

Free Opinion

What happens in Pickering won't stay in Pickering: Proposed airport would have major effect on Whitchurch-Stouffville

As we contemplate the federal election, it's important to consider issues that will affect our lives, not only from a national standpoint, but also at the local level.

One of the most contentious is the possibility that, 43 years after the expropriation of 18,600 acres of farm land in neighbouring Pickering, the federal government will go ahead with building a massive new airport on a portion of that land.

The Green Durham Association's video on YouTube, produced by Bill Lishman and Peter Shatalow, offers a comprehensive overview of the history of the proposal. It provides information on the size of the proposed airport, details the importance of the area as prime farm land and its crucial role in the ecological system, and discusses its potential to provide a network of public trails for cycling and hiking.

The video reports that at the time of expropriation in 1972, Transport Canada projected that 62 million passengers would be using Pearson annually by 2000, but in 2012, the airport handled fewer than 35 million. It also notes that the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) predicts it will take 15 to 25 years for

Pearson, Hamilton and Waterloo airports to reach capacity, and acknowledges that the need for another airport could be 30 or more years in the future.

In 2013, however, then finance minister Jim Flaherty surprised many at a news conference, which had been called to announce the creation of the Rouge Urban National Park, when he revealed that construction of the airport would go ahead as part of the overall project.

To view the Green Durham Association video visit greendurham.ca and click on The Federal Lands - It's Time for Action under the heading 'Video'. More information about the proposal can be found at www.landoverlandings.com, a citizens' group that opposes the airport.

Whatever your views on Pickering Airport, we believe that this qualifies as an important election issue in 2015. So talk to your candidates, tell them how you feel, and find out where they stand.

Whitchurch-Stouffville may not be Pickering, but a large-scale urban airport, built in close proximity, would have a major effect on this community.

Free Thoughts

This Family Day why not come out for a free family skate at the Stouffville arena?



Hospice Fundraiser

A Night In The Carribean

Evergreen fundraiser takes away winter chill

If you want to spend a balmy evening away from the winter chill and help a truly worthwhile cause at the same time, Evergreen is hosting A Night in the Caribbean at Angus Glen Golf Club On Feb. 27.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to support families in Stouffville, Markham and Thornhill who are facing a life-threatening illness or the death of a loved one.

This year's gala begins at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by a four-course gourmet dinner with wine at 7 p.m. Live entertainment, silent and live auctions, a raffle and dancing will make this an unforgettable event.

Get into the spirit of the evening by donning your favourite cruise wear as you prepare to set sail for a unique and delightful island 'vacation'. Tickets are \$200 each, but early birds can save \$25 if they make their reservations by Feb. 14.



Evergreen provides free palliative care and bereavement support for children, teens and adults in Stouffville, Markham and Thornhill. A portion of the gala ticket price is tax deductible.

Visit www.evcares.org or call 416-499-2185 for more details and to order your tickets.

Free Laughs

Family Matters

In some families, please is described as the magic word. In our house, however, it was sorry.
Margaret Laurence

Parents are like God because you wanna know they're out there, and you want them to think well of you, but you really only call when you need something.
Chuck Palahniuk

Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.
George Burns

I don't have to look up my family tree, because I know that I'm the sap.
Fred Allen

Families are like fudge - mostly sweet with a few nuts.
Anon

'A family is a bunch of people who keep confusing you with someone you were as a kid.'
Robert Brault

My family is really boring. They have a coffee table book called 'Pictures We Took Just to Use Up the Rest of the Film.'
Penelope Lombard

Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.
Robert Frost

Home is a place you grow up wanting to leave, and grow old wanting to get back to.
John Ed Pearce

Better a loving single-parent family than a 'conventional' family where the parents hate each other and the father is a demagogue.
Moby

The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.
Erma Bombeck

Heredity is a splendid phenomenon that relieves us of responsibility for our shortcomings.
Doug Larson

In a houseful of toddlers and pets, you can start out having a bad day, but you keep getting detoured.
Robert Brault

Home is where you can say anything you like because nobody listens to you anyway.
Anon

When your mother asks, "Do you want a piece of advice?" it's a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.
Erma Bombeck

The thing about family disasters is that you never have to wait long before the next one puts the previous one into perspective.
Robert Brault

Stouffville Free Press
Whitchurch-Stouffville's independent community owned newspaper

UP AND COMING

The Stouffville Free Press welcomes community event listings from non-profit groups and organizations. Please send a brief synopsis of upcoming events by email to stouffvillefreepress@rogers.com

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