

The Talon

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NEWSLETTER **COVID-19 edition #2**

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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

Telephone 905-722-8021

(www.slsnc.ca)

Research Partner with The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe (www.zephyrsociety.ca)

Member: Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

Member: Ontario Greenbelt Alliance

Note: Please renew your membership to receive future Newsletters

2020-05-04

SLSN May Newsletter COVID-19 edition 2 – members Update

As you are aware, we all continue to be in the midst of the global COVID-19 Emergency Pandemic, declared by the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) March 19, 2020. Ontario like other Canadian provinces, and most countries around the world remain in various stages of Lockdown. After 6-7 weeks of lockdown with emphasis on most residents sheltering in place, staying at home and physical distancing, with borders essentially closed to human travel, the focus of everyone is stopping the growth of this virus in our communities. Fortunately, our province appears to be lowering the curve, but many questions remain as only very minor seasonal business economic openings have been announced in our province in recent days.

With my 30 plus years working with the collection, exhibit design and Manager at the Toronto Zoo I was quite familiar with viral zoonotic diseases, as any internationally engaged large zoo is acutely aware of the potential transmission of these diseases. Indeed, the Zoo has strict and well-planned operational and biological protocols for working with all wildlife in this regard. I remember, in particular, animals from global hot spots like West and Central Africa (Ebola, H.I.V. etc.) and South-east Asia including China (SARS etc.) where these outbreaks have been particularly virulent in recent decades. Wildlife research agencies, zoos, wildlife parks and allied institutions have developed and adopted many of the protocols, decades ago, that all of us are now deeply aware of in the last few weeks in our daily lives in Ontario.

As you will recall in our early April SLSN Newsletter I advised that our April meeting was cancelled and that the Ontario Government was just then moving to enact legislation to essentially lockdown the province with their Emergency COVID-19 Bill. The status at writing this update today remains that the Province of Ontario has extended its Emergency lockdown to the end of May 2020, with future action dependent on conditions moving forward. I have included information on Ontario Provincial Government's recent activities and science of the status of viral spread.

SLSN executive members are in contact with one another and monitoring the situation. Gord Zwaigenbaum has advised from his investigation that members can google "how long the Coronavirus lockdown will last" to quickly get current local information.

National, Provincial and many local park amenities remain closed, and virtually all wildlife research activities including citizen science programs have been suspended and/or cancelled in the province, so our member outings are not being scheduled at this time. Members are encouraged to safely engage in their own local naturalist activities, and later in the newsletter you will see some member-submitted observations and photographs of these kinds of activities during this difficult time.

I have recently been advised that our meeting venue, the York Region Police Community Room, remains CLOSED to the end of May and may continue to be closed into June. **Consequently, I am advising that our previously scheduled May meeting has been cancelled, and we are “tentatively” advising of a potential re-scheduled meeting for Sunday June 14 (information below). Members will be advised when we know.**

Stay safe,

Paul Harpley SLSN

Meetings – Tentative June date – COVID-19

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.



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.

Sunday June 14: 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.

Tentative – dependent on COVID-19 developments.

