



NEWSLETTER **COVID-19 edition #6**

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

I heard from several of you that in spite of the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic you had a good summer and were able to get outside and engage in naturalist activities like hiking, canoeing and kayaking, birding and related pursuits, when things opened up on restrictions. Fortunately, at the start of autumn the weather was almost balmy! As we know the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that our activities and community/family events have been different for sure. And we all realize that even though actual outdoor activities are paramount to our experience some of you are missing this. Up until the last month or so community activities and recreation other than our own have not been possible.

During last summer municipalities like Georgina and other York Region areas had started to offer recreation programs for residents and opening local parks. Community organizations including church congregations, amateur sports organizations, those performing music, visual arts, theatre, and others had begun to do this in outdoor (and even some indoor) settings. Fortunately, our organization was able to have a safe meeting and walkabout (with ppe and social distancing) at a local area park. Not a big group but a truly enjoyable outdoor event. Read about it in the newsletter, a summary of that event.

We realized that as naturalists outside in nature is so important, but it must be done safely. Who would have thought we would be in full blown lockdown in

January 2021! Well, we were all told last spring that a much bigger and deadly Second Wave was coming, we should not be surprised.

There is a lot of on-going natural heritage and environmental related issues that members have been contributing to including the Town of Georgina Waterfront study, the review of the Keswick Secondary Plan, and the review of the Lake Simcoe Act among many others (Greenbelt, Provincial M.Z.O.'s etc.). Member Gord Zwaigenbaum has researched and detailed important aspects of the federal government on the Plastics waste issue in Canada.

In this newsletter you'll find information and links to research etc. on these issues for you to keep informed, take action and educate others.

P. Harpley SLSN

September 27, 2020 Outdoor Meeting/Walkabout

The weather was unseasonably warm, partly sunny and a bit windy for our SLSN meeting and walkabout at the Brown Hill Park on Sunday afternoon September 27, 2020. It was agreed by members that participated that a meeting outside was enjoyable, especially since March we had mostly been restricted in outdoor events.

An update on current provincial and local events, activities and issues and opportunities of interest to naturalists were discussed. A report was also presented on current birds, mammals records for our area from members, which resulted from conversation of some important bird observations (Black-crowned night heron, Screech owl, Yellow-bellied sapsucker, Red-headed woodpecker, and Brown thrasher among others) that came to light. Also, members present regaled others with their stories of their late summer trips to local natural areas and farther afield trips to the strange year of 2020 exotic Ontario locations like Arrowhead and Quetico Provincial Parks, long runs, bike trips and the like.

The walkabout in the area of the park was safely undertaken and resulted in an impressive plant list and some local autumn wildlife (Blue jays, crows and E. starling). We were impressed especially by the number of tree species in a relatively small area, pointing out the potential biodiversity of local areas in South Lake Simcoe.

Tree List

Trembling aspen
Box alder
Alternate leaved dogwood
American elm
American beech
Scotch pine
Eastern White pine
Eastern Red cedar
Black cherry
Willow sp.
Crack willow
Wild apple

Shrubs, flowers

Blackberry
Wild Grape
Virginia creeper
New England aster
Flat-topped white aster
Rough-leaved goldenrod
Gray goldenrod
Rough-s goldenrod

SLSN Membership Annual Renewals

Our annual SLSN membership year starts on October 1. Dues have not changed since last year: Single \$25.00, Family \$30.00. Please renew your membership if you have not already done so as with the on going COVID-19 Pandemic our fundraising capabilities to sustain the organization are suspended.

Please mail cheques to Norma Knowlton, Treasurer

NORMA KNOWLTON
418 BOUCHIER STREET
KESWICK, ONTARIO
L4P 3C8

Phone 905-476-4747

Media Pick suggestion for SLSN: You-Tubes Zooms, Webinars

Some members have been interested in spending some screen time on their computer. Various high-quality programing is now readily available after the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic and continuing of much better quality and technical merit than we in our organization could produce. These programs include You-Tube, Zoom meetings, Webinars and related digital platforms programing. Below are some recommended Links, of many that members could search themselves, to partake in below. Enjoy!

2021-01-25

Carolinian Canada

My Wild Green Home to GO, GROW, and GREEN with climate-smart exhibitor features from blogs to businesses in 2021.

