Landowner Voices

LV

Jan/Feb 2020

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Landowner Voices

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Jan/Feb. 2020

'Neighbours'

by Tom Black

Hello Folks,

Or should I say, hello neighbour? What does the word neighbour mean to you? For most people in the big city, it means someone across the street or on either side of your house. I know that it is wrong to generalize in such cases, but usually, folks in the big city tend not to know their neighbours more than two doors away. In the rural and in small towns, in general, people know their neighbours. As a matter of fact, rural people often refer to people who live several miles away as "neighbours".

The word neighbour conjures up a few different definitions depending on your own life experience. For instance, there is the 'recluse' living next door who is never seen, or if he is, he stares straight ahead as he passes and never waves or leans across the fence to chat. The recluse tends to not want to invite friendship with unknown strangers next door in case it is perceived as an invitation to invade his/her space at any moment of the day. This could mean a surprise visit, a call for help, a wish to borrow the last tool you have on the shelf or to just talk endlessly to a patient ear about whatever trivial daily grip that crosses their thoughts at a given moment.

In the rural, the word neighbour really developed through the history of the immigrants who came to this undeveloped country, with its harsh deadly climate, endless trees with nowhere to grow food, no doctors, no stores, no rails, no ships - there was only the people who came to this country from all parts of the world, to rely on in times of need. This interdependence on each other crossed over all pre-arrival religious and ethnic bias, because survival of all depended on each other. No police and no fire department were there to call or phones that had not been invented. Survival was the common denominator that welded them together to look out for each other. Farming eventually became the common future, with neighbours joining together at harvest to create 'thrashing gangs' to get their crops in the barn. This neighbourly working together continued with the local fairs, Thanksgiving celebrations, suppers and dances. There were no distractions from the TV or social media. The interactions with people were face to face.

When the landowner movement started up, the neighbourhood expanded rapidly to include people from all over Ontario and in some cases, across Canada and some from other countries. These were and are people with common challenges coming together to try and help each other for the common good.

However, that is when we started to see another definition of neighbour. Let's just call him the 'bad neighbour'. We soon discovered that about 80% of all the distress calls were from people who had the bad neighbour scenario.

In most cases this neighbour had moved into the area, after a farm got sold or when some landowner decided to pay some bills by severing a lot and selling it. Most who move to a new community, do so because they like it and want to be part of it, but some get there and suddenly do not like where they now live because they don't like the smells of barnyards, calves bawling, geese honking, roosters crowing, tractors and combines going late into the night, dogs barking, hounds howling and shot guns going off in the middle of the night. In most cases these folks admit they made a mistake and move on to an area that better suits their tastes, but then there is the "bad neighbour" who does everything in his power to destroy the texture of the country that they moved to. They call bylaw with frivolous complaints, they call police when kids party too loud, they call the fire department for bonfires , they call MNR and Conservation if someone is spotted driving their four-wheeler through a ditch and they call the Humane Society for animal abuse because cows are out in the rain.

So, you see, if we are blessed with good neighbours, we should treasure them and perhaps include them in our circle of friends. If you have the 'bad neighbours', then pray for a good one to come and buy them out when the complainer tires of targeting you because you are what they see when they look out their window. You become the focus of all that is wrong in their life and therefore must be destroyed.

But it is not all gloom folks. We are so lucky in the country that ninety-nine percent of all neighbours are just super people and that's why we all should cherish them. **

GOLDIE GHAMARI
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HERE TO SERVE

NEWS FROM QUEEN'S PARK

ONTARIO ADOPTS NEW ANIMAL WELFARE MODEL

Ontario is introducing legislation to better protect animals from abuse and neglect by proposing the strongest penalties in Canada for offenders, and a more robust enforcement system.

Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act, highlights:

- Improving oversight and ensuring increased transparency and accountability, including establishing a one-window complaints mechanism for the public;

- Establishing a multi-disciplinary advisory table made up of a wide range of experts, including veterinarians, agriculture representatives, academics, animal advocates and others to provide ongoing advice to the ministry to improve animal welfare;

- Introducing new offences to combat activities such as dog fighting;

- Giving inspectors necessary powers to help animals in distress and to hold owners accountable;

- Giving government the ability to empower others, beyond inspectors, to take action when an animal is in imminent risk of serious injury or death when a pet is left in a hot car; and

- Significantly increasing penalties for serious, repeat and corporate offenders. These new penalties would be the strongest in Canada.

As well as the proposed legislative changes, the system will be strengthened by hiring more provincial inspectors to ensure better coverage across the province, including specialists in livestock, agriculture, horses, zoos and aquariums.

ONTARIO INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ONTARIO'S FARMERS, FARM ANIMALS AND FOOD SUPPLY

On December 2, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, introduced legislation entitled, Security From Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019 in the Ontario Legislature.

The proposed legislation, if passed, will better protect farmers, their animals, livestock transporters and the province's food supply. It would also require explicit prior consent to access an animal protection zone on a farm or food processing facility.

The proposed legislation would address the unique risks and challenges associated with trespass onto a farm or into a food processing facility. These include:

- The risks trespassers pose to the safety of farmers, their families and employees;

- Exposing farm animals to stress and disease; and

- Introducing contaminants into our food supply.

The health and safety of farmers and farm animals is at the heart of the proposed legislation. Additionally, the proposed act would allow the courts to increase the cost of trespassing by:

- Escalating fines of up to $15,000 for a first offence and $25,000 for subsequent offences, compared to a maximum of $10,000 under the Trespass to Property Act;
- Increasing protection for farmers against civil liability from people who were hurt while trespassing or contravening the act.

The proposed legislation provides exemptions to allow access for municipal by-law officers, police and persons appointed under provincial animal protection and other legislation to access the property. This will be updated to reference the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act (PAWS) if both bills are passed by the legislature. Under the proposed legislation, consent would be invalid if it was obtained under duress or false pretenses. Interfering with the operations of farms, food processing businesses and livestock transporters not only puts the health and safety of agri-food workers and farm animals at risk, but also jeopardizes our food safety. The proposed legislation takes important steps to protect the integrity of the province's food system.

The proposed legislation would also address the safety risks of people interfering with livestock in transport by:

- Prohibiting stopping, hindering, obstructing or interfering with a motor vehicle transporting farm animals; and
- Prohibiting interacting with farm animals being transported by a motor vehicle without explicit prior consent.

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE:

My constituency office is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm and I have 4 full-time employees helping me serve the people of Carleton.

If you require assistance on any matter, please contact me at anytime. It's why I'm here. Even if it's not a provincial issue, I'll make sure to connect you with the proper office.

Goldie -
Your voice at Queen's Park

WHAT TO DO WHEN THEY COME FOR YOU

Updated version

- **Call** for support. Have an OLA contact list available
- **Be** polite, Be Assertive, Stand Your Ground.
- **Record** your visitors with phone, recorder, video, notes etc.
- **If police** with visitor, address them first: Why are you here? Under what authority?
- **If** the Police refer to "Keeping the Peace", ask the question … does that mean my Peace as well? Does this mean you intend to protect my rights as well?
- **Record** name, badge #, and headquarters. Get pictures of ID, license plates, vehicles etc. Request incident #.
- **If there is a Warrant** to Search, ask senior officer to read it aloud. Make sure that the Party who swore to the Warrant is present when the officer reads the Warrant. Assuming it is not the Police. For example, Conservation Authority has sworn to the Warrant. It is important that everyone know and understand the limitations of the Warrant.
- **Ask** to see the Information to Obtain the warrant **(ITO)**. If there is no ITO, make a verbal note to all that there is no ITO and you Protest the Execution of the Warrant. Do Not Interfere with the Warrant. Argue it later in court. Everything must be accurate; name, address, Signatures etc. If anything is wrong, tell the officer you protest the Warrant. That it is invalid for the following reasons. If the officer disagrees, argue it in court. Verbal disagreement with the Warrant is not in itself, blocking or interfering with the Execution of the Warrant.
- **Only comply** with what is on the warrant, offer no extra information and verbally protest the extra search. Argue it in court.
- **If just an official;** bylaw etc, ask for 2 pieces gov't. issued ID, proof of employment, employee # confirmation phone #(business cards don't count but keep one for later) They have NO authority without a warrant, ask them to leave. Ask them 3x then call 911. If they insist they have authority, make them show you. Remember Criminal code is Federal legislation and if no warrant they could be charged with trespass or mischief.
- **Ask** for insurance confirmation and sterile boots and clothing, You don't know where they've been. Follow bio-security measures.
- **If they are there on a complaint**, ask for the name and actual complaint as everyone is allowed to face their accuser. You might have to file a freedom of information request.

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

- **Don't be intimidated** by a uniform!
- **Be firm.** If you don't stop them from walking on your property, it looks like implied consent.
- **Document everything** in writing when visit is over. Witness support would be an asset.
- **When in doubt** … Verbally Protest the Warrant or the Uninvited Access to your land. Do Not Physically Interfere in a Warrant or Inspection. The court is the place to be. Motion to Quash the Warrant. If the Motion succeeds, then the evidence gathered is thrown out.
- **A Tort** may be the next step after a Warrant is Quashed or an uninvited inspection.
- **Record** All Events while anyone is on your land. Keep your camera handy and the battery charged. The same with a cell phone. Add an additional SD card as well. More storage capacity. Film in low resolution for longer filming.
- **Never** answer a question. Anything you say will be used against you. Especially with body Cameras being used. There is no law compelling you to answer question. However, You Can Ask All The Questions You Want. Ask Them on the record.

THIS IS INFORMATION ONLY, NOT LEGAL ADVICE

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News Release

Ontario Launches Free Routine Dental Care for Low-Income Seniors

Program Will Help Keep Seniors Healthy

November 20, 2019 9:00 A.M.
Office of the Premier

TORONTO — As part of its comprehensive plan to end hallway health care, Ontario is investing in programs that keep seniors healthy in their communities longer. Each year in Ontario, preventable dental issues like gum disease, infections and chronic pain lead to more than 60,000 emergency department visits by patients, of which a significant portion are seniors. Many low-income seniors face challenges accessing regular dental care because they cannot afford it, impacting their overall well-being.

This is why the government is investing approximately $90 million annually for the new Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP), which will provide free routine dental care for eligible low-income seniors across the province. In doing so, the government expects to reduce the number of dental-related emergency department visits, helping to end hallway health care. Today Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, visited Rexdale Community Health Centre to launch the new user-friendly web portal (ontario.ca/SeniorsDental) seniors can use to apply to the program.

Eligible seniors can apply to the program online as of today, or by picking up an application form at a local public health unit.

"With this program, we are making sure Ontario's low-income seniors can age with dignity and enjoy the quality of life they deserve," said Premier Ford. "This is another concrete way our government is delivering on our commitment to end hallway health care and cut hospital wait times."

"By providing seniors with access to quality dental care and keeping them out of hospitals, this new program is a key part of our plan to end hallway health care," said Minister Elliott. "Ontario is building a connected system of care that supports all Ontarians throughout their health care journey."

"The well-being of all Ontario's seniors is a top priority for this government," said Minister Cho. "This new dental care program will help eligible seniors receive the quality dental care they deserve. By keeping seniors healthy, we can also help seniors avoid emergency visits to the hospital, prevent chronic diseases, and increase quality of life for seniors across the province."

Ontarians aged 65 and over with an income of $19,300 or less, or couples with a combined annual income of $32,300 or less, who do not have dental benefits, will qualify for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

Ontario remains committed to building healthier communities and making life more affordable for everyone, including seniors and their families.

Quick Facts

- It is estimated that 100,000 low-income seniors will benefit annually from this program once fully implemented.
- Two-thirds of low-income seniors do not have access to dental insurance.
- The new dental care program will be available through public health units, including some mobile dental clinics, as well as participating Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs).

Letters from our Readers

Paul Stevens writes a letter of concern to the Solicitor-General

Dear Solicitor-General Jones:

I wish to thank you for your initiative in undertaking the re-writing of Ontario's animal welfare legislation.

The proposed Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) Act improves upon the OSPCA Act which lacked transparency and accountability particularly concerning enforcement. The requirement for a warrant on properties where there is a dwelling is an additional improvement. Requiring a warrant on agricultural property without a dwelling would further ensure respect for the animals and property owners.

There are a number of ways the PAWS Act can be further enhanced to ensure appropriate legislation that serves the needs of animals, owners and Ontario citizens.

The definitions provided in section 1 of Bill 136, provide an important reference for interpreting the legislation and how it will be enforced. One area of concern is with the definition of distress. The terms psychological hardship, privation or neglect are too subjective. When considering what an animal is thinking or feeling there is often a tendency for people to anthropomorphize and impart human psychological feelings onto animals. The views of enforcement officers may not reflect established animal care practices, animal behaviour science and the views of farmers and other rural people. Decisions about distress need to be less subjective and more science based. Principles of animal science and veterinary medicine need to be applied when evaluating levels of stress.

Another aspect of the PAWS Act that requires further consideration is the role of the Animal Care Review Board (ACRB) in the administration of the Act. The website of the ACRB states: "When reviewing appeals and applications, the welfare of any animal involved is the ACRB's main priority." This priority is contradicted by the organization and actions of the ACRB. In order to make decisions in the best interests of animals, it is imperative that ACRB members have an understanding of animal management procedures as well as animal behaviour and health issues. Currently 25 of the 28 ACRB members are lawyers. Although lawyers may be highly trained with respect to Canadian law, they lack appropriate knowledge about animals or the management procedures they will be asked to rule on. A tribunal with responsibilities to conduct hearings and resolve disputes on animal welfare needs to have representation from veterinarians, animal scientists, farmers, aviculturists, herpetologists, etc. It is inappropriate to have a tribunal such as the ACRB with inadequate knowledge, make decisions about animal management.

In some respects the OSPCA Act better addressed the needs of animals and owners. For example, in section 11 of the OSPCA Act, exceptions are provided to the requirement that every person comply with the prescribed standards of care if an activity is carried on in accordance with reasonable and generally accepted practices of agricultural animal care, management or husbandry; or for a prescribed class of animals or animals living in prescribed circumstances or conditions. In section 13 of the PAWS Act, the second part of the above exceptions has been removed and a caveat has been added to the first part relating to agricultural animal care "unless the standards of care or administrative requirements expressly provide that they apply to that activity", which through simple changes in regulations could require that particular agricultural animal care procedures be carried out regardless of the impact on animal agriculture. Both of the above exceptions from the OSPCA Act should be included in in the PAWS Act, which would enable both agricultural and other classes of animals to be kept in accordance with reasonable and generally accepted practices of animal care or in prescribed circumstances or conditions.

Another long-standing problem has been the unreasonable seizure of animals. Animals should not be seized in an arbitrary manner or as a result of a subjective assessment. If animals must be removed, the decision needs to be made for medical reasons based on the recommendation of a veterinarian.

