

The Talon

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NEWSLETTER COVID-19 edition #10

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

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

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(www.slsnc.ca)

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

In recent weeks, as anticipated, Ontario continues opening up in regard to COVID-19 lockdowns of the “Third Wave”, with provincial staged opening moving now into Stage 3, in spite of the increasing delta (India) variant, wreaking havoc in much of the rest of the world. For example, recently municipalities like Georgina and the province have started to offer recreation programs for residents, with restrictions and health safety measures moving into Stage 3. Outdoor programs include day-use in parks, beaches, and active recreation activities in local parks. It should be noted that Canadian and Ontario COVID-19 modelling are now showing a potential Fourth Wave of infections as we approach September, driven by the delta variant. Outside outings during August are welcome for naturalist events.

Since June Norma, Gord and I have been discussing limited meeting/outing opportunities like our member June 27 outdoor meeting/walkabout. Outdoor events are only possible given provincial and municipal guidelines, and our priority moving forward. With vaccinations (noting that people are in various stages), masks and social distancing remain important.

As naturalists, being outside in nature is so important; walking and seeing wildlife and natural habitats, done safely, helps keep us healthy. **Consequently, though we usually do not have summer outings when members could be away on vacations, this COVID year we have planned two exciting local outings on**

August 8 and 22 with details below. We will continue to follow the advice and guidelines of provincial and municipal public health officials.

P. Harpley

NOTE: These outings for members (in good standing only – for insurance compliance) that will meet the protocol principles that are necessary. The outings are for those who want to safely participate in outdoor activities – details and information below.

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

2021 Summer

Sunday August 8: Birding and Nature Study Expedition: We will do some light hiking and area birding and wildflower identification, as conditions determine, in an interesting forest and grassland area. Meet at 3:30 p.m. at the west end of Black River Road in Sutton, at the parking lot for Black River Public School (also used by patrons of the pool). Dress for the weather and conditions. Bring binoculars etc.

Sunday August 22: Nature Study Expedition and Birding: With the rainy summer, this afternoon outing will include searching for and identifying native mushrooms, ferns, and their allies. This hidden forest and grassland wildland includes a dynamic Pefferlaw river area stream section. The outing will offer light hiking and area birding as conditions determine. Meet at 4:00 p.m. at the Udora Community Hall parking lot. To reach Udora from the west, travel along Ravenshoe Road to southeast Georgina. The Community Hall is north of the corner on the west side. Dress for the weather and conditions. Bring binoculars etc.

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.

SLSN Membership Renewals

NORMA KNOWLTON
418 BOUCHIER STREET
KESWICK, ONTARIO
L4P 3C8

Phone 905-476-4747

Membership year starts on October 1. Dues have not changed since last year:
Single \$25.00, Family \$30.00

Note: Please renew your membership to receive future Newsletters, including meeting and outings updates and details, insurance coverage.

Meeting/Outing Report

SLSN decided to hold a limited outdoor meeting/walkabout June 27, at Brownhill Park as advised in our previous newsletter, for members (in good standing only – for insurance compliance) that met the protocol principles, advice, and guidelines of provincial and municipal public health officials. We had a small but committed group of members that met and discussed stories/activities during COVID lockdown, club business, and details of other naturalist information. A safe hike on the local rail trail and forest/meadow was undertaken. What became very apparent was the immediate impact the recent invasion of Gypsy moth has on the key forest trees in the park area, including defoliation of Aspen poplar, White birch and Sugar maple trees. Some photographs of the impact of the Gypsy moth are presented.



Gypsy moth caterpillar at Brownhill Park (one of many!)



Example, totally defoliated Aspen poplar tree

The weather was unseasonably cool, sunny with little wind for our SLSN meeting and walkabout at the Brownhill Park on beautiful Sunday afternoon June.

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. Notable were arrival in our regions of Wood ducks, Hooded mergansers, warblers including Mourning and American redstart among many others. Breeding birds are being monitored by interested members to contribute to the on-going Atlas of Breeding Birds research.

