

Landowner Voices



LV

May/June 2020

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Landowner Voices

Inside these Pages....

Articles and Stories

- 5 Poem - *Dale Dawson*
- 6 What to do when they come for you:
- 7 Ontario County Groups
- 8 Goldie Gamari, MPP
- 9 Letters
- 12 REPORT from Parliament - *MP Cheryl Gallant*
- 14 What COVID 19 has Given us - *Bob Weirmeir*
- 22 Silent Subversion of a Nations Soul - *John Swartzentruber*
- 24 Letter to Premier Doug Ford - *Tom Black*
- 26 The Growing CHINA Threat - *Tom DeWeese*
- 32 NEWS RELEASE by *Attorney General re: Justice Services*
- 33 How Are You Doing? - *Shirley Dolan*
- 34 Here We Go Again - *Charles Conn*
- 38 Letter to MPP Jeff Yurek - *Jeff Bogaerts*

Columnists - Editorials

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 Tom Black | 30 Jim Merriam |
| 11 The Geezers Corner | 36 Marlene Black |
| 15 Randy Vancourt | 37 Mel Fisher (The Contrarian) |
| 16 Ian Cumming | 41 Steve Straub |
| 18 Judith Cox | |

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

May/June 2020



LET'S FIX IT!

Hello Folks,

Well it has been a very sad first third of 2020 around the world, as the COVID -19 virus has destroyed

the daily lives of countless people and caused the death of so many of our loved ones. It's especially sad that our grandparents and parents were trapped in confined centres that were supposed to protect them from the dangers of living in the general population. It is probably unfair to lay the blame on any one person or department or even government, for how this tragedy developed in the many care homes.

There is blame however, and if we do not address the reasons for the failure, then these precious lives have been lost in vain. Let us try to address as many of the pitfalls as we can, before we are faced with another and maybe worse, scenario.

A good place to start is with the World Health Organization (WHO). We must denounce this organization and join with many other countries to demand that it is completely revamped and the voting-in of its members is not controlled by countries such as Communist China. An early warning of the aggressive nature of this virus could have given us time to defend the most vulnerable. We also should never again allow our country to be held hostage for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). According to Global News, China bought up 2.5 Billion pieces of PPE, starting in January. On top of that, our Canadian government sent 16 Tonnes of PPE to China leaving our doctors and nurses to have to wash and re-use their own PPE to get by and leaving our caregivers at the Long-Term facilities with no protection.

We all need to reassess where we shop and what we buy and maybe refuse to buy anything made in China even if it is half the price. Think of the price that this pandemic has had in lives and the economy. If we change our shopping habits, big corporations that have slipped into bed with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will be forced to manufacture their wares in other countries or go out of business.

To do that, one of the problems that must be fixed is the labeling of products sold in Canada. At one time, it was the law to label where products were made or produced. Now they are often labeled..."Packed For" some North American sounding company and no country of ORIGIN is to be found.

The other problem that must be addressed is the fact that care givers are working at several care homes on a part-time basis. This was created by labour and accounting

by Tom Black

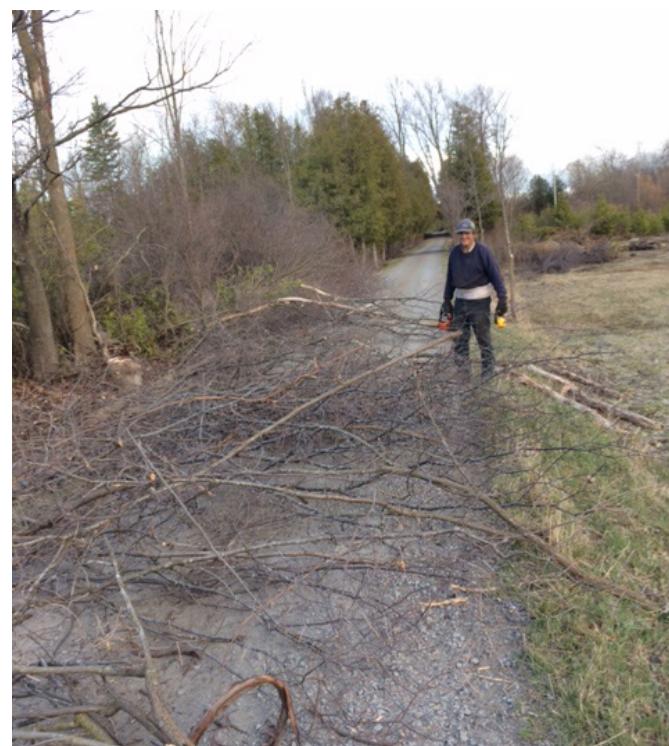
laws that let employers hire part-time workers for under 30 hours/week and in turn, do not have to pay any number of employment benefits. Not all employers pay all these benefits but here is a list of some of these potential costs:

- Health Insurance, Retirement Plans,
- Stock options, Paid time off, Education expenses,
- Child care plans, Fitness stipends

To level the playing field, it should not be an advantage for these homes to hire many part-time staff which then forces workers to work in more than one care home.

I realize that there are no simple fixes, but one of the main jobs of government is to set the rules that companies must follow to do business. That applies to rules for Long-Term care homes as well as to rules for what products companies can import. This is often at the expense of our home-grown businesses, which have to compete against products produced by workers in dismal work conditions around the world.

We owe it to those who have paid the price for our failures, to fix as many of these weak links in the chain that protects our security, our health and our economy. **



Covid 19

What the world economy has given to you

As you huddle alone sipping a brew

Watching the news about a pandemic severe

That is wreaking havoc to folks far and near

You shudder and squirm at the stats on the screen

Hoping to avoid a virus so mean

All over the world people are shaken

Living in fear as good folk are taken

When did it start you are asking yourself

While grabbing your iPad off of the shelf

Where did it start you question aloud

Away off in China an expert avowed

It started in China back in the fall

The communist government then dropped the ball

They should have warned us quickly of danger ahead

That precautions be taken but nothing was said

People kept flying from the south to the north

Innocently carrying the bug back and forth

When the world did awaken and stare in alarm

The bug had a foothold and was doing some harm

The people of China

are good folks I'm sure

But the tyrants that lead them

are really quite poor



Dale Dawson

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

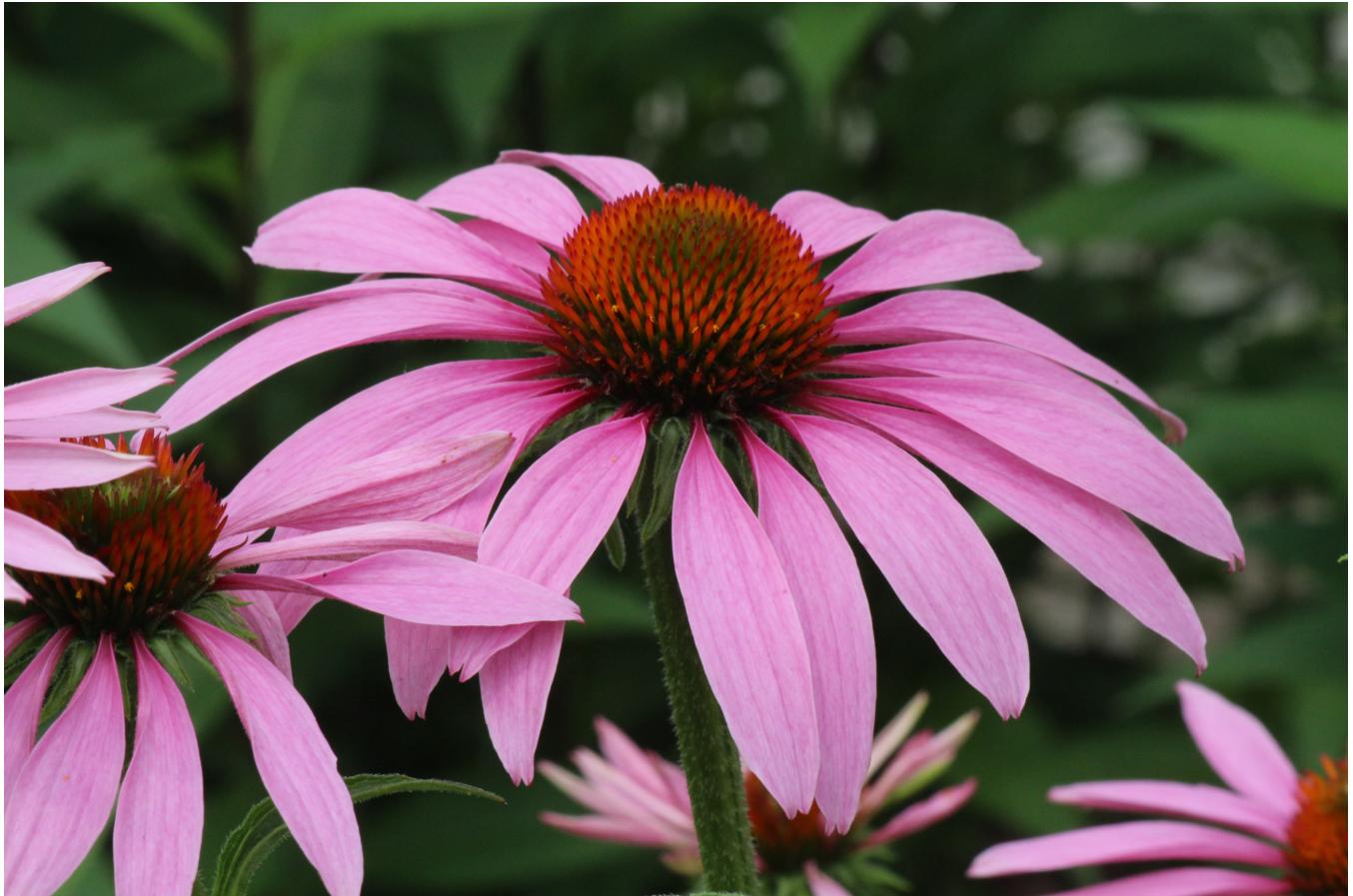
to leave. Ask them 3x then call 911. If they insist they have authority, make them show you. Remember Criminal code is Federal legislation and if no warrant they could be charged with trespass or mischief.

- **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

LAUNCH OF CARLETON COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND RESOURCE PAGE GOLDIEMPP.CA/COVID-19

The health and well-being of the residents of Carleton, Ottawa & Ontario is my top priority. Since we first learned of COVID-19 as an emerging public health issue, we have been diligently monitoring the developing situation to protect the health and well-being of all Ontarians, support you during this difficult time, and provide relief for businesses and employees.

My office has taken action to ensure that you are equipped with the most up-to-date information. That's why I've launched our COVID-19 Carleton Community Resource & Information Page. On this page, you can find the latest information on COVID-19, including:

- Health Care & Information
- Education & Resources

- Business Resources
- How you, your business, or organization can help us fight COVID-19
- Videos from the Premier of Ontario
- The Latest Government News Releases
- Links to Federal, Municipal and International Websites
- Carleton Community Resources from Unaffiliated Third-Party Sites; and
- Anything else that can be helpful for the people of Carleton.

If you are providing services/resources to the community and would like your information included on this community resource page, please fill out a contact form on the page.

Please be well and be safe. As long as we support one another, we will get through this together and our community will be stronger than ever. Thank you everyone.

-Goldie

NEWS FROM QUEEN'S PARK

GOVERNMENTS INVEST \$2.5 MILLION TO GROW AGRI-FOOD E-BUSINESS DURING COVID-19

The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$2.5 million to help the agri-food sector expand online, providing more opportunities for producers to grow their business and offer more food choices for families who are shopping from home during the COVID-19 outbreak. The funding is being provided through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (the Partnership).

The Agri-Food Open for E-Business initiative will help food producers, farmers markets, retailers, garden centres, greenhouses, nurseries, and agricultural associations develop online business, providing consumers with greater access to a wide variety of food and agriculture products.

This targeted application intake features two funding streams:

1. **Bring Your Business Online.** Eligible organizations and businesses can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to establish an online e-business and marketing presence. Funding under this stream will be quick and responsive for those needing immediate solutions.
2. **Develop Online Business Opportunities.** Eligible organizations, businesses and collaborations can apply for cost-share funding of up to \$75,000 to implement high-impact projects.

"Workers from across our food supply chain are providing essential services to our country and we appreciate their hard work and dedication to keep our agriculture and agri-food system strong during this challenging time," said Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "This investment will provide support as businesses quickly adapt to new and different ways of providing affordable and nutritious food to Canadians."

"We're helping agri-food businesses adapt to the retail challenges of this unprecedented time," said Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "COVID-19 has changed the way we shop, and our investment today in e-business will go a long way to connecting the people who grow our food with the people who buy it, while allowing them to practice physical distancing."

"During this extraordinary period where it is essential to stay home and stop the spread, the adoption of digital technology is critical for Ontario's small businesses to connect with consumers," said Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction. "Our government is proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our vitally important agri-food businesses as they innovate, grow, and produce for Ontario.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) will immediately accept applications and expedite the approval process to help businesses and organizations develop, expand and enhance their current online presence.

Since June 2018, both the federal and provincial governments have committed support to approximately 2,500 projects through the Partnership to help eligible Ontario farmers, processors, businesses and sector organizations innovate and grow.

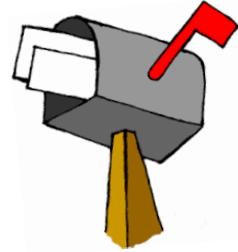
OFFICE NOTICE:

In an effort to contain the COVID-19 virus, our Constituency Office went virtual on March 16, 2020. Our location will remain closed until further notice. We are still open & working during regular office hours to answer your calls & emails. If you require assistance on any matter, please contact me at any time. 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

The following letter was sent to Premier Doug Ford by Ontario Landowners Association President Jeff Bogaerts and Elizabeth Marshall



Premier Ford and Ministers:

Firstly, I would like to express, on behalf of the people I have spoken with, a sincere thank you for the way you have been handling the Covid-19 crisis. It has been a very trying time for everyone and we appreciate the amount of effort you are putting into continuing to keep the province operational.