Ontario reports 434 new cases of COVID-19 and 40 deaths

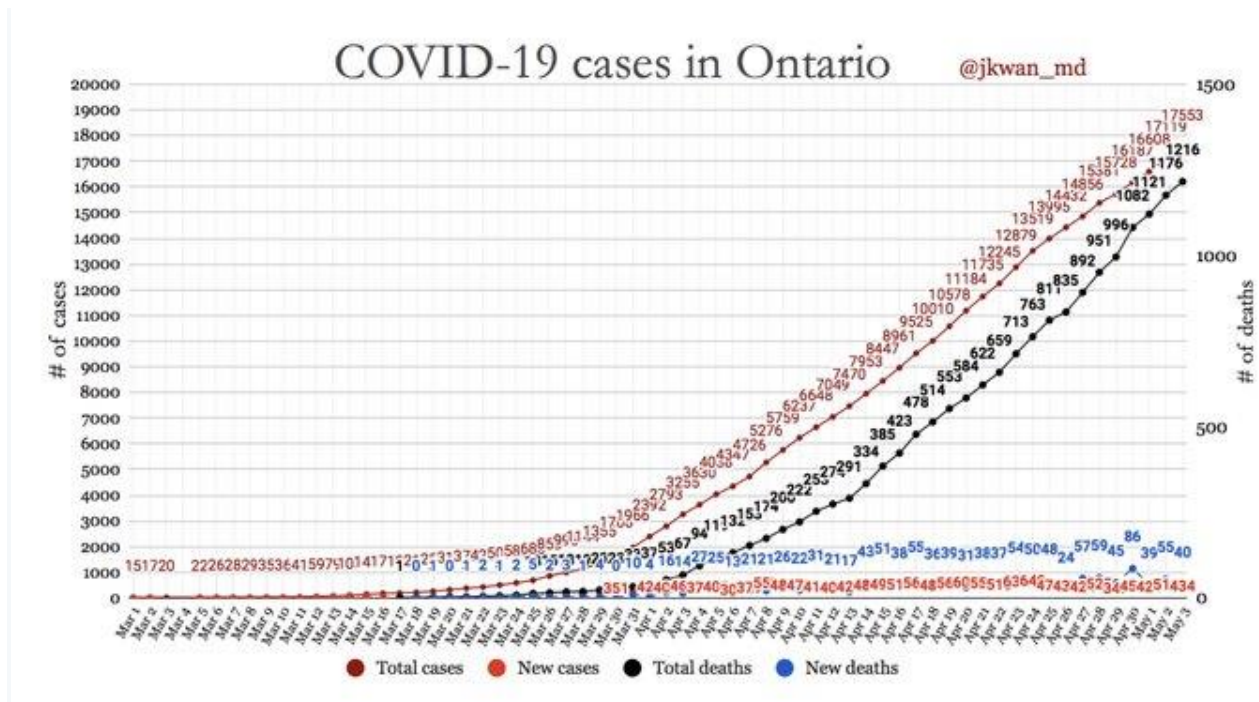
Blog T.O. 2020-05-03, Dr. Jennifer Kwan

Ontario health officials have confirmed 434 new cases of COVID-19 in the province as of Sunday morning, bringing the provincial total to date to 17,553.

The new number marks a slight decrease following a spike on Saturday, and it's just slightly less than Ontario's new daily average of 448.

Cases have been slowly decreasing over the past few weeks, and daily numbers are now a far cry from the record 640 new cases reported on April 24.

17553 known cases* (434 new cases, 1216 total deaths, 40 new deaths)



The province has also managed to significantly ramp up its testing efforts, with 17,146 tests conducted Saturday. A total of 327,505 tests have now been administered in Ontario, and 9,785 are currently under investigation.

Provincial officials previously said they aimed to be completing at least 16,000 tests per day by May 6, and it seems they've managed to meet that goal following criticism over the lack of testing in Ontario.

As of Sunday morning, health officials have also confirmed an additional 40 deaths in the province, bringing the total death toll to 1,216.

About 12,005 cases (68.4 per cent) in the province are now considered resolved, leaving 4,332 active cases.

Out of the total active cases, 1,010 patients are hospitalized with the virus — 232 of which are in ICU and 174 of which are on a ventilator.

Ontario COVID-19#'s: 434 new cases (up 2.5%), 40 deaths (1216 total/590 in long term care homes), 12,005 cases resolved (68.8%),5458 active cases, 17,146 tests done, 9785 under investigation, 1010 hospitalized, 232 ICU, 174 ventilators

According to the province's daily Epidemiologic Summary, 209 outbreaks have been reported in long-term care homes, marking an increase of four outbreaks from the previous report. Health officials have also reported 590 deaths among residents/patients in long-term care homes, which is an increase of 12 deaths from the previous report.

While health officials have confirmed that Ontario has likely peaked in terms of new cases in the province, they've also said they need to see a consistent decline in new cases for at least two weeks before they can consider lifting lockdown restrictions and allowing more businesses to open.

On Friday, Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced that the first phase of reopening the economy would take place Monday, with a limited number of seasonal and outdoor businesses allowed to open. But Ford and provincial health officials maintain that a significant drop in daily case numbers is needed before we can enter phase two.

"As we begin planning for the next phase of our fight against COVID-19, Ontarians should continue to stay home as much as possible to ensure we stop as quickly as possible the spread of this virus," said Minister of Health Christine Elliott in a statement Friday.

"While we have made tremendous progress in our shared battle against this new virus, we are not done yet. We need to keep up the fight by continuing to practise physical distancing and good hygiene habits."

Ontario just extended its state of emergency again

2020-04-23

The ongoing state of emergency in Ontario has officially been extended, meaning at least two more weeks of widespread business closures and social distancing.

Premier Doug Ford announced Thursday morning that all emergency orders put into place by the government on March 17 (and all that have been initiated since) will be in effect until May 6, 2020, at the earliest.

The orders include the closure of non-essential services, the closure of provincial parks and park amenities, the closure of all bars, clubs, entertainment venues and in-person restaurant dining spaces, as well as restrictions that limit social gatherings to no more than five people at a time.

"On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is extending all emergency orders that have been put in place to-date under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until May 6, 2020," reads a release from the province issued Thursday.

"This extension will help protect the health and well-being of people across the province and stop the spread of COVID-19."