View information and Webinars: <https://caroliniancanada.ca/mywild>

Big Picture Protected Areas Webinar

View Webinar: <https://caroliniancanada.ca/mywild/events/archive?page=0%2C1>

Nature Canada on the 2 Billion Trees Initiative - Hope for Nature and the Climate

Canada continues to record high rates of forest loss resulting in dramatic declines in biodiversity and worsening impacts of climate change. The federal government's commitment to plant 2 billion trees (2BT) has tremendous potential to help restore degraded forest ecosystems in rural and urban areas, contributing to achieving Canada's important biodiversity and climate goals.

Nature Canada's Reforestation Program team are provide an overview of current information on the federal 2BT initiative. Information and background can be viewed at their web site portal.

View information, webinars other media: <https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/canadian-government-launches-two-billion-trees-program-as-a-climate-and-nature-solution/>

Invasive Species Centre

Webinar: Asian Carp Invasion: Registration Info: Invasive Species Centre info@invasivespeciescentre.ca , <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6293861154241411596?source=e-blast>

Climate Fast: Kitchen Table Climate Conversations: Ongoing information update and webinars and other media events are hosted by this organization.

View information, webinars, other information:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=climate+fast+toronto&oq=Climate+Fast&aqs=chrome.69i59j69i57j0i0i22i30i395l2j0i10i22i30i395j0i22i30i395l4.12275j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Provincial Review of the Lake Simcoe Act Announced by the Ministry of Environment Parks and Conservation - Ontario

On behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, I am pleased to inform you that the 75-day engagement period for the legislated review of the [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan](#) has been launched. You may read the news release [here](#).

For more than a decade, the [province's actions](#) to protect and restore Lake Simcoe have been guided by the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, which focuses on the lake's water quality, reducing pollutants such as phosphorus, caring for natural heritage, and addressing the impacts of invasive species and other emerging threats.

As you may be aware, the government is required under the [Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008](#), to review of the plan every 10 years to inform the Minister's decision on whether to amend the plan as we continue to protect and restore the lake.

As part of this review, we invite you to share your perspective on the plan's policies by completing our [public survey](#) on [ontario.ca](#). Additionally, you may submit your comments to the Ministry by email: LakeSimcoe@ontario.ca.

A virtual town hall and virtual science event are being planned for early in the new year. We will send additional details and registration instructions to you in the coming weeks.

We look forward to hearing from you as we continue to work together to protect and restore Lake Simcoe.

If you have any questions regarding this email, please contact Ms. Madhu Malhotra at Madhu.Malhotra@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Ling Mark
Director, Great Lakes Inland Waters Branch
Land and Water Division, M.E.P.C.

2021-01-22

Lake Simcoe Act Review Public Virtual Consultation

On behalf of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, we are pleased to invite you to an upcoming virtual science event on the latest research and monitoring trends of Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

Date: **Thursday, January 28, 2021**

Time: Opening remarks at **9:15 a.m. (log in starts at 9:00 a.m.)**
Event ends at **4 p.m.**

The science event supports the province's legislated review of the [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan](#) and will include presentations from Ontario ministries, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation

Authority, and academics on the key themes of the plan: aquatic life, water quality, natural heritage and other threats such as invasive species and climate change.

As you may be aware, we are required under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008*, to review the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan every 10 years. Based on the engagement and the findings from the review, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is to consider making amendments to the plan. The science event will help inform advice provided to the Minister as part of this review.

You can register for the event [here](#), and find more information on the science webinar and the plan's review on the [consultation webpage](#).

If you have any questions regarding the event or this email, please contact Dr. Michelle Palmer at Michelle.Palmer@ontario.ca.

The science and monitoring trends that will be presented at this event are critical to the continued protection and restoration of this great inland lake and we want to thank you for participating in this vital work.

Sincerely,

Jeff Yurek
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Andrea Khanjin
Parliamentary Assistant

SLSN Members:

It is very important for as many individuals as possible to engage in the review of the Lake Simcoe Act and Plan Review initiated by the province of Ontario. There are a number of community organizations that have been active in raising awareness of the Act and Plan, and its review especially in recent years. Below I have provided links on some of these organizations, some of whom in the past we have engaged and provided expertise and advise related to the lake and its watersheds.

