

Landowner Voices



LV

Mar/April 2020

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Landowner Voices

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Read 'Landowner Voices' bi-monthly on the OLA website:
www.ontariolandowners.ca

The opinions expressed in this on-line magazine are those of the writers and are not necessarily the views of the Publishers

March/April 2020



Hello Folks,

As I watched the natives blocking the trains from delivering products to Canadians right across Canada, it brought back memories of the Landowner rallies that we were part of back a few years ago.

Now I am not suggesting that it I support what they are doing, or whether their cause is right or wrong. What I know is that we all have the

DO THEY WORK?

by Tom Black

To be clear,
nobody takes
their tractor
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on the 401 and blocks it, to have fun or get revenge on society. We did it to get the attention of politicians who had turned their backs on the problems facing farmers such as the Mad Cow crisis back in 2004. The visuals of tractors on the 401 instantly informed the public that there was a problem. For the most part, the public believes that farmers are pretty good folks and so politicians are put under pressure to at least look like they are trying to fix the problem at hand.

Therefore, I would conclude that demonstrating usually works to get your cause a little attention, usually in the form of some kind of consultation. But here is where



Youtube video "The Rural Revolution - A Fight for Survival" by Laura Black

right to demonstrate, but we also have the responsibility to recognize the rights of our fellow citizens and to never abuse our rights at their expense. When the Landowners demonstrated, we told the police where we were going to be, how we were going to

demonstrate, approximately how many we expected, and how long we would be there. We also always kept a safety lane open for emergency vehicles.

So now I come to the question "does demonstrating work?" To be clear, nobody takes their tractor out

everything gets a little murky. No matter how good you do in in this consultation stage, eventually all those good ideas go back behind closed doors and get decimated by the back room, the special interest groups and the NGO's that have everything to lose if something changes.

At present, the OLA is participating in the consultations instigated by the provincial government to get feedback on conservation authorities. Because so many complaints were presented to the Ford candidates during the last election, Premier Doug Ford promised to have a hard look at the problems with the hope of making some changes to the ways that this organization operates. These consultations, in four different cities, have been very well attended. The problem is that 60 to 70% of those in attendance are from the Conservation Authorities, from Conservation Ontario, the municipalities, the Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.

Most of these folks have a common interest, and that is to control what goes on, on private property. Now I am not suggesting that this is the mandate of their said group, but having control of private property makes it easier for them to achieve the goals that they believe, will make the world a better place. This also inspires these groups to work together when it comes to lobbying government to give them more control of private property. The weakness with the private property owners is that they are very independent and are not united under a common cause while the other side sees their passion and their jobs at risk

The danger here for private

property owners is that the fix could actually be worse than it was before. My fear is that the solutions that the property owners offer at these consultations to help fix a wrong, will be weaponized by the other side to convince the government scribes to bolster the powers of the environmental lobby. I don't think I'm far off as one environmental participant at the London conference was heard to say, "We need to protect property owner's from themselves."*



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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HERE TO SERVE

YOU'RE INVITED: CARLETON CONVERSATIONS – AGRICULTURE, HUNTING & CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. Please join me on **April 15, 2020, from 6:30pm-8pm**, for a public town hall meeting regarding agriculture, hunting & conservation authorities. All constituents are welcome to attend to provide their thoughts, ideas, feedback and suggestions.

It will be held at the City of Ottawa – Metcalfe Branch, 8243 Victoria St. Metcalfe. Please check my website: www.goldiempp.ca for further details.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO OUR FARMERS:

In my travels around the riding of Carleton and Eastern Ontario, I hear time and time again how much Ontarians value and appreciate you, our farmers. Whether it's at the farm gate, in farmer's markets

or in their local grocery stores, Ontarians show their appreciation every time they seek out and choose local foods – the food you carefully produce. That small but significant act shows the importance of the work you do. Not only do you provide us with delicious, nutritious food to enjoy year-round, but you also create jobs in our communities across the province. Without your hard work and dedication, the rest of us could not experience the abundance of Ontario produce and products that we enjoy every day.

I am proud and humbled to represent our diverse and thriving sector. I want to express my deep appreciation not only personally, but on behalf of all Ontarians, for all the work you do. Thank you for the opportunity to share a few small words of appreciation.

NEWS FROM QUEEN'S PARK: BUILDING RURAL ONTARIO TOGETHER

As part of the government's Plan to Build Ontario Together, Ontario is helping rural communities across the province attract investment, create jobs and boost economic development through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program.

On January 20, while speaking at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) annual conference, the Premier of Ontario announced the province is now accepting applications for a new intake this year under the RED program.

"Many rural communities are feeling left behind," said Ontario's Premier. "We need to make sure everyone, no matter where they live, can find a good job, grow a business, start a family, and build a better life for themselves. The RED program is one of the many ways that our government is helping to bring real benefits to more communities in rural Ontario."

Rural communities and regions, Indigenous communities and organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and local service boards can all apply for the RED program starting on January 20, 2020 through February 24, 2020. As part of the program's Economic Diversification and Competitiveness Stream, the province will cover up to 50% of the costs for eligible projects that help remove barriers to job creation and attract investment and skilled workers that will help regions grow. The Strategic Economic Infrastructure Stream of the program enables the province to cover up to 30% of eligible minor capital projects that help spur economic growth, such as restoring museums and heritage sites, setting up community hubs, and streetscaping.

The Ontario government is also working with the federal partners and the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project to provide a combined investment of nearly \$35 million for a broadband pilot in rural communities across Ontario. SWIFT is taking the next step by awarding contracts to successful bidders to help bring better broadband service to three counties in Southwestern Ontario. This investment will help SWIFT move forward on projects that will provide broadband access to approximately 11,000 more homes and businesses across Ontario. Having high-speed Internet access is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity that allows Ontario's businesses to connect to global markets, enables students and workers to learn and upgrade their skills, and allows people to bank or shop online.

The Ontario government is committed to helping build stronger rural communities that can attract investment and jobs to their region and promote new economic opportunities for their residents.

The government is also supporting rural Ontario through additional measures that include:

- Responding to farmer and rural municipality concerns by introducing Bill 156, the Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2019 in the Ontario Legislature. If passed, the legislation will better protect farmers, their families, their employees, animals, livestock transporters, and the province's food supply.
- Providing \$450,000 in new funding for the Rural Ontario Institute, an organization that provides leadership development programs for agriculture, rural businesses and organizations that help drive economic development and promote leadership in rural communities.
- Hosting a series of economic roundtables to listen to the views of people living in rural Ontario to understand how best to leverage the potential for economic growth in their communities. The first roundtable took place on January 19, 2020 at ROMA.
- Developing the new AgriSuite, a valuable suite of tools for farmers, land use planners and municipalities encompassing a phosphorus risk assessment to support environmental sustainability and Nutrient Management Planning tools that help to protect drinking water sources.

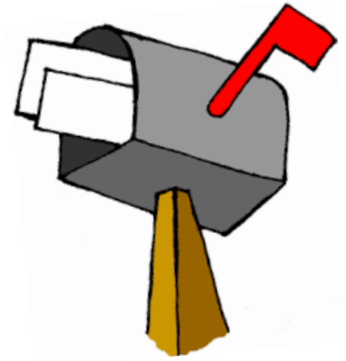
WE ARE HERE TO SERVE:

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

Letters from our Readers



Open letter to Greta from her "Granddad".

Dear Greta,

I'm Dr. Rod, an old Physicist. I've followed the climate controversy for about 25 years. Could we talk?

Firstly, if I ever had a Granddaughter, I would want her to be like you. Your English is very good and you are very brave indeed, fighting health problems when young, and when told of climate trouble, tried to help. I am very proud you. However, comes a time when quiet reflection is called for. That's what Grandparents are for.

Sixty plus years in Science and nearly as long in politics has shown me that,

a) Almost nothing we "know" is really so!

b) Scientists and Politicians are people who can "lie, cheat and steal," much like the rest of us, and that

c) Political Scientists are the worst!

Sadly, I have real difficulties with your message. I do realize your folks and teachers believed that Carbon was awful and must be stopped. This caused you huge worries about our beautiful planet. Thank goodness, they were mistaken.

Carbon dioxide, CO₂, is not Carbon pollution, although there is "Soot" on the Himalayan glaciers from power plants in China and Indian. Carbon gives us life. Carbon dioxide and water vapour together is the very "Breath of Life". Dr Patrick Moore says more CO₂ in the air is needed for plants to thrive. Indeed dry lands are becoming greener with new life. More CO₂ is a big help by reducing their water needs. Many years ago my friend, Dr Ervin Szabo said "Rod, I just realized that Nature put Man on this planet to liberate the fixed Carbon!"

"Climate Change" is meaningless, lets talk about "Global Warming". This

should read "Global warming back up to normal." When Victoria came queen, things were warming. It is known that the entire planet has warmed a degree or so in 200 years. So the Ocean warmed too and gave out some of its stored CO₂. The exact temperature rise is hard to find because most of the thermometers are in North America, and even worse, most of them are not reliable. For most of the planet there are no thermometers within a ~100 miles. Remember, there is a bigger temperature difference between your face, and your feet, in your home!

Years ago it was realized that satellites reading an Infra red signal could see a third of the planet at once. And over 20 years or so, the planet's heat signal has stayed unchanged. Also newer, proper, ground measurements show the same.

Anyhow, why should we worry about temperature? After all it was an Economist, who guessed that a temperature increase of 3 or 4 degrees might be bad. But too late along came the IPCC's politicians, and "Climate Scientists," with their computers. Together, these have manufactured some awfully misleading reports. Intended to frighten rather than inform. Certainly not what Science is all about. Their charts with dozens of lines way above the actual readings, show confusion not consensus. They are blaming CO₂ for temperature changes caused by our Sun. Their cries of "Catastrophe!" are all false. Tony Heller's newspaper records put the lie to them.

Trying to reduce our incidental CO₂ generation by going to Windmills and Solar Panels cannot work. These modern marvels do not come free. Prof Ian Plimer calculates that the energy

going into their life cycle, is such that the useful energy they produce is barely sufficient to make another one. Nothing left over for us. And they do nothing for ~80% of the time.

Much worse, electricity bills have skyrocketed, so if you think of me as that old, lonely fellow, that is because my friends are no longer around, some died from cold and hunger, and others froze to death in their homes. They had to eat and the electric company turned off the power. Politicians killed them as surely as shooting them. A few days ago in the UK, 39 stowaways died in a transport truck. Awful. The Politician's electrical bills kill 1000 times more old people every winter. The Excess Winter Mortality Rate. All this human sacrifice to Climate, while the rest of the world is merrily burning more and more coal. The rest of the world is right. The CO₂ level goes up but temperature does not always go up with it. Around 1940, for 35 years, the world temperature dropped as fast as it had previously risen. What ever caused it had to be twice as big and opposite to "CO₂".