After speaking with a number of people in the agricultural community there are some serious concerns regarding the foreseeable food shortages. With this we have categorized some problems/situations and have included suggested solutions. If you would like more information please contact us and we will gladly do what we can to assist you. The problems/situations and suggestions, are:

1. Foreseeable food shortages.

This cannot be denied considering some farmers (hot-house) cannot get seed to plant.

Suggested solution

Seeds

All bulk seed orders take precedent over retail sale of seed. Farmers, both large and small, with hot-house/greenhouse ability need to ensure they have the seed for planting. With suppliers unable to fill orders, due to panic purchases at the retail level, there may be a shortage and farmers, who do this on a mass production scale, seem not able to obtain seed. Perhaps contacting the likes of Amazon, Home Hardware, Co-ops, etc., asking them to restrain the sale of seeds until the orders for the farm producers have been filled. This would and cannot take time to fix.

2. Migrant workers are going to be late and they must be quarantined, causing crops to be late, perhaps not

even being ready for production, due to delays. Fruit and vegetable farmers are concerned with migrant worker shortages, canneries, transport, harvesting and direct sales at markets.

Suggested solution

Migrant workers

The Federal and Provincial governments have expressed that migrant workers are “essential” and yet they must be isolated for the 14 day period. England has testing available for the Covid-19/Coronavirus which merely takes half an hour. Could the government obtain these tests for migrant workers ensuring they are available for work? Could the 14 days isolation be reduced to a 7 day isolation to ensure no residue of the virus? This may assist farmers who are in need of the migrant workers and ease some of the pressure on the food chain.

Canneries

The province could initiate grants and/or interest free loans to accomplish this as it was the previous government’s initiative to shutter the small canneries and fruit/vegetable processing. This, as with the meat processing plants, could eliminate a bottle-neck in the food chain because it wouldn’t rely on merely a few plants in a few selected areas and/or transport into Ontario.

Harvesting

Migrant workers are needed to ensure the harvest is successful for fruit and some vegetables. Other farm crops such as hay, wheat, soy, etc., also need to be harvested by the farmers for feed for animals as well as human consumption. More and more farmers are looking for farm hands to assist with this therefore the province could look to those receiving E.I. benefits to fill in these gaps.

Direct sales

Many farmers have direct sales at farmer’s markets and road side kiosks. Hand sanitizer and/or gloves could be used and/or made available for these efforts. There would also be the need for plastic and/or paper bags to continue for the customer’s use. Farmers and their businesses are and should be considered essential now and in future.

Transport

3. Borders between Canada and U.S. being closed, not only to non-essential travel, but eventually to essential travelers such as transport. Provincial borders being closed to essential transport of goods and/or the eventual quarantine of transport drivers and the goods (re – contamination and transfer of the virus from one jurisdiction to another).

Suggested solution

There is potential that an essential worker, who is crossing U.S.-Canada and/or provincial borders, will be positive with the virus. With that potential it would be remiss for the provincial and federal governments not to restrict even “essential” workers, such as truck drivers, couriers, etc. Therefore, would it not be in the best interest of the province to make the half hour test kits available at the borders, ensuring that there is no cross-border infections? This could elevate the potential of shipments being destroyed and/or community transfer between jurisdictions. Everyone wants to ensure the food chain is protected for the benefit of the residents of Ontario and Canada.

4. Cattle, chicken, pork farmers, etc., are realizing the price of beef/meat is going up (supply

and demand) and yet they are looking at difficulties of transport to end users, with fears that if one person in the meat processing plant is struck down with the virus the entire plant must be closed.

Suggested solution

Meat processing plants

The province could be actively involved with re-opening numerous abattoirs throughout the province ensuring there are inspections which meet the CFIA criteria. This would stave off the possibility that if one major processing plant is closed, creating a bottleneck in the food chain, others could fill in the gap, remaining clear of contamination.

The province could initiate grants and/or interest free loans to accomplish this as it was the previous government's initiative to shutter the small abattoirs and meat processing plants through egregious building coded standards (CFIA), as expressed by a farmer. His statement to me was that the cutting room had been determined to be 4 inches too small therefore the entire premise was closed.

These smaller processing plants could still maintain the processing of private as well as meat for populous consumption as they used to, ensuring that they do meet the CFIA inspection criteria. There would also have to be an increase in fees charged for these smaller processing plants but well worth it if the food chain can be maintained.

5. Restrictions on the use of the land through egregious designations by means of planning,

heritage designations, conservation designations, endangered species protection of habitat, Niagara Escarpment designations, etc., etc., etc.

Suggested solution

All Lands designations in the Official Plans pertaining to rural lands need to be removed. These designations include but are not limited to:

- Future Secondary Plan Area;
- Special Study Area;
- Escarpment;
- Wetlands;
- Hazard Lands;
- Major Open Space;
- Areas identified as containing Provincially Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest;
- Other areas identified as potentially containing significant or sensitive natural heritage features.

All of the aforementioned designations restrict the use of rural lands which can be put into production. One property owner, who is not a farmer, leases out his land for cattle grazing. He is restricted as to how much land he can lease out due to these egregious designations of "wetland," purported "sensitive natural heritage features," and "karst areas." If we, in Ontario, want our rural areas and farming communities to meet the challenges presented, we need, as a province, to remove these restrictions. Not only on farm land but land which can and does have the potential to be used as farm land. Not only do these designations restrict the agricultural community's efforts during a crisis, but when land is offered for sale, if it is designated

for anything but agricultural land, the farming community will not even look at it. The restrictions decrease the amount of available land as farm land.

As a final note, Premier and Ministers, again we would like to thank you for your efforts during this trying time. We appreciate how difficult it is, and will continue to be, until this crisis is over. It is hoped that this letter is received with the best of intentions and that this letter is of assistance to you and the people of Ontario.

*Jeff Bogaerts
Liz Marshall*



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by Dale Dawson



A special time long ago keeps tugging at my memory. A time of colorful characters that pop in and out of my mind like energizer bunnies. It was a period when people still hadn't heard of TV and could still provide their own entertainment. Modern television shows with little talent between commercials don't stack up well against the great natural comedians who didn't know they were funny.

As I sit here recalling their names and deeds, I'm having trouble deciding which ones I want to write about. It's sad that some were a tad too colorful and will be ignored in this article. Some of these were rough men that weren't too concerned about hurting a person's feelings.

A bunch of local guys got together to cut ice on Lake Sir John one cold day in February. This was before electrical power reached the back country. They would fill family ice houses with square blocks of ice and then insulate the ice with mounds of sawdust from the local sawmill. This ensured that the ice would be available to keep food cool in the warm summer months. They had just got nicely started with three large blocks hauled out onto the lake surface when Henry Neil lost his footing and plunged into the frigid water. They quickly got him out and he took off running toward his house a mile off. He was making good time hoofing it up Harry's Crooked Hill when he met Bob Dawson coming with his pipe dangling from his mouth. Henry sped past Bob without a word, but it was not to be. Bob yelled, "Wait Henry, stop a moment." Henry skidded to a stop hoping that

Bob could help somehow. He was really annoyed when Bob waving his pipe said, "Dab it all, Henry, do you have a dry match?" Henry was an old man when he told me that story and he was still miffed at Bob.

Bob always talked like his mouth was full of square marbles. The closest that he ever came to swearing was to occasionally mutter, "Dab it all." He never seemed to be around when hard work was going on. He did however, have a more than normal interest in crab apple trees and he spent a lot of his time walking the roads with a bag of crab apple seedlings. He was happy giving them to folks along the way; sometimes he would plant them for seniors. He got the attention of some people one day when he said, "I gave every woman in Thomas Gore a crab except Mrs. Ernie Ward, she was too dab mean."

Many of the local men made their living by cutting logs in the nearby woods while others worked in the sawmill. The work was hard, but they did on occasion get to town where as my aunty Peggy used to say, "All hell would break loose."

It was mid-winter and three of the lads had made a trip to town for supplies and the wonder of it all was that they found time to stop at a tavern for a beer. They were fun loving fellows and after about two quarts (they had quarts then), they noticed a big man sitting in the corner minding his own business. Of course, Ross couldn't leave the guy alone. He made what he thought were clever references about the guys size and even delved into the man's probable intelligence level. He just generally

picked away at the stranger until the giant had enough. He let out a roar and charged Ross like a befuddled goat charging a woodpile. Now, Ross was starting to have some remorse over his recent comments and began running backward while quickly arranging chairs and tables in front of the big fellow. Then his pal Glen had an astonishing idea! He yelled, "Hit him Ross – hit him!" Ross screamed back at him, "Jeez Glen, don't you think that he is mad enough already? This caused pandemonium in the bar with everyone laughing and after a moment, even the big guy.

They had some wonderful teams of horses that pulled heavy loads of logs to the mill in those days. Arguments would often break out over which teams were the best. Old Percy had a remarkable well-trained team, but he was not a man to brag. The argument was getting louder with Percy staying quiet which was his way. Big Jim, a rough bad-tempered man said, "Percy, I wish you'd show me how you train your horses." Percy never even glanced in Jim's direction. He just climbed up on his sleigh and clucked at the team and said, "Well Jim, first of all, you have to know more than the horses."

Dale Dawson

REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT



CHERYL GALLANT

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE
www.cherylgallant.com

By Cheryl Gallant, MP

May 2020

With the main-stream media focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, other issues of national importance barely receive a mention. The attempt by the Federal Government in Ottawa to invoke the *Emergencies Act* conjures up images of “tanks in the streets” made famous by the current Prime Minister’s father when he invoked the *War Measures Act*. It took a succeeding Conservative Government to amend that legislation, replacing it with the *Emergencies Act*. By giving a veto to the Premiers, property rights were protected, for now.

On February 25, I had the honour of presenting Private Member’s bill, Bill C-222<<https://apps.ourcommons.ca/ParlDataWidgets/en/bill/10649347>>, *An Act to amend the Expropriation Act (protection of private property)*. There has been a disturbing trend in Canada toward what is referred to as regulatory, de facto or constructive taking of private property. This happens when government uses its statutory powers to regulate or restrict the property rights of an owner without acquiring title to the land being adversely affected. The landowner feels the impact of the regulation as if the land has been expropriated.

In the United States, the fifth amendment of the American constitution protects private property rights. In Canada, government acquisition of land without the owner’s consent is not subject to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Private property rights were excluded from the Canadian Constitution when it was repatriated in 1982.

In Canada, landowners’ rights are found in the expropriation legislation. The government must follow the law as to what land may be expropriated and must observe procedures set out in the legislation. In Canada the government can strictly regulate land, limiting its value and what a landowner can and cannot do with it without triggering the procedures in the legislation.

A de facto regulatory taking means a property owner is not entitled to compensation unless the restrictions of the owner’s rights are such that they should be properly regarded within the meaning of the Expropriation Act.

By setting out exceptions in the *Expropriation Act*, Bill C- 222 seeks to remove some uncertainty from the existing legislation as to whether owners must be compensated for

certain types of *de facto* takings. When governments actually expropriate private property, well-established common law principles, and Canada’s courts combine to usually give property owners at least some compensation in exchange.

I introduced Bill C-222<<https://apps.ourcommons.ca/ParlDataWidgets/en/bill/10649347>> to provide some protections from the government taking people’s property without compensation. It would appear the recently ratified Canada-United States-Mexico trade Agreement (CUSMA) addresses the issue raised by my private member’s bill, Bill C-222. Canadian common law on de facto expropriation suffers from what some jurists refer to as external incoherence.

The present context of CUSMA decries the possibility that the rights of foreign investors in Canadian property are afforded more protection than the rights of Canadian property owners of Canadian property. The source of this incoherence is Article 1110 of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, which has been carried over into CUSMA under article 14.8 on expropriation and compensation.

Article 14.8 in the new agreement provides:

1. No Party shall expropriate or nationalize a covered investment either directly or indirectly through measures equivalent to expropriation or nationalization (expropriation), except:

- (a) for a public purpose;
- (b) in a non-discriminatory manner;
- (c) on payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and
- (d) in accordance with due process of law.

2. Compensation shall:

- (a) be paid without delay;
- (b) be equivalent to the fair market value of the expropriated investment immediately before the expropriation took place (the date of expropriation);
- (c) not reflect any change in value occurring because the intended expropriation had become known earlier; and
- (d) be fully realizable and freely transferable.

3. If the fair market value is denominated in a freely usable currency, the compensation paid shall be no less than the fair market value on the date of expropriation, plus interest at a commercially reasonable rate for that currency,

accrued from the date of expropriation until the date of payment.

4. If the fair market value is denominated in a currency that is not freely usable, the compensation paid—converted into the currency of payment at the market rate of exchange prevailing on the date of payment—shall be no less than:

(a) the fair market value on the date of expropriation, converted into a freely usable currency at the market rate of exchange prevailing on that date; plus

(b) interest, at a commercially reasonable rate for that freely usable currency, accrued from the date of expropriation until the date of payment.

5. For greater certainty, whether an action or series of actions by a Party constitutes an expropriation shall be determined in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article and Annex 14-B (Expropriation).

The language used here was rolled over from the 1992 NAFTA agreement and it refers to the indirect nationalizing or expropriating of a measure as being tantamount to nationalization or expropriation. The language clearly exists to ensure that compensation will be owed for both de jure and de facto expropriation by the expropriating country.

The scope of article 14.8 is indeed wide. “Measure” includes any law, regulation, procedure, requirement or practice, and the definition of “investment” is so expansive that it cannot be included here. Moreover, there is no allowance, as there is in Canadian common law, for express statutory language to extinguish the right of compensation.

How the previous NAFTA article 1110 has been treated in arbitration among the parties of NAFTA, Canada, the United States and Mexico, has, or at least should have, bearing on expropriation law in Canada generally. This is particularly so given NAFTA’s, now CUSMA’s, constitution-like status as a document that cannot be amended without the consent of all signatories.