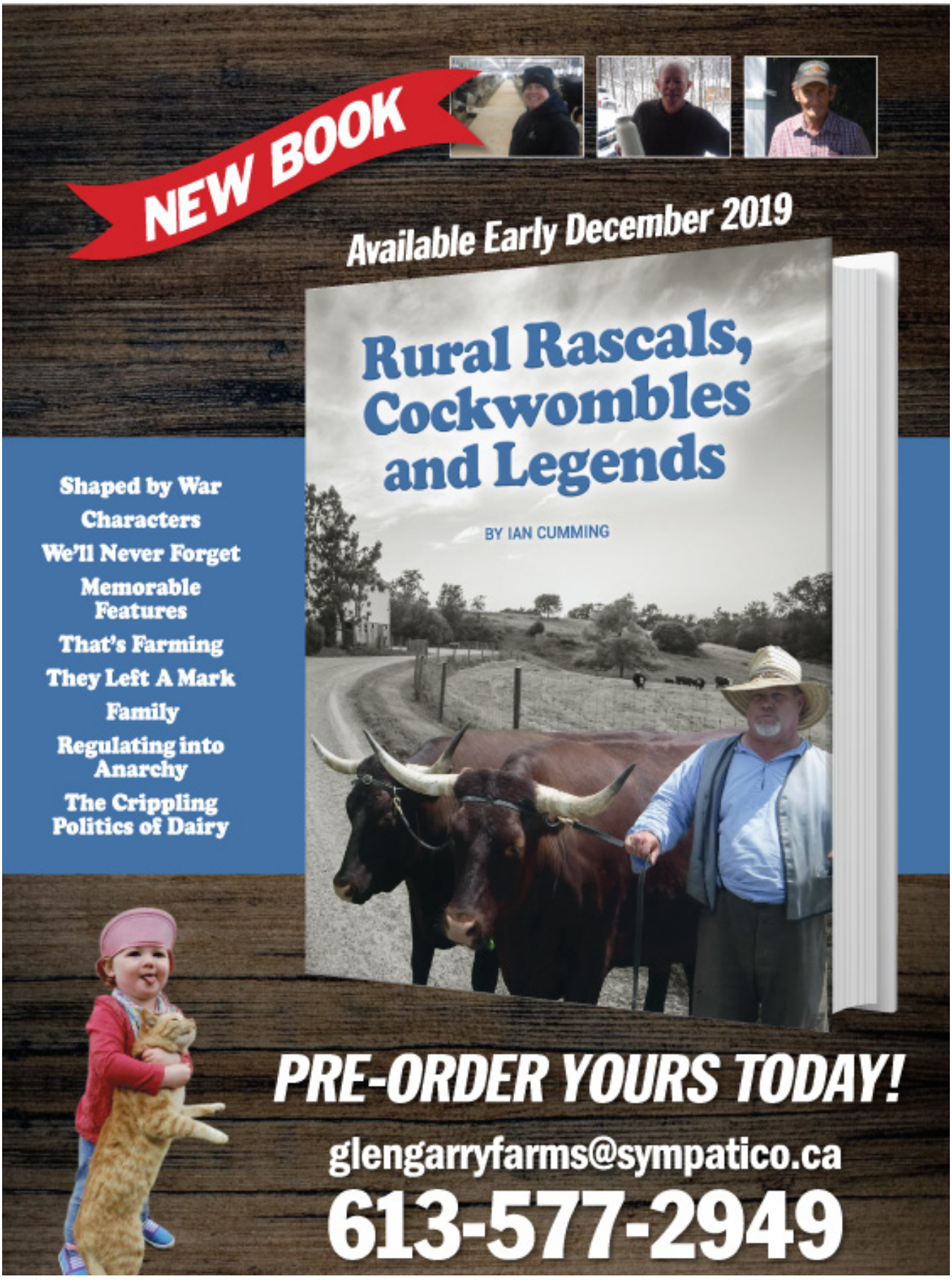
I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these and other aspects of the PAWS Act in more detail.

The Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada (AACC) has considerable expertise on the management of many avian species. Jeremy Faria, President of AACC has suggested that AACC could assist if desired in an advisory manner with issues relating to this legislation.

Sincerely,

J. Paul Stevens, Ph.D.
Animal Scientist &
Chair Legislation Committee,
Avicultural Advancement Council of Canada

E-mail: paul.stevens@usask.ca or somsask@yahoo.com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The Geezer's Corner

A Merry Mall Meeting

by Dale Dawson

You've seen them at Christmas. You know the ones I mean – they are older tired looking men with a beaten down appearance about them. A lifetime of exhausting work and hard knocks has taken its toll. Watch them as the Christmas shopping season gets under way. They'll drag themselves in the front mall entrance trailing behind their wives and wander aimlessly to the nearest bench to join other members of that exclusive and forgotten fraternity of grey beards. They are the ones that have escaped hours of tedium watching their wives examine items that could qualify as a throw away gift for grumpy old Aunt Martha. The boredom of the shopping mall was the reason that Mall Meetings came into being.

Mall meetings can't be scheduled and they usually just happen by chance especially at Christmas. There was a grand crowd at a recent meeting. My wife had spotted a friend of hers and when she walked off to talk to the person, I slipped my leash and hastily took my place among the top problem solvers of the nation. I was soon to find out why it was crowded. The reason was the presence of that famous world guru, Edsel Lamont Ferguson. Edsel is a master at taking complex matters and simplifying them so the average bozo on the street can comprehend them. It had been ten years since he'd enlightened us at a mall meeting. I believe I wrote about that lecture also.

In the past Edsel had been overlooked for awards because the self centred geeks on award panels thought he tended to oversimplify his equations. If a mathematical equation doesn't cover at least seven pages, it can't possibly be correct according to the long hair fraternity. The last time he went to Sweden to claim his Nobel Prize which he no doubt deserved, he was flagrantly overlooked. He was so disappointed when they gave the award to that upstart Barak Obama. Awards mean nothing to him now. He is happy and contented as he tours the land on the lecture circuit.

He'd aged a bit in the last ten years, but he seemed happy enough sitting there grinning with the same tattered old John Deere cap tilted precariously over one ear. I believe he was wearing the same overalls! He was fielding questions from the faithful with the effortless charm and grace that all great orators have in abundance. I found a space on a nearby bench.

A young reporter asked, "If you were Santa, what gift would you give to our Prime Minister?"

A young reporter asked, "If you were Santa, what gift would you give to our Prime Minister?" Edsel pushed his cap back so that his right ear disappeared and stared at the young newsman... "Well, I'd give him a super GPS so he could tour the forgotten Prairie Provinces and study the region and just maybe pay attention to their needs. He better know where he's going – he won't have much luck at asking directions. Oh, they'll tell him where to go alright, but he won't care much for the destination. We need less swagger and more substance in the PM office."

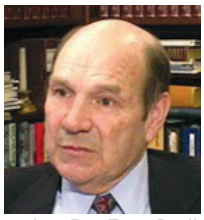
He was then asked his opinion on the Liberal price on pollution which caused him to shake his head sadly. "Young fellow lets call it what it is, it's a carbon tax that will work as well as training wheels on an elephant's butt. When a government can't figure out how to fix something they tax it and sell the general population a big truckload of bull feathers. The climate crisis won't and can't be fixed by such a harebrained scheme. All is not lost however, scientists are working hard on new ideas on how to take or keep carbon out of the atmosphere. If the planet is to be saved it will not likely be saved by tax and spend governments that are more interested in staying in power than helping regular folks."

Somebody shouted from the rear, "What is the biggest danger facing humankind today Edsel?" Edsel looked slowly about and said, "Greed, corruption and a great lack of common sense. The general population is getting slowly conditioned to accept less than stellar performances from our elected leaders. We will even re-elect people who have been caught with both hands in the cookie jar, claiming proudly that he or she is the lesser of two evils.

Edsel then rose slowly smiling broadly and adjusted his cap. "Look guys, I know that you are in a hurry to get on with your shopping so I'll bring this meeting to a conclusion. You think that the inmates have taken over the asylum and government common sense is as common as tail feathers a bull moose, but its Christmas boys, so be happy and keep the faith."

Dale Dawson

Claim That 97% of Scientists Agree About Human-Caused Global Warming Is Fake News.



by Dr. Tim Ball

The one propaganda ploy that politicians and media used to effectively combat the truth about human-caused global warming (AGW) was the claim that 97% of scientists agree it is real.

The AGW deception evolved in the late 1960s and grew gradually until it exploded on the world in 1988 when James Hansen misled a US Senate hearing. It began in 1968 with David Rockefeller's Club of Rome's (COR) plan to control energy and thereby political power. The COR say they are

"a group of world citizens, sharing a common concern for the future of humanity."

Compare this claim with H. L. Mencken's observation that,

"The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule."

They claimed that world population was outgrowing all resources and presented a study, *Limits to Growth* to support it. The study was based on the false premise of overpopulation and did not consider any changes due to technological advances. The 'advanced' nations were the biggest culprits because they achieved their status and wealth by using the most resources aided by using fossil fuels. America was seen as the greatest threat to their objective, so it became a major target, but it was still only a part of the global control. The plan, through the Kyoto Protocol (KP), identified the 'advanced' nations (Annex I) who had to pay for their sin. The money collected went to other countries to pay for the damage they experienced and cover the cost of coping with global warming. In fact, it was a massive socialist transfer of wealth. After it was exposed by leaked emails (Climategate) that the KP was based on corrupted science, they created an identical agency called the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It was ratified at the Paris Climate Agreement.

COR member Maurice Strong went to the UN to implement the plan. He knew it would not receive any support from any government. Elaine Dewar, in her book *Cloak of Green*, reported that he went to the UN because,

He could raise his own money from whomever he liked, appoint anyone he wanted, control the agenda.

After spending five days with Strong at the UN Dewar concluded,

Strong was using the U.N. as a platform to sell a global environment crisis and the Global Governance Agenda.

He created the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and through that the global political monster known as Agenda 21. Through it, he provided the political structure for the political agenda and created the science to support the politics through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Figure 1 shows the organizational structure that centered on the Conference of the Parties (COP).

It is the nature of all deceptions that there are layers of lies and deceptions making it difficult to unravel. The selection of terminology and words are always a major and initial part of the deception. The greenhouse analogy was only valuable because it automatically triggers the concept of heat for the public. In fact, the Earth's atmosphere does not work like a greenhouse.

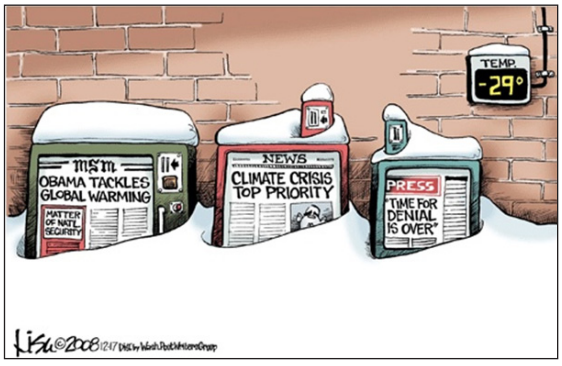
The next example was marginalizing anyone who challenged the IPCC science as a skeptic. As Michael Shermer explained,

"Scientists are skeptics. It's unfortunate that the word 'skeptic' has taken on other connotations in the culture involving nihilism and cynicism. Really, in its pure and original meaning, it's just thoughtful inquiry."

All this worked well as far as the deceivers were concerned until 1998 when they were confronted by what Thomas Huxley (1825-1895) defined as the

"the great tragedy of science – the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact."

By 2004 it became obvious that the global warming threat was not occurring. Cartoons appeared like the following:



It caused a headache for the people in charge of PR for the AGW deception at the Minns/Tyndall Centre on the UEA campus. A 2004 leaked CRU (IPCC) email from Nick said,

"In my experience, global warming freezing is already a bit of a public relations problem with the media."

Swedish alarmist and climate expert on the IPCC, Bo Kjellen replied,

"I agree with Nick that climate change might be a better labelling than global warming."

And that is what they did. The global warming theory became the climate change theory. They also changed the slur from skeptics to deniers, with its holocaust connotations. That charge of holocaust connotation is legitimate because it was a prominent issue at the time with the activities of Holocaust denier, David Irving. However, why the change? Why not continue to call them climate change skeptics? Besides, they ignored the fact that these scientists do nothing but educate people to the amount and extent of natural climate change. They are anything but deniers.

Then we come to the claim that 97% of scientists agree. It was deliberately created as a major part of the confusion created and exploited by the difference in meaning of words between different segments of society.

The academic source came from John Cook et al., in a 2013 article titled *"Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature."* Lord Monckton dissected the claim in his comment titled, *"0.3% consensus, not 97.1%."* The authors divided 11,944 abstracts of articles into three categories, using their definitions. Monckton used the same definitions and achieved a remarkably different result.

The authors' own data file categorized 64 abstracts, or only 0.5% of the sample, as endorsing the consensus hypothesis as thus defined. Inspection shows only 41 of the 64, or 0.3% of the entire sample, actually endorsed their hypothesis.

Even if Monckton is 50% correct, the deception is astonishing. The best description of what is wrong with the consensus claim came from Harvard graduate, medical doctor, and science fiction writer, Michael Crichton.

"I want to pause here and talk about this notion of consensus, and the rise of what has been called consensus science. I regard consensus science as an extremely pernicious development that ought to be stopped cold in its tracks. Historically, the claim of consensus has been the first refuge of scoundrels; it is a way to avoid debate by claiming that the matter is already settled. Whenever you hear the consensus of scientists agrees on something or other, reach for your wallet, because you're being had.

In an attempt to deflect legitimate criticism of their work and manipulate the AGW story, the people involved with the IPCC who were members of the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) created the website RealClimate. The need for a propaganda vehicle was revealed in November 2009 when thousands of emails were leaked (Climategate) and exposed their tactics and activities.

RealClimate explained on the 22 December 2004 why they introduced the word consensus. It illustrates the political objective of the entire global warming crusade. It underscores how the agenda was never about science.

We've used the term "consensus" here a bit recently without ever really defining what we mean by it. In normal practice, there is no great need to define it – no science depends on it. But it's useful to record the core that most scientists agree on, for public presentation. The consensus that exists is that of the IPCC reports, in particular the working group I report (there are three WG's. By "IPCC", people tend to mean WG I).

In short, they are saying there is a consensus because we say there is a consensus.

All of this explains why Voltaire said,

"If you wish to converse with me, define your terms."

What he needs to add is that beyond the terms, you need to know the context of the information. This is the only way you can know that the AGW strategy is the biggest deception in history. It is the biggest fake news story created through and perpetuated by the bureaucrats who are the deep state. It is why we must heed Mary McCarthy's warning that *"Bureaucracy; the rule of no one, has become the modern form of despotism."*

"Carbon dioxide is portrayed as harmful, but there isn't even one study that can be produced that shows that carbon dioxide is a harmful gas… It is a harmless gas"

by Michele Bachmann

Healthy Bodies, Informed Minds

Re-Working the Home Care System in Ontario

By Marilyn Colton
Retired administrator, LTC and Retirement

For many years, under the Liberal government, our system of Community Care was costly, mismanaged, and ineffective. Many Ontarians 'gave up' in their attempts to secure home care services. This resulted in overcrowding in emergency departments and longer waiting lists for Long-term care (LTC). The latter was due to the inability of family to access quality care and support in the home as well as insufficient numbers of LTC beds across the province.

Our current government is working toward an integrated and robust system whereby Ontarians receive the high quality of care that they deserve. This re-design of our health system will result in increased collaboration between all components of the system, from hospitals to primary care providers, nursing, therapeutic and community support agencies. In making this significant shift, this government understands, and is acting to adopt, the latest remote technology so that real-time information is available to the provider(s) of care regardless of the care setting. This means that the professionals and the service workers, such as Personal Support Workers, in the home will have the medical and social information needed to make the best decisions about care with the client and family being served.

I believe that as part of this new and improved community care system, we should see more complex care being provided within the home. **People want to remain in their own home so why not expand the types of complex care and supports that providers can deliver in the home?** This approach may mean additional training for professionals and support staff relative to complex medical conditions, equipment to manage the conditions, risk and safety issues, and remote monitoring of clients.

Secondly, providers of home care require access to client/family information through electronic means. **One health record for one client, accessible to the care providers, is optimal.** This means that the medical and social history of each client is available to the provider in real time. The result is improved quality of care/service, reduction in medical errors, and client/family satisfaction.

Thirdly, we expect to see **improved transition planning so that the patient who is in hospital experiences a smooth transition to home care.** This implies complete and comprehensive training for home care providers as well as for those delivering the services within the home. In addition, from a quality improvement perspective, the public needs to be made aware of these changes in process so that feedback can be obtained regarding the effectiveness of the transition.

There is no doubt that we are moving to a collaborative cohesive system within Ontario Health Teams. There is also no doubt that a stronger home and community care system would result in a more client-centric approach and more efficient use of limited resources.

Wishing all readers and their families a very Merry Christmas as well as good health and happiness in 2020 and beyond.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and comments. I can be reached at mcolton@xplornet.com

News Alert

Ontario introduces bill to protect farmers from animal activists

Canadian PressMore from Canadian Press
Published:December 2, 2019

Ontario has introduced a new bill that the government says will protect farmers from aggressive animal rights activists.

The bill — dubbed the Security from Trespass and Animal Safety Act — passed first reading in the provincial legislature today.

If adopted, the law would increase fines for trespassing on farms and food processing facilities and make it illegal to obstruct trucks carrying farm animals.

The bill proposes fines of up to $15,000 for a first offence and up to $25,000 for subsequent offences, compared to current maximum trespassing fines of $10,000.

Livestock producers have been pressing the government to prosecute those who trespass on their properties and aggressively protest at processing plants.

Animal rights activists have said they are worried the bill could result in the government trampling their rights.

Two different views of the world and of our responsibilities

by Ian Cumming
Agricultural Journalist

For the vast majority of Canadians, it comes down to the deeply held belief that the government must do it for us.

Doing it ourselves as individuals – unthinkable. The concept of that doesn't even enter most people's conversation, let alone their thoughts.

For better or worse, being raised in a large farm home for the first 15 years of my life with farming grandparents and a great aunt, all born in the late 1800's, embedded in me the fact that, for the most part, you did it yourself.