So do we stop worrying? Well no, the real trouble on the way in a few years, is "Global Cooling". Prof Valentina Zharkova's reliable predictions say the Sun will begin cooling us. For northern climes our frost-free days are already marginal. We will need all the energy sources we can get.

Dear Greta, go back to your beautiful Sweden, work hard at school. Do a science degree, and like that famous ancestor of yours, Prof Arrhenius, change your mind about CO₂.

With every best wish
Dr. Rod

Almost nothing you "know" is really so.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Vancouver, 31 May – 11 June 1976

MUST READ !!

D. Land (Agenda item 10 (d))

Preamble

1. Land, because of its unique nature and the crucial role it plays in human settlements, cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. **Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice**; if unchecked, it may become a major obstacle in the planning and implementation of development schemes.

Social justice, urban renewal and development, the provision of decent dwellings and healthy conditions for the people can only be achieved if land is used in the interests of society as a whole.

2. ...**Public control of land use is therefore indispensable** to its protection as an asset and the achievement of the long-term objectives of human settlement policies and strategies.

3. To exercise such control effectively, public authorities require detailed knowledge of the current patterns of use and tenure of land; **appropriate legislation defining the boundaries of individual rights and public interest**; and suitable instruments for assessing the value of land and transferring to the community, inter alia through taxation, the unearned increment resulting from changes in use, or public investment or decision, or due to the general growth of the community.



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Political Correctness Run Amok



by Dale Dawson

When I was a lad political correctness hadn't been invented yet and we sailed through the days insulting everyone equally. We criticized all comers without a thought. Thinking back to those days, I don't think many people got offended by the careless dialogue that was tossed about. The recipients in most cases would sling a barb of their own to equalise things. It's the way things were, but then it changed. With superior beings leading, we became more civilized and became aware of how hurtful words can be. We become aware of our own shortcomings some years ago and became a kinder duller society. Then, like what often happens when changes occur, we overdo things to the point of ridiculousness. We are so civilized and polite now that we are as exciting as an inch worm crawling up a cabbage leaf.

Political correctness has been raised to Olympic levels and I'm tired of it. It has gone to extremes; we can be decent people without turning into tongue tied morons. Yes, I know that there is a segment of the population that stands there waiting for you to tell a joke that can be interpreted as derogatory to some three-legged goat in Outer Mongolia. Then they sadly make a judgemental comment. Most of these people are devoid of humour and never have had an original thought in their lives. Their new hobby is to act superior. They can be as dull as battleship grey paint on a Bentley.

By now I'm making some of you nervous; I also know that many of you agree with me. We are not racist. We are a generous caring people who still like to smile at life.

Political correctness was a good idea, before the muzzling started. I'm officially resigning from that club of judgemental morons. I'm through with want-to-be intellectuals who have set

themselves up as judge and jury over the way we speak.

At one time we could laugh at ourselves and there were grand uproarious parties. It was a time when a person didn't take offense every time someone poked fun at him or her for doing something stupid. It was a time of great story tellers who had never heard of political correctness and I have to say folks, they could make you fall on the floor laughing. They weren't nasty people and they meant

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no harm with their yarns. They told amusing tall tales about each other and themselves, but there wasn't anyone analysing their stories and taking them to task over some perceived insult. Also, if they were still around today, they wouldn't put up with being ridiculed by some bozo who wouldn't recognise the humour of the situation, because they were too busy judging the dialogue.

I think that it's great that we were educated enough to be considerate of others many years ago. We have now gone way past being politically correct. We've reached the point of where we don't want to say something offensive, so we clam up and try to mime our way through a meeting or a party. Now

folks attending a gathering carefully analyse their thoughts until the topic has changed from sock darning to basket weaving. The new topic will also have to be scrutinised carefully for politically correct pitfalls.

We should all learn sign language so that a slight slip of a finger could be missed by the judgemental fraternity. I know that I would quite cheerfully slip a few signs into each discussion to illustrate my opinion of those elite members of the human race who have tongue-tied a whole generation.

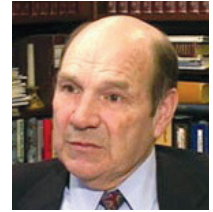
Now, I believe that there are good and bad in all people. None of us are perfect, but I feel that different people do have different characteristics. Some of them are endearing and some are less so. If we were all exactly the same, we would be so boring that even alien explorers would give earth a wide berth and do their refueling elsewhere.

The politically correct self-appointed referees have an ace hidden up their sleeve to play whenever one of us crosses the line. They play the race card! The race card has been responsible for letting the tail wag the dog in this country for years. In most cases someone speaking up has nothing to do with race, but a lot to do with common sense. We need to yell "Bull Feathers" whenever the snooty set tries to keep us from speaking our minds in a polite sensible way.

Now my dear readers, don't you think that it's past time that someone said what we are all thinking? Let's be kind, but let us not be patsies! Our opinion is valuable and should not be stifled.

Dale Dawson

Environmentalism Was Always and Only About Achieving World Socialist Government



by Dr. Tim Ball

It is common sense to protect our environment, but what has occurred for 50 years is exploitation of that idea for a socialist agenda. We wasted 50 years believing that humans are not natural, and everything they do is destructive. We wasted and continue to waste trillions of dollars on unnecessary policies and useless technologies, all based on false assumptions, pseudoscience, and emotional bullying.

We now know 50 years later that every single prediction concerning the environmental demise of the Earth and the people made in the original Earth Day Report was wrong. We also know that every additional claim, such as overpopulation, global warming, sea level rise, desertification, deforestation, and sea ice collapse, among many others, were wrong. I challenge anyone to produce empirical evidence that proves anything happening today is outside any long-term record of natural activity.

Convince the people that the entire world is threatened, and you can convince them that no nation can save it. It is then easy to convince them that a world government is the only way to save the planet. The trouble is that none of it is true. The World is in good shape, and people are living longer and healthier lives in every nation.

Like the majority of people, Elaine Dewar assumed environmentalists were commendable even heroic people. She began research for a book singing their praises. It didn't take long to learn the basic premise was wrong. Following the traditional and proper methodology, rarely seen these days, Dewar identified the duplicitous characters involved in the Canadian environmental movement and laid them out in her book *Cloak of Green*. She spent five days at the UN with Canadian

Maurice Strong arguably the world architect of official environmentalism. He founded and chaired the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) through which he implemented his plan for scientific and political world control. He was praised excessively, as in this article, "The World Mourns One of its Greats: Maurice Strong Dies, His Legacy Lives On." Another article recognized the evil he personified, "Who is Global Warming Propagandist Maurice Strong?" After the five days, Dewar concluded,

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

Convince the people that the entire world is threatened, and you can convince them that no nation can save it. It is then easy to convince them that a world government is the only way to save the planet

The environmental movement as the basis for a socialist world government was in the minds of people like Strong and fellow members of the Club of Rome in the late 1960s. However, it was launched on the world on April 22, 1970, by a small group centered at Stanford University. The date is critical because it was the first Earth Day. It is also very important to know the choice was deliberate because it is the birthday of Vladimir Lenin. The environmental movement was a deliberate program to impose communism on the world.

The underlying theme of the environmental movement makes the following false assumptions.

- That almost all change is a result of human activity. The UN claim, using computer models, that 95%+ of temperature increase since 1950 is due to human-produced CO₂. This works because they don't consider most natural causes.
- That humans are unnatural. The 1990 "Greenpeace Report on Global Warming" says CO₂ is added to the atmosphere "naturally and unnaturally." Yes, that unnatural production is from humans.
- That we are not part of nature. Ingrid Newkirk, co-founder of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) comment explains.

"Mankind is a cancer; we're the biggest blight on the face of the earth." "If you haven't given voluntary human extinction much thought before, the idea of a world with no people in it may seem strange. But, if you give it a chance, I think you might agree that the extinction of Homo Sapiens would mean survival for millions if not billions, of Earth-dwelling species. Phasing out the human race will solve every problem on earth, social and environmental."

- That we should be eliminated or dramatically reduced in number. In May 2015, the Pope produced *Laudate Si* an Encyclical about his view of the state of the Earth. It is a socialist diatribe, but that is not surprising since the main contributor was Hans Schellnhuber, a pantheist. This group believes the world population should be below 1 billion people.
- That if the western world reduces

levels of CO2 production, the rest of the world will follow. China has 2,363 coal plants and is constructing 1,171 more. The US has 15 and is not constructing any.

• That alternate energies can replace or reduce fossil fuel use for power production. Recently major oil companies announced support for alternate energies. It is a smart public relation move, but it also increases their profit margins. Because alternate energies produce intermittent power, but the demand is continuous, it is necessary to provide fulltime backup power, known as 'spinning generation.'

The US can build as many clean-burning coal plants as they want and burn coal pollution free. They don't have to worry about CO2 because it is not a pollutant and is not causing climate change. There are no significant environmental problems threatening the world. All the stories about impending environmental doom are fictions deliberately created to make people surrender control to the government. None of them are based on actual measurements and all are evolved from illogical suppositions and assumptions. It was this way from the start with a blaring, glaring, costly failures.

It is time to break the emotional stranglehold of those who used the environment to create global socialism. *

Paralegal

Jeff Bogaerts is a Licensed Paralegal specializing in Property Rights; Municipal by-laws, Conservation Authority, MNRF related acts and regulations, Small Claims and Criminal Summary Conviction Offences.

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Healthy Bodies, Informed Minds



The Most Common Health Concerns for the Elderly



*By Marilyn C. Colton
Retired administrator, LTC and Retirement*

According to Stats Canada 2016 census, there were 5.9 million seniors in Canada while 5 years previously, there were 4.9 million. There were more seniors than children; 16.6% of the population were children while 16.9% were seniors. It was projected that by 2031, 23% of our population will be seniors. People are living longer bringing new concerns for the prevention of chronic conditions that, unfortunately, come with the aging process. No doubt, there is, and will continue to be, a significant strain on our health care system.

It's not just getting to the golden years that is our goal; it's getting there without the chronic health issues that keep us from enjoying our retirement years.

So, what are some of the things we can do to prevent or delay common health issues related to aging? No doubt, some conditions are simply part of aging, such as loss of muscle tone in facial features causing wrinkles,

less overall flexibility and shrinking cartilage in major joints. However, there are conditions, such as diabetes, whereby we can lessen the symptoms associated with the condition and effectively manage the illness in order to eliminate complications that could affect every organ of the body.

One common health concern is heart disease and stroke. Vascular disease in the heart and brain can occur as we age. A poor diet high in cholesterol and saturated fats, conditions such as high blood pressure

A second common concern is arthritis. In fact, arthritis is the most common problem that seniors face. Close to 50% of the elderly report osteoarthritis (inflamed joints with bone loss).

and diabetes can cause narrowing of the arteries so that the blood system cannot function as intended. Thus, prevention includes knowing your cholesterol levels, watching amounts of saturated fats (red meat, butter, cheese, ice cream), avoiding trans fats (fried foods and baked goods made with shortening), and taking cholesterol medication, if needed.

