

Timeline: 2018-

The Vision and the Future

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- **Jan. 18** – It was the only airport-vs-farmland battle longer than ours. French President Emmanuel Macron puts an end to over 50 years of strong and persistent opposition to the construction of an airport on the farmland outside Notre-Dame-des-Landes, Brittany. The land will remain in agriculture, and the existing Nantes airport will be expanded. A mighty precedent!
- The Pickering *News Advertiser* publishes an op-ed piece by our chair: “Time to stop misleading Pickering residents about airport jobs.” There are no such jobs on the horizon, as Pearson’s latest Master Plan has made perfectly clear.
- **Mar. 22** – A 19th-century heritage house in Brougham, the charming former home of Dennis and Mary Jean Mann, is bulldozed today. Just another in the latest spate of demolitions, fulfilling a contract from last year involving 15 properties, all to be gone by March 31.
- **Mar. 27** – We lose another dear friend, neighbour, and hero of People or Planes, Tommy Thompson of Whitevale, husband of the doughty Isobel, head of POP communications during the 1970s resistance. (Isobel passed away in March 2011.)
- **Apr. 3** – This morning we formally release the report of our Ag Study, “A Future for the Lands.” Our consultants present their findings to a packed Brougham Hall, an invitation-only crowd of MPs; municipal stakeholders from across the area; leading food, farming, and environmental NGOs; farmers; educators; and local business owners. It is an august gathering, hosted by the Hon. David Crombie, who ends his opening comments with: “I have a thought today – *that we’re about to win.*” Shamefully, our own mayor and local councillors fail to attend.
- **Apr. 5** – This evening, the Brougham Hall is packed again, but this time with supporters and donors to the Study, so that they too can hear the findings first-hand from the consultants. The day has been punctuated by messages of thanks, support, and praise from those who attended the first session.