

# The Talon

Vol. 32, No.2 April 2022



## NEWSLETTER COVID-19 edition #13

### 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))

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As SLSN members will remember this past Christmas arrived and COVID infection in the province was rampant, and in early January we were back into another full-blown provincial lockdown, as Ontario infections skyrocketed, hospitals I.C.U.'s became overwhelmed, and deaths jumped to unheard of numbers.

By early March infections were declining in Ontario and much of North America and other global locations, and restrictions were loosening. Our planned SLSN winter outings were undertaken in this cool and wet late winter/early spring on some challenging weather days that did result in interesting adventures for stalwart participants. Our planned outings were February 17 and March 23 afternoon adventures. Outing reports follow in the Newsletter.

There is a lot going on in the natural heritage and wildlife experience right now and in this newsletter are featured conservation issues ranging from federal government Plastic initiatives problems, untested fill dumping in Georgina to action on York Region Growth Planning problems, to the United Nations and serious accelerating Climate Change, and more.

Moving forward we plan to continue our SLSN Outings as we have had good response and involvement of members in outdoor activities especially in good weather expected of naturalists. Now incredibly we are well into a COVID Sixth Wave in Ontario, and much of the rest of the world driven by the very infectious Omicron subvariants especially BA.2 plus new arrival XE, and indoor meetings are again considered risky. When restrictions were lifting in March a check on our usual meeting place at the YR Police station resulted in them advising that the community room would still not be available for meetings until at the earliest 2023. With this Sixth Wave having arrived, its availability does look to be some time in the future.

Norma and I will continue to advise following the advice and guidelines of provincial and municipal public health officials moving forward and focus on outdoor events. Below are some important references to relevant media sources of continuing pandemic information. Consequently, we have planned three exciting spring outings to look forward to.

P. Harpley

### PANDEMIC STATUS information for reference

2022-04-16

**CBC News**

[https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/covid-19-risk-canada-omicron-sixth-wave-1.6420210?ref=mobilers&cmp=newsletter\\_CBC%20News%20Top%20Headlines%20%20E2%80%93%20Evening\\_1617\\_505475](https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/covid-19-risk-canada-omicron-sixth-wave-1.6420210?ref=mobilers&cmp=newsletter_CBC%20News%20Top%20Headlines%20%20E2%80%93%20Evening_1617_505475)

Why navigating your COVID risk is now harder than ever | CBC News Loaded

**Why navigating your COVID risk is now harder than ever.** BA.2 is evading protections like masks and vaccines, but experts say it's not time to abandon precautions

2022-04-13

**Toronto Star**

<https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2022/04/13/canada-has-6-confirmed-cases-of-xe-heres-what-we-know-about-the-hybrid-covid-strain.html>

**Canada has 6 confirmed cases of XE. Here's what we know about the hybrid COVID strain**

The World Health Organization is monitoring the new recombinant variant XE, first detected in the UK and now found in other countries including Canada.

2022-04-13

**York Media**

[https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10605591-outbreaks-of-covid-19-declared-in-georgina-vaughan-care-facilities/?s=n1?source=newsletter&utm\\_content=a09&utm\\_source=ml\\_nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_email=6EA0E815B8FFE40A55C58C2297DE34C8&utm\\_campaign=yrha\\_122952](https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10605591-outbreaks-of-covid-19-declared-in-georgina-vaughan-care-facilities/?s=n1?source=newsletter&utm_content=a09&utm_source=ml_nl&utm_medium=email&utm_email=6EA0E815B8FFE40A55C58C2297DE34C8&utm_campaign=yrha_122952)

Outbreaks of COVID-19 declared in Georgina, Vaughan care facilities. Currently 19 open institutional COVID-19 outbreaks in York Region

[Heidi Riedner](#)

Vaughan Citizen

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

York Region is reporting three new outbreaks of COVID-19 in institutional care settings as of this week. Kerry's Place Autism Services – Georgina, community living, and Maple Health Centre LTC in Vaughan are both reporting COVID-19 cases, while an outbreak has been reopened at Chartwell Valley Vista Retirement Residence in Vaughan...