Additional to the many past articles in the SLSN "Talon" newsletter, over many years, devoted to Lake Simcoe and its watersheds, water quality, physiography,

ecology, wildlife and environmental challenges our organization was very active and instrumental among others in working to get the “Lake Simcoe Act” over a decade ago. It is important for members to become knowledgeable about the science and planning aspects related to the current and future perspectives of the lake and its watersheds. This Review process is your opportunity to contribute to the future (next decade) of the health of the lake. The Ministry of Environment, Parks and Conservation has provided key links to up-to-date information above.

Paul Harpley

Other Sources of information and opinion on Lake Simcoe and it’s future from community sources:

Lake Simcoe Watch: <https://lakesimcoewatch.ca/>

Lake Simcoe Living Magazine past issues: <https://www.lakesimcoeliving.com/>

Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition: <https://rescuelakesimcoe.org/>

S.O.S. Beaverton: <https://www.facebook.com/SOS-Beaverton-Save-Our-Simcoe-1797505417019699/>

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (L.S.R.C.A.): <https://www.lsrca.on.ca/>

Ecojustice, “Protect Ontario’s Lakes”:

https://www.support.ecojustice.ca/page/68702/action/1?ea.tracking.id=Email_2020_10_13_BreakingNews&utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=bn_2020.10.13&utm_content=2020.10.13+Protect+Ontario%E2%80%99s+lakes+launch&ea.url.id=4949538

Ontario Government: Minister`s Zoning Orders – M.Z.O.`s

2021-01-19

Environmental Defence

Lower Duffins Creek wetland, Carruthers Creek, King-Vaughan. These are just a few of the places where the Ontario government is trying to use Minister’s Zoning Orders (MZO) to trample over environmental protections, local government, and democratic due process.

It has to stop.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Phil Pothen, and I recently joined Environmental Defence as the new. Together with the wider Yours to Protect movement, our team is working to push back on the barrage of attacks on our natural environment by the Ontario government. As an environmental and land use planning lawyer with a background in landscape ecology, it's my view that Minister's Zoning Orders are being recklessly misused to destroy irreplaceable habitats and farmland – for the benefit of a few developers.

MZOs were designed as an extraordinary measure to let provincial governments tackle genuine emergencies. But under this government, *more than 40 MZOs have been issued in less than two years*, many to force through controversial and destructive new sprawl developments with no public discussion, and no right of appeal.

We need to stand together against this undemocratic and damaging misuse of MZOs. **Take action today to tell your municipal council to say no to MZOs.**

Take Action: <https://eactivist.com/page/email?mid=21cb8070f09741bbaf13cb877d9e35bf>

Plastic Waste Issue Canada

Canada one-step closer to zero plastic waste by 2030 (from Environment and Climate Change Canada)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

Comprehensive plan includes banning harmful single-use plastic items like bags and straws

Plastic is polluting our rivers, lakes, and oceans, harming wildlife, and generating microplastics in the water we use and drink. Every year, Canadians throw away 3 million tonnes of plastic waste, only 9% of which is recycled, meaning the vast majority of plastics end up in landfills and about 29,000 tonnes finds its way into our natural environment. Canadians expect the Government to take action to protect the environment and to reduce plastic pollution across the country.

A key part of the plan is a ban on harmful single-use plastic items where there is evidence that they are found in the environment, are often not recycled, and have readily available alternatives. Based on those criteria, the six items the Government proposes to ban are plastic checkout bags, straws, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, and food ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics.

The Government wants to hear from Canadians and stakeholders on this approach to protect the environment from plastic pollution and reduce waste through a more circular economy. Comments will be accepted until December 9, 2020. Regulations will be finalized by the end of 2021.

By improving how we manage plastic waste and investing in innovative solutions, we can reduce 1.8 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year and create approximately 42,000 jobs across the country.

- In Canada, single-use plastics make up most of plastic litter that is found in freshwater environments.
- In Canada, up to 15 billion plastic bags are used every year and close to 57 million straws are used daily.
- Over 35 countries around the world have already taken action by banning certain single use plastics, including U.K., France, Italy.

Although not mentioned specifically, there are many strategies for waste management such as plastic waste that may apply, e.g. "5Rs":

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover Resources

Gord Zwaigenbaum, SLSN

Gord's review of this recent Canadian federal government initiative is a good summary and analysis of the Plan. This is clearly a critical environmental issue that members can affect and influence in a positive way at the local and larger geographic scale by personal action, in our houses, neighborhoods, our club outings, and other activities.

