

OUR FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN IS LAUNCHED



Mary Delaney

How apt that the family of our first honorary chair, Lorne Almack, should kick off our fund-raising campaign – and with a generous donation of \$1,000. Lorne would have applauded the care and effort put into our agricultural economic study’s Request for Proposal by several of our members. The RFP used as its inspiration Lorne’s 2013 Prospectus on the future of the Federal Lands, which argued that agriculture was a perfectly viable alternative to an airport here. We know Lorne would have been pleased at having instigated our campaign. In fact, he would probably have said, with a grin, “What took you so long?!”

Corrie Almack presented the cheque to our General Secretary, Gabrielle Untermann, on behalf of his siblings, Margaret, Bob, and Claire and in memory of their parents, Lorne and Rhoda – founding members of People or Planes, who spent their lives working to stop an airport and protect the farmland, water, and natural habitat of north Pickering. Today their home farm is protected under an easement through Nature Conservancy Canada.

Stay tuned for more news on the fund-raising campaign. Our RFP will soon be going to tender, and we sincerely hope it will attract the attention of the very best in agricultural economists.

For more on Lorne, please see [What’s at Stake > Land Trust on our website.](#)

Don’t forget our Annual General Meeting!

June 15, Brougham Hall,
7:30-9:30 p.m.

See our website & FB for details.

MORE SUPPORTERS OF OUR AGRICULTURAL STUDY!

- Granville Anderson, Liberal MPP, Durham
- Kevin Ashe, Ward 1 Regional Councillor, City of Pickering
- Sara Dent, BC Coordinator, Young Agrarians
- Rob Hargrave, Councillor, Ward 6, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Bill McLean, Ward 2 Regional Councillor, City of Pickering
- Cookie Roscoe, Manager, SickKids and “The Stop” farmers’ markets
- Ryan Turnbull, President, Eco-Ethnomics
- Whitevale and District Ratepayers Association

GREENBELT EXPANDING?

Ontario has released draft plans for the Greenbelt after broad public consultations. As the Crombie Report recommended, the Province seems intent on preventing sprawl into greenspace and agricultural areas, and is now seeking public feedback on the draft regulations until the end of September.

The Federal Lands, almost all prime farmland and clean watersheds, belong *entirely*, not just partly, within the Greenbelt, for the good of the GTA. Help us reinforce this message at the **Oshawa public open house: June 23, 5-8 p.m.**, Durham College, 2000 Simcoe St. North.

REPORT: IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Our meeting with **Whitby MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, coordinated by Whitby's **Mayor Don Mitchell**, was the highlight of a whirlwind series of meetings. We were aware of the irony. The discussion was notable for the enthusiastic support for agriculture and the opposition to a Pickering airport shown by both MP and mayor. It was former Whitby MP and Minister of Finance, the late Jim Flaherty, who had re-announced the airport plan in 2013, together with economic development that did NOT include agriculture. His words inadvertently turned Land Over Landings into a force to be reckoned with!

MP Caesar-Chavannes and Mayor Mitchell were in total sync with our concerns about climate change and food security, and saw clearly the potential for partnerships with Whitby's Durham College, which emphasizes the hospitality trades, sustainable agriculture, and locally grown food for its culinary arts programs. Mayor Mitchell deplored the fact that our non-profit group was having to foot the bill for our Agricultural Economic Study, saying that Ottawa should be paying. While we agree, after five decades of taxpayer-funded government studies (and another under way) to try to prove there's a business case for an airport, we just can't wait for that unlikely scenario to occur!

Instead, nearing the third anniversary of Mr Flaherty's announcement, we can proclaim that our Study has the support of all area MPs, all area mayors except Markham's Mayor Frank Scarpitti (but we do have Deputy Mayor Jack Heath!), and (so far) **Durham MPP Granville Anderson**. Provincial politicians have long been reticent even to discuss the Federal Lands with us, but the now-friendly relationship between Ottawa and Queen's Park has MPPs at last willing to do so. Our productive meeting with **Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Jeff Leal**, led to meetings or conversations with several area MPPs. Minister Tracy McCharles, MPP for Pickering-Scarborough East, said our proposal for an Ag Study seemed a "no-brainer" and undertook to connect with her area colleagues to facilitate a group meeting once the Legislature rises in June.

WE'RE FEATURED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

In August, our chair Mary Delaney will be a panelist at the XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology at Ryerson University in Toronto. The theme: Sustainable and Just Rural Transitions: Connections and Complexities. The session featuring Mary and Carl Cosack of Food and Water First is "Linking Toronto with Region and Rural: Pathways, Politics and Prospects" – covering the historical background, issues, politics, lessons, and innovations arising out of the resource and planning battles that have helped define Toronto's rural/urban relationship. Mary, Carl, and other panelists will share their first-hand knowledge of recent and ongoing regional resource battles and the priorities that shape our farmland, water, and ecosystem policies and protections. For full details, go to <http://www.ryerson.ca/arts/irsacongress2016/>

BEE-ING HERE



Mary Delaney

Apple blossoms – bees – honey – cider & apple pies – food processing, tourism, jobs! Nature meets agriculture meets agri-business. See how our minds work?



Food for Thought

"Good things grow in Ontario!"
Foodland Ontario's slogan is still going strong after 39 years. But did you know that the campaign was created by Don Gibson, whose home in Brougham was expropriated in 1972 for the Pickering airport that was never built? Don moved out of the historic Bentley House and bought a farm. He supports our Ag Study because he knows that good things grow in Pickering too!

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

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