

Landowner Voices

LV

November/December 2020

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Landowner Voices

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PHOTO of cover shot: Rural Ottawa by Shirley Dolan

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

November/December 2020



South of the Border

by Tom Black

Hello Folks,

In my last article, I spoke to you about how important I believed the US election was at this time in history and that I believed that North America needed President Trump for the next four years. Well folks, I guess that the voters in the United States didn't get my message. That's right! As I write these words, Joe Biden has been named as the President Elect and will be sworn in as president in January 2021.

But how can that be? On election night when I went to bed, Trump was ahead in many states that would have insured another four years, but now three days later, they are still counting votes and these ballots seem to only improve Bidens chances. Also, was there ever another election when the party of the President held on or went up in both Houses of Government, but the leader of that party did not continue to be President?

Trump and his team will fight in court to prove there was election fraud and maybe they will find something, but more likely, Trump will be gone by January. The real fraud was done during the past four years, by the rabid medias hatred for all things Trump, the extreme left wing of the Democratic Party, the extreme right wing of the Republican Party, the always wise movie actors and sports stars who are all-knowing in the politics of the world, the Silicon Valley super powerful rich controllers of all thought on social

media, the corrupt FBI leadership, the army generals who disagreed with Trump's military tactics (some advising more warlike moves), and to top it all off, that Chinese plague dropped on his lap in his final year when things were really starting to fall into place on re-establishing the respect for the fly-over states.

Look at some of his successes in a short four years. ISIS gone, peace deals with Israel and some Arab states, US embassy moved to Jerusalem, United Nations countries now paying their share, calming relations with North Korea, the wall with Mexico and help from the Mexican Army virtually stopping the invasion of undocumented immigrants from all over the world, the best economy for the little guy for many years in the USA and then a huge push to produce PPE's, hospital ships, army hospitals, and pushing drug companies to get vaccines and new medicines to help people beat the virus if they got it.

So what was the final reason for Trumps defeat? One glance at the USA map and the county breakdowns during election day showed where the battle lines were drawn. Nearly all of the high population centres voted Democratic and the country folks voted Republican. City versus Country. Cities of any size easily outnumber the country people's vote. In some rural counties in Pennsylvania, 90% of the votes went to the Republicans while in the cities,

about 80% voted Democrat.

Trump had huge crowds show up at airports in support of him. They were young and old, women and men, but most of all they were rural. There were long truck rallies, farm tractor rallies, and some Mennonite communities did parades in support of the President. At all his rallies, up to four or five a day, his plane would touch down to a sea of people. Trump greeted the tens of thousands of individual supporters who had waited in long lineups for hours to show their love and support for him. It was an incredible sight. These are the people that Hilary Clinton and the Democrats referred to as a "basketful of deplorables" and even though city dwellers cannot exist without the sweat, labour and products of the rural folks, they still will not support a government that would associate with those uneducated 'red necks'.

With the majority of voters in the city having little to no understanding of the rural issues or thought processes, it has become a modern day problem.

Writer Jim Merriam Has Passed Away

(We have enjoyed reading Jim's columns since Oct. 2013 and he will be missed)



It is with a heavy heart that we inform you that one of our Landowner Magazine writers, Mr. Jim Merriam passed away on Saturday, September 19, 2020 following a 22-year battle with cancer. Jim was a passionate writer who joined the Landowner writing team in October 2013. We were happy and fortunate to have him on board as one of our regular columnists and will miss him very much.

Jim lived on a small mule farm near Tara, ON and was a columnist for Sun Media daily newspapers outside metropolitan areas and former managing editor of the Sun Times. He wrote the well known funny farm column, and was a writer and editor

a number of times for the newspaper over the course of his career. His Funny Farm column was well-known and well-read. Topics ranged from opinions on newsworthy events and controversial decisions to tales about his farm and beloved mules or lighthearted jokes. He also used the space to promote charitable events that were dear to his heart. He is being remembered as a person who cared deeply for the people of his community. He had a long history of involvement in neighbourhood events, helping local charities and participating in fundraising efforts

Along with his newspaper work, Mr. Merriam served in the community as an auctioneer, master

of ceremonies, radio personality and called Bingo during The Sun Times Seniors' Day at the Salmon Spectacular. His compassion, personal stories, sense of humour, intelligence and the ability to get things done were some of the many comments that reflected peoples memories of Jim.

