



## NEWSLETTER

### SOUTH LAKE SIMCOE NATURALISTS

SLSN is an affiliated 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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This summer so far has been rather extreme regarding weather events with sunny very hot and humid days and also days of intense storm event, some challenging past weather records. Even recently hurricane “Debby” reaching Quebec and Ontario as a downgraded tropical storm and meeting a large regular storm system from western Canada coming off Georgian Bay dropping a lot of rain in the G.T.A. and significant flooding in some areas. Our spring outings this year were fortunately in good weather and breeding birds and wildflower naturalist observations were great for members who attended.

As we are at the middle of August we start wondering where the summer went, with already advertisements in the media about back-to-school sale of stationary for students. So we are all thinking what we want to squeeze in as far as naturalist activities and vacation time before the start of September. The club executive has been busy fitting in administrative duties and autumn outings and meetings planning for members, that are detailed in this Newsletter. Other information on current science, conservation and environmental concerns in our area are detailed herein. Enjoy!

Paul Harpley SLSN

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**Outings Notice:** All planned regular outings/meetings. SLSN members in good standing include liability insurance coverage with recreational volunteer participation.

Presently, in Ontario outdoor enthusiasts continue taking precautions following local, provincial, and other guidance/recommendations for COVID-19 (still circulating) and other circulating viruses, regarding physical distancing and other actions. Information on public health guidance can be found on the Government of Ontario [website](#).

Phone 905-722-8021 for more details.

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## 2024 Summer and Fall

### **Tuesday September 3: Walk & Nature Study – Brock Township**

This will be a late summer, general nature study walk with a focus on wild flowers. The outing will explore the Cannington Rail Trail. The trail has been upgraded to a more formal walking trail. Members should meet at 2 p.m. to begin outing

### **Wednesday October 2: Walking Exploration - Mount Albert River Valley Trail**

An afternoon forest and meadow walking visit to the river valley in Mount Albert on the river valley trail (Robert Hunter & Shannon Park). This trail system has recently been expanded and refurbished. Birds and mammals will be the focus for the outing. Members begin outing at 2:20 p.m.

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**Meetings Notice:** In-person

**All Meetings start at 4:00 p.m. in the community meeting room at the York Region Police Building (Baseline Road between McCowan and Civic Centre Road) unless noted otherwise.**

York Regional Police, 3 District Community Meeting Room  
3527 Baseline Road, Georgina from 4:00-5:30 p.m.



Meetings are once a month March-May, September-December. With COVID-19 and other viruses, for guidance on in-person meetings, information on the latest conditions and public health guidance can be found on the Government of Ontario [website](#).

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**Sunday September 22: “Wildfires in Canada in a Changing Climate – the Jasper National Park case and surrounding communities.**

**Presentation by SLSN member Jeff Boylin.**



CBC News · Posted: Jul 09, 2015 9:46 PM EDC



Maligne Lodge in Jasper, Alta., in a photo released by Parks Canada on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024. (Parks Canada)

It is well-known today that in many parts of the world wildfires are increasing in frequency and intensity. The relationship of these events to climate change science and impacts on ecosystems and natural and human influenced landscapes are serious. The presentation will focus on the recent out-of-control wildfires in Jasper National Park, Alberta and illuminate important aspects of forest fire initiation, behaviour, and expand specifically on the impact of the famous town of Jasper and surrounding mountain/forest landscapes. Various ideas of root causes of changing climate, ecological impacts, human-built communities and future mitigation and planning will be explored. The wildfire that incinerated hundreds of homes in Jasper and destroyed thousands of hectares of forest is expected to remain a threat on the national park landscape for months, according to Parks

Canada. Jeff will elaborate on significant human impact stories on friends in the Jasper community. Other Canadian wildfire regions including northern Ontario, B.C. and the Northwest Territories will be mentioned.

***Sunday October 27: "Purple Loosestrife – It's back again!"***

**Presentation by SLSN member Paul Harpley.**



P. Harpley

**It's Back – Purple Loosestrife has returned with a vengeance!**

Back in September of 2022 (The Talon SLSN Newsletter Vol. 32, No. 3) there was an article on my observations that it had become apparent, at least in our area of South Lake Simcoe, the invasive species Purple loosestrife was coming back. Now on almost every rural concession or sideline, new site locations of this plant can be seen establishing themselves somewhere along the way after almost a decade of being really hard to find. Purple loosestrife is a wetland plant native to Europe and Asia that was brought to North America the in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Loosestrife has become a serious invader of wetlands, roadsides, and disturbed areas.

The illustrated presentation will focus on past research in our area by The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe (sister organization to SLSN) back nearly three decades ago documenting the invasion, studying related ecosystem ecology in our area and research around North America. Aspects of current control, management planning and impact on other native species decline and related concerns will be explored.