Take those old folks for instance. Looked after in our home, until health issues became too much at the end of their lives, rather than being placed in a nursing home.

You learned as a child, your responsibilities included reading to them. Since their Parkinson shaking hands couldn't support and turn the pages of a book, or newspaper and cattle magazine.

But that wasn't considered a chore, Plus, in a house, such as ours with no TV during those years the old folks were with us, when you read a lot, you learned a lot.

Hence we never knew otherwise and decades after, as my parents heath failed and they needed assistance, my siblings and I organized our lives around our businesses and professions, along with as needed help, and both my parents stayed and died at home.

Around the same time, another family with government support imbedded in their socialist DNA, actually having more free time and resources to look after their aged dad, were complaining to me that before his death, which was months in a hospital bed, he was suffering from bed sores.

Because, well, he didn't get turned enough.

They got the phone call that he had died, rather than being there caring for him, when he did pass away.

In all honesty, the poor deceased dad wasn't cursing his predicament, because, in his Liberal mind, the state was totally responsible for his old aged care.

The defining moment, when I knew before marrying my late British wife, that we were of the same mindset, even though from different worlds, was when visiting her British farm, they scooped up their aged granddad in their arms, drooling, unable to walk and speechless from a bad stroke, but so mentally alert, put him in the cattle truck cab, brought him to market and set him up with a cup of tea and blankets by the cattle auction ring.

Where he, being a famed cattle dealer from years of yore, was the center of attention and conversation with neighbours and friends.

They never knew otherwise either, being hard core Margaret Thatcher supporters. It never occurred to them to put granddad in a nursing home, so they could get on, unimpeded, with their very busy and important lives.

Like a little baby that was vulnerable, so were these old people, and being family, you looked after them. That was that.

If not the case, then how long before babies are farmed out as well, to government run and audited speciality units?

When it came to burying these older people – and some, tragically, far younger – my clan had six generations buried in a graveyard on a gravel road, the Free Church originally associated with it, being long gone.

For a century my clan looked after this cemetery, free of any government, or clergy, never refusing anyone who wanted to be buried there, but informing them that we, due to beliefs, had the cemetery unregistered free from government, and was therefore, technically illegal.

Time and generations march on, and with the main push coming from an immigrant socialist outsider, who ratted us out to government, and then, with a group of people, terrified at the subsequent threats from government, went behind our backs and have imbedded government and clergy into this now so called legal enterprise.

It was when looking at the leaked list of folks whom had petitioned our municipality to help facilitate this, that one instantly realized, that our arguments of freedom and keeping our word to and bond with ancestors, had no relevance whatsoever.

Everyone who signed was either sucking off a government teat of a government pension, green energy cheques, or making a living with a government protected industry. Plus 80 per cent of them had been divorced.

We went back to this once sacred spot, - perhaps we should have asked permission – to our son's grave this late October on his deaths anniversary. My brother's grave had sunk in, yet they had just driven the lawnmower right through it and no one had brought a front end loader full of nice ground.

Like we used to.

No one had taken several hours, as we did every year, to scrub the moss of some older stones.

Did it ever occur to them, why it looked so beautiful?

*

Racist Folly

Individuals or organizations that hurl accusations of racism are either woefully ignorant or willfully wicked.

Charles W. Conn

The term "race" is not a meaningful way to describe differences among people. It is an obsolete term. No self-respecting anthropologist has used the term for decades. By using increasingly sophisticated research tools and techniques, a number of different disciplines combined to discover the smallest genetic secrets of life and to confirm the sensible observation that there is only one race - the human race.

The structural, genetic and organic characteristics of a person from Toledo or Tokyo are identical. Observable physical differences among people are cosmetic. Our hair shape, eye shape, nose shape, lip shape and skin colour are simply a function of the different environments in which our remote ancestors lived for many generations. At one time, we probably all looked like Australian aborigines do today.

Each and every human being on earth is a unique and differentiated person. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. got it right. In his famous speech in Washington, D.C., he ringingly described the universal dream that, ".....one day my children will be judged on the content of their character, not the colour of their skin." Character not colour; actions not ancestry; performance not appearance. It has always been, and will always be, wrong to judge a person by anything other than their words and deeds. It is particularly disgraceful when an organization of some standing in the community does so.

Through the ages, in every part of the world, human beings devised remarkably similar responses to the challenges of securing food, clothing and shelter for themselves. The dome of an igloo is made of blocks of ice and the gigantic dome of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul is made of blocks of stone. Both employ the same principles of physics and engineering.

Human progress occurred by both transfer from one person to another and by independent development. Any human being can learn to do what another has already learned, whether it's how to chip a sharp edge on a piece of rock or brain surgery. Transferred development occured wherever people lived near each other. Independent development occured more slowly when impassable physical barriers separated groups of people. The point is that whether by transferred or independent learning, human beings all over the world developed remarkably similar solutions to the survival challenges their different environments posed.

Similarly, the multitude of mythologies developed by different societies appear, at first reading, to be wildly different. Yet the same themes recur, time and time again, in mythologies from widely separated parts of the earth or times in history. The way the earth was formed, the retreat of the glaciers, the floods, the hierarchy and functions of the gods, the days of the giants, the origins of human beings, and tales of heroism, treachery, devotion and wickedness - all the strengths and weaknesses of humanity - are richly represented in almost every mythology.

There is only one race. There are about 7 billion unique and distinct individual persons in it. **

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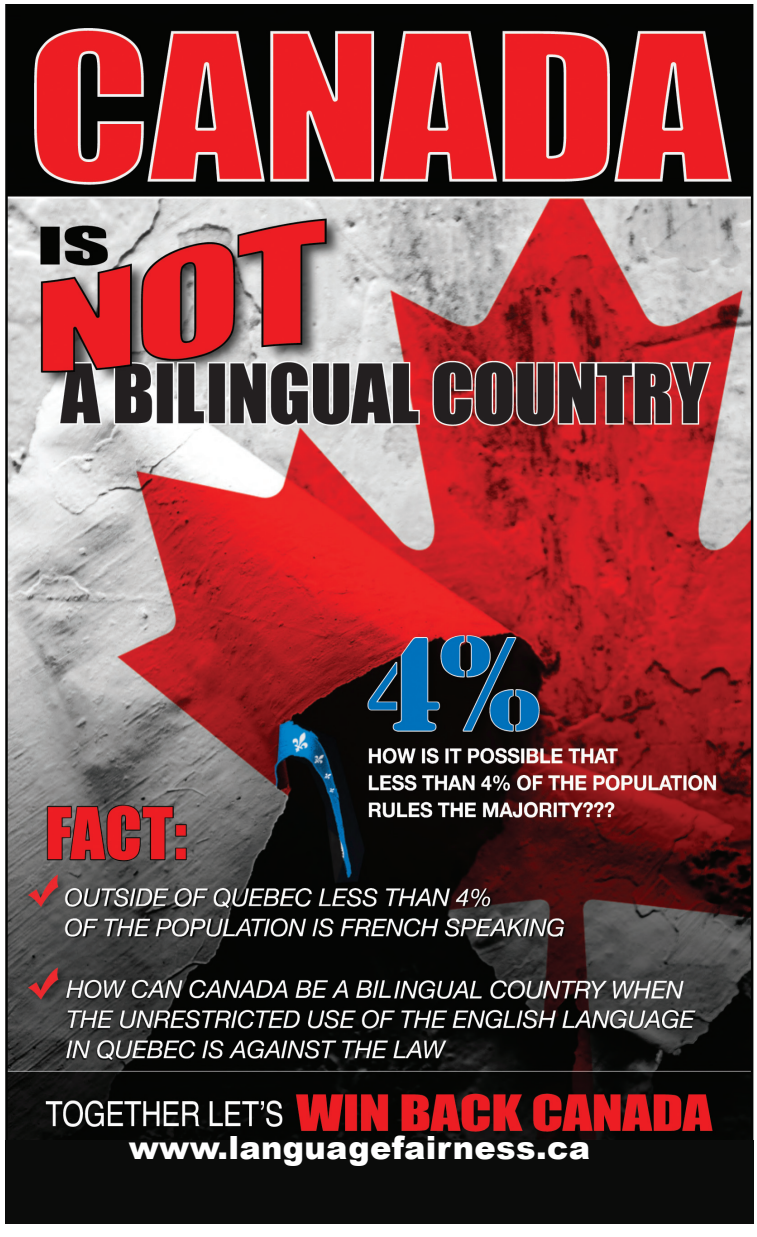


Dead Man Saves Three

(When the 'Witch of November' comes Calling)

by Lyle Dillabough (Productions)

Old-time mariners in Canada have a saying that states: *"don't go out on the waters in Canada during the month of November because, "the witch of November lies waiting."*

And they have good reason for saying this too because history proves them right.

"... the big freighters go, as the mariners all know, with the gales of November remembered."

(Gordon Lightfoot)

Over the years many a doomed craft has succumbed to sudden stormy waters that strike upon them like an enchanted spell. And though some say this is all predictable, many others say it's the *'witch of November'* at work.

Either way, there is no denying that the whole subject is captivating and many have gone to great lengths to investigate what they see as darn good intriguing mystery.

Here are three better known examples of the 'witch of November' at work. One of which happened right here in the Ottawa Valley.

The MAYFLOWER: (November 12, 1912-Lake Kamaniskeg-near Barry's Bay, Ontario)

One of the most bizarre events ever to occur in the Ottawa Valley happened on November 12, 1912 on Lake Kamaniskeg near Barry's Bay.

On that date (just seven months after the sinking of the infamous TITANIC) the steam ship MAYFLOWER mysteriously sank within seconds killing seven people instantly. Four others were left to struggle by desperately clinging to a coffin. It was a true case of the "dead saving the living."

A day earlier, (Nov.11th) was the closing date of the shipping season on Lake Kamaniskeg. (this was the era of "grand age of steamships" on Ontario lake ways and most sizeable bodies of water were bustling with steamship travel).

However, the boat's owners were persuaded to make one more voyage (from Barry's Bay to Palmer Rapids) to accommodate the Brown family of Palmer Rapids. Their son John was accidentally shot (there was a lot of "that terminology" used to describe many 'sudden deaths' in those days) in Saskatchewan and the family was eager to have the body returned for burial before the ground froze

Mayflower steam ship

J. H. Jones ship

Edmund Fitzerald

Photo credit: By Greenmars, CC BY-SA 3.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=36483480

up. (Body was transported by train to Barry's Bay)

To this day it all remains a mystery as to why the steamer sank (and sank as it did) and despite several investigations and an Royal Enquiry no one really knows why it went down.

The boat set out under cloudy skies and within minutes Captain John Charles Hudson and Wheel man Aaron Parcher noticed the vessel listing but it was too late.

The ship went down like a stone.

Seven of the eleven people on board died instantly. The remaining four managed to cling to the coffin containing the dead man and they managed to float to a nearby island where one of the four men died due to exposure. Miraculously the remaining three somehow managed to light a fire and were able to survive until rescued.

It was truly a case of; "DEAD MAN SAVES THREE" as the next day's headlines read in the OTTAWA JOURNAL. ('Dead man saves three' or; 'dead man takes eight with him' depending on how you look at it)

The sinking of the MAYFLOWER was the nations biggest inland waters disaster up until that time. Could this be a case of *"the witch of November"* at work? It would seem so.

The 107 foot long J.H. JONES was originally built as a fishing boat to sail the waters on Lake Huron in 1888. Later it was converted to be an all-around use vessel and that's what she was being used for when she mysteriously sank on November 22, 1906.

Again, no one really knows why she sank as she did that day.

True, there was a storm out on the open waters but searchers believed she never ventured too far from the shore.

It remained a mystery until the wreck of the J.H. JONES was found just off the Crocker Bay in the summer of 2006.

Again: the "witch of November"..??

Which brings us to the most famous of all: "THE WRECK of the EDMUND FITZGERLD."

On Lake Superior on November 10, 1975 the Great Lakes mightiest iron ore carrier, THE EDMUND FITZGERALD went down mysteriously during a storm on Lake Superior.

Succumbing into the deep, dark, frigid waters of "Gitch-a-goomie" this tragedy has been immortalized in song by Canadian Troubadour, Gordon Lightfoot who sang:

"..Superior it is said, never gives up her dead, when the gails of November come early."

Perhaps one should listen to those wise old-timers and stay off the waters of Canada in the month of November.

Lyle Dillabough (Productions)

It's Magic

A Page from Willie Brant's diary

by Mel Fisher

I got a Christmas present -- a fancy contraption which tapes stuff, so just for fun I taped my conversation with Joe yesterday. Here it is, I edited out the ahh's and um's and snorts and so on.

Joe: My daughter sent me a jar of cream with CBD in it for Christmas. I asked her what it was for, and she said it is magic, just rub it on whatever hurts or isn't working properly, everything from an ingrown toenail to Alzheimer's, and it will fix you right up. I asked what it is, and she said it is oil from hemp, being careful to add it is not marijuana and will not give me a high.

Willy: So maybe you could use a bit of a high, you have been pretty grouchy lately.

Joe: Yeah, well, I asked her if it is food or drug or medicine, and she seemed stumped by that one, so I said that food or drugs or medicine each come under legislation, rules about telling you what is in it and what it is good for, but this doesn't seem to follow those rules. She said it was legal now that marijuana is legal, so I shouldn't worry about stuff like that.

Willy: Well, you do worry a lot.

Joe: I said that before a medicine can be put on the market, there is all kinds of expensive university research, teams of scientists, bands of volunteer test subjects, technical papers, then it is accepted but you have to list all the side effects and so on. This container doesn't tell you anything. I wonder if any scientific testing was done to prove it is safe and does what it is supposed to, who did the testing, and who paid for it. She got mad, called me an old stone-age fossil or something like that, and hung up.

Willy: Well, you did have a point. What research has really been done? Who paid for it? In fact, if we use your rule of 'follow the money', we have to wonder, who is getting rich off this new miraculous stuff? We even have to wonder, if it is so good, why would it be kept off the market when it could save so much suffering? Just because it comes from the same plant as the hippies drug doesn't seem good enough reason.

Joe: Well, it gets all mixed up with the medical marijuana idea, maybe there is some research there that helps. My problem is that the government announces it is going to make marijuana 'legal' as soon as they figure out how --

Willy interrupts – Of course making it legal means it is treated like, say, a turnip, anybody can grow, buy, sell, consume it, but that is not what they mean by 'legal'. They just want to muscle in on the underworld's racket and tax the stuff, sort of like when they repealed Prohibition --

Joe interrupts -- they announce marijuana will be legal one day, and suddenly we have all these miraculous products, unproven and untested, available everywhere. Something wrong with that picture.

Willy: Speaking of pictures, remember that picture that circulated a while ago of an elaborate medical instrument which looked like a probe on one end and a bellows on the other? It was used a hundred or more years ago to blow tobacco smoke up a patient's wazhoo as a medical procedure. This whole scene reminds me of that picture, that's where the saying 'blowing smoke up my a—' meaning 'con job' came from!

Joe: Actually tobacco smoke does have some medicinal properties, and maybe this stuff does too. But you hit it right on the head, it is just too slick.

End of recording.

Hello from the old Jackass

No Reason to Celebrate

Howdy folks,

Sad to relate as of late my faltering blood pressure has been escalating and my expectations of elected M.P.P's has disappointingly declined immeasurably. My ire and distrust has been spawned by the newly unanimously sanctioned provincial legislation christened the Provincial Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) act.

On the bright side accountability regarding enforcement measures has been fully legislated contrary to previous private charitable enforcement courtesy of kindly O.S.P.C.A interpretations and whims.

The province quickly held a hearing at Queens Park in the "Amethyst Room" where "alleged" stakeholders could express their views and full expectations to a panel of M.P.P.'s. It's unfortunate the governments interpretation of "stakeholders" and my own are radically different and at odds at the present time.

My visual interpretation of those at the hearing and it's "stakeholders" was a well choreographed assemblage of animal rights activist types with an internal mission of openly aiding and abetting in the ultimate agenda of ending captive possession of animals by private entities whom they abhor and wish to regulate out of existence.

I was truly flabbergasted and openly astonished when the hearing chair genuinely asked a former liberal bureaucrat with animal rightist views to formally sit on the future proposed advisory board overseeing the new (PAWS) act.

In my mind this very act was akin to asking Colonel Saunders of K.F.C fame to sit on a vegan advisory board as menu consultant.