2022-03-08

**AAAS Science**

[https://www.science.org/content/article/when-pandemic-over?utm\\_source=sfmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=DailyLatestNews&utm\\_content=alert&et rid=596029256&et\\_cid=4140384](https://www.science.org/content/article/when-pandemic-over?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DailyLatestNews&utm_content=alert&et rid=596029256&et_cid=4140384)

**When is a Pandemic Over?**

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**Outings:** All regular outings – Note: **Paid-up members in good standing may participate (for insurance compliance).** Any provincial and municipal COVID-19 restrictions and safety protocols in effect. Information on the latest conditions and public health guidance can be found on the Government of Ontario website. Follow the links to the most current now Sixth Wave situation in the province.

**Members Only receive full notice and information regarding upcoming Outings, Meetings and Events.**

Phone 905-722-8021 for information.

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## **SLSN Membership Information**

NORMA KNOWLTON  
418 BOUCHIER STRE  
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

Norma

**If you have not renewed your membership for this year, your membership is considered extant, and sending the regular SLSN e-newsletter will be reviewed and consideration made to remove you from active membership and status on active SLSN e-mail circulation.**

**Phone Paul 905-722-8021 or Norma 905-476-4747 for further information about SLSN events.**

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## **York Region Forest News**



Hello RFAT member,

Regional Council has approved an amendment to *It's in our Nature: Management Plan for the York Regional Forest 2019-2038*. View the Council Highlights for more information.

The amendment, effective Sunday, May 1, 2022, requires dogs to be on-leash at all times, unless in otherwise designated area(s) in the York Regional Forest. Off-leash dog walking along trails will be permitted in the Bendor and Graves Tract in the Town of East Gwillimbury and Davis Drive Tract in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Please feel free to forward this email to other forest users. Learn more about dogs in the York Regional Forest at [york.ca/dogsintheforest](http://york.ca/dogsintheforest)

**FORESTRY**  
york.ca/dogsurvey



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The Region's Hazard Tree Removal contractor will be undertaking work in the Brown Hill, Clarke, Cronsberry, Davis Drive, Godfrey, Hall, Hollidge, Metro Road, Mitchell, North, Patterson, Pepperlaw, Porritt, Robinson and Scout Tracts beginning on Monday March 14, 2022. Work will take place in only one or two tracts at a time, with signage placed at the main entrance to inform the public. The operation is expected to last up to eight weeks.

For the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. Please feel free to forward this email to other forest users. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact Matthew Currie at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75249.

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The Region will begin marking trees in the York Regional Forest for the 2023 Timber Harvest Contract. Tracks to be marked this year include Clarke Tact, Porritt Tract, and Eldred King Woodland. This contract will begin This week and be worked on throughout the Spring/Summer.

For the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. Please feel free to forward this email to other forest users. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact Colin MacDonald at 905-830-4444 x75258.

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2022-02-25

**York Media**

## **Newmarket branches out with new tree protection bylaw.**

Rules govern removing trees on private property

[Lisa Queen](#)

Newmarket Era

Thursday, February 24, 2022

Want to cut down a tree on your property? Better read this first.

Newmarket's new private tree protection bylaw requires property owners to obtain a permit if they wish to remove a tree greater than 20 centimetres in diameter.

Property owners who remove, destroy or injure a tree without a permit are subject to fines.

The fine for injuring or destroying a tree is \$750, while the penalty for injuring or destroying a heritage tree is \$3,750.

Those fined will also have to pay the permit fees charged for legally removing a tree.

Permit fees are \$100 for one tree removed, \$300 for two to four trees, \$1,000 for five to 10 trees and \$5,000.

