



Conservation Alert E-Blast

2022-12-03

SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

Pefferlaw Aerodrome

As advised in our last SLSN Conservation Alert last week (2022-11-25) the Pefferlaw Aerodrome now (a.k.a. Sutton Airport Development's proposal) has been approved by the federal government agency Transport Canada!

As our organization has been active in commenting on this project in a seriously flawed, rushed and very concerning process that harkens back to what would seem the 1960's we continue to bring rational science evaluation and good planning suggestion detailed in our 2021-12-21 submission to Federal Transport Canada Public Comments Portal. Numerous residents and organizations also made written submissions, and local media was quick on the issue once it became clear what was going on, especially the huge fill dumping being proposed.

Recent community concern centred in Pefferlaw has, like us, focused on the fact that the site is located fully in the Greenbelt and protected countryside including agricultural lands. Important natural heritage lands including provincially significant/provincial plan area wetlands, a significant groundwater recharge area and highly vulnerable aquifers and woodlands are at risk.

Regarding planning matters community groups and individuals have also raised the issue that although the Town of Georgina has a site alteration by-law in place which bans large fill operations, it seems incredulous that a federal agency has approved the go-ahead of these works. It has also been noted that no pre-consultation with York Region or the Town of Georgina or LSRCA or our organization and other community resident organizations or agricultural interests or others. Recently The Pefferlaw Area Ratepayers (PAR) have announced formerly they are opposing the Sutton Airport Development's proposal to build an airport on Old Homestead Road in the Town of Georgina. **PAR has advised they are holding a public meeting on Tuesday, December 6 at 7 p.m. at the Pefferlaw Lions Community Hall. Fellow SLSN executive member Norma Knowlton and myself, have committed to attend where we will be able to elaborate on our concerns in SLSN December 2021-12-22 comments, and any other members who can, should consider attending. With COVID and Flu virus rising, and concern for indoor meetings fortunately it is being Zoomed also.**

P. Harpley SLSN

Here is the link for the Zoom

Here is the link for a zoom live broadcast of this meeting :

Join Zoom Meeting **Say No To Aerodrome**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5320187440?pwd=azV3VGxaeFJhWWNUYU80K080WDZFz09>

Meeting ID: 532 018 7440

Passcode: 1234

Bill 23

In spite of recent sustained public, environmental groups, planning experts and others on the terrible environmental cost to natural areas and agricultural landscapes of approving and implementing this legislation this Ontario Government has continued moving it through. The focus now has moved to efforts of all means and many groups and individuals of the public to push for a whole repeal of the Bill, stressing letter writing campaigns, demonstrations at Government politicians offices and other locations among other things. Below find current documented information and resources to assist any members in taking action. P.H.

Environmental Defence Statement

2022-11-28

BILL 23 WAS PASSED ON MONDAY

Now this deeply destructive legislation must be repealed! Not only is sprawl-enabling Bill 23 a threat to farms, forests, wetlands and Conservation Authorities, it is “likely to result in fewer and more expensive homes, higher costs of services, less energy efficient construction, increased car dependency and transportation expenses for residents, and increased property taxes.”

Read Environmental Defence’s [statement on the passage of Bill 23 here](#).

Protecting Ontario’s environment

Statement: Bill 23 will Unleash a Firestorm of Environmentally Destructive Rural Sprawl – It Must Be Repealed

Statement by Phil Pothen, Ontario Environmental Program Manager,
Environmental Defence

Toronto | Traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, the Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Chippewas and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation – By forcing passage of Bill 23, the “More Homes, Built Faster Act”, Ontario’s government has lit the fuse on an explosion of expensive sprawl that will destroy much of the remaining wetland and wildlife habitat in Ontario’s most sensitive ecoregions.

Moreover, while the Ontario government has attempted to defend Bill 23's dismantling of flood and habitat protection, regional planning and green building standards by framing it as a measure to address the province's housing shortage and lack of affordability, it is likely to have the opposite effect. The legislation is likely to result in fewer and more expensive homes, higher costs of services, less energy efficient construction, increased car dependency and transportation expenses for residents, and increased property taxes.

Bill 23 must be repealed.

2022-11-29

Barrie Today

Ontario passes housing bill amid criticism from cities, conservation authorities

[Municipalities say it could leave them \\$5B short](#)

Ontario passes housing bill amid criticism from cities, conservation authorities

Municipalities say it could leave them \$5B short
Canadian Press about 13 hours ago



A townhouse development in Newmarket is pictured in this file photo Debra Kelly/Newmarket Today

TORONTO — Ontario has passed a bill intended to spur housing development amid criticism that it will leave municipalities short billions of dollars, increase property taxes and reduce the role of conservation authorities.