The walkabout in the area of the park was safely undertaken and resulted in a botanizing for a June plant list with flowers in full bloom, different from our visit last fall, and some local spring wildlife. We were impressed especially by the tree species in this relatively small area though the Gypsy moth damage to foliage was concerning. Biodiversity of our local areas in South Lake Simcoe continues to impress us when we are out in natural areas in spite of recent habitat loss to subdivision and commercial development which is reportedly “ramping up” in future years.

<u>Tree List</u>	<u>Shrubs, wildflowers</u>
Trembling aspen	Blackberry
Box alder	Wild Grape

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

Virginia creeper
New England aster
Flat-topped white aster
Rough-leaved goldenrod
Gray goldenrod
Rough-s goldenrod
Black-eyed Susan
Viper's Bugloss

Black-eyed Susan wildflower native grassland species in meadow



Viper's Bugloss, alien introduced species naturalized in meadow

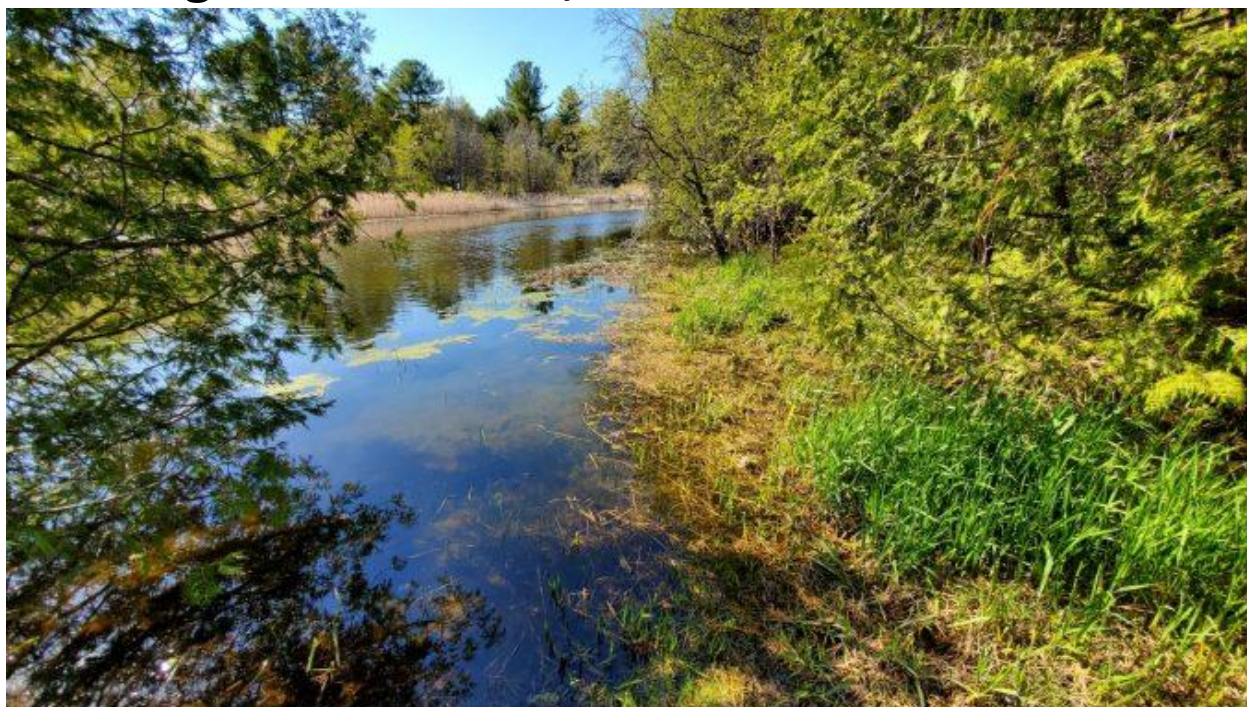




Gord and Norma botanizing in the field at Brownhill grassland

As advised in our previous SLSN Talon Newsletter the Ontario Government review of “Growing the Greenbelt” is important to our organization as naturalists and conservation leaders in northern York Region. Over the last decade SLSN has been assisting the Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe, a scientific organization, leading a major conservation landscape ecology proposed project in the Pefferlaw area. Recent detailing of the planning and protected lands initiative follows. P.H.