A second common concern is arthritis. In fact, arthritis is the most common problem that seniors face. Close to 50% of the elderly report osteoarthritis (inflamed joints with bone loss). Other reported types are gout (inflammation of the joints due to excess uric acid) and rheumatoid arthritis (chronic autoimmune inflammation resulting in swollen and painful joints). Prevention includes staying active to keep your

joints mobile, maintaining a good weight and keeping your body mass index in a normal range for your height. To prevent gout, a diet low in alcohols and sugars is very important. Treatment for arthritis includes non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs, such as motrin, and with gout, a diet free of high uric acid foods (meats, sweetbreads with high purine levels and some seafood) is key.

Diabetes in the elderly is increasing, mostly due to longer life expectancies. Hormone levels change as we age. Insulin production can decrease as the pancreatic cells that produce insulin become weak due to the aging process. In Canada, 48% of people with diabetes are 65 years of age or older. Elderly adults with diabetes are at a high risk of heart disease and complications, such as kidney disease, eye damage, and nerve damage. It is important to know that the most common symptoms of diabetes in the elderly are dehydration, dry eyes and mouth and confusion. In elderly people who need medication to manage their diabetes, the use of drug therapy is much the same as for the general population. If the blood sugar levels are high (the fasting target is 5.0-12.0 mmol/L) and cannot be lowered through diet and exercise, metformin is the common medication. For those who require a number of different medications, it is wise to have your pills organized in weekly blister packs. Elderly people are at a higher risk of hypoglycemia or low blood sugar (lower than 2.8 mmol/L). Common symptoms include an inability to concentrate, irritability, sleep disturbance, and morning headaches. These symptoms may be mistaken for dementia. This is why it is so important to recognize the symptoms and to have items, such as sugar packets, Life Savers, or orange juice, on hand for immediate treatment.



Another concern of the elderly is the risk of physical injuries due to a fall. Unfortunately, about one third of elderly persons will experience a fall resulting in varying degrees of injury. We know that for the elderly, loss of muscle mass, coordination problems, arthritis and osteoporosis can lead to falls and fractures. In terms of prevention, the potential causes in the home, such as scatter mats, clutter, electrical cords, and other objects that restrict free movement must be adjusted or removed. In the bathroom, hand rails and wall mount bars may help while walk-in tubs provide for much safer bathing. With this concern, PREVENTION IS KEY since severe injury (often resulting in hip replacement) can lead to a significant decline in health as further immobility leads to more health issues.

We know that for the elderly, loss of muscle mass, coordination problems, arthritis and osteoporosis can lead to falls and fractures. In terms of prevention, the potential causes in the home, such as scatter mats, clutter, electrical cords, and other objects that restrict free movement must be adjusted or removed.

The last health concern for the elderly that I will share is dementia. In terms of statistics, the Canadian Institute of Health Research (2016) reported that 564,000 Canadians were living with dementia and that this number would increase to 937,000 by 2031. Their report included the fact that, in Canada, 25,000 new cases are identified annually and that the cost to Canadians was \$10.4 billion. It is also noteworthy that 65% of Canadians diagnosed with dementia over the age of 65 are women. Dementia means that your brain deteriorates so that your ability to think clearly and to behave appropriately, as well as to perform activities of daily living, are impaired. The degree of impairment coincides with the progression of the disease. At the end stage, persons revert to infantile behaviour and wandering and, in most cases, will require housing and holistic care in a secure unit of a Long-term care Home. Currently, there is no cure for dementia; although there are medications that may delay the progression of the illness. The prevention of dementia is quite general, in nature. Healthy living including quality food, exercise, rest and regular mental stimulation are recommended. In terms of care of persons with dementia, it is refreshing to report that a new person-centred approach to the care of those with dementia is being implemented across our communities. We have learned the need to embrace the person's reality rather than attempting to connect their minds with our reality. As caregivers, we must focus on resident enjoyment, meaningful activity, functional competence within the limits of the person's physical and cognitive capacities, dignity regardless of whether or not the person can perceive indignities, autonomy in making decisions and spiritual well-being. This new approach can and will happen but will require a culture change within Long-term Care,

Retirement Homes and within private homes. Simply put, it means applying a 'social model of care' which is centred on the person versus the medical model which is provider-driven.

STAY HAPPY AND HEALTHY...A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to email mcolton@xplornet.com



A common winter scene where woodpiles are still a part of Ontario's landscape.



The Media slants have moved to a new level now

*by Ian Cumming
Agricultural Journalist*

Perhaps one should not turn on their own profession, but media, by and large, have become like braying hounds on a British hunt, nose to the ground after a fox, clueless about anything else surrounding them.

That fox these days for political reporters is Trump. Three years later they're still barking and running with tongues hanging out, their feverish brains in overdrive how they are this close, to sinking their fangs into him and then, yes, they'll rip him apart.

Just watch, okay, not today, although we almost got him cornered, but tomorrow for sure. Look at what he's done, this time he's finished. For sure, I mean he phoned the President of the Ukraine. Yes, he's released the entire transcript and it doesn't say what we said it said before he released it, but it doesn't matter. The man is just awful. Probably, in some respects. But does it matter if he's doing his job?

I rarely watch those Sunday American talk shows, with reporters interviewing reporters on the state of the nation, or world. But this was a pretty significant week, when the pages of history are written, I thought, and being running the roads through most of it, I wanted to get up to speed and have a glimpse past the headlines.

Britain had officially left the EU that week, there was a deadly virus brewing in China, but when that nations top commentators were given air time, they ignored recent day events that will be referred to as monumental a century from now. Instead they hyperventilated and lost their minds and reasoning, and yelled at each other about Trump. From start to end, through the whole show. Some with visceral hatred.

Channel surfing to something supposedly less insane I came across

Trump giving some remarks at Davos, face to face with the press a few days before.

They had just begun new trade negotiations with the EU, Trump said, which was breaking news to me, and "we hope to get a good deal soon, they've taken advantage of us for too long." In light of recent trade deals, not an empty threat, but an achievable goal.

Realize, the facts are, that in three years Trump's trade people have renegotiated NAFTA to their distinct advantage – ask dairy officials here in Canada about the fine print that now handcuffs them – signed a first step agreement with China that ended some of the dominance they had held in investing their tentacles in America, plus opened up agriculture markets.

Now the EU, without a powerful Britain on board, is being brought to the negotiating table. Any bets that the EU trade ban without scientific proof of harm, on US "hormone" beef or GE crops, will still be in place after these negotiations? Then, of course Britain and the US will be negotiating soon as well.

Then there is the WTO, with Trump effectively beheading the internal appeal court, which heard appeals on WTO trade rulings, and dragged out disputes for years, allowing the anti trade practices to fester and continue. Like Europe as aforementioned, keeping out safe crops and meat, based on no science saying there were safety issues.

Trump just quietly didn't appoint any so called judges to this WTO appeal court, nor signed off on approving any others from other countries. Hence, now the WTO has been slimmed down, able to still handle and rule on disputes, but after that original decision is made,

that is the decision to abide by.

All these trade re negotiations slanted to America's advantage, is exactly what Trump publicly said he was going to do, throughout the last campaign at rally after rally. If one cared to listen.

A recent poll had 83 per cent of American farmers saying they would vote for him.

Those actual facts, of promises made and kept, of achievements on the trade front that have no parallel, especially in that time frame of three years, will garner such support. Combined with slashing the regulatory environment under which they operated before.

But after Trump made that monumental announcement that they were now negotiating a new trade deal with the EU – a severely economically weakened EU after Brexit, when he was now pouncing – what did those crowded reporters ask about?

The latest Washington gossip and accusations, what the Democrats, such as Nancy or Adam were saying, what the newest EU Joan of Arc, Greta from Sweden, was proclaiming about climate change. While he, Trump, had, gasp, pulled out of the Paris Accord.

"What is she, oh 17," asked Trump, who is able to effectively swat back against these vultures.

Such is media these days.

*Ian Cumming
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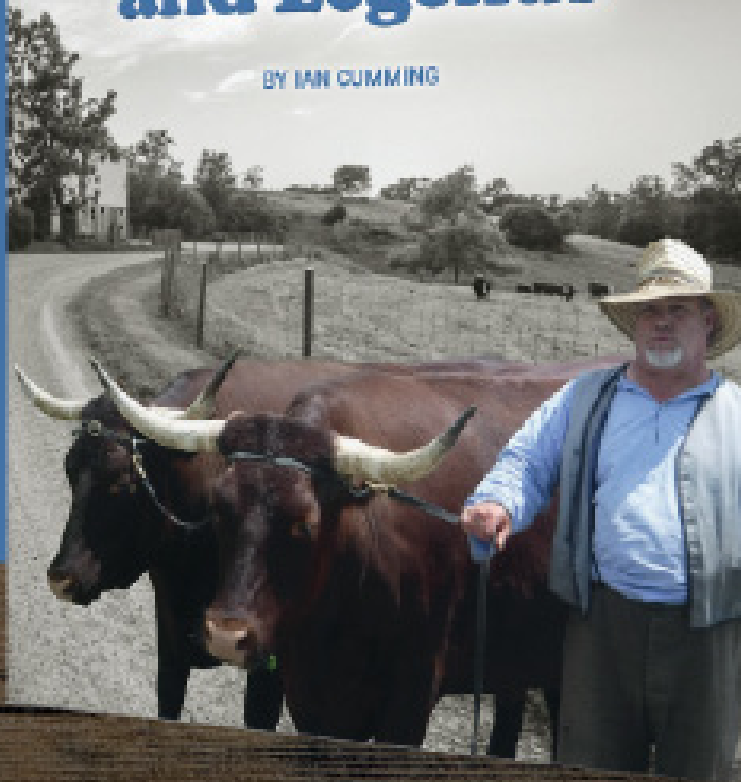
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Hemp and Marijuana

A Page from Willie Brant's diary



by Mel Fisher

Joe and I were on our way to Bear Narrows for our annual ice fishing trip. Takes quite a while to get there trundling along in his old pick-up truck, so we needed some conversation. Not a lot new happening in our lives, and just for something to talk about I asked him "So, what do you think about this whole pot thing?"

Answer "I dunno, I don't have any strong opinions on it, looks like just another government tax grab, not going to affect us". With a sharp look at me "Is it?"

