

OUR ONLINE PETITION IS LIVE !

While a formal printed petition, presented to the House of Commons and read into Hansard, is the only type recognized by the federal government, an online petition has its own impact. Whenever someone signs, a copy is forwarded to all designated recipients, so the issue is never allowed to be forgotten.

Our online petition is on Change.org, and gets sent to the Prime Minister, MPs, MPPs, and the mayors and councillors of the 5 municipalities that surround the Lands. **Please read and sign, then share, post, and ask everyone you know to do**



the same! (It's fine to sign both the printed and online petitions.) And do read some of the personal messages supporters are adding. They're passionate, practical, farsighted, and inspiring. **Thank you all!**

<https://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/prime-minister-stephen-harper-stop-the-pickering-airport>

GEN-NEXT RALLIES TO THE CAUSE

Last October, on Cable 10 TV, CPC Durham MP Erin O'Toole was interviewed by Don Pitman. Here's an excerpt on the Pickering Airport:

Pitman: "...and now the nay-sayers have got their signs out of the closet from 40 years ago and they're saying please don't build it. ..."

O'Toole: "It does raise the old ghosts, and some of the same groups, you know, change their name and get out."

Old ghosts from 40 years ago? Really?? Clearly, it's time to introduce a few of the many bright young professionals and academics who have adopted this cause and are actively getting our message out there!

- York PhD students Joanne Azevedo (Ajax) and Ingrid P. (Stouffville) were our reps at Trent's recent 50th Anniversary Symposium, "Ideas That Change the World." Ingrid researches factors that engage people, particularly the young, in issues affecting their communities.
- After university, Alison Bezubiak travelled and also worked on organic farms before studying Ecosystems Management at Fleming College, where she wrote a cover piece for the *Woodland Times*: "Growing Up in the Shadow of an Airport: A Community's 40 Year Fight to Preserve the Land."

GARLIC!



Where did *yours* come from this week? Peru? the USA? China? Mexico? This fine crop came from one small garden on the Lands – which is where our garlic *should* be coming from. It would be in our kitchens within hours or days, bursting with flavour – not within weeks or months, dry and well-travelled. (Photo by Cat Bezubiak)

CHALLENGE YOUR CANDIDATES!

Ontario Municipal elections are in full swing. Saving farmland is important everywhere, but in the eastern GTA it should be the #1 issue! Ask your candidates where they stand on the proposed Pickering Airport and development on prime foodland.

Don't let them brush you off with "it's a federal matter." Being assured of access to fresh food and water is everyone's concern. If they argue that we need jobs, tell them that agriculture is the second largest business in the primary goods sector in Durham. It's the only true "growth industry."

- Adrienne Calvert (downtown Toronto) and Alexis Edghill-Whalen (Markham) were childhood friends on the Lands. Today they're our Dynamic Duo of branding, promotion, and social media. They also keep us current with Twibbon, Pinterest, Twitter, and more.
- Justine and Jiliane Geroche (Ajax), students in International Development and Political Science, staffed our booth at U of T's Eco-Fair.



Clockwise, from top right: Alison, Justine and Jiliane, Nicole with Luis Pereira, Karen with her bees, Alexis, and Adrienne.

- Christopher Miller, PhD candidate at Montreal's Concordia University, presented his paper "Land Over Landings: Expropriation and Resistance in Pickering, Ontario, Canada" in July at the World Congress of Environmental History, in Guimarães, Portugal.
- Siblings Geoff and Nicole Norris (Toronto) have taken up the cause: Geoff with a documentary film, 'Presence'; Nicole as a food activist based at Ryerson. She was our rep at TEDxRougeRiver this month.
- Toronto's Karen McKenna, beekeeper, locavore, and eco-activist, borrowed our famous coffin for "Requiem for Bees" at Queen's Park.
- Rising star Jayden Rae, 17, of Whitby, founder of the Whitby Youth Environmental Alliance and chair of the Ontario Nature Youth Council, wrote an op-ed piece for the *Pickering News Advertiser*, about saving the Federal Lands for farming (see right).

Like 97-year-old People or Planes Chair Doc Godfrey, still a force to be reckoned with, you can be sure that the voices of this new, smart, and determined generation won't be going silent any time soon!

Food for Thought



Where is the logic in transporting produce thousands of kilometres when we can yield the same crops locally? If airport supporters are most concerned about the monetary value of these lands they are obviously overlooking the value of agriculture on this Class 1 farmland.

While the airport project may bring some economic benefits, it's important to recognize that healthy ecosystems provide us with services valued in the millions of dollars, such as water and air filtration, erosion mitigation and storm water management. Moreover, the beauty of nature can't be assigned a monetary equivalent.

It is disheartening to witness decisions being made that will adversely influence my generation without our input or consent. Instead of making decisions based on politics or on the potential short-term benefits, those in power should be looking towards a sustainable future for Durham Region.

~ excerpt from Jayden Rae's op-ed piece in the Pickering News Advertiser, May 28, 2014

Land Over Landings Because food is a GROWING concern!

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