

The Art Zone Studio

The Original Outdoor Visual Arts Experience

NEWSLETTER

August/ September 2023

As we enter August the Studio is open most afternoons if the weather is good, which it has continued to be most days (see the list of open dates later in the Newsletter). We have not experienced a summer like this in South Lake Simcoe for some years. Indeed, the weather has been very wet with storms, some severe arriving every week. Around the world floods and alternately record warming and drought in Europe and even in Canada British Columbia and the North-West Territories. What will September bring?

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Do not miss the upcoming special Art Show and sale Saturday, August 19 at the Studio (information below).



SATURDAY
August 19th
11a.m.- 6 p.m.

email: ArtZoneStudioCanada@gmail.com

Summer ART Show & Sale

Studio Artists – Featured: Paul Harpley and his daughter Janet Harpley-Aco (paintings, drawings, garden art)

Special again this summer: Works by African artists and craft creators associated with the Studio

Town of Georgina, Wilderness Places Art **Phone: 905-722-8021**

Located west off Park Road on Frog St. one concession south of the hamlet of Egypt. 6045 Frog St., Town of Georgina

Featuring a unique *Artist Studio* experience that focuses on Art inspired by Nature. The *Rustic Studio and Gallery space in the woods* located in Northern York Region south of Sutton in beautiful South Lake Simcoe. Experienced professional artists represented including painting, drawing, textile, garden art, jewelry, and unique African and Inuit sculpture art items.

Full limited editions reproduction collection, and original art of Canadian Nature Artist Paul Harpley featured.
Website: www.harpley.ca Picture Framing consultation: Quality and Affordable solutions.

Paintings, drawings, sculpture, fabric and Garden art, originals, prints and limited-edition reproductions. e-mail paul@harpley.ca By appointment or by Chance.

The **Art Zone Studio**

2023 Summer ART SHOWS – Paul Harpley exhibitor

Lindsay 31st Annual Craft and Gift Show

Art Zone Studio Booth

Wednesday August 9, 10 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Lindsay Fair Grounds

Sponsored by the Lindsay Agricultural Society

Phone: 705-324-5551

Baysville Arts and Craft Show

Find us on August 12th 9am to 4pm

and August 13th, 10am to 4pm.

Come and have a great experience in Baysville!

Information:

Baysville Riverfront Group, Box 4 Baysville, ON POB 1A0 Website:

<https://baysvilleriverfront.ca/>

Lindsay – Adelaide Place

Summer Bazaar on the Terrace

Art Zone Studio Tent

Tuesday, August 29, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

84 Adelaide Street South

<https://retirementcommunity.adelaideplace.com/recreation/>

Paul Harpley to be a participating Artist in this year's **Kawartha Arts Festival**

At the **FENELON FALLS FAIRGROUNDS**

Saturday and Sunday September 2 and 3

Hours: Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm

Phone: 705-887-3606 **Website:** kawarthaartsfestival.com

Email: kawartsfestival@gmail.com

- Free admission
- Door prizes with donation at the door
- Artist demonstrations
- 'Young At Art' display
- Refreshments
- Wheelchair accessible

The **Art Zone Studio** – Dates open as follows

Between 2 and 6 p.m. (weather dependent) on the following dates:

Tuesday August 22

Wednesdays September 6, 13

Thursdays August 17, 24, 31

Friday September 8

Original paintings, drawings, sculpture, garden art, limited edition prints, Inuit and African sculpture, affordable framing of works by studio artists, and more. Great art and savings exclusively at the **Art Zone Studio**.

Or, by chance...

e-mail ArtZoneStudioCanada@gmail.com or phone 905-722-8021
ahead if weather is questionable.

Featured artwork at The **Art Zone Studio**



Canadian Nature Artist **Paul Harpley**

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Wilderness Places Paintings

Limited Edition and
Original Art

Art Zone Studio

6045 Frog Street, Pefferlaw, ON L0E 1N0

905-722-8021

By Appointment OR By Chance

Original acrylic paintings, watercolours, drawings, sculpture, garden art, jewelry. Canadian artists.

Also, African and Canadian Inuit Art.

Other artists represented: Graham Ames, Natcho Franzoi, Janet Harpley-Aco, and Thomas Amoah.