I ignored the implied suggestion I might be a token, and asked, "So how do you get a tax grab out of that?" "Well, it's a long story". "OK, we got lots of time" Silence for a minute. "Ya gotta go back to Prohibition, possibly the worst thing ever done. Prohibition, making anything to do with alcohol a crime was one of the first and biggest government intrusions into people's lives. At that time most of us thought it was none of the government's business what we ate or drank. But its repeal was even worse, especially here in Canada. They didn't just let it go, they turned it over to their corporate friends to produce and retail the stuff, and made it a huge tax revenue cash cow. Same with marijuana, they made it a crime to have anything to do with the stuff, and they will not just reverse that, they will only make it legal to use what is produced and handled by their corporate friends, with a big tax added. Just a big tax grab."

"So, what will happen to the folks making a living on the stuff now?" from me. "Not much", says Joe, the government won't sell the stuff to the kids, so that market is there for them, they just might have to market a bit harder, make even more of our kids into addicts. Plus they can always

undercut the government price, just like moonshiners do with alcohol. No problem, guys who can't or won't work have to eat too".

After a few miles of silence, I asked "So, Joe, you said Prohibition was the worst thing ever, or something like that. So what makes that such a big deal in your mind?"

"Ok, think about it, in a free country, a citizen can do what he wants as long as it does not harm anybody else. The government's job is to enforce that 'do not harm anybody else' ethic, and do stuff individuals can't do, like protect us from invasion from other countries. Laws that regulate your personal private life because some busybody thinks they are smarter than you, whether it is consuming alcohol or smoking tobacco or wearing your seatbelt or smoking mushrooms or getting a flu shot or eating meat on Friday go beyond that legitimate role in a free society. It is the start of the change from a free country where the government serves the people back to a feudal system where the people do what they are told by the nobility, now a bureaucracy instead of lords and ladies. It was a huge departure from government's proper role in a free country. And it snowballed from there to regulations on every aspect of our

lives, no more property rights or right to privacy or free speech, we have gone from people to sheeple, pushed around by our shepherds, --"

Silence for a while, then he added "Marijuana is just a variety of hemp, can't tell the difference by looking at the plant. Hemp is a really strong and cheap natural fiber, but it was out of fashion for clothing and pretty much only used for rope and sacking and upholstery and so on, so there wasn't a huge outcry when they outlawed hemp along with the marijuana".

"So, how does that matter to us?" from me. "Well, back about 20 years ago there was talk about making it legal to grow hemp to replace synthetic fibre and plastics in stuff like insulation and interior panels for cars and so on. Save the environment. Our local Soil and Crop Association sponsored some trial plots, and it grows really well here, could be a good cash crop for us. But nothing came of that, the regulators were too afraid of marijuana hidden in the hemp fields, to heck with the environment. It would be a great thing if they did throw out the prohibition on hemp when they legalize marijuana, but don't hold your breath". *



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Hello from the
old Jackass

KARMA'S A BITCH



Howdy folks,

It was merely a few months ago that I made the monotonous journey to Osgoode Hall in Toronto to attend an appeal of a charter challenge victory by the attorney general.

Many thousands of dollars and much blood, sweat and tears were expended to obtain the initial victory and the subsequent appeal could be interpreted as a kick in the teeth for those dedicated to accountability and closure.

It's reported that in 2019 a train crash in Field, British Columbia resulted in the deaths of the conductor, engineer and trainee. The report alleges that a former Canadian Pacific Police officer was ordered to cease his investigation into the fatal train crash.

What inspires my sudden vivid recollections is an incident picked up and broadcast on January 26, 2000 by the highly acclaimed investigative program the Fifth Estate.

It was at the charter appeal when I viewed a tall lanky individual (lawyer) who made a passionate presentation on behalf of the Canadian Railway Association.

The gent in question was extremely adamant that the charter victory was a bad thing and the railways had their very own police force which eerily resembled the enforcement power of the OSPCA. It was apparent that in no way did the railways welcome any changes which might be borne courtesy of another court victory being upheld.

Folks, what's ironic and truly inspiring is that the Fifth Estate painted an extremely disturbing picture as it related to the private railway police.

It's reported that in 2019 a train crash in Field, British Columbia resulted in the deaths of the conductor, engineer and trainee. The report alleges that a former Canadian Pacific Police officer was ordered to cease his investigation into the fatal train crash.

Not surprising, calls for an independent investigation are snowballing spearheaded by CP Rail union representatives.

Christopher Monette of Teamsters Canada is bluntly quoted as saying "it's absurd that CP Rail was able to criminally investigate itself with it's own police force."

Apparently CP Police were also responsible for a shooting in 2017 in British Columbia.

The shooting raised questions regarding the use of force but the IIO (Independent Investigative Office) determined it had no authority nor jurisdiction over railway police.

I'm amazed at how the current actions of the Railway

Police and the now defunct capacities of the infamous animal cops, the OSPCA, intertwine.

It's unfortunate the current scenario wasn't exposed prior to the charter appeal of the OSPCA as it is apparent even a first grader could see flaws in their enforcement capacities and lack of oversight.

Just because the Railroad Police have been operating unhindered since Confederation, doesn't decree they continue to prosper with virtually no federal oversight.

The old adage "where there's smoke, there's fire" still holds credence in this instance and for accountability it's mandatory the feds de-rail the Railway Police.

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

by Elizabeth Marshall

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 taxpayer 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=IwAR1z5acJRoz9NiE8gDrT98xLC9ApThXMXOpkr7r3ApzwSDzEGY7k-nwOtk4>

*Elizabeth F. Marshall
Non-Partisan Advocate
Director of Research Ontario
Landowners Association*

[1]Dialectic 1 : LOGIC 1a(1), 2. a : discussion and reasoning by dialogue as a method of intellectual investigation; specifically : the Socratic techniques of exposing false beliefs and eliciting truth , b : the Platonic investigation of the eternal ideas. 3 : the logic of fallacy. 4. a : the Hegelian process of change in which a concept or its realization passes over into and is preserved and fulfilled by its opposite; also : the critical investigation of this process, b (1) usually plural but singular or plural in construction : development through the stages of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis in accordance with the laws of dialectical materialism (2) : the investigation of this process (3) : the theoretical application of this process especially in the social sciences. 5. usually plural but singular or plural in construction , a : any systematic reasoning, exposition, or argument that juxtaposes opposed or contradictory ideas and usually seeks to resolve their conflict, b : an intellectual exchange of ideas. 6 : the dialectical tension or opposition between two interacting forces or elements. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dialectic> [2] Investing in People Creating a Human Capital Society – Panel on Government, p. 3.

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



After spending some time going through many seed catalogues, I am finally ready to plant a few seeds. When you start to plant your seeds be sure that you are familiar with what each variety requires which you can find by reading the seed packet.



Start with the planting out date. Most seeds packets say how many weeks your seed needs to grow before it can be safely transplanted into your garden. Most seedlings should be planted out after all danger of frost has passed. You will notice, however that there are also seeds that can be direct sown. These seeds can be put right into the garden to grow. Some don't even mind a touch of cold; lettuce and spinach are two examples.

If you are just starting to experiment with seeds, a seed starter kit is a great idea. I like the ones with a clear dome so that it helps to maintain a constant environment. I have a drafty house and the cool breezes can be tough on little seedlings. Usually they come with a tray and compartments and often dried pellets of soil. Moisten the soil pellets and then break them up so they are not as compacted. I add a little extra soil to the mixture as well. You do not need a fancy setup to grow seeds, a bright sunny window is ideal. If that is not available to you, a table with a lamp will work. I like to get the grow-light bulbs that fit into any regular lamp.

Plant the seeds according to the directions. I have planted some white sage seeds collected for me by a friend, some nicotiana seeds from a local seed company and some perennial hibiscus seeds shared by a fellow Master Gardener. When they get past their seed leaf stage of having more than one pair of leaves, I will leave the dome off during the day. Eventually I shall pot them up into slightly larger containers until they are ready to go outside. Do not fertilize them at this time, they can use a nice feed of compost when they are planted out. Remember that you need to let the water sit for 48

to catch them. You may also find that your plants go all droopy which could be a case of damp-off. That is usually because the air flow is restricted, and your plants are too close together. I water mine with cold chamomile tea during this time.

By mid-May you should have some hardy plants just itching to get outside. This is when you need to exercise restraint. Your plants have been in a controlled environment and putting them out directly into the earth and full sun can result in a dead seedling by days end. You need to harden off your plants. They can be placed in a partially sunny spot for the day and brought inside at night. After a week they should be ready to face the world.

Seeds open a whole new world of interesting plants. Try a few and enjoy your garden.

Judith

www.lapisdragonarts@gmail.com



hours before you water the seeds and if you have a water softener, use the bypass tap or you may find that your soil has a whitish crust on it.

Sometimes unwanted visitors decide to bother your seedlings. You may find little flies hovering just above the soil. The first thing you do is check to see if there are flies in the bags of your soil mixture. You can use yellow stickies that are available at nurseries





'Sudbury Saturday Night'

by Randy Vancourt

"We'll think no more of Inco on a Sudbury, Saturday Night."

The classic Stompin' Tom Connors lyric echoed in my ears as I flew into Sudbury, Ontario, prepared to take on a conducting job at the local theatre.

The show was *The Full Monty*, a stage musical based on the 1997 British film of the same name, which told the story of a group of striking steel miners in northern England who decide to become male strippers. The Broadway musical that premiered in 2000 and transplanted this story to Buffalo, New York, went on to win numerous awards.

I was on my way to Sudbury to conduct the orchestra for this production. Our timing coincided with an extended miner's strike against the very same Inco (now Vale Inco) that Stompin' Tom sang about. The timing could not have been more fortuitous.

Now I've worked on many shows where the set design required the musicians be on stage rather than in a pit. This often proves to be a difficult idea, as surrounding musicians, instruments, chairs, music stands and a conductor, with dancers, actors, singers, technicians and set pieces flying in and out, can be a recipe for havoc.

In this production sets did fly overhead, and crew members ran around under cover of darkness making magical things occur for the audience. As the band was situated on stage under a staircase, behind a half-wall and next to a sliding platform with a bed on it, they had to run around us as well. Conducting an orchestra while your trombonist helps straighten the sheets on the prop bed can be a little distracting. And did I mention the full

size car that rolled onstage? However in this case the process worked and the production was amazing.

One of the things I enjoy about traveling for my work is getting to know the people in each town. I knew I had made an impact in Sudbury around week number three when I walked into the local "Stuff for a Dollar" store and the sales clerk looked up at me and hollered, "What the heck are you still doing in town?"

Personal time is important when you're on the road with a show, and I had the good fortune to be staying in my own little apartment. The area I was living in could best be described as colourful; in the morning I would walk past people sitting on their front porches clad in nothing but their underwear, enjoying what I came to refer to as their "breakfast beer."

For the most part my Sudbury neighbours were fine, with the exception of the family next door who seemed to look upon me with suspicion, like I was some sort of "revenuer" sent to confiscate their moonshine. They enjoyed late night bonfires and drunkenly screaming off-color jokes while sitting around the abandoned freezer on their front lawn. One evening I was treated to a 1:30 a.m. performance that involved some irate individual shouting death threats at the owner of the house – in great detail, including names, locations and exactly how he was going to commit this act. I felt certain that old freezer would play a role.

