



Bulletin

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BIG NEW ONTARIO AIRPORT

A new international airport, to be built at Pickering, about 30 miles northeast of Toronto, will be financed by the Federal Government and the government of Ontario and should be in operation in 1978 or early 1979.

In a statement to the House of Commons on March 2, the Minister of Transport, Mr. Don Jamieson, outlined as follows the reasons for the choice of the 18,000-acre site; plans for the expropriation of land, financing, and the development of "an aviation system":

...The choice of a site northeast of Toronto has come after an exhaustive federal-provincial evaluation since 1968 of 59 potential airport sites in the area within a 50-mile radius of Metropolitan Toronto.

It has now been decided that, for a number of compelling reasons, the Pickering Township site is more suitable than any of the other sites studied. In the first place, it is an excellent site, consistent with safety and other aeronautical considerations.

Second, it is also the closest site to Toronto of all the proposed sites and, therefore, provides the easiest accessibility.

Third, because it is reasonably close to Lake Ontario and to a number of major transportation arteries leading out of Toronto, investment in water, sewage and transportation access facilities will be less than at other sites.

Fourth, even though it is close to Toronto, population in the immediate vicinity of the new airport is small. No major communities will be seriously affected by expropriation or very high noise levels and the environmental impact is minimized.

Finally, and in many respects most important, the location of the airport east of Toronto is the result of joint federal-provincial effort to provide a major stimulus to development east of Metropolitan Toronto, as called for in the Toronto-centred region plan.

The southern part of the airport site lies along the route of a series of proposed urban communities to the east of Toronto, which will be separated from existing lakeshore urban centres by a series of multi-purpose transportation, service and recreation corridors. The government of Ontario has been re-designing the shape and location of some of these proposed communities in order to take account of the airport location and to ensure that areas which could be affected by uncomfortable noise levels are not slated for residential development. Transportation and service access facilities are also being designed so that the airport will be on a rapid-transit line linking the new communities east of Toronto to Metropolitan Toronto and Malton. The proposed parkway belt and service corridors are also being designed to serve as a separator between the airport and the airport-related community and the existing urban centres along the lakeshore.

The airport site itself is in the neighbourhood of

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