



The Parish of St. Mary York

# Faith in Action

*Building hope for tomorrow in the face of climate change*

## Climate Change: Impact on Creation

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Mother Earth blessed us with a balance in temperature, allowing most of the world's population to live in the "Goldilocks zone" – not too hot, not too cold, but just right to sustain and nurture our existence.

Climate change means that the earth / ocean / atmosphere system is continually trying to adapt to maintain that balance. Some of the large-scale changes that are occurring as a result include:

- **Melting permafrost in the Arctic.** Permafrost binds soil, rock and sand in the ground with ice. As it thaws, previously frozen organic matter in the ice decomposes, releasing gases such as methane and carbon dioxide.
- **Amazon deforestation.** This is concerning as trees absorb carbon dioxide which help the earth to maintain itself in equilibrium.
- **Warming oceans.** This results in reduced levels of oxygen dissolved in the water, and increasing levels of acidity, and has negative impacts on marine life and the ocean ecosystem.
- **Melting glacier ice.** Glaciers are disappearing at an alarming rate. This leads to sea-level rise, a major issue for coastal areas.

The earth has proven to be rather resilient and continually attempts to adapt to these changes, both natural and man-made, but we are rapidly approaching the breaking point.

In the next articles, I'll explain some of the changes we are seeing closer to home: in Canada and in NB.

We have been truly blessed with the creation God has provided. As caretakers of the Lord's creation, it is up to each and every one of us to do our share to manage "this home" that he has provided.

