



## NEWSLETTER COVID-19 edition

### SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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

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**

### SLSN COVID-19 Response

**Current members of the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists (SLSN).** This is an important message that the Canadian Press has advised today that the Ontario Legislature is expected to pass emergency COVID-19 Bill today. Norma, Gord and I have been monitoring the situation, and yesterday I received word that the York Region Police Station Community Room where we meet was closing, and not opening until May 1st. **Consequently, we are postponing our April SLSN meeting, which was already previously scheduled later in April because of Easter, to May 10th. The previously scheduled outing is cancelled.**

Please practice social distancing and staying at home as much as possible as advised by health authorities and the governments of Ontario and Canada and supported by the best current science knowledge.

As you are aware this situation is fluid, with new information and direction changing day to day. With this public health crisis and U.N. declared world-wide pandemic, the political and social landscape will continue to shift, and we will

have to rise to the challenge and continue to adapt to these changing circumstances.

Paul Harpley SLSN

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## Meetings

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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 York Region Police 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 by York Region Police representatives.

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### **Sunday May 10: 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.

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

## York Region Forest News

This email is to advise you that the Region's Hazard Tree Maintenance contactor will be undertaking work in the Brown Hill, Davis Drive, Drysdale, Hall, Hollidge, North, Pefferlaw and Robinson Tracts beginning today, March 16, 2020. The operation is expected to last up to six weeks. Work will begin at Brown Hill and they will likely be there most of this week.

If you have any questions regarding this operation please phone 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75249.

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## Richmond Hill eyes protected rural lands on Oak Ridges Moraine for development

### City looks to work with Whitchurch-Stouffville to develop a Highway 404 economic corridor

Source: York Media NEWS Mar 16, 2020 by [Sheila Wang](#) Richmond Hill Liberal

*More development pressures are coming to the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt in York Region by the York Media network had advised details in two recent articles.*

A sign marks the entrance to the Oak Ridges Moraine on Leslie Street looking north between Elgin Mills and Stouffville roads near Phyllis Rawlinson Park, March 11, 2020 - Steve Somerville/Torstar

Protected rural lands in the Oak Ridges Moraine conservation area in Richmond Hill may become ground zero for future development.

Richmond Hill council voted to consider expanding its settlement area into the agricultural and rural lands along the Leslie Street and Highway 404 corridor at its Feb. 26 meeting.

The proposed land use change would allow the developers to tap into the current “countryside areas” near the Gormley GO Station, between 19th Avenue and Bethesda Road, that have been designated to buffer the Oak Ridges Moraine from urban sprawl, according to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2017).

“I think we need to show the leadership aggressively to say we actually want to be open for business and we want to use lands wisely,” Coun. Tom Muench told fellow representatives.

Only the province can change the designation, according to Patrick Lee, Richmond Hill's director of policy planning.

Muench's proposal doesn't affect the designated linkage area or core area lands that are critical to maintaining the integrity of one of Ontario's most significant landforms.

Councillors David West and Karen Cilevitz spoke out against the proposal, which they said was not in the agenda in advance of the meeting and lacked supporting documents.

West moved a deferral motion in order to have more time to consult staff and the public, but was outvoted.

Regional Coun. Joe DiPaola, who supported Muench's motion, said “the intention here would be to create employment lands,” noting the residential to commercial ratio in Richmond Hill was high.

Muench also proposed to formally work with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville — whose mayor Iain Lovatt was present — to approach York Region and Ontario in order to develop a Highway 404 corridor to facilitate the housing and economic development targets by the province.

Some more detail is provided in a related item below.

## **WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? 2,500 residences proposed for Richmond Hill's Gormley area**

**Community primarily residential, but will include parks and trails**

NEWS Feb 01, 2020 York Media by Sheila Wang Richmond Hill Liberal

The West Gormley Secondary Plan area's boundaries include Bayview Avenue (realigned) to the west, Leslie Street to the east, Bethesda Sideroad to the north and Stouffville Road to the south.