Potential compensation charges are determined on a case-by-case basis. Compensation can be replanting tree(s) or the following cash-in-lieu charges:

- For non-construction removals and trees causing property damage: \$300 per tree
- For construction-related removals: \$450 per six centimetres of tree not replanted
- In some cases, a deposit could be required to protect other trees on the property, such as during construction. ...

There are no fees for trees that are dead, dying or hazardous. However, property owners are still required to obtain a permit to remove the tree.

"With this bylaw in effect, we are hoping to start a conversation with property owners about the importance of mature trees and, hopefully, deter them from removing mature trees from their property in order to continue to expand Newmarket's tree canopy and fostering council's priority in environmental stewardship."

It's estimated trees in Newmarket annually help to avoid more than 200,000 cubic metres of water runoff, reduce residential energy costs by more than \$3 million and remove 40 tonnes of air pollution

More info: [https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10575195-newmarket-branches-out-with-new-tree-protectionbylaw/?s=n1?source=newsletter&utm\\_content=a03&utm\\_source=ml\\_nl&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_email=6EA0E815B8FFE40A55C58C2297DE34C8&utm\\_campaign=yrha\\_119372](https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10575195-newmarket-branches-out-with-new-tree-protectionbylaw/?s=n1?source=newsletter&utm_content=a03&utm_source=ml_nl&utm_medium=email&utm_email=6EA0E815B8FFE40A55C58C2297DE34C8&utm_campaign=yrha_119372)

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## Outing Reports

### February 17, 2022 – SLSN outing

A small group braved the icy trails with snowshoes (and crampons) from the east access trailhead of the Pefferlaw forest tract. The early morning forecast was for snow transitioning to freezing rain, so it wasn't the best day to be out, but as is often the case these days it seems, the rain stopped, and the freeze did not happen by the event time. The snow held and the snowshoeing was good, and in some areas the decaying snowpack of 10-12 cm in the forest had melt water pooling in some locations, with local flooding. The well-traveled trails were icy due to increased use, including the provincial snowmobile trail that intercepts and travels along a stretch of the trail for 2 or more km., so we kept to more interesting and less travelled side trails.



Snowshoeing in deep cedar/white pine forest, with old Sugar Maple tree snag slowly rotting, that serves as homes and habitat for much wildlife species

The most noteworthy 'wildlife' observed was a loan hunter (*homo sapien*). Yes, a young man with a rifle was spotted at some distance. We heard and saw him, and he undoubtedly saw us on the trail, he



looked “like a deer in the lights!”. This tract does have hunting allowed in it, though we were not sure this was in-season. There was much evidence of modest deer yarding throughout the forest here in mature White pine, Sugar maple and white spruce with occasional open meadow habitat. Also, a lot of deer sign, tracks, scat, and night beds. Hopefully the deer were long gone before the hunter got sight of one.



White-tailed deer buck tracks



Flooded stream in wetland and wooded swamp

At the trail entrance two signs were knocked down and seemed to have been in that condition for a long time in the snow and ice, and one security gate was broken. Also, the main trail had snowmobile use pressure, and at one point snowmobiles had travelled through a sensitive wetland marsh habitat to enter the regional forest. Region staff attention is needed at this forest, so follow-up involved advising the Y.R. Forest staff of these problems for action.



Snowmelt flooding in adjacent farm field



Snowmobile damage on adjacent YR Forest wetland

### Wednesday, March 24, 2022 – SLSN outing

The day had a winter mix forecast for weather, though there had been some previous late winter thaws in the preceding couple of weeks. By 1 p.m. it was raining lightly at our meeting place. In cars we headed to the Drysdale Woods Forest north of Stouffville on the oak Ridges Moraine, a recent acquisition of the York Region Forestry tracts. The rain held off the whole outing, but there was a consistent N.W. wind all afternoon. Some slopes on trails were icy but on bare edges we were able to hike without incident, and farther into the forest the trails were clear and good to walk. Formerly a Christmas tree farm, many of Drysdale's trees are large now. The Balsam fir and spruce trees give way to reforested ancient Pleistocene sand dunes of Red pine and a mixed maple/beech forest natural regeneration sites furthest from the parking lot, remnant original forest stands with some very large trees.