One of the most controversial aspects of the bill is freezing, reducing and exempting fees developers pay.

Those fees go to municipalities and are then used to pay for services to support new homes, such as road and sewer infrastructure and community centres.

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario says the changes could leave municipalities short \$5 billion and see taxpayers footing the bill – either in the form of higher property taxes or service cuts – and there is nothing in the bill that would guarantee improved housing affordability.

The bill also limits the areas conservation authorities can consider in development permissions, removing factors such as pollution and conservation of the land.

Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Steve Clark says Ontario is in a housing crisis and the measures in the new law are necessary to ensure the province can achieve its goal of building 1.5 million homes in 10 years.

Read More: https://www.barrietoday.com/local-news/ontario-passes-housing-bill-amid-criticism-from-cities-conservation-authorities-6166340?utm_source=BarrieToday+-+Daily+Headlines&utm_campaign=33cfea166e-DailyBAR&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c8859d4fc8-33cfea166e-323665374

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Nov. 28, 2022.

The Canadian Press

2022-11-29

Toronto Star

GTA

An ‘unfathomable’ fallout: Municipalities lash out at Doug Ford’s housing bill

Ontario municipalities say they risk losing \$5 billion in revenue and that major tax hikes and service cuts will follow

By **Tess Kalinowski** Real Estate Reporter

Noor Javed Staff Reporter

May Warren Housing Reporter

Ben Spurr City Hall Bureau

Mon., Nov. 28, 2022 timer 7 min. read

update Article was updated 19 hrs ago

Mississauga City Councillor Carolyn Parrish stops short of calling it panic. But in her 38-year political career, she says she has never seen the kind of stunned apprehension that Ontario’s More Homes Built Faster Act has evoked among municipal officials.

Known as Bill 23, the sweeping act aimed at building 1.5 million more homes in the next decade will freeze and reduce the development fees cities charge developers for the infrastructure to support the residents their buildings will house.

Across the GTA and beyond, politicians and bureaucrats are reeling at the prospect of what the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) estimates will be a \$5.1 billion revenue shortfall over nine years, including \$400 million in lost funding for community housing...

Read More: <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2022/11/28/an-unfathomable-fallout-municipalities-lash-out-at-doug-fords-housing-bill.html>

Greenbelt “Land Swap” – now known as the Developer “Land Grab”

This devastating separate steeling of identified and protected Greenbelt lands for developer landholders building of subdivisions on important natural heritage and agricultural landscapes is being characterized as a developer Land Grab. And what a disaster it will be if it gets fully by committee and into legislation at Queen’s Park in the coming weeks. Investigation by the media, academics and opposition politicians has exposed details leading to calls for formal investigations and inquiries, including Green Party leader Mike Schreiner. See the information below with links to further details, and action steps you can take.

2022-11-28

Toronto Star

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

Ford government defends Ontario Greenbelt land swap that benefits PC donors

Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark insists controversial changes to the Greenbelt are about building new homes not rewarding wealthy developers who donate to the Progressive Conservatives.

By [Robert Benzie](#) Queen's Park Bureau Chief

Mon., Nov. 28, 2022 timer 3 min. read

update Article was updated 7 hrs ago

Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark insists controversial changes to Ontario’s Greenbelt are about building new homes, not rewarding wealthy developers who donate to the Progressive Conservatives.

Asked by reporters Monday if “cronyism” was at play, Clark said, “No, it’s a bold action by the government to ensure that we meet our housing target at the end of the day.”

The Tories are facing criticism after revelations party donors stand to benefit from the opening up of 7,400 acres of protected Greenbelt land to housing construction.

As part of a land swap, 9,400 acres in other areas will be added to the two-million-acre swath of farmland and wetlands.

“We will have a significant portion of the Greenbelt to be added upon and at the same time have as a minimum 50,000 new homes,” said Clark, who has pledged to build 1.5 million new homes over the next decade to alleviate the “severe housing crisis.”

But [an investigation by the Toronto Star and the Narwhal](#) found that of the 15 areas where development will soon be allowed, eight included properties purchased since Premier Doug Ford's election in 2018.

NDP MPP Marit Stiles (Davenport) [has asked the auditor general to probe the land deals](#). She said the Tories are making changes to "benefit powerful landowners" with ties to the governing party...

