



Save The Maskinonge

A Project of the Maskinonge River Community, Lake Simcoe
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Division 2 of Part 4 Bill C-43

Amendments to the Aeronautics Act To the Standing Committee of Finance,

Save the Maskinonge River supports the amendments to the Aeronautics Act as proposed in Division 2 of Part 4 of Bill C-43.

Our community organization has been involved in preserving and improving water quality and quantity on the Lake Simcoe watershed for over 10 years. Through our involvement serving on the MOE Thane Smelter Public Liaison Committee we were educated on the process and regulation of operations of companies that remediate contaminated soil from brownfields. Our group was instrumental in opposing one of these contaminated soil processing operations starting up in Georgina, York Region and our bylaw has been changed to not permit any in the future. It is not unusual soil that has been found to be contaminated through testing on some fill sites in Ontario was supposedly remediated.

We first learned of the Aerodrome/fill dump issue 4 years ago when the

Township of Scugog sought financial help from the Town of Georgina and other nearby municipalities for the legal costs trying to stop a fill site in an aerodrome in their community. Since then we have witnessed a growing trend of using aerodromes as soil dumps for what seems to be mostly waste soils from the Greater Toronto Area's development and infrastructure projects. There are well over 100 existing aerodromes across Ontario with the potential to become fill sites should this trend continue.

In Georgina there were some mature trees cut down without permits in preparation to expand a runway at Baldwin Airport on Highway 48 in Georgina. Town of Georgina staff tells us they have no capability to monitor and control the quality of this fill being used in this project and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has become involved. The local owner of Baldwin Airport has stated to nearby land owners it is his still his intention to expand the airport by importing soil. There have yet to be formal public meetings about an expansion.

Many of the people in rural Ontario still depend on local aquifers for drinking water and distributing contaminated soil on these surfaces to then infiltrate soil through rain and snow melt is reckless. A dairy farm would be unable to continue to operate without safe drinking water for their livestock. Irrigating food crops with contaminants or the runoff flowing down to Lake Simcoe could have impact for generations.

Our organization does support the proposed amendments. We would appeal to the Minister of Transport to enact comprehensive regulations that consider environmental impacts and stop the unregulated use of

aerodromes as dumping grounds for fill.

It seems it would be highly unlikely there has been such a large increase in Ontario of small aircraft traffic to require this many expanded airports at Tottenham, Greenbank, Burlington and Georgina.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Gordon".

Debbie Gordon

Director, Save the Maskinonge