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## Pefferlaw Aerodrome Project in the Greenbelt

As many SLSN members are aware from local media, the community organization in our area known as PAR (Pefferlaw Area Ratepayers) won a Leave-to-Appeal application when the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) revoked an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECA) for the Toronto company owner of the property. The developer would have trucked in massive amounts of fill to begin developing the Aerodrome.

This is the SLSN response to the Trudeau government Federal Minister of Transport,

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2024-08-01

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez M.P.  
Minister of Transport and Quebec Lieutenant, Canada

8595 Maurice-Duplessis Blvd  
Suite 208  
Montréal, Quebec  
H1E 4H7

### Re: Pefferlaw Aerodrome Project

Dear Minister:

We are advised by the local community organization in our area PAR (Pefferlaw Area Ratepayers) that they previously won a Leave to Appeal application with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) who revoked an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for a company called 117 Disco Road Inc. to operate a Waste Transfer Site at 117 Disco Road in Toronto. We understand that PAR representation, and legal council at a recent Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) three-day hearing in July, demonstrated the weight on the non-compliance records of actions of fill operations, over 12 years old, by directors of 117 Disco Road Ltd. (owners and developers of the property).

Our organization, the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists, executive and membership has formally been opposed to this Pefferlaw Aerodrome project from its inception. It is obvious not good planning, will have great environmental impact on the protected countryside in the Ontario Greenbelt, and it clearly not in the public interest.

We submitted previously a detailed letter/report to the previous Minister of Transport, Mr. Omar Alghabra on January 3, 2023 detailing our concerns. And, originally on January 12, 2021 we submitted a very comprehensive Report (7 pages) through the (M.O.T) federal comment portal ([comment@NewAeroromeOntario2021.ca](mailto:comment@NewAeroromeOntario2021.ca)) on this subject. To this writing we have not received any formal feedback or response to our concerns and research findings and remain opposed to the entire project.

We request that you at the earliest time make an order with your responsibility and authority to cancel this aerodrome project that is not in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Paul Harpley BSc Hon., M.A., Doctoral Researcher

President, South Lake Simcoe Naturalist  
(SLSN)  
Town of Georgina, Ontario, Canada

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**Georgina Island Fixed Bridge Project Update**

**SLSN members, below is the formal information Update on this proposed project initiative by the GIFN Fixed Link Secretariat.**

**Information release on the project Website -**  
[https://www.georgina.ca/search?keywords=Island+Fixed+Link+Bridge&sort\\_by\\_combine=search\\_api\\_relevance\\_DESC](https://www.georgina.ca/search?keywords=Island+Fixed+Link+Bridge&sort_by_combine=search_api_relevance_DESC)



It's been a while since our last update, and we appreciate your patience and continued interest in the Georgina Island Fixed Link Project. Today, we're thrilled to share several significant developments that reflect our commitment to both environmental stewardship and honouring the voices within our community.

## **Recent Enhancements Based on Community Feedback**

Over the past few months, the Georgina Island First Nation (GIFN) Chief and Council have been actively engaging with community members to gather valuable insights. This robust community dialogue has led to substantial updates in our project planning:

### **1. Transition to an Improved Bridge Structure**

In response to community feedback emphasizing environmental preservation, we have updated the Fixed Link structure to a causeway, bridge, and low-level bridge design, better protecting Lake Simcoe and its ecosystems.

- **Original Proposed Structure:** Featured a combination of causeway and bridge, balancing functionality with environmental considerations.
- **New Propose Structure:** Shifts to a causeway, bridge, and low-level bridge design, significantly enhancing our environmental protections in alignment with community preferences.

Please note: The draft coastal engineering report will now undergo further updates to account for these changes before publication.

### **2. Evaluating Ferry Options for Inclusion in the Detailed Project Description**

At the request of the GIFN community for a more thorough examination of transportation alternatives, the Council has approved the exploration of new ferry options as our current Aazhaawe ferry nears the end of its operational lifespan. An RFQ (Request for Qualifications) has been issued to evaluate viable ferry solutions that align with the needs and preferences of the GIFN community. The proposed ferry options will be included in the DPD submission as part of the studied transportation alternatives.

### **3. Extended Deadline for Detailed Project Description (DPD)**

To thoroughly integrate these updates and more accurately reflect community input, we have extended the DPD submission deadline to **November 29, 2024**. This extended timeline underscores the commitment to a collaborative project development where every voice is valued.

For a more comprehensive update and additional details, please read the latest blog post on our [project website](#).

