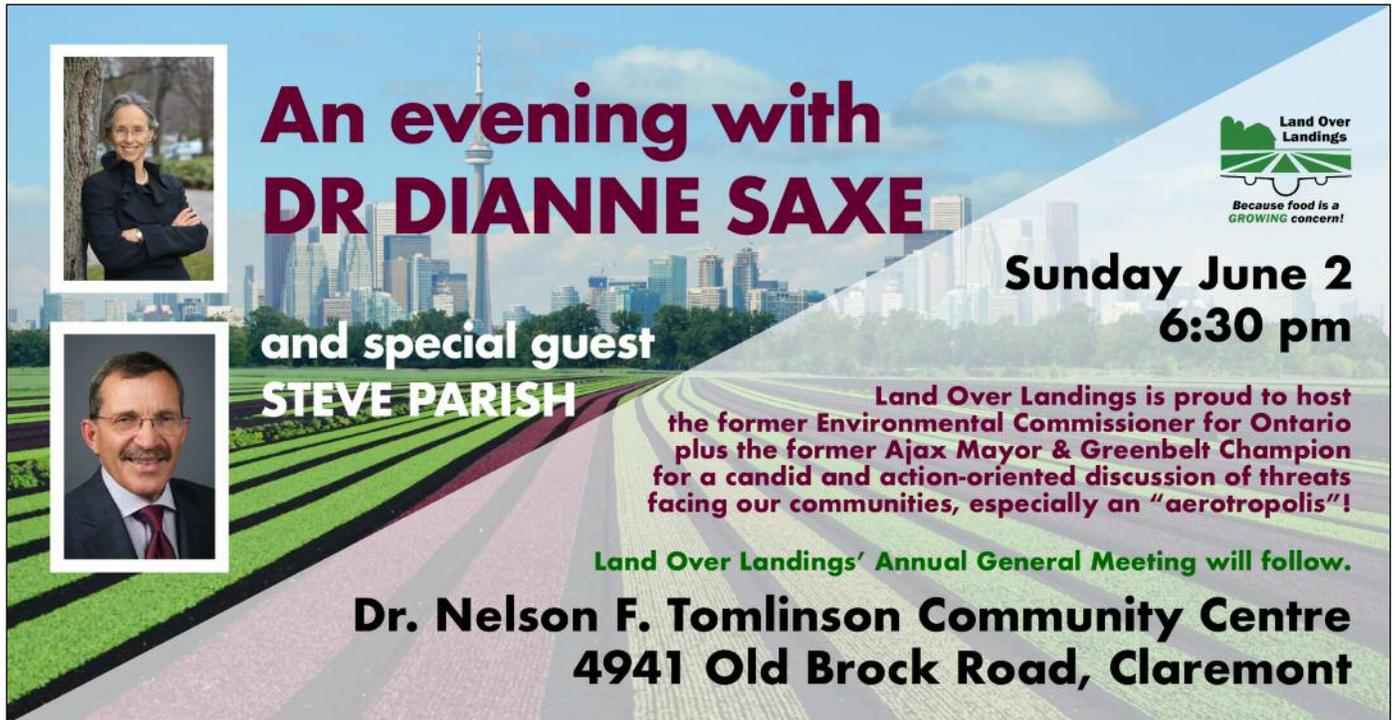


PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS IMPORTANT EVENT



**An evening with
DR DIANNE SAXE**
and special guest
STEVE PARISH

**Sunday June 2
6:30 pm**

Land Over Landings is proud to host the former Environmental Commissioner for Ontario plus the former Ajax Mayor & Greenbelt Champion for a candid and action-oriented discussion of threats facing our communities, especially an "aerotropolis"!

Land Over Landings' Annual General Meeting will follow.

**Dr. Nelson F. Tomlinson Community Centre
4941 Old Brock Road, Claremont**

TIME TO RALLY THE TROOPS!!

Faced with the most aggressive threat to these Lands in 47 years, Land Over Landings has responded with a powerful "NO!!"

In March, the City of Pickering began publicizing its push for an "aerotropolis." Our supporters immediately rallied with an onslaught of passionate outrage in defence of the Lands. We intend to channel that outrage and turn it into positive energy and action at our AGM on June 2, in Claremont, with special guests Steve Parish, former Mayor of Ajax, and Dr Dianne Saxe, former Environmental Commissioner for the Province of Ontario.

A brief report on the resistance so far:

First, our friends at Climate Action created a spoof ad – "Errortropolis" – that positively *sparkled* with the same subversive genius that so inspired the work of People or Planes.