Pefferlaw Wildlands Complex – Growing the Greenbelt, Ontario **June 2021 Current Research**



Located on the south-east shore of Lake Simcoe in a low sand plain, on the geomorphic lake bottom of glacial Lake Algonquin, drained by the Pefferlaw River through the historic community of Pefferlaw. Biodiversity includes a diverse complex of forests, grassland meadows, wetlands, streams/river courses, and abundant wildlife and plants.

Designated as a large developable Secondary Plan area when the Greenbelt was first established, by 2015 local naturalists proposed shrinking it to “Grow the Greenbelt”. During Official Plan, Town of Georgina reviews, Council with consultant recommendations from mapping & planning analysis, considered and supported a 59% reduction of unprotected lands approximately 1,500 hectares for protection, for the Greenbelt expansion, still yet to be realized in 2021.

Wildland ecology conservation connections of existing corridors from Duclos Pt. Provincial Nature Reserve with new proposed Greenbelt lands, to adjacent York Region Forests (Cronsberry, Godfrey and Pefferlaw Tracts) would create a large, protected country-side reserve.

Accompanying document

Pefferlaw Wildlands Complex

The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe, Research Organization. A Conservation Partner of the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists (Ontario Nature).

“Growing the Greenbelt” by “Shrinking the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan Area” in the Town of Georgina.

The Pefferlaw Wildlands Complex is located at the southeast shore of Lake Simcoe in low undulating sand plain community, the geomorphic lake bottom of glacial Lake Algonquin. Connected naturally to bogs and marshes through the Pefferlaw River and watershed from Lake Simcoe at its mouth, south to the north slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine, where its headwaters originate. Where the river reaches the shores of Lake Simcoe the historic community of Pefferlaw was founded in the late 1820's and developed along the river. Today the town, a cultural gem, remains intimately connected to the river and the surrounding natural habitats. Here are biodiverse mature and early to mid-successional forest, grassland meadows, various wetlands, clear streams and river courses and attendant abundant wildlife and plants (of diverse taxa, including habitat sensitive species).

The area was designated as a large developable Secondary Plan area when the Greenbelt was first established. But, by 2015 local naturalists proposed shrinking this urban envelope to “Grow the Greenbelt” surroundings. At that time, during Official Plan Review and Provincial Coordinated Land Use Planning Review, the Council of the Town of Georgina in York Region supported Secondary Plan contraction, of consultant recommendations from mapping, planning analysis and conceptual operational implementation to the area. This recommendation detailed a 59% reduction of unprotected lands that would liberate 1,496 hectares of these significant natural heritage landscapes that would be protected in the Greenbelt expansion, possibly the last such opportunity remaining in the entire G.T.A. The recommendation plan has still not been advanced by responsible levels of government by 2021. The hope is that provincial consultation process of “Growing the Greenbelt” will lead to implementation and establishment of this very important conservation opportunity.

Key in the plan and design is a major landscape ecology connection of an essential natural heritage corridor. Extending from the Duclos Point Provincial Nature Reserve (one of the last large natural Lake Simcoe shoreline protected areas) with new Greenbelt lands to adjacent York Region Forest areas (Cronsberry, Godfrey and Pfefferlaw Tracts) to the south clustered around the high quality Pfefferlaw River up-stream of the urban town area.