Spruce cone midden pile made by Red squirrel



Natural regenerating maple/beech forest

Our group hiked for nearly 2 hours and we found our way around the wide trails well. Chickadees were spotted frequently, and evidence of woodpeckers' work was easily observed. In a number of locations near the planted pine and spruce areas red squirrels were seen and heard, and their large pine, cedar and spruce cone midden piles were documented. A highlight was the discovery of a carrot fungus on the stump of a Red pine, bright orange even after the cold winter. An early fern was green where snow had melted just days before.

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## Early April Birding – Lake Simcoe

### Irving Himel - Late Winter/Early spring - April 4, 2022

It is interesting to report, that today Apr 4 was the first time I have seen ducks (other than Canada geese who have never left) on open water along the shore from my cottage to North Gwillimbury Park. Strange as Cook's Bay usually melt first, that part was still ice covered and in fact some dumb fisherman has walked out quite far from shore to sit and fish. And another dangerous fool was seen speeding along the ice near Roches Point.

#### Seen on the open water were,

Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye in large numbers  
Canada geese, by the hundreds  
Mallard, but not a lot of them  
Common Merganser, by the hundreds  
Hooded Merganser, at least one pair  
Ring-billed Gull

At my feeders have been seeing almost all winter long Mourning dove, White-breasted nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, but not this week-end Chickadee and crow. Everywhere Junco, Cardinal Blue Jay, Goldfinch, Downy woodpecker, Hairy woodpecker, and Red-bellied woodpeckers And, a brief glimpse of a Pileated Woodpecker who has left dozens of new holes in many trees. Also Robin, Song sparrows



And, elsewhere including Ravenshoe/Bruce Street, Wood duck, E. Starling, Red-winged blackbird, Mourning dove, Red-tailed hawk, Turkey vulture.

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### **Submitted Winter Wildlife Photos – SLSN members**



Loes Pape, Catering Rd. near Elmgrove, Georgina

2022-02-02. Northern shrike - It had flown against the window, but after awhile it flew up into the spruce tree.



Loes Pape, Catering Rd. near Elmgrove, Georgina 2022-02-02 - Just a few days ago one of us spotted a barred owl just across the road. Midday and just relaxing on a hydro wire.

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enlarged

Ring-necked pheasant Ravenshoe Road n. side west of Train tracks at Park Rd. Jeff Boylin photo seen 5 times 2022-03-04

The ring-necked pheasant is an important game bird that was first introduced from Asia in the mid 1800s. It has since become established in southern Ontario and in many other parts of North America, where it provides recreational and economic benefits to many communities. Others had also seen this bird off and on at this time.



**Baby Red squirrel:** Kris Niehaus took this excellent photo of a small young Red squirrel that members encountered on SLSN outing in the Metro Tract York Region Forest on October 6, 2021.

## Environmental issues

Members: SLSN

2022-04-19

**CONSERVATION ALERT**

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## **Illegal dumpsites involving untested fill from potentially contaminated Vacuum Trucks in Georgina, including a sites in a wetland adjacent to the Maskinonge River**

Town of Georgina staff and Council have been advised dumping of untested fill, by the owner of a large Clean Fill Disposal Business in Stouffville, “United Soils”, as reported in the Georgina Post Newspaper posted April 11, 2022. The Clean Fill Disposal owner advised of the municipality’s fiduciary duty in acting to uphold legislation against this activity, now!

### **Georgina Post “Town of Georgina takes property owners to court for illegal dumping”**

Link: <https://georginapost.com/2022/04/10/town-of-georgina-takes-property-owners-to-court-for-illegally-dumping-fill/>

The two sites identified are 22954 Warden Ave. and 6552 Ravenshoe Rd. The Post article notes that “both properties cut across LSRCAs regulated areas and are adjacent to wetlands”, one is in the Black River and the other in the Maskinonge River watersheds. The Warden Avenue site in particular is very close to wetlands of the Maskinonge River east of Keswick. The Black River area site is located above and adjacent to an important wetland to the south-east, and the Black River to the west.