The NAFTA expropriation case that has received the most attention from Canadian legal scholars is probably The United Mexican States v. Metalclad Corporation. In that case, Metalclad had received approval from the federal government of Mexico to operate a landfill in the municipality of Guadalcazar and began to construct the landfill on that basis. Mid-construction, Guadalcazar informed Metalclad that it would require a municipal permit and must cease construction pending its issuance. More than a year later, Guadalcazar finally made its decision: permit denied.

The governor of San Luis Potosi, the state in which Guadalcazar is situated, further declared Metalclad’s land to be a natural area for the protection of rare cacti. The federal government took no saving action. In its decision, the tribunal stated, “these measures, together with the representations of the Mexican federal authorities”, on which Metalclad relied,

“and the absence of a timely, orderly or substantive basis for the denial of the construction permit, amounted to an indirect” or de facto “expropriation.”

The tribunal’s belief in the far-ranging scope of article 1110 is evident. As outlined in its decision, expropriation in NAFTA, and now CUSMA, includes not only “the open, deliberate and acknowledged takings of property” but also the “covert or incidental interference with the use of property which has the effect of depriving the owner, in whole or in significant part, of the use or reasonably-to-be-expected economic benefit of property.”

Where the ratification of CUSMA will leave expropriation law and Canadian property rights in the future is uncertain. Time will tell whether or not the law will continue to afford foreign investors more protection than Canadians.

For more information contact Cheryl Gallant, M.P.
613-732-4404



WHAT COVID-19 HAS GIVEN US?

Yup. Not a misprint. In times like these we can't dwell on what we have lost. It is easy to follow the news headlines on tragedies from around the world. Not to belittle them for the tragedy is real, but sometimes you have to look at the cloud for the silver lining. Ask any farmer. They will tell you next year will be better. The price of beans will go up, the weather will hold and a bumper crop is forthcoming. Farmers are for the most part optimists.

The obvious silver lining is how our healthcare system has been holding up under this tremendous strain. The healthcare workers are literally putting their lives on the line for others. All our emergency service workers are finally being acknowledged for what they do. People we see every day, store employees deemed essential, truck drivers delivering goods we cannot do without, even garbage truck drivers (sorry, sanitary engineers) are all being recognised for the essential work they do. Many companies are retooling to produce items that are greatly needed, cost and inconvenience not even being factored into the equation.

In my view, individual people getting slight if any acknowledgment are the real silver lining to this dark cloud. The restaurant owner forced to close his doors has been going to other restaurants in the same state to gather all remaining food that would otherwise be thrown out to make meals to give to the less fortunate. His business might not recover but a final act

was for people he probably will never know. For the countless volunteers delivering food and other essential supplies to individuals who cannot get out, or should not go out, we are in your debt.

The corona virus may have brought this country, if not the world together in a way nothing else could have. The tragic effects cannot and should not be taken lightly for we have lost more than we will ever know, but the sun will come up tomorrow. There will be another day. As an optimist I can say tomorrow is the first day of the rest of my life. Remember to do the small things, Call your neighbour. It is such a small gesture but essential if a problem has occurred. Despite the run on grocery stores and the hoarding, there is enough to eat. My daughter now makes bread and pasta at home, with the family's help. There may not be bread in the store but there is flour.

Instead of feeling like you are under house arrest, you can reconnect with your family, share the pleasures as you did in the past but just haven't had time for lately. In years gone by everyone looked out for their neighbours, helping when needed, giving or trading things the other didn't have. This time has come again. The world may never be the same again but we may have returned to a better time, where people matter.

Even the climate emergency might be in a better state. The hot air over Parliament hill is dissipating and the exhaust from the PM's jet is now nonexistent. The silver lining!

Now if only I had toilet paper.

Bob Weirmeir is Co-Vice President of the Ontario Landowners Association and President of the Saugeen Landowners Association





HEROES

by Randy Vancourt

We hear the term “hero” a lot lately, and with good cause. Recent events have revealed that a great number of undetected heroes have been quietly living amongst us for a long time. We have always used that word to describe people we greatly admire, whether famous sports figures, rock stars or especially our brave men and women in uniform. But now we have learned the word can be equally applied to many other job descriptions.

First and foremost no doubt are the amazing people in the medical profession. Of course they have been heroes throughout history, just the sort that most people forget to admire as much as we should. Banting and Best, Jonas Salk, Pierre and Marie Curie, and thousands more like them have made our lives better, safer and healthier in countless ways. Now we see these brave and brilliant individuals once again risking their own lives to benefit, and no doubt save, ours.

Of course all the usual frontline workers are included amongst our heroes: police, fire and ambulance workers have always deserved veneration, never more so than now.

For me the most amazing addition to our list of heroes has been the more mundane jobs, the sort one doesn’t normally associate with danger. We have all become much more aware of grocery store employees, farmers and workers in food processing plants, which just proves how fortunate we have all been for so long.

We are in unchartered territory now. Suddenly we are faced with food shortages like we haven’t seen since the last World War, combined with the economic downturn and job losses of

the Depression and a potentially fatal, virulent illness not unlike the 1918 Influenza Pandemic. Any one of these problems would be difficult enough to overcome but dealing with all of them at once is changing our way of life forever.

Every time I venture inside a grocery store now I marvel at the people stocking the shelves or ringing up my groceries. I have always been the sort who talks to clerks and employees I encounter, but now I make a point of saying thank you, and letting them know how much I appreciate their effort and risk.

The past few months have underlined just how fortunate we are to live in this country. Watching our political leaders work together in spite of their differences has been inspiring, more so because we get daily evidence of the country to our south imploding under the weight of its federal government’s unbelievable, historic incompetence. If ever we needed a reminder of the apocryphal lesson of King Canute and the tide, we are watching it unfold in real time there.

My own industry is feeling the ground shifting beneath it as well. Every day my Facebook feed is full of my friends - actors, musicians, writers, technicians, designers, comedians, and so many others - all trying to deal with the sudden disappearance of their jobs now and for the foreseeable future.

Many of them have turned to online performances and videos that are meant to brighten our cloistered lives, as well as allow them to continue creating. I have comedian friends who share their meal preparation as a daily live feed, and musicians who perform nightly concerts to entertain anyone who is watching. One friend was wondering if what he was doing

really mattered, then recently received a message from someone in Buenos Aires that said, “I’m a nurse on guard for these days. Thanks for your music.” Another note from Chile read, “I wait for your concert daily, it has been your music that helps me to cope with the quarantine.”

Mister Rogers famously used to tell the story about a lesson he learned from his mother. When he was a boy and saw scary things in the news, she would tell him, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”

Conversely of course, we will always see the ones who are doing the exact opposite, whether protesting against their own safety and interests, or actively working to harm us all.

The best thing we can do right now is to keep looking for the helpers wherever we may find them, the ones who are actively making life better for us all, and say thanks.

www.randyvancourt.com



Photo by Dan Burton



Surviving in our New Reality

by Ian Cumming
Agricultural Journalist

Back here on the eighth concession one goes through their spring day, like most others down through the years. It's when you "get off the concession," so to speak, turn the TV on at night, or fire up the computer, that things appear grim, pathetic, disjointed, almost surreal.

Getting up somewhere between 4 and 5 am there is the necessary coffee to get into ones veins. Fill the outdoor wood stove, do the barn chores with our assortment of livestock, hand wash the dishes from the day before, check in from my son for a New York farm update, not wanting to physically check out the cross border dynamics these days, legal or illegal.

You have to use the gravel roads and farmers lanes to even get into Quebec around the police checkpoints. I hadn't realized and several days ago, out on 401, I came upon a plethora of Quebec cop cars at the border, certain it was a bad accident.

I was arguing that my status as a journalist made me "essential" for cross border privileges, - I was doing an article which required Quebec photos and my presence – then got tired of chewing the rag with the cops. "Look," I said, "you can turn me back but I know every damn farmer along this border and I'll be back in Quebec in five minutes. So you might as well let me drive on."

.....They did.

There's my brothers crop to help put in this spring, being he has throat cancer.

Then my sporadic profession, without a routine, or certainty, is an article, or three or four, plus column, to write every week for the farming paper I work for. No stories from meetings

or conventions, but rather from here on the land, with the smells of liquid manure worked into freshly turned ground, down the gravel roads.

If you're tuned into this world, you're tuned into what is going on in rural Ontario. Maybe, because of this crisis, it was their turn to dump milk this morning, or vainly trying to find somewhere to slaughter their hogs.

Do you plant corn, because people are driving way less and the ethanol plants, which buy 40 per cent of Ontario's corn, are ratcheting back? What will that do to the corn price?

But the folks you see on TV sure aren't from this world. They're from another planet. Or so it seems.

Giving the impression that the crop will somehow plant itself, in the soil beside the manure that spread itself. If you are not helping the nation staying inside, like Justin, who has this country to run, you are, well, downright evil.

My wife, with 125 college students now being taught online, which was up and running within several days – not several weeks like our primary and secondary school systems – is doing her teaching here from the farm house.

My two youngest daughters, after several weeks while the school system fiddled and farted, now have teachers interacting with them.

Down the concession the thriving business who makes wooden spools and pallets continues to roar on. My neighbour with the septic truck has never been so busy, with so many folks now using their home toilets, rather than at work, or in a restaurant.

Coffee College is closed in our small hamlet, but their attached small grocery store is humming with folks

not wanting to go to the big city stores. Meat is flying off their shelves.

Our local council is a combination of stunned and sneaky, incapable of being anything else. This crisis, as the main controlling lass tweets the latest government and celebrity twitter updates by the half hour, has only shone a spotlight on how utterly pathetic, she and they are.

But, chilling as that is, they are par for course.

The higher up governments have decided to shut down the economy. So horrified by it all, they just want everyone to hide. You can't.

We get what nature is about down on the farm, winter dysentery going through our dairy herds most falls. You monitor the sick ones, you might even lose some, like one per cent, but the immunity is built in.

The quicker the better. Once you get it, you don't hide cows away and bring them into the barn to get the virus several months later.

We were raised by parents and grandparents who died at home, not in a placed home where a virus could rampage through. Who told us about the Spanish Flu as they pointed to siblings names, who were in their youth when their names were etched on their tombstone.

Like winter dysentery, that attacks all breeds of cattle, this latest virus doesn't discriminate. But ordinary common sense folks were called racist, when the suggestion was made back in the winter that perhaps we shouldn't keep introducing cows from a foreign barn, into our barn, until this is under control.

*

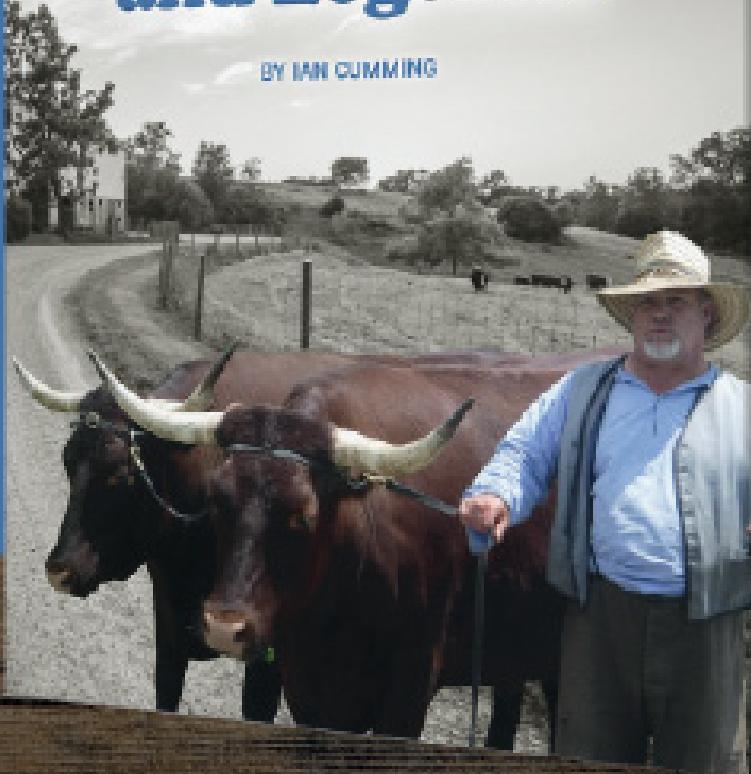
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Veggie Bites

Gardening is time sensitive so I have included several of Judith's articles on planting your garden.

Combat Gardening

by Judith Cox



Greetings fellow gardeners

With the situation being what it is, I thought I would send out some regular notes on growing vegetables. My kitchen garden talk featured a section on Victory Gardens which seems very on trend at the moment. Let's get started

In order to grow vegetables, you need a place to plant them. If you have an established bed in your backyard you are all set. If you want to add vegetables to your perennial border at the front that is quite doable. If you do not have space to dig you can plant almost every vegetable in a pot. And for those of you who want to take up your front grass and plant a garden; that is impressive! The key word for everything is compost and good soil. Adding compost before you plant gives your vegetables a head start. Well-rotted manure and good soil is also a good addition. One of our members, Janet, said Ritchies in Richmond will take your order over the phone and you can pick it up. Nurseries often have their own soil blends which are excellent. Beware the black soil offered at your grocery and hardware store. It is an excellent filler but has none of the nutrients that you need at this time.

If you want to start your vegetables from seed, it is a good idea to start your tomatoes now. You want a nice sturdy seedling to plant out in late May. Most other vegetables can be directly sown in the garden at various times in May.

Lettuce

I am going to plant a pot of lettuce this weekend and put it outside in a sheltered area. Lettuce is an excellent cool weather plant and will be tough enough if well protected. Using a pot

of good soil sprinkle your lettuce seed on top and lightly cover. Be sure to keep it well watered. I like to plant leaf lettuce as it comes quickly and is easy to harvest. Baby romaine can also be tasty and the delicious buttercrunch lettuce is a little more delicate. As the seedling emerge you can thin them out so that the stronger seedling has more room to grow. As the lettuce grows, harvest it by using a pair of good kitchen scissors to cut it to about two inches above the soil. The lettuce will regrow, and you should get about two more meals off it before it gets bitter. If you leave it alone it will grow tall and form flowers and then seeds. If you have a heritage variety like Black-seeded Simpson, you should be able to keep the seed for next year. Some of the hybrid lettuces tend to be finicky.

