



July 4th, 2018

Cuesta Planning Consultants
 978 First Avenue West
 Owen Sound ON N4K 4K5

Part Lot 22, Concession 4, Township of Sullivan, Chatsworth, Ontario
 Re-Zoning for 9 Recreational Vehicle Hook Up and Septic System.

Further to our earlier summary of February 2017 regarding conformity of the above noted land use application with current policy, we are pleased to also provide a 2018 update in response to Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) comments on the application regarding potential for rare species.



Figure 1: Study site and 120m adjacent lands were examined.

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SAAR attended the site in 2018 in response to agency requests (e-mail dated June 26th, 2018) about potential rare species within the regional landscape.

Field inspections included a search for wildlife but also the potential for habitat to support rare wildlife.

In particular, SAAR conducted additional bird surveys given the regional potential for rare grassland nesting birds. Indeed, rare Bobolink were observed within 10km of the site when accessing it along open farmland on Concession 4.

Thus, specific early morning breeding bird point counts were conducted in four locations on and within 120m adjacent lands of the proposed septic bed location in June and early July of 2018 (June 30, July 3).

The scope of the field inspections was the area of septic and recreational vehicle hook ups, out to 120m adjacent lands and a further reconnaissance by roadside out to the lake roads was also undertaken for regional character.



Color Plate 1: Study site lawns looking south toward existing residence

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Color Plate 2: Hedgerow surrounding site



Color Plate 3: Nearby lakeshore development with road infra-structure

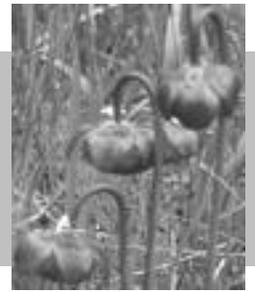


Color Plate 4: Internal lanes lead to the passive recreational uses.

Avifauna of the immediate or 120m adjacent lands are not conservation status species, reflecting the earlier forest edge effect science of supporting edge tolerant birds species including Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Phoebe, American Goldfinch, Brown-headed Cowbird, Chipping Sparrow, American Robin, Cardinal, Blue Jay, Grackles, Eastern Kingbird.

The southern limits of the pond features meet natural forest edge of mixed forest which is dominated by Sugar Maple with subdominant White Ash, American Elm, White Cedar, Poplar, Black Cherry and edged with specimen planted Norway Spruce, White Birch and shrub layer Amelanchier as well as Maple-leaved Viburnum. The native forest patch supported different bird guilds requiring shade such as the Red-eyed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Common Yellowthroat at the edge. 20m south of the existing garage we observed three young fledged Brown Thrashers with their parent. Paths between ponds support mint.

The East Park Road hedgerow is a mixture of White Cedar and planted Apple, Hawthorne, Norway Spruce, American Elm, Black Cherry saplings, Scots Pine, Red Pine with a forest floor of Potentilla. Blue Spruce elements enter along Concession 4 with a few Rugosa roses and High-bush



Cranberry shrub specimens. A Winter Wren was calling in both the hedgerow elements and forest east across Concession 4 along with the Blue Jay.

The septic area is a mowed lawn with few flora, all exhibiting the past regional history of agrarian land use through the farm weeds of Cow Vetch, Wild Carrot, Daisy, Bladder Campion, Butter & Eggs, Vipers Bugloss, Sweet Clover. There are specimen plantings of Crab-apple, Apple, Blue Spruce and Sugar Maple however the majority of the area is an open field.

Valuable elements of this landscape that wildlife make use of include the pond configuration for the Green Frogs. Ponds make different levels of water available for surrounding wildlife and this will continue in the future. Odonata forage at the cattail edges and become a good food source for birds to glean insects on the wing.

The landowner stewardship level witnessed is high, in that nest boxes have been constructed for instance over time for the Eastern Bluebird which fledged young.

We continue to find no optimal habitat for the regional rare grassland nesting birds which select larger and grassier farm fields for their ground nests. Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Upland Sandpiper for instance are not nesting here as there is no tall grass cover from predators and the aerial extent of the open fields is not sizeable enough based on habitat they select.

Other potential rarities within the atlas block were also searched for in the forest such as Wood Thrush which was not calling during point counts. Optimal habitat nor specimen Hart's-tongue fern were not discovered and we have a good search image for this fern and others from work on the escarpment open limestone habitats. We observed the Big Myotis bat foraging over the ponds, a common bat that can persist with the continued future recreational use since it retains the forest edge and ponds for their early morning and dusk foraging flights.

Possible species for the terrain do include the Monarch butterfly, which could continue to make use of pond edges, and indeed could increase in use with specific pond edge plantings of nectar forbs (Joe-pye-weed, Bee-balm, Swamp Milkweed). This can be broadcast via seed along the pond edges and is available in native seed mix from the Co-Op, our team or local nurseries.

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SAAR finds the habitat is not optimal for the regional list of rare species provided by the MNRF given the existing residential and lawn character however remains thankful for the opportunity to confirm this for reviewers.

Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or comments to the undersigned.



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