

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ACTION ALERT NUMBER 1

‘We believe in the power of our community to secure a better future.’

Environmental Stewardship is our District 22’s chosen focus, one of RTOERO’s Advocacy Issues.

Through our individual and collective actions to protect and enhance natural spaces, we hope to make a difference to our quality of life and leave a legacy for our loved ones.

To this end, environmental information, suggested activities, issues and action alerts will be shared via newsletters and/or email blasts periodically.

Some issues require prompt attention and action. They will be shared via email blast. The following issue is of urgent concern for your consideration and action.

Action Alert: Ontario is making destruction of protected lands legal.

Background: The Ontario government issued an illegal Minister’s Zoning Order (MZO) to allow a warehouse on the protected Duffins Creek wetland. Last month, some environmental groups took the province to court. Now, knowing it will lose the case, the province is changing the law to make its illegal actions legal. Not only is the government trying to change the law to make its illegal actions legal, it’s sneaking the change through under cover of a pandemic, hidden in a Bill about broadband internet. If this law is passed, it would mean that MZOs, except in the Greenbelt, will be exempt from the law that says you can’t destroy protected areas like provincially significant wetlands, woodlands, or wildlife habitat, or in areas important for water quality or protection from flooding. And it would be retroactive, so MZOs that were illegal when they were issued, like in Duffins Creek, would suddenly be deemed legal.

Action: Before March 15th -

Call and/or email your MPP and Minister Steve Clark to demand that they REMOVE SCHEDULE 3 OF BILL 257.

Additional information can be found at yourstoprotect.ca and environmentaldefence.ca