Mr. Merriam is survived by his wife Mary Ruth, children Kiera, Cathy, Pam and Tyson, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



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HERE TO SERVE

COVID-19 CARLETON RESOURCE PAGE: GOLDIEMPP.CA/COVID-19

The health and well being of the residents of Carleton, Ottawa & Ontario is my top priority. Please visit my website for the latest information & updates from the Government of Ontario, as well as information regarding upcoming virtual town hall meetings & public consultations.

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

NEWS FROM QUEEN’S PARK

Governments Investing \$26.6 Million to Further Protect Ontario’s Agri-Food Workers During Covid 19

The governments of Canada and

Ontario are taking additional steps to help farmers better protect the health and safety of agri-food workers in the province during the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure the continued supply of locally grown food all year round.

A new agreement between Ontario and the federal government will see Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada invest an additional \$11.6 million to help support efforts by Ontario producers to stop the spread of COVID-19 on their farms. Actions such as building physical barriers for worker separation, upgrading HVAC systems and enhancing hand-washing facilities will be eligible for this funding. The federal funding that will be delivered by Ontario is in addition to the Ontario government’s commitment in June of up to \$15 million to support workplace safety enhancements in the sector through the Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program. Under the expanded program, the amount farmers can claim for preventive expenses including a combination of workplace modifications, PPE, transportation and temporary housing will double to \$15,000.

The program will also include a new category for small capital projects of up to \$100,000 for housing modifications, workplace modifications and equipment to allow greater physical distancing for workers.

This added funding for enhanced worker and workplace safety builds on numerous government actions taken this year to support Ontario farms and other agri-food sector businesses. Such supports include:

- Helping agri-food sectors cover the incremental costs associated with the mandatory 14-day isolation period through \$50 million in federal funding for the Mandatory Isolation Support Program for Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW).
- Investing up to \$77.5 million through the federal Emergency Processing Fund to help

companies implement changes to safeguard the health and safety of workers due to the impacts of COVID-19.

- Increasing funding for the Ontario Risk Management Program by \$50 million starting in 2020 to help farmers enrolled in the program deal with the severe market challenges resulting from COVID-19.
- Increasing the amounts farmers can receive in AgriStability interim payments to 75 per cent of their estimated final payment to help with cash flow.
- Building a Canada-Ontario AgriRecovery program for hog and cattle to help cover increased costs of feeding market ready animals due to COVID-19 related processing delays.
- Launching an online toolkit with information on prevention, accommodations, wages, social, health and wellness assessments, and social supports that are available to farmers and their workers.
- Providing red-tape relief by extending more than 20 licenses or permit regulations covering the agri-food sector during the period covered by COVID-19 emergency orders.

The Enhanced Agri-food Workplace Protection Program and the Emergency On-Farm Support Fund would also work in concert with other federal/provincial/territorial efforts and other federal programs to mitigate and limit the spread of COVID-19 among agri-food workers.

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*



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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 sword 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***

**Hello from the
old Jackass**

Going to Pot



Howdy folks,

It appears 2020 will go down as a year which we will soon not forget. Our lives have been drastically altered courtesy of covid-19 restrictions and protocols.

Since the pandemic's onset, big brother has been feeding fiscal aid to many in order to stall bankruptcy of many small, struggling businesses. Sadly, reality will unfortunately prevail and fiscal hardship will kill more struggling entrepreneurs than the very virus itself.

It's common place to pick up a paper only to be educated that the rampant illegal cultivation of pot has become a veritable albatross around the federal government's neck.

I was under the false impression that legalization of pot would put an end to illegal cultivation and sale of contraband cannabis.

Ironically, legalization seems to have opened the flood gates and vastly increased criminal activity in illicit production schemes. Every Tom, Dick and Harry sees marijuana production as a get rich quick scheme.

Relax folks, lawyers are loving the current pot production crisis. Lawyers will be busy with clients seeking their legal representation for their errant

ways. Money will change hands and lawyers will be busy depositing pre-paid fees into their bulging bank accounts.

Now that weed is a legal medicinal product our police, judges and cherished politicians of all affiliations will have become devote users and we as a once proud conservative nation will have taken one great step backwards.

One can now proudly grow four plants in the privacy of your backyard and even obtain a pardon for past pot misdeeds while waving a flag high as it caters to stoned admirers. Sorry to say I firmly believe the nuts are now firmly in charge of the asylum.

