



Michael Tucker Honoured

Past president Michael Tucker was awarded the Charles Sauriol Leadership Award by the TRCA. Thanks to the many GDA members and supporters who attended the Living City Foundation dinner where Michael was presented with the award. If you missed the dinner you can view the [video](#) that was made to outline Michael's work.

Update on Federal Lands

- On November 28, 2016 the Federal Government released the report prepared by independent advisor Dr. Gary Polonsky. GDA was [interviewed](#) early in 2016 as part of this study. These recommendations do not bring any additional new or dramatically different perspective for the Federal Lands. Of greater significance will be the *Pickering Lands Aviation Sector Analysis* commissioned by Transport Canada and being completed by KPMG, to be released in 2018. This recent [editorial](#) outlines the implications of the Polonsky report.
- GDA met recently with Federal MP Jennifer O'Connell and with Pickering Mayor David Ryan. We asked for their support in our request that the Federal Government make changes to the lands identified in the 2nd transfer of lands to the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP). GDA is recommending that this transfer of lands include roughly 900 additional acres which will create links from RNUP to the communities of Seaton and Claremont.


GDA was able to submit these proposed changes for consideration by the Standing Committee prior to the third and final reading of *Bill C-18, An Act to amend the Rouge National Urban Park Act, the Parks Canada Agency Act and the Canada National Parks Act*.

- *Land Over Landings* (LOL) is sponsoring a comprehensive agricultural/rural-growth economics [study](#) of the remaining Federal Lands. The goal of the study is to investigate a practical, viable, economic alternative to an airport and urban development on these lands. GDA has pledged funds towards this initiative. If you want to support this important initiative, make a [donation](#) by selecting "*Agricultural Study with Land Over Landings*".

Trail Sign Initiative

To date, GDA has sold 17 of the 93 available posts. You can view some of the [messages](#) that have already been purchased on the GDA website.

GDA volunteers will be visiting some local businesses to ask for their support of this project by purchasing a plaque.



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Map Project

The overview map, which provides orientation and information about the overall area is 99% complete. A more detailed map of a specific section intended for navigation is well on its way. Both will be ready for publication early in 2017. Two additional detailed maps will ready by our AGM in June 2017.