## **Stay Engaged and Informed**

Upcoming reports, including the Cultural Heritage Report, will be made

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## **“Paddle Holland River” Event – Bradford ByPass area**

An outing to paddle the Holland Marsh on August 16<sup>th</sup> is being planned by the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition to record species there, in an effort to document what would be lost if the Bradford Bypass was built. Called “Paddle Holland River” the event will be early in the morning from 6:30 – 9:30 starting at Albert’s Marina, 21019 Bathurst St., East Gwillimbury. Parking at the marina and to launch a boat costs \$20. For more information, registration etc. Phone RLSC Tel. 647-267-7572.

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## **York Region Forest News**

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The York Region Forest will begin Trail Mowing operations in all forest tracts. Work is scheduled to begin Thursday August 15, 2024. The operation is expected to last up to four weeks.

For the safety of the public and workers please keep clear of the operation. If you have any questions regarding this operation please contact Matthew Currie at 905-830-4444 x75249.

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## **Canadian and International Conservation News**

2023-11-06

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? New wildlife area opens in south Oshawa for public

Location:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Stevenson+Rd+S+%26+Phillip+Murray+Ave,+Oshawa,+ON/@43.8573621,-78.8706235,17z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x89d51d6218216345:0x168e62a366121a66!8m2!3d43.856426!4d-78.86726!16s%2Fg%2F11gdxf6087?entry=tту>

By [Tim Kelly](#) Oshawa This Week



Monday, November 6, 2023  
1 min to read



The City of Oshawa has opened a new open space, the Gold Point Wildlife Reserve.

#### JUST THE FACTS

**What:** [Gold Point Wildlife Reserve](#) is Oshawa's newest passive recreational site. It is 16.7 hectares and has a number of features.

**Where:** It's located at the southwest corner of Philip Murray Avenue and Stevenson Road in southwest Oshawa.

**Why:** The reserve offers a chance for residents to enjoy a formal butterfly garden and gathering space, restoration plantings focusing and expanding the migratory butterfly stopover wildlife habitat.

**Who:** The project took place in part through community engagement undertaken in summer 2021 on a concept design and accessibility. Construction started in 2022 and finished in October 2023.

For more information about Gold Point Wildlife Reserve and the city's other parks and trails, visit the City's Parks and [Facilities Directory](#) or visit [Oshawa.ca/Parks](#).

**Tim Kelly**

is a reporter with [durhamregion.com](#). He can be reached at [tkelly@durhamregion.com](mailto:tkelly@durhamregion.com).

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2023-11-26

## Innisfil Today - The Canadian Press

### BEYOND LOCAL: Tiny beetle to the rescue of N.S. hemlocks attacked by woolly invasive insect

While it is the first time this kind of biocontrol has been used on Canadian hemlocks, he said the beetles have been used to control woolly adelgid in the United States for about 20 years

Hina Alam, The Canadian Press about 13 hours ago



A woolly adelgid beetle is shown in a handout photo. The woolly adelgid was first seen in southwestern Nova Scotia in 2017, and has since been spreading northward. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO-Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry **\*\*MANDATORY CREDIT\*\***

FREDERICTON — On comfortable beds of wood shavings inside multiple boxes, 3,600 *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles made overnight journeys last month from the forests of British Columbia all the way to southwestern Nova Scotia.

The Lari, as the beetles are affectionately nicknamed by some scientists who study them, were imported to help protect hemlocks from the woolly adelgid, an invasive species that came from Japan.

"The idea is that this first year is a kind of a pilot project to see if this insect will survive Nova Scotia's winters," said Lucas Roscoe, research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service.

"As the project develops, we'll be monitoring the beetle on the landscape and looking for it and seeing if it's tracking these hemlock woolly adelgid populations across the landscape."

The woolly adelgid, about the size of a peppercorn, was first seen in southwestern Nova Scotia in 2017 and has since spread northward, he said.

After landing on a tree, it settles in one spot for most of its life and begins "literally sucking the life out" of the tree after piercing the bark, Roscoe said. It gets its name from the white, woolly layer it develops. "And it's within this kind of woolly ball that it lays its eggs, and then the eggs hatch, and then they spread," he said.

Aided by milder winters on the East Coast, the woolly adelgid seems to have adapted to the area, and spread to large swaths of hemlocks. If left to spread unchecked, Roscoe said the insect would wipe out 90 per cent of hemlocks in Nova Scotia. The pest has also been seen in parts of Ontario.

"Entire stands can be damaged quite severely by the hemlock woolly adelgid," he said. "There's areas where there's a lot of hemlock trees and you're seeing most of the stand damaged or dead."

The woolly adelgid is transferred from one tree to another by wind, birds, animals or even humans, he added. "They can land on your shirt, you won't even know. You'll go for a walk and move it."