If you have questions or suggestions about vegetables, please contact Judith at lapisdragonarts@gmail.com



*Greetings fellow gardeners
(Veggie Bites, part 2)*

Another week has wandered by and we are still at home. I spent a lot of time outside and my knees are no longer speaking to me. Remember that this snow is temporary.

Starting seeds

By now you if you have started some seeds you will be noticing some growth. The first thing that you should see is a pair of leaves. These are called seed leaves and almost every seed you plant will start out this way. Of course, there are exceptions like grasses and bulbs but for now let's concentrate on the majority. Once you see the seed leaves the next step is for the little seedling to put out true leaves. At this point you can move your seedling into its own pot if that is what you want to do. Remember that each time you move it you risk losing it so be careful. To move a seedling, find a pencil or chop stick and make a hole in the new location.





Wiggle the pencil down beside the seedling to loosen it and gently tug on the seedling using the seed leaves. Place it into the hole you have made with the pencil. It is still too cold to put these seedlings outside.

Hold on before you start your vine and tender crops. These plants cannot go outside until late May or early June and starting them now will result in weak plants and lots of frustration. Tender plants should be started in early May. Most vegetable seeds do well planted directly in the ground.

This week I planted some lettuce in a pot outside in a sheltered spot and put in my first row of peas. I will plant another row of peas in two weeks and so on until the end of May. Peas do not germinate very well if it is too hot. Next week I will probably plant radishes. I have spent a lot of time preparing areas for my vegetables being careful not to tramp around on the soil. This is the perfect time to pull out your burdock plants. Those burrs get onto your clothes and dogs. Right now, their tap roots have not fully formed, and they slip out of the soil easily. I do not compost them.

If you are looking for seeds, especially seeds for our area, I suggest you check out Seeds of Diversity at <https://seeds.ca/> Canadian sources are listed as well as specialized sources. For those of you missing your Saturday visit to the market, the Carp Farmers Market <https://carpfarmersmarket.ca/vendors/> has a list of their vendors. Many of these vendors are selling online. As a small business owner, I know how hard it is not being able to meet the public, so our support of these businesses is appreciated.

Try hard not to compact your soil and give the grass a chance to form roots. The garden is waking up and will give us happiness at this difficult time. Enjoy!

(Veggie Bites, part 3)

We seem to be having a cool spring. Not to worry, some of those seeds might

take longer to germinate but our lettuce will taste sweeter for the wait.

More about starting seeds

This week I had an emergency with a tray of seedlings. One of my dear pussycats thought that despite the netting around my plant stand he would see if he could balance along the edge. He knocked over the entire tray. The little guys were just popping up so there was no saving them. Fortunately, a friend of mine had extra seed so I was able to replant. Replanting is something we gardeners do! Be sure to continue to water your seedlings without letting them sit in water. Too dry they will shrivel and too wet they will rot. We are about two weeks away from starting your tender plants. So far, I have had several little seedlings develop their true leaves and I potted them up. When you pot up your seedlings, go up slowly. A tiny seedling in a huge pot will not do that well.

Outside I have been slowly collecting fallen branches and pruning roses. Remember not to take more than a third of the growth off your roses. Remove all the dead branches and clear the base. In a couple of weeks, I will add compost to each rose. I love roses and I use their flowers and hips for jams, jellies, and teas. In addition, you can cut back last year's perennials. Cut back to about two or three inches. Pick up all those old hosta and daylily leaves as well. Old hosta flower stocks look almost like straws and can be bundled together to make solitary bee homes! If you step on the soil as you do this and there is a big squish, or you are leaving big footprints just wait for a while for things to dry out.

I am enjoying the colours of crocuses and scilla that are popping up everywhere and soon the daffodils and tulips will appear. A dusting of snow will not deter these beauties. My peas are up and although they are not impressed with the snow, they will grow quickly as the world warms up. Along with peas you can be planting radishes, swiss chard, spinach, and kale.

Hardening off

You have probably heard this phrase 'hardening off' before. It is very

important. The spring sun is strong, and the wind and the soil are cold. Your seedlings are tender as are many of the plants that you buy in the spring. Place these new seedlings and plants in a sheltered area out of direct sun and wind and protect them at night for about a week before you plant them out. This helps them to adjust and get tough. Gradually introduce them to your garden and watch for signs of stress. If you are planting these seedlings and plants in planters, the hardening off time is reduced.

I ran out of potting and seed-starting soil this week so I contacted Green Thumb Garden Centre <https://www.greenthumbgarden.ca/>. I placed my order and was able to pick it up curbside. If you want soil or tools you can contact a nursery you like and do a curbside pickup as well. We have a lot of local nurseries and we want to keep them in business! If you are looking for plants, pansies are starting to become available. Pansies and violas are very forgiving in these weather conditions and are also edible. Candied pansies are so pretty around a springtime cake.

Next week I hope to be adding a new section to Veggie Bites called Composting with Arlene. Arlene Rowe was to be our May speaker and she knows a lot about composting. She will be addressing a number of composting questions. Enjoy your summer!

Continued on next page.....



Veggie Bites, part 4)

Greetings fellow gardeners

We seem to be experiencing a very cool spring. I am going to hold off for a couple of days before I plant more seeds. I thought this would be a good week to talk about tomatoes.

Tomatoes: Early Days



By now if you have planted tomato seeds you should be seeing true leaves and more growth. Some of you may have already planted them up into a larger container. Tomatoes do not go into the ground until the end of May. They can be hardened off in the third week of May if the weather cooperates.

Your tomatoes are either determinate or indeterminate; it should say so on the package. If you are not sure, most larger tomatoes are determinate and most smaller tomatoes are indeterminate. A determinate tomato will only produce a certain number of fruits so do not prune them heavily. They need a sturdy cage as the tomatoes are heavy and it is easy for a branch to split off the main stem. Indeterminate tomatoes

bloom until the frost takes them. They produce a lot of branches and can be pruned to keep them more manageable and allow the air to circulate easily.

When the day comes to plant your tomatoes, the first step is to prepare the bed. Your tomatoes will do well in a mixture of good soil, compost, and well-rotted manure. I don't like to add extra fertilizer at this time as the bed should contain everything they need. I like to give my tomatoes a weekly feeding of weak organic fertilizer, fish emulsion or kelp or comfrey.

If your tomato seedling is twelve inches in height, dig the hole at least six inches deep. Planting your tomato about halfway up the stem insures a sturdy plant. Roots will form along the stem that is buried and the plant is less likely to be blown over.

Cutworms are the first nasty thing to visit your tomatoes. As soon as you plant the tomato, take a paper towel or toilet paper roll, and cut it so that it is about three or four inches in height. Next split the tube so it can wrap around the base of your tomato plant. Cutworms kill your tomatoes by wrapping around the stem and sucking but the roll prevents them from doing that and saves your tomato.

Let's talk about Marigolds

Tomatoes do very well when planted with marigolds. While marigolds have a scent that most rodents do not like that does not mean that it will give guaranteed protection. There is no plant that will prevent weeds, animals, or insects from invading your garden. What marigolds do is to attract beneficial creatures to your garden, tiny parasitic wasps, and many useful pollinators.

I am only planting four different varieties of tomatoes this year, but they are all my favourites. I am really looking forward to that first bite!

Enjoy your week and let me know if you have any questions. What follows is part one of an article on composting by Arlene Rowe.

Judith (lapisdragonarts@gmail.com)

Compost: Black Gold

(A personal view)

This is the beginning of a series of articles about composting. It is a personal view of the topic based on my (> 30 years) experience of composting.

I will cover the following topics:

1. What is composting? And why?
2. The science of composting
3. Composting methods
4. How to get started
5. Troubleshooting



I was introduced to composting when I started a garden in Alberta. I very quickly discovered why many gardeners owned or rented a rototiller and the true meaning of the phrase “Alberta cement”. Although the soil was fertile, it was mostly clay which meant poor drainage in the spring, and after summer downpours, which was disastrous for any tuber perennials like irises, and baked cement like soil that made growing and harvesting root vegetables a challenge. To solve this problem would have required truckloads of sand or expensive loam. In my research, I stumbled across the concept of composting. After just a year or two of adding compost to my garden, I saw a significant improvement in the drainage. When I moved to Stittsville, I encountered the complete opposite condition: sandy soil. It drained well, but in the hot summers, my plants wilted from the heat and if there was a watering ban, there were lots of casualties. Again, there was significant improvement in the soil when compost was added.

What is composting exactly? Composting, a simple and useful practice that takes advantage of a natural process that goes on every day of every year in any forest, garden, meadow, and field, is the process by which living matter is converted to life-giving soil. Composting is the way nature recycles and reuses resources and does not need human intervention. However, gardeners have a vested interest in accelerating the process because of its beneficial properties; it produces “black gold”.

What are the benefits of compost? The major benefits of adding compost to your garden are:

1. It contributes to the healthy structure of your soil by:
 - a. retaining moisture in the soil. The organic matter acts as sponges when it rains and retains the water, so it is available to your plants when they need it.
 - b. aerating the soil. Yes, your plants need air, otherwise, the roots will become susceptible to root rot.
 - c. regulates the soil temperature. It acts as an insulating blanket to keep the soil at an even temperature to prevent your plants from being heat stressed during the hottest days of summer.
 - d. supplies micronutrients. These are essential nutrients (e.g. iron, magnesium) that are needed in small quantities and are usually not found in commercial fertilizers.
 2. It provides a stable base of nutrients that are released slowly to your plants. Unlike commercial fertilizers that can be readily washed away with each rainstorm, the nutrients are slowly released to the plants on an ongoing process.
 3. It is free! Instead of having to send organic matter to the municipal dump, you can reuse what you have grown or bought, and save the cost of buying fertilizers.
- In the next article, I shall summarize the composting process: what components makeup the process and how these components interact to create this black gold. **

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Silent Subversion of a Nation's Soul

Jordan B. Peterson's online lectures provide a profound insight into how our quasi-democratic, free enterprise system became what we have today - a land dominated by identity politics and special interest groups. However, before JBP ever rode his amazing arc to fame, I read Solzhenitsyn's "Gulag Archipelago", a chilling, numbing account of the vilest potential of human society. Not based on mere observation, but on his own experience as a prisoner, Solzhenitsyn documented the horrors of how the Soviet Marxists brutalized their people into a mindless morass of subservient state-slaves.

Marxist totalitarianism has a bad reputation, mainly for the historical fact that the Soviet Union, Communist China, Pol Pot and others slaughtered up to 100,000,000 of their own countrymen to bring their reluctant populations under totalitarian dictatorship.

And beyond that, no one in the free world knows how many more have since died in repressed uprisings, such as Tienanmen Square in 1989, North Korea, and others. And how many more have simply disappeared, such as is reportedly happening now in Hong Kong as well as in the People's Republic of China? There, speaking truth carries the death sentence.

But the disturbing reality is that historical Revolutionary Marxism is quietly viewed by far too many as merely unpleasantly messy - however, not for its philosophy, but just its gory and socially repugnant (by Christianized western standards) means.

Despite its ugly manifestation everywhere it has been enforced, Marxism is still viewed by many as an admirable system of socioeconomic administration. With its irrefutable history of bloody and insatiable violence, why is there still a large body of intellectuals who would like to see it imposed on our Western civilization? And why is the United Nations, the central body which strives to shape international policy, essentially influenced by Marxist-Leninist ideologues and brutes?

The problem can be traced back to the end of WWII - which some believe came too early. Because when the Allies liberated Europe from the Nazis, they thought the war was won. They were wrong. It was merely postponed until their Communist, Russian "ally" could regroup and defeat the democratic West as well.

In retrospect, rather than going home, the British, Canadians and Americans might have proceeded to Moscow to take down the Kremlin. They could likely have done it. Japan was out of the action.

However, even then existed a contingent of westerner thinkers who believed in the false hope of Marxism. These silent subversives never stopped plotting how to make their toxic dream a global reality. They worked on their plan and found a useful instrument in the relatively new League of Nations. Started with good enough intentions, this fledgling organization was soon corrupted into a very convenient means of propagating the Marxist agenda.

According to my reading to date, it took only about 30 years after the 2nd World War to begin to see documentation of Marxist principles in UN objectives and writings. While

this stands to be further instructed, my earliest finding of Communist ideology enshrinement is the Habitat 1 document, penned in Vancouver, BC, in 1976.

Among its many repugnant statements outlining its goals for the world is the claim that it is imperative that all private property must come under public control. And further, that private ownership leads to disparities and unearned profits. Thus, these gains and profits must be taxed or taken and redistributed to the "community". Sound familiar?

Habitat 2 (1996, Istanbul) and 3 (2016, Quito, Ecuador) go further than the 1st and make recommendations as to how to achieve these Marxist goals - never so named in the documents, of course, for the reasons stated above.

You will recognize some of the language in these U.N. documents if you look through the Official Plans for your area in your local municipal office. This is because official plans take their lead directly from the UN Habitat documents, refined through the UN Agenda 21 and 2030: Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Is there any recent initiative, policy or program - in any sector - that doesn't include the word "sustainable"? Guess where the word originates - indeed, in the Habitat documents.

And it is your local municipal council that mostly unknowingly votes these Marxist-oriented changes, as delineated in Official Plans, into reality on your private property. Almost every action they undertake involves taking more control, control, control, of your private property. And they have no trouble hiring more and more enforcers to achieve and reinforce that control. If you ask a councillor if he or she has ever heard of the UN Agendas, the vast majority of them will say "No". These people are what Lenin referred to as "useful idiots". I would like to be kinder.

The effect is that without our knowledge, Marxism has been inserted into our local affairs and private lives by the subversion of our democratic system. This cool trick purposefully employed by the masterminds who are gleefully and very successfully pulling the strings from far away, far beyond the view and suspicions of those they wish to enslave into a totalitarian, communist hellhole. For their own benefit, of course, as the "common good" usually provides the masquerade for an overly-ambitious, dictator class of narcissistic rulers.