I can envision in no way that these animal rights inclined types be officially designated "stakeholders" and openly officially welcomed and endorsed on legislative advisory boards authoritatively spewing their tainted, biased, poisonous idealisms of what should and certainly should not be legislatively enshrined in any future amendments to the act.

The new act also bears a very onerous aspect which has the ultimate capacity to lay charges and make convictions relating to psychological distress. How do you officially deem what constitutes psychological distress of an animal?

I openly prophesize this onerous clause, open to wide interpretation of the enforcer, will have costly financial repercussions for any unlucky human recipient of this clause, serving as a veritable guinea pig.

It's also troubling that M.P.P.'s of all affiliations see the (PAWS) act legislation as the best and toughest in North America. I'm sure all the animal activists broke out the almond milk, champagne and polka bands to celebrate their devious contribution to "another nail in the coffin" of their sworn adversary the "humble" animal owner.

An unnamed visionary once aptly theorized "the devil was in the very details" and I'm afraid the many little details enshrined in the legislation will convict many regardless of innocence or guilt solely courtesy of interpretation of the minor details.

During parliamentary members statements one M.P.P. referred to her very dog as her "fur baby." It's disturbing an elected M.P.P has the perception to publicly anthropomorphize her four legged mammalian pet as her "fur baby." This cute anthropomorphize interpretation surely tugs at the very heart of every animal activist who interprets all animals as sentient beings or veritable equals in a court of law or any human/animal interactions such as custodianship.

Ironically the final vote for the PAWS act effectively exposed all four parties resolve to have the act legislatively enshrined and sadly no M.P.P's had any major concerns or backbone to vote against the herd mentality.

I can assure all concerned I certainly hope I'm proven wrong in my ascertations and contempt for the PAWS act; but I'm adamant 2020 doesn't appear worthy of any celebration unless you conservatively don rose coloured glassed or liberally numb your senses with legalized cannabis courtesy of big brother's astute assistance and compassion.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
The SKEPTICAL Old Jackass

My Visit to Costa Rica

by Shirley Dolan

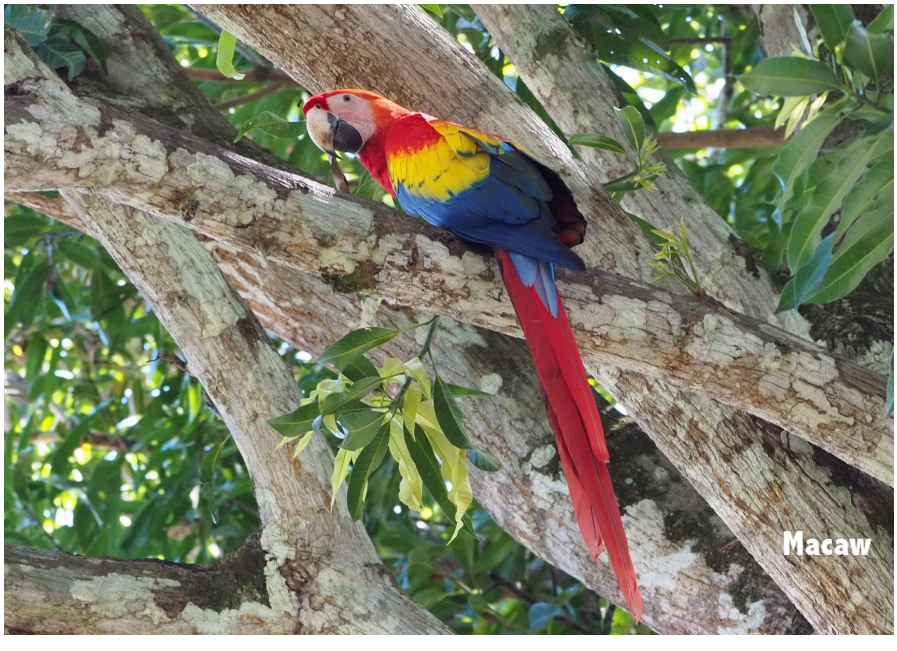
Well it seems our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, has decided to spend his Christmas holidays in Costa Rica. He'll descend on this small country of 5.5 million souls with his family and his entourage of aides, nannies, and security personnel. It's a small country – Ontario by comparison has a population of 14.5 million with a total geographic area of 1,076,395 square kilometres. Costa Rica is 51,100 square kilometres.

Coincidently, I just returned from an eight-day vacation in Costa Rica. It was my fourth visit to this country. I keep going back, because, damn, its cold up here in Canada and a few days of warmth and sunshine get me through the Canadian winter. But there is more than the warm sunny days that keep me going back. This is a country which seems to separate the climate change crisis, leaving it with the politicians, while ordinary people go about respecting the environment.

Like most countries in the world, Costa Rican politicians has gotten caught up in the climate change hysteria. Many like to conflate saving the environment with mitigating climate change. "Costa Rica's new president, 38-year-old former journalist Carlos Alvarado, recently announced a plan to make his country the first carbon-neutral nation in the world by 2021, the 200th anniversary of its independence." This is a reversal of the previous president whose target date was 2085, which is probably a more realistic date. The surprise in all of this is that "Costa Rica does not have a ban because it does not have a law restricting the use of fossil fuels, nor does it plan to." https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2018/7/17/17568190/costa-rica-renewable-energy-fossil-fuels-transportation

While the politicians pontificate about achieving their carbon neutral goals, there are significant indications that the people care more about protecting the environment (a tangible objective) than any notion of meeting a vague carbon reduction goal. In 1994, the Costa Rican constitution was amended so that a healthy environment was a guaranteed right for all citizens. The move to protect and restore the environment appears to be a much more common-sense approach than here in Ontario. For example:

- Agreements to reforest private property seems to be voluntary and driven by mutual agreement.
- Private organizations such



Macaw

as the Monteverde Conservation League (MCL), an independent, non-profit association that is dedicated to the conservation, preservation and rehabilitation of tropical ecosystems and their biodiversity, partners with other private organizations for funding to support their programs. Their primary goal is to protect a colourful bird called the quetzal, and in so doing, they also provide safe habitat for other animals. http://www.monteverdeinfo.com/tours/childrens-eternal-rainforest

• There are some solar panels and wind turbines in Costa Rica but most of the electricity come from hydro. Solar and wind appear to be used in remote areas and all three operate in harmony, i.e. hydro is not shut off to respect solar or wind. Electricity in Costa Rica is very reliable. Costa Rica has wisely invested in hydro power. Lake Arenal was tripled in size with the construction of the Arenal dam in 1979. This hydroelectric project is hugely important to Costa Rica, initially generating 70% of the country's electricity, now closer to 17%, and was also a driving force behind Costa Rica's green energy policy.

Hopefully Mr. Trudeau will come back to Canada with a better understanding of the difference between protecting the environment and climate change policies. Protecting the environment should be our primary goal. Its achievable and something everyone can easily get their head around. The notion that world governments or local ones can tax us sufficiently to change the climate is an ill-defined idea and scaring the children by telling them they are going to die in eight years unless their parents "pay up" is nothing short of extortion. https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/lilley-scaring-children-in-the-name-of-climate-change

Oh, and Christmas is a very big deal in Costa Rica. There were Christmas trees everywhere, beautifully decorated, in upscale hotels, in villages, and on the front porch of the humblest abodes.

Feliz Navidad! **


Coffee Beans


Hummingbird


Guanacoste Sunset

The Dangers of Deferred Prosecutions

by Elizabeth Marshall

In April of 2010 twenty-nine miners were killed in one of the worst mining incidents in a forty year span. This took place at the Massey Energy Upper Big Branch mine, in West Virginia. It was so horrific that President Barack Obama and V.P. Joe Biden went to West Virginia to eulogize the victims.[1]

President Obama assured Americans that "the U.S. Department of Labor would conduct "the most thorough and comprehensive investigation possible" and work with the U.S. Department of Justice to address any criminal violations."[2]

These deaths were not an accident as the Mine Safety and Health Administration determined that there had been a build up of methane and coal dust which had caused the explosion. This event should not have happened. It was stated that there had been some 300 plus violations which had led to and/or was cause of this lose of life, 9 of which were directly involved with the explosion.

To fully understand the extent of the wrong doing I am quoting David M. Uhmann's report in hopes that his words will express the gravity of this lawlessness.

"…despite Massey's poor safety … record, the Upper Big Branch mining disaster stood out as a shocking example of corporate lawlessness. Massey routinely provided employees advance notice of MSHA inspections at the Upper Big Branch mine, which is a federal crime, so that safety violations could be concealed from inspectors. Massey intimidated its workers so that they would not report safety and health violations to MSHA. The company also kept two sets of books at the Upper Big Branch mine - perhaps the most egregious evidence of criminal intent in regulatory cases - one for internal use that noted violations and one for safety inspectors that did not.

The MSHA found that the Upper Big Branch tragedy occurred because Massey allowed unsafe working conditions to persist, and because it ignored other safety measures that would have prevented the explosion and the resulting loss of life. … Methane accumulated and became explosive because Massey failed to provide adequate ventilation or roof control in the mine." The methane subsequently ignited because Massey used a shearing device that was missing seven water spray nozzles and therefore did not have adequate water pressure to move methane away from the shearer and prevent sparking. Further, Massey allowed dangerous levels of loose coal, coal dust, and float coal dust to accumulate over the days, weeks, and months leading up to the explosion, providing an enormous fuel source for the deadly blast that killed miners nearly a mile from the methane release and ignition."[3]

"…On that basis alone, criminal prosecution would have been warranted. Massey also engaged in a deliberate, long-standing, and deceitful effort to thwart the mine safety laws that were enacted to prevent exactly this kind of tragedy…

Instead, on the same day that MSHA issued a 972-page investigative report that lay bare the lawlessness that occurred within Massey, the Justice Department announced that it was entering a non-prosecution agreement with the new owners of Massey and therefore would not bring criminal charges against the company. The United States Attorney justified the non-prosecution because Massey's new owners had agreed to enhance its compliance programs and described the non-prosecution agreement as "the largest-ever resolution in a criminal investigation of a mine disaster. But there was no mistaking the outcome: there would be no criminal charges brought against Massey, no guilty plea or admission of liability by Massey, and no sentencing hearing where the families of the victims could address the court about their suffering,..."[4]

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[1] David M. Uhmann, University of Michigan Law School, in 2013 entitled: "Deferred Prosecution and Non-Prosecution Agreements and the Erosion of Corporate Criminal Liability." MARYLAND LAW REVIEW Vol 72.
[2] David M. Uhmann, University of Michigan Law School, in 2013 entitled: "Deferred Prosecution and Non-Prosecution Agreements and the Erosion of Corporate Criminal Liability." MARYLAND LAW REVIEW Vol 72.
[3] David M. Uhmann, University of Michigan Law School, in 2013 entitled: "Deferred Prosecution and Non-Prosecution Agreements and the Erosion of Corporate Criminal Liability." MARYLAND LAW REVIEW Vol 72.
[4] David M. Uhmann, University of Michigan Law School, in 2013 entitled: "Deferred Prosecution and Non-Prosecution Agreements and the Erosion of Corporate Criminal Liability." MARYLAND LAW REVIEW Vol 72.

"… The failure to prosecute Massey sent a terrible message about how our society views corporate misconduct and sowed doubts about the Justice Department's commitment to address corporate crime. … If it was not appropriate to prosecute Massey for its crimes, it is difficult for me to envision when criminal prosecution of any corporation would be warranted.

The Justice Department's deal with Massey continues a disturbing trend where corporations avoid criminal charges by entering deferred prosecution or non-prosecution agreements. … The terms of the agreements are attractive to the government, because they often provide large penalties, …, and promises of cooperation by the companies involved. But plea agreements - the preferred approach prior to the last decade - can offer the same benefits to the government without making it appear that large companies can buy their way out of criminal prosecution."[5]

And this is why deferred prosecutions are so dangerous. Now a look at the SNC Lavalin case in Canada.

From reports SNC Lavalin had, in 2008, paid approx., $30,000 for sexual services (prostitutes) in Canada for Saadi Gadhafi, the son of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi. For these favours, and favours worth millions, Gadhafi secured billions of dollars' worth of contracts for SNC. There were also, allegedly, "millions in bribes to Libyan officials" by SNC to ensure they got the contracts.[6]

The problem with all of this is – this could very well be the tip of the ice-berg, in Canada, as has been shown by the actions in the U.S., couldn't it? With Trudeau putting pressure on the then Attorney General, Jody Wilson Raybould, to allow SNC a deferred prosecution isn't this going down a path of continued and even worsening corporate lawlessness in Canada?

This is why, no matter what the reason, there should be no avenue for a deferred prosecution and isn't it merely Barack Obama showing Justin Trudeau how to make something unlawful lawful? We must remember the illegal donations made by SNC to the Liberal Party[7] so one can only speculate as to what other gifts might be involved, couldn't one?

It would seem Obama and the Democrats have taught his/their protégé, Trudeau and the Liberal party, well, doesn't it, considering the Liberals enacted deferred prosecution measures in 2018 for, what some consider, SNC itself?[8]

Elizabeth F. Marshall,

Non-Partisan Advocate, Director of Research OLA, Author – "Property Rights 101: An Introduction", Board Member/Secretary – Canadian Justice Review Board, Legal Research – Green and Associates Law Offices, Legislative Researcher – MPs, MPPs, Municipal Councilors, President All Rights Research Ltd.

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I am not a lawyer and do not give legal advice. Any information relayed is for informational purposes only. Please contact a lawyer.

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[5] David M. Uhmann, University of Michigan Law School, in 2013 entitled: "Deferred Prosecution and Non-Prosecution Agreements and the Erosion of Corporate Criminal Liability." MARYLAND LAW REVIEW Vol 72.
[6] https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/snc-lavalin-paid-for-gadhafi-sons-debauchery-while-he-was-in-canada-report
[7] Names of SNC employees, executives behind thousands of dollars in illegal Liberal Party donations revealed https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/snc-lavalin-liberal-donors-list-canada-elections-1.5114537
[8] Where SNC-Lavalin's push for deferred prosecution came up short
The firm lobbied hard in Ottawa, but it didn't get precisely the deferred prosecution regime it hoped for and not everyone was open to its advances by Nick Taylor-Vaisey

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January 2020

by Judith Cox

Another year is here with hopes and expectations of a great gardening season. More seed catalogues are arriving each day and it is difficult to decide what I want. I am working on a garden plan so I can fit everything in. While there were successes and failures and surprising results, each gave a new insight on the workings of the garden.

Last year most of my vegetable crop was in pots. The small tomatoes were a great success with very little wilt and a large yield. The larger tomatoes did not do as well. The plants were sprawling, and the yield was sparse. The potatoes were in various containers and did well, but I had more potatoes in the hills I made on the ground. Herbs love containers and I highly recommend trying different herbs in pots. The borage with its brilliant blue flowers was covered in bees and other pollinators. I tried the cucumber seeds designed for pots and did not have a good experience. The vines were malformed, and the yield was minimal. I think I shall use my regular cucumber seeds in the ground next year. Lettuce always does well in a pot and does well in the shade. It is so nice to be able to pick your own salad.

Dahlias are a treat in containers. They do so well, and this year they bloomed for weeks. Be aware that deadheading your flowers will extend their display. I also planted a barrel with gladiolas that was short-lived in blooms but impressive. I interplanted with calendula so that there was colour once the gladiola flowers had finished. Putting flowers in containers has many advantages. You can move your display wherever you want colour and have more control over water and feedings. I planted calendula with my lettuce to have a pretty and edible display.

I have always enjoyed doing watercolour paintings of the plants around me and embellishing those watercolours with pen and ink. In May 2019 I decided to try selling these pictures as greeting cards and started a business, Lapisdragon Arts. I opened an Etsy shop and things moved along. I had an open house in July that was very successful and am now expanding my work to include calendars, t-shirts and tote bags. I have a new website thanks to my daughter, www.lapisdragonarts.com and am participating in more shows. As life moves forward and it becomes more difficult to work in the garden as I once did, I can now enjoy the garden in my art.

I hope this year brings you even more delight in your garden and you think about expanding your garden experiences. **

The Most Memorable Time

by Randy Vancourt

There are certain special times of year that always seem to elicit strong memories, probably none more so than Christmas. The holiday season seems almost custom-designed to create memorable moments; not necessarily always good ones, but memorable nonetheless.

One of my very earliest Christmas memories is a slightly unpleasant one. I vividly recall the day in Grade One when an older student breathlessly decided to share with me his recent discovery about Santa Claus's existence. Of course I didn't believe him for a second, but still asked my mom about it as soon as I got home. I was fully expecting her to deny what this kid had told me, but her answer began with, "Well I guess you're old enough to know the truth…"

Believe me, that's a memory that lives on forever and will definitely inform the way I answer my own kids when this question arises.