Paul Harpley

What Others are saying about the Plastic Issue

2020-12-03

C.B.C. – What on Earth

Satellite trackers help map journey of plastic waste to the ocean

Ocean plastic, as we know, is ubiquitous — but where do these items come from and how do they get there?

A research team from the University of Exeter in the U.K. is trying to answer these questions by launching electronically tagged reclaimed litter into rivers. By using plastic bottles equipped with satellite tags, the team hopes to see how plastics move through rivers and eventually accumulate in the open ocean.

This new study, which is published in the science journal PLOS ONE and is part of a National Geographic expedition aimed at unearthing solutions to plastic pollution, describes how researchers mapped the journey of 25 plastic bottles along India's Ganges River into the Bay of Bengal. The bottles were fitted with a cheap, light-weight tracker that kept the bottles buoyant to mimic actual conditions.

This retrofitted litter can be deployed in waterways to track the movement of plastics into the open ocean. To give a sense of how far some of these items travel, one of the bottles launched into the Bay of Bengal made its way to a whirlpool in the Indian Ocean, covering 2,845 kilometres over 94 days.

"Everyone can relate to a plastic bottle in their life," said lead study author and postdoctoral researcher Emily Duncan. "Being able to track where that's going would be really important to build people's awareness of how far their litter can move [...] and will inform science-based policy."

The tagged bottles pinpoint where plastic litter is likely to accumulate, and the role that rivers play in pushing these items out into the ocean. Duncan said the dream is to design a near-weightless tracker they can attach to even the lightest ocean litter, like a chip bag, without weighing it down. For now, the priority is launching more trackers and working on a solar-powered version that will keep the trackers going for longer.

Plastic pollution is a problem in Canada's rivers and lakes as well. We throw out over [3 million tonnes of plastic each year](#), and while it's hard to quantify how much plastic ends up in Canada's waterways, nearly 10,000 tonnes alone makes its way into the Great Lakes, which connect to the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Plastic pollution "doesn't really decompose," said Banu Örmeci, director of Carleton University's Global Water Institute. "It's there for hundreds of years and breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces that present a higher risk to aquatic ecosystems and potentially human health."

To combat Canada’s plastic problem, the government recently announced \$500,000 in funding for the prevention, capture and removal of plastic pollution.

Science knows relatively little about the impacts of plastic pollution on freshwater systems like rivers compared to oceans. Örmeci is one of three recipients of the federal grant, and her team is working with Canadian companies to develop technologies that monitor and remove microplastics from wastewater.

“It’s a question of how we’re going to control plastic pollution, and really, the only way to do that is to control the source,” Örmeci said. She said that ultimately, we need to find ways to "eliminate the unnecessary use of plastics.”

— Jade Prévost-Manuel

Waterfront Parks Master Plan – Town of Georgina

You are here

Home/Municipal Government/Waterfront Parks Master Plan



The Town of Georgina is completing the Waterfront Parks Master Plan to create a vision and framework to provide direction for the operation and management of Georgina’s waterfront parks. The plan is being done in three parts over three years, beginning in 2020.

Refer to the  [Request for Proposal](#) for a detailed work scope.

Take the survey

Take our survey and tell us what you think about the emerging concepts for Georgina's waterfront parks. The [online survey](#) is open until Feb. 5, 2021.

Keswick Secondary Plan Review

You are here

[Home/Living Here/Planning and Development/Official Plan and Secondary Plans/Keswick Secondary Plan Review](#)



Update:

[Draft #1 of the Keswick Secondary Plan](#), including all schedules and appendices, has been posted below for public and agency review and comment. You are encouraged to review the Plan and provide any feedback you may have. In order to be considered in the preparation of Draft #2, comments are required to be provided no later than January 27, 2021. Written comments can be submitted to kspr@georgina.ca.

On Dec 3rd the project team presented an overview of [Draft #1 of the Keswick Secondary Plan](#) and the [Draft Urban Design and Architectural Control Guidelines](#) at Workshop #3 to allow the participants to provide feedback. There was a [Powerpoint presentation](#). Recordings of the [1:00 pm workshop](#) and the [6:30 pm workshop](#) have been provided.