Georgina Studio Tour: September 23-24, 10am – 5 pm

Again this year **Paul Harpley** is participating in the Georgina Studio Tour. Although The Art Zone Studio will not be set up for this weekend, he will be joining his daughter **Janet Harpley-Aco** exhibiting at her studio (**Artistic Approach Studio**, unit 7, 10 The Queensway South in Keswick). This will be Studio “46” on the Georgina Studio Tour map below, also found at georginastudiotour.com. The weekend event promises to be an important fine art event.



GEORGINA STUDIO TOUR

Janet's Artistic Approach Studio is at 10 The Queensway South, Keswick (Unit 7). georginastudiotour.com Studio "46" 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. artists in attendance



The **Art Zone Studio OPEN**

Lots of inventory! Something to interest everyone.

Come for a drive and see us in cottage country!

The Art Zone Studio is a unique Outdoor Visual Arts experience (weather dependent).



“Moonlight Reflections, Timber Wolf”, limited edition 21.5” X 17” \$45. 325 s/n, Paul Harpley

THRIVE COWORKING COMMUNITY in Lindsay (18 Kent St. W.)

Saturday June 24th

First Kawartha Festival of the Arts

Visual Art and Music performance – Paul Harpley exhibiting visual artist.

Paul was invited to participate in this new and innovative event in the THRIVE Coworking Community Space in downtown Lindsay. A great time was had for performers, artists, vendors, and visitors to the show.

Paul and wife Debra both were children in the 1960's and 70's at their families' cottages in the Kawartha Lakes, before meeting at the University of Toronto. Following busy lives with their own young children growing up in the 90's, and still summering in the Kawarthas, and much farther afield to Algonquin, Killarney and other northern Parks and wilderness areas they were finally able, with Paul's work, to celebrate the Kawarthas in this important show.

CONSERVATION and Science News

Great Lakes Science Conference, IAGLR 66th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research, *Adapting to Climate Change*. Held in Toronto, May 8-12, 2023.

The International Joint Commission held its Annual Conference in Toronto at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Toronto. The first time in 44 years, scientists from all over the world met and presented the most recent and significant science results, innovations and conservation ideas and plans focus on large freshwater lakes. Yes, scientists from all over the world including Australia, Africa and beyond. The annual conference now is concerned with all great (large) Lakes around the world.

This science forum from May 8-12 right in our 'own backyard' included a special session, posters, and papers on **Lake Simcoe science**, also coinciding with the 2022 State of the Great Lakes Report, a major update on the Great lakes Observing System-Annual Impact Report, the Smart Great Lakes Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and GIGLR the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research, and more.

Paul Harpley presented a paper on the Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe research organization continuing science research and innovation over two decades with partners in the South Lake Simcoe region (information below).

Paper Poster Presented at the Conference: Current Science Research, South Lake Simcoe Region

Harpley, Paul¹, Hilton, Ian¹ and Milne, Rob ², *Probing the Land/Water interface at rivers and streams: South Lake Simcoe, Sand and Clay plain landscape*, (1) The Zephyr Society of Lake Simcoe, Pefferlaw, ON, Canada, (2) Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, Canada (presenter in bold). Accepted paper, Conference: **IAGLR 66th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research, Adapting to Climate Change**. May 8-12, 2023. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
Conference Link: <https://iaglr.org/iaglr2023/>

COVID-19 and Canadian Zoos

Current Canadian COVID-19 and Wildlife Research/Publication:

Harpley, P. J.(2022) *Zoos in Canada: Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic*, Book Chapter, 28 pages, Springer Nature publisher, U.S.A.

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on Canadian zoos' current and potentially future operations, form, and function as a modern western zoo. Evolving from ancient institutions that have responded over millennia to their human community interests, desires, social/cultural needs, and constraints of animal keeping and display, zoos continue to evolve. Impacts of this major pandemic on public recreation, animal behaviour, animal health and care, conservation, and other programs in the geographic context of diverse Canadian zoos are explored. Provisional observations and analysis are presented, even as the pandemic still rages in many geographic regions of the world. A cold climate northern country, Canada's unique zoo institutional challenges are investigated, for future zoo prospects in an emerging world with zoonotic and other human disease risks, biodiversity losses, and changing climate. New perspectives with

historical geography considerations are also presented including a summary of the major impacts of COVID-19 and Canada's response, resilience and institutional responses, animal behaviour change and care and repercussions on other Canadian zoos.

Link: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-94350-9_123

The 2022 Annual Sutton Christmas Bird Count (C.B.C.) Report

The Annual Sutton Christmas Bird Count was **Tuesday December 27, 2022** with a total of 11,994 individual birds of 55 species in the count area including parts of York Region's municipalities Georgina, East Gwillimbury; Durham Region's northwest Uxbridge districts, and parts of south-east Simcoe County. A total of 33 participants were involved in observing on the day.