As if pot were not enough of a high we are also suffering a crisis regarding crystal meth. Don't look my way for any

sympathy as the melon on your shoulders should be carrying a brain. Can't these addicts comprehend they are playing Russian roulette with their lives.

If your life doesn't matter to yourself, why should I be concerned?

If 2020 wasn't bad enough, I've learned two former high ranking OSPCA officials have now been hired on the new and improved Provincial Animal Welfare Services. Who was it that so astutely said, "the more things change the more they stay the same." Such acts do little to restore faith or confidence in the new PAWS enforcement.

I just can't wait to see what 2021 brings as it just seems to get worse.

*Sincerely
The Old Jackass*



Raising Calves or Raising Hell - “Weaponizing the Legal System”

by John Schwartzentruber

When Wichita, Kansas police shot 28 year-old Andrew Finch, father of two, they killed an innocent man. He didn't even know why the SWAT team showed up, ordered him out and face down onto the snow-covered ground. Seeing his hand move, he was cut down in a hail of bullets before he got off his own porch. His family was ordered at gunpoint to step out over the dying man's body and get face down in the snow, bare foot, skimpy clothing.

The cops aimed their assault weapons on Finch's door after a pretender called 911 from a masked phone number, reporting Finch's address as the scene of a violent crime in progress. The caller claimed that he had just shot his father. Said he was holding his family hostage at gunpoint, poured gasoline all over the house and “just might light it in a bit”. Feigning distress, he repeated the address to make sure they had it right and gave a detailed description of what was supposedly happening.

None of it was true; Finch was innocent, harmless - and unarmed. Even worse, the address given by the malicious perpetrator wasn't even where his intended victim lived.

This fraudulent prank known as “SWATting” has been on the rise for over a decade and ends in emotional and psychological trauma or even death. Imagine your front door smashed down in the middle of the night and staring into the business end of ten submachine guns held by shouting, serious-looking men in black. It goes downhill from there. The least of your worries would be the biting handcuffs making more than just your shaking hands turn cold. Gut-stabbing terror - Boom - your uncomprehending mind stunned by inexplicable shock.

It happens in Canada, too. There's Justin Bieber, or the Richmond Hill family ripped from sleep by the SWAT team crashing their front door to splinters, boots pounding toward them, guns locked and loaded. Terrifyingly victimized by a hoax. SWATting, rooted in cowardice, is vicious stuff.

Does this happen nearby? Yes. Likely in your own neighbourhood in a more subtle form. Although much less violent, the outcome is deeply traumatizing. According to someone well acquainted with disputes involving farmers and their neighbors or municipality, many such issues are a form of SWATting.

For example, a young, North Huron farming family was recently subjected to what one source referred to as “swatting” when someone reported them for perceived property standard violations. The bylaw enforcement officer shows up, has a friendly visit on the porch and then uses what he gleaned from the young gentleman as evidence

against him. Denied further entry to the property, the officer returns with a warrant obtained, arguably, on disputable evidence. Building code and zoning violation charges are laid.



ALL THE FAMILY WAS TRYING TO DO was raise calves to make their livelihood in a normal and sustainable manner. But they had a jealous neighbor or two, determined to cause them trouble.

It went downhill from there. Stress - emotional, economic devastation. Their survival on the farm was in jeopardy. The husband was almost cut down by a hail of legal procedures, his sunrise-to-sunset workload, the uncertainty of his family's future, the outcome of the charges. The bills piled up. And because of religious beliefs, no lawyer was retained.

His pregnant wife, the petite mother of their two children, showed strength that is the stuff of legends. She not only kept family and house cared for and the garden tended, but helped with the chores, caring for baby calves, carrying pails, hauling around wagons of feed that weighed more than she did, but light compared to the heavy strain.

Gold in the crucible, a lily in the storm.

The malevolent accuser remained hidden in the shadows, silent and watching their deep suffering.

But they weren't alone; the beleaguered family had the full, public backing of their neighbours from miles around with the exception of - oh, maybe one or two meanies... The community deserves recognition for their material and moral support in coming around this young family, helping however they could. Food, friendly visits, helping freely. They openly questioned whether this was a culturally motivated targeting.

