

## **A Thumbnail Sketch of the Dangers to Second Marsh**

Why is Friends of Second Marsh concerned about the secret terms of the harbour agreement with the federal government that was accepted on Thursday, April 22, 2010 by Oshawa City Council?

The explanation in a nutshell is:

- The Gifford Farm Lands are federally controlled lands right next door to Second Marsh. They are the site of the proposed ethanol refinery which has, twice now, been forced to withdraw its applications for environmental approvals to the province.
- Despite the guidelines of David Crombie's report, "Recommendations for the Future of Oshawa Harbour", it appears that the federal government is refusing to transfer the Gifford Farm Lands to the control of the City of Oshawa.
- The Gifford Farm Lands are separated from the port area of Oshawa's harbour and are unnecessary to the operations of that harbour. Why is the federal government insisting on maintaining control?
- In contradiction, yet again, to the Crombie report, the federal government is proposing a port authority for Oshawa. This port authority will have land-use planning powers. There is a serious constitutional possibility that these planning powers will trump the provincial and municipal laws that protect communities from poor land-use ideas. In, effect, this may open a back door for projects like an ethanol refinery on the Gifford Farm Lands.
- We have yet to see any binding protections provided by the federal government to safeguard the community from these unwanted land-use possibilities. Of course, the safest measure would be to transfer the lands to the city.