



Land Over
Landings

Because food is a
GROWING concern!

UPDATE #38

Feb. 5, 2017

**Getting
closer!**



AG STUDY FUNDRAISING REPORT: WE'RE AT 70% OF OUR GOAL!!

WOW!!! There's no better word to describe the overwhelming support we've received in just six weeks! Our sincere thanks to individuals like you who have brought us so close to our goal in such a short time. And our special thanks to Margaret Atwood for her generous \$1,000 matching gift – which was matched within hours.

Accompanying the donations come wonderful comments, messages of appreciation, and poignant stories. Celia Klemenz, designer of our great logo, gave money from the sale of her Saskatchewan farm (see p. 2, Food for Thought), saying that selling tore out a piece of her heart and prompted her to donate to the cause of saving farmlands. And former Torontonians, Karen McNair, now of Ladner, south of Vancouver, sent a generous cheque because she lives on an agricultural preserve and has seen firsthand how important it is to stand up to the never-ending threat of developers.

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. We hope to be able to tell you, in the next issue of UPDATE, that the study is under way.

**Easy instructions on how to DONATE
are on our website and FB page.**

The sooner we reach our goal, the sooner our study starts.

“IT’S YOUR KIDS’ FUTURE”

At a recent Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Roger Anderson, Durham Regional Chair, surprised us by pretty much using our argument for why the Federal Lands must be protected as a secure source of local food and fresh water: “It’s our future, it’s your future, it’s your kids’ future, it’s your kids’ kids’ future.” Except that he wasn’t talking about *saving* the foodland. He was talking about *paving* it for an airport!!

Meanwhile, *International Airport Review* magazine was asking Harvard-educated business professor Fred Lazar if Toronto needs Pickering airport. His assessment: “A new airport in Pickering makes no economic sense.” Toronto will never be as big as the world’s largest cities, he said, so, unlike them, it won’t need “a string of airfields.”

Would Pickering airport face opposition? “It will,” and the opposition would come from those worried that “any jump in air travel simply enlarges the carbon footprint.” He sees Pearson easily handling 80M passengers a year, twice its current throughput. And he points to Hamilton Airport, just 78 km from Pearson, which operates 24/7 but is underutilised: “it can easily handle any spillover.”

So, Mr Chair, those 35,000–40,000 jobs you quoted... How will they happen? And more to the point: *when?* Here’s a better idea: let’s forget the airport, grant long-term farm leases, think food hub, and get North Pickering growing jobs right away!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 9

Like theatre? Great food? Silent auctions? Restored barns? And farmland? Herongate owner/manager and long-time supporter, Steve Graham, has generously offered a special deal to help raise money to save these farmlands. His converted-barn dinner theatre is an outstanding example of the sort of tourism/cultural enterprises that could thrive as part of a food hub on the Lands if released from perpetual hold for a never-never airport.

So come and join us for a Land Over Landings fundraiser at the Herongate Barn Dinner Theatre, Thursday, March 9. The play: A.R. Gurney’s “Sylvia,” a romantic triangle with a delightful twist. Dinner and show for \$70. What a bargain! Thank you, Steve!

More details soon on our website and FB page.

FRESH WINTER PRODUCE, STRAIGHT FROM NORTH PICKERING



Joyfully Organic's stall at a Toronto market in late November. Matt Rock and Liz Beesley are two young market gardeners growing produce on several small plots on and adjacent to the Federal Lands. And yes, they are making a living! They provide weekly CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) boxes of fresh produce to a fast-growing customer base as well as delivering to three Toronto farmers' markets. Matt believes that "innovative small scale farming" and "youthful, energized, passionate people" could be the future of the Lands. With "just 5 farms on the land who sold food directly to people in the GTA, we could have 20-50 farmers employed, directly feeding 1000s of people each week." And that's on just a fraction of the nearly 9,000 acres of federally owned farmland. This winter, Joyfully Organic harvested well into December, even once in January, and had fresh produce in markets right up to January 15!

OUR DAY AT WYCHWOOD BARNES



Nicole Norris, Susan Reesor, and Chris Miller, our team at Wychwood Barnes farmers' market in January, met and talked to many shoppers, including Toronto supporters Councillor Joe Mihevc and the Hon. Carolyn Bennett, who thanked us personally for our hard work for the foodland cause. And we thank *them* for endorsing our Ag Study. A special nod to Cookie Roscoe, well-known Toronto local-food activist and manager of The Stop and SickKids farmers' markets, for giving us "the couch" at the market where we could share our story and forge stronger ties with our big-city neighbours.

MORE SUPPORTERS OF OUR STUDY

- Kevin Brown, owner and executive chef, kb Restaurant, Whitby
- Shaheen Butt, City Councillor, City of Pickering
- Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
- Everdale Farm & Environmental Learning Centre
- Joyfully Organic Farms



John Frechette

Food for Thought

"I chose to donate to the Green Durham and Land Over Landings ag study in hopes that the Pickering lands will remain agricultural ... [In Saskatchewan] we had two quarters, which translates to 320 acres, complete with a number of sloughs and the house, barn, bins and yard. The prairies are not the bread basket they used to be. Climate change has resulted in very unpredictable weather, droughts, flooding, hail and insects. It is so important to retain this land [the Pickering Lands] as farm land."

~ Celia Klemenz

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