I'm no criminal mastermind but I assume that if you're enraged enough to commit murder, screaming out that information for everyone to hear is probably a bad plan. I took great comfort in the almost certain knowledge

that these folks would probably never be part of my theatre-going audience.

Our production was a success, and the show was extended two times. Six weeks later I was finally ready to return to my Toronto home. As the taxi arrived at my rented house to take me to the airport I nodded a final goodbye to my neighbour, who responded with his usual suspicious scowl. I threw my bags in the back, hopped in and off we went.

As we drove away the taxi driver looked in his rear view mirror and asked with surprise, "What's that guy doing?"

Suppressing visions of our vehicle being pelted with empty beer cans, I turned around. There stood my neighbour on his front lawn, reaching down inside that old battered freezer to remove something. The "something" turned out to be his infant son; apparently he also used the freezer as some sort of makeshift playpen.

There are many amazing sights in Sudbury, from the rugged terrain to the mines to the iconic Big Nickel, but none is burned into my mind quite so vividly as that final moment. It also made me wonder if Stompin' Tom didn't mention this aspect of Sudbury because he couldn't find a decent rhyme for freezer.

www.randyvancourt.com



CANADA

IS NOT A BILINGUAL COUNTRY

4%

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT
LESS THAN 4% OF THE POPULATION
RULES THE MAJORITY???

FACT:

- ✓ OUTSIDE OF QUEBEC LESS THAN 4% OF THE POPULATION IS FRENCH SPEAKING
- ✓ HOW CAN CANADA BE A BILINGUAL COUNTRY WHEN THE UNRESTRICTED USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN QUEBEC IS AGAINST THE LAW

TOGETHER LET'S **WIN BACK CANADA**

CANADA

IS NOT A BILINGUAL COUNTRY

When There's Not Enough For Basics

- ✓ Long Waiting Lines For Healthcare.
- ✓ Not Enough Doctors.
- ✓ Over Taxation.
- ✓ Broken Roads, Bridges & Overpasses.
- ✓ Vulnerable Retirees.
- ✓ Too Much Bureaucracy.

All Ontario Residents Are Equal:

There Are No Restrictions To The Use Of The French Language.
French Speakers Are Not Denied Jobs & Opportunities.

IF IT AIN'T BROKE DON'T FIX IT!

Why Should There Be Money For A Non-Existing Problem?

The Ontario French Community Numbers Less Than 4% Of The Entire Ontario Population . . . & Proudly Enjoys 100% Of Ontario's Freedoms & Potential.

Bills 135 & 137 . . . If Passed - Will Give The Franco/Ontarian Community Privileges Above & Beyond What The Non-French Majority Enjoy, At The Expense Of The Majority, Especially At A Time When Ontario Is Digging-Out Of Massive Liberal Caused Debt.

Remember The Words Of Quebec's First Separatist Premier - Rene Levesque.

"Quebec Should Be As French As Ontario Is English"

While In Ontario, Unlike Quebec – There Are No Language Laws.

Ontario - Don't Pass Bills 135 & 137



For Complete Information Contact
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TOGETHER LET'S **WIN BACK CANADA**

Climate Catastrophists

Charles W. Conn

“Dear Granddaughter,”

As you must have detected, I’m distressed that you seem to have become ensnared by the garbage being spewed by the Climate Catastrophists. They are liars one and all and their employment of ill-educated children as barkers is despicable. You are pursuing a career in one of the sciences and should be well aware of the extent of the fraud. You might care to check the following with some of your earth science confederates.

Global climate is affected by four major cycles:

a) Ice Ages and Warm Ages lasting tens of millions of years. During Ice Ages there is glacial ice all year round somewhere on earth. During Warm Ages there is never any glacial ice anywhere on earth. We are currently in an Ice Age which began about 40 million years ago.

b) Glacials and Interglacials lasting tens of thousands of years during Ice Ages. During Glacials, the glacial ice grows. During Interglacials, the glacial ice recedes. We are currently in an Interglacial which began about 20,000 years ago. During the last Glacial, which lasted from 120,000 to 20,000 years ago, ice covered virtually all of Canada, a bit of northern USA, Britain south to London and France down to Vimy Ridge. Four hundred feet of the oceans were sucked up into the continental glaciers so one could walk from Ireland to England to France, from Asia to Australia, and the Persian Gulf was the Persian Valley.

c) Cool Periods and Warm Periods lasting hundreds of years within the longer cycles. In the 10,000 years since civilizations began, the range of global temperatures has been a little less than 3 degrees Celsius. There has been an extremely close correlation between improvements in the human condition during Warm Periods and declines during Cool Periods. The Roman Warm

Period lasted 450 years from 250 BCE to 200 CE. The Dark Ages Cool Period lasted 550 years from 200 CE to 750 CE. The Medieval Warm Period lasted 550 years from 750 CE to 1300 CE. The Little Ice Age Cool Period lasted 550 years from 1300 CE to 1850 CE. Then our current Warm Period began. Just think of the improvements in the human condition that have occurred in the last 170 years. For one thing we’ve increased from 1 billion to 7 billion better fed, clothed, housed and healthier people than ever before in the history of humanity.

d) Cool Phases and Warm Phases lasting a variable number of years within the longer cycles. From the late 1950’s through the 1970’s, there was a global Cool Phase and a few alarmists screamed we were all going to freeze to death in an Ice Age unless “Some drastic changes in human behaviour occur”. In the 1980’s and ‘90’s, the world enjoyed a Warm Phase and a new group of catastrophists claimed we were all going to fry and/or drown. Since 1998, global temperatures have remained steady in another Cool Phase but the alarms continue with absolutely no relation to climate facts.

Honest, legitimate climate scientists (of whom there are only about 1,000 world wide), acknowledge they still have a lot to learn about climate. They DO know:

a) the current world average temperature has increased by only about 1 degree in the 170 years since the end of the Little Ice Age Period ca 1850,

b) the current world average temperature is still 1 degree less than it was 1000 years ago during the Medieval Warm Period when the Vikings were farming in Greenland and wine grapes were grown in what is now London,

c) the world average temperature has varied within a range of less than

3 degrees in the last 10,000 years and is currently below the midpoint of that range,

d) the 104 computer-generated temperature forecasts made by 40-odd computer peckers in the early 1990’s have proven to be ridiculously too high. Yet they are the sole “science” on which the entire fraud is based,

e) carbon dioxide is a nutrient not a pollutant. The more CO₂ in the atmosphere the greener the planet becomes - it’s what plant life breathes! The carbon that forms the bodies of plants comes from the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

f) 95% of the Greenhouse Effect is caused by the water vapour in the atmosphere - clouds, mists, fogs, etc.,

g) the remaining 5% is caused by four dry gases of which carbon dioxide contributes 80% - thus 4% of the total. 5% of that 4% comes from all the burning of fossil fuels in the world - 95% comes from natural sources, mainly the oceans. Thus, 5% of 4% - 0.2%, a fifth of one percent comes from people burning fossil fuels.

The Global Cooling/Global Warming/Climate Change/Climate Crisis parade is the greatest fraud in history. UN officials responsible for the annual climate galas and IPCC reports have admitted its purpose is to guilt wealthy western countries into transferring money to poor countries, to transform the economies of the world (Agenda 21), and to establish a one-world (socialist) dictatorship by 2030.

You and your circle could form a campus, then a country-wide, group of rebels destroying the wicked catastrophists with the facts. Wouldn’t that be fun!

Love, Grandpa.”

Charles Conn



Save the Date – Ottawa Valley Farm Show – March 17-19, 2020

*****Come visit the Ontario Landowners Association at the 2020
Ottawa Valley Home Show.***

The show is being held at the usual venue: EY Centre, 4899 Uplands Drive, Ottawa at the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, March 17 from 9 AM to 5 PM
- Wednesday, March 18 from 9 AM to 7 PM
- Thursday, March 19 from 9 AM to 4 PM

Tickets may be purchased online at <https://ottawavalleyfarmshow.tix123.com/> for \$10 or at the door for \$12. ***Parking and wifi free.***

The **Ontario Landowners Association** will be there, as usual, at booth 1431. You'll find a floor map in the programs available at the front door.

We would love to see you there!

A Challenge to the American Planning Association

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.

by Tom DeWeese



In nearly every community of the nation the policy called Sustainable is the catch-all term for local planning programs, from water and energy controls to building codes and traffic planning. The term “sustainable” was first used in the 1987 report called “Our Common Future,” issued by the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development (UNCED). The term appeared in full force in 1992 in a United Nations initiative called Agenda 21.

According to proponents, the official definition of Sustainable Development is “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” In 1993, the UN further described its purpose, saying, “Effective execution of Agenda 21 will require a profound reorientation of all human society, unlike anything the world has ever experienced.” The most often used phrase to describe Sustainable policy is that it’s a “comprehensive blueprint for the reorganization of human society.”

These are strong pronouncements concerning our future. How could such ideas be imposed? Who could coordinate such an effort to reorganize our entire society? There are many private non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies involved in creating and implementing the national sustainable policy program on the state and local levels. But there is one that seems to stand in the center of them all.

The American Planning Association (APA) is the premier planning group operating across the nation. It has a long history in the development process, thus is trusted by elected officials to be a responsible

force as they spread the gospel of “common sense” community planning to assure healthy, happy neighborhoods from which all may benefit. Above all, the APA strenuously denies any connection to the United Nations or any silly conspiracy theories like the so-called Agenda 21! Everything the APA promotes, they assure us, is based on local input for local solutions to local development planning. Here is a solid group you can trust!

So, it’s interesting to note that the American Planning Association is part of the Planners Network. The network is officially run by a group called the Organization of Progressive Planners. According to the Network’s website, it’s “an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems.”



On a visit to the website PlannersNetwork.org, one will find in its Statement of Principles this quote: “We believe planning should be a tool for allocating resources... and eliminating the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society ... because the free market has proven incapable of doing this.”

That statement is advocating redistribution of wealth, social justice and even aspects of psychological manipulation, also called social engineering. That, then, is what nearly every planning group in nearly every community advocate in their planning programs. It is clearly the official policy of the American Planning Association. Still the APA insists that its planning has nothing to do with Agenda 21, even though APA’s planning goals are the exact goals of Agenda 21, and its undated version called the 2030 Agenda.

Tactics used by the American Planning Association

Okay, let’s get down to the nitty-gritty. How do planning groups like the APA really control opinions and gain support for their planning ideas? How do they overcome the fears as they impose plans that destroy private property and change the entire structure of the community?