Fortunately most of my other Christmas memories have not been quite so devastating. I recall so many great moments decorating trees, caroling door-to-door, school pageants, opening presents, sharing Christmas dinner with the family. Of course some memories stand out not because they are warm and cozy, but unexpected, hilarious or simply strange.

There was the Christmas we bought a turkey that had obviously been defrosted and refrozen, which we only discovered while roasting it on Christmas Day. The stench was so overpowering that even the dog wouldn't go near it.

One year I was marching in the Santa Claus Parade dressed as Cookie Monster from Sesame Street. Sadly a part of the costume did not arrive from New York so rather than being hidden, my face protruded directly out of Cookie's mouth, making it look like I was his half-digested snack, with the added bonus of horrifying the kids.

Then there was the Christmas I was hired to write the music for a huge holiday stage production in Toronto. I had dreams of it being the next Radio City Music Hall event, but instead the producers lost over a million dollars, cheques bounced, performers walked and the theatre seized the assets in lieu of payment. Thanks to a kind security guard, I was able to sneak back in and rescue my music from the orchestra pit before it was thrown away. Happy Holidays indeed.

One of the more bizarre Christmas moments happened during one of my first years in Toronto. I had recently moved from my home in Quebec, and my parents decided to come visit for the holidays. My family always made sure to attend church on Christmas Eve, so I decided to take them to a local United Church that I went to occasionally. This building happened to be directly across the street from a place of worship with a slightly more evangelical bent.

This was your typical sort of Christmas Eve service, singing carols and retelling the nativity story. Suddenly halfway through, the rear doors to the church flew open and in came a rollicking group of Christmas revelers. We all watched in amazement as they danced up the centre aisle, loudly singing an uplifting gospel tune while playing drums and shaking tambourines.

They reached the front of the church, finished their song and looked out at the congregation. One could almost hear the proverbial penny drop, when their leader looked at us and said, "Um…I think we're in the wrong place."

Their intended destination had been the church across the street but apparently someone got the address wrong. So back down the aisle they danced again, singing a holiday carol as they went. As the doors shut behind them our minister stood wordlessly for a moment then said, "Perhaps the shepherds will arrive next."

This year found my entire family (me, my wife, our two kids and my brother visiting for the holidays) out of commission on December 25th with a nasty virus that had us vomiting every hour like clockwork. I suspect the picture of me holding our usually adorable 2-year-old child as we both recreated the infamous scene from The Exorcist is not going to make it onto next year's holiday card. Although some of the sounds we made did remind me of singing Silent Night in the original German.

Silent or otherwise, every holiday season brings us around to yet another New Year and new beginnings. Here's to another year of excitement, surprises and hopefully some wonderful memories.

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You Could Not Make This Up - Part 3

by Will Truimph

I am Will Triumph and I live somewhere in Ontario. In my previous articles about the problems I had in obtaining a severance for 3 lots I wrote about finding a County Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that required the Conservation Authority (CA) to carry out a Technical Review of my consultant's reports submitted as support documentation for my severances. The purpose was to ensure these reports met required standards for the content of the report.

Upon finding the well hidden MOU it was a "Holy Cow" moment. This was the document that brought the CA in as an engineering firm to use qualified professionals to review submitted reports. It defined the scope and the type of review. This was not done to any professional standard and an unqualified planner made all sorts of demands as comments that the County and the Township were making mandatory. There were professionals in the back ground but none would sign or stamp the CA demands.

After taking the MOU to the Township and reviewing the contents I was invited back for a surprise meeting where it was suggested that the County would possibly consider having a third party engineering firm carry out a review. I was asked if I had any comments. I can't say that I had prepared for this abrupt change in direction but my ideas of a third party review would for them to duplicate what the conservation authority was supposed to have done in the first place.

Upon finding the well hidden MOU it was a "Holy Cow" moment. This was the document that brought the CA in as an engineering firm to use qualified professionals to review submitted reports. It defined the scope and the type of review.

I also added that because the County's contractor for the Technical Review was so off base that the County should pay for the third party review. Earlier in the process I had been told that I would have to pay for this. I emailed further thoughts to the Township that night and the next day I was told that it was just exploratory and was not going ahead.

After some delay, the Township provided a letter from the County addressed to a third party engineering firm. It contained the wrong reference for the work scope to be carried out. The scope was calling for a full Hydro Geological (Hydro G) review when one was never required through the severance application process with the Township. This was a specification for a subdivision.

More phone calls and emails lead to the removal of the Official Plan reference for the Hydro G but inserted more incorrect planning references. A meeting that was to have occurred with the County and Township never happened but I did meet with representatives from the Township. There were efforts to make these incorrect requirements part of the review but I stood my ground in that the third party review should cover the same material and in the same scope as the CA was to have done. Quite surprising the Township Planner finally agreed with my direction over the supervisor's refusal. Somewhere around this time I started every meeting with the statement "You are all being paid but I am not".

The Peer Review came back in a little over a month. It was 3 pages and had an introduction, some background in noting the requirement was for water quantity and quality testing from a well that I had drilled on one lot and then a section on ground water supply and a discussion.

The introduction listed a series of references including D-5-5 and noted that none of the references contained definitive terms of reference for undertaking hydrogeological studies in support of severances.

Under groundwater, there was a description of the testing carried out and noted my consultant's findings that there was adequate water for development. The third party agreed

with this finding. The quality of water, based on analytical results, is good, with all health related parameters tested within their respective standard.

It did note professionally that clarification was required on one point and that there were some clerical mistakes. These were handled professionally without the grand standing and professionally damaging comments about another professional that the CA had in their letter.

The final note is that the peer review was signed by both a P.Eng. and a P.Geo. As it was not a Technical Review it did not require any professional stamps. Why did the CA not produce a similar professional document?

My consultant satisfied the requirements for clarification soon after receipt of the peer review.

Had the CA carried out their work correctly none of my stories would have been required. Had the County ensured that their contractor, the CA, had carried out their work correctly, none of this would have been required. If these groups and the Township listened to me about my concerns for over reach and a complete lack of accuracy and substantiation for the CA demands none of this would happen. But it did. By this point I had spent approximately 600 hours on research, letter writing and meetings. I had been told by a County member that I should never have had to do any of this.

Now my severances could finally head to the Land Division Committee (LDC). I did demand that the CA requirements not be considered as they were over reaching and incorrect. It took some time but I did get a letter from a County person that said the CA requirements would not be used. The County then told me that the CA would get a further opportunity to comment on the severance when it went to LDC and this was from the Planning Act. I researched this in Ont Reg 197/96 and found that the complete sentence was not given to me. It said that the land had to be under the jurisdiction of the CA. The CA had by their own letter stated that it was not wet land and that it was outside their authority's Development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and water courses in the CA Regulation. Further the local health unit is the sole approval for septic systems in the Township.

The properties were posted and there was a closing date for submissions. That date came and went without anything from the CA. The CA sent in their final letter 2 days after closing. I sent a letter to the County saying that it was unacceptable to include this.

I have been told that I have a right to question the actions of the County and I did. I did not receive an answer to my questions about CA jurisdiction or about acceptance of a late letter but was given a 45 day ban on communications. This was shared through all the Townships within the County. Never once was I warned that this would happen and all I was doing was standing up for my rights to an honest and fair severance. The past year and a half suggested that it had not been honest or fair to that point.

Ultimately I did receive the County staff notes for my severance application. It contained all the CA letters containing all the overreach and unsubstantiated demands. The letter received after closing was included. The negative comments about my consultant's performance where now made public even though most were beyond the scope of water quantity and quality. The Health Unit's approvals were not included within the 80 or so pages. There was some typed note about the Health Unit approval but why were the 3 documents omitted?

The good news was there were 8 conditions and none of them were requiring any of the CA's comments. As long as they did not get introduced when I met the LDC then I had beat the CA, the County and the Township.

At the LDC meeting the severances were approved without further additions. Two of the three committee members stated how it was a straight forward severance! A Straight Forward Severance! I chose not to address that one.

I now had one year to finish the severances or I would have to start over. There was a development agreement with the Township that had to be worked out. Efforts to resolve it before the LDC meeting had not solved some contentious issues. More on that in my next article.

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Growing Drive to Destroy the BEEF INDUSTRY

by Tom DeWeese

TomDeWeese is one of the nation's leading advocates of individual liberty, free enterprise, private property rights, personal privacy, back-to-basics education and American sovereignty and independence. He has given us permission to reprint his articles.

Tom was a guest speaker at the OLA International Property Rights convention, Oct. 2014 and recently at the OLA - AGM Oct. 2019 at the Arnprior Quality Inn.

The American beef industry has long been a tasty target of the environmentalists and their allies in the animal rights movement. To understand the reason is to know that protecting the environment is not the goal, rather the excuse in a determined drive for global power. Their selected tactic is to control the land, water, energy, and population of the Earth. To achieve these ends requires, among other things, the destruction of private property rights and elimination of every individual's ability to make personal lifestyle choices, including personal diet.

Of course, no totalitarian-bound movement would ever put their purpose in such direct terms. That's where the environmental protection excuse comes in. Instead, American cattle producers are simply assured that no one wants to harm their industry, just make it safer for the environment. The gun industry might recognize that such assurance sounds a bit familiar. Same source, same tactics, same goals.

So the offered solution to "fix" the beef industry is "sustainable certification". All the cattle growers have to do, they are assured, is follow a few simple rules and all will be fine, peaceful and profitable. Enter the players: the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB), and the U.S, Department of Agriculture.

First, let's reveal the Sustainablists' stated problems with the beef industry. What's not sustainable about raising beef? According to the environmental "experts", there are ten reasons why the meat industry does not meet sustainable standards:

1. **Deforestation** – the claim is that farm animals require considerably more land than crops to produce food. The World Hunger Program calculated that if the land was used to grow grain and soy instead of cattle the land could provide a vegan diet to 6 billion people. Do you get that – a vegan diet! The fact is, most grazing land in the U.S. cannot be used for growing food crops because the soil wouldn't sustain crops.

2. **Fresh Water** – they claim that the America diet requires 4,200 gallons of water per day, including animal drinking water, irrigation of crops, processing, washing, etc. Whereas a vegan diet only requires 300 gallons per day. Apparently they don't plan to irrigate the land to grow wheat or to wash the vegetables.

3. **Waste Disposal** – factory farms house hundreds of thousands of animals that produce waste. They claim these giant livestock farms produce more than 130 times the amount of waste humans do. The interesting thing about this detail is that the actual sustainable policies they are enforcing to fix this problem destroy the small family farms in favor of the very giant corporate factory farms they profess to oppose. In addition, those global corporations which join the Green cabal have the ability to ignore many of the "sustainable" restrictions, unlike the small, family farms that are much better at protecting the environment on their own.

4. **Energy Consumption** – For the steak to end up on your plate, say the Greens, the cow has to consume massive amounts of energy along the way as the cattle are transported thousands of miles to slaughter, market, and refrigerate. And let's not forget, the meat must then be cooked! Well this transportation argument is a direct result of the existence of a limited few packing companies in cahoots with the Green Lords that dictate the market as they work against a more decentralized, local industry. Meanwhile, last time I checked, Tofurkey – made from soy — also has to be cooked!

5. **Food Productivity** – say the Greens, food productivity of farmland is falling behind the population and the only option, besides cutting the population, is to cut back on meat consumption and convert grazing lands to food crops.

As noted in point 1, most grazing land cannot be converted. Everything dealing with the sustainable argument is based on some unseen crisis. Yet we do not have a world-wide food shortage or pending famine. In fact, the media is persistently reporting "price-depressing crop surpluses." The only places where such shortages may exist are in totalitarian societies where government is controlling food production and supplies – kind of like the Green's plan for sustainable beef.

6. **Global Warming** – here we go! Say the Greens, global warming is driven by energy consumption and cows are energy guzzlers. But there's more to the story. Cow flatulence! A single dairy cow, they claim, produces an average of 75 kilos of methane annually. Meanwhile, environmentalists want to return the rangelands to historic species, including buffalo. And a buffalo, grazing on the same grass on the same lands would emit about the same amount of methane. It's a non-issue.

7. **Loss of Biodiversity** – What are some of the examples the Greens give for loss of biodiversity? Poaching and black market sale of bushmeat including everything from elephants and chimpanzees to birds??? Please explain what this has to do with the American cattle industry – other than a pure hatred of anyone who eats meat of any kind. And that, of course, is the argument from the animal rights/vegan wing of the Green movement that is leading the assault on cattle.

8. **Grassland Destruction** – apparently this is based on the Green premise that domesticated animals like cows replaced bison and antelope, which, in turn, caused a loss of biodiversity of species. I've got two pieces of news for you. First, the Native Americans so revered by the Greens, hunted bison before the white man arrived. Take a trip to Bozeman, Montana and see the cliff where they used to run entire herds to their death, not just selectively choosing a few to eat. Second, the Greens, not the cattle ranchers, forced the reintroduction of wolves, and that has caused a near annihilation of the antelope and elk herds.

9. **Soil Erosion** – the Greens claim that U.S. pastureland is overgrazed, causing soil erosion. In truth, a great many of today's cattlemen are third and fourth generation on their land. Those ranches could not have existed for over a hundred years if they were so careless in taking care of the land. It is vital to their survival to assure the land stays in good shape. Of course, an environmentalist who has never worked a ranch or farm and rarely comes out of his New York high-rise might not know that.

10. **Lifestyle Disease** – this is my favorite of the reasons why beef is supposedly unsustainable. In short, it's because of stupid people! This one is blamed on "excessive" consumption of meat, combined with environmental pollution and "lack of exercise" leading to strokes, cancer, diabetes and heart attacks. So it's the beef industries fault that people eat too much and refuse to exercise. The solution – ban meat consumption. Yet, doctors are now realizing that meat eating is not the problem, carbs are.

So, these are the ten main reasons why it's charged that beef is unsustainable and must be ruled, regulated and frankly, eliminated. These are charges brought by anti-beef vegans who want all beef consumption stopped. In cahoots, are global Sustainablists who seek to stop the private ownership and use of land, all hiding under the blanket excuse of environmental protection.

To bring the cattle industry into line with this world view the National Cattlemen's Beef Association has accepted the imposition of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, which is heavily influenced, if not controlled, by the World Wildlife Fund, one of the top three most powerful environmental organizations in the world and a leader in the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), which basically sets the rules for global environmental policy. This is the same World Wildlife Fund that issued a report saying, "Meat consumption is devastating some of the world's most valuable and vulnerable regions, due to the vast amount of land needed to produce animal feed." The report went on to say that, to save the Earth, it was vital that we change human consumption habits away from meat. As pointed out earlier, the fact is most land used for grazing isn't capable of growing crops for food. Further, to have the WWF involved in any part of the beef industry is simply suicidal.

It's interesting to note that the "Principles for Sustainable Beef Farming," issued for the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Working Group (SAI), follow the exact guidelines originally presented in the United Nations' Agenda 21/ Sustainable Development blueprint. Agenda 21 divided these into three categories including, Social Equity, Economic Prosperity and Ecological Integrity. Using almost identical terms, the SAI plan for Sustainable Beef uses the following headings for each section of its plan: Economic Sustainability, Social Sustainability, and Environmental Sustainability.

Under Social Sustainability are such items as Human Rights, Worker Environment, Business Integrity, and Worker Competence (that means that workers are required to have the proper, acceptable sustainable attitudes and beliefs). Under the heading Environmental Sustainability are Climate Change, Waste, and Biodiversity, for the reasons already discussed.

Regulations using these principles impose a political agenda that ignores the fact that smaller, independent cattle growers have proven to be the best stewards of their own land and that for decades have produced the highest grade of beef product in the world. Instead, to continue to produce they will be required to submit to centralized control by regulations that will never end and will always increase in costs and needless waste of manpower.

To follow the sustainable rules and be officially certified, the cattle growers must agree to have much of the use of their land reduced to provide for wildlife habitat. There are strict controls over water use and grazing areas. This forces the growers to have smaller herds, making the process more expensive and

economically unviable for the industry. In addition, there is a new layer of industry and government inspectors, creating a massive bureaucratic overreach, causing yet more costs for the growers.

