

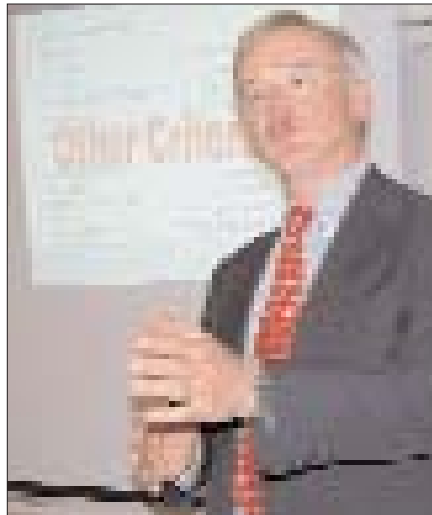
# pickering bulletin

## PICKERING COMMITTEES helping maintain active consultation

The GTAA continues to work with residents, government officials and other stakeholders as studies and planning work continue towards a draft plan for a possible airport on the federally owned lands in north Pickering.

From the start, the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA) has sought to be open and consultative by maintaining active community consultation.

The **Pickering Advisory Committee (PAC)** is comprised of local elected officials, residents and business representatives from the surrounding municipalities. PAC acts as the main advisory group to the GTAA on Pickering airport planning initiatives. PAC has met regularly since its inception in early 2002.



**Pickering Committees receive frequent presentations from GTAA Senior Staff in order to keep them up-to-date.**

The **Government Affairs Working Group (GAWG)** consists of staff from municipal, provincial and federal governments and other agencies. Given the need to closely co-ordinate airport planning, especially with local municipal planners, the GAWG generally meets monthly.

Members of the **Community Communications Working Group (CCWG)** are residents from the local communities. This group was established to ensure that the GTAA receives essential community input from leaders in the community. In particular, the CCWG provides advice to the GTAA regarding its community outreach activities and publications. This group meets approximately every second month.

### The GTAA would like to thank members of the three advisory groups for their participation and input over the past year

**Pickering Advisory Committee:** Stephen Frederick, Pickering Resident; Gary Knott, Markham Resident; Chairman Bill Fisch; Chairman Roger Anderson; Former Mayor Wayne Arthurs; Former Mayor Nancy Diamond; Former Mayor Wayne Emmerson; Mayor Don Cousens; Councillor Beverly Northeast; Pat O'Brien, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade; Ms. Ruth Burkholder, Markham Board of Trade. PAC is supported by municipal, provincial and federal officials as well as staff from NAV CANADA and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

**Government Affairs Working Group:** Municipal staff include: Paul Belton; Nestor Chornobay; Alex Grant; Kevin Heritage; Steven Karnay; Tim Lambe; Tom Melymuk; Audra Milhaly; Tom Parry; Kathleen Power; Thom Sloley; Ron Taylor; Cindy Symons-Millroy; and Liisa Ikavalko. Trevor Tompkinson and Keith Riley participate on behalf of Transport Canada and Damian Dupuy, Norris Bot, John Marshall, and Bryan Kozman for the Province of Ontario. Gary Bowen is the Toronto Region Conservation Authority's representative on GAWG.

**Community Communications Working Group:** Stephen Frederick, Claremont; Brian Buckles, Uxbridge; Myra Chepack, Markham; Bryon Hurlle, Markham; Dr. Morley Lem, Markham Board of Trade; Joan Moritsugu, Greenwood; Councillor David Pickles, City of Pickering; Pat Robinson, Region of Durham; Kurrie Storey, Claremont; Lloyd Thomas, Whitevale; Gail Wideman, Claremont; Doug Wilkinson, Pickering; Jay Fisher, Markham; Debbie Dixon, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade.

The GTAA thanks all participants for their valuable input and especially those members who participated on PAC but are now moving on. These include **Wayne Emmerson, Nancy Diamond, and Wayne Arthurs.**

# You ASKED Us

## responding to your questions

*Welcome to the Bulletin's newest feature, You Asked Us. This column will be the GTAA's opportunity to respond to some of the numerous questions asked about a Pickering Airport, the Authority and Toronto Pearson International Airport.*

**Q: As a local taxpayer, I want to know how much of my money is being spent by the GTAA on the construction and operations of Toronto Pearson, and in studies relating to a possible airport in Pickering?**

**A:** The GTAA receives no funding from Canadian taxpayers. In fact, the GTAA pays more than \$134 million in rent annually to the federal government and made a direct payment of \$23.1 million to the municipalities adjacent to Toronto Pearson. These direct payments are complemented by the millions in taxes paid by tenants at the airport.