Here’s a recent example:

A few years ago, with great fanfare, the American Planning Association (APA) reported results of a survey the group had conducted, “Planning America: Perceptions and Priorities,” showing that the anti-Agenda 21 “crowd is slim.” Said the report, only 6% of those surveyed expressed opposition to Agenda 21, while 9% expressed support for Agenda 21 and 85%, “the vast majority of respondents, don’t know about Agenda 21/2030.”

Typically, APA is using the survey to formulate the image that opponents to Agenda 21/Sustainable Development are just a lunatic fringe with no standing and of no consequence in the “real” world. They continue to portray Agenda 21 as simply a 20- year-old idea, and just a suggestion that planners and local governments might consider.

However, a closer look at the full survey, plus additional APA reports reveal some interesting and, in some cases, astounding facts.

First the survey:

It was designed to show public support for “Planning.” This has become an obsession with the “planning community” because of the growing opposition to Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development.

According to the APA, the findings of the Survey reveal that: only one-third believe their communities are doing enough to address economic situations; it says that very few Americans believe that market forces alone (the free market) improve the economy or encourage job growth; 84 % feel that their community is getting worse or staying the same; community planning is seen as needed by a wide majority of all demographics.

Those are pretty astounding findings. It looks like these “honest” planners have their fingers on the pulse of the nation. Well, not so fast. Let’s look at the actual questions the APA asked to get these results.

For example, Finding #4: Community planning is seen as needed by a wide majority of all demographics (79% agree; 9% disagree; and 12% don’t know). Wow!

But here is the actual question that was asked: “Generally, do you

agree or disagree that your community could benefit from a community plan as defined above?” The definition provided in order to answer the question was this: “Community planning is a process that seeks to engage all members of a community to create more prosperous, convenient, equitable, healthy and attractive places for present and future generations.”

Asking the question in that manner is akin to holding up a picture of a rent-a-wreck car, along side one of a Ferrari and asking which one would they want to drive. Give me the pretty one please – say 79%. In fact, in some actual planning meetings they do just that – hold up a picture of the downtown area depicting decaying, dreary buildings versus one of a shining, beautiful utopia, and they literally say, “which one do you want?” If the answer is (of course) the pretty one, then, YES, the community supports planning!

It’s obvious that the APA is playing word games with its surveys and definitions of planning. No wonder such an overwhelming majority answer in the affirmative to such questions. And, yes, maybe a lot of Americans don’t know what Agenda 21 really is. However, if the APA asked real questions that gave a solid clue as to the planning they actually have in mind, it’s fairly certain they would get a much different response – whether the person answering had ever heard of

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Agenda 21 or not.

For example, listed below are some sample questions that could help the APA take the real pulse of the community – if they wanted to be honest. I challenge the American Planning Association to ask THESE questions in their next survey:

10 Real Questions Planners Should Ask the Public

1. How do the citizens feel about planning policy that forces them to move from their single- family homes with the garage for the car/s and a backyard for the kids to play with the neighbor kids? Do they want to live in a high-rise where they have to take their kids down 12 flights of stairs and walk to the designated play park? Do they still support such “Planning?”

2. How do the citizens feel about planning with a goal to eventually ban cars? This will be accomplished by planning programs that will narrow or eliminate roads, making it harder to drive cars, then eliminates parking spaces, then forces cars to “share the road” with bicycles and foot traffic as regulations are put in place to make it illegal to even pass this slower traffic? Do they still support such “Planning?”

3. How do the citizens feel about planning that enforces the creation of light- rail public transportation with a limited number of riders – yet cost overruns could triple or quadruple their taxes so much that it would literally be cheaper to buy each potential rider a brand new Rolls Royce, and even throw in a chauffeur for good measure? Do they want to live without a car that would take them wherever they want to go, be it the grocery or the beach, on their schedule instead of a government created train or bus schedule? Do they still support such “Planning?”

4. How do the citizens feel about planning with today’s mandatory smart meters that can overcharge users by 284%? What if such planning forced you to buy all new appliances which can be controlled and even turned off by the utility company without

warning – all to enforce energy-use levels as required by arbitrary and unsubstantiated “planning standards,” Do they still support such “Planning?”

5. How do the citizens feel about planning that forces taxpayers to pay for plug-in stations for electric cars that hardly anyone wants or uses, for the specific purpose of eventually forcing people to buy electric cars? Do they still support such “Planning?”

6. How do the citizens feel about planning that creates non-elected boards, councils, and regional governments to enforce their UN-inspired policies, which actually diminish (if not eliminate) the power of the local officials they elected, severely reducing citizen input into policy? Do they still support such “Planning?”

7. How do the citizens feel about planning that forces all housing to conform to specific government design, including projects of multi-family buildings that are forced into their neighborhoods, resulting in the reduction of property values and freedom of choice as to where and how each may live? Do they still support such “Planning?”

8. How do the citizens feel about planning that enforces international building codes and international electrical and plumbing codes designed to require major retrofitting in existing and new buildings to comply, including enforcing every building to look alike, have the same setbacks and even the same trees and shrubs. The result is the creation of a one size fits all society, ignoring local needs and desires of the residents? Do they still support “Planning?”

9. How do the citizens feel about planning that forces rental property owners and landlords to take in tenants that can’t afford their properties, so that they are forced to accept far less income for their investment, which will mean they cannot afford to maintain the property and earn their living, thereby destroying the rental industry and

reducing housing choices? Do they still support “Planning?”

10. How do the citizens feel about planning that uses the power of eminent domain to take property and destroy small, locally owned businesses from lower income and ethnic neighborhoods, forcing the former residents into federal housing programs where their only option is to rent rather than having the chance to build equity and personal wealth through home ownership in the American Dream? Do they still have compassion for such “Planning?”

These are the realities of Sustainable Development planning programs, usually under the term Smart Growth. These policies are taking over local governments across the nation and the victims are mounting. Yet the planners ignore these results as they get fat off the federal grants that enforce the Sustainable plans.

Challenge the American Planning Association to stop whitewashing their plans into sounding like innocent, non-intrusive local ideas for community development. Ask the questions so that they reflect the real consequences of the plans, and then see if the 85% now are so eager to ignore the effects of Sustainable Development. The number one truth about the Sustainable policies that the APA imposes on every community is that none of it is LOCAL!

There is only one right approach for a community to come together to discuss and solve common problems: open discussion, honest debates and votes, and above all, a full concentration on the protection of private property rights as the ultimate decider.

This article is taken from information included in Tom DeWeese’s new book, “Sustainable, The WAR on Free Enterprise, Private Property, and Individuals.” Book details and ordering may be found at www.sustainabledevelopment.com. Permission granted to this magazine to reproduce Tom DeWeese’s articles.

Speech Given by Jeff Bogaerts, OLA President on February 7th at Minister Yurek's Conservation stakeholders conference in Colborne

Minister Yurek, ladies and gentlemen.

by Jeff Bogaerts

Thank you Minister for the invitation to participate in this important consultation process. My name is Jeff Bogaerts and I am the President of the Ontario Landowners Association.

Dialogue, debate and the exchange of ideas are essential in the creation of law in a country governed by the rule of law.

It is difficult to come to a consensus when there are multiple groups each with their own reasons for attending. Otto von Bismarck, a politician of the 1800's, made the comment;

"Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable – the art of the next best".

As a Minister of the Crown, I do not envy your position and the challenges that you face to find a consensus that will balance the expectations of the groups here to-day, the policies of the Conservative Party and the people of Ontario.

The Ontario Landowners Association was created in 2003, because of laws and regulations that were not in the best interests of the people in rural Ontario. Since 2003, the OLA has taken on challenges in other areas of property rights, the OSPCA Act as an example. This was a six-year project and \$200,000.00 in legal costs. This challenge affected every person in Ontario who owned animals, whether they lived in a downtown Toronto condo or a log cabin north of Algonquin park.

We challenged the law because it was the right thing to do. The OSPCA project has closed and now we move onto other projects.

The Conservation Authority Act is our next project. There are difficulties surrounding this legislation. There are opposing views to make changes.

There are issues of private property rights, environment, building permits, designation of property without consultation, loss of property use without compensation, interference in agriculture and normal farm practice, shoreline erosion control standards, flooding and flood control, the list goes on.

Are these issues insurmountable? No, they are not. We put a man on the moon in 1969 with slide rules and room sized computers. There is more compute power in a smart phone today than what NASA had access to. If they could accomplish what they did then, we can find the solutions for change today.

I thank you Minister for the invitation to attend these workshops. To exchange ideas, to find workable solutions, to find consensus. This is an ongoing process and will never come to an end. We evolve as a society and therefore our laws will evolve. This will take determination and focus and must include all of us.

On August 16, 2019, your office sent a letter to the Conservation Authorities. This letter was received with much appreciation and positive anticipation for future changes to the current law and policies of Conservation Authorities across Ontario.

Property owners are upset when they are told they must receive a letter of authorization before proceeding to build and in some cases, conduct environmental, engineering, soil and hydrology studies, at their personal cost, before a Conservation Authority will allow a building permit to be issued.

These required studies do not automatically guarantee that a Conservation Authority will approve the issuance of a permit and will add thousands of dollars to the cost of

home construction. Even a barn or garage may require studies. There are many examples of property owners losing access to their property because their land was designated as wetland, provincially significant wetland, unevaluated wetland, environmentally protected land and so on. Private Property owners are the best stewards of the land. No one has more personal interest and best intentions to protect their home and land.

Owning a home and property is one of largest investments a person will make and every opportunity to improve upon its value is foremost in their mind, why would it not be. Whether it is a 50 x 80-foot lot, or a 500-acre farm, the reasons are the same. It is a personal investment that has far reaching implications to the economics of the family.

Not only is the protection of personal property a priority, the OLA also promotes the ancient common law of *"do no harm to your neighbour"*. Every Private Landowner has a responsibility to the good stewardship of their personal land and the land of their neighbour as well.

The OLA is not in agreement with the duplication of services taken on by Conservation Authorities to maintain parks, when there are Provincial, Federal and Private parks available, ski hills, golf courses and other endeavors that are not directly related to the protection of people and property from flooding.

Every day and every dollar spent in other activities by Conservation Authorities is time and money taken from their core mandate.

Many OLA members and non-members have sent stories of their interaction with Conservation Authorities to your office.

These stories carry a similar theme of frustration, irritation, anger

and disappointment. Private Property owners feel unimportant, as their lands are being taken by regulation with no consideration and no compensation. They are unable to permanently protect their homes from flooding and property values have depreciated.

A disturbing new trend is occurring. It is the direct interference in farming by Conservation Authorities. Multi-generational farms should never be interfered with. The Ministry of Agriculture is the only authorized government body to communicate with the farming community. Farmers rely on their farms to pay their bills and live their lives.

Interference by Conservation Authorities takes money from their pocket, food from their table and directly affects their families. This interference in farming practice must stop.