The Roundtable rules are now enforced through the packing companies. You see, the cattlemen actually have no direct market. Instead, they first bring their product to feedlots for final preparation. The feedlots then sell the cattle to the packers. The packers are the ones who then have direct contact with stores, restaurants and other entities that actually buy the beef. The packers are a major force in the Roundtable, working side by side with the WWF, and so dictate the rules to the feedlots to comply with sustainable certification for the cattle they will buy from the growers. If the beef they obtain isn't grown according to the sustainable beef principles then the packers refuse to buy it. That has quickly put smaller feedlots out of business. Consequently, it also destroys the cattle growers who rely on the feedlots to take their product.

There are only four main packing companies in the United States. These are Cargill, Tysons, JBS and Marfrig. These packers have already successfully taken control of the hog and poultry industries. Tysons is now raising its chickens in China to ship here. JBS and Marfrig are both from Brazil. It's interesting to note that one of their first tactics was to remove the country of origin labeling from the packaging so that consumers have no idea where their product is coming from. So as the packers force their expensive, unnecessary, and unworkable sustainable certification on American cattlemen, they are systematically bringing in cheaper product from other countries that don't necessarily adhere to strict, sanitary, safe production American producers are known for. As a result, there is a noticeable rise in news reports of recalls of diseased chicken and beef in American grocery stores.

Some cattle growers have tried to fight back by creating new packing companies to compete and provide an honest market. However, the costs to do so are huge, as high as $50 million. One such company called Northern Beef Packers was formed, using all the latest state of the art, high-grade processing. The four established packers reacted by drastically reducing their prices to the grocers, thereby destroying any hope of establishing a market for the new packing company.

This then is the situation that is threatening the American beef industry. If one reads the documents and statements from the World Wildlife Fund, the United Nations Environment Program and others involved, it is not hard to realize that the true goal is not to produce a better grade of beef, but to ban it altogether. The question must then be asked, why is the National Cattlemen's Beef Association allowing this to happen, and indeed, is joining with the Sustainable Beef Roundtable to force these policies on their members?

The answer is actually quite tragic. American ranchers, farmers and livestock growers have been targets of the environmental and animal rights movements for years. They are beaten down. Like the rest of us they just want to be left alone to work their farms and herds like their forefathers have done for more than a century. But the pressure is growing day by day. So, they have come to believe that if they just go along – put the sustainable label on their product — then this pressure will stop. In short, they see it as a pressure valve.

The reality is it's not going to go away because the goal is not environmental protection, rather the destruction of their industry and control through what the UN calls the reorganization of human society. The attack has now grown to major proportions with the Green New Deal. Beef eaters have no place in the sustainable paradise of city apartment dwellers who accept government controls to choose for them what they are permitted to eat.

There are efforts to fight back. A group of cattlemen has organized under the banner of R-CALF (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund) and they have managed to slow the Sustainable capture of the industry. But the packers' control of the industry is a major roadblock if the cattlemen can't reach their market. R-CALF has filed Abuse of Conduct suits to shed light on the anti-trust activities of the monopoly tactics of the packers.

However, the beef industry cannot recover on its own. There must be outrage from the consumers who are facing higher prices, possible inferior meat, and the danger of disease because of this sustainable tyranny. If you want the right to your own food choices instead of the dictatorship of radical Greens, then get mad. Demand that "Country of Origin" labels be put on all beef products so you know where your food comes from. Demand that the Department of Agriculture rejects this sustainable myth and protects the American free market that has always provided superior products.

The so-called sustainable policy is not a free market. It is a government-sanctioned monopoly that is just short of a criminal enterprise. Stand with American farmers and cattlemen. If Americans don't fight back now we will lose the freedom to our own dinner plates in the name of sustainable lies.

by Tom DeWeese

Clearing the Air

This poem is to clear the air
to tell the readers and be fair
To an editor who must be sad
and I've quite likely driven mad

Cause I'm so tardy and really lazy
and sometimes even slightly crazy
But I am old if you want to know
and my shortcomings seem to grow

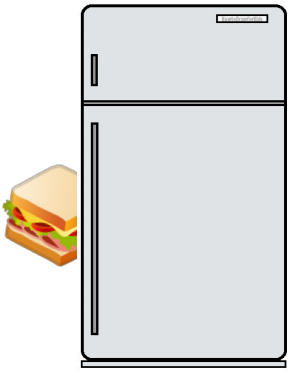
What can I do as I rise each day
and watch the hours flit away
It's my mind you see that dances hither
and merrily cruises on past thither

I mean well as deadlines loom
as I weave a trail about the room
I try to think of something new
but brainwaves now are very few

And when the fog begins to lift
my imagination begins to drift
To a lovely mountain ridge
or a sandwich in the fridge

I try my best to start to write
but creative juices have taken flight
And now the deadline is mighty near
and where I'm going isn't clear
Will it be a lovely mountain ridge
or a sandwich in the fridge

Dale Dawson



Truth and Justice in Lament

Charles Ficner ©

Two statues stand in front of Canada's Supreme Court and they seem sadly out of scale and of place. Those are very significant statues and they have a very compelling story to tell.

The two statutes represent truth (Veritas) and justice (Iustitia). Those names have a long and important history in the story of Western Justice and Law – at least as far back as the Roman Empire.

Statues of Lady Justice, in particular, appear on court buildings throughout the world – including in England, France, Hungary, Belgium, Japan Brazil, Switzerland, the United States and even in Iran.

In the usual depiction, Lady Justice holds a balance in one hand and a sword in the other.

Her bearing shows a firm commitment to two things: placing the evidence on an impartial balance to determine what is just; and using the sword of justice to enforce the impartial findings.

The statue of Lady Justice stands as a clear symbol of the commitment: to have courts dispense real and equal justice to each and every person; and to use the full force of the law to ensure that justice is done.

The Symbolism matters.

The statue of Lady Justice that stands in front of Canada's Supreme Court has none of that proud and determined bearing and it displays none of the important symbolism.

Her head is bowed. She holds no balance. Her sword is hidden by the folds of her cloak.

She retreats behind her arms and under her cowl into self-imposed shadow.

Her face shows deep sadness. It is as if she wants to be somewhere else.

Lady Justice is in lament.

Truth has a similar bearing of detachment.

Her head is tilted up and away – her face is pained, her eyes are almost closed.

Her thoughts appear to be elsewhere. She appears melancholy, if not sad.

Why would the statues of Truth and Justice that stand in front of Canada's Supreme Court be so sad? Why do they not shout out what they once stood for – determined seekers of truth and firm defenders of justice?

- Are they lamenting the lack of justice in Canada's laws?
- Are they troubled that only the rich, the powerful and the well-connected can reach her doors?
- Are they depressed that the "justice system" has fallen into disrepute?

The superficial answer is much simpler than that – but the underlying message is far more troubling.

Lament for a Dead King

The simple answer is this: The statues of Truth and Justice that now stand in front of Canada's Court were designed and sculpted as part of a planned memorial to a dead king. Truth and Justice are truly in lament.

Walter Allward, Canada's greatest monumental sculptor and designer of the monument at Vimy Ridge, was commissioned to build a monument to Edward VII but work stopped at the start of the First World War. The completed statutes of Truth and Justice were packed up and stored in a parking lot of Public Works Canada where they languished and were forgotten for decades.

When they were stumbled upon in 1970, a decision was taken to place those statutes in front of the Supreme Court.

If anyone did raise a concern about placing those lamenting statues at the entrance to the Supreme Court, that concern was ignored. Perhaps those who made the decision were over-awed by Allward's fame. Perhaps they did not grasp the symbolic impact of those statutes – or the message that would be conveyed to those who came with the expectation that the Court would seek the truth and dispense firm justice.

No matter what the reasons may be, the statutes that were placed before the Court make a mockery of the Court's core purpose.

The statues send a loud and clear message that has nothing at all to do with the true purpose of the Court. Their message effectively repeats the words that Dante placed above the gates of Hell: "Abandon all hope ye who enter here."

Depiction of the sign above the gates of Hell from Dante's "Inferno"

When compared to the intended purpose of the Court, the message is just as absurd as the message that appears above the main entrance to Auschwitz:

"Arbeit Macht Frei" – "Work Makes you Free".

Entrance to Auschwitz

Justice Departed

The fact that officials put those totally inappropriate statues before the Supreme Court is bad enough. The fact that the Prime Minister, his Cabinet and even the Justices of the Supreme Court allowed that to happen points to a comprehensive failure of all concerned to recognize that, in that place, Truth and Justice must be seen to represent a set of beliefs, values and principles that have underpinned the role of the Courts in Western Civilization for more almost four thousand years.

No one in a position of power and influence spoke up to defend the essential symbolism. No one spoke up for the core beliefs, values and principles that lie behind that symbolism.

Truth and Justice are not simply words. Truth and Justice can not be represented by just any statues – even if they were made by a famous artist. When placed before our Supreme Court, they must display a firm

commitment to core principles that our society is founded upon – principles that must be upheld in our society if it is to retain its civil and civilized character.

These statues do not shout out those principles. They turn their heads down or away; they show no balance; they hide the sword. They reject their essential role. While Truth and Justice are there in body, their spirit has gone. Having been relegated to a posture of lament, they are unable to perform their essential role.

Treasured symbols are never set aside as long as the values that they stand for are seen to have even a minor role to play.

As Machiavelli said, those who hold positions of power in government should always invoke the symbols that reflect the honourific principles that hold a society together – even if their own intent is to abuse the powers of the office that they hold so as to achieve some less honourable ends.

It is only when the public no longer sees value in those deeper principles that once guided and controled a society that the symbolism and the statutes can be set aside.

When Communism fell, the statues of Lenin were quickly dispatched. When Saddam Hussein was being driven from power, his statutes were gone in the earliest days of the war. The values that they stood for were rejected, and the institutions that upheld those values were destroyed.

Lenin's statue removed in Kiev.

Saddam Hussein statue removed in Baghdad.

The Long March to Lament

Not all transitions are as dramatic as that.

The crucifix and the Lord's Prayer were once seen as symbols of the equality of all persons under God, of the free will of all persons, and of the duty of all persons to treat every other person, as a valued creation of the one true God, , with real and equal respect. Those symbols gradually lost their value as uniting forces and we have seen them lose their place in our courts, our schools and our parliaments in slow but progressive stages.

Crucifix removed from Quebec Legislature

We now see Sir John A. Macdonald and Thomas Jefferson under attack. They are increasingly cast as privileged members of a racist, white, colonial patriarchy. As that view has spread, their statues have lost their power as symbols of countries that were founded upon an unwavering commitment to freedom, truth and justice for each and every citizen.

A diminished statue of Sir John A. Macdonald still stands on Parliament Hill.

For now, Jefferson still stands in his memorial in Washington.

While not all of their statues have been removed, those that remain can no longer serve as the symbols of the core values of Canada and the U.S.A. – and of the important role that those values played in the great civilization in the West. They, and their statues, have been de-famed.

As perceptions change, we lose sight of what it is that unites us. Not only are our founding fathers cast aside, the beliefs, values and principles that they stood for also come under question – and yet nothing is put forward as a new basis for unity – as a foundation upon which we all can stand. We become divided as we lose our common beliefs.

In democratic societies that are not subject to the ravages of war, the loss occurs in subtle ways and over somewhat longer periods of time.

In the case of Sir John A., the belief that each and every person has the right to be treated equally according to the principles of fundamental justice that formed a core part of his drive for a united Canada was being pushed aside for decades before Sir John A. and his statues fell into disfavor.

By 1970 those old principles had lost their hold to such a degree that there was no challenge when the symbolism of Truth and Justice as the staunch defenders of truth and real and equal justice was displaced by figures of Truth and Justice in lament.

In 1982 we saw our leaders adopt a constitution which subordinated the long-standing rights of real living individual human beings to the rights that were created for arbitrarily-designated abstract groups.

> **Section 15 (2)** of Canada's Charter says that Canadians, as individuals, are no longer assured equal protection and benefit of the laws. That section expressly says that governments are free to make laws that assign persons into arbitrary groups on the basis of race, religion, gender or ethnicity – or on the basis of any other class or group that governments (and courts) may choose – and that governments can impose "laws" that treat persons in different ways depending on the arbitrary groups into which they have had the fortune or the misfortune to be classified.

By the year 2000, courts had taken full advantage of that legalized inequality to create separate systems of justice for persons in the different groups and classes that have fallen into favour or out of favour at the time.

By 2015, the perversity of this system had begun to show its full power – in our parliament, in our courts and more broadly in our society. As new privilege-seeking groups arose, persons who are assigned to groups that are now deemed to have received privileges in the past have been assigned lower rights because of the imagined sins of their ancestors.

Members of the old, white, male patriarchy are now relegated to such a low status that they must apologize and do penance for their very existence. White privilege is charged against male and female alike. The need to preserve the French fact in Canada has given rise to support for a values test being applied to judge immigrants to Quebec, while such notions are deemed to be profoundly racist for the rest of Canada. Various racial groups vie for special status to press the grievances of their ancestors – even if those ancestors lived in other parts of the globe. Even feminists and gays now feel the push of exclusion – shoved from the special privileges that they have recently enjoyed by the advocacy of the newly-emergent groups that have secured a higher status and that are seen to require even greater remedial privileges – the multiple groups that surround the trans.

The holders of public office have willingly embraced the new scheme – and set real and equal justice aside. Those in vital public institutions publicly demonstrate their determination to abandon the old principles.

The recent SNC-Lavalin scandal found three retired justices of the Supreme Court having abandoned their role as symbols of elder statespersons of the highest Court that carefully weighs the facts and the evidence and that seeks truth and justice. They cast themselves in the roles of advocates for parties on one side or other of an attempt to secure special privileges for a well-connected organization that had indisputably broken the law.

The Ethics Commissioner found, in that same scandal, that the Prime Minister and his staff had improperly abused the powers of their offices to seek unjustified privileges to a donor to the Liberal Party. They then abused their control of the "independent" committees of the People's Parliament to prevent an honest investigation.

From your own knowledge you could easily add example after example of similar behavior by politicians, governments and bureaucrats at the federal, provincial and municipal levels – examples that show a growing pattern in the behavior of those who hold public offices that undermines justice and the equality of the laws for the purpose of providing special privileges to members of some groups that they favour – and for reducing the rights of those who stand in their way.

A Right for All to Grieve

Increasingly, progressive governments have departed from the principle that that those who hold government offices hold their power only by virtue of their duty to protect the rights of all citizens. We see more and more actions by governments and officials that confirm that those who hold public office believe that they hold power simply by virtue of the ballot box or their appointment – and that the power that they wield gives them the right to impose their will – granting privileges to some at the expense of the rights of others.

This transition has come about over a relatively short period of time. We have replaced the understanding that laws have legitimacy only when they have the character of prohibitions against the doing of harm with a quiet acceptance that laws are legitimate even when they have the character of commands that order us to do whatever those who hold public office deem to be "good". The growing acceptance of the dictatorial power of politicians and bureaucrats is increasingly supported by the Courts.

Truth and Justice have sound reasons to lament.

In the last 40 years the long-standing principles of the Civilized West that were re-articulated by Jefferson and pressed by John A. – that all persons are free to think and

do whatever they want, so long as they do not harm the rights of any other person – and that all persons, as free individuals, are entitled to be treated equally according to laws that are guided by the principles of fundamental justice – have been soundly swept away.

Freedom and Justice, in the sense that they were understood at the founding of our country, have departed from the front of the Supreme Court – and they have departed from the halls of our Parliament, our provincial Legislatures and our City Halls.

Like the statues of Truth and Justice, academics, the media and members of the public have allowed those principles to be pushed back into the shadows. One dares to speak of them only among the closest of friend, and, even then, only in a quiet voice. It is too dangerous to speak of them in the open public square.

The statues that were placed before the Supreme Court in 1970 foretold what we see today. Truth and Justice are right to mourn because the concepts of truth and justice have shifted far from their traditional foundations in the West – as principles that guarantees the absolute right of every person as an equally-valued human being to be free to think and to do whatever they choose – so long as they do not harm the equal rights of any other person.

Truth and Justice are right to grieve because "law" and "truth" and "justice" have been redefined so that they can be used to compel obedience to the powers that be and to allow those in public office to demand compliance with the fashions of the day.

Those who value a free, just, civil and civilized life have sound reasons to join them in lament. *

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Two Kemptville College Alumni Scholarships worth $500 each are available to two lucky students who are enrolled in their second year of an agricultural related or food related accredited college program. They must have a relative who graduated from Kemptville College. As part of the application process, students will have to answer an essay question about their career choice and why they chose it.