The observation day started as overcast at 6:30 a.m. for those "owling". The air temperature was -5 degrees Celsius. As the day progressed the temperature rose only slightly to -3 degrees by 1:15 to 2:00 p.m. when the sun came out briefly for one hour and continued cloudy to the end of the day. Winds began from the southwest at 8 km/hour, changing to 10 kph from southwest at 10 a.m. continuing the rest of the day. Lake Simcoe, and most moving rivers and streams were partially open of ice, except Cook's Bay which had mostly become ice covered with snow, from the previous 3-4 days very windy/snow-Storm Bomb that hit our area December 24, and most of Southern Ontario. The lake was fully open north of Roche's Point.

We had good geographic coverage of participant observers for the count area this year, and better than the last two COVID-19 pandemic years, as was typical of many counts. It was great to be back to past normalized annual count circumstances.

The total 55 species on the day (2 species less than the 2021 Count), and 1 count week bird species recorded, was within the typical historical range of annual species documented. With more snow on the ground before the count than usual, and seasonal temperatures it was noted by participants that some feeders were not stocked up with seed as much as in recent years, and birds were more dispersed feeding on natural forest/field food.

Highlights and notables for the count day were American Black duck (7), Redhead duck (3), Hooded merganser (1), Bufflehead (2), Trumpeter swan (36), Merlin (1), Great Black-backed gull (4), Northern harrier (2), Belted kingfisher (1), Brown creeper (3), American robin (303), White-throated sparrow (3), and Common redpoll (2).

Black-capped chickadee (290) but no Boreal chickadees a few of which have been seen in Southern Ontario this early winter. Two land birds of interest with high numbers for our count were Eastern bluebird (10) and Red-breasted nuthatch (14).

Groups of Trumpeter swans were seen swimming along the lake in the week of the count, providing exciting waterbird viewing spectacle for holiday walkers. One bird species expected on count day but not seen, though documented for count week was Ruffed grouse (1). Bald eagles (8) were good but in some years we have got more on count day.

The cold, intense wind and snowy weather before the count may have influenced results with migrants heading south moving out of our area faster than usual. The arrival of Snow buntings appearing in the area a couple of days before count day in fields and flying across roads riding in from the northwest on the storm were certainly more prominent than in some years. Winter finches, though projected to have some flights south in the eastern Canada were not strongly represented in South Lake Simcoe this year.

Three of the four expected owls were recorded on count day: Great Horned owl (3), Barred owl (4), and Snowy owl (3). Usually more Snowy owls are seen on the Sutton Count and a generally more northerly flight of Snowy owls in eastern Canada has been observed this year by some.

Thanks to all participants on the Christmas Bird Count this year as a field birders or feeder watcher/property observers. South Lake Simcoe Naturalists members' contributions, and local or 'from further afield' birders' efforts always result in documenting birds that would otherwise not be found. Your collective efforts on the day are vital to annual count success.

Paul and Debra Harpley



Trumpeter swan, Heather MacKay and Joe Seara



Bald eagle Juvenile and adult, Heather MacKay and Joe Seara

Saturday October 15, 2022 - Rouge National Urban Park – Paul Harpley led trip for the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists – Report



Lower Rouge R. Mouth looking west to Lake Ontario Rouge River mouth Bars, rare habitat and Nuclear Station

Members arrived at the famous Lower Rouge marsh and Lake Ontario beaches area of the Rouge National Urban Park. This trip was organized as an autumn strategic nature study and trail walking outing. So, starting at Lake Ontario was important since in many ways this location in the City of Toronto in the south-east area of Scarborough was where the original movement and organization “Save the Rouge” started over 45 years ago, that led eventually to the National Park. A very brief history of the very significant natural heritage areas here and historical rare and significant wildlife was provided to participants. Birding proceeded along the marsh and under the large railway bridge out to Lake Ontario at the beach bar area. A number of shorebirds, waterfowl and even a fly-over by a migrant Peregrine falcon was observed and recorded (species summary below). Attention was pointed out to the very low water level in the marshes (areas that also can flood severely in spring freshets) and have in recent years caused severe damage.