The Ontario Landowners Association believes that an equal balance can exist between the needs of the people and the needs

of the environment. Since 2003, successive Liberal governments have weighted legislation in favour of the environment to the detriment of private property owners and their families.

What continues to be misunderstood, is private property owners will do what is necessary to protect their land, home and investment, which by default, protects the environment as well.

We all face challenges as property owners and these challenges must be met and solutions found.

An example of such a solution is the acceptance of international engineering standards for Coastal Erosion and Control. People on large bodies and small bodies of water are experiencing shoreline erosion, loss of land and damage to home and property.

We need to implement standards of shoreline erosion and control. Holland is a world leader and the success of the US Army Corp of

Engineers who re-built the levees and dikes in New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina.

Why would we not duplicate their success.

Minister Yurek, the OLA is not here today to demand changes. The OLA is here today to be part of the changes. To offer our collective knowledge and experience. We are here today to be part of the solution.

Today, the OLA is offering to you and your Ministry what resources we have that will assist in finding a consensus to balance the needs of the people and the environment that we all must live in.

The Ontario Landowners Association looks forward to work with you and your staff to find the solutions that will serve the best interests of the people of Ontario.

We will all work together to make Ontario a Place to Stand and A Place to Grow.

**



Canada's Bellyful of Protesters

There are many in our great land
who have opined with teary eyes
That we should be kinder in our hearts
and listen to their mournful cries
We should suffer and live in tents
while leaving energy in the ground
No more pipelines or even trains
and from our factories not a sound

Our country has so much to offer
that no citizen need be poor
Of resources we have plenty
but radicals choose to close the door
Some protesters are legit and believe
that they can save the world
By blocking pipelines costing jobs
leaving Canadians in the cold

Some protesters are professionals
who show up to scream and yell
They have some backers I suspect
with oil of their own they wish to sell
We need oil and natural gas until
renewable energy comes of age
Until that day happens in this land
all protesters should leave the stage.

Dale Dawson





Have your say – How do we fix the Conservation Authorities?

by Shirley Dolan

In January 2020, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECF) initiated stakeholder meetings to discuss the Conservation Authorities Act and associated regulations, to further define the core mandate of conservation authorities and the programs and services they provide.

One of the invited stakeholders was the Ontario Landowners Association.

Three consultation meetings were held: in Barry on January 31, in Colbourne on February 7, and in London on February 14. Members of the Ontario Landowners Association were present at all three meetings. Jeff Bogaerts, OLA president, spoke at the meeting in Colbourne. Many of our OLA members attended more than one

meeting, driving many miles and taking a day off work to attend and provide valuable input. An additional meeting has been scheduled for March 5 in North Bay.

The format included presentations from groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Conservation Ontario, Municipalities, Ontario Farmers Network, Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA), the Home Builders Associations, Real Estate companies followed by round table discussions. It was at these discussions where OLA members were able to make a significant impact by providing the “other side of the story” based on calls we have been getting for many years about Conservation Authorities.

To conclude the consultations, the MOECF has set up a webpage where YOU can make your comments.

We hope you will participate by completing the survey at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-ontario-conservation-authorities>.

The survey will remain open until March 13, 2020.

Please also see the presentation by Leith Coghlin, Enpointe Development <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4nB6MTGv9s&feature=youtu.be> at the London meeting.



Gulch Conservation Area, Durham



YET ANOTHER PRIVATE POLICE FORCE

by Shirley Dolan

It wasn't long ago that the Ontario Court of Appeal stuck down a lower court decision calling into question the constitutionality of private police enforcement. The lower court's ruling was in response to the Ontario Landowners Association's (OLA) constitutional question concerning the police powers of the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA). The lower court ruled it unconstitutional but in October 2019, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the ruling.

The appeal ruling was in many respects irrelevant in that the OSPCA voluntarily decided to withdraw from enforcing animal cruelty laws and the Ontario government, respecting the decision of the lower court, began the development of a new act to replace the problematic OSPCA Act.

One of the interveners in the appeal was the Railway Association of Canada, which represents about 60 freight and passenger railway companies,

including the Canadian National Railway (CNR) and the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). The rail companies have had their own police forces for more than 100 years under the Railway Safety Act. Of course, their submission was in support of private police forces.

Is it time to have a look at Canada's other national police force?

Is it time to have a look at Canada's other national police force? According to a Fifth Estate report, the CP Police Service is a fully authorized federal force, bound to uphold Canada's laws, but employed directly by the company. The report goes on to say that "a police officer probing the death of three Canadian Pacific Railway crewmen killed in a runaway train crash in B.C. last February alleges he was

denied access to key evidence and suspects a "coverup" by the railway." <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/cp-derailment-investigation-coverup-alleged-1.5436018>

According to the Toronto Sun, calls for an independent investigation are growing, including the union representing CP running trades employees.

"It's absurd that CP was able to criminally investigate itself with its own police force," Christopher Monette of Teamsters Canada told the Sun. <https://torontosun.com/opinion/columnists/passifume-time-to-re-examine-role-of-railway-police>

And here's another interesting question: according to the Toronto Sun article, railway police authority extends 500 meters (about 1/3 of a mile) from railway property. Where are the railway police when you want a blockade cleared off the tracks?

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Mental Health for Farmers

“Many farmers suffer from high levels of stress and depression, but they don’t often talk about it.”

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/stress-depression-and-getting-farmers-to-talk-about-it-1.5459203>

by Shirley Dolan

On January 20, Farm Management Canada in partnership with Do More Agriculture held a workshop on Healthy Farmers, Healthy Farms Supporting our Rural Communities at the North Grenville Municipal Centre in Kemptonville. Speakers at the event were Deb Vanberkel, Cultivate Counselling and Heather Watson, Executive Director, Farm Management Canada were the guest speakers. Carleton Landowners Association president Tim Mount attended. OLA ENews spoke with Tim to get his observations of the meeting.

ENews: Why did you attend?

Tim: I attended because through the OLA’s various battles with governmental and quasi governmental agencies one of the observations I and others had made was that the cause of a few of these cases was mental health and the result of almost all of the cases was almost unbearable stress on the family or individual targeted by these various agencies.

ENews: Was your message received?

Tim: My attending wasn’t about sending a message. My attending was about observing first hand if there was quantifiable evidence that there is undue stress in the rural community and whether farmers and rural property owners would step forward to talk about the stresses they are under. Two things became clear; this was not the forum for farmers to speak out in nor was it necessarily the forum they would attend. One farmer spoke out when the main speaker, Deb Vanberkel of Cultivate Counselling, started speaking about the on farm causes of stress and mental health

issues. He had indicated that his family was under tremendous stress from the government and quasi government agencies because of designations, undue regulations, fear of activists, fear of trespassers, police etc. Others agreed that having designations placed on their farms greatly impacted their livelihood and a dawning realization that their property has lost massive value with designations and proximity. One of the negative issues raised was the wind turbines in Nation and elsewhere in the province that were affecting farm and rural families very negatively.

ENews: Who else was at the meeting? Was it well attended?

Tim: There were 17 attendees plus the 4 speakers. The attendees were comprised of about 60% farmers and 40% farm support personnel. A few attendees had dual roles of being farmers and support personnel.

ENews: Was this a worthwhile workshop? Were the speakers well received?

Tim: It is a snapshot in time. It was worthwhile as it showed me that only people who were comfortable talking about their issues would come forward. The silent majority of Farmers/Rurals who struggle through because of various burdens will not come to these seminars/conferences because they believe they won’t be heard. There is also, even today, the stigma around mental health; not being able to handle it yourself, appearing weak etc.

The speakers were well received especially Deb Vanberkel as she gets it and is a dairy farmer herself.

ENews: Did you get impressions from others at the workshop?

Tim: I was there to listen and observe. This meeting emphasized that our support as Ontario Landowners was completely justified in our (Jeff Bogaerts) legal challenge to the OSPCA Act. The human side of why people keep pets or are animal husbandry specialists has never been dealt with in legislation.

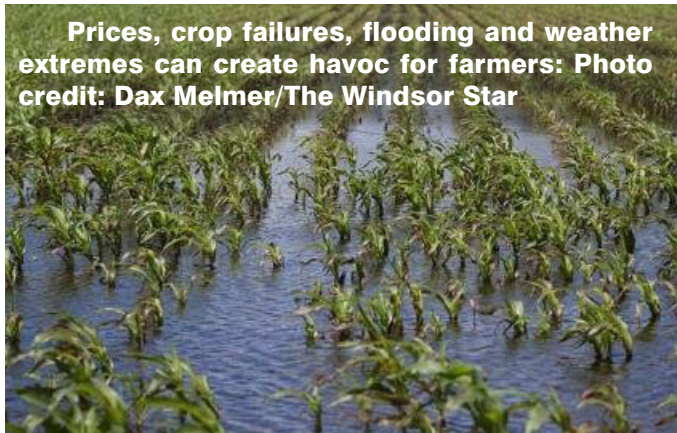
Right now the two big offenders are the PAWS Act in which the gov’t didn’t listen to our concerns about how the legislation impacts people and the Conservation Act under which the Conservation Authorities have been overstepping their mandate. Both these pieces of legislation were named at this Rural/Farm mental health day. The green energy issue was also named as a culprit of stress in a health and financial impact context re carbon tax.

As Landowners, we had seen time and time again, OSPCA agents target the people unable to defend themselves. We saw in many of the cases that the agents were the causes of the problems not the farmer/pet owner. 99.9% of people who deal with animals deal with them humanely and in some cases as parts of the family. Some people needed pets as ‘service animals’ but not officially as we are seeing today. Under PAWS none of this is addressed. (See the OLA’s recommendations for change to the OSPCA Act. Clearly, we had advocated social support to address any financial or health issues which may have led to a deterioration of an animal’s care. This recommendation was ignored when PAWS was drafted.

See the OLA's recommendations for a new animal care act in Ontario <https://carletonlandowners.com/wp/ola-recommendations-for-a-new-animal-care-act-in-ontario/>).

ENews: Will there be a follow-up/future workshops?

Tim: My sense is there will be. They will only be well attended though if the people believe that there will be listening and action based on what is brought forward at upcoming meetings. A sounding board may be ok for some but people want concrete solutions and actions on issues they bring forward. People are stressed about seeing members of their communities struggle and yet there is little or nothing in place to help unless you can travel hours.



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You Could Not Make This Up - Part 4

by Will Truimph

I have written previously about the ridiculous path my “Straight Forward” severance followed to the point of a County Land Division Committee (LDC) granting a provisional consent for my severance of three lots off our larger property. There were 8 conditions in the approval and as mentioned in my previous article none of the Conservation Authority’s (CA) extensive list of unsubstantiated demands was included. All the CA comments were both outside the jurisdiction of the Conservation Authorities Act and the scope of a Memo of Understanding between the County and the CA.

