

May 19, 2016

Scugog launches legal action against Greenbank airport

Township seeks airbase cleanup in 60 days, payment of outstanding fees



Greenbank Airways site

Benjamin Priebe / Metroland

SCUGOG -- Councillors are pondering their next move after the Township received a report of contaminated soil at the Greenbank Airways site, located on Regional Road 47 near Greenbank. May 5, 2015

Port Perry Star

By [Chris Hall](#)

SCUGOG -- Scugog has decided to launch legal action in a bid to force cleanup work to begin at the Greenbank airport and to recover thousands of dollars owed to the Township.

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Councillors voted in favour on Monday, May 16 to force, under the Municipal Act, remediation work to begin at the Regional Road 47 airbase and be completed within 60 days. Soil samples that exceeded acceptable levels were discovered at the airport site last spring after the Township carried out borehole tests.

That prompted the Township to halt all soil shipments to the site last spring and while the two sides agreed to a remediation plan last year, no work has been done to clean up the site.

“We’re happy with the plan, we’re just waiting for them to do it,” said Glen Smith, Scugog’s director of public works and parks. “We need the remediation and we need them to do it a timely fashion. Enough stalling.”

The Township’s lawyer “has exhausted every avenue or approach to have them do this in a reasonable time,” continued Mr. Smith. “They’re just not listening and we’re doing all we can to move this along.”

Robert Munshaw, the airport owner, did not respond to requests for comment.

Last fall, Mr. Munshaw said he had requested to speak with Township officials about their “unreasonable request” but was turned down.

“We have always worked co-operatively and will continue to do so. Unfortunately, this staff and council chose not to want to,” he said last September.

On Tuesday, Mayor Tom Rowett said airport officials “left us with no choice but to go to court and seek action.”

The mayor said Township officials gave airbase officials plenty of time to carry out the work, “but we just don’t want to sit on a remediation plan with no action.”

If the airport lands are not rehabilitated to the Township’s satisfaction within the set timeframe, Scugog also has the right to carry out the work on its own with the costs to be borne by the airport and its associates.

Councillors also voted at their in-camera meeting on May 16 to commence civil action in Superior Court to recover all unpaid tipping fees and other financial obligations, including legal and consulting costs, from the airport and GFL Environmental Inc.

Mr. Smith estimated those outstanding costs to be somewhere between \$100,000 and \$150,000.