

WIN IN WINDSOR = HOPE FOR PICKERING?

Our partners at Wildlands League are celebrating a win in Windsor that could help to advance our cause in Ottawa.

In a deal similar to the transfer of lands that created Rouge National Urban Park, Transport Canada has agreed to transfer Ojibway Shores from the Windsor Port Authority to Parks Canada, as part of the process of creating Ojibway National Urban Park.

They fought for this for five years in Windsor. We have been fighting for the Pickering Federal Lands for 50 – so ten times more worthy of success?!

YOURS TO PROTECT DURHAM REGION VOTES

TO OPEN FARMLAND TO DEVELOPERS

Our fight to protect the nearly 9,000 acres of federal Class 1 farmland in North Pickering just became critical. On May 25, Durham Region voted to open over 9,000 acres of its own farmland to development.

Ignoring urgent warnings from experts, including their own staff and advisory committees, and tossing aside the overwhelming preference of citizens, expressed in polls, deputations, and the Region's own months-long public survey, a majority on Council opted for none of the alternatives drawn up by planning staff. Instead, they chose a plan put forward by the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). And with that, 9,300 acres of prime agricultural land and green space were needlessly sentenced to a future of destructive urban sprawl.

We now know, for a fact, who (most of) our local politicians work for. And it isn't Durham residents. If the Pickering Lands weren't protected by federal statute, salivating developers would be targeting them next. The war on farmland just ramped up.

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

» **Wednesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.**

Yes, we miss you all, and we do hope to have an in-person gathering later this summer. But for now please join us virtually for our first Annual General Meeting in three years!

We will be presenting our financial statement and a year-in-review (x3!), the slate of officers for election/re-election, and a revised Mission Statement that reflects our enhanced commitment to fight for farmland.

» **To register, go to our website's home page.**

Looking forward to "seeing" you!

We fully agree with the statement issued by Ajax Mayor Shaun Collier after the vote. Some excerpts:

"This short-sighted decision makes the urbanization of the Carruthers Creek headwaters not only possible, but likely. ... a community of 60,000 people in north east Pickering greatly increases the risk of downstream flooding in Ajax. To date, developers have proposed only the minimum measures to mitigate the negative impacts. ... [A] Nanos Research poll ... found the vast majority of Ontario residents are uncomfortable with paving over farms and green spaces to build new homes. ... Climate change is here and we must protect this ecologically sensitive system. Urbanization will only exacerbate the problem."

And we wholeheartedly agree with the May 31 op-ed in The Pointer, an online journal on the hunt for truth in local issues: **"Transparency needed around BILD, the massive lobby group funded by the development and construction industries that controls much of our local planning."**