The Township’s report to the LDC prior to the acceptance only listed 5 items. The first numbers of items were standard items covering surveys, deeds, outstanding taxes and fees. The 4th item was for the applicant, at their own expense, to enter into a Development Agreement with the Township. The wording shall be satisfactory to the municipality and shall address the following: a. Recommendation from an Environmental Impact Statement. The 5th item was for a clarification of a test for chlorine in the water testing that had previously been carried out and reported to the Township and was a non issue.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is carried out before approval by the Township so it is an early requirement. I had to wait 9 months as the EIS is carried out around May of the next year. I met the technician and walked through the proposed lots and surrounding area. The individual came back a number of times and made sound recordings and looked for the presence of different endangered species.

The resulting EIS report that I paid for listed the proposed lot areas as abandoned farm field with emerging woodland cover. There was no wetland vegetation and wetlands are not present. There was adjacent land separating natural heritage concerns.

There was no fish habitat, shore zone or flood zones. No endangered species were observed.

The summary stated that mitigative dog control is recommended. How would this be done? A neighbour’s old black lab barked while the technician was across the road. Does this mean that we should not have dogs in our township or county?

The EIS stated this could be monarch butterfly habitat even though none were seen. Mrs. T and I counted 3 milk weeds on one property and none on the other 2. Hardly proven habitat considering none were seen!

It could be a deer fawning area but all hunters laughed at that as the deer fawning takes place in more remote areas than 100-300 feet away from neighbours’ homes with barking dogs. There is still over 100 acres of mixed forest on our property. What’s more is that the technician talks about deer being very adaptable and that they are not a protected species. Why was this even included?

It recommended that construction should not start until after July 15th of any year and all earthworks be completed and seeded by September 15th without reference to any law or provincial policy. The EIS technician is making law! How can that be?

I questioned the EIS technician about these dates and was immediately told that an error had been made and my lots were not adjacent to wetland so there was no requirement to stop sediment from washing into wetlands and the September clause was removed. Had I not challenged him then his errors could possibly have been made mandatory. The EIS technician cut back the start time to June 15th of any year. There was no confirmed sighting of endangered species and concluded there was none present. His report concluded that “in view of the species not being confirmed to be present, the constraint outlined in the EIS may be considered excessive”. There was no MNR guidelines or provincial

statement quoted as reason or standard! It was just a technician’s excessive opinion. He can’t make up laws based on his opinion.

After being through a whole bunch of unsubstantiated demands by the CA and backed by the County and the Township this just became another and hopefully the last fight.

Mrs. T and I met with the Township Planner and he would not budge on the dates. He said it was our EIS. I replied that the individual came from the Township supplied list. I had no control over him and that he was not “mine”. I was told the Township no longer gives out a list of firms doing EIS work.

The Development Agreement (DA) included a statement that the Owner acknowledges the findings and recommendations contained in the EIS. I said there was no way I was going to acknowledge and recommend this. If the Township wants it there then they can put their name on it but I am in total disagreement to the inclusion of comments from a technician with no support by any law. Once a DA is on title it is there forever. This effectively could not be an “Agreement”. I was told that the agreement had to be satisfactory to the Township. I responded that it had to be driven by law and not opinion. The severance process, once given approval, has to be completed within a year’s time or you start again. This is the leverage that the Township has. I take this as a threat to completion but do not give in. I believe that the Township has no right to impose unsubstantiated demands. If you agree then it is your fault and it will be recorded on title that you accept and agree.

When we received the draft Development Agreement there were additional conditions that were not part of the severance consent. Some I was told were just standard provincial requirements. The contentious ones were still there ...development time and forest cover and a part that defined development.

The condition that no trees be cut and any development had to be carried out in clearings was unacceptable. This would not allow access roads, a house site and septic to be installed without a conflict. This was reworded to allow tree removal for building and necessary services.

We could not arrive at a resolve for construction until after June 15 of any year that the planet exists. The planner was standing his ground.

We also disagreed with the definition of Development for the purpose of this agreement. No material could be placed on, moved or removed from the property. This poorly worded statement would have limited any activity including gardening, snow removal or home alterations or construction until after June 15 of any year forever. This conflicts with freedom of use of one's home. It would not apply to any existing homes in the area. The question is why and under what law? The planner would never answer that for me so I conclude it was just more environmental demands to devalue property or make any development difficult.

Mrs. T and I saw a few milkweeds on one lot yet the Township road crews are cutting ditches and mowing down milk weeds thereby disturbing a food source. We see the odd Monarch around our own house site and we have no development controls! If this demand was used universally through the Township it would severely limit construction in our Township. To create such harsh requirements on a couple of lots when the existing neighbourhood has none is just plain mean. It speaks volumes about the Township administration's personnel that are in a position of power to place such restrictive covenants upon new neighbours. From the very beginning I asked the first Township Planner if the Township was open for business. The imposition of restrictive demands suggests the Township is not open for business.

I arranged to meet with the Reeve and the senior manager from the Township as well as the Planner. I expressed my disgust that my Township

would try to place such damaging limitations that were so poorly written onto future residents when there was not one shred of legal proof that it was required.

I heard back from the Township planner that the EIS technician backed down on his requirement for construction start dates. It was now going to say that the start up date is encouraged. It was now totally optional and should have been removed. The term development was redefined as substantial grading or projects requiring building permits and removed snow removal and gardening and normal landscaping. As the definition of development was contingent on the Start up after June 15th which became optional, the development definition was also optional and without value. No paperwork was provided by the EIS technician so there is no revision to his reports.

We received our rough draft of the new development and we took it to our lawyer. He said we had pulled off the greatest coup that he had seen. Nobody beats the development agreements. The time to fight Development Agreements is before they are registered on title!

My response to my lawyer was that I had fulfilled all legal and lawful requirements. I was not about to accept unlawfully applied demands that a bunch of Township people wished to apply. I would not want to buy my lots with their conditions.

The last step was to get a clearance letter from the Township. The County would not release the final documents and after more delay I find everyone is waiting for the other. Turns out my lawyer can't register the development agreement on title until there is a title. The Township Planner should have drawn up a promissory note for the lawyer to sign saying that he would register the development agreements on title once they were registered. With that done we were called in to pick up the development agreement for our lawyer to have a final look at. I noted that the plan information was wrong and the Township Planner said (on a yellow post it note) he would change the last page once we had signed. Knowing you can't just change pages of a signed document, I preceded when he further refused to reprint the page with the correct survey information. When we took our agreement to the Township for our signatures to be witnessed we cleverly numbered and initialed each page. Then we left it for the two senior Township individuals to sign. Later I called the Township and told them that the last page was wrong and their planner was going to change the page. That would be fraud. The papers were signed the next day after corrections had been made. Finally we had cleared this hurdle and were able to move on to Land registry and final title creation.

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A photograph of a cornfield during harvest. In the background, a combine harvester is working, kicking up a cloud of dust. To its left, a red grain cart is being filled. The foreground is filled with rows of harvested corn stalks, their golden-brown husks and cobs visible. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

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The Never-ending Stain of Injustice

by Marlene Black



I heard a radio announcer the other day, speaking to a Native who was supporting those Natives and other protesters who were blocking the pipelines. Why are you doing it? she asked.

“Well it’s for the residential schools, for the rapes of Indigenous women, for the inability to find justice for the murdered girls”. For a moment I had difficulty seeing the connection and it left me thinking that yes, all those injustices happened but nothing we can do now will change the past. If they are carrying the anger and pain in them forever, they will never be able to move on and hopefully find some way to improve the lives of the people who have suffered and are still suffering. I realized then that pretty much every group, country, religion has a history of suffering, and often with no justice ever coming.

I made a short checklist of some of those who have been terribly wronged by society, by tyrants, by invading armies, by their own people yet many have been able to make changes and improvements without targeting those who were not the ones carrying out the abuses. If the abusers are still alive, then find them and let the courts handle it but do we go after descendants 100 years later and try to negatively affect their lives?

I recently watched an excellent movie, at the theatre called ‘*Just Mercy*’ a true story and got a look at how the Black people in Alabama were treated about 60 years ago. Beaten and thrown in jail for their skin colour, accused of murders they didn’t commit, refused entry into schools and restaurants and treated less than second-class citizens.

How about the missing boys in Brazil? Mothers looking for their children who haven’t been seen for years and may be rotting in jails or dead. No Justice for them.

You don’t have to look too deeply at the injustices thrown at the Irish at the hands of the British who took their food and let them starve back around the potato famine. And the Irish were second class citizens when they arrived in America.

There is no question that the Jews had a history in Germany that most of us can’t even imagine yet, in time, they were able to keep going and make better lives for their children in a new world.

How about the people living in many countries near and in Russia who endured injustice throughout their lives, starved, beaten or thrown in jail and their lands taken and their country overthrown. Many died trying to stop the onslaught. Tom and I spoke to some elderly Hungarians who had fought tanks with anything they could use. They were part of the Hungarian resistance and were fierce fighters. They now live peacefully in Canada. Yugoslavia became a divided country when battles among neighbours sparked old divisions causing suffering and turmoil that resulted in more tragedies and pain. More evidence of what happens when freedom and the rights of people are ignored.

Many African countries have a long history of abuse both internally and from outside invaders but somewhere along the way, people must move on. When we bring religion into the equation, and oppression for minority religions, we see that the trail of hurts is pretty endless but the path to recovery could be achieved if we were able to realize that we mostly all want the same things in this world. For most of us, that is security, peace and hope for the future for our families.

I don’t know what the answer is but for how many years must the descendants of past injustices, keep apologizing and giving money? Do we not have to learn to heal the

hurts and try and build better lives for ourselves and our children and grandchildren. I don’t believe that you can fix injustices by creating more injustices. People are protesting on the streets, people are blocking pipelines and everywhere we look, there is a demonstration somewhere. Often there are innocent victims in these situations and the actions are hurting large segments of the population.

All these past events told tragic stories of horrible suffering, often reining down on innocent lives. But is holding a country hostage by blocking trains that carry goods throughout the country a way to justify past hurts? Farmers have been struggling to keep their farm afloat after years of BSE, poor crop prices, bad weather and competition and now there are trains full of grain just sitting idle.

The best way to deal with problems I believe, is for smart people to come up with solutions and then put them into action. Let’s solve problems by finding working solutions and putting them into place.

I don’t have a lot of faith in endless reports and more studies and have a lot of faith in working people like the ones who built this country. It doesn’t seem like an effective use of our energies to continually bring up past hurts while inflicting new hurts on innocent citizens. Perhaps our government can get input from the people who are living with the problems and listen and act on their good suggestions.

If our country is to be a united one with opportunities for all, perhaps we should start solving some of the problems that are facing many communities today. We should try and learn from the past yet create the opportunity to find concrete solutions, plan together to make them happen and have hopes and dreams for a brighter future.

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