

CONGRATULATIONS, AGRICULTURE MINISTER!

Congratulations, Minister of Agriculture – and Premier – on winning a majority government on June 12. We hope and trust that agriculture will enjoy the same high priority in your new government even if you hand the portfolio over to someone else. We applaud your innovative Farms Forever program and support of the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine legislation. Land Over Landings plans to meet with all area MPPs soon to discuss the Federal Lands and stress how vital it is that the prime farmland, the watersheds, and the wildlife corridors of the Lands be protected. We have an opportunity to preserve *for the long term* this asset of incalculable value to the people of the GTA.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO...

Lots of Meetings with Politicians and Candidates

We've had long and productive meetings with Immigration Minister Chris Alexander, whose riding is Ajax-Pickering, and with MP Corneliu Chisu, whose riding is Pickering-Scarborough East. And while the provincial election campaign was in full swing, we met with a number of candidates, including Adam Narraway (GP), Jermaine King (NPD), and Todd McCarthy (PC). A thread common to all these meetings was agreement that preserving prime agricultural land is vital to our future, that it must be protected.

Defending Our Climate

On May 10 we hosted Pickering's contribution to the Canada-wide Defend Our Climate / Defend Our Communities day – 60 minutes of songs, sunshine, heartfelt speeches, and deep commitment.



OPEN MEETING

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



YET ANOTHER MOTION

On May 26, Ajax Town Council passed a resolution calling on Ottawa to ensure (a) an open, transparent process re the future of the Lands; (b) no adverse effects on Ajax's residents and natural environment, or on the watersheds of the Lands; (c) that any plan be consistent with earlier Federal undertakings [the Green Space Preserve] and Greenbelt and Moraine policies. Thank you, Ajax!

New Banners for Our Booths at Events

Because food is such a growing concern, we've designed a banner to illustrate what the Lands *could* be: a magnificent food basket in Toronto's back yard, contributing to our tables, our health, our job market, and our economy. What's not to like? Showing it off: sculptor Gerd Untermann and our general secretary Gabrielle Untermann, whose smiling face and welcoming voice always greet new supporters.



Four Decades, Same Cause

From 1972 to 1975, Doctor Charles Godfrey led People or Planes in the fight to keep an unneeded airport off the prime farmland of North Pickering – and succeeded. But the airport threat, just like the Undead, keeps paying unwelcome return visits. Four decades on, Mary Delaney leads the same fight, for the very same reason: to preserve our best foodland from destruction. Here are Dr Godfrey and Mary in Brougham, on May 19, with signs from then and now.



Photos by Ken Mulveney, Mary Delaney, and Alexis Edghill-Whalen

TORONTO'S URBAN FOREST WORTH \$7B!

TD Bank's chief economist Craig Alexander reports that Toronto's 10 million trees are worth about \$7B, and the benefits of maintaining an urban forest outweigh the costs. Trees absorb and remove air pollutants, they save energy through shading and climate moderation, they sequester carbon, and the amount of particulate matter removed annually by Toronto's urban forest is equivalent to the amount released by over 1 million cars or 100,000 single-family homes.

"Efforts to maintain our urban forests make a world of difference, and [...] the cost savings produced by our urban forests make it clear that keeping the green on our streets, keeps the green in our wallets."

More Food for Thought

Soil is a remarkable substance, a delicately-structured cushion between rock and air, formed from thousands of years of physical and biological processes. It supports an ecosystem that turns unusable materials into plant food, it stores carbon, filters water and protects us from floods. Oh, and there's the small consideration that without it we would starve. It is, as it takes so long to re-form once it is lost, effectively non-renewable.

~ George Monbiot

Land Over Landings Because food is a GROWING concern!

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