Under the tutelage of higher learning institutions, increasingly Marxist-infiltrated universities, this silent subversion hit greased skids when the earliest crop of Marxist indoctrinated university grads entered the workforce. When later waves exited their toxic halls fully indoctrinated in class warfare cloaked as identity politics, it was curtains for the once great and free West. Socialist Marxism became the cultural default and norm for the West, without a single shot fired in anger.

Of course, just as the Bolsheviks rallied the proletariat against the bourgeoisie, these Marxist subversives needed a common "enemy" against which they could unify the world's people. It wasn't going to be very effective to use the old bogeyman of financial inequality - the Marxist overlords

effectively wearied that ploy in the Soviet Union and China. Indeed, it would be hard to fool the global community again with visions of equal wealth for all, especially when the world was rapidly becoming a far better place for many than it had ever been in almost any time in history.

So, what other element could be harnessed with hidden dictatorial scheme, an element common to the whole world?

Climate! There is no one in the world unaffected by climate, and if it could be morphed into perceptions of an imminent threat, then perhaps the world's population could be brought into compliant subjection by implementing measures that would stifle personal choices and volition from individuals. So what if it would destroy their successful systems and lifestyles, one-world-domination was the Plan.

Indeed, it would be necessary to destroy everything that gave an individual the ability to live independently. Both Lenin and Stalin knew that and killed off 10-20 million kulaks to bring about their totalitarian rule - murdered them in cold blood, starved them or shipped them to a near-certain death in slave camps or gulags in Siberia.

(Ironically, Lenin and Stalin could be called very successful, if measured by their own diabolical objectives. And, as current political events might demonstrate, the status of our current national leadership could be ascribed equal, dubious acumen.)

But what happens when the population starts to see through the chosen means of subjugation - the climate hoax - and begins to reject and discard the sacred mantras for the claptrap that they are? Even going so far as repudiating the evangelical efforts of a young, mentally disturbed, modern-day Joan of Arc? And what happens when the misguided plot is repudiated by increasing numbers of even their own?

"Plan B" was ready just in time. Intentionally or otherwise, it was released on the Western world as a Christmas present late in 2019.

The enemy was invisible, but its cataclysmic, economic effect was material. It caused a laughably small number of deaths worldwide, but took a devastating toll on the entire world's trade and economy.

It also provided opportunistic, tyrannical leaders the perfect screen for imposing all the measures necessary for instantaneously turning a free country into a slave state. And most wonderful of all was that the people submitted willingly - these Marxist schemers managed to pull it off with minimal force. Overnight, people everywhere began to suspiciously eye their closest neighbors and friends - not to mention all strangers - as a potential, existential threat. Distancing became more than merely physical for most.

Human touch became a threat, not a comfort; little children were confused by the sudden distancing of those who once snuggled them at family birthday parties and other celebrations - now made socially unacceptable, and illegal.

Virtual martial law was imposed with the complete cooperation of almost everyone - it was for the good of the people! How could anyone organize resistance if meetings could not exceed a group of 5? Protestors were publicly shamed and taken away in handcuffs by police who said, "We're only doing our job". And resistors were turned in by

their neighbors through snitch lines conveniently provided by the government. Big Brother. How "Soviet".

Lenin would be incredulous to see that within one or two generations, an entire army of indoctrinated youth could be marshaled to protest and destroy the foundations of Western democracy and economic achievement. And to see entire countries submit to totalitarian rule with barely more than a weak whimper.

Who would have thought that privately owned businesses could be brought to ruin in mere weeks? It took the Soviet Union a decade or more to reach that amazing goal, with brutal force!

Who would have believed that the majority of the population could be conditioned to settle for a pitiful universal basic income within only months of releasing the invisible enemy? And this, while government employees retained their bloated salaries, benefits and pensions?

Who would have believed that people would willingly queue to receive a shot which was touted as the fix for the invisible enemy? Only to discover that the shot was something designed to inoculate them -not from a biological threat, but from an ideological one: independent thinking and action? Because without it, it was questioned whether one would be allowed to conduct business, or join in groups.

Who would have believed that an economic war could be waged and won on wealthy provinces and countries by enlisting misguided and ill-programmed students of failed philosophies, people whose highest ambition was the destruction of every good thing that provided them with - LIFE!

Who would have believed that the anti-liberty people would have a convenient massacre that would enable a government to disarm the people with the support of the majority of the population? Rather than institute further firearm controls, why did government not just pass a law banning murder? Oh yes, we already have such a law, don't we.

This is Canada, 2020, under Justin Trudeau. This is the one and same man who once, when addressing a lady's group, claimed an affinity for the Chinese dictatorship because it allowed a government to accomplish big goals in a very short time. Will you receive the "vaccine" when it is made available? What is the alternative? Is this the scenario that has been predicted many, many years ago?

There may well be no going back to what we once knew as normal. Is the New World Order upon us? For certain, there are those who are watching public reaction very closely.

The next month or two will be a clear indicator of government intent as the rollbacks on civil liberty restrictions unfold. If we see a return to some sort of "normal", then the concerns raised above are, thankfully, unfounded. But to ensure that our liberties are not permanently removed, each Canadian will need to be vigilant and active in holding our elected officials accountable for their actions and to make sure that the supposed cure is not far worse than the disease.

by John Swartzentrouber

The following is a letter sent by Tom Black, former president of the Ontario Landowners Association to Premier Doug Ford. It appeared in the April 7, 2020 issue of the Ontario Farmer:

Hello Premier Ford,

I would like to congratulate you and your government for the way that you have been handling this terrible crisis that has put the world on shut down. I also agree with you when you said that we must start to bring back to Ontario, the production of products that we all depend on for our health and security. With that in mind, what could be more important than our own food supply.

Competition from countries where the climate is more favourable to growing vegetables and fruits, plus the manipulation of large corporations that have bought up and removed nearly all large canning and processing plants from the Niagara fruit belt, has left Ontario with only seasonal products from this province. This is also a problem with provincial slaughter plants that have virtually disappeared from this province for several reasons but the most often reason was because of aggressive interference of non-health related regulations (demanding dual washrooms in a small plant was just unaffordable).

There is also a shortage of slaughter space in the Federal plants and much of our beef has to go to the United States for processing, which was the case during the “Mad Cow” disaster of 2004 where we could not slaughter our own animals for hamburger. The border closing for over 2 years almost destroyed our cattle industry which has never fully recovered. If this or the next disaster closed the border with the U.S, we will be back in the same situation.

Farm-land is also under pressure all over the province, from the municipal official plans with the Conservation Authorities identifying wetlands that for years have been farmed and the Heritage Groups identifying special features to restrict the use of the land. Tree-cutting bylaws

are stopping farmers from cutting ‘brush’ on farm fields that they have just bought. Often these are farms where the farming operations have been abandoned often due to health or no one to take over. There should never be a restriction on re-clearing land that was farmed a few years ago. There is no Amazon Rain forest being cleared in Ontario, as virtually all land being cleared was farmed before with horses, then abandoned because of two-wheel drive tractors, and now are again viable with tile drainage.

I would ask all politicians to take a close look at agriculture and see how fragile this sector of our society is and then think of how important it is to be self-sufficient in food especially in the time of crisis. The founding fathers of this nation, who wrote the blueprint for how this new country, Canada, was to be operated, put the importance of agriculture above everything except mining. They even allowed farmers to cut the trees reserved for the Crown if it was to create fields, fences or buildings.

I think that it is time to put agriculture back in its special place of importance, where it would be again recognised as an ‘essential service’. Let’s stop these special interest groups like conservation authorities and the MNR from morphing the legislation that they get their power from, into something that says they have control over agriculture.

We have all seen on the news how China turned the boats back that had masks heading for North America, because they needed them. No one blames them for doing that but we should never again allow our country to be dependant on the rest of the world when there is a crisis, we must be self-reliant at least in our food supply.

Our lives and those of our families, depend on it.

*Tom Black
Beef and grain farmer
Stittsville, Ontario*



THE GROWING CHINA THREAT



by Tom DeWeese

Author's note: For years US leaders have pandered to Communist China, ignoring the growing danger from a powerful and hostile enemy. Suddenly our nation finds itself in the middle of a health crisis that started in China, and then we discovered that almost all of our medicines and other vital products are made and controlled by China. Now that the focus is on that relationship, we are also being shocked by how many American industries are actually owned or controlled by them. Well, there is actually much more to the story. In June, 2014, I released the following article to alert Americans of the dangers of dealing with the Red Chinese, specifically through an immigration program called EB-5. Perhaps now, in light of this new crisis more Americans will take greater note of my warnings. With these new developments, I am re-releasing the article.

Is the U.S. Being Colonized by RED CHINA?

by Tom DeWeese

For the past few decades the Communist regime of China has been driving toward world supremacy, both economically and militarily. The regime's main target has been, and is, the United States of America. China's plan to grab power has been clever and unprecedented, seeking victory without firing a shot, reducing its targets to mere frogs in a boiling pot.

Pundits and politicians alike, when excusing their strategic dealings with China, are quick to remind their audiences that today's China is a "centuries old civilization" rich in tradition and ancient religious discipline. A Confucian civilization that is still upset over wrongdoings during the European colonization period.

Such a view is wrong. The China we are confronted with today is nothing like that pre-nineteenth century nation. Since the reign of Mao began in 1949, Communist China, much to the dismay, torture, and death of its own citizens, has been governed by tyrannical thugs, thirsty to expand their dictatorial regime and unrelenting in their hatred of Western Civilization and the United States.

Militarily, China has literally surrounded the US. Once there was a Monroe Doctrine to forbid any foreign power to exert influence in America's back yard, meaning South, Central and North America. All nations respected that doctrine as America vigorously imposed it. That is until China played on the growing weakness of American foreign policy, as when Jimmy Carter gave away the Panama Canal and scuttled all American bases in one of the most strategic locations of American defense. Since then, China has established relationships and bases in several South and Central American nations.

The Chinese are now building the world's largest and most powerful navy, aggressively challenging US naval passage in international waters; it now claims the entire South China Sea as an internal Chinese lake; and it is building an aggressive space program that will give it the ability to counter US satellite supremacy, resulting in its ability to spy on every location on Earth and counter US military supremacy.

The difference between the Chinese threat today and what turned out to be a hollow challenge to the free world by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, is economics. The genius of the Chinese system is that they are using its growing industrial might to create wealth the Soviets could never have dreamed of possessing. China is using its vast wealth (trillions of dollars) compiled from the glut of Chinese goods sold in American stores, to buy its power. It's buying American debt and wielding heavy influence on the American economy.

Now, however, that Chinese economic power is taking a bizarre and exceptionally dangerous turn in local American communities, America, it appears, is on the brink of being colonized, because China is fast becoming the largest land owner in America.

This fact is mostly a result of a program through the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service (USCIS), called Immigrant Investor Regional Centers. The program is known in Washington-Speak as EB-5 Centers, so called because they represent a fifth category of employment-based immigration. In reality, it's a foreign investment program pretending to be a jobs program. To qualify through the plan, applicants must invest \$1,000,000 in a US

business or at least \$500,000 if the business is in an area of high unemployment or rural area. That investment must create or preserve 10 full-time American jobs. In exchange, the immigrant will initially gain legal residency and U.S. Green Cards for their entire family. If the enterprise continues and jobs are created, then the applicant can apply for permanent residence.

According to government reports, since it started in 1990, the EB-5 visa program has brought approximately \$6.7 billion to the US and has created 95,000 jobs.

Entrepreneurs across the nation have set up regional centers for foreign investment to market local EB-5 projects to investors. There are now at least 480 EB-5 regional centers located in all 50 states. California alone has 116 of the centers. Many of these projects are focusing on building housing developments. Others are concerned with buying up dairy farms, cattle ranches, meat packing plants, and other sources of American food supplies. Still more are centered on getting a piece of American energy sources. Some of the centers are state run, others are private investment entities.

Beyond the Green Cards and residency, the immigrants running these projects can also expect government sponsored benefits such as federal and state grants (taxpayer dollars) tax breaks or perhaps no sales taxes on supplies and materials they purchase to put the projects in place. Along with federal agencies, the projects work directly with state and county development corporations for more cooperation and help getting through the regulatory mine fields that ordinary American companies must endure.

EB-5 Immigrant Investor Regional Centers are promoted as jobs programs and as a way to help financially strapped communities to bring in much needed money. As a result, the projects are growing across the nation with little concern expressed over the impact and end result of such foreign involvement in American communities. Marriot and Hilton hotel chains have successfully worked EB-5 investment deals to build new hotels. Sony Pictures Entertainment and Warner Brothers have used EB-5 investments to fund film projects. Even the new home of the NBA's Brooklyn Nets, Barclay Center, was funded through EB-5 investments.

While the program is open to immigrants from around world, the main interest appears to be from Communist China. According to a report by Michael Snyder ("Chinese Buying Land in US Communities all over America"), in 2012 – 2013, 6,900 visas were issued to Chinese nationals out of a total of 8,567 EB-5 visas issued. In 2014, the number of applicants was 50% higher – again driven by Chinese applicants.

When considering this large influx of Chinese – funded projects, it must be understood that there are no private companies in China that are free to act on their own. China is a Communist regime. Nothing happens there without the express permission and backing of the government. Individuals posing as Chinese corporate

leaders are part of that government. They simply wouldn't have that position if not approved by the government. For the most part they are a front. 43% of all corporate profits in China are produced by companies that the Chinese government controls outright. And all the rest of their companies are subservient to the power of the government and are very careful not to stray. Individual Chinese citizens are not free to invest as they wish or to leave the country by their own decision. It takes a complicated process through the Chinese bureaucracy for that to happen. And that's why massive Chinese investments in the EB-5 program are cause for alarm. What are they up to?