It may look like a place that time forgets but the area near the Gormley GO station in Richmond Hill will have much more to offer in the future.

- The Gormley Secondary Plan area is a planned community roughly 361 hectares in size.

- The lands are bounded by Stouffville Road to the south, Oak Ridges Moraine Natural Core lands to the west, Bethesda Sideroad to the north and Leslie Street to the east.
- A number of landowners in the area have submitted draft plan of subdivision applications to permit the construction of approximately 2,500 residential dwellings – including detached, semi-detached homes and townhouses.
- To date, approximately 2,000 dwelling units have been draft approved, while the remainder are still in the approval process.
- The community is primarily residential in nature but will include a number of parks and trails.

More Info: YorkRegion.com [newsletters@metroland.com](mailto:newsletters@metroland.com)

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## Boreal Forest Destruction for Toilet Paper – Charmin

Stand Earth, 2020-03-18

*A quick note: As the world is (rightly) focused on slowing the spread of COVID-19, we have halted all planned in-person gatherings and actions in and around Cincinnati for the foreseeable future. Some corporations will use this moment to try to drag their feet on climate action, but we won't let them. It's extra important for us to come together and take meaningful actions online. Let us activate our online power.*

**The Canadian boreal forest is under threat. At this moment, Procter & Gamble (P&G) is cutting down centuries old trees from the boreal forest to make butt wipes.** But it doesn't have to be this way – if only P&G incorporated recycled fiber into its flagship Charmin brand toilet paper, millions of trees would be saved.

Charmin is the largest at-home toilet paper brand in the US and its parent company, P&G, *refuses* to change the product's recipe to be more forest-friendly. **With International Forest Day just days away, we must come together to protect our forests against the force of a giant corporation that upholds forest destruction and greenwashing.**

Charmin may advertise its TP as “ultra soft” and “ultra strong” but in reality, Charmin is *ultra wrong*. **The 100% virgin fiber that Charmin is made from uses fiber from primary forests (that have never been industrially logged before) in the Canadian boreal in Canada.** To make matters worse, P&G hasn't put plans in place to ensure that its fiber isn't coming from threatened species habitat.

**The iconic TP brand claims that its paper products are made of “sustainably-sourced” and “fast-growing renewable fibers”, but reality is millions of acres of boreal forest is logged each year, in part to keep up with the growing demand for tissue products in the US. As a result, the boreal forest is left scarred and bare. There is nothing sustainable about clearcutting ancient trees to make fancy toilet paper that “glides” on your skin. Especially when that forest is actually a vital resource in mitigating climate change.**

There is a reason why forests are called “the lungs of the earth” – every year the **boreal forest in Canada alone removes carbon dioxide equivalent to the annual emissions of 24 million passenger vehicles.** Keeping the boreal forest intact is vital because it converts massive amounts of climate-altering carbon dioxide into life-essential oxygen. How amazing is that?! And a variety of species, like the endangered woodland caribou, billions of songbirds, and hundreds of Indigenous communities rely on this majestic forest to live and thrive.

**Thanks to your relentless support – the emails you’ve sent, the petitions you have signed, your generous donations, and your commitment to this issue, we are changing the tide of this narrative.** Corporations can longer go under the radar while they wreak havoc on vital forest like the boreal. You and I, alongside thousands of our comrades are leading the fight to protect nature. We are taking a stand for what is right, and we are demanding change now. **We are standing up for the forests.**

We will continue to push P&G to stop flushing our forests, and transition to a sustainable sourcing practice.

Working towards large-scale protection of majestic forested areas like the boreal is just the work Stand.earth was created to take on. Protecting forests is in our DNA, back from when we were founded more than 20 years ago as Forest Ethics. Over the years we've been proud to help protect millions of acres from logging in the Great Bear Rainforest, Inland Temperate Rainforest, Northern boreal forest, and in Chile. See more, and Petition detail at info below.