Members birding at Rouge River mouth at Lake Ontario



Rouge River Marshes area – very low water level



Short-billed dowitcher

The power of nature and its impact on the natural habitat and recent federal government agency Parks Canada insistence on building boardwalks and bridges up and across the Rouge here in the future has been controversial and have had many calling for stopping the initiative. This impact could be devastating to the long-term natural heritage value of the Park (below see information about this controversy – planning process rigour issues remain).

2021-04-26 **Critics fear boardwalk plans will harm Pickering and Toronto's Rouge Park – Pickering News Advertiser** <https://www.toronto.com/news-story/10370398-critics-fear-boardwalk-plans-will-harm-pickering-and-toronto-s-rouge-park/>

2022-03-23 **'Major deficiencies': expert says Parks Canada plan for Rouge Marsh boardwalk should be dropped** <https://www.thestar.com/local-toronto-scarborough/news/2022/03/23/major-deficiencies-expert-says-parks-canada-plan-for-rouge-marsh-boardwalk-should-be-dropped.html>

2022-04-19 **Many concerns with Rouge Beach Improvement Project, Scarborough Mirror** https://www.toronto.com/opinion/many-concerns-with-rouge-beach-improvement-project/article_687d3c63-5e2a-5c50-b56e-46ba87da83e1.html

Professional Design Comment on the controversial Rouge Marshes Boardwalk project by Paul Harpley and colleagues to Federal Government Agency, Rouge National Urban Park and their consultants was sent on May 1, 2021. In the submission we advised (with detailed narrative) that “we have been involved for over 40 years in many previous creative processes, involved in major facility projects very similar to this circumstance. We feel that there must be much more broad discussion and open consultation with diverse professionals beyond usual landscape consultants and engineering specialists now, while design is still fluid. A new solution to this old boardwalk idea and device. We would be willing to meet with a serious design team consultation looking at better design alternatives and operational arrangements to what has been presented to this point on this project”. We received no response to our comments from federal Parks Canada staff, or their consultants. Unfortunately, not unusual for federal agencies as we in Georgina are well aware, as in the case of the Pefferlaw Aerodrome disaster and federal Ministry of Transport staff and federal government politicians.

Paul Harpley



Main C.N.R. railway crossing with Go train at mouth of the Rouge River and heavy 1960's muscular steel/concrete structural infrastructure of Highway #2 at main Rouge River. The Park has lots of man-made infrastructure throughout its lands like rail, highways, hydro lines and major bridge and highway works. In spite of this, and in support of the original save the Rouge members vision so many years ago, the Park finally came to fruition in recent years.

A full day of naturalist adventures, by the early afternoon took us to the important and extensive Central Woodland Complex area of the Park just north of the Highway #2 bridge structures, east of the old (now gone) Brigadoon Hotel and Resort of past cultural/historic interest. An original, fully natural Carolinian Canada site, most northerly in Ontario/Canada is especially important for its high biodiversity and significant botanical species like Blue beech, Black maple and further north, old Sycamore trees locations which members visited. Also visited were wooded wetlands, forests and meadows of the park with interesting birds, trees and herbaceous wildflower and other plants. A highlight was an adventurous climb to a wilder part of the park where an adult migrant Bald eagle flew by, above our member group and Rouge River. We all got a great look at this magnificent bird.

The National Park stretches north up the watershed to the Stouffville area and beyond, to the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Park, still a work in progress, once fully established, will span 79.1 square kilometres (30.5 sq mi).



Wilderness-like area of the Rouge that had a Bald eagle soaring through seen by SLSN members.

Wildlife and plant species observed in the order when first species encountered, and numbers seen on the outing.

Birds: *Lower Rouge region* – Mallard 7, N. Shoveler 15, Green-winged teal 10, Gt. Blue heron 1, G. Yellowlegs 3, Double-crested cormorant 3, Short-billed dowitcher 2, Wood duck 8, Blue-winged teal 3, Canada geese 7, Herring gull 2, Ring-billed gull 3, Song sparrow 5, Peregrine falcon 1, Rusty blackbird 1, Blue jay 1, N. Cardinal 1, House Sparrow 1. *Finch Meander area* - Bald eagle 1, Pileated woodpecker 1.

Photos: cell phone, Paul Harpley

NEWS

Ontario Government Planning Changes Not supported by public!

An Assessment of Ontario Public Opinion Regarding Bill 23 (the *More Homes Built Faster Act*) and Related Measures Affecting the Greenbelt and Affordable Housing

Toronto, April 2023

Highlights: On-line survey research was conducted in the period December 2022 to March 2023, to assess Ontario public opinion regarding the recent measures by the Government of Ontario related to Bill 23 and its potential impact on housing and the Greenbelt.

