



# UPDATE #37

Dec. 19, 2016

## CONSULTANTS HIRED! AG STUDY LAUNCHED! FUNDRAISING BEGINS!!

After years of preparation, it ALL STARTS NOW. We've hired Econometric Research Ltd. and renowned agri-food economist Dr John Groenewegen, of JRG Consulting Inc. to study the economic possibilities if the Federal Lands are protected for agriculture, agri-business, and tourism – **not an airport.**

After half a century of Transport Canada studies that have failed to justify an airport, our \$85,000 Agricultural/Rural-Growth Economics Study will be the first not conducted on the taxpayer's dime. **We need your help now.**

For our fundraising campaign, Land Over Landings has partnered with our sister organization, Green Durham Association, which will provide tax-deductible receipts for all donations. We guarantee that 100% of your donations will go to the study and the cause of saving this prime farmland on the borders of a national park and Canada's largest urban centre.

**Please go to our website or FB page and follow the simple instructions to DONATE now. The sooner we raise the funds, the sooner our study starts.**

## NOT SO FAST, PICKERING!!

We were on red alert last month when Pickering tried to drop a 44-year policy of opposing an airport, and ask that it be fast-tracked instead. Our supporters packed the chambers and lobby, made 30 deputations (till past midnight), and in the end Council voted to maintain the status quo.

Mayor Ryan then spoke for the first time, lecturing to the many dozens who'd remained for the vote that the airport was going to happen but, if it didn't, this "will probably mean joining the City of Toronto." *Say what??*

## LOOK WHO'S SIGNED ON!

**Margaret Atwood**, award-winning author and environmental activist. The wry Ms Atwood says she "can't really imagine why they would want an airport there anyway (but then, my imagination is limited)."

And our newest partners, including the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, representing over 36,000 farm families:



## A NEW TWIST ON “WASTE NOT, WANT NOT”



Tammara Soma (right) is the inspired and inspiring woman behind the Food Systems Lab, a collaborative project bringing together creative minds to explore food security and end food waste. Our vice-chair, Laura Springgate, is participating and has shared our vision of how a food hub on the Federal Lands could be part of an improved food system, providing hands-on food education; opportunities for new farmers; fresh, local, healthy food; and high-quality, sustainable jobs. Find out more at <http://www.fondation-trudeau.ca/en/activities/publications/tammara-soma-lab-fight-food-waste>

## POLONSKY REPORT: FARMING IS THE ONLY OTHER OPTION

Entitled “Jets & Jobs” and quietly released by Transport Canada on Nov. 28, the long-awaited Polonksy Report on the economic potential of the Federal Lands reveals no jets or jobs any time soon. If no news is good news, let’s call this good news.

While there’s still no business case for an airport, the report contained one surprise. Despite the blinkered terms of reference, which talked exclusively about economic growth in relation to an airport, a possible airport, and a potential airport, the only other option offered to Dr Polonksy by those who took part in the consultations was agriculture and agri-business.

For all the references to the “thousands” of jobs an airport would deliver, no one could say when, if, or for how long, or be sure that a Pickering airport wouldn’t be another Mirabel. Jobs in the distant, unpredictable, precarious future are awfully similar to no jobs at all.

What else wasn’t mentioned? Climate change. Food security. Protection of water. Vanishing farmland. No mention either that agriculture and agri-business are the leading economic drivers in Ontario!

So, one more taxpayer-funded study down, one more to come – the Southern Ontario Aviation Sector Analysis by KPMG. And in between, *our* study – the only one with vision! The only one, we bet, that will acknowledge climate change and food security issues, and offer jobs NOW.

### Food for Thought

To say that Ontario’s agri-food industry is an economic powerhouse may sound like hyperbole, but in fact it’s something of an understatement.

~ Dick Snyder, “Reaping financial benefits of fresh, homegrown food”  
Special Report  
*Toronto Star*, Dec. 3, 2016



**“There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour.”**

~ Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

***Wishing you all heaping helpings of both!***

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

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