# [***DURHAM LANDS HELPING TO COMBAT BIODIVERSITY LOSS; CONSERVATION LANDS IN WHITBY, OSHAWA, CLARINGTON JOIN 30 BY 30 PLEDGE***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68C6-8WS1-JDV5-F3GB-00000-00&context=1516831)

Clarington This Week (Ontario)

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**Body**

Conservation areas across Clarington, Oshawa and Whitby are playing a part in combatting ***biodiversity*** ***loss*** as part of Canada's 30 by 30 pledge.

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) announced 2,458.2 hectares of its conservation lands will be designated under the 30 by 30 pledge, which promises to protect 30 per cent of the country's land and water by 2030.

"(CLOCA) works hard to acquire, manage and restore conservation areas to protect valuable ecosystem features and services across its jurisdiction, and also provides important opportunities for the pub- lic to interact with these spaces,"said Jamie Davidson, director of watershed planning and natural heritage for CLOCA.

"This work is particularly important in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, where watershed and ecosystem health are under tremendous pressure from land-use changes and the effects of climate change, and where public access to quality green space is at a premium."

Lands designated under the pledge include:the Bowmanville/Westside Marshes, Enfield, Enniskillen, Long Sault and Stephen's Gulch Conservation Areas in Clarington, Lynde Shores and Heber Down Conservation Areas in Whitby, Purple Woods Conservation Area in Osh- awa and Crow's Pass Conservation Area in Port Perry.

"The new designation reinforces the fact that CLOCA's conservation areas are not only critical regional assets that protect and maintain local watershed and community health, but that they also play an important role in the maintenance of provincial, national and international ecosystem ***biodiversity***,"said Davidson.

The 30 by 30 initiative, first announced at the United Nations ***Biodiversity*** Conference in Montreal last December, is focused on protecting nature and halting ***biodiversity*** ***loss*** by protecting 30 per cent of Canada's land and water by 2030.

The CLOCA lands were assessed in partnership with Ontario Nature and determined to meet national standards for the protection of ***biodiversity***, which qualifies them as protected areas. Under federal regulations protected areas are designated to protect important parts of Canada's ecosystems, maintain essential ecosys- tem services, safeguard habitat and provide opportunities for tourism, recreation and connecting with nature.

"These contributions help to sustain a robust network of near-urban nature areas for all life in the region,"said Shelley Petrie of the Greenbelt Foundation. "We hope that these efforts inspire other land managers to protect and conserve natural areas within the greenbelt, as they are vital to our health and strengthen the region's climate resiliency."

The designated CLOCA lands are a vital refuge for many species, including species at risk such as the chimney swift, eastern meadowlark, bobolink, wood thrush, olive-sided flycatcher, Blanding's turtles and more. They also provide a range of habitat from forest to wetlands and meadows for nesting birds.

For more information on the designated lands, visit cloca.com.

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