

Don't Drain the Swamp: Why We Need Wetlands

Environmental Action Committee – Tips/Challenges

Did You Know

- . 'Wetlands' is an umbrella term that includes marshes, swamps, *bogs*, and *fens*¹ (bogs and fens are also called peatlands)
- . Ontario is home to approximately 24% of Canada's and 6% of the world's wetlands²
- . Wetlands absorb CO² from the atmosphere and store it in soil and biomass – they're the *most effective* land-based ecosystem for addressing climate change³
- . Peatlands store 30% of all land-based carbon - twice as much as forests¹
- . Wetlands sustain a vast diversity of wildlife, prevent floods, purify water, and increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change²
- . Wetlands are disappearing at 3 times the rate of forests due to human intervention such as land clearing, pollution from industrial agriculture, invasive species, and climate change^{1, 5}
- . Southern Ontario has lost over 72% of its original wetlands, the GTA around 90% - among the highest recorded losses on the planet²

What WE Can Do



- . Recently, Ontario's planning policy and legislation have undermined wetland protection²
- . Join Ontario Nature's efforts to urge the Ontario government to protect our wetlands. <https://ontarionature.org/>
- . Visit, learn about, and support restoration efforts for the [Wainfleet Bog](#), the *heart and lungs* of the Niagara Peninsula Watershed. (Extensive drainage projects and 80 years of peat extraction have shrunk the bog from 500,000 to 3,000 acres).
- . Support the [2024 CFUW resolution](#) to protect and restore Canadian peatlands and prevent their further destruction.
- . Avoid using peat moss for gardening - harvesting has caused many bogs to be severely depleted and even destroyed.
- . 40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands⁵.

Sources and more information: [Canadian Climate Institute](#)¹, [Ontario Nature](#)², [World Wetlands Day Organization](#)³, [Ontario Wildlife Foundation](#)⁴, [United Nations](#)⁵, [Ontario Nature Wainfleet Bog](#) **Graphic:** [FREEP!K](#)

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