Using proper municipal documents, these supporters formally petitioned that the municipality “cease and desist” these “months of hell” that it had imposed on this family - but were denied by executive decision. They couldn’t understand why almost forty signatures of open support were over-ridden by a couple of unnamed, surreptitious grudges. Town hall publicly referred to their petition as “mob rule”.

Fatal flaw

THEN ONE DAY the one indicted brother hitched up and visited MPP Lisa Thompson’s office where he was most helpfully given reams of Provincial documents that stunningly revealed the fatal flaw in the AG4 zoning bylaw - it was ultra vires, of no effect. A one hour buggy ride to town revealed what hundreds of bureaucrats, with all their modern connectivity, failed to see in years. The defendant’s own research discovered that numerous Provincial Codes, Acts and Publications answered the charges against them as presented.

Enter an OMAFRA mediator, a crucial help to this young farming family: A compassionate and competent woman of immeasurable worth, her valuable experience on such issues keyed the breakthrough. She clearly had a better understanding of the situation than the municipality itself. Had her intervention come earlier, the inhumane legal action could have been averted.

The mediator’s knowledge supported the defendants’ findings; indeed, the bylaw was pronounced “inoperable” by the County director of planning. The municipality had no leg to stand on, because municipal bylaws may not interfere with higher laws, and this one did. (But who cares about small details?) In visiting with a neighbour supportive of the accused, the reeve said that he “will concur on the majority of points”, but not all: over fifty alleged building code violations were reduced to two. Two bargaining chips. At this junction, a government made up of all good people might have directed that the largely-diminished charges be withdrawn.

But they remained and it was too late; the pre-trial process had reached the point where the Justice had ordered them to agree to a resolution or go to trial on all charges. (essentially two bargaining chips?) Quite understandably, the young family agreed to resolution, wanting to refrain from court and feeling severe pressure to end the eighteen-plus month ordeal. It was easier than prolonging the mental anguish imposed on them through an unrelenting onslaught of unfamiliar legal system machinations by the municipality. The process became the punishment for charges that were never tried or proven in court.

At what point is legal intimidation indictable as criminal harassment or malfeasance? Does this meet the definition of SWATting, maliciously using the full force of the legal system to inflict undeserved suffering on another? This young family had harmed no one, but suffered terribly as a result of suspect motives, for little cause.

The recent municipal election may have reflected the public’s attitude toward this debacle. Bureaucracy lives forever, but the former North Huron council has largely been replaced. Can they refurbish the municipal image in four years?

A pyrrhic victory for North Huron.

This account reveals a serious problem with complaint-driven bylaws, yet one preventable with a simple solution. The problem - someone weaponizing the legal system to exact revenge on another. In many jurisdictions, anyone from anywhere can file an anonymous (to a point) property standards complaint against anyone, anywhere. The trouble begins. Prosecution cum persecution. Add to the mix a few enforcement characters whose remarkable ambitions outpace their understanding and legal qualifications and it quickly becomes deadly toxic. Truth becomes dispensable.

A simple solution? The complainant needs to demonstrate just cause - imminent threat or measureable, material harm. No cause? No case. Apply severe consequences for false flags to sort out real wrongdoing from grudge-driven ambushes. And why default to litigation, rather than mediation? The legal costs borne by North Huron taxpayers - tens of thousands of dollars. The human suffering - immeasurable. Respect for the justice system - shattered. A former councillor said that the only winner was the lawyer for the municipality, if one would call that a win. A pyrrhic victory for North Huron.

Significantly, this landmark case triggered the fall and amendment of the ultra vires, AG4 zoning bylaw that until recently stood across much of rural Ontario. (All municipalities should check their rule books) It is to be hoped that this time the County planners get it right, but the early draft shows that government learning suffers from some impairment.

Coincidentally, County Council minutes indicate that the County solicitor advising on the amendment happens to be one and the same as the prosecutor in the case outlined above, his then-active prosecution under that flawed bylaw intertwining with his amendment involvement of the same bylaw. One could say that he should know what he was doing.

Back to the beginning - Andrew Finch’s SWATter ran, but couldn’t hide. Stuff leaks out. Actions have consequences.

However, you can rest assured that if this young, North Huron family would find any of their antagonists hungry or thirsty, they would willingly offer them a place at their table, or a cup of cold water, thus embodying their historical paradigm of conflict resolution “...do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”

Life goes on. Their new baby girl was born into a good home. **

Sir John A. MacDonald Removed from Queen's University

I am dismayed and disgusted with Queen's University for considering the removal of Sir John A. MacDonald's name from the Queen's University Law School Building.