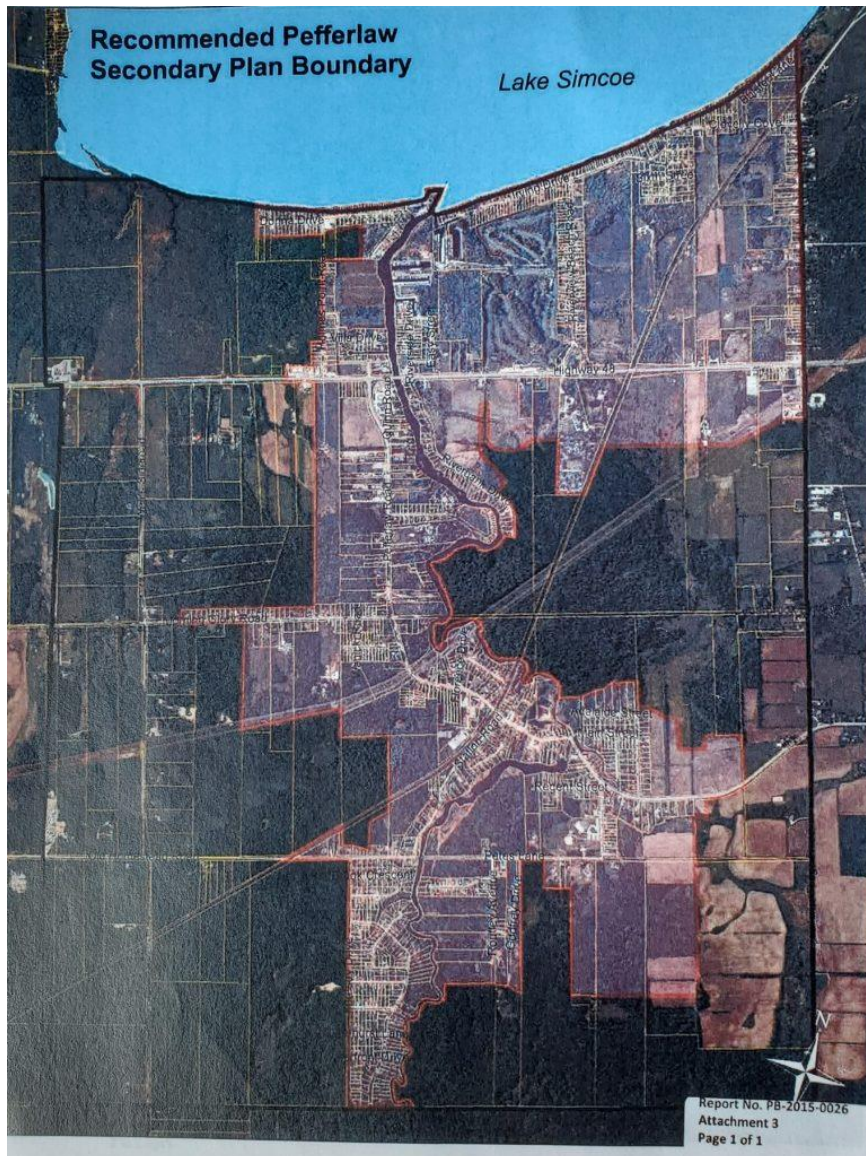
In light of the direct relationship between the Pfefferlaw Secondary Plan and the Provincial Greenbelt, the Georgina Official Plan specifically be amended to increase the Greenbelt area and reduce the Pfefferlaw Secondary Plan areas as it exists now. Therefore, it is our recommendation that ***the province shrink the Pfefferlaw Secondary Plan area in the Georgina Official Plan***. This makes excellent design logic and sense and is good planning, and is,

1. Consistent focus on Growing the Greenbelt and managing growth in a controlled, planned and consistent manner.
2. Good planning and in the public interest
3. In the interest and action of supporting natural heritage conservation of natural heritage and wildlife.
4. In the interest of the hamlet of Pfefferlaw and the Town of Georgina as per Georgina Report N. 2015-0026.