Erdene Batzorig,  
Stand.earth

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## **Coronavirus Impact on World Wildlife**

**Starving monkey 'gangs' battle in Thailand as coronavirus keeps tourists away**

Live Science Brandon Specktor - Senior Writer, 2020-03

Tourism is down in the ancient city of Lopburi, and the local monkeys are going ape.



Rival gangs of macaques brawl in the streets of Thailand.  
Sasaluk Rattanachai

In one of the more unusual incidents being attributed to the new coronavirus outbreak, a turf war between dozens of street monkeys and temple monkeys broke out in Thailand's historic city of Lopburi on Thursday (March 12). According to city residents, the furry fracas likely resulted from a sharp dip in tourism to the 800-year-old city — and thus a dip in free food offerings to thousands of local monkeys.

"It's the summer so usually we see a lot of tourists, but now because of the outbreak there's so few that the markets are very quiet," Sasaluk Rattanachai, who posted a video of the brawl online, told Thai news site Khaosod English. "Not enough tourists come to leave food for the monkeys at [the temple]."

Thousands of crab-eating macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) live in Lopburi and the nearby Phra Prang Sam Yot temple complex, which dates to the 13th century. Both groups are used to being fed human food by the hundreds of tourists who visit the site every day. The city even hosts an annual Monkey Buffet Festival, where visitors construct elaborate towers of fruits and vegetables for the temple monkeys to feast on.

But with tourism to the area down, even the macaques are feeling the squeeze. On Thursday, a gang of dozens of "invading" temple monkeys entered the town in search of food, eventually brawling in the street with the town's local monkey population. What were they squabbling over? A single yogurt cup. The fight stopped traffic for 10 minutes as paws flew and screeches filled the air, Khaosod English reported.

"I haven't seen a fight like this for many years that I can't remember," one local told the news site. "Normally, the fights involve five to 10 monkeys."

By late in the day, city residents laid out additional food offerings at the temple, and the monkey crowd largely dispersed.

About 39 million tourists visited Thailand last year, [according to the BBC](#). more than 10 million of those tourists were Chinese. Ongoing travel bans in China (and increasingly around the world) have seriously hampered Thailand's tourism industry.

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## Young People for a Climate Future

Care 2, Opinion 2020-03-09

### Young People and Climate Change

#### **We're Leaving Our Children a Dying Planet, and We're Not Even Equipping Them With the Knowledge They'll Need to Save It.**

The latest warning issued from the United Nations about climate change was dire. Their December 2019 report makes it clear that we've procrastinated far too long. Solving climate change will no longer be easy. We need to make drastic changes to how we use energy *immediately* in order to even have a prayer of saving cities from catastrophic flooding, prairies from devastating fires, and coastlines from deadly powerful storms.

Yet, in the United States, people are still busy debating whether or not climate change is actually real. These misinformation campaigns are insidious. They prey upon people's lack of knowledge and sow inexcusable seeds of doubt that have led to decades of inaction. Now, these same malicious pundits are trying to pass this misinformation on to our nation's children.

We say: no more. Climate change is not only real, it's already wreaking havoc on communities around the world. We need the next generation to know as much as they can about how we got here and how we as a society can change to save our world.

Fortunately, some countries have already begun properly educating their youth. Italy in particular has proven itself to be a key leader. The country just mandated that all children learn about climate change and sustainability in school so they have the knowledge and tools they need to live in a climate unstable world. Every school in the U.S. should adopt a similar curriculum.

Since the U.S. is the biggest roadblock to global climate action, it's imperative that we reach American kids before fossil fuel lies lead to more decades of inaction.



Miranda B.  
The Care2 Petitions Team

P.S. Past generations have put off solving the climate crisis for so long that it's risking all of human civilization. Let's make sure the next generation has the knowledge they need to set things right.