

Scugog issues long-awaited permit to Greenbank

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## Scugog issues long-awaited permit to Greenbank airport

**Soil shipments expected to begin next week**



### Soil shipments to begin at Greenbank airport

Photo by Armando Villavona

*PORT PERRY -- Brad Stevenson operated a tractor while creating a new mud mat on Tuesday afternoon at the Greenbank Airport. September 11, 2012.*

Oshawa This Week

ByChris Hall

SCUGOG -- Dozens of trucks are expected to begin rolling into the Greenbank airport next week after the air base finally secured the last permit needed to begin its ambitious expansion project.

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After months of negotiations and piles of paperwork, Scugog issued the Regional Road 47 airport a site-alteration permit on Monday afternoon, paving the way for Greenbank Airways to start trucking in the estimated 2.5-million cubic metres of soil they need to upgrade the airport.

"It looks like everything is in place," said airport manager John Packer late Monday afternoon. "This is the start of a long road, but it's going to be really, really good."

Mr. Packer anticipated the dirt deliveries will begin sometime next week due to the rainy conditions forecasted for this week.

### **It looks like everything is in place. This is the**

The airport manager said DLS Group, the company hired by the airport to police the quality of the soil shipments, has already approved between five and seven source sites.

Mr. Packer added the maximum number of heavy haulers allowed under the airport's permits -- 17 per hour, up to 200 each day -- should begin arriving next week.

"We're just waiting for it to clear up a little," he said. "We're ready to start probably next week."

Scugog Mayor Chuck Mercier received and relayed the news regarding the permit in the middle of Monday's council meeting.

Coincidentally, at the same time councillors were discussing the airport and concerns about soil shipments coming from the eastern edge of Durham.

The permits in place govern which routes trucks making deliveries to the airport must take, however they mostly focus on shipments coming from west and south of Scugog.

On Monday, councillors raised concerns about soil shipments they believe are coming from the Darlington area.

"A discussion of haulers coming from the east never really (took place)," Ian Roger, Scugog's director of public works and parks, told councillors.

He guessed that most trucks coming from the east would travel along regional and provincial roads, such as Thickson Road and Hwy. 12, before turning onto Regional Road 47.

Mr. Roger also reminded councillors that the Township's deal with Greenbank airport never stipulated where soil could, or could not, be brought from.

The director also estimated that perhaps as many as 20 trucks a day would be coming from the east, with the majority of the 180 permitted coming from sites in the Greater Toronto Area.

When asked Monday afternoon where the soil shipments would be coming from, Mr. Packer said he was unsure.

During the discussion around the council table, however, Mayor Mercier stressed to his colleagues that there are already plenty of heavy trucks using local roads.

"In real life, Lakeridge Road, (Hwy.) 12 and (Hwy.) 47, they're all truck routes. Ninety per cent of the vehicles on the road will have nothing to do with Greenbank airport," said the mayor.

"We're going to get this started, we're going to observe it and we're going to deal with issues as they arise," he continued. "I think it's a good agreement and it allows us to deal with our citizens' concerns.

"There'll be some surprises, no doubt."