5. Is a geographically defined and identified area that can be represented in an Official Plan.
6. In the Lake Simcoe act and Plan there is no provision for future large municipal sewage plant service to the community of Pefferlaw, so development will be limited over many years.
7. In the Ontario Growth Plan consultations and Plans, minimal development of infill etc. is projected for the 20-30 year time frame.at the community of Pefferlaw.
8. The required planning operational arrangements are primarily Zoning change and administrative and local consultation. Compared to other areas in the existing Greenbelt in the G.T.A., this Growing the Greenbelt at Pefferlaw can be readily achieved now!
9. There are existing York Region Forests (Cronsberry, Godfrey and Pefferlaw Tracts) in and adjacent to the proposed contraction area of the shrinking of the Secondary Plan area. Also, the significant Duclos Point Provincial Nature Reserve (Adjunct to Sibbald Point Provincial Park) in the area provides an incredible linkage in landscape ecology, and fulfilment a major goal of the Lake Simcoe Act and Plan.
10. Natural corridors connect the river/streams and the surrounding natural habitats. Here are biodiverse mature and early to mid-successional forest, grassland meadows, various wetlands, clear streams and river courses and attendant abundant wildlife and plants (of diverse taxa, including habitat sensitive species).

Key Report: Town of Georgina, Council Agenda, Wed. May 13, 2015. Item 35. Page 16 of Report No. PB-2015-0026.

Two key Maps to the Town of Georgina Report No. PB-2015-0026, of the 2015 Provincial Coordinated Land Use Planning Review for visual documentation of shrinking the Pefferlaw Secondary Plan (Maps below, 5 and 6 of the Georgina Report) are key to implementation of this conservation initiative of creation of the conservation reserve.



Map 5, Report No. PB-2015-0026, Attachment 3, pp. 1 of 1. Town of Georgina document. “Shrinking Pfefferlaw Secondary Plan to Grow the Greenbelt” Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe.

Past Community Planning Documents

Ontario Greenbelt – Pfefferlaw Wildlands Complex.

Harpley, Paul (2021) Ontario Nature and Partners, StoryMap documents Pfefferlaw Wildlands Complex, The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe, Canada Protected Areas Program.

Harpley, Paul (2021) Ontario Gov. Grow the Greenbelt 2021 Consultation Submission, The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe, Georgina, Ontario

Harpley, Paul (2019) The Zephyr Society of lake Simcoe, SLSN Comments: Proposed Amendment to the Growth Plan. ERO 013-4504, 6 pages. 2019-02-28. Georgina, Ontario.

Harpley, Paul (2018) The Zephyr Society of lake Simcoe (2018) Grow the Greenbelt Review Comments – EBR 013-1661. 5 pages, 2018-03-05, to Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister Mauro, Government of Ontario, Georgina, Ontario.

Harpley, Paul (2016) SLSN “Growing the Greenbelt at Pepperlaw, South Lake Simcoe in northern York Region” – To the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance (O.G.A.). 2016-06-08, 6 pages. Georgina, Ontario.

Harpley, Paul (2016) SLSN, Greenbelt Review, Town of Georgina, Ontario Government Coordinated Land-use Review Process, EBR 012-7195 To: MMAH and MNRF – Proposed Greenbelt Plan. 2016-10-31: 012-7197. 6 pages. Georgina, Ontario.

Harpley, Paul (2016) SLSN, Greenbelt Review, Town of Georgina – Shrinking the Pepperlaw Secondary Plan to Grow the Greenbelt, and Urban Valleyland Designations for Maskinonge, Black and Pepperlaw Rivers in the Town of Georgina – To: York Simcoe M.P.P. Julia Munro. Georgina, Ontario.

Harpley, Paul (2015) Lake Simcoe Living, Growing the Greenbelt in South Lake Simcoe – Not yet to be. Vol. 9, No. 3, pp. 11, Spring, 2015, Bradford, Ontario.

Harpley, Paul (2015) SLSN, Correspondence; Felix Whitton, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation – Pepperlaw Secondary Plan, unreasonably large, Georgina, Ontario.

Canada Protected Areas

The Pepperlaw Wildlands Complex is a prime candidate for a Protected Area in the Canada 30 x 30 17% protected area program. The first stage of planning is to get

the entire area out of the ridiculously large current Pepperlaw Secondary Plan, and into the Greenbelt.

The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe and the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists have been working on the science-based program, planning operational arrangements and community conservation advocacy for over 7 years. Two past opportunities to act by the province in the past with the Wynne Government were not acted upon in spite of detailed submissions and action by our organization. The Town of Georgina recommended “Shrinking the Pepperlaw Secondary Plan” to “Grow the Greenbelt” under science and community pressure by our organizations, but no substantive action by the municipality has been demonstrated in 7 years, to make this happen.

