

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WALK WITH AWARE ESSA TO SAVE THE TREE SEED PLANT

Angus, Ontario, February 12, 2018 On Valentine's Day, AWARE Essa is holding a Tree Seed Plant Love-in to protest the planned closing of the Ontario Tree Seed Plant. The group will be walking around the perimeter of the historic Seed Plant on King Steet in Angus from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and are inviting Seed Plant supporters to join them.

In August 2017, without any public consultation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry announced that the Tree Seed Plant is scheduled to close in September 2018 and tree seed collecting, processing and storage will be left to the private sector. Objections were immediately raised by many forestry stakeholders and members of the public about the short timeline and the negative effects on forests and trees.

Maggie Curran, chairperson of AWARE Essa, warns, "If we want to grow tomorrow's resilient forests today, we need to keep the Ontario Tree Seed Facility open. The best quality seeds are our best defense against the impacts of climate change. It's up to us to honour the positive legacy of the Tree Seed Plant and preserve it for generations to come."

AWARE Essa is a local environmental group in Essa Township affiliated with AWARE Simcoe, a citizen's group that works for transparency and accountability in government and to protect water, the environment and health.

RESOURCES: <http://atreegrows.wixsite.com/treetales/home>

<http://aware-simcoe.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/aware.awareessa.5>

<http://www.jimwilsonmpp.com/newsroom/press-releases/1211-wilson-questions-government-over-closure%20-of-tree-seed-plant-in-angus>

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