All comments can be sent to KSPR@georgina.ca. We kindly ask that you provide comments before or on the deadline of Jan 27th. Draft #1 of the Keswick Secondary Plan can be accessed online at www.georgina.ca/KSPR.

Autumn Bird Migration documentation

Irving Himel club member and cottage owner on lake Simcoe has been watching the bird migration on Lake Simcoe for a number of years. He has been documenting his observations and he and this year for our newsletter we have included some of his photos and observations and questions about some of what he saw this past year.

He has noted sometimes thousands of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls for example after a rain in October or November in a feeding frenzy way out on the lake near Roche's Point. And to his delight there have been thousands of Common Loons resting on the water in the open lake at close range and so many more others dotted every where in a parts of Cooks Bay. He has also questioned why he has also watched many thousands of mile long flocks of Cormorants heading north all day. Why are they going north in such large herds (flocks), too many to count?

P.H.



C. Loon, Irving Himel



Double-crested cormorant, Irving Himel



Double-crested cormorant, Irving Himel out on the open lake.



Bonaparte's gull



Common merganser, Irving Himel

Boreal Birds Arrivals with Cold weather change

This autumn/winter had been predicted to have boreal seed eaters flying south into Southern Ontario. I had a few inquiries about Pine Grosbeaks at feeders back in late October/November. The birds seen at these feeders in our area this year were determined to be Evening grosbeaks. Both species not commonly seen here. Usually just one or two for me in good years. I saw two (2) Pine grosbeaks over near Egypt in November 2018 and got a good look at them for 20 minutes. That year there was an irruption of them south from the boreal forests to the north of us. The two I saw stayed away from houses high up in spruce trees, real wild boreal birds. Eating exclusively evergreen usually White spruce cone seeds in the area around Egypt. They are real big 9" long like a large heavy-set robin, and male bright red, but the drab female can be confusing. Sometimes, they are confused with Purple finches by colour but they are only 6" long. Evening Grosbeaks are more expected but they also are not seen as often in last 30 years (Climate warming?) and can be 7-8" long, bright yellow, brown and white flashes (typical Algonquin winter bird). The brief item below details the arrival of Evening grosbeaks in our area this past autumn. P.H.

Irruption Alert:

Look for Evening Grosbeaks at Bird Feeders

Lori Vanover Updated: Oct. 28, 2020

Backyard birders should watch for evening grosbeaks in winter 2020. The annual finch forecast also reveals other species you might see at feeders.



COURTESY NANCY TULLY Evening grosbeaks on a bird feeder

Grab your binoculars and watch your bird feeders for evening grosbeaks. According to the 2020 Winter Finch Forecast from the Ontario Field Ornithologists, "this spectacular winter finch appears to be on the move this winter." Tyler Hoar took the reins of the annual finch count

forecast from Ron Pittaway this year. “Expect to see evening grosbeaks in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, Maritime Provinces, New York and the New England states, with some finches traveling farther south into the United States. At feeders they prefer black oil sunflower seeds,” he writes. Tadoussac Bird Observatory in Quebec observed grosbeaks moving primarily toward the southwest. The observatory’s visual counts are reported to be the highest early fall numbers recorded in 25 years.

Bald Eagles in Sutton

As usual in the last over 20 years we had Bald eagles in our area this autumn and this year into the new year with the warmer than usual temperatures and the lake fully open for them to get fish and and waterfowl to eat. Sometimes they can be seen right in Town like this bird in the photo below in Sutton.



Regina Riddell , they live at the corner of Middle and North street in Sutton.

Always great to see these magnificent birds. Usually, on the annual Sutton Count in the last fifteen or so years we get roughly 8 – 15 Bald eagles in the greater Georgina area. A couple of unusual years we got more. They are typically here in autumn migration partly the result of a great U.S./Canada restoration story of them breeding and release on the Great lakes. Actually, universities and zoos etc. were involved in these efforts following the banning of the pesticide D.D.T., when Bald eagle numbers everywhere had crashed. There are undoubtedly other reasons, climate change keeping the lake open for Hudson Bay breeders migrating south in December and getting fish from the Lake etc. is one obvious suspected explanation.