I graduated from Queen's with a B. Sc. in Engineering in 1972. My daughter, Jessica graduated from Queen's with a B. Sc. in Life Sciences in 2004. Several other family members have graduated from Queen's.

I was proud to say I was a Queen's graduate. It is one of Canada's oldest universities steeped in the British tradition and heritage of pursuing freedom and justice through higher education.

Now – I am proud no more. I am saddened that the weak leadership at Queen's University is taking our once noble and revered institution of learning down the oft travelled path of countless sanctimonious socialist sycophants to a cess pool of ignorance and anarchy.

Sir John A. MacDonald was a giant in Canadian history. He had a vision to build a nation out of the wilderness – from sea to sea. And he did it, against formidable odds. He was the Father of Confederation. We must preserve and protect the values that he enshrined in our Constitution – freedom for all.

To the leaders at Queen's University, I say - down with you and your trivialized school. The B. Sc. degree that I received from the Senate of Queen's University, that is hanging on my office wall, has become something that is of little value to me. If the Queen's leaders proceed with the trashing of Sir John A. MacDonald's name then I will trash this valueless piece of paper that they call a "degree". Into the garbage can it will go.

I respect Sir John A. MacDonald. All Canadians should respect Sir John A. MacDonald. I am starting a project to build and erect a statue of Sir John A. MacDonald on my family's farm in Ottawa. My family came to Upper Canada from Scotland and received a "Crown Land Patent grant" from the King of England, King

George IV, in 1821. It is a history of which I am very proud. I will be most proud to have a statue of Sir John A. MacDonald standing on our farm.

I ask Canadians to help me build this statue – Sir John A. MacDonald – standing tall and free in Canada.

Jack MacLaren - Canadian

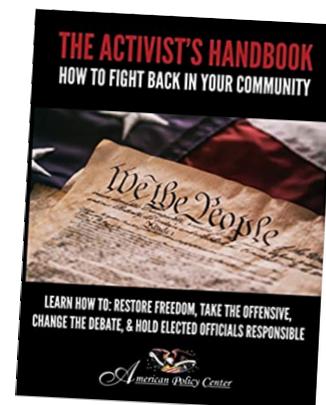




THE ACTIVIST'S HANDBOOK

How to Fight back in your Community:

The American Policy Center



There is a determined force in the world dedicated to an agenda designed to “reorganize human society.” To achieve that agenda they are on a drive to change our American economic system, abolish private property, and change our system of representative government.

Most importantly, they have focused on making those changes primarily through control of government on the local and state levels. They have trained a cadre of activists to present and promote legislative programs that are backed by various funding programs to entice local representatives to enact their agenda. That’s why it’s at the local and

state levels where we must make our stand to stop them.

The goal is to take a stand to promote and defend the three main principles of freedom including free enterprise, private property, and limited government intrusion in our lives. Specifically taking direct action in your own community, thereby establishing it as a pocket of freedom or a “Freedom Pod.” This becomes a shining example to then pass to the next community, and the next, creating a freedom movement. This manual is designed to provide the tools and training necessary to accomplish that goal.

**





Money - Slated for Agriculture Has gone missing!

by Ian Cumming
Agricultural Journalist

October 16, 2020 - It's a case of about \$100,000 of taxpayer money slated for agriculture, deposited in an account until it was ready to be used, apparently not being there when it was slated to be utilized.

Fourteen months later there is still no public, detailed accounting provided as to where the money went. Will there ever be?

Only certain high up people, apparently, have been made aware. Made aware of what, we're not sure?

It was federal government money funneled through the then Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) (which has since been reformatted and renamed) to the National Farm Animal Care Coalition, (NFACC)

NFACC is an organization who form a committee of varied players to develop and update "Codes of Practice" for the different livestock species.

With my wife having written the last Canadian Beef Codes of Practice for NFACC, I know the finer details of how the organization works. But as a journalist, was in conflict of interest in writing about her writing these Codes.

So didn't.

Today, my wife is no longer with NFACC, but teaches at the local community college.

NFACC funding was / is deposited in silos with that account for dairy cows, this one for horses, another for sheep, kind of a deal. With that money not intermingling between accounts.