The on-line survey research was carried out independently by an expert survey research group and not funded by government or other sources. Dozens of NGOs and community organizations from across Ontario participated in the stakeholder portion of the survey.

The results show widespread opposition in Ontario to the Government's Bill 23 and measures affecting the Greenbelt and affordable housing. Based on over 6,400 responses, the survey showed, in summary:

- **In a random sample survey, four out of five Ontarians surveyed (81%) called for the repeal of Bill 23 and for an ethics review on the Government's handling of these measures.** People are calling for Government action to reconsider these measures.
- **As to housing, the government rationale for Bill 23 and the related measures, 79% of those surveyed believe the government's measures will have no impact on the affordable housing which is desperately needed in Ontario today.**
- **At 80%, opposition is much higher than a Mainstreet survey published in December 2022, and another published by Abacus Surveys in March 2023 which both reported that people were opposed to the Bill 23 measures 2 to 1.** In both of those surveys, Ontarians were vehemently opposed to the Bill 23-related measures adopted.
- **In additional targeted surveys: Opposition was shown to be widespread across many specific groups examined (such as farmers, planners, housing providers, ratepayers (homeowners), and others), not only among environmental groups.** Further, 80-90% of Ontarians pointed to numerous serious, negative impacts expected from these measures in areas as diverse as municipal finance, housing, farming, and environment.

In short, a strong majority of Ontarians urge the Government to reverse the Bill 23 measures.

More details are provided within.

Petition calls for reinstatement of Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund

2023-02-09

Online petition can be signed until April 1; 'We are privileged to live in such a beautiful place and have access to the unique natural resource,' says environmentalist

InnisfilToday StaffFeb 9, 2023 7:00 PM



A satellite view of Lake Simcoe. Photo courtesy the Province of Ontario

NEWS RELEASE

JOHN BRASSARD, BARRIE-INNISFIL MP

Barrie-Innisfil member of Parliament John Brassard is pleased to sponsor House of Commons Petition E-4278 to reinstate the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund and protect the watershed for future generations.

The e-petition, open for signatures until April 1, was initiated by local advocate Zoe Bystrov, founder of Youth for Lake Simcoe. Click on [this link](#) or visit [this website](#) to sign the petition and support Lake Simcoe before April 1. Five hundred signatures are needed for Brassard to table the petition in the House of Commons for a government response.

“We are privileged to live in such a beautiful place and have access to the unique natural resource, Lake Simcoe,” Bystrov said. “The lake and its watershed are vital to our community, not only as a source of drinking water, but as a place where people come to relax, spend time with their families and friends and enjoy various water activities.

“Being on my paddleboard last summer, it broke my heart to see litter such as CDs, plastic bags, yogurt containers, and even an old tire floating in the water and accumulating along the shoreline. Litter fills our lake with microplastics and other substances which are potentially not safe.”

Petition E-4278 demands the reinstatement of the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund, a successful initiative created by the former Conservative government. With \$59 million, Conservatives supported over 200 local grassroots projects between 2007 and 2017 and produced tangible results including phosphorus reduction, improvements in lake water quality, and increases in native fish species populations.

The Liberal government refuses to act on their 2019 election promise to reinstate funding. As Barrie-Innisfil member of Parliament, Brassard has relentlessly advocated for Lake Simcoe in the House of Commons and immediately after the 2019 election he and fellow area Conservative MPs wrote a letter to the prime minister and environment minister demanding they make good on their election promise to provide \$40 million over four years.

“It was inspiring to see the success the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund had on the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed led by dedicated local groups and volunteers who want to maintain a healthy Lake Simcoe for generations to come.” Brassard said.

Brassard continued: “A healthy and sustainable Lake Simcoe is important to the entire region of central Ontario as a source of drinking water, economic opportunity, recreation and tourism. That’s why I encourage everyone in central Ontario and beyond to sign Zoe’s petition and pressure the Liberal government to immediately reinstate funding for programs that will restore shoreline habitats, clean up contaminated sites and reduce wastewater discharges.”

In 2021 Bystrov won the Ernie Crossland Young Conservationist Award from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority for her work with Youth for Lake Simcoe, a strong youth voice.

“Zoe’s determination and passion for Lake Simcoe are inspiring and I am thrilled to be working with her on this tremendously important cause,” Brassard concluded...