Over the years I have observed most of the ones I have seen in trees in the bluffs at Keswick/Roches Pt. overlooking the Lake in trees in the bluffs. Sometimes some of these birds can be seen flying over farm fields between lake locations. As soon as the ice closes on the lake, no fish or weakened waterfowl to eat, the eagles will be gone.

Regional Environmental Issues and News

Bradford Bypass Issue

The Bradford Bypass is a proposed 16.2 km, rural 4-lane controlled access 400-series highway that would connect Highway 400 (Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury) and Highway 404 (Town of East Gwillimbury).

The Problems

1. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project is over twenty years old. As such, the EA pre-dates the Greenbelt Plan and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, and does not provide a climate change impact assessment. The preliminary EA predicted **severe water quality impacts** to groundwater and surface water in the Lake Simcoe watershed for which there is still no mitigation plan. Additionally, the Bradford Bypass would transect some of the best agricultural land in Ontario, destroy sensitive wildlife habitat in Greenbelt lands, and adversely impact one of Ontario's largest remaining provincially significant wetlands.

2. The project is anticipated to **negatively impact**:

- ☐ 22.1 hectares of high-quality woodlands;
- ☐ 17.2 hectares of Holland Marsh (designated environmentally sensitive area);
- ☐ 9.5 hectares of designated provincially significant wetlands; and
- ☐ and 32.7 hectares of significant wildlife habitat.

Map showing the proposed Bradford Bypass corridor, cutting through designated provincially significant wetlands, woodlands, and natural heritage features.



Rescue Lake Simcoe information and Map 2020-12-15

More information

www.bradfordbypass.ca

2020-11-13

Newmarket Today

\$40M water treatment facility to reduce Holland Marsh runoff into Lake Simcoe

The conservation authority identified the Marsh as a critical point load of phosphorus, which creates algae that affects drinking water and destroys fish habitat

a day ago By: NewmarketToday Staff



The Region of York and federal government announced combined funding of \$40 million for a storm water treatment facility in Georgina that will reduce Holland Marsh runoff into Lake Simcoe. Supplied photo/Regional Municipality of York

The Regional Municipality of York is contributing \$24 million, and the federal government an additional \$16 million, to construct a storm water treatment facility that will reduce runoff from Holland Marsh into Lake Simcoe...

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority identified the Holland Marsh as a critical point load of phosphorus, contributing an average of six tonnes a year., according to a federal government news release.

The release of excess phosphorus from agriculture, such as fertilizer, places the Lake Simcoe watershed at risk of eutrophication that can irreversibly destroy aquatic habitats and ecosystem biodiversity.

Further Information: https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/40m-water-treatment-facility-to-reduce-holland-marsh-runoff-into-lake-simcoe-2873727?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Email

International Environmental News

Palm Oil Issue Follow-up Canadian Press

Christine Legree SLSN member suggested this item following out of a previous South Lake Simcoe Naturalists meeting devoted to the issue of palm oil.

Palm oil labour abuses linked to world's top brands, banks



The Canadian Press September 24, 2020

An invisible workforce of millions of labourers from some of the poorest corners of Asia toil in the palm oil industry, many of them enduring various forms of exploitation, with the most serious abuses including child labour, outright slavery and allegations of rape, an Associated Press investigation has found.

In Malaysia and Indonesia, these workers tend the heavy reddish-orange palm oil fruit that makes its way into the supply chains of many iconic food and cosmetics companies like Unilever, L'Oreal, Nestle and Procter & Gamble.

Together, the two countries produce about 85 per cent of the world's estimated \$65 billion palm oil supply.

Palm oil is virtually impossible to avoid. Often disguised on labels as an ingredient listed by more than 200 names, it can be found in roughly half the products on supermarket shelves and in most cosmetic brands. It's contained in paints, plywood, pesticides and pills. It's also present in animal feed, biofuels and even hand sanitizer...

The AP used the most recently published data from producers, traders and buyers of the world's most-consumed vegetable oil, as well as U.S. Customs records, to link the labourers' palm oil and its derivatives from the mills that process it to the supply chains of top Western companies like the makers of Oreo cookies, Lysol cleaners and some of Hershey's chocolatey treats.

AP reporters witnessed some abuses firsthand and reviewed police reports, complaints made to labour unions, videos and photos smuggled out of plantations and local media stories to corroborate accounts wherever possible. In some cases, reporters tracked down people who helped enslaved workers escape. More than a hundred rights advocates, academics, clergy members, activists and government officials also were interviewed.

