

## COMING UP...

### A Diminished Mirabel, a Provincial Election

After a week during which Mirabel's passenger terminal was marked for demolition, and our Chair was told by a pro-airport caller that it's "only [Land Over Landings'] fear mongering that has stopped the Pickering Airport," we can't help being relieved that the original Pickering airport plan was stopped in the '70s. And we're proud to be leading the fight against the latest one – no fear mongering required.

Mirabel articles noted that the Quebec government of the day was unwilling to provide required infrastructure. Here in Ontario, Bill Davis's Conservatives backed out of the Pickering deal because they, too, didn't want to be saddled with the massive infrastructure costs. As Ontarians weigh their options before the coming election, Land Over Landings will be asking, loud and clear, where ALL candidates stand on the issue of the Federal Lands: Are they for an airport and development, or are they for protection of irreplaceable foodland and source water? We won't let them sidestep the issue by saying it's "a federal matter" – not when it was the Province that stopped the airport in '75, and especially not when the majority of the Federal Lands are now under the protection of the Provincial Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine acts.

In the coming weeks, in a joint initiative with Food and Water First, we'll be attempting to get every political candidate to take the Food and Water First pledge.

### REQUIEM FOR BEES

Join beekeepers at 11 a.m. on May 24 in Queen's Park for a **March Against Monsanto Toronto**. They will be dumping a coffin (borrowed from us) filled with hundreds of thousands of Ontario bees that died this past winter. Bee deaths are being linked to the use of agricultural pesticides. Marchers will proceed to the GMO-Free Festival & Farmers' Market. *If you'd like to help staff our booth there, please contact us!*

### OPEN MEETING

Join us on Wednesday, June 18, at 7:30, in the Brougham Hall (3545 Brock Road, Brougham L0H 1A0). We have a year of successes to review and plans for the future to present. Hope to meet you there.

### BUTTONS, T-SHIRTS, AND SIGNS – OH MY!!

At events in coming weeks, we'll be armed with buttons sporting our new tagline: **Because food is a GROWING concern**. Plus lawn signs for spring planting. Let's plant them everywhere, because you never know who might see them. Did you know that Tory MP Tony Clement recently toured the Lands with Pickering's mayor, Dave Ryan? Did they gaze across those fertile fields and talk airports? industrial "parks"? bananas in greenhouses? Or did spotting one of our signs make them think of fresh food from the soil?

Have you taken the PLEDGE to put Food & Water First in Ontario?  
Has your candidate?



- I promise to protect Ontario's Class 1 farmland and source water regions.
- I will make every effort to preserve the land and water that sustain us now and for future generations.
- I WILL PUT FOOD AND WATER FIRST.

Take the PLEDGE at [www.foodandwaterfirst.com](http://www.foodandwaterfirst.com)  
Ask the politicians to do the same!



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

We'll be meeting with as many local municipal and provincial candidates as we can. We'll be attending all-candidate meetings, and we urge you to do the same. Land Over Landings is not endorsing any party or candidate, but we'll be asking hard questions and demanding straight answers, and will make our position very clear should a party or candidate ever come out in favour of developing these precious Lands.

### **Think Globally, Act Locally: The "Defend Our Climate" Event**

A broadcast message on this event went out to all our supporters earlier this week. In case you missed it, here are the details:

On May 10, Land Over Landings will be joining thousands of other Canadians on a day of action to Defend Our Climate and Defend Our Communities. We'll be hosting our part of the action on the North Pickering Federal Lands at Mike "The Kite" Robertson's hang-glider school. Mike is a founding member of People or Planes and Land Over Landings, and is famous for flying a hang-glider around the Peace Tower and landing on Parliament Hill to protest the original Pickering Airport announcement. That was over 40 years ago. He's been working to save the airport site's prime farmland ever since. In 2013, his flying field was the location of the enormous "No Pickering Airport" installation created by artist Heather Rigby (see photo in UPDATE #7).

There's a growing global consensus that bold action is needed on climate change, but our federal government is focussed on gutting our environmental laws and ramming through pipelines despite vociferous opposition. The Energy Board's recent green-lighting of Enbridge's plan to repurpose an aging oil pipeline, Line 9, to carry diluted bitumen from the tar sands through densely populated parts of Ontario (including Pickering) is a case in point. Not to mention that North Pickering is once again threatened by the long-discredited federal scheme to build an airport on top of the best farmland in the nation. Wake up, Government of Canada! Climate change is already upon us!

Ottawa is falling increasingly out of step with the rest of the world, so Canadians across the country are coming together to defend our climate and communities by building a movement to shift to a clean, local, and sustainable energy future. Land Over Landings is proud to be a part of this. A powerful message needs to be sent NOW. Please forward this Call to Action! Future generations will thank you. We thank you too.

**When?** May 10, 1-2 p.m. **Where?** High Perspective Inc., 1150 Hwy 7, just west of Brougham. **Bring home-made signs! We'll have Land Over Landings signs and buttons available.** For more info, contact Mike at 905-294-2536 or [www.flyhigh.com](http://www.flyhigh.com) and also check out <http://www.defendourclimate.ca/events/northpickering-on/>

**Don't forget that May 24 is the day of the Whitevale Spring Festival. Not to be missed!**

### **Food for Thought**

*It was snowing sideways and the whiteouts were total but that didn't keep some 200 people, including 5 of us, from attending Food and Water First's meeting in Shelburne on April 5. The messages we heard were powerful:*

*From Prof. Rene Van Acker, Ontario Agricultural College: Defending farmland is a fundamental necessity. Farming ...allows us to live on this planet. By and large, new farmland doesn't exist. Attempts to rehabilitate it produce a lower class of soil. Ontario may have been blessed with more than half of Canada's scarce Class 1 farmland, but 18% of it has already been urbanized. (This, dear readers, is why we're fighting to save the Class 1 farmland of the Federal Lands.)*

*From Steve Peters, Exec. Dir., Alliance of Ontario Food Processors: The food processing industry employs 700,000 Canada-wide, including 125,000 in Ontario, where a unique combination of high-quality soil and temperate climate enables us to grow 200 different food crops. Canada still imports too much of its food (we've forgotten how to eat seasonally) and too much of what we grow is processed off-shore – an unsustainable practice.*

*From Tom Eisenhauer, president of Bonnefield, the financial fund that rescued Melancthon farmland from mega-quarry fate and saved it for agriculture: Wherever he travels he finds Canada viewed enviously as a nation with huge agricultural capacity and potential. It's only here, in our own country, that farming and farmland are undervalued. We're 15-20 years behind the times on this issue – something else that has to change.*

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

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