

## ORILLIA NATURALISTS' CLUB MINUTES

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019, 7:30 – 9:30 at OMAH

1. Denis Paccagnella welcomed the group who had braved the weather to attend! He read the acknowledgement of the Treaty Land on which we meet. We had 7 guests, among them representatives of various groups with interest in the local watershed - Bayshore water tester, Leacock residences, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition – 1 of whom gave a presentation to the Club - and 1 new Member.
2. Sightings
  - Wendy Hutchings had 2 White-throated sparrows and a Red-breasted nuthatch (with yellow breast) in a flock of Juncos. She also had a Turkey Vulture. Sharon Hancock reported a similar nuthatch.
  - Adam Thomson had a flock of red polls for 1 day.
3. Denis moved the acceptance of the Minutes of the Jan. 2, 2019 meeting with the correction in# 8. Speaker thanked by Anne-Marie Kungl
4. Adam Thomson announced the death of Rob Wilson, a long time member and Past President of ONC. Information will be in the papers.
5. Committee reports
  - a. Conservation --Pat Woodford reported on the replies to letters she wrote to Doug Ford and Jill Dunlop---(attached)
  - b. Treasurer--Donald Macdonald reported that the club remains solvent and is expected to do so at least until the membership rollover in late August. Members who wish more details may speak with Donald, although he did present details at the meeting.
  - c. Programme –Marilyn Clark
    - i. Feb23 Snowshoe to East Coulson- Heather Ewing contact . She will be at Zehr's at 9:30 – finished around 12:00.
    - ii. Couchiching Conservancy AGM - Hawk Ridge, March 2, 3 – 5 pm. – speaker Janet Sumner.
    - iii. March 6 meeting – experiment -NANCY Ironside's Quiz Night – no pressure , no pressure in teams FUN Night! – Nancy will bring pictures – some from Margo Holt's collection.
    - iv. Invitation from South Peel for May weekend in Bruce Peninsula– info to follow.
    - v. Red Bay Lodge June 7<sup>th</sup> weekend to Bruce Peninsula with Arni and Diane Stinnissen opportunity – details coming in separate email.
  - d. Hospitality - Pat and crew provided break as Warren is away.
  - e. Publicity – Nancy – check Website and Facebook!
  - f. Ontario Nature, Archives, Membership – no reports.

6. Claire Malcolmson from Innisfil gave a very informative slide presentation and talked for approximately 10 minutes, on RESCUE LAKE SIMCOE COALITION and LAKE SIMCOE PROTECTION PLAN. The Naturalist community fought to remove Clause 10 from BILL 66 and succeeded. She outlined the achievements, continuing concerns and targets from 2005 when the group formed.  
A review is available next week and any stories, photos, help etc. is appreciated
7. After the break, Donald Macdonald introduced Dr. Tom Edge, (who spoke to us 4 years ago on a different topic). His current research on water testing is using methods similar to those used in health testing. Using advances in DNA sequencing of micro-organisms, researchers tested sewage and toxins at several Toronto beaches, as Ecoli testing is still primarily used for determining the safety of beaches.  
Marilyn Clark thanked him.
8. The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

Notes taken by Shirley Thomson,

Minutes edited and submitted by Carol Strickland, Secretary, ONC.

Att: Correspondence to and from Pat Woodford re Bill 66 (Premier Doug Ford and MPP Jill Dunlop).

Premier Doug Ford of Ontario,  
Legislative Building, 1 Queen's Park,  
Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A1.

January 13, 2019.

Dear Premier Ford,

The members of the Orillia Naturalists' Club are deeply concerned because Bill 66 will destroy conservation lands that many organizations like our own have worked hard to protect. These lands have significant ecological importance.

One of your election promises was to protect the Greenbelt. Now you have reversed this promise.

The four Acts that you want to change will greatly weaken not encourage business in our area – Simcoe County. One of the main businesses in our region is tourism. Tourism brings anglers and hunters to our area. The anglers need the Lake Simcoe Protection Act and the Clean Water Act. Without these Acts being strongly enforced the lakes and rivers become polluted and the fish populations decline greatly. Areas like the Greenbelt and the Oak Ridges Moraine contain large forested sections for deer and other wildlife which is why hunters are coming. These areas attract hikers, cyclists and naturalists. Many tourists come for the beautiful scenery here. One of the reasons people move here is because of its natural beauty. If the lakes are polluted and the forests are levelled the tourists will no longer come and spend their money.

The lands that are used for development should be in or near the cities and towns where the services that they require are available. The development lands should not be in the unserved protected lands. It is destructive and expensive to have development in unserved protected lands.

Premier Ford why do you want to destroy so much of your Province and ours that makes is very **Special**.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Woodford, Conservation Officer, Orillia Naturalists' Club.