When, for example, the beef account was running low when those Codes were being developed, sometimes my wife waited a few months for her pay cheque, until that account was topped up again by the

federal government.

They didn't go over into the dairy account, for instance, to pull money to pay her on time. Plus such pay delays seems to coincide, strangely, when pleas from not so well disguised animal rights activists in the federal civil service, who made phone calls to her, concerned that the Beef Codes, "didn't go far enough."

Money moving between NFACC accounts didn't and doesn't work that way, with the amount of yearly cheques written per account being far less than the average dairy farmer writes per month. There is nothing financially complicated about any of it.

Codes are only written or updated every half decade or so per species, so unused money from before could potentially be sitting there in a dormant silo account for some time, while the then active silos would be doing business.

In August 2019 I got a leak that money had gone missing from one of these accounts. On the record confirmation was received and put in print from Jennifer McTavish, who is both head of CAHC and the Ontario Sheep Producers, and Ryder Lee from NFACC, that, yes, there was money missing.

McTavish, in her remarks stated she didn't know what had happened the money, but knew for sure there wasn't any fraud or theft involved. And certainly didn't want to see anything of the kind suggesting so, in print

There has been since, sticking with the actual facts; no outside audit ordered, but rather an internal audit done under McTavish.

When she self - proclaimed

herself in charge of the internal audit, with no public outcry from producer organizations governance bodies or governments, there was plenty of concern registered by ordinary farmers.

After that initial interview McTavish's internal emails to her directors (obviously some concern) started to get leaked to me. Including that something was coming soon in the press about the missing money, which had, yes, been discovered a couple of months before, but sorry I didn't get around to telling you, but she was on the phone with NFACC three times per week, working on this problem.

Then came the email soon after that had her computer had somehow crashed (when the internal audit was to begin) wiping away for good some of her emails over the past six months, that IT might not be above to retrieve.

So what does a reporter do? Their job.

Unreturned phone calls and emails to McTavish seeking clarification followed. There were also no answers to questions from someone whom had just left the head job at CAHC, (replaced by McTavish) and another lady having abruptly quit from working in the finance department, or NFACC committee folks across Canada saying fearfully "I'm ordered not to talk to you."

The next day I received an email from the law firm Wilson Spurr, suggesting in a not so polite tone that I was to stop contacting these people, let McTavish alone to do her internal audit, and that there was no fraud and don't even dare suggest otherwise.

My paper backed away from it and zero other farm media even made a sniff. I had to look really concerned

farmers in the eye and say there was nothing happening here on my front.

Then earlier this year, pre COVID, Fred Baker, an Ottawa area sheep producer, who represents his sector on the NFACC committee asked for a one on one meeting with me. That interview went to print, where he expressed concern that no information on the missing money was forthcoming, to even his committee, whose use it had been for.

But had the point that if this was private money missing, that was private. But this was government funds so it's disappearance was in the public sphere.

I immediately got back to Wilson Spurr, who stated that they had no interaction with McTavish, after they had fired, so to speak, that warning bullet seven months earlier through my living room window. All part of business, old chap.

Times passes, as they say, and then on October 3rd I got a message from our papers European reporter, based in Brussels, that there was an online message floating around the

internet, about this missing money and that Ian Cumming, "had not dug deep enough."

Later that afternoon I was face to face, near Ottawa with the writer of that message, sheep producer Lee Brien, whose name I only learned that day. Back in the fall of 2019, being an elected director on the Ontario sheep board, Brien was accused of leaking to me about the missing \$100,000, plus McTavish's internal emails.

He was, by his account, physically threatened at that board meeting, has been kicked off as a director and is not receiving any board documentation.

Brien had, of course, denied leaking to me. Which was totally true, and for confirmation I emailed my editor actual email proof of those who had leaked to me.

Then phoned the President of the Ontario sheep board to tell him that he was punishing the wrong directors. "You're standing deep in a pile," he roared in anger.

No kidding.

Oh yes. The Ontario Sheep

Producers are working with the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Commission to develop a policy where they can "discipline" people like Brien, and look at different ways of procuring board directors outside of a producer ballot.

If you want to keep the groundhog safe, shoot at the squirrel in the trees.

But there are some basic questions all those in the know of mangled, apparent links of governments and farm organizations, and the money flowing, have to fully and truthfully answer first.