Read more:

https://www.innisfiltoday.ca/local-news/petition-calls-for-reinstatement-of-lake-simcoe-clean-up-fund-6516491?utm_source=InnisfilToday.ca&utm_campaign=87d91a509d-DailyINN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_665c8f3720-87d91a509d-324156330

2023-02-23

York Media

Trudeau Government chastised about neglect of Clean Up of Lake Simcoe



'Put the money out in the real world': Bradford, East Gwillimbury, Georgina councils call on feds to deliver funds to help Lake Simcoe

Councillors from watershed communities call on feds to restore and protect Lake Simcoe

[Aileen Zangouei](#)

Simcoe.com

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Councillors from watershed communities in York Region, Georgina and East Gwillimbury, and Bradford West Gwillimbury are calling on the federal government to deliver on its promise to help the health of Lake Simcoe.

In late January, watershed communities passed motions calling on the federal government to restore and protect Lake Simcoe.

A similar motion was passed last year in Bradford.

In 2022, pressure from municipalities and conservation authorities throughout Ontario's watershed seemed to have an effect as the federal budget included a \$19.6-million funding commitment for the Freshwater Action Fund, which included Lake Simcoe.

"It's in the budget but as far as we are aware, it's just sitting there ... and so the money isn't actually out in the real world making a difference," said Bradford Ward 2 Coun. Jonathan Scott.

"The motion was passed by all of council, and (Mayor James Leduc) wrote a letter to Minister of Finance (Chrystia Freeland) and Minister of Environment and Climate Change (Steven Guilbeault) to say we really expect that the federal government will deliver this funding.

"That it won't just be in the budget but actually go toward more tree planting, and cleaning rivers and streams and shoreline of Lake Simcoe," Scott said.

"It's really effective and also unique to have all the municipalities in this region asking for the same thing, and this, to the best of my knowledge, has never happened before and packs a powerful punch to the government," he said.

The funding is also aimed toward cleaning up contaminated sites — cleaning up anything that pollutes the lakes.

Georgina Ward 3 Coun. Dave Neeson, said the creation of the Freshwater Action Fund by the federal government was a "welcomed and significant first step, with the inclusion of Lake Simcoe in 2022."

The Freshwater Action Fund, initiated in 2021, was embraced by local councillors because dedicated funding for Lake Simcoe had ended in 2017, with the demise of the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund.

"Watershed resident, environmental non-governmental organizations and concerned members of council are seeking the yet-to-be released funding and criteria details so that we can all work together to ensure for the long term health and sustainability of the lake," Neeson told Yorkregion.com.

"Simply put, we need real action with demonstrable outcomes and we will continue to work with our federal partners to jointly achieve what we all desire. However, our federal partners need to recognize that time is of the essence," Neeson said.

East Gwillimbury Coun. Scott Crone said that while the government pledged funds, "there have been no details about what is coming."

"I'm irritated to say nothing has been done to date," he said. "It's really becoming urgent for the conservation authority and the health of the lake to make sure that we get this money."

With the region growing rapidly, and Lake Simcoe being the watershed environment where residents live, work, and play, there's a lot of new pressure on the lake.

"We need it to be healthy for future generations to enjoy, and fisheries, and to be sustainable. It's so linked to the health of our climate, and we know this federal Liberal government says they care about the environment and have done a number of positive things in the environmental areas, but this is one reason they seem to be pretty capable of, just pulling the trigger and getting it done," Scott said...

Read More: https://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/10852537--put-the-money-out-in-the-real-world-bradford-east-gwillimbury-georgina-councils-call-on-feds-to-deliver-funds-to-help-lake-simcoe/?s=n1?source=newsletter&utm_content=a07&utm_source=ml_nl&utm_medium=email&utm_email=6EA0E815B8FFE40A55C58C2297DE34C8&utm_campaign=yrha_147093

Bird populations Decline in North America at Tipping Point

2023-04-17

Audubon



THE STATE OF BIRDS: A CRISIS TIPPING POINT

Golden-winged Warbler.

Birds are at a tipping point

“Urgent action is needed to help these birds before they become endangered.” That was the dire warning in the latest State of the Birds report from the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative: **More than half of U.S. bird species are in decline. And of those, 70 species, including the beloved Golden-winged Warbler and Rufous Hummingbird, are identified as at a “Tipping Point”—birds that have lost 50% or more of their populations in the past 50 years and are on track to lose another half or more in the coming decades.**