Ministry of the Solicitor General

✓ @ONsafety

SLSN members continue safely walking in nature and birding during the COVID-19 Emergency Pandemic, and submitting reports for our Newsletter below ...

Jeff Boylin report and photographs

Lotsa action here lately at my place. The Northern Flicker decided to go on the ground by the bird box so the Eastern Bluebird had to protect it. Hopefully this time she Nest's there. Looking promising.

Eastern Bluebird



Northern Flicker



depicting this birds special features - Flicker



White-breasted Nuthatch



2020-04-20 8:35 PM

Irving Himel Report

Birding the south shore, Lake Simcoe

Today, all by my self I spent time watching my feeders

CROW
CHICKADEE
JUNCO
BLUE JAY
SONG SPARROW

Then off down to Bruce St and Ravenshow for a walk along the street

STARLING
ROBIN
Canada geese
RING-BILLED GULL
GRACKLE
RED-WINGED BLACK BIRDS
CARDINAL
BLUE JAY
SONG SPARROW
MOURNING DOVE

But the best was a large flock of CEDAR WAXWINGS eating hawthorn berries
And with my renewed spotting skills I finally found a BALD EAGLE

Then along the lakefront. The bay is totally clear of ice or icebergs, in fact there were many boats and fishermen out

In the distance there were literally hundreds' of thousand of white & black ducks, near shore there were hundreds of common Mergansers, which also showed up every place in open water ponds from Keswick to Jackson's point

Also there were

GOLDEN EYE
BUFFLEHEAD

MALLARD
GREATER SCAUP
HERRING GULL

And while I was peeing I just missed hitting a KILLDEER

Later
PIGEON
HOODED MERGANSER

AND AT THE MUSKOLONGE BRIDGE. I watched female BONAPARTE
GULLS swarming the river.

I think that's it and if it is not raining I shall try the HOLLAND SEWAGE LAGOON
tomorrow.

It's so hard being isolated

Irving Himel

2020-05-05

Bird Arrivals Observations – Central/South Georgia

This is a species list of migrants (early March to early May), or local common birds around in the winter but now more arriving as spring weather warms for nesting/breeding, at a rural 10 acre property includes mixed forest, grass meadow and stream. COVID-19 Sheltered in Place.

Hooded merganser	E. phoebe
Bufflehead	E. kingbird
Wood duck	W.B. nuthatch
Mallard	R.W. blackbird
Blue-winged teal	Blue jay
Canada goose	Song sparrow
Snow goose	Chipping sparrow
Great Blue heron	Cedar waxwing
Belted kingfisher	American goldfinch
Spotted sandpiper	Turkey vulture
American woodcock	
Wilson's snipe	30 species
Lesser yellowlegs	
American kestrel	
Northern harrier	
tree sparrows	
Downy woodpecker	
Hairy woodpecker	
Pileated woodpecker	
C. flicker	

Paul Harpley

SLSN members Recommended Computer Based Events and Services to access during this COVID-19 Emergency Pandemic

Turtles in Trouble

Tuesday May 12th
7 PM - 8:30 PM

Webinar: Link will be sent to
registered participants



OAK RIDGES MORaine
LAND TRUST



To Register:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4833643737612526350?fbclid=IwAR3liB3XSckHjV6Tz1bNRH WKuXhyW0QsX6KnEP1WOtaJbf2W0PMAMbi7fCY>

Seeing turtles basking on logs in the sunshine is a summer staple, but how much longer will we see this sight? Ontario's turtles are facing some big challenges, but together we can help them out! Learn about some of the troubles turtles are in and meet a few live turtles from the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre. This event is family friendly. Thank you to our generous funders: Town of Caledon, Patrick and Barbara Keenan Foundation, the Regional Municipality of York and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation for your support of this event.

Information and event recommended by SLSN member Wilma Bunnik

2020-04-26

ClearWater Farm in COVID-19



It's Live: ClearWater Kids Online

Entertaining. Educational. Connecting with nature, inspiring kids' action for a sustainable future. A year in the making, this is a website like no other. It's an interactive ClearWater Farm map with videos, games and activities. More than a boredom buster for kids at home. Check it out:

http://clearwaterkids.org/?inf_contact_key=060926bd7927b0a1c8dca593872774e4680f8914173f9191b1c0223e68310bb1

2020-04-26

David Suzuki Foundation

National Butterflyway Rangers

Wild pollinators such as butterflies, bees and birds are crucial to human survival. Climate change and widespread pesticide use are compromising their habitat and food sources. The national Butterflyway Project aims to help people step up efforts to help pollinators find food and shelter.