The GTAA is required to operate airports on a commercial basis, which includes planning and funding capital projects based on sound economic and financial principals and practices. To cover its costs, the GTAA receives revenues from aeronautical charges such as landing fees, general terminal charges, the Airport Improvement Fee (AIF) and other associated non-aeronautical revenue, such as concessions and parking.

This arrangement has enabled the GTAA to end the chronic under-funding of Toronto Pearson and make the substantial investments necessary to provide the modern facilities necessary for the continued prosperity of the Greater Toronto Area.

**Q: What is the difference between Transport Canada and the GTAA?**

**A:** The GTAA is a private not-for-profit organization. As such it is very different from Transport Canada, a federal government department. The GTAA was created in order to assume through a ground lease all management and operational responsibilities of Toronto Pearson. Transport Canada's role was changed at the time of the transfer from owner and operator to landlord and regulator.

Although the GTAA is a private not-for-profit organization, it has a very public mandate. Its 15-member Board of Directors are drawn from the four regional municipalities of Durham, York, Halton and Peel, the City of Toronto, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and from the GTA business and professional community.

The mandate of the GTAA is to operate Toronto Pearson within a regional system of airports to enhance the economic growth and development of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). In keeping with this regional development mandate, in 2001, the federal Minister of Transport asked the GTAA to undertake studies to determine the feasibility of a future airport on the federally owned Pickering lands.



***The GTAA's new Terminal 1 at Toronto Pearson International Airport is funded entirely by airport revenue, not Canadian taxpayers.***

# GETTING TO KNOW THE PICKERING TEAM

*Last issue we introduced you to Lorrie McKee. Now, in the second of a three part series, we would like the Pickering and area community to meet*

## *Chris Gray, Program Coordinator for the Pickering Site Office.*

### **What is your current title?**

Gray – “I am the Program Coordinator for the Pickering Site Office.”



### **What is your role in the Pickering project?**

Gray – “I am responsible for the daily operations at the Pickering Site Office. This includes informing the public of the GTAA’s ongoing planning work, assisting with the development and coordination of the government and community relations program, maintaining and developing the information centre for the public, and attending local meetings on behalf of the GTAA.”

### **What other work experiences do you have that relate to your current position?**

Gray – “I previously worked for the federal government with Members of Parliament in both Ottawa and Toronto. In this capacity, I interacted with members of the community, business, other elected officials and senior government staff on a daily basis.”

### **Where did you receive your education?**

Gray – “I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount

Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick.”

### **What projects are you currently working on?**

Gray – “Currently we are preparing for a draft plan, expected to be released in 2004. My responsibilities for this include keeping the public informed of the detailed planning and stages of several technical studies that are underway.

### **How important is community consultation in**

#### **this project?**

Gray – “Community consultation is vital. Residents have been aware of this project for the past 30 years, and during that time they have heard many different plans for the future of this area. I feel it is key to meet with and inform residents of what is being planned by the GTAA now, so that they have accurate and current information on which to base their opinions.”

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Gray – “The best part of my job is having the opportunity to meet with and inform the public on what is being planned in Pickering, and on the GTAA’s progress to date.”

## **What to watch for in 2004....**

The GTAA will be hosting a series of community public meetings on its draft plan for a regional, reliever airport on the Pickering lands. At these meetings the public will receive more information about the draft plan, ask questions of GTAA staff and provide feedback on the proposal. As well, interested members of the public will be asked to provide comment on an ongoing basis via the GTAA website and via the GTAA site office. Starting in February, look for a mail-in comment card on the back page of Pickering Bulletin.



## WHAT'S IN THE WATER

As part of its planning work towards a possible regional, reliever airport in Pickering, the GTAA has begun conducting a series of extensive environmental field studies.

Currently underway, one of these studies will assess the quality of fish, fish habitat and invertebrate communities at selected sites on the Pickering lands property. As the study area features streams that are suitable for cold water and species such as Brook and Rainbow Trout, the study will help predict impacts associated with developing a regional, reliever airport on the Pickering Lands.

Researchers have been collecting information on fish spawning areas through the creeks this fall. The remainder of the field data will be collected in the summer of 2004 to be consistent with methods undertaken by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.



**Members of the GTAA's Environment team study the area's rivers and streams for signs of fish habitat. The study will continue into next year as the Authority begins preparing for the Environmental Assessment.**



## Pickering Bulletin

**Publisher:**

Corporate Affairs and Communications

**Design, Layout and Contributions:**

Patricia England and Chris Gray

**Contact Us:**

Pickering Site Office  
 3590 Brock Road, Brougham, ON LOH 1A0  
 Phone: (905) 619-4822 Fax: (905) 619-3575  
 Email: pickeringlands@gtaa.com  
 www.gtaa.com