Next, we attended the glitzy April 9 aerotropolis event in downtown Toronto, bringing along a few of our closest allies – among others, reps from the National Farmers Union, Environmental Defence, and the Ontario Farmland Trust. The two presenters, John Kasarda and Richard Florida, both Americans, showed no sign of ever having been on the Pickering Federal Lands – or anywhere near them. Kasarda, who travels the world promoting his aerotropolis idea, showed a video with palm trees lining the airport's surrounding avenues. Great for Abu Dhabi. But Durham?! It was particularly satisfying to see how prominently Land Over Landings featured in Kasarda's presentation. He called our resistance "articulate" and "effective" and found no fault with our Ag Study, except that it failed to cover the benefits of an airport. Not our job, surely?! What was missing from his talk was even the slightest acknowledgement that the future he was



Some of our group at the aerotropolis event (l-r): David Masters, our treasurer; Susan Swail (Environmental Defence Canada); Kathryn Enders (Ontario Farmland Trust); Steve Parish (former Mayor of Ajax); Owen Goltz (National Farmers Union); Pat Valentine, our communications lead; Matthew Kellway (former NDP Critic for Transportation and Urban Affairs); Susan Reesor, our vice-chair. Not pictured, Bonnie North (Deputy Leader, Green Party of Ontario).

visualizing for Pickering/Durham – a multi-service aerotropolis, exponential growth, vast global connectivity – just might collide with the realities of climate change.

As reports on the event became public, letters poured in – to us, to politicians, and to news media. The *Toronto Star* ran two Big Debate (YES/NO) articles on the Pickering airport, and the NO side won in the associated poll. Published letters to the editor were all NO letters. Our supporter base grew, and our Facebook followers swelled to over 3.1K.

Hard on the heels of the Toronto event, the Town of Ajax, no longer under the environmentally enlightened leadership of Greenbelt Mayor Parish, voted to support an airport in Pickering. We responded to the vote with a map of the flight paths of the proposed airport – at least two would cross Ajax.

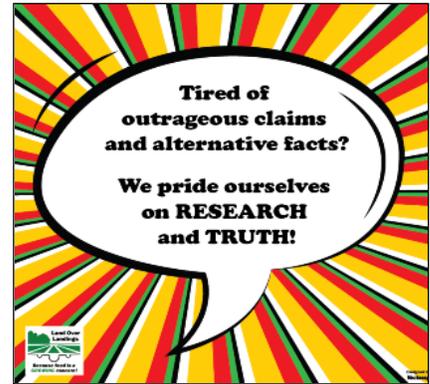
Next up, on April 24, was Pickering’s Mayor Ryan, dispensing with democratic norms. He led an “emergency” pro-airport motion at Durham Regional Council that was not on the agenda but on a handout distributed at the meeting. He argued vociferously against an attempt to

delay the discussion and vote until the following meeting, to allow public consultation and participation. He insisted repeatedly that “people have had their say.” “No we haven’t!” sums up the loud response after Land Over Landings drew attention to a video of the debate, including Council’s 21–6 vote in favour of the motion.

A day later, Mayor Ryan authored an opinion piece in the local paper on “what kind of city Pickering residents want,” essentially preaching that our wealth is in our land – so let’s pave it! Our guerilla editors had their way with that, too.

When MPP Peter Bethlenfalvy wrote to the Minister of Transport last week, urging an end to indecision on the Federal Lands, we agreed and thanked him for his letter but also took the opportunity to correct a few misconceptions. As with Ryan’s piece, we mostly disputed the wisdom of the implied conclusion (airport and urban development as the way of the future) and made the case for a far better use of the land: North Pickering Farms.

In short, we’ve been busy correcting wrong ideas, “facts”, lies, and damn’d lies wherever we see them. And we’ll keep doing so on our website. See our new Questions & Answers post on the home page.



Not long after the Province closed down the Office of the Environmental Commissioner, Dianne Saxe said this: “Without the ECO, Ontarians will have to be even more vigilant. ... It now falls on the media and the public and groups like yours to hold the government to account.”

For 47 years, we have been vigilant. Today, more than ever, we must hold *all* levels of government to account. People or Planes stopped the airport 47 years ago. It’s our turn now.

Food for Thought

"In these dispiriting circumstances, municipal leadership is of great importance. As the owners and operators of most of Canada’s infrastructure, municipalities are at the front line of much climate damage. In many ways, they have more to lose from climate inaction than other levels of government."

– Dianne Saxe, 'It's time to call climate change what it is – an emergency – and act accordingly,' *Corporate Knights*, May 10, 2019

Land Over Landings

Because food is a *GROWING* concern!

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