

## ONTARIO'S GREENBELT UNDER THREAT: EXPERTS EXPLAIN AT TOWN HALL MEETING



"No Fly Zone" planting on the Federal Lands, by artist Heather Rigby.

Photo: Graziano Mele.

**Mark your calendars!** On Wednesday, January 28, at the Brougham Hall, Land Over Landings will be co-hosting a Town Hall Meeting with the Greenbelt Alliance and Environmental Defence.

Hear from the experts and ask questions about threats to the Greenbelt, from urban sprawl to mega-highways, a proposed Pickering airport, and contaminated dirt dumping. Our farmland, nature, drinking water, and climate are at risk. Learn how you can take action against these threats!

**Susan Lloyd Swail**, Ontario Greenbelt Alliance, will present "Overview of Threats to the Greenbelt."

**Steve Parish**, Mayor of Ajax and long-time champion of the Greenbelt, will moderate a panel discussion and Q&A period.

The panelists:

**Debbe Crandall**, executive director, Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition (STORM)

**David Donnelly**, environmental lawyer, Donnelly Law

**Ian McLaurin**, chair, Ontario Soil Regulation Task Force

**Faisal Moola**, director general, David Suzuki Foundation

**Mary Delaney**, chair, Land Over Landings

### A YEAR ON THE FARM

Farming is a business, a career, a calling, a passion. It involves hard work and careful planning. It has elements of drudgery, moments of pure elation, times of worry and discouragement, other times of relief and deep satisfaction.

Andrew Campbell, a southern Ontario farmer, raises cash crops and milks 50 head of dairy cattle on his 200 hectare farm. And he has begun a new project. He will be tweeting an image of his farming day every day all year. The result will amount to a photo essay of what it's like to be a farmer.

His 2015 project began on Jan. 1 with a photo of a new-born calf (subsequently – and appropriately – named Happy). Jan. 2's image was of Andrew's digital alarm clock, glowing "4:46" – the time he gets up every morning to milk the cows.

He's noticed that people these days really want to know where their food comes from. "I think one of the things missing from the conversation is how is that food produced? I hope people get a better understanding for all those things that do happen on the farm and go toward producing food."

Join us and thousands of others for a taste of day-to-day life on a farm:  
<https://twitter.com/FreshAirFarmer/media>

### REMINDER

**Be sure to sign our online petition and remind others to do so too:**  
<http://www.change.org/p/prime-minister-stephen-harper-stop-the-pickering-airport>

With the Greenbelt and Moraine Conservation Plans up for review this year, and with most of the Federal Lands in Pickering and Uxbridge falling within the Greenbelt and on the Moraine, this issue is of the utmost concern to Land Over Landings. Our goal is to save these Lands. And fundamental to the task is the preservation and strengthening of the Greenbelt and Moraine Plans.

**Time:** 7-9 p.m. But do come earlier and stay later for conversation. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Parking is free and there will be refreshments.

**Place:** Historic Brougham Hall, 3545 Brock Road, Brougham (North Pickering), ON, L0H 1A0 (midway between Hwys 7 & 407).

The evening promises to be informative, passionate, and inspiring. We look forward to seeing you there!

## SOIL: THE NEW OIL?

It's something we rarely think about, unless we're farmers or gardeners. And when we do, we call it "dirt," "earth," "ground." It's the dust and mud we're always brushing or washing off our hands, clothes, shoes, boots, dogs, cars. It's something to be hauled away, levelled, paved over, landscaped, bought in plastic bags for planters and urns. But in fact, it's soil – as fundamental to our survival as the air we breathe, the water we drink. Without it, there would be no food, no us, and no plants, animals, birds, or insects – at least, not as we know them.



2015

International  
Year of Soils

The UN has declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS), to raise awareness of soil's significance and the crucial role it plays in food security and fighting climate change, global poverty, and more. The IYS website's videos show how soil is created (nature does it, not humans) and why it absolutely must be protected from depletion, erosion, or destruction. Watch at <http://www.fao.org/soils-2015/resources/audio-video/en/>

We thank the UN for this important – no, essential – initiative to increase “awareness among civil society and decision makers about the profound importance of soil for human life.” Protecting the Class 1 soil of the Federal Lands has been LOL's goal from the start. But our success will depend on Ottawa's willingness to share that goal. Join us in calling for MPs to (a) acknowledge the profound importance of soil and (b) to approve the protection of this non-renewable resource and food source on the Federal Lands.

## TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT AVIATION'S COSTS

“If counted as a country, global aviation would have ranked seventh in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2011, just after Germany and well ahead of Korea. ... Moreover, aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are projected to triple by 2050 under business-as-usual scenarios.”

~ White paper, November 2014, International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT)

## YOUNG ACTIVIST TAKES UP GRANDFATHER'S TORCH

Reid Williamson's grandparents lost their property in 1972, when Ontario expropriated 25,000 acres for Cedarwood, a planned city to support the (never-built) Pickering airport.

Today Reid, named for her grandfather, is an undergrad in Environmental & Resource Studies at U. of Waterloo. She has attended our meetings and has interviewed us for her senior honours thesis, “The Pickering Airport: A Case Study for Youth Civic Engagement.” She has also used the 42-year fight in such courses as Global Agro-Politics and Sociology, as a further example of a global tendency towards “land grabs” and the grassroots movements that resist them.

Raised at the feet of original POP supporters, Reid is herself a shining example of youth engagement. We look forward to reading her thesis.

## Food for Thought

“The monopolising of lands, deforestation, the appropriation of water, inadequate agro-toxics are some of the evils that tear man from the land of his birth. Climate change, the loss of biodiversity and deforestation are already showing their devastating effects in the great cataclysms we witness.”

~ from Pope Francis's edict on climate change, January 2015

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

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