It is hoped the present Provincial government in their “Grow the Greenbelt” consultations presently will act to “Shrinking the Pepperlaw Secondary Plan” to “Grow the Greenbelt”.

Following success in getting the lands into the Greenbelt, the entire area could be considered for a “Protected Area” candidate Site in the Federal Government 30 x 30, 17% protected lands. This Pepperlaw Wildlands Complex with its tremendous corridor landscape ecological form and function from Lake Simcoe south to the wild Pepperlaw River is unique and large.

Canada Protected Areas Program – The People’s Summit Information Below.

Paul Harpley, Director

The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe

www.zephyrsociety.ca

2021-05-26

Wildlands League

The People’s Summit



Canada is not immune to the global biodiversity crisis. We are approaching almost 700 species at risk in this country. How do we turn the tide? Protect enough habitat. Science says nature needs half.

Canada has pledged to protect 30% of our land and ocean by 2030 (the 30 x 30 commitment). US President Biden has also made this commitment. Québec and California are ahead in delivering on the promise of 30x30. Yet, Ontario sits at 10.7% with no pledge to do more.

The **Peoples' Summit**, a virtual event, taking place **June 15 – 17**, will showcase **Ontario's** special places needing protection.

Getting to 30% requires leadership from all of us: Indigenous Nations, environmental organizations, communities, municipalities, conservation authorities, progressive industry, land trusts and more.

Join us to hear amazing speakers discuss: Indigenous leadership on protected areas Protected areas opportunities in every region of Ontario Urban protected areas National Marine Conservation Areas Ecological linkages and wildlife corridors Save the Date (click to add to **Apple iCal**, **Google Calendar**, our **Outlook Calendar**). Information on free registration to follow.