Application forms are due January 31, 2020. For more information visit www.kcalumni.ca or contact Audrey Baker at a.bakercl@hotmail.com or by telephone at 613 283 5033

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Thought of the Day – Will parents and government allow the Ontario Educational System to continue to fail society?

Quite the poignant question isn't it? It is based on years of research. Unknown to most people, in Ontario, our education system has been undermined since the late 1960's when there was a report done on education. In that report is a blaring statement of which everyone should be very concerned. This report states:

"At no time in our history have we had a better vantage point from which to view the role of Canadians in the affairs of man. Perhaps, too, no better opportunity has been offered to transcend the ordinary conditions of our free society and reach a new plateau of human commitment to the common good." Living and Learning, The Report of the Provincial Committee on Aims and Objectives of Education in the Schools of Ontario, Department of Education, 1968" p. 9.

Since this report, the education system, in Ontario, has been failing society by producing children who (i) have this confused sense of entitlement, and (ii) have a lacking education in the fundamentals, of which the previous generations made their successes from – that being the goal of becoming something better to benefit the individual as well as society.

First, we need to understand what "the common good" actually is, from "STALIN AND MAO: MARXISM TWO WAYS": http://www.kentlaw.edu/perritt/courses/seminar/white-final-Seminar%20Paper.pdf

"Stalin …, yet there was always a looming presence of corruption and elite privilege that created resentment in the average citizens who recognized the contradiction in the inequality and exploitation, and as a result, were often unwilling to follow party orders to work harder for the common good."

"… Mao followed Stalin's social and economic development principles;… Mao pushed selfless dedication to the common good and ideal social behavior, often expressed in simple maxims."

These are statements in reference to the Hegelian philosophy. Karl Marx followed what was referred to as the Hegelian "Dialectic"[1] which is merely a $50.00 term for a "discussion." The problem with the Hegelian philosophy is that it removes the individual rights of the person/people and replaces these rights or gives control of these rights over to the bureaucrats/legislators. It also is a philosophy that makes the state supreme over the people instead of the people being supreme over the state.

One of the authors, of the 1968 report on education also, subscribed to the Hegelian philosophy, ergo, his statement of support for the "common good," removing the individual thought and processes "to transcend the ordinary conditions of our free society," replacing the ambition, drive and soul of the individual to follow their dreams of success and, indirectly, their societal obligations. This includes those who were successful, making the decision, to be charitable to those less fortunate.

Now it would seem our education system extorts, instead of relies of the individual good in every person, by forcing our children into a form of charitable service based in curriculum which some of these children, or the parents, can least afford. Doesn't this create heartache for those who cannot afford to pay for toy drives, food drives, etc. And doesn't this send a message to the average person that if you do not agree with these terms, that government has subscribed in their educational system, you are a failure to those "common good" expectations?

In 2004 there was a document created on how to govern Ontario. In this document, which to some is a self-fulfilling prophecy, that was created by university professors and the like, government was directed to make failed policies. Anyone who knows anything about history fully understands these initiatives.

"Moreover, Ontario will be required to make tough choices in order to realize the full potential of Ontarians and Ontario in a responsible, sustainable manner. For example, health expenditures have risen rapidly over the past 40 years and have become the dominant item in the provincial budget. Health care spending by the province has significantly overtaken education as a percentage of the budget…, and this trend will have to be confronted if the visions implicit in our report are to be realized. In a climate of scarce fiscal resources, the tough choices in health care and other areas will require that the province recognize the need to reduce or constrain expenditures in areas that do not further the human capital priorities we have highlighted."[2]

Now we understand why the Liberal government removed funding from health care and transferred funding to the education system. But was government correct to undermine a successful education system with what they replaced it with? According to some – No.

For instance, the government between 2004 and 2018 continued to remove fundamentals in our educational system, replacing it with some very failed educational processes. Certainly, our children know larger $50.00 words – but can they do basic math or understand how to do simple things, like give change without some cash register doing it for them? Again, it would seem – No.

This has been brought on by wasted money going into specialty schools which have nothing to do with

the public educational system. An example is the wasted funding for "Bill Crothers Secondary School." To fully understand the waste, one must read the article provided. Suffice it to say a 15 year old who is a sports fan should not have public funding paying for his "sports" education over that of every other student, should they, or even over the health of others considering the funding removed from health care to fund these types of schools?

"A 15-year-old sports fan, Smith likes to talk about how fortunate he is to have had his application accepted to attend a brand new York Region high school, one entirely publicly funded to boot.

But this just isn't any regular school.

Located on a former 31-acre Unionville golf course, Bill Crothers Secondary isn't a traditional school, one that fits sports around academics.

At Crothers it's the opposite, yet neither sports nor academics suffers.

"This place is a sports fantasy," said Smith, who was among the first group of 250 students in Grades 9 and 10 that began classes last month at nearby Unionville Secondary because workers were still putting on the finishing touches.

"It's so much easier to go to school when everyone is talking sports, playing sports and thinking about sports," said Smith, who plays hockey and football.

He is among the first group able to use the four-level building that has three gyms, two turf fields, an eight-lane track, state-of-the-art training rooms, a walking trail and even a broadcasting booth.

The complex, which can accommodate 1,700 students, came with a price tag of $32 million."

https://www.thestar.com/sports/amateur/2008/09/04/bill_crothers_secondary_a_school_unlike_any_other.html

Then there is the process of our littlest and most impressionable. Why are we taking childhood from our children and turning them into a failed society? Children need to learn to understand basics like right from wrong, not whether a cat sitting on a mat has a larger meaning in life, do they?

"…Now, they know that kindergarten is deadly serious stuff. Recess time has been slashed, and every kindergartener's schedule is crammed with activities designed to raise her Grade 3 test scores. A new "reading strategy" is spreading through Ontario's classrooms like a virus. It's not enough any more just to teach the little tykes to read. Now they must also be taught to be aware of their metacognitive processes.

"We've been told that we simply cannot read books for the sake of reading books," says one exasperated teacher. "It's incorrect to read a book straight through. Instead, the teacher is supposed to stop after every page and ask, 'What do you think is going to happen next? How do you infer that?' "

Metacognition is what you do when you're thinking about your thinking. (I think.) And teaching comprehension strategies is a good thing to do - with older students. But it may not too useful for kids who are still struggling to decipher "the cat sat on the mat."

"We have to teach the terms 'schema' and 'inference,' even to kindergarten children," says the beleaguered teacher. To ensure compliance, children are randomly removed from class by visiting experts and quizzed on their ability to use words such as "schema" and "inference."

https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/our-brave-new-world-metacognition-for-tiny-tots/article715908/

And yet those test scores are failing, aren't they?

So, now we understand the failings in our educational system but what of this "entitlement" our children think they have – let alone their teachers think they have? This has been brought on by failed government giving into demands by unions and teachers, alike. This has been at the expense of the people's health and for those involved in the demand for tax-payer funded post secondary education. There is nothing in the Canadian constitution which establishes that right – so it isn't a right for anyone to have the tax-payers foot the bill for their university or college diploma.

Our parents and grandparents were the best of all societies. They had a grade eight education and yet they were wise beyond their years. It is only those who have this self-fulfilling prophecy who want more and more placed on the tax-payers of this province and anyone who cannot make a good living without post secondary should be placing the blame where it actually belongs – on the professors, the teachers and those in government who make the demands for post secondary.

Being from the halls of a university/college does not make you any more intelligent – it merely makes you less likely to obtain your life's goals – to find employment in your field of studies because everyone else is also taking the same course. Welcome to the "brave new world: metacognition for tiny tots," and say good-bye to reality in education.

Will parents and government allow the Ontario Educational System to continue to fail society?

https://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/why-are-schools-brainwashing-our-children/

https://nationalpost.com/opinion/randall-denley-assertions-by-ontario-teachers-union-dont-stand-up-to-scrutiny?fbclid=IwAR1z5acJRoz9NiE8gDrT98xLC9ApThXMxOprk7r3ApzwSDzEGY7k-nwOtk4

Elizabeth F. Marshall,
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I am not a lawyer and do not give legal advice. Any information relayed is for informational purposes only. Please contact a lawyer.

The True Environmentalists

by Marlene Black

As part of a century old family farm where my husband still tills the land that his Irish ancestors before him did, we feel that we are true environmentalists. Sadly, this label has been stolen from us and stuck onto anyone who wants to call themselves that. There doesn't seem to be any 'test' to see if you quality. There doesn't seem to be any 'evidence' to prove you are indeed authentic and you don't seem to need to have a well-rounded knowledge of life and nature and how we are all interconnected. I feel that these environmentalists have been indoctrinated in the schools, by the media and by books, starting in kindergarten where emotions are given to trees so they can be sad and miss you when you go off to school. It's no wonder that kids today are horrified if you cut a tree down. I call these environmentalists, the 'brainwashed, urban armchair' variety. Making rules about wetlands without ever walking on the water. I call the true environmentalists the "true rural green" variety. You don't have to be rural to be a real one though, just that when you live on the land, you live by the weather and have a deeper understanding of real climate change.

Now you may wonder how I'd think that a farmer could be a true environmentalist. Well, keeping the land healthy and productive is of utmost importance to anyone making a living off the land. We object to the continuous barrage of government rules and regulations trying to make sure that the farmer follows sound environmental practises. We wouldn't mind if a little common sense was in the mix but this is sorely lacking. We hear continually that "we need rules so that farmers won't dump oil in their wells or drain all their fields." This is the evidence to prove that they have little or no understanding of how the real world works.

Armchair environmentalists say "stop using chemicals" which at face value sounds good but it may not be based in understanding the dynamics of when and why they are used. Farmers know that it is always good to try and use chemicals which aren't bad for the environment and many chemicals developed from modern science have allowed us to grow bigger crops on the same acre of land with less tillage and compaction, less use of fossil fuels and less potential for wind erosion. These bugs and weeds can be devastating to a crop and affect our food supply. Most farmers are always quick to adopt new technology that helps protect the environment.

Since we're talking about polluting the land, where were these 'environmentalists' when the gigantic windmill monsters started blighting our landscape, mounted on tons of cement, whirling dead birds through the air, spilling pollutants onto the ground and giving us very little electricity while they waited for the wind to blow? Where was the outcry?

There is a very long list of what farmers do on their land to make improvements but the urban armchair alarmists don't know about this. They look on with horror when a farmer fills in a low spot on his land but look the other way when hundreds of trucks fill up a wetland in preparation for a new subdivision, coffee shop or grocery store. Silence! This just creates an environmental frenzy that seems to land heavily on the farmers fields.

The craziness became obvious to many of us when a property owner placed old cars in his ditch to form a bridge to get to the other side. He kept adding more old cars and debris as the water rose. Over time, he created a large lake behind his makeshift bridge which had become a dam. This created flooding on his neighbours upstream. When complaints were made to conservation authorities to have it removed, they were told that because it had been there for more than six months, it was now part of a wetland ecosystem and could not be removed.

I believe that the true environmentalists should speak out and push back somewhat against those who don't know what they are talking about but seem to have the ear of the media. I feel that a real environmentalist looks at the evidence, reads and listens to both sides of the discussion and forms an educated opinion. If you read Dr. Tim Balls article, " *Claim That 97% of Scientists Agree About Human-Caused Global Warming Is Fake News"*, you will see how these climate conclusions were manufactured. The 'urban armchair" do not tend to listen to established scientists who can show how the climate has always been changing and the "man-made" blame is really more about hysteria. They are more emotional, don't listen to reason and follow the mob that says that the sky is falling.

Stan Rogers understood the farming way of life and wrote songs about it. It was

hard back then, dirt poor, back breaking work but an honourable profession that most did not want to do.

However, it's a new world now and the farmer seems to be feeling the wrath of these armchair elites who feel they best know how to protect our planet and who want to tell him whether he can cut a tree, dig a ditch, erect a building, drive his tractor through his lowlands or prevent him from farming due to a sensitive area or a heritage building that they have discovered on his private property.

Farmers are the perfect profession to target. The fake environmentalists and conservation authorities can demand and threaten us with fines and jail time for doing what we know, should be done. Anonymous callers to these snitch lines will bring the law to your gate in record time. If aggressive bylaw enforcers get a report that a farmer has been cleaning up a fence row, cutting down a tree or filling in a low spot, they'll arrive promptly, armed with stop work orders.

The reality for most of us in the farming community is that we are rooted to our land and can't just pull up stakes and move to a more farm friendly municipality easily. Many of us hope to pass our farms onto the next generation and as we are working the land, growing our food off the land and trying our best to preserve it for the future, we don't take lightly to being told that we are destroying the environment.

The Salt of the Earth

There's a song about the field behind the plow
And farm life hasn't changed from then to now
The men on the land, work from dawn to dusk
Trying to make a living, growing food for us.

Stan wrote about these hard working men
Who carried on the love of the land,
They worked all day cuz that's what they did,
And they worked until they dropped into bed.

They call them the salt of the earth,
Which means they don't get what they're worth
The next time you're looking down the end of your fork,
Remember someone, somewhere did a whole lot of work.

Their days are not ruled by a plan,
The God up above guides their hand,
They work with what comes from the sky,
And they work until they lie down and die.

If you're rooted to the land, you can't leave,
Your ancestors tug at your sleeve,
But the glowing red sunset as you finish your last round
Makes you glad you stayed rooted to the ground.

PRIVATE TREE BYLAW - Presentation made by Hamilton Landowner Don Johnson to the City of Burlington Council on December 16, 2019. This is in reference to their proposed "PRIVATE TREE BYLAW" .

1) **Statement of Facts**

The City of Burlington wants to pass a City-wide By-law which is requiring permits and setting conditions with respect to trees on private owned property.

The City cites global climate change as a prime reason they are passing this By-Law By-Law in its report to the committee of the Whole. (Report RPF -18-19 page 1)

2) **Statement of Issues:**

For purposes of this factum, Act refers to Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 Without prejudice:

It is acknowledged and accepted, that the City of Burlington has authority to regulate and/or prohibit the removal, destruction, pruning or injuring of trees on Public lands owned by the City of Burlington.

We acknowledge the City claim to authority comes from section 135, 139-141 of the Act

Respective to the by-law, the by-law does not give sufficient weight and authority to following sections and guidelines within the Act

1) Respective to section 135 upon which the city claims authority to pass a by-law,

Section 135 does not give authority to the city to pass a by-law over private property trees. Reading the Act in totality, Section 135 is only applicable to property owned by the City and private lands where the city has agreements with the property owner.

Specifically in the Act where the legislation address's trees and private property: section 62 (1) and section 141 both address the authority the municipality has when it comes to trees on private land. Had the Legislature intended 135 to apply to trees on private land it would have said so either in 135 or in another part of the Act.

By the omission of the definition of Private lands in 135, section 135 only gives authority over trees that are assets of the municipal corporation. 135 does not state geographical jurisdiction so as defined in section Part I general interpretation1 (1) in this Act… Municipality section (2) Municipality must be interpreted as assets owned by the municipal; corporation.

2) Part II, section 8.(1); general Municipal Powers , Scope of Power in the Act does not give authority over private trees.

It refers to the words "its affairs" which in English grammar its is a possessive pronoun and means "relating to that which it owns or has right to" and by inference does not relate to the affairs of others.

3) Part II, section 9); "general Municipal Powers, Powers of a Natural Person" in the Act does not give authority over private trees.

The power is that of a natural person and as a natural person the municipality has no more to impose its will on another person then that person has to impose its will on the municipality.

4) Part II, section 11(3): "By-Laws re: matters within Spheres of jurisdiction, general Municipal Powers ", as identified in the Act does not give jurisdiction to pass a private tree by-law effecting control over private owned trees and indeed restricts the City authority to do so for private property trees.

Although Part II, section 11(2) refers to climate change section but 11(3) specifically identifies where the city has power to pass a by –law, and nowhere does it say this authority extends to trees on private property.

5) Section 394 (1) of the Act entitled "Restriction, fees and charges" is absolutely clear and limits the city authority re permit fees and charges:

394 (1) No fee or charge by-law shall impose a fee or charge that is based on, is in respect of or is computed by reference to,

Section 394 (1) (e) is even more direct and says

no fee or charge by-law shall impose a fee or charge that is based on, is in respect of or is computed by reference to "the generation, exploitation, extraction, harvesting, processing, renewal or transportation of natural resources. 2001, c. 25, s. 394 (1); 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 166

I'm not sure what the municipality thinks a tree is, but according to a dictionary : the definition of a NATURAL RESOURCE is:

"Noun, materials in substances occurring in nature which can be exploited for economic gain"

I am confident the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is pretty clear that trees in the Province are a renewable natural resource.