In San Francisco, CA, China Vanke signed a deal for a \$620 million luxury condo project. In Oakland, CA, another Chinese company (Zarsion) signed a deal for \$1.5 billion for a development deal. In Irvine, CA a housing development will include some of the nation's largest developers using Chinese money. In New York City, Zhang Xin, CEO of Soho China joined with Banco Safra Bank of Brazil to buy a piece of the General Motors Building in Midtown. A Chinese developer, Dalian Wanda Group, has planned to build a luxury hotel in Manhattan. In Florida, Chinese investors have put \$30 million into the state's Charter Schools, intending to invest even more. 12 Chinese investors put \$16 million into an aquaculture project on 100 acres in Fellsmere, FL. In Virginia, the Chinese bought Smithfield Foods and its 460 large farms and facilities in 26 states, employing tens of thousands of Americans. More recent efforts show the Chinese making major investments in the Detroit auto industry. In Thomasville, Alabama, the Golden Dragon Precise Copper Tube Group is negotiating with city officials to build a new plant. The town has planned to give them a 40-acre site that includes a 50,000 square foot building built by the city – with tax payer money. More such projects have been in the works in Idaho, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and literally every state in the Union.

Americans were shocked to witness a near massacre in the Nevada desert as rancher Cliven Bundy stood his ground against an army of government agents from the Bureau of Land Management. He was accused of letting his cattle graze on public lands, endangering the Desert Tortoise, even though cattle and the Desert Tortoise have coexisted on the range for 100 years. But for this excuse the federal government amassed an army? Not so fast. There is much more to the story. It seems a certain U.S. Senator had been involved with EB-5 real estate deals for some time. And that issue had close ties to the Bundy situation.

ENN Energy Group wanted to build a 5 billion dollar solar farm in the Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone, on which Bundy's farm is located. Who were the investors for ENN? The Chinese, using the EB-5 program. Who represented ENN in its negotiations? Rory Reid, Senator Harry Reid's son. This little band had already run 52 other ranchers in the area. Bundy is the last one left. So was the BLM there in force for turtles or as the private enforcement machine of a corrupt Senator seeking to fill his pockets with cash?

Senator Reid is the one who said, "This isn't over yet." He's apparently was in a position to know.

However, Reid isn't the only public figure involved in EB-5 schemes. A little research will also reveal an EB-5 deal by Anthony Rodham, Hillary Clinton's brother and former son in law of Barbra Boxer. Also in that deal was Terry McAuliffe, former Clinton advisor and former Governor of Virginia. These two gained EB-5 investments for their car company. And then there is Alejandro Mayorkas, who helped push through the deal for McAuliffe and Rodham. Mayorkas was the number two man at the Department of Homeland Security, aided in getting that position through some questionable maneuvering during his confirmation hearings by none other Senator Harry Reid.

But perhaps the most aggressive Chinese project has taken place in Sullivan County, New York in the Catskill Mountains. This project is called China City. It will eventually cover over 2,000 acres spread over the towns of Thompson and Mamakating. It will include a Chinese-themed gambling/entertainment complex, hotels, China-related businesses, a high school, a college and 1,000 residences. According to the plan, every province of China will have an office there and the city will be full of symbols of Chinese culture. When finished it would be a \$6 billion project, including a \$65 million federal grant of tax payer money along with the other incentives such as tax breaks on building supplies and property taxes.

At a public meeting, a local citizen asked the China City spokesman if Americans will be allowed to live there. The vague answer was "well, you can visit our amusement park and stay in our hotels." Is this how Americans are to be treated in their own country, in a project paid in part by American taxpayer dollars? And exactly what American jobs will be created (as required) in a planned city where no Americans can live? Will the Chinese government send its own workers to do the construction of the city? And what security process will be used to assure such workers are not involved in espionage?

This is a legitimate concern when dealing with the Communist Chinese government. While brilliant in its strategy, it is single minded in its goal – supremacy. The United States has always stood in its way to achieve that supremacy. But the waning American economy and a US government that no longer sees communism as a threat, makes us vulnerable to a power that knows exactly what it seeks.

American communities are so hungry for money that they will ignore almost anything. Red flags should go up when locals are told they can't live in China City. Why? Is this simply about an investment opportunity, or is China City, and other Chinese investments, actually to be Chinese colonies? Why will it house offices from every China province? Do we know what those offices are to do? Who will man them? Obviously that is not where the 10 permanent American jobs will come from.

It's important to note that the Canadian government decided to halt its immigrant investor program due to the

large number of Chinese applications that were found to be fraught with fraud and corruption and to be of little economic benefit to the country. Meanwhile, the US is expanding such programs to make it much easier for foreign investment and ultimately unfettered foreign espionage. We're creating special foreign trade zones (FTZ) designed to give special US customs treatment to US companies that go along with the EB-5 projects. That means security will be lacking in the interest of "good relations."

Yet, it was just over a decade ago that US intelligence discovered the Chinese had taken control of both ends of the Panama Canal. Using a shill company called Hutchison Whampoa, which was wholly owned by the Chinese People's Liberation Army, it negotiated a 25 to 50 year lease for the Canal ports. As the United States pulled out of our Panamanian bases and headed home, corrupt Panamanian officials were busy selling former US property to the highest bidders and Columbian drug lords, Russian Mafia and a horde of Chinese "immigrants" filled the void. It was like the bar scene in Star Wars.

Would the Chinese put in missile bases with weapons that could reach the US? As Bill Clinton assured us that everything was just fine, the Chinese were busy negotiating with the Cuban Communist regime and several other South American countries to create a Chinese presence in the entire region surrounding the Panama Canal. They now considered it their territory for the taking.

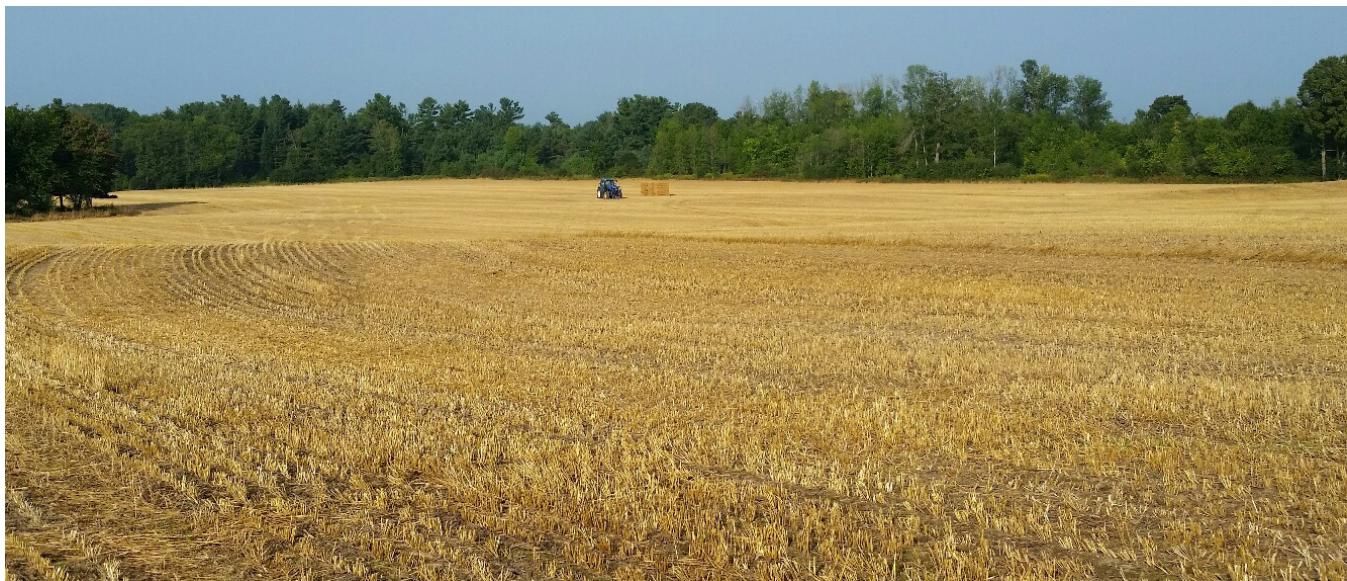
Is this now what faces American cities where EB-5 investment programs are being imposed with Chinese Communist money? As a new assault by hordes of Chinese "immigrants" legally invade our nation, filling housing developments and building their own cities, our culture will be affected. Even our system of government could change in areas where Chinese populations begin to grow and perhaps even outnumber Americans. All from an enemy we let through the front door in a government program, based more on greed than American interests.

Like the invasion of the body snatchers, it appears the Chinese, aided by a compliant American government, have a well-devised strategic plan to literally colonize the once great United States of America – without ever firing a shot.**

Special thanks to New York Property Rights activist Lynn Teger for her help in researching this article.

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.



Letters from our Readers

I like your magazine, both the previously printed version and the current digital version. They collectively represent the history of now-improving Ontario farm life in the McGuinty-Wynne-Ford eras.

The film “Planet of the Humans” raised, I think, three major points: it described the nonsense of the “green” movement, warned of the dangers of unlimited growth (including human population) and suggested that we must get pollution under control. I agree with all those concerns.

The Landowner Association continues to solicit funds for a defence of property rights. I think you should remind us of it, for one day the fight will probably go to the (expensive) Supreme Court. A win could finally end the CAs’ dominance of municipalities and farmers, and other dictatorships.

Please keep writing. Farmers need your voice to be heard.

Charles Hooker East Garafraxa

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Lessons we should have learned from the coronavirus disaster so far.

By Jim Merriam

Population density

It's a huge problem. People living on top of each other in those ugly skyscrapers in cities such as Toronto are more at risk than those of us lucky enough to live in rural Ontario.

The same of course applies in spades to the residents of care homes and even the incarcerated in our jails.

These are not easy problems to solve, if they are even solvable at all. But cities such as Toronto still were promoting growth at all costs right up to the day things were shut down. It's a pretty safe bet they'll be back at that promotion once things open up again.

Perhaps some smaller cities could take some of the overflow (with government help to provide services.) And the government should lead this effort.

For example, what better place for staff working for the ministry of northern affairs than Timmins? Or the ministry of tourism in the Muskokas? You get the picture.

Tourism promotion

Many smaller communities in our area and many others have touted tourism as a major economic driver for the future.

This kind of promotion has worked so well that the traffic jams in beach areas on weekends can be nearly as bad as anything you see in the Big Smoke. Since this migration of people for short term stays contributes to population density in areas outside the cities, perhaps it's time to do a cost-benefit analysis on tourism before we go back to promoting it blindly.

Health care.

The only people who really count in health care are the front line workers – those who interact with,

treat and care for patients and clean up behind them.

Which means there are millions of dollars being spent in the system on bureaucrats and paper pushers. This has been true for a long time in Ontario but it is long past time we dealt with it.

Instead of cutting nursing jobs, fighting with doctors over their pay and putting silly rules into place for those front line folks, thousands of the bureaucrats should be used for coronavirus tracing. In other words, get them out of their cozy offices and put them to work doing something useful.

In any number of hospitals, prominent display is given to pictures of the board chairs, the board members and others. I commented on this once in a column, suggesting it should be doctors' pictures front and centre. A health care executive replied that if I were more involved in health care (which I became eventually as a communications consultant) I'd understand that doctors are just too hard to deal with. The extension of this argument would be that the real heroes of health care are the paper pushers. Which of course is a load of hooey.

I've also been heavily involved with the system over the past 20 years in my battle with cancer. And tell you what: not a single bureaucrat has been there to help.

God bless the front line workers. We need more of them, not fewer. Tons of money can be saved in the ivory towers. Then we can use those funds to rebuild the front lines.

Let's quite closing beds. Let's quit laying off nurses. Let's quit fighting with doctors. Instead let's concentrate on helping them do their jobs.

Political leadership

It seems trite to point out that the true test of leadership comes during times of crisis. History abounds with examples with Winston Churchill being

the first one that springs to mind.

This coronavirus thing has clearly illustrated how ill equipped U.S. President Donald Trump is to lead a local dog pound, let alone the most powerful nation in the world.

His failure to heed dozens of early warnings about the coming crisis has left him with blood on his hands – the blood of thousands of Americans.

One of his supporters recently pointed out that all folks at that level of leadership end up with blood on their hands. True that. But not because of stupidity, incompetence and runaway narcissism, all of which define the Trump presidency.

Closer to home Ontario Premier Doug Ford has surprised many with the way he has taken charge and command of the situation. I was one of his detractors but I must admit to being impressed.

In Ottawa, Justin Trudeau has likewise surprised many with his leadership and yet his biggest fault, his lack of judgment, comes glaring through.

It is this lack of judgment that brought us black face incidents. Now it is shown in the fact he took his family to the cottage over the Easter weekend while advising everyone else to stay home. Clearly the man just doesn't get it.

In spite of that serious flaw in his character I'm grateful he is in charge and not Andrew Scheer.

Besides lacking in the necessary leadership abilities, Scheer also travelled across the country with his family on Easter weekend, making him no better than the incumbent PM on that front.

Pollution

If there's a silver lining in all this, it's the proof that human activity is the cause of climate change and pollution.

As has been stated elsewhere, the cars and trucks and airplanes are all pretty much at a standstill but the same number of cows are still farting

into the environment.

Since skies are clearing, marine life is returning to waters in a number of places around the globe and birds are singing songs not heard for some time, we now have seen the culprits. And as Pogo once said, “it is us.”

Less travel, more work from home and such should be part of any structure going forward. It’s not the total answer but it sure would help. Every bit as much as a carbon tax, I suspect.

Finances

Billions of dollars are being spent by governments to help citizens through this crisis. For the most part it’s billions of dollars they don’t have.

Getting back to the Pumpkin Patch President of the U.S. for a moment, he had already run the debt higher than any president in history to give his rich buddies a tax break. And who knows how much Canada spent sending the PM around the world in his quest of a seat on the Security Council of the UN.

Tell you what, a Security Council seat means squat when compared with thousands of deaths from this disease.

It’s time governments got their priorities straight and dealt with the issues people need them to deal with instead of those driven by ego and political point scoring.

And one of those issues is fiscal responsibility. The government of Canada has got to stop spending on every “cause” around the world and start paying attention to needs at home, including problems such as the shameful lack of potable water in a number of First Nations communities.

And a percentage of every dollar taken in must be set aside in a rainy day fund. That applies to every citizen of the country as well.