This story was funded in part by the McGraw Center for Business Journalism at CUNY's Newmark Graduate School of Journalism

Though labour issues have largely been ignored, the punishing effects of palm oil on the environment have been decried for years. Still, giant Western financial institutions like JPMorgan Chase, Deutsche Bank and the Vanguard Group have continued to help fuel a crop that has exploded globally, soaring from just 5 million tons in 1999 to 72 million tons today, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture

...

The AP found widespread labour abuses on plantations big and small, including some that meet certification standards set by the global Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, an association that promotes ethical production – including labour practices -- and whose members include growers, buyers, traders and environmental watchdogs.

Some of the same companies that display the RSPO's green palm logo signifying its seal of approval have been accused of continuing to grab land from indigenous people and destroying virgin rainforests that are home to orangutans and other critically endangered species.

Further Information and full article: <https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/palm-oil-labour-abuses-linked-080339405.html?guccounter=1>

2020-11-17

C.B.C. News

[Kitchener-Waterloo](#)

Possible palm oil substitute developed by University of Guelph researchers

Palm oil is widely used but bad for environment, says professor Alejandro Marangoni

Paula Duhatschek · CBC News · Posted: Nov 13, 2020 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: November 13



PhD student Reed Nicholson (left) and professor Alejandro Marangoni have published a new study about the use of enzymatic glycerolysis to turn liquid fats into solids. Marangoni hopes the process can be used to create substitutes for palm oil. (Submitted by the University of Guelph) ... By adding enzymes and glycerol to different kinds of vegetable oils, researchers found they could turn liquid oils into solid fats.

That's important because palm oil is so popular, in part, because it's a rare type of oil that is semi-solid at room temperature, according to food science professor Alejandro Marangoni. That makes palm oil ideal for baking.

"It seems like a lot of oils are playing along with us," said Marangoni, who led the study and is also Canada Research Chair in food, health and aging.

Marangoni said he hopes the process can help curb the reliance on palm oil as an ingredient in industrial cooking and baking.

Further Information and full article: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/university-guelph-palm-oil-substitute-1.5799448?fbclid=IwAR2eCezMLgc1W0tyauJgk1FWvGbJLX2fMDXbzLXVV_LJmP0sS-sqSCZg

Climate Change News

2021-01-24

Newmarket Today

Hot enough for you? 2020, 2016 tie for warmest years on record

'2020 stands out for its exceptional warmth in the Arctic and a number of tropical storms in the North Atlantic,' says Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S)

a day ago



Stock photo

It's official: 2020 was tied with 2016 as the warmest year on record, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is reporting.

Last year, 2020, matches the 2016 record despite the cooling effects of a La Niña event whereas 2016 began with a strong warming El Niño.

The six years beginning in 2015 are the hottest six years and 2011 to 2020 was the warmest decade recorded. 2020 was 0.6°C warmer than the baseline 1981-2010 reference period and 1.25°C above pre-industrial temperatures.

Some of the largest annual temperature rises occurred in the Arctic and northern Siberia regions, with temperatures reaching over 6°C higher than the baseline in some areas ...

"2020 stands out for its exceptional warmth in the Arctic and a number of tropical storms in the North Atlantic," commented Carlo Buontemp, director of C3S. "It is no surprise that the last decade was the warmest on record, and is yet another reminder of the urgency of ambitious emissions reductions to prevent adverse climate impacts in the future."

Concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide continued to rise despite the approximately seven percent reduction of fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns around the world ...

Countries that signed onto the 2015 Paris climate agreement committed to limiting warming by no more than 1.5°C with a goal of less than 2°C. Scientists say this will require countries to commit to a more rapid transition away from fossil fuel dependency by investing in renewable energy.

“The extraordinary climate events of 2020 and the data from the C3S show us that we have no time to lose,” said Matthias Petschke of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space. “We must come together as a global community, to ensure a just transition to a net zero future. It will be difficult, but the cost of inaction is too great.”

- *Lori Thompson, Local Journalism Initiative, Manitoulin Expositor*

For further information and full article: https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/hot-enough-for-you-2020-2016-tie-for-warmest-years-on-record-3288141?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Email