

WHICH IS NEEDED – A PICKERING AIRPORT? OR NORTH PICKERING FARMS?

The Atlantic May 11, 2020

Air Travel Is Going to Be Very Bad, for a Very Long Time

The Globe and Mail June 15, 2020

A day at the airport in June, 2020: quiet, monotonous and fearful

Reuters June 18, 2020

Air maintenance firms, manufacturers plan for \$60 billion in lost sales

Toronto Sun June 23, 2020

Canadian airlines won't recover from COVID-19 for years: Industry execs

Financial Post June 30, 2020

Airlines need aid or ability to fly to escape 'catastrophic territory,' Air Canada CEO warns

South China Morning Post July 2, 2020

Demand for international travel to sink 80 per cent this year as coronavirus pandemic crushes tourism, says Euromonitor

CNN Business July 10, 2020

Airline bookings start to tumble again as coronavirus cases spike

The New York Times July 13, 2020

Best Guess on When Business Travel Will Recover? It Could be Years*

Leeham News July 13, 2020

An economic crisis on top of a medical one: Why airline traffic won't fully recover until the mid-late 2020s*

The Canadian Press July 14, 2020

Greater Toronto Airport Authority cutting 500 positions due to drop in traffic

* Editor's note: Full recovery will certainly be later than predicted, if at all. Both writers fail to allow for the impact of the greatest crisis the world faces: climate breakdown. It will affect everything.

iPolitics March 20, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic and Canada's food system

City News March 25, 2020

COVID-19 pandemic is laying bare weaknesses in Canadian food systems: expert

The Western Producer March 27, 2020

Suddenly agriculture is important

Maclean's April 3, 2020

Some Canadians are turning to their yards to grow their food during the COVID-19 pandemic

CBC News April 3, 2020

Food security experts warn of supply shortages, higher prices due to global pandemic

Environmental Health News April 6, 2020

The coronavirus pandemic and future food security

Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems April 16, 2020

COVID 19 Reveals Gaps in our Food Systems

Alberta Press May 18, 2020

Small farmers are big players in food security during pandemic

CBC News June 14, 2020

Environmentalists, farmers renew push to shelve Pickering airport, save prime farmland

Farms.com June 23, 2020

Keeping farmland in Pickering

The Western Producer July 2, 2020

Agriculture bright spot in Canadian economy

National Observer July 8, 2020

Pandemic spotlights food system reforms needed to prepare for climate change

University of Guelph July 15, 2020

Household food security still uncertain months after pandemic

PICKERING MOVES TO FAST-TRACK LARGE SUBDIVISION ON PRIME FARMLAND!

Pickering Council has endorsed the use of a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) application by pro-airport Dorsay Developments Corporation for a massive residential development called “Veraine.” The MZO asks the Province to expedite the project, denying public participation or appeal. Among the reasons cited for this move are delays related to Covid-19. Land Over Landings and Environmental Defence say “Not so fast!”

Veraine would mean construction of new houses and infrastructure for 60,000 residents on 4,000 acres of prime farmland. Debate over development of this land has raged for almost a decade, as it is outside Pickering’s urban settlement boundary and is surrounded by the Greenbelt (and should, by rights, be part of it). Being currently zoned as whitebelt, however, it is not protected from development. **Its urbanization would have a major negative impact on the Carruthers Creek Watershed and the Town of Ajax, downstream.** Taking the land out of agricultural production would further fragment the important agri-business network of Pickering and Durham Region, ignore provincial policies that encourage local fruit and vegetable

production, and violate sound urban-growth policies that would protect these thousands of acres for the growing of food, not houses!

The link between our mission and Veraine is this: In 2018, Dorsay was a co-sponsor (with Mattamy Homes and TACC Construction) of a City of Pickering “Your City. Your Business. Let’s Do Lunch.” pro-airport event, promoted as such by the mayor. Furthermore, in its Veraine marketing, Dorsay consistently highlights the symbiotic relationship between its planned subdivision and an airport. **So we have to ask: is this rush to expedite the rezoning really about Veraine? Or is it about tipping the scale to favour an airport?** Now you see why we’re highly suspicious of Council’s eagerness to clear the way for this supposedly green development.

Urgent action is needed. Thanks to our partners at Environmental Defence, it has been made easy. Go to <https://act.environmentaldefence.ca/page/64003/> to send a letter of concern to Ajax MPP and Minister of Finance Rod Phillips, and help us keep rural north Pickering productively agricultural.

CITY/REGION SHENANIGANS: PANDEMIC FAILS TO SHIFT PRO-AIRPORT POLITICIANS

Despite the pandemic (Pickering was a provincial hotspot), the massive aviation shutdowns, climate change, economic meltdown, and food security fears, Durham Region and especially the City of Pickering continue to lobby for – you guessed it – an airport/aerotropolis on North Pickering farmland.

In April, a Pickering Council majority reaffirmed their belief that an airport will be built, and refused to formally pause (as they had done for other large projects) any airport-related expenditures while the City was in Covid-19 emergency mode. And the silence was palpable when it came out at the meeting that Pickering was expected to contribute financially to a firm retained by the Region of Durham to lobby Ottawa to approve the airport. This despite a **March 25 letter from Transport Minister Marc Garneau to Regional Chair John Henry**, stating clearly: “No decision has been made to develop an airport on the Pickering Lands. Any decision...must be based on a sound business case, updated data on aviation demand and capacity, and stakeholder

engagement” and goes on to say that “**the ASA (Aviation Sector Analysis) suggests there is no immediate need for additional airport capacity in the Greater Toronto Area before 2038...**”

Speaking of stakeholders, Durham Region’s Economic Task Force surveyed area businesses in May to help the Region “understand the evolving needs during the Covid-19 pandemic.” Businesses were asked to rank concerns, areas of interest, and recovery ideas. Building an airport was on the list of stimulus options. The result? Respondents did NOT see an unlikely airport, two or more decades down the road, as a solution to the current crisis. In fact, **an overwhelming number identified local food, agriculture, and agri-business as their top priorities.**

We don’t know what will shift certain municipal politicians from their blinkered pro-airport stance, but luckily, the future of these Lands remains in the hands of the federal government. And beyond council chambers, the importance of agriculture is being widely recognized.