Is the missing \$100,000 possibly linked to what and who the OPP were investigating in western Ontario in the summer of 2018?

What has the internal audit found about the missing \$100,000? Whether the audits conclusions are believed or not by ordinary producers and taxpayers, can't be determined, can it, if no details of the people's money are not revealed?

Why won't they make their findings public?



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ONTARIO LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION (OLA)

Who are the Ontario Landowners and where did we come from?

Well, to understand how this movement got started, we would have to say that if government and their agencies had been doing their job of helping people solve their problems, supporting and encouraging new building and local businesses, and serving the public as they are paid to do, then the landowner movement would have died on the drawing board.

Unfortunately, this is not the case and because of this failure at all levels of government, the landowner movement is growing across Ontario. Our early start was in 2003 in Lanark, when disgruntled landowners received no assistance from authorities when deer destroyed their crops. Their frustration spread across the province and resulted in new landowner groups forming, all fighting similar issues, all suffering under the increasingly heavy weight of oppressive rules and regulations, fines and court challenges and all ready to say, "enough is enough". We hope that you will join this chorus for change with the goal of encouraging a more compassionate and caring government that returns to its mandate of "serving the public".

The Ontario Landowners Association, which formed in 2005, has chapters across the province, each with its own President, Vice-President, treasurer and secretary as well as many volunteers and supporters. Flexibility is a necessary quality in these people because most of us have other jobs, many are farmers, and all of us have busy family lives. Because we are volunteers, we all do what we can, when we can. The Ontario Landowners Association has a President, two co-vice-presidents, and four governors, who keep in touch with monthly conference calls and meetings. The OLA Annual General Meeting is a public meeting and open to all who are concerned with private property rights. The AGM is held in a central location each Fall and often involves an overnight stay for those who have travelled some distance. Each Spring, there is a Directors' Meeting, an opportunity for the chapter representatives to meet face-to-face with the OLA Executive to discuss local issues and share experiences. Each county group sends a delegate to these meetings to represent the local landowners.

Our focus comes from property owners and their stories of injustices. For example, Conservation Authorities have assumed too much power over private land. We are working on taking back what is ours. The Ministry of Natural Resources is another body that likes to assume power over private property, and we are trying to assist landowners who have been charged for doing what they should be doing on their land such as cleaning ditches or improving the landscape. Municipalities across the province have forgotten the rights that were granted to the citizens of this province: the right to life, liberty and use and enjoyment of property. They have assumed power they don't have and seem bent on discouraging landowners from obtaining building permits or doing work on their property. Hefty fines, unreasonable demands and an unwillingness to work with the

property owner for a mutually beneficial outcome, has soured many citizens. As the Midland Free Press noted in its May 2000 article regarding the Roundtree and Tiny Township court battle over beach usage "*If you don't own it, you cannot plan for it*".

We encourage you to follow us along the path to regaining the freedom we once had and in doing so, to honour the fallen soldiers who died in battlefields far away and the early pioneers that built this land, so that Canada would remain strong and free. Let us not forget that.

How to keep in touch

The OLA has a website www.ontariolandowners.ca and a Facebook page. Look for Ontario Landowners Association on Facebook. On our website, you can sign up for our FREE monthly E-Newsletter which is delivered to your inbox on the first of each month. We also have a FREE online magazine called Landowner Voices. Published every two months, LV can be read, downloaded, and printed from our website.

We encourage you to buy an annual membership for \$60. You can sign up online at <https://ontariolandowners.ca/product/ola-yearly-membership/> or use the downloadable mail in form <https://ontariolandowners.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/OLA-Membership-Application-06202019-2.pdf>.

You can also join by contacting your local OLA chapter <https://ontariolandowners.ca/ontario-landowners-association-ola-chapters/>.

Here's how it works: \$25 of the membership fee stays with the OLA (our head office), \$25 goes to the chapter, and the remaining \$10 is put into our litigation fund www.fixthelaw.ca. The litigation fund is used to support court challenges that could help improve private property rights.

The Carleton Landowners Association has monthly board meetings. Everyone with an interest in private property rights is welcome. We also host Public Meetings on specific topics of interest to our member and the public. Membership fees are used to rent meeting spaces, host our website, mailouts to members.