This year, Butterflyway Rangers will expand the scope of their work from past seasons. They will:

- Plant native wildflowers for butterflies and other wild pollinators in and around their neighbourhoods
- Encourage friends, neighbours and school communities to plant pollinator gardens
- Help build and promote municipal- and neighbourhood-scale highways of pollinator habitat
- Explore the relationship between indigenous plants, wild pollinators and humans

https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/butterflyway/?utm_source=mkto-first-englishBroadcast-link-body&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=springNewsletter-nowMoreThan-en&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTWpVeE16bGlnakE1T1RveilsInQiOiJLQXVQcVZ4TSt4OTUyYXByZmN1enpQUXdHNE

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hPNUh3T1FLamU2Z2VBSDRuaUZmTTVxbGIZSXhsazJxMFRDUIFrRk8wc0sifQ%3D%3D](https://www.blogto.com/city/2020/04/ontario-just-extended-state-emergency-again/)



Wildflower Seed to purchase

Information from SLSN member Heather MacKay

Visit <https://www.blogto.com/city/2020/04/ontario-just-extended-state-emergency-again/>

Giving back to the earth this Earth Day

Today is Earth Day, and while it may look different this year because we can't all celebrate together in person, we can still find individual ways to give back to the planet to make a collective impact.

Wildlife Preservation Canada is celebrating Earth Day by opening up the call for **Wildflower Seed Grant** applications. Each year, WPC gives grants of up to \$2000 to community groups and individuals across Canada to restore habitat for native pollinators.

To date, the wildflower seed grant program has helped create 14 wildflower sites across Canada, from the rare Garry oak habitat on the shores of British Columbia, to the salt marsh meadows of New Brunswick and many unique habitats in between.



Grant recipients and their local communities get to experience firsthand how resilient the earth can be by transforming their land into rich habitats that support native pollinators and a plethora of other species.

Funding for the program is provided by our generous corporate partners including Burt's Be Wines, and The Printing House.

The Wildflower Seed Grant application deadline is June 5th. Guidelines and application doc on the WPC website. Successful grant recipients will be notified in July.

Please share this email far and wide. We would love to one day see wildflower sites in every across Canada.

2020-05-06

In-Memorial

Christiane Fritzsche

Christiane died on March 26, 2020 at age 91, in Sutton River Glen Haven Retirement Home where she had been an active member for a number of years. She died quietly at the Home and did not have the COVID-19 virus. Long-time club members will remember her as our SLSN Treasurer and Membership Secretary. We think she began her essential contribution to our organization in 1980 and continued in the position to 2004. Christiane was well-known to be a stickler about finances and late renewals of memberships and was persistent following up on a financial matter.

Originally from Germany, Christiane came to Canada as a young woman. She, with husband Bernd, we know lived for some time in Stouffville where they were very active in early recycling activities and became leaders in community engagement in various activities. Sometime in the early 1980's Christiane and Bernd built a house in Sutton area east along Black River Road on a rural property with a naturalists'- sensitive wood clad house.

Christiane was an avid gardener of vegetables and herbs. She also had a great interest in birds and particularly in feeding them, including hummingbirds. Her winter plants inside the house behind glass, south-facing with a well endowed Potting Shed were famous as a model of sustainable gardening for club members when they visited.

Christiane will be missed by all who knew her. A family Remembrance event is expected following the COVID-19 Emergency.

All members of SLSN may express condolences to Christiane's son, Klaus, by e-mail c/o deb@harpley.ca .

Joyce Burrows

Joyce died April 27, 2020 at age 94. Joyce was the loving wife of Dr. George Burrows (deceased), very w and Vice- President of SLSN for many years. She came to Georgina in 1956 with George as a young brid members of SLSN, being members from the early 1980's. Joyce often accompanied George at SLSN regi in the early years. She was a fixture at the SLSN Annual Autumn Events at the Egypt Hall and usually ha speaker for the evening. She was also an avid patron of the Bake Table and supplied unique items for tl George every year.

The Annual SLSN Christmas Social began many years ago at the Burrows beautiful home on Dalton Roa with Dr. George graciously welcomed club members to the annual event and great food, conversation :

Many important naturalist and environmental issues and ideas were discussed, and often resulted in fc provincial politicians to the betterment of Georgina.

In recent years with the death of Dr. George (2015) and Joyce's health challenges many of our member Fortunately, her daughter Heather and husband Rich, who have been intimately involved with Joyce in members of SLSN, and have been able to update some of us older members of the club about Joyce. As retirement/nursing home in Beaverton, Joyce had considerable medical issues that she valiantly lived w

A formal memorial service is expected following the COVID-19 emergency.

All members of SLSN will express condolences to Heather, Rich and the whole family. See the Obituary Home in Sutton, <https://forrestandtaylor.com/tribute/details/1342/Muriel-Burrows/obituary.html> .

Paul Harpley SLSN