Media

I got my first job in a daily newspaper at age 17 and I was into my 70s when the industry and I finally parted company.

In all that time I was a bit of a media critic, albeit a relatively quiet one. The thing I hated most was pack journalism – everyone chasing and publishing or broadcasting the same story, day after day.

I remember a prime minister who took a daily walk in the snow to consider resigning. Every newspaper and broadcaster in the country breathlessly published or broadcast the daily story that there was no resignation yet. In other words, there was no news.

Those stories were banned in my newspaper because they were simply pack journalism.

People have turned off media for a number of reasons and this following

the pack syndrome is not the least of these.

Another issue that has become clear after weeks of being glued to TV news is the stupid question. Man, we ask some stupid questions. I saw one Covid-19 patient on oxygen being asked what it would be like when she got off oxygen and when that would be.

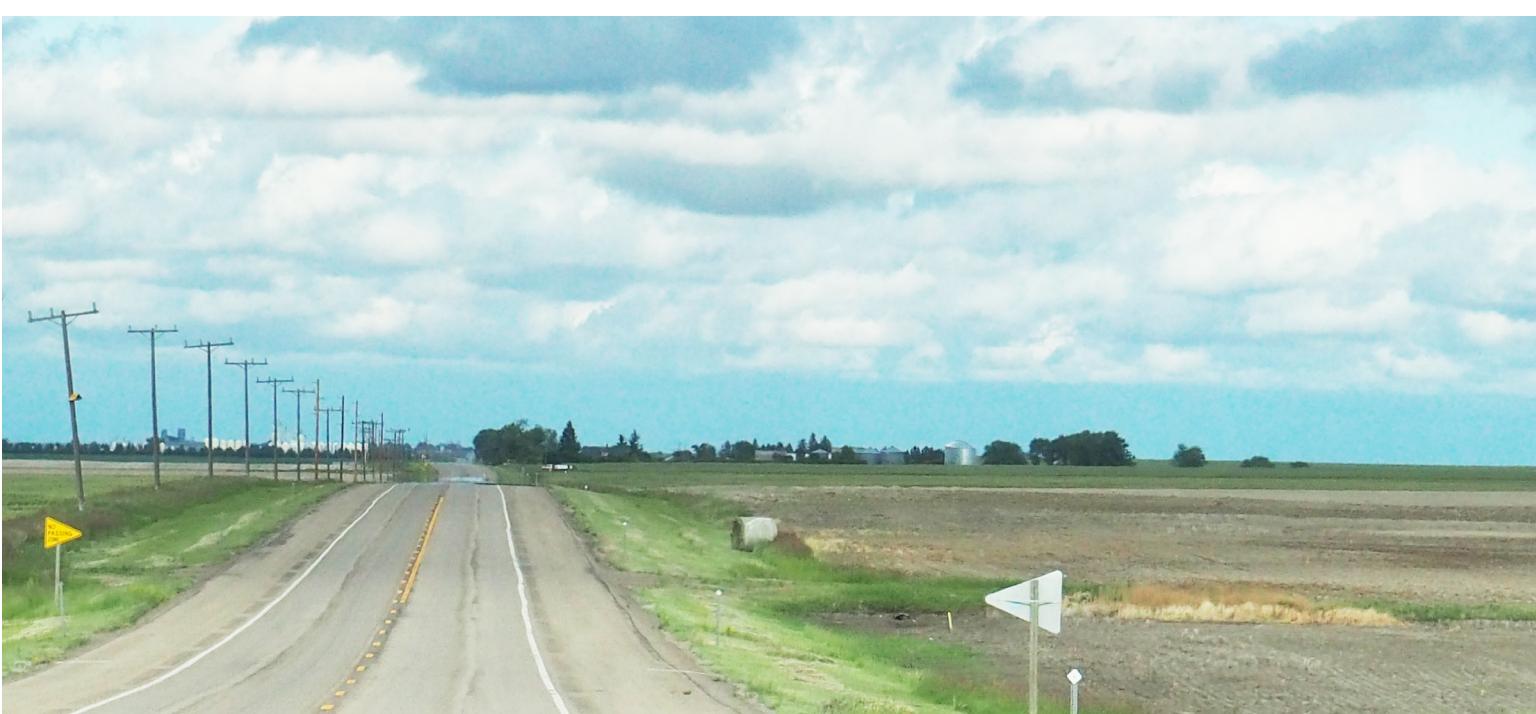
Come on folks, the best experts in the world couldn’t answer that question but you expect a patient to give you a clip for the 6 o’clock news?

Journalists by and large are doing a good job of keeping politicians’ feet to the fire in this unprecedented time. But anyone who leans in favour of the politicians and dislikes journalists will be turned off by stupid questions – they are a dime a dozen in broadcast media in North America.

So a word of advice. If the answer to your question is not going to add anything real to the story, don’t ask it.

Overall, as a columnist I take no pleasure in pointing out that I’ve been advocating for many of the aforementioned changes for a number of years. But nobody wants to listen to a lonely voice from a mule farm in Bruce County. Maybe it’s time officialdom listened to the people, of which I am only one.

jimmerriam@hotmail.com



Ontario Protecting Critical Front-Line Justice Services in Response to COVID-19

March 19, 2020 11:00 A.M.
Ministry of the Attorney General

NEWS Release

TORONTO — Today, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Doug Downey, Attorney General, issued the following statement in response to COVID-19 and the government's commitment to keep communities safe while continuing to hold offenders accountable:

"The health and well-being of Ontarians is our government's number one priority. This commitment extends across the vast network of justice partners and individuals who interact with the justice system on a daily basis.

We are working around the clock with our partners to respond to this constantly evolving public health issue. Adjustments are being made throughout the justice system to minimize disruption and continue to provide seamless, responsive justice services to all Ontarians, particularly the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Technology Solutions and Prioritizing Urgent Matters

To sustain these efforts and to address health and safety concerns raised by legal service professionals, Ontario courts and tribunals are limiting in-person proceedings and making use of audio and video conferencing to hear priority matters remotely, where possible. Justice partners are working collaboratively to develop and deploy technology solutions and other innovative tools across the province to ensure urgent matters can be heard without needing to appear in person. This approach will also help to mitigate the potential impacts of possible service disruptions. Courts and tribunals are also deferring non-urgent matters

until they can be managed safely and securely.

Ontario's judges and justices of the peace continue to prioritize critical matters such as criminal and child protection proceedings. There is strong collaboration across the system to ensure that urgent and priority legal matters continue to be heard before our courts and tribunals.

All Tribunals Ontario in-person proceedings, including at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, Landlord and Tenant Board and Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, are postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date. Where feasible, alternative hearing options such as written and telephone hearings will be considered. Front-line counter services will be closed until further notice.

We are also working very closely with our partners and colleagues in Ontario's court systems to ensure Ontarians can see justice done while also prioritizing the protection of public health in the province. The following actions have been taken across the justice system:

- The Superior Court of Justice has suspended all regular court operations until further notice, while continuing to hear urgent matters during this emergency period.
 - All sittings of the Small Claims Court in Ontario are suspended until further notice.
 - The Ontario Court of Justice has established procedures to reduce the number of people who attend court in-person for criminal and family matters. All non-urgent matters have been adjourned.
 - All Provincial Offences Act matters scheduled up to and including April 3, 2020 will be adjourned and rescheduled to a later date. Tickets,

fines or other court business may be handled online.

- The Court of Appeal has suspended all scheduled appeals until April 3, 2020. During this period, urgent appeals will be heard based on either the written materials or remotely.

Keeping People Safe

We are committed to ensuring Ontarians remain safe and secure during this challenging time and are looking at all tools to help individuals and families stay in their homes. As part of this approach, the Ministry of the Attorney General has been granted an order suspending the enforcement of residential evictions until ordered otherwise by the court. Tribunals Ontario will not issue any new eviction orders until further notice. Sheriff's offices have been asked to postpone any scheduled enforcement of eviction orders currently set for this week.

We want to thank our partners at the Superior and Ontario Courts of Justice, Tribunals Ontario, and the front-line workers across our justice system who are working hard to keep everyone safe and healthy while maintaining the administration of justice in our province.

Ontario takes the health and safety of court users, staff and the judiciary very seriously. As this public health situation evolves, the government is committed to providing Ontarians with safe and reliable access to critical front-line services, including supporting the delivery of justice at its courthouses and tribunals. We are closely monitoring developments and will continue to provide updates as the situation evolves."



HOW ARE YOU DOING?

by Shirley Dolan

When this article is delivered to your inbox on May 1st, we will have reached our 46th day of lockdown in Ontario. Somehow, it seems longer. Some have settled into a routine based on what is being called “the new normal”. Others are finding it more difficult to adapt.

I confess to being in the former group. I am lucky enough to live in the wide-open spaces of rural Ottawa. Now that the weather is getting nicer, I can get outside, clean up my flower gardens, and start preparing to plant the vegetable garden. If its raining ... well, there are several hobbies and activities that keep me busy in the house. Having embraced social media several years ago, I am not experiencing the same degree of isolation as some may be feeling. I have joined a couple of Facebook groups (For the Love of Crows, Ancient Stones of Britain and Ireland) that are amusing and interesting. And there is my all-time favourite: The Lucky Ron Facebook Live Show (https://www.facebook.com/events/215904256145296/?event_time_id=215904259478629) every Saturday night at 5 PM. I've been able to work around most of the new rules, which seem to change every day. If its not available, we do without and put it on next week's list. I was even able to visit my doctor to get a tick bite checked out for Lyme disease. Most essential services are there but everything takes longer. I've become a master at organizing my grocery list by aisle to reduce the time spent in the store.

Kudos to all the health care workers, truckers, grocery store workers, and all those essential

workers, and yes, the politicians too, who are living and working under the stress of the pandemic. Their courage and perseverance is phenomenal. For the most part, Premier Ford seems to be doing a pretty good job. Where he has failed, and he has more or less acknowledged this, is in long term care homes. A true leader, he hasn't passed the buck or blamed anyone else for the deplorable conditions in seniors' homes ... he just got busy fixing the problem. This won't be easy; these homes have been neglected for years, and hopefully they won't be forgotten after the pandemic is over.

I have been hoping that governments and agencies would work together and make sure farmers' markets open on time, as well as community markets. Good news: community gardens have been deemed an essential service and it looks like Farmers' Markets will open this year.

There is a lot of blame and shame going on ... the negative side of social media. Dr. Theresa Tam, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, has come under fire for her handling of the pandemic. She lost my respect when she defended Prime Minister Trudeau's shipment of 16 tonnes of personal protective equipment to China in February. That was a political position and the optics are very bad especially now that Canada is experiencing shortages and, if we can believe the news, China is sending our planes back empty without supplies and when they do arrive, they are defective.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa, the City is being lobbied to increase urban intensification with even greater densities in the downtown core. I am

wondering if we want to rethink this given the strict physical distancing rules we are currently under. Certainly, viruses have an easier time of spreading in dense populations. No one knows when the next pandemic will come along and of course, we do have the flu season each year. Infection, even for flu, can be greatly reduced by physical distancing so is intensification really where we want to go? Wash your hand ... don't touch your face. That will be the mantra for some time to come yet, I fear. Somehow or other, I have not been able to train myself to not touch my face.

Keep well and hang in there. I know there are many who are suffering greatly through this pandemic. **



Here we go again! Take ‘dem’ out of ‘pandemic’ and you’ve got ‘panic’

The major radical socialist dictators of the 20th century - Lenin, Mussolini, Hitler and Mao - were able to seize control of their governments' institutions, and order the slaughter of tens of millions of people, by promising to bring order (prosperity) out of (real or imagined) chaos.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary, 1956 edition, defined socialism as: “(the) principle that individual freedom should be completely subordinated to (the) interests of (the) community.” [brackets mine] This was the definition accepted by proponents and opponents alike, from the early 1800’s through the 1950’s.

In a public speech in Munich on July 22, 1922, Hitler asserted, “Whoever is prepared to make the national cause his own to such an extent that he knows no higher ideal than the welfare of his nation: ... that man is a socialist.” (“Nazi” comes from Nazional Socialistische Deutsches Arbeiters Partei - National Socialist German Workers Party).

Countries in which the principles of classical liberalism were more or less applied and in which the majority of citizens were thereby enabled to reach levels of personal freedom and prosperity unprecedented in all of mankind’s history, have been under attack for more than a century and a half by Radical socialists and their fellow-travelling LiberalSocialDemocrat (LSD) socialists. Military conflict, both directly and by proxies, has been tried. Economic competition has been tried. Attempts have been made to exploit internal divisions of tribalism, religion and class. Nothing has worked completely but the counter efforts have been costly and draining.

The current draconian, world wide shutdown re Covid 19 is just the latest test of ways to control world populations. Tests of crisis-creating, economy-crippling tactics began in earnest in the 1960’s. Global Cooling didn’t work, Asian flu, Avian flu, Swine flu, SARS I and Ebola were too small, Y2K was a yawner, Global Warming/Climate Change/ Climate Crisis is being demolished by real science, so lets try a pandemic. The really scary thing is how so many historically-illiterate people, driven by the mainstream and social media, have responded like brain dead sheep. Lenin’s eight tactics for seizing control of a country’s government institutions for Socialism are working.

“There are eight levels of control that must be obtained before you are able to create a social state.

- 1) Healthcare – Control healthcare and you control the

people. DONE

2) Poverty – Increase the poverty level as high as possible, poor people are easier to control and will not fight back if you are providing everything for them to live. NOT DONE

3) Debt – Increase the debt to an unsustainable level. That way you are able to increase taxes, and this will produce more poverty. NEARLY DONE

4) Gun Control – Remove the ability to defend themselves from the Government. That way you are able to create a police state. IN PROGRESS

5) Welfare – Take control of every aspect of their lives (Food, Housing, and Income). MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION ALREADY DEPENDENT ON SOME FORM OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY

6) Education – Take control of what people read and listen to – take control of what children learn in school. DONE

7) Religion – Remove the belief in the God from the Government and schools. DONE

8) Class Warfare – Divide the people into the wealthy and the poor. This will cause more discontent and it will be easier to tax the wealthy with the support of the poor.” DONE

The LSD socialists in the west subsequently added - Destroy belief in and support for chastity, marriage, fidelity and the nuclear family. DONE

This is the current situation in the United States and Canada and especially Europe. It’s the script for world conquest by socialism. God have mercy on our children.