The Maskinonge River site is of particular concern because that river has been plagued with water quality concerns for years and continues today, most particularly related to the past Thane Aluminum Smelter that operated on a 20-acre site from the 1970’s and closed in 1997. The site of the former smelter lies close to the Provincially Significant Maskinonge River Wetland Complex which is located very near property 22954 Warden Avenue!

The Thane Aluminum Smelter site currently is superficially cleared of previous building features, regraded and fenced, but not fully and rigorously remediated or revitalized for past soils contamination, natural habitat, ecological feature form and function etc. to satisfaction still after all these years. Also, a past Town Dump site (west of the current municipal waste transfer station) in the area of wildland/wetland near the river in the same area of the watershed operational for many years, but closed some years ago. The condition of the Maskinonge River has been an interest and concern of our organization and local area residents for many years.

I and other members of the community have seen these vacuum trucks, mostly from Hydrovac, identified in The Post article, in the areas of these sites for years, but casual conversation and inquiries have not provided details.

This brings to mind past informal investigation of related Biosolid (treated human waste material) dumped on turf operations in the Town in these watersheds. This practice of ‘spreading’ this material has gone on for years and remain of concern today.

For SLSN members The Post article notes that community members can take action right now, by “writing down the license plate of the trucks. Recording the time they came in and taking their picture

to go after the companies that are doing it," according to the owner of a large Clean Fill Disposal Business in Stouffville. Mayor and Council and Town staff should be alerted to this activity as soon as possible, so action can be taken. Investigation of past area residents' observations must be done by authorities to assess the full scale of activities over time.

Long-term municipal authorities and agencies must act on immediate full and rigorous clean-up of all these fill sites in the municipality identified taking or having taken un-tested fill in the past or have been identified with past soil and water quality and other documented issues. The long-term impact on the important rivers and streams of Georgina and the health of Lake Simcoe remains at risk. Perpetrators of this, what appears to be, large-scale deplorable action must be held accountable and sanctioned to the full extent of the law.

Paul Harpley

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

**President**, South Lake Simcoe Naturalists, Ontario Nature

**Director**, The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe Research Organization

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## Bird Flu H5N1 is in Ontario and much of North America Now!

### Serious infection potential to our wild birds

2022-04-20

**AL (Alabama)**

### Experts suggested taking a break from birdfeeders

**Note:** Although this article refers to the U.S. the H5N1 is currently sweeping through rural Ontario and these warns should be considered here in Ontario. P.H.

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Why it matters: With an "unprecedented outbreak" of highly pathogenic avian influenza sweeping the US, experts at the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota have advised people who regularly feed birdfeeders to hold off for a bit. If you're thinking "hey, we've had bird flus before and I didn't have to take action then," the experts say this current outbreak is "unique" because of the unusually high levels of wildlife transmission seen within the current strain of H5N1. Furthermore, the science on the relationship between songbirds and the recent outbreak is unclear.

Full Story: AL (Alabama) (4/19)

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<https://www.al.com/news/2022/04/why-experts-say-you-should-immediately-stop-filling-birdfeeders.html>

## Why experts say you should immediately stop filling birdfeeders

Updated: Apr. 19, 2022, 9:06 a.m. | Published: Apr. 19, 2022, 6:28 a.m.



Experts are warning about highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, strain H5N1 in wild birds. LC- The Oregonian

By [Leada Gore](#) | [lgore@al.com](mailto:lgore@al.com)

Experts are issuing unusual advice – quit filling your bird feeders.

The reason, according to Dr. Victoria Hall with the [Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota](#), is an “unprecedented outbreak” of highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, strain H5N1 in wild birds.