Any attempt to charge a fee, or assess a charge with respect to cutting a tree on private property is forbidden

6) We believe the proposed By-law in its current format fails to adequately recognize section 14 (1) and (2) within the Act and ignores rights of tree ownership under other Provincial and federal Acts and Regulations and Instruments as defined in law.

14 (1) A by-law is without effect to the extent of any conflict with,

(a) a provincial or federal Act or a regulation made under such an Act; or

(b) an instrument of a legislative nature, including an order, licence or approval, made or issued under a provincial or federal Act or regulation. 2001, c. 25, s. 14.

Same

(2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1), there is a conflict between a by-law of a municipality and an Act, regulation or instrument described in that subsection if the by-law frustrates the purpose of the Act, regulation or instrument. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 10.

Section 14 is very clear that a municipal by-law cannot frustrate the purpose of a Federal/Provincial statute/law or an instrument of legislative nature, otherwise the by-law is ultra-vires (meaning it is of no force or effect).

Looking to Acts, Regulations and instruments that conflict with this city by-law as currently proposed: this by-law conflicts and thus becomes "without effect" from a number, which are not limited to the following:

a) Contravenes private property ownership rights that run with the land per "The Conveyancing and Law of Property Act R.S.O. 1990

The "Conveyancing and Law of Property Act"

R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER C.34

Consolidation Period: From December 15, 2009 to the e-Laws currency date.

Last amendment: 2009, c. 33, Sched. 11, s. 3.

What included in conveyance

15 (1) Every conveyance of land, unless an exception is specially made therein, includes all houses, outhouses, edifices, barns, stables, yards, gardens, orchards, commons, trees, woods, underwoods, mounds, fences, hedges, ditches, ways, waters, watercourses, lights, liberties, privileges, easements, profits, commodities, emoluments, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to such land belonging or in anywise appertaining, or with such land demised, held, used, occupied and enjoyed or taken or known as part or parcel thereof, and, if the conveyance purports to convey an estate in fee simple, also the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, yearly and other rents, issues and profits of the same land and of every part and parcel thereof, and all the estate, right, title, interest, inheritance, use, trust, property, profit, possession, claim and demand whatsoever of the grantor into, out of or upon the same land, and every part and parcel thereof, with their and every of their appurtenances. R.S.O. 1990, c. C.34, s. 15 (1).

It is patently clear that if we are going to be argue who has the right to control and benefit from trees, that on private owned property they are a property and owned asset of the property owner. The Province and the municipalities own and control rights for the trees only on public lands and the private property owner owns and controls rights for trees on his property.

b) contravenes the Registry Act R.S.O 1990 section 15 (1) and (2) by not defining instruments of authority to be superior to this act and using the definition of an instrument as is defined in the registry Act as part of its definitions

Registry Act

R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER R.20

Consolidation Period: From December 3, 2015 to the e-Laws currency date.

Last amendment: 2015, c. 28, Sched. 1; s. 156.

Instrument Definition:

"instrument" includes every instrument whereby title to land in Ontario may be transferred, disposed of, charged, encumbered or affected in any other way, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes any instrument mentioned in subsection 18 (6) and a Crown grant of Canada and of Ontario, a deed, conveyance, mortgage, assignment of mortgage, certificate of discharge of mortgage, assurance, lease, release, discharge, agreement for the sale or purchase of land, caution under the Estates Administration Act or renewal or withdrawal thereof, municipal by-law, certificate of proceedings in any court, judgment or order of foreclosure and every other certificate of judgment or order of any court affecting any interest in or title to land, and a certificate of payment of taxes granted under the corporate seal of any municipality by the treasurer, a sheriff's and treasurer's deed of land sold by virtue of his or her office, a contract in writing, every order and proceeding in bankruptcy and insolvency, a plan of a survey or subdivision of land, and every notice, caution and other instrument registered in compliance with an Act of Canada or Ontario; ("acte")

The Registry Act it is clear: Crown Grants are "instruments" as defined in the Registry Act.
Being legal instruments they have authority.

This is significant because the municipal Act is very clear under section 14 (1) b
14 (1) A by-law is without effect to the extent of any conflict with,
(b) an instrument of a legislative nature, including an order, licence or approval, made or issued under a provincial or federal Act or regulation. 2001, c. 25, s. 14

c) Fails to clearly identify in the By-law the authority to rely on superior instruments and laws of authority to avoid falling under the jurisdiction of the by-law and allow private property owners to exercise their Instruments of authority within the powers so given them and that make said by-law "not in effect" with respect to that property owner.

d) Fails to recognize and accept "Instruments of the Crown" which are legally binding on the municipality thus has taken the position it has the right and the powers to impose its own authority and demands on property owners to comply with its permit system wherein, nullifying the power and prerogative of the Crown, and the foundation of Canadian law based on the "Doctrine of Paramountcy".

7) Opens the City to significant costs from engaging in expropriation action:

Section 6(1) of the Act gives authority to the City to be an expropriating Authority.

The Expropriation Act R.S.O 1990, Chapter E.26 section 1. (1) is very clear in its definitions as to what "expropriation" means and what "injurious affection means"

Definitions "injurious affection" means,

(b) where the statutory authority does not acquire part of the land of an owner,

(i) such reduction in the market value of the land of the owner, and

(ii) such personal and business damages, resulting from the construction and not the use of the works by the statutory authority, as the statutory authority would be liable for if the construction were not under the authority of a statute,`

Of course the word "works" is not limited to a physical work or project it can be also defined as any action policy the Municipality, as a statutory authority, engages in as a corporate action that involves taking control of a personal or private owned asset, to use to the benefit, use, needs or program the expropriating authority needs the assets to achieve its corporate action.

Where there is "injurious affection to the private property owner the Act says he is entitled to compensation

Compensation for injurious affection

21 A statutory authority shall compensate the owner of land for loss or damage caused by injurious affection. R.S.O. 1990, c. E.26, s. 21.

Now should one say the municipality is protected by the Municipal Act from said claims. The Expropriation Act specifically states it has "all encompassing power" over all other Acts when it comes to defining expropriation and Injurious affection.

Conflict

(4) Where there is conflict between a provision of this Act and a provision of any other general or special Act, the provision of this Act prevails. R.S.O. 1990, c. E.26, s. 2 (4).

According to the expropriation Act if the city passes this by-law worded as it is, the city has engaged in an act of injurious affection and property owners must be compensated.

8) Section 58 of the Public Lands Act regarding cutting of tree ownerships which states:

Property in trees vested in patentee

58. (1) Where land is disposed of under this Act for agricultural purposes, the property in all trees thereon shall be deemed to have passed to the patentee by the letters patent, and every reservation of any class or kind of tree contained in the letters patent shall be deemed to be void. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.43, s. 58 (1).

Reservations of trees voided

(2) A reservation of all timber and trees or any class or kind of tree contained in letters patent granting public lands disposed of under this or any other Act for a summer resort location is void. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.43, s. 58 (2).

Idem

(3) A reservation of all timber and trees or any class or kind of tree contained in letters patent dated on or before the 1st day of April, 1869 and granting public lands disposed of under this or any other Act is void. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.43, s. 58 (3).

Effectively trees in post confederation grants (instruments) for agricultural use and for any tree in a pre-confederation registered letters patent are now also removed from authority and ownership of the Province.

So on any land in Burlington, transferred from the Crown, post confederation to private land ownership the trees are owned by the property owner. They are outside not in the Province and the Province has no authority to claim right or jurisdiction over any tree on private owned land where there is a crown grant.

9) The Forestry Act is specific that the province must enter into agreements with property owners, iot has no authority to dictate or legislate a requirement upon private land owners respective to trees or forest

Forestry Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.26 Versions

Regulations under this Act current December 15, 2009 – (e-Laws currency date) January 1, 2003 – December 14, 2009

Agreements re forestry development

2 (1) The Minister may enter into agreements with owners of land suitable for forestry purposes that provide for the management or improvement of the land for these purposes upon such conditions as the Minister considers proper. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 20

Indeed it specifically staes a municipality to pass a by-law re private trees in the municipality must purchase or acquire the land. That this is a condition for a by-law to become in effect.

By-laws for acquiring lands for forestry purposes

11 (1) The council of a municipality may pass by-laws,

(a) for acquiring by purchase, lease or otherwise, land for forestry purposes;

(b) for declaring land that is owned by the municipality to be required by the municipality for forestry purposes;

10) The Farming and Food Production Protection Act (FFPPA) as federal law, supersedes any authority to interfere with farming operations .

The FFPPA provides protection for "normal farm practice" from the enforcement of municipal by-laws. The failure of a municipality to consider application of this statutory protection before threatening or commencing enforcement proceedings may render the municipality liable for resulting damages.

This Act allows farmers to clear 2 acres of trees per farm per year without interference.

11) Ontario Bill 190, Property Rights and Responsibilities Act, 2009

The Act states:

9.1 (1) Every person has a right to own the real and personal property that he or she has acquired in accordance with law and, except to the extent provided by law, to the peaceful enjoyment and free disposition of the property.

Respect for private property

(2) No one may enter onto another person's real property or into another person's home, whether or not the person is the owner of the home, or take any personal property from the real property or home without the person's express or implied consent, except to the extent provided by law.

The City has no right of law to take possession or effect control over private owned trees without compensating the owner.

11) The amendments to the Human Rights Code recognize, subject to specific limitations at law, the right to own property, whether real or personal, the right to peaceful enjoyment of one's property and the right to freedom from search of one's real property and home and from seizure of one's personal property located there.

Those rights have long been recognized at common law but are largely missing from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The amendments to the Human Rights Code also include the moral responsibility to maintain one's real property.

12) The Legislation Act, 2006 address's the authority of the Crown prerogatives when it comes to authority:

The act clearly identifies that an instrument of the crown is superior to federal, provincial or municipal law. Which is exactly what is said in section 14 (1) (2) of the municipal Act

Legislation Act, 2006

S.o. 2006, chapter 21

Schedule F

Consolidation Period: From December 15, 2009 to the e-Laws currency date.

Last amendment: 2009, c. 33, Sched. 2, s. 43.

Crown

Crown not bound, exception

71. No Act or regulation binds Her Majesty or affects Her Majesty's rights or prerogatives unless it expressly states an intention to do so. 2006, c. 21, Sched. F, s. 71.

Succession

This Act provides even more evidence that the prerogative of the crown is supreme

72. Anything begun under a reigning sovereign continues under his or her successor as if no succession had taken place. 2006, c. 21, Sched. F, s. 72.

13) Of course one must also look to The Constitution Act of Canada`` and what it says.

It is this constitution that identifies what power the province has and what it does not. The Province may only pass down authority it has based on the constitution and it has no authority over trees on private property except through escheat and expropriation. As such as the Province has no authority neither can it give authority to do what it itself has no authority.

section 92 of this Act becomes a foundation upon which tree ownership in the Province is defined:

Exclusive Powers of Provincial Legislatures

Marginal note: Subjects of exclusive Provincial Legislation

92. In each Province the Legislature may exclusively make Laws in relation to Matters coming within the Classes of Subjects next hereinafter enumerated; that is to say,

5. The Management and Sale of the Public Lands belonging to the Province and of the Timber and Wood thereon

Note: the province does not have authority over private owned lands, timber and woods thereon.

Nowhere in the Constitution Act does the Province acquire authority over private owned lands, Timber or Woods and indeed the constitution requires Canada and the Provinces to recognize and ``abide with Trusts existing in respect thereof, and to any Interest other than that of the Province in the same(Section 109)

Regarding section 109 of the Constitution let us ask WHAT IS CONSIDERED "IN" THE Province and as such what authority can it give municipalities.

The various levels of government are simply corporations, so anything which is "IN" the government must belong to the government as property of that specific corporation.

14) The Supreme court of Canada has addressed property rights involving instruments of the crown and interpretation of authority in numerous instances.

As stated in Mercer, privately owned property is not "IN" the province, is not "IN" the federal government, and is not "IN" the municipalities as part of these entities' administrative property:

Judge Gwynne in Mercer v. Attorney General for Ontario, (1881) 5 S.C.R. 538

at page 706 says "the term 'public lands' in the province, which is but an equivalent expression to 'lands belonging to the provinces at the Union' "

and at page 707 says "the 'lands' therefore which are referred to in sec. 109 of the British North America Act can only be construed to mean those ungranted or public lands belonging to the Crown".

Pre confederation Crown Grants and Land Patents are Trusts and contract instruments of the Crown. By Mercer

lands owned under pre-confederation Grants (land Patents) are not in the province. As such these lands do not come under control of the municipality.

(This is further confirmed by the MNR statement included in 12) above)

15) The question "can the City or Province require a property owner to get or pay for a permit to do what the property owner already has the right to do"? This is answered in the Case Attorney General of British Columbia v. The Deeks Sand & Gravel Company Limited, [1956] SCR 336, 1956 CanLII 55 (SCC)

1. The learned judge said:

The present case is one of the Province of British Columbia asserting and thereby exacting by compromise rights which it did not enjoy under the original lease, or the Railway Belt Agreement, by which it nullified in part its obligation under clause 3 of the latter agreement to carry out the lease granted by the Dominion according to its terms, and the Plaintiff's rights under those contracts.

There is no distinction in principle. The Imperial Act and the Statute of Canada confirming the Railway Belt Agreement imposed the same constitutional limitation on the prerogative of the Crown, in the right of the Province of British Columbia, that Natural Resources Agreement and the confirming Statutes imposed on the authority of the Alberta Legislature; in neither case would the consent of the contracting parties allow the Province to break the bounds imposed by that limitation.

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In this view, for which he found support in the decision of this court in Mark Anthony v. Attorney General of Alberta[5] , the learned judge decided:

It is unnecessary to consider whether the Province and the lessee could amend the leases without the authority of Dominion and Provincial legislation by an agreement fairly and freely made to meet their mutual requirements under circumstances which did not involve a compromise of untenable claims made by the Province in conflict with the Railway Belt Agreement.

This judgment was upheld on appeal[6] , O'Halloran J.A., who wrote the judgment of the court, stating:

Once it appears, therefore, that the Province has no power to impose a royalty on the leased lands, it is beyond the capability of the Province, or of any official on its behalf, to enter into an agreement in virtual effect forcing the Respondent to subscribe to payment of a royalty which there was no power in the Province to demand.

If, therefore, it is argued that a compromise agreement came out of such conditions it becomes apparent that such compromise agreement must be invalid and not binding on the Respondent, because the subject-matter of such attempted agreement was ultra vires the Province to bring into being. Since the subject-matter never could have had a legal existence, there remains no foundation for an agreement; in short, there could not be an agreement.

16) Our government is based on a Constitutional Monarchy and thus subject to the Doctrine of Paramountcy``, where within, the authority of the Crown is supreme to all levels of government and an agreement, contract or permission given by the crown cannot be overturned or refused by any authority below the Crown.

In as much as Crown grants are given by the Crown, the authority with in these grants, given to property holders, can be challenged, but the Supreme court is pretty clear; these grants are permits to the grant holder issued by the Crown and as such the City, Region, Province nor Federal Government have any authority, except that of expropriation to interfere with these rights given by the Crown.

I'm not a lawyer, however there are numerous Supreme Court cases involving private property owners with crown grants in conflict with various government levels, regarding issues of authority. In my search of these records I have never found a case where a property owner with a valid pre-confederation issued crown grant ever lost an argument regarding his authority over his land.

In todays' modern and legislative times there is a circulating conception that old law and common law rights are out of fashion and as such have become redundant, more so that the concepts of fee simple and pre-confederation grants are no longer valid and remain only of historical esoteric purpose. Do not be misled! The government wants this to be the case but the reality is "the prerogative power of the crown is supreme and these old pre-confederation rights are as alive today as they were in pre 1867."

I suggest the recent 2016 SCC ruling re "Lynch vs St John's (City)", in which the City of St John's, natural heritage zoning on the Lynch family property was ruled an expropriation of an asset (the water), owned by the Lynch family as defined by their Crown grant; leaves the city wide open to legal actions by property owners should the city try to enforce private tree permit requirements

There are numerous rulings from the Supreme Court that uphold the sanctity of private property rights based on crown grants.

In as much as it is reasonable to assume 99.9% of the land privately owned in Burlington has a pre-confederation crown grant - land patent, which is a legal instrument as its foundation for root of ownership, the owner's rights to the trees is very clear and as such the By-law is "without effect" .

17) I iterate my opinion that the by-law as written has significant errors and omissions regarding city authority to impose on private property tree owners. That said make this by-law without effect.

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