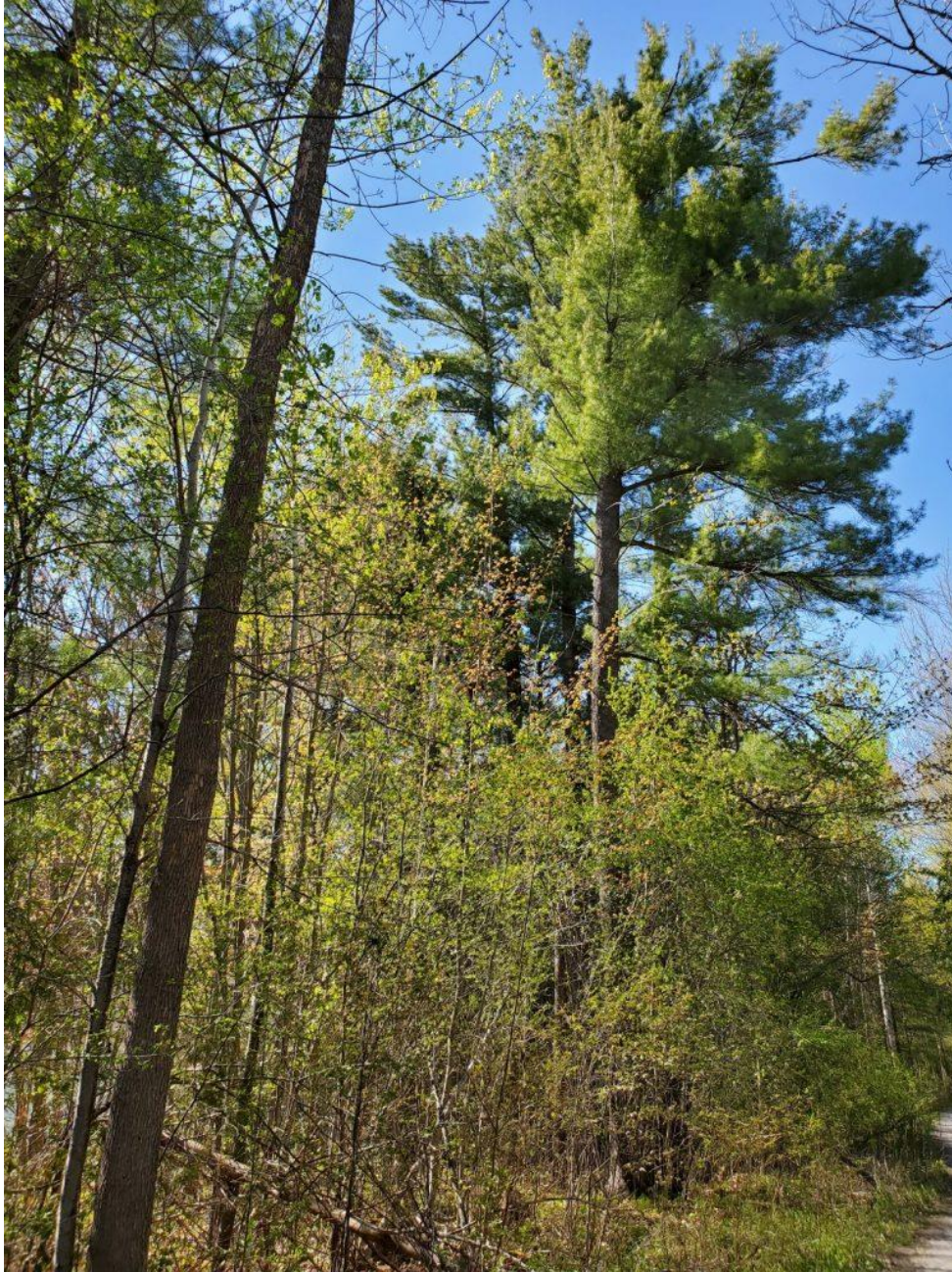
Janet Sumner Executive Director

Location: Pefferlaw Wildlands Complex Ontario

Area Photographs



Pefferlaw area Grassland meadow 2021-07-23 P. Harpley



Pefferlaw River White Pine Natural Regeneration 2021-05-14 P. Harpley

Item noticed by SLSN member Mary Green about past member's continuing conservation involvement in the north-west region of Lake Simcoe in Oro-Medonte. Linda was also an Alliance for a better Georgina liaison to SLSN, and

an advocate for stopping a Lands End Lake Simcoe shore development issue, and regular outing attendee, and annual fund raiser Autumn Event volunteer at Egypt Hall. She still contributes annually to the Sutton Christmas Bird Count.

Past SLSN Member takes Conservation Work to north-west Lake Simcoe

2021-07-12

Barrie Today

Lake Simcoe's 'secret weapon' encourages people to donate

Linda Wells has offered to match donations to the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition up to \$5,000 this summer

about 20 hours ago By: BarrieToday Staff



Linda Wells is dubbed the "secret weapon" for the countless, selfless ways she has supported the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's campaigns since 2005. Supplied photo

Linda Wells' connections to Lake Simcoe are many: she is a swimmer, a community organizer, a birder, a naturalist, and a lover of farmers' markets and outdoor meals. She is also dubbed the "secret weapon" for the countless, selfless ways she has supported the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition's campaigns since 2005...

Until the end of this summer, Linda has offered to match charitable donations to the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition up to \$5,000. This generous offer is significant for the small charity. "Our goal is to raise just another \$25,000 this year to pay our three part-time staff," says the Coalition's President Moe Sandford. "Linda's offer will nearly get us halfway there."

As an instrumental member of the Coalition's volunteer fundraising team, Linda developed the Water Protector Art poster sale initiative and the seasonal holiday card offer from last Christmas that earned the Coalition nearly \$3,000.

Linda spent decades with her family cottaging in Georgina, where she became an active member and donor to the successful North Gwillimbury Forest Alliance, and member of the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists Club. In 2018 she moved to the Barillia Park area of Oro-Medonte where she led her neighbours in re-wilding their shared shoreline park property!

Full article: <https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/lake-simcoes-secret-weapon-encourages-people-to-donate-3932495>