Read More: <https://www.thestar.com/politics/provincial/2022/11/28/ford-government-defends-ontario-greenbelt-land-swap-that-benefits-pc-donors.html>

change.org

Add your name to M's petition to protect Ontario's Greenbelt.



Stop Ontario Greenbelt land from being developed



4,720 have signed M Cossidente's petition. Let's get to 5,000!

Sign now with a click

The Ford Government is looking at opening up greenbelt land in Ontario in Pickering, Vaughn, Richmond Hill, King Township, Stouffville, Markham, Ajax and Clarington. We need to protect all greenbelt land.

The Ontario government announced a 30-day consultation on removing 2995 hectares across 10 municipalities in the Greenbelt which were created to be permanently protected as of 2005. This needs to be stopped immediately and we need to protect our land.

I am starting this Petition that Ontarians care about their Greenbelt land and that this needs to be protected as was done as of 2005 please join me in signing off on this petition.

COP 27, U.N. Egypt meeting, Climate Change issue Fall Out

These meetings have ended, and it took overtime, to early last Sunday to conclude a deal. Opinion is definitely mixed about the outcome. There are many articles and opinion available but included below is a link to a good Canadian Geographic analysis, for a deep dive by members into the situation and future developments.

2022-11-25

Canadian Geographic

A light at the end of the summit: Historic climate deal sealed at COP27

Though a “landmark” climate fund for poor nations is being hailed as a major step forward in fighting the climate emergency, critics say the global conference did little to address the root cause of the crisis

Samantha Pope

Though a “landmark” climate fund for poor nations is being hailed as a major step forward in fighting the climate emergency, critics say the global conference did little to address the root cause of the crisis

Global leaders crossed the COP27 finish line on Sunday with a landmark agreement on compensation for poor nations bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, but a lack of progress on emissions-cutting measures that would tackle the cause of the emergency head-on.

The United Nations climate talks in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt remained in deadlock late on Friday, with a deal finally reached in the wee hours of Sunday morning. In a watershed moment for global climate politics, negotiators from nearly 200 countries agreed to establish a fund that would help rebuild the infrastructure of countries devastated by extreme weather events.

Read More: <https://canadiangeographic.ca/articles/a-light-at-the-end-of-the-summit-historic-climate-deal-sealed-at-cop27/>

COP 15 Montreal, Canada – Global Biodiversity Convention

Possibly the most important United Nations meeting for the future of nature on the earth is happening now in Montreal, and China is leading the meetings.

2022-11-24

Government of Canada

UN Biodiversity Conference: COP15 in Montréal



The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) is an international meeting bringing together governments from around the world. Participants will set out new goals and develop an action plan for nature over the next decade. The conference will be held in Montreal, Quebec, the seat of the UN CBD Secretariat, from December 7 – 19, 2022.

COP15 will focus on protecting nature and halting biodiversity loss around the world. The Government of Canada's priority is to ensure the COP15 is a success for nature. There is an urgent need for international partners to halt and reverse the alarming loss of biodiversity worldwide.

Our Goal

Canada will continue to advocate for international collaboration on an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, including targeting 30 percent of lands and oceans conserved by 2030. Halting and reversing biodiversity loss require real collaboration and partnership, including with Indigenous Peoples, the original guardians of the land. It also requires real transformative change, innovation, and a proper accounting for the true value of nature in decision-making across all sectors.

History

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was first signed by 150 government leaders at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. Its main objectives are: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The CBD is dedicated to promoting sustainable development and the Convention recognizes that biological diversity is about more than plants, animals and micro organisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live. The CBD Secretariat is located in Montreal, Quebec.

Read More: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/biodiversity/cop15.html>

2022-11-30

The Conversation Canada

- [Is China ready to lead on protecting nature? At the upcoming UN biodiversity conference, it will preside and set the tone](#)

Vanessa Hull, University of Florida

China has rich natural resources and is seeking to play a leadership role in global conservation, but its economic goals often take priority over protecting lands and wildlife

As the world parses what was achieved at the U.N. climate change conference in Egypt, negotiators are convening in Montreal to set goals for curbing Earth's other crisis: loss of living species.

Starting on Dec. 7, 2022, 196 nations that have ratified the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity will hold their 15th [Conference of the Parties](#), or COP15. The convention, which was adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, is [designed to promote sustainable development](#) by protecting [biodiversity](#) – the variety of life on Earth, from genes up to entire ecosystems.

Today, experts widely agree that biodiversity is at risk. Because of human activities – especially overhunting, overfishing and altering land – species are disappearing from the planet at [50 to 100 times the historic rate](#). The United Nations calls this decline a “[nature crisis](#).” ...