

FEDERAL NDP MPs TOUR THE LANDS

We're back from a tour of the Federal Lands – on a perfect October morning – with NDP MPs Malcolm Allen, (Welland, Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food), Dan Harris (Scarborough Southwest, Critic for Post-Secondary Education); and Matthew Kellway (Beaches–East York, Critic for Urban Affairs).

Our van was followed by a big pink CUPE bus carrying supporters, among them, Faisal Moola (David Suzuki Foundation), Carl Cosack (Food & Water First), Kevin O'Connor (Friends of the Rouge Watershed), Brian Buckles (Green Durham), Sandra Budden Campbell (author of *The Movable Airport*), Paul DeCampo (Slow Food Toronto) and many members of the media. We travelled from Brougham along concession roads and sidelines, past Claremont, through Altona to the wall of new development that's now Stouffville's eastern face, and then down the York-Durham Line and over to the farm of the Tapscotts, the last Pickering farming family on the Lands. Brothers Ron and Keith eloquently and movingly described the experience of expropriation 41 years ago and the real difficulty of making a living on land that, since 1972, they no longer own but must lease from Transport Canada, a year at a time – a restriction that has prevented or seriously curtailed farming options, infrastructure improvements, and equipment purchases. They also detailed the gradual



Ron and Keith Tapscott flank Matthew Kellway, Dan Harris, and Malcolm Allen at the Tapscotts' farm on October 9.

loss of the surrounding farm community and support services that farmers elsewhere naturally rely on.

Back at the Brougham Hall, our guests were united in their support for the protection of these agricultural lands and pledged to help ensure that the Federal Lands remain agricultural – to help the economy, to help feed us, and to possibly be a training ground for young farmers, who'll be needed to feed the next generations.

“COMMON GROUND”

A policy proposal has been submitted to the Ontario Liberal Party's open policy development initiative, “Common Ground,” recommending that the Ontario Liberal Party push the federal government to protect the agricultural integrity of the Federal Lands.

You don't need to be an Ontario Liberal to comment or to “agree/disagree” with the proposal. Have your say on this important issue:

<http://commonground.ideascale.com/a/dtd/Protection-of-the-Pickering-Lands/20525-25935>

LAND OVER LANDINGS ON TV

Watch TFO's news program “360” on Wednesday, October 16, between 8 and 9 p.m., for a segment (*en français*) on Land Over Landings' fight to stop an airport and non-agricultural development on the Federal Lands.

COMING UP...: See p. 2.

LAND OVER LANDINGS Because Food is a **GROWING** concern

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STOP the Pickering Airport!

It's NOT too late!

The decisions have NOT been made.

Learn more about how we can protect our communities
and our vital farmland.

No Pickering Airport



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Land Over Landings



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Join us for an informative and entertaining evening...
and find out how ***YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***

Special Guest Speaker: *Carl Cosack*

Carl Cosack headed the citizens' coalition that stopped the Mega Quarry on prime farmland in Melancthon Township. Now heading *Food & Water First*, Carl is leading the fight for laws to protect the water we drink and the land our food is grown on. The Federal Lands are their next big cause. *It's great to have Food & Water First with us!*



Date:
Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Place:
Claremont Community Centre
4941 Old Brock Road
Claremont L1Y 1A9

Time:
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

For more information, please call
(905) 649-2433, or visit our website:
www.landoverlandings.com