Enter the beetle.

"It's like a ladybug, but it's very small ... one to two millimetres in length," Roscoe said, describing the predator. "It's just a little black beetle, but they just love eating hemlock woolly adelgid."

He took part in the release of some beetles over the past month in Nova Scotia. "I watched the beetles leave the cup and immediately start eating hemlock woolly adelgid," he said. "They crawled right up, and they just stuck their head right into one and just started eating it."

Gwylim Blackburn, a research scientist at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria, said foresters in British Columbia tapped on hemlock branches to knock off the beetles and collect them in nets for shipment to Nova Scotia. They're actually quite easy to miss, until you have a trained eye," he said.

While it is the first time this kind of biocontrol has been used on Canadian hemlocks, he said the beetles have been used to control woolly adelgid in the United States for about 20 years.

Research on the woolly adelgid was pioneered by a Canadian scientist in the 1980s and the beetles' effectiveness has since been shown to have concrete results, Blackburn said. Current research, including introduction of the beetles in Nova Scotia, has brought together different branches of governments and Indigenous communities and is drawing lessons from the United States, he added.

Read more: [https://www.innisfiltoday.ca/local-news/beyond-local-tiny-beetle-to-the-rescue-of-nshemlocks-attacked-by-woolly-invasive-insect-7879058?utm\\_source=InnisfilToday.ca&utm\\_campaign=85e09d589a-DailyINN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_665c8f3720-85e09d589a-324156330](https://www.innisfiltoday.ca/local-news/beyond-local-tiny-beetle-to-the-rescue-of-nshemlocks-attacked-by-woolly-invasive-insect-7879058?utm_source=InnisfilToday.ca&utm_campaign=85e09d589a-DailyINN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_665c8f3720-85e09d589a-324156330)

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Nov. 19, 2023.

Hina Alam, The Canadian Press

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**GREENPEACE**



**After years of working to prevent deep sea mining from starting, our progress is now at risk.**

In just two months, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) will meet for crucial talks about the fate of our oceans. Deep-sea mining companies — especially the Canadian frontrunner, The Metals Company — are pushing to get the greenlight to plunder minerals from the high seas.

Greenpeace is mobilizing on a global scale to stop this destructive industry from causing irreparable harm to our ocean floors, but **we need your help to be successful.**

Paul, thank you for the support you've already given us by signing our petition to protect the oceans. Could you extend your generosity at this critical moment when the high seas face a new threat? If just 249 more people donate by May 31, we'll be able to act on our most ambitious plans to defend the oceans from deep-sea mining.

[Please stop deep-sea mining before it starts with a \\$25 gift to Greenpeace today.](#)

Oceans are home to a wealth of animals and plants, but pollution and the damaging practices of industrial fishing have already pushed key species to the verge of collapse. [1] Now scientists around the world have issued a clear warning — **tearing up the seafloor for profit could have a devastating impact on marine life in the high seas.** [2]

**How could governments take that risk** when the planet's biodiversity is already under serious threat?

And yet that's what we're facing: in January, **Norway approved a plan to open some of the last untouched Arctic areas to deep-sea mining exploration.** Norway is the first country to move forward with commercial deep-sea mining, and I'm worried more will follow.

**Supporters like you are why I have hope.** Last year, after months of pressure and campaigning by Greenpeace and its supporters, Canada's government agreed to back a moratorium on deep-sea mining, with 24 other governments also announcing their support for a moratorium, ban, or precautionary pause.

With a wave of opposition to deep-sea mining growing, **the time is right to act boldly.** [Please give a \\$25 donation to Greenpeace today to stop deep-sea mining companies from tearing up the ocean floors for profit.](#)

Your support today will allow us to mobilize with Greenpeace teams around the world ahead of the meetings in Jamaica this summer. **We'll shine the spotlight on the destructive potential of deep-sea mining** so that the public and media understand what's at stake... and the negotiators know the world is watching.

Of course, **the deep-sea mining lobby won't make it easy.** It already tried (and failed!) to have Greenpeace banned from attending those critical meetings. But **they won't silence our independent voice.**

World Oceans Day is just around the corner, on June 8 — another opportunity to remind decision-makers that oceans in crisis need protection, now. But **we're falling short of a key fundraising goal, with the deadline only five days away.**

[Will you give a \\$25 donation today to help defend the oceans from deep-sea mining?](#)

With sincere thanks for all you do,

Christy  
Executive Director, Greenpeace Canada

SOURCES

[1] From Global Ocean Treaty to Protection at Sea, September 2023, Greenpeace International

[2] Predicting the impacts of mining deep sea polymetallic nodules in the Pacific Ocean, May 2020, Mining Watch