“In areas with HPAI transmission in any avian species, consider pausing the use of bird feeders and baths for the next couple of months until the rate of virus transmission in wild birds dramatically decreases,” Hall said. “Not only will this action help to protect those beautiful feathered creatures that visit your yard, but will also help all wild bird species that are already having it hard this spring because of HPAI.”

### READ MORE:

[Wild duck in north Alabama tests positive for avian influenza](#)

[Bird flu in 2 Southern states: ‘Highly pathogenic avian influenza’ reported](#)

All bird species are susceptible to HPAI, Hall said but how they show signs of illness and the role they play in carrying or spreading the disease will vary. The virus is shed in feces and respiratory secretions of infected birds and is able to survive for weeks in cool, damp environments.

“Unfortunately, we have a lot of gaps in knowledge about the role of songbirds in HPAI outbreaks. We have some data from previous outbreaks around the world, but this outbreak is very different. The 2022 outbreak is unique because of the very high levels of transmission of the currently circulating H5N1 virus strain in wildlife. With minimal viral surveillance being done with songbirds, it is hard to measure the risk of transmission from songbirds to other birds,” she said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 27 million cases of avian influenza have been reported in backyard and commercial poultry as of April 8th. Another 637 cases have been reported in wild



birds in 31 states, including Alabama. The Alabama case was reported Feb. 23 in an American wigeon found in Limestone County.

There have been no cases reported in humans and the CDC said the risk to most people low. People are advised, however, to avoid direct contact with live or dead wild birds, as well as domestic birds that appear ill or dead.

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## Environmental Issues developments - Take Action

2022-04-09

**Canadian Environmental law Association**

### Plastic Initiatives in Canada Federal Budget 2022-2023

#### Eliminating plastic waste

In the section "[Taking More Action to Eliminate Plastic Waste](#)", Budget 2022 also proposes \$183.1-million over 5 years to reduce plastic waste and conduct related research. A portion of those funds will go towards monitoring plastic pollution in water systems.

CELA has been calling for an end to plastic pollution for several years. In February 2022, we were one of 52 groups in Canada who called on the federal government to eliminate the use of such toxic substances as part of a comprehensive plastic strategy. [You can read CELA's submission on our website.](#)

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2022-04-19

**Yours to Protect Weekend Protest in York Region**

**Saturday at 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Caroline Mulroney's office 45 Grist Mill Rd. Holland Landing, ON, L9N 1M7

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**Saturday April 23rd, 1 - 2:30 PM, in Holland Landing.**

- Come out and wave your flags in support of clean water and Lake Simcoe, Stop the Bradford Bypass, Protect our Climate, and Stop Sprawl.
- Learn more about these issues from local leaders and activists.
- Meet members of your caring community.

See you there!

More Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/575131920700703>

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2022-04-19

## TRCA

### Stormwater Management Information Event for Earth Day

DATE

**April 23**

TIME

10:00am - 12:00pm (EDT)

LOCATION

Claireville Conservation Area  
8180 Hwy 50

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Celebrate Earth Week with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) by taking action and supporting **a community cleanup at Claireville Conservation Area!**

Enjoy our interactive booth about stormwater systems and what you can do at home to prevent pollution from entering our local waterways!

Gloves and bags will be provided. Participants are eligible to receive community service hours.

TRCA is committed to creating an accessible experience for all participants. If you require an accessibility accommodation, please email [jennifer.ouimette@trca.ca](mailto:jennifer.ouimette@trca.ca) at least 7 days prior to the event

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2022-04-19

**Yours to Protect**

## Mega Gravel Pit in Tiny Township - Petition

A gravel pit in Concession 1 of Tiny Township in the Simcoe Uplands is licensed to take 600,000 tonnes of aggregate annually and 6.6 million litres of water daily for 210 days and wants to expand;

Two adjacent pits have licences to take gravel and have applied for 10-year permits to take 1.6 million litres of water daily for washing gravel for 180 days yearly;

Activists working to protect the 'purest water in the world' in Tiny Township have launched this petition.