Premier Ford's email reply:

**“From:** Premier of Ontario | Premier ministre de l’Ontario  
<[Premier@ontario.ca](mailto:Premier@ontario.ca)>

**Subject: Automatic reply: Bill 66**

**Date:** January 13, 2019 at 10:27:55 AM EST

**To:** Pat <[strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca](mailto:strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca)>

Thank you for your email. Your thoughts, comments and input are greatly valued.

You can be assured that all emails and letters are carefully read, reviewed and taken into consideration.

There may be occasions when, given the issues you have raised and the need to address them effectively, we will forward a copy of your correspondence to the appropriate government official. Accordingly, a response may take several business days.

Thanks again for your email.”

(francophone version not included in this summary)

## Correspondence from and to Ms. Jill Dunlop, MPP.

From: Dunlop, Jill [jill.dunlop@pc.ola.org](mailto:jill.dunlop@pc.ola.org)  
Subject: RE: "Open for Business" Act (Bill 66) - Keep your promise to protect the Greenbelt  
Date: January 24, 2019 at 9:58 AM  
To: [strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca](mailto:strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca)

Hello Patricia,

We have received great feedback from residents in Simcoe North regarding Schedule 10 in Bill 66. I appreciated hearing from people directly - through email, letters, and in person meetings on their unique perspectives on Schedule 10 of the Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018. The feedback that I had received from the residents of Simcoe North was shared with the Minister from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, and the information we received was discussed at length. Upon reviewing what residents, stakeholders, MPPs, and municipalities were saying, it was decided that we would not be proceeding with Schedule 10 of Bill 66.

As you know, we recently introduced Bill 66 – the proposed Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018. Included in the legislation, were proposed changes to the Planning Act that would create a new economic development tool, the open-for-business planning by-law. The tool would be available to all local municipalities to ensure they can

act quickly to attract businesses seeking development sites by streamlining land use planning approvals.

The use of this tool would never have been approved at the expense of the Greenbelt or other provincial interests like water quality or public health and safety. Our Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan committed to strong enforcement action to protect our lakes, waterways and groundwater from pollution. We will build on the ministry's monitoring and

drinking water source protection activities.

That said, our government has listened to the concerns raised in regards to Schedule 10 of Bill 66 and when the legislature returns in February, we will not proceed with Schedule

10 of the Bill.

I value the feedback I received on this specific issue and I am proud to have been able to represent the feedback from residents of Simcoe North regarding Schedule 10 of Bill 66 at Queen's Park.

For a copy of Bill 66 – the proposed Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018 and to monitor the status of the Bill through the legislative process, please visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website: [www.ola.org/en/legislativebusiness/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-66](http://www.ola.org/en/legislativebusiness/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-66).

Sincerely,

From the Office of Jill Dunlop, MPP

From the Office of Jill Dunlop, MPP

Simcoe North

Email: [jill.dunlopco@pc.ola.org](mailto:jill.dunlopco@pc.ola.org)

Telephone: 705-326-3246 / 705-526-8671

From: [strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca](mailto:strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca) <[strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca](mailto:strix.woodfordii@sympatico.ca)>

Sent: January 19, 2019 12:18 PM

To: Ford, Doug <doug.ford@pc.ola.org>

Cc: Dunlop, Jill <jill.dunlop@pc.ola.org>; PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca

Subject: Re: "Open for Business" Act (Bill 66) - Keep your promise to protect the Greenbelt

I am writing to you to ask that you keep your promise to protect the Greenbelt and therefore call

back legislature and introduce a new Bill 66 that stops the attacks on the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges

Moraine, Lake Simcoe, Source Water Protection Areas and other important protected farm and

natural areas to development.

During the election, you promised to protect the Greenbelt and you recently released a "Made in

Ontario" Environment Plan which made the same commitment.

Provincial and municipal data show there is enough land already available in our towns and cities

for our housing needs up to 2041. There is also a surplus of land for new businesses and we

should be encouraging investment in these areas. By building within our existing towns and cities

throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe we can increase the supply of affordable housing and

jobs in our existing serviced communities while holding firm on urban boundaries.

Protected farmland supplies local food and enhances food security at a time when prices are rising

and supplies from other countries are increasingly threatened. Farming is also economically

important and provides jobs to thousands. Sprawl onto farmland destroys farm businesses and

farm communities.

Water is critical to human survival. Opening areas that have been protected for the safety of our

drinking water to development threatens our long term health and increases flood risks.

Natural areas provide habitat for wildlife, sequester carbon and mitigate climate change, provide

recreation and clean our air.

Once gone, farmland and natural areas are gone forever. Please keep your promise and change

Bill 66.

Thank you,

Patricia Woodford

L3V 6R5

L3V 6R5

cc: Ms. Jill Dunlop, MPP

Room 445

Main Legislative Building

Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A8  
cc: Planning Consultation Planning Consultation Ont