The only real question is whether we’ll end up with a ‘1984’ system of populations controlled by blocs, or, whether it’ll be a ‘Brave New World’ of Davos alphas using the UN’s apparatchiks and state-supporting police and armed forces to install their Agenda 21 by 2030.

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From our House to Yours

by Marlene Black



Hello readers,

As I sit here wondering what to write about, I can't find an answer. The usual suspects like conservation authorities or overstepping bylaw officers don't seem to resonate like they used to. We are all kind of stranded in no man's land. No one knows when our lives will re-open: when we can go shopping again, or go to restaurants, or movies or to hockey and football games. No one knows when we can have weddings again with all our friends in attendance or when we can travel. In a few short months, our lives have changed and what we kind of took for granted, is now morphing into a new reality.

Tom is still out farming, feeding chickens and cows and we recently bought 2 Dorper lambs which will give the grandchildren some more animals to tame but that is about it. Tom has been doing some yard clean up jobs with high-hoes and tractors so the farm is slowly taking on a new look. We still go to the feed store to pick up chicken feed and I go along for the ride and to get out of the house. I have been trying the online

grocery order which worked well except when you forget to include something and it's another 2 week wait.

It is so hard to imagine that a virus from across the globe can bring the world to a standstill but it has. It's seems to be a very contagious virus which is deadly to certain people and definitely rough on many others. It is hard to know where it will all go.

That aside, we are still so fortunate to live in Canada where most of us have all the necessities close at hand, water, food, shelter, telephones and televisions so communication isn't cut off at all like the civilizations of the past that also endured deadly viruses but without all the modern conveniences or the present day medical advances, equipment, researchers and hospitals full of doctors, nurses and support staff. For that we are very lucky.

I have watched a few Netflix movies and one that showed the courage of the human spirit called 'Breathe' was about a young man who got polio in the 1950s and how he came to improve the lives of others with it. It was based on a true story. It was also a virus with devastating results that luckily was eventually stopped short with a vaccine but there are still people who are suffering the effects of that virus which was a big scare in the not so distant past.

Today we added a new chore to Toms list: we picked up another baby lamb whose mother was unable to feed her and she needs to be bottle fed. Perhaps the grandchildren will decide that that is more appealing than homework so we'll see but even in semi-retirement, it is still nice to have a bit of animal life to greet you in the morning.

Hopefully restrictions will ease up somewhat in the coming weeks and people can get out and enjoy the summer weather even though it will probably be some time before the usual crowded summer events are back in full swing. I hope that you have all managed OK in this new reality.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy summer and hopefully things will return to 'normal' in the not too distant future.

**



Sticky Cockle

by Mel Fisher



OK, old folks who grew up in the Wabigoon valley in Northwestern Ontario, put on your thinking caps. Remember when we walked to school, some 60 or 70 years ago? Remember the ditches along the mile or two of country road we travelled were colourful with wildflowers, wild peas and goldenrod and clover? Flowering weeds like devils paintbrush and buttercups and daisies and even lupins gone wild? Big stalks of sweet clover here and there? Wild strawberries galore in open areas in early summer? Lots of wild roses, and in fall the flowers would morph into rose hips, and we would nibble their red shell as we walked along? (Now we hear rose hips are full of good stuff, maybe those of us still here in our 80's are the ones who ate them). Remember there was a red glow of fireweed on every decent bulldozed bank? A fringe of milkweed along the edge of the garden, and Monarch butterflies a common sight?

OK, now think say 30 years ago, ditches mostly rough wild grass, not much for wildflowers, fewer strawberries, no fireweed or milkweed.

OK, old farm kids, remember back when clover seed was king? The seed cleaning technology of the day could not separate Sticky Cockle seeds from clover seeds, so the weed Sticky Cockle had to be kept at bay, and we all did time in the clover fields, picking the Sticky Cockle by hand.

I don't remember noticing any amount of Sticky Cockle in my gardens over the past 30 years, but these last few it has come back with a vengeance. I am seeing a lot more Sow Thistles (the ones with a flower like a dandelion) than in recent decades, also getting like the old days.

Have you noticed the huge increase in fireweed blooming madly all over this year? Sixty years ago southern Ontario farmers would haul their beehives north so the bees could harvest honey from all the fireweed. There has been no fireweed to speak of for decades, this year it can be seen everywhere.

Remember 60 years ago we could pick Saskatoon berries by the water-pail full along the edge of our fields and pastures, where the bears would stop before coming out into the open, and dump a load of berry seed? I haven't seen enough Saskatoon's to be worth picking in decades, but I am told folks are picking them again this year. And I discovered a giant sweet clover plant hiding among the hops along my garden – a volunteer, and nothing like it has

been planted there in at least 50 years! Some folks have noticed Milkweed again, not seen for years!

Put all this together, and it seems that our wild vegetation has cycled back to a lot more like it was when we were kids, and not much like say 40 years ago, when we were worried about the coming Ice Age.

All nature goes in cycles, and maybe we have a 70 year cycle going on in our wild vegetation. Wild plants and nature, a much more reliable climate guide than any computer model. If so, in 20 or 30 years we will once again be worried about the coming Ice Age. Just a thought.

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April 03, 2020.

Via E-mail: minister.mecp@ontario.ca andrea.khanjin@ontario.ca Nicholas.Stacey@ontario.ca

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Minister Yurek,

The Ontario Landowners Association extends our gratitude to your government for the positive steps taken in the current COVID-19 health crisis.

We hope that you, your family, friends, employees and colleagues are safe and doing well under the current circumstances.

Minister Yurek, the Ontario Landowners Association wishes to extend our appreciation for your invitation to attend the Stakeholder meetings held this past January and February.

The response I have received from these meetings has been exceptional and positive.

To continue this positive dialogue and relationship, we must convey to you our deep concern on issues that you must be made aware of.

I include Ministers Hardeman, Clark and Yakabuski for the purpose of keeping them informed of this developing situation and the effects it may have on their Ministries.

For your reference, I have two letters, one from Tom Black, Past President of the OLA and Elizabeth Marshall, Director of Research. These letters will give you a general understanding of the problem.

The people of Ontario are blessed with a prosperous Agricultural industry that continues to develop and prosper since the early 1800's.

The OLA takes the position, that the Agricultural industry in Ontario is facing a serious situation that must be addressed as quickly as possible as a direct result of the COVID-19 health crisis.

In Ontario, we have one growing season, which is extended for some food products by using greenhouse technology. Corn, soybeans, potatoes and hay are some examples that are not greenhouse products. We cannot rely on greenhouse technology alone to supply the people of Ontario. Every growing season has specific procedures to follow and timelines to meet. The delivery of seed, fertilizer and when equipment can access fields to begin the planting process are two examples. The weather is not something that can be ordered from a catalogue, but I have been told prayers do work. This year, there will be no guarantee that food production from other Provinces and other countries will not have their growing season and harvest impacted by COVID-19. What is important, is to do everything possible to ensure the growing season in Ontario is successful and that every hinderance and interference has been removed.

I am receiving complaints that Conservation Authorities are charging farmers, interfering with Normal Farm Practice and requiring Permits from Municipalities before maintenance of Municipal drains can be commenced.

The people of Ontario are stressed because of COVID-19 and the direct effect it is having on their incomes, businesses, homes, rent, health, family and friends. What they do not need, is the additional stress of any interference in food production and food prices. Not having lettuce in grocery stores in February is an inconvenience, not having Ontario apples or potatoes in February is unacceptable. This is not a chicken little, “the sky is falling” letter. Our purpose is to bring to your attention that COVID-19 will affect food production in Ontario. To what degree the effect will be is unknown at this time.

The important question ... “Will we have an abundant Fall harvest, or will we have shortages?”, the Fall harvest will give us that answer. What is the prudent course of action to take during the COVID-19 health crisis?

The prudent course of action is to remove any known barrier that could interfere with food production and to support the Agricultural industry with every available tool at our disposal.

This afternoon, I listened intently to Premier Ford announcing the closure of additional sections of the construction industry and projecting COVID-19 deaths between 3,000 and 15,000 people over the next two years. This is heart breaking news. How many

survivors will have long term physical effects of the virus. What will the long-term emotional upheaval and financial strain have on families? This Pandemic will have significant implications for our society and economy.

Based on 2016 census data, the average age of a farmer in Ontario is 55.3 years. As of April 2, 35% of all COVID-19 cases in Canada are between the ages of 50 and 69. We can not assume that all farmers in Ontario are male, although historically this has been a high percentage. What is not in these statistics, is that family farms are operated by couples. If either partner becomes ill, the farm operation is directly affected. Our farming community is in a high-risk age category.

Minister Yurek, to ensure the best possible harvest for this growing season, we are asking for a Ministerial directive instructing Conservation Authorities to remove themselves from interfering in Normal Farm Practice. To allow fields to be tile drained, Municipal drains to be “cleaned out”, fields that have been left fallow to be re-claimed for food production and removal of the requirement for permits and studies, the time and cost for which neither is available. The growing season is underway, and Time is of the Essence.

When this health crisis is over, Ontario will still be here. We will mourn our lost family members and friends. We will return to work, our children will go to school, our lives will go forward. We will emerge from this crisis stronger than before. Ministers, the Ontario Landowners Association is here to assist, offer suggestions, recommendations and consultation. We stand ready to help you, help the people of Ontario, so we may always have a Place to Stand and a Place to Grow! We are all in this together!

Sincerely,
Jeff D. Bogaerts
President
Ontario Landowners Association



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ONE SET OF RULES FOR ALL CANADIANS – NO MATTER WHERE YOU RESIDE!!

Today we find ourselves at a crossroads in the Confederation of Canada and it has nothing to do with the Corona Virus. It is all about the special treatment afforded to the Province of Quebec while all others, especially those in the West, are left out in the cold.

This must change or we will likely see the end of Confederation in our time.

A. Meritocracy Federal Government's disastrous Social Engineering Experiment, better known as the *Official Languages Act*:

1. It has split and divided Canadians on the basis of race and language;
2. Forced Bilingualism ensures that neither the best nor the brightest are hired;
3. Over 80% of Canadians are left on the outside looking in when it comes to qualifying for good paying government jobs;
4. Far too many government positions are arbitrarily deemed to be bilingual Federally, Provincially and Municipally;

B. Equal Treatment

1. We need to begin by treating Quebec like any other province or territory:
 - Cease exempting Quebec's vast hydro electric income from consideration when determining its annual entitlement to transfer payments;
 - Cease the rampant Corporate Welfare for Quebec's businesses and indeed, even though it is a much lesser problem, this should apply to all businesses across Canada. If they need corporate bailouts, they are in the wrong business;
 - Permit the construction of pipelines through

Quebec to enable the West to transport their oil to our Eastern Provinces and of course to the Province of Quebec itself.

2. We fully understand the frustrations felt by the residents of the Western Provinces, as a result of the very discriminatory treatment they have received at the hands of the Federal Liberal Government. We believe that if the Federal Government was to reverse its hostile policies now, it will not be too late to see this damage undone.

C. Decentralization Federal Governments of all stripes have shown time after time that they are incapable of governing a country as large and diverse as ours. So the final piece of the puzzle to correct our flawed Confederation is to limit the role of the Federal Government to the following core areas:

- a. Foreign Affairs
- b. National Defence / Security
- c. National Finance & Banking - and,
- d. Foreign Trade & Commerce

Everything else would be left to the Provinces; indeed Quebec has already ceded many of these hereto Federal Powers unto itself, including Immigration, Income Taxes, CPP and of course Language.

We'd love to hear from you. Please send your suggestions and comments to:

info@languagefairness.ca

We can only continue our battle if we get your support – moral & financial. Please help when & where you can.

Thank you!

CLF Board of Directors

Hello from the
old Jackass

Howdy folks,

Pandemic Pandemonium



It certainly is no understatement that 2020 will be a year of adversity in the historic records. Man has suffered many pandemics over the ages and bouts with polio and tuberculosis come to mind as medicine waged war with their annihilation.

The bubonic plague spawned and spread courtesy of fleas who fed on the blood of infected rats. This pandemic killed all it afflicted in much of Europe through the middle ages.

It certainly is mind boggling and almost unimaginable in this current age of affluence how the covid-19 virus and its fatal implications has put the entire globe on its knees.

In this age of modern medicine who would have predicted we would be held hostage by an unknown virus borne in the live animal markets in China?

It's unfortunate this virus is spread by person to person contact, and courtesy of affluence and our jet setting mentality has been seeded to all four corners of the globe.

With modern aircraft, the disease's spread has been expedited as one has the capacity to leave Tokyo and arrive in Toronto in a matter of hours.

What is truly disturbing is the devastation covid-19 can unleash upon captive patients in hospital and old age facilities. These vulnerable elderly souls have become veritable sitting ducks to the virus courtesy of casual exposure or infected caretakers acting as unknown vectors in the pandemic's spread.

For many the implications and mandated protective measures are a new and foreign aspect essential for healthy day to day life. Social distancing and self-isolation are new

protocols which we must embrace and diligently employ in order to win this veritable life and death battle we are currently waging.

Much like the battle against the charitable OSPCA which many OLA members participated in, perseverance and participation by many will defeat the enemy.

OSPCA enforcement is no more as we now have the new PAWS Act and enforcers with government oversight.

An encounter with the OSPCA was no walk in the park as you were

guilty from the start and mandated to prove your innocence.

I among others fought the OSPCA and survived. We can fight the covid-19 virus and also be victorious but the onus is on everyone to follow proper protocol. I can assure all, battling covid-19 is a picnic compared to battling a vindictive private charity with no compassion and dollar signs tattooed on their eye lids.

Wishing all landowners the best in health and we will win this battle together.

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