

## SUMMERFEST POTLUCK PICNIC



Thank you to Green Connections Network for inviting us to join their recent Summerfest Potluck Picnic at The Serenity Gardens, a private event venue once part of the airport lands but now part of the Rouge National Urban Park. (Find out more at [theserenitygardens.com](http://theserenitygardens.com).)

We shared a meal with like-minded community members, learned about wild edible plants from Karen Stephenson, and educated those present on the work we do. The Serenity Gardens, a beautiful place now protected in perpetuity under the direction of Parks Canada – is a fine example of what we would like to see for the Lands, and a stunning reminder of what's possible when we work together.

## OUR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL IS LIVE!

On Sept. 9, we issued our Request for Proposal for an agricultural/rural-growth economics study of the remaining Pickering Federal Lands.

Transport Canada has spent decades commissioning studies to prove that a Pickering airport is needed. Not one came up with the goods. So, true to tradition, they've launched another. The question has to be asked: How long will north Pickering be held hostage by this obsession to implement a failed 1960s plan?

There needs to be a 21st-century vision for these Lands – and we have one. It takes climate change into account, addresses food security, protects irreplaceable natural resources, dovetails with the Rouge National Urban Park next door, and opens up job creation possibilities *now*. You'll find lots more on our vision in the RFP, at [landoverlandings.com](http://landoverlandings.com).

## PUFLA SAYS YES TO AG, NOT AIRPORT!

Kudos to the executive of the Pickering-Uxbridge Federal Liberal Association (PUFLA) for developing and then unanimously passing this policy proposal:

**The riding association calls on the Liberal Party of Canada to oppose the conversion of the Pickering Lands into an airport/economic zone in the absence of a clear business case, and that the Liberal Party of Canada encourage the Government of Canada to protect the farmland, watersheds, and natural habitat of the remaining lands, including Moraine and Greenbelt lands, under the management of Parks Canada, as an agricultural preserve.**

We sincerely hope that the federal Liberal Party hears the voice of this riding that will be most affected by any decision on the future of the Federal Lands.

## A GREAT HARVEST PICNIC

Executive members Laura Springate, Heather Rigby, and Reid Williamson represented us in August at the annual Harvest Picnic and music festival at the Christie Lake Conservation Area in Dundas. Our striking banners attracted lots of attention, and this led to plenty of signatures on our petition.

## AGRI-TOURISM!! CULINARY TOURISM!!



Now *that's* what we're talking about when we preach saving the Lands for agriculture and tourism!

All aboard the York-Durham Heritage Railway, on September 24, for a locally sourced four-course meal prepared by the chef of the Urban Pantry and served up with Ontario's great Thornbury beer, cider, and wine.

Just imagine such possibilities on the Federal Lands as well, where a train line already runs from Union Station right into Uxbridge and beyond! That's the dream. But back to the brilliant event:

For the mouthwatering menu, more info, and where to climb aboard, see [snapd.at/pewwjnb](https://snapd.at/pewwjnb) or write to [allaboarduxbridge@gmail.com](mailto:allaboarduxbridge@gmail.com). This being a train, we're assuming space is limited, so don't risk missing out. **Get your tickets now.** All profits to the Uxbridge Food Bank!

## NEW PARTNER: SUSTAIN ONTARIO

Over the summer we were invited to join the new Farmland and Agriculture Network of Sustain Ontario. We jumped at the chance. Along with our good friends and allies at Food & Water First, Farms at Work, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, Ontario Farmland Trust, and others, we are working on a collective response to the Ontario Government's proposed land-use policy changes.

Land Over Landings will be submitting our own response as well, and we encourage individuals to do likewise. Input at this stage is crucial, as it could influence decisions that will govern provincial land-use policy for the next 10 years. Details at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page10882.aspx>.

We will also be taking part in Sustain Ontario's "Cultivating Our Capacity" workshops, on the topic of healthy food and farming, during Food Secure Canada's "Re-Setting the Table" national conference at Ryerson in October.

We're delighted to add that Food Secure Canada have recently given us and our work their "enthusiastic support," and that our own Heather Rigby, creator of the famous aerial "field art" images, will be presenting a workshop – "How the Power of Community Art Creates Public Awareness of the Food Movement" – at the October conference.

## MORE SUPPORTERS OF OUR AGRICULTURAL STUDY

- Food Secure Canada
- Bryan Gilvesy, Executive Director, ALUS Canada (Alternative Land Use Services); recipient of Canadian Agri-Food Award of Excellence for Environmental Stewardship
- Indigenous Peoples' Commission, Liberal Party of Canada
- Jim Karygiannis, Toronto City Councillor, Scarborough-Agincourt
- Elizabeth May, MP, Saanich-Gulf Islands, Leader of the Green Party of Canada
- Park People, Toronto
- Bernard Pope, Founder and Director, Ontario Farmland Preservation
- Tammara Soma, 2014 Pierre Elliott Trudeau Scholar; Project Manager, P.E.T. Foundation Food Systems Lab
- Sustainable Brant
- Toronto Food Policy Council
- York Region Environmental Alliance



### FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

It's that time of year. The harvest is in, and the freshness and flavour are out of this world. So find yourself a farmers market and enjoy!

[farmersmarketsontario.com](http://farmersmarketsontario.com)

## Land Over Landings Because food is a **GROWING** concern!

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