The OLA uses the membership fees to host their website and to cover expenses for their AGM and Spring Directors' Meeting. Our last AGM was held in October 2019 in Arnprior, Ontario with guest speaker Tom DeWeese from the American Policy Centre. More than 80 people attended. The Carleton Landowners Association shared costs of the meeting with the OLA and the Renfrew Landowners Association.

Elizabeth Marshall, our Director of Research has written many reports on Conservation Authorities, Municipal planning and by-laws, Crown Land Patents. The reports are free for download on our website at <https://ontariolandowners.ca/ontario-landowners-association-ola-chapters/>.

We are all volunteers. We do this because we believe in private property rights and want to share what we know about your rights with you!

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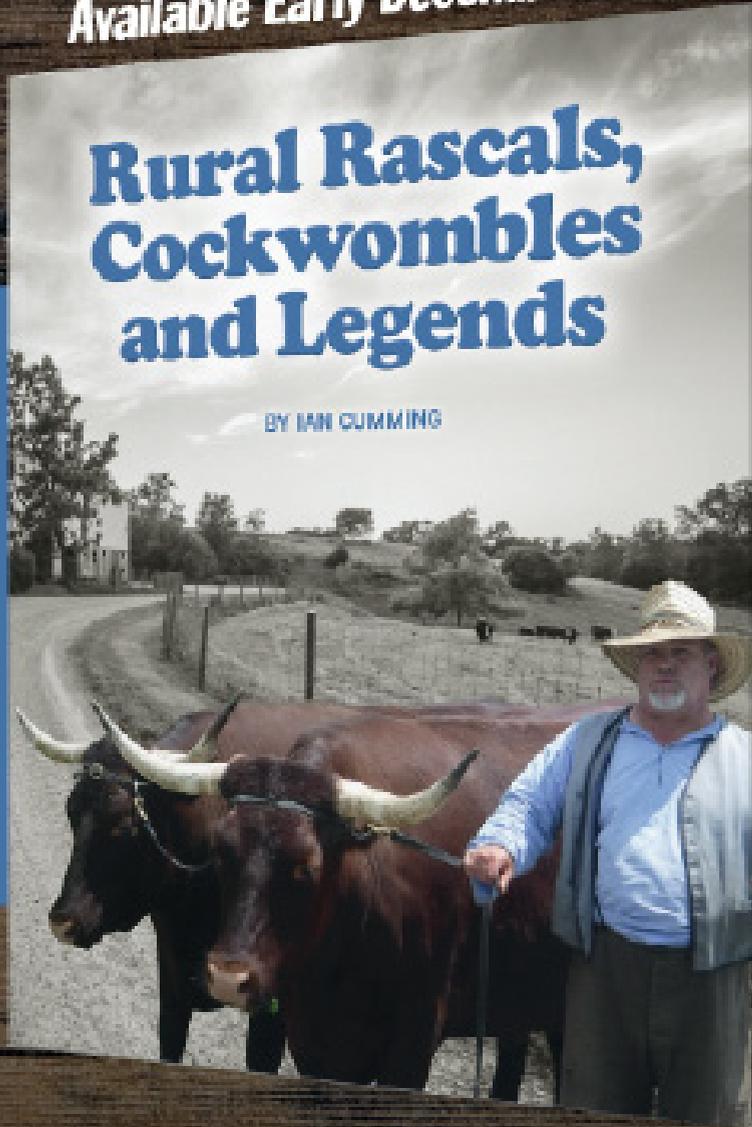
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CONCERN FOR OUR FUTURE

by Don Johnson

It's hard to believe it is November and we are a full 7 months into the pandemic shutdown and turmoil. During this time we have all had the experience of expressing our views on how the country, the province, the municipalities and we ourselves should be handling the situation. There are 37 million Canadians of which 30 million have varied views (the rest are too young to really understand situation).

We constantly hear that shutting down the economy (at great cost) was the correct move and indeed I don't argue that our total infections and the death toll are not what has occurred in some other countries. But we must also remember that this is the government's message - the same government that created the shutdown turmoils. The message is self-serving and meant to deflect an open and frank valuation of their performance. One must also realize that the government is spending considerable sums of money and effort extorting its role as our saviour to defuse any warranted criticism of its actions. But just like a marathon - doing well at mile 2 doesn't mean you are going to have a successful finish. With Canadian infection rates now exceeding the levels reached in the spring and the economic resources of the country stretched to near breaking, the option to shut Canada down again is a very non appetizing option.

Don