More Info and instructions for signing: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3867>

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2022-04-20

### Climatefast

Petition: <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3919>

## Petition to The Government of Canada to Regulate Coal

This petition, open until May 10, calls on the government to:

1. Add thermal coal to the Priority Substances List of the Canadian Environment Protection Act (CEPA), and, as soon thereafter as possible, to the Toxic Substances List of CEPA; and
2. Regulate the mining, use, export, and import of thermal coal in Canada in accordance with our international commitments to reduce carbon emissions at home and abroad.

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Thermal coal, the kind burned to make electricity, is the world's dirtiest fossil fuel;

Thermal coal creates half of the world's carbon emissions and the pollution it creates kills more than 800,000 people every year;

The government has a plan to phase out thermal coal exports, but it is outdated and insufficient;

The world needs to move rapidly away from thermal coal to have any chance of limiting global warming to the Paris target of 1.5 degrees Celsius; ...

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## Climate Change at our doors – IPCC Report

Climate change is already wreaking widespread, pervasive and sometimes irreversible impacts on people and ecosystems globally, according to a landmark report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The report warns it has become increasingly clear there are limits to how much humanity can adapt to a warming world. Up to 3.6 billion people live in areas highly vulnerable to climate change, largely from extreme heat, heavy rainfall, drought and weather setting the stage for fires. Since the last assessment by the panel eight years ago, it has increasingly been possible to pin the impacts of extreme weather events on human-made climate change. “We have an increased understanding that there are limits to adaptation,” says Rachel Warren, a lead author on the report, based at the University of East Anglia, UK. The report finds that holding warming down could limit the impacts. “What has come out is a really, really strong message that at 2°C the risks are several times greater than they are at 1.5°C. Many things become much, much more difficult to manage at 2°C than 1.5°.” UN secretary general Antonio Guterres put it bluntly: “Delay means death.”

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### Climate change causing widespread and irreversible impacts, says IPCC

A new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says that up to 3.6 billion people are highly vulnerable to climate change, largely from extreme heat, heavy rainfall, drought and fire

#### [Climate change: IPCC scientists on the narrowing window to adapt – podcast](#)

Gemma Ware, The Conversation; Daniel Merino, The Conversation

Plus, a section of a rocket is about to crash on the Moon. What scientists hope to learn from it. Listen to The Conversation Weekly podcast.

More Info: [https://www.newscientist.com/article/2309795-climate-change-causing-widespread-and-irreversible-impacts-says-ipcc/?utm\\_source=nsday&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=NSDAY\\_290222](https://www.newscientist.com/article/2309795-climate-change-causing-widespread-and-irreversible-impacts-says-ipcc/?utm_source=nsday&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NSDAY_290222)

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## International Climate call for Action

2022-03-01

### Care 2

*As megadroughts worsen, we must find ways to adapt.*



## A Megadrought Is Threatening Water Supplies. Cities Must Adopt Water Recycling Programs Now!

The western states of the U.S. are now **the driest they have been in centuries**. Researchers say this "megadrought" is around 72% worse due to climate change. The situation is so bad, it would be nearly impossible for even a very wet year to solve the problem. As water increasingly becomes a more rare and precious resource, **we need to think of creative solutions to reclaim and reuse the supplies we have.** [That's why Los Angeles is planning to reclaim and recycle 100% of wastewater. Think of it as the \*Dune\* solution to the dehydration of western states.](#)

As states, as nations, and as an international community, **we *must* address and tackle climate change head-on.** It is imperative that we do everything in our power to reverse this horrific crisis before it escalates beyond the point of redemption. **But in the meantime, we also need to get smart about our increasingly precious water resources.** [Sign the petition to urge Las Vegas, San Diego, Sacramento, and other major West coast cities to follow the lead of Los Angeles!](#)

P.S. Climate catastrophe is ushering in a new era of megadroughts. We must find ways to adapt. [Sign the petition.](#)