dry for the cats this century. In the US, out of 459 official plans for saving animals at risk of extinction, only 18 per cent included actions specifically designed to take climate change into account.

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## Catastrophic Fires in Australia

The ecological catastrophe playing out in Australia over the past several months.

**Thousands of homes have been destroyed and dozens of human lives have been lost. And then there's the impact on wildlife.** There are really no words to describe the magnitude of the loss — according to one estimate, a billion animals [1] have already died or will die because of starvation or the loss of a safe habitat.



It's almost beyond comprehension. But one thing is clear: climate change is the driving force behind these catastrophic bushfires. **This is what a climate emergency looks like. [2]**

By now the devastating facts and numbers are all over the news, as are harrowing personal accounts from those on the ground. If you're like me, you've seen photos that you will never in your life forget. What many of us are still asking though is, what can I do from here in Canada? How can I help?

**That's the question I asked my colleagues at Greenpeace Australia this week. And yes, there is an important role for us to play here in Canada.**

For years, Greenpeace has been pushing the Australian government to get serious about climate change. Despite this, the government continues to act as though climate breakdown is someone else's problem [3] while stubbornly investing in coal. [4]

**Greenpeace Australia has asked that we show solidarity to the victims and the survivors of these fires by calling out those complicit politicians who have failed, up to now, to take appropriate and urgent action. ...**

**There is certainly more for us to do here in Canada as well.** Leadership on climate means doing everything possible to reduce our emissions to net zero. In the coming days and weeks I'll let you know about ways you can be part of our efforts to push the federal government to reject projects with destructive climate impacts, like the proposed Teck Frontier mine, which if built will be one of the largest open pit tar sands mines in history.

But for now, please join me in channeling the disbelief, despair or outrage you may be feeling into a demand for action. **One of the strengths of Greenpeace is that we are truly a global movement, with a truly global impact.**

Executive Director, Greenpeace Canada  
Street, Toronto, ON M5T 1N1

Greenpeace Canada, 33 Cecil

To Take Action: <https://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/story/28207/australian-bushfires-what-you-can-do/>

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New Scientist

## **Exclusive: UK considering ambitious new climate plan soon after Brexit**

**New Scientist** 2020-01-27

By Adam Vaughan



David Barrett/Alamy Stock Photo

Read more: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2230110-exclusive-uk-considering-ambitious-new-climate-plan-soon-after-brexit/#ixzz6BDCXTj7E>

## The UK could be a leader on climate action

The UK government is looking to announce a new, more ambitious blueprint to reduce its carbon emissions soon after the country leaves the European Union on 31 January, *New Scientist* understands.

The move would be seen as a sign the UK wants to show leadership on climate change post-Brexit and to encourage other governments to follow suit ahead of it hosting a major [UN climate summit in Glasgow this November](#).

Current carbon cutting plans submitted by world leaders under the Paris climate agreement [put us on ...](#)

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**New Scientist** 2020-01-23

# Make airlines and oil firms pay for tree-planting boom, says UK report

**New Scientist** ANALYSIS 23 January 2020

By Adam Vaughan



Momentum is growing for mass tree planting in the UK

Curved-Light / Alamy Stock Photo

Oil companies and airlines should pay for a colossal tree-planting drive to fight climate change as soon as next year, the UK government's climate advisers have urged.

The proposal to grow more trees, which draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it, is one of the eye-catching ideas presented by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) today in [a report](#) on the big changes in farming and land use necessary for the UK to hit its [2050 net zero emissions target, which was enshrined in law last year](#).

The report calls for a fifth of farmland to be used to store carbon instead of producing food, a rapid expansion of crops grown for energy, and measures to encourage the public to eat 20 per cent less beef, lamb and dairy.

To meet the net zero target, emissions from land use will have to fall 64 per cent by 2050, equivalent to a total of 37 megatonnes of carbon dioxide. Trees and forestry could deliver around half the reduction. Land use, including agriculture, forestry and peatland, accounts for 12 per cent of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.

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## Plastic in the Environment Issue



PIXABAY

# Ninety-nine percent of ocean plastic has gone missing

By Eva Frederick Jan. 3, 2020 , 2:50 PM

Journal Science: AAAS

Every year, we dump 8 million tons of plastic trash into the ocean. And because most of it floats, you might expect it to amass on or just beneath the water's surface, similar to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. New research suggests that for more than 99% of plastic waste, this isn't at all the case, *The Guardian* reports. Several recent studies have shown that much of this plastic ends up buried on the sea floor or suspended deep in the water column. This can happen when animals like red crabs and giant larvaceans eat it and poop it out in deeper water—or coat it in heavy mucus, making it sink to the sea floor. And even more frighteningly, researchers say, some plastic degrades into tiny particles smaller than a cell, called nanoplastics, which can accumulate in the tissues of fish and other organisms, sometimes causing neurological or reproductive issues.

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## **Loblaw Companies Inc: Provide sustainable food packaging before Earth chokes on plastic!**

Karen Cumming started this petition to Sarah R. Davis and it now has 164,834 signatures – 2019 Social Media.

Plastic is choking the planet Earth. As global citizens, the time has come for us to do something about it. **40% of plastic in Canada is generated for packaging - much of that for the food we eat.**

CBCs "Marketplace" recently broadcast an episode devoted to plastic food packaging, and the fact that **supermarkets are not offering consumers a choice when it comes to what their fruits, vegetables and other foods are packed in.** THERE IS ANOTHER WAY. The show profiled a supermarket in London, England called "Iceland Foods" which recently went plastic-free in 10 weeks. The owner suggested that the big chains could do it, too... but that its up to consumers to put the pressure on them.

Sarah R. Davis is the President of Loblaw Companies Inc. in Canada. Ms. Davis, we hereby ask that you request your suppliers to immediately begin using environmentally friendly plant-

based food packaging made from things like plant cellulose and bamboo, etc. **WE WILL NOT BUY FOODS PACKAGED IN PLASTIC ANYMORE.**

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## Hamilton Pipeline

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**Not just out in northern British Columbia!**

Ontario Clean Air Alliance 2020-01 – note: without references

Introduction: Enbridge Gas is seeking permission from the Ontario Energy Board to build a large gas pipeline in the City of Hamilton, including through the ecologically important Beverly Swamp. The proposed pipeline would be 10 kilometres long and four feet in diameter. The pipeline's right-of-way would be 28 to 30 metres wide, equivalent to an eight- or nine-lane roadway. Its forecast cost is \$204 million.

According to Enbridge the pipeline is needed for two reasons: First to facilitate the ramp-up of electricity production from Ontario's gas-fired power plants' by increasing imports of fracked gas from Pennsylvania. This would increase greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution from these plants by 400% between 2017 and 2025 (not factoring in GHG emissions released during the fracking process itself). Second, the pipe would allow Pennsylvania fracked gas to flow through Canada to U.S. utilities in Maine and New Hampshire.

Ontario's Gas-Fired Power Plants Enbridge is forecasting that Ontario's gas plants will increase their electricity production and greenhouse gas pollution by 400% between 2017 and 2025 as production is increased to offset the closure of the Pickering Nuclear Station and the re-building of aging reactors at the Darlington and Bruce Nuclear Stations.

The proposed new pipeline is Enbridge's first step in helping Ontario gas plants to increase their electricity generation and greenhouse gas pollution by more than 600% by 2040. delivering Fracked Gas to U.S. utilities. The second purpose of the proposed pipeline is to deliver fracked Pennsylvania gas via Canada to the Bangor Natural Gas Company in Maine and to Northern Utilities in New Hampshire.

According to a report prepared for Enbridge by ICF Resources, this gas must be routed through Canada to New England because U.S. regulatory authorities will not permit the construction of new pipelines to deliver fracked Pennsylvania gas to the U.S. northeast: Enbridge's Hamilton Pipeline: More greenhouse gas pollution and higher gas rates December 27, 2019

Over the past few years, New York and many states within New England have been denying pipeline expansion projects and greenfield pipelines the permits they need to begin construction. ICF expects these regulatory hurdles to remain indefinitely.

The ICF report goes on to note that the U.S. northeast could reduce its need for fracked gas imports by obtaining renewable electricity from Quebec and offshore wind projects.<sup>7</sup> cost Enbridge's proposed pipeline is not financially self-sustaining. As Enbridge admits, its forecast revenues are \$120 million less than its forecast costs. Therefore, Enbridge is proposing to raise rates for Canadian gas consumers by \$120 million to subsidize the pipeline and the export of fracked gas to the New England utilities.

The better alternative, Instead of spending \$204 million to increase fracked gas imports and greenhouse gas pollution, would be for Enbridge to invest the money in energy efficiency programs to reduce its customers' gas bills and pollution.

On average, Enbridge's 2019 energy efficiency programs are forecast to reduce its customers' energy bills by \$4.72 for every dollar spent by the utility. Its most cost-effective programs in the commercial sector are forecast to reduce bills by \$16.43 for every dollar spent.

Therefore, by spending \$204 million on energy efficiency programs instead of the proposed pipeline, Enbridge can reduce its customers energy bills by \$963 million to \$3.4 billion. In addition, the Province of Ontario can make a deal to import low-cost water power from Quebec to avoid the need to increase output from our gas plants. Quebec Premier Francois Legault has repeatedly offered to sell Ontario power at a bargain rate under a long-term contract.

By investing in energy efficiency and importing renewable electricity from Quebec, we can lower our electricity and gas bills, and lower greenhouse gases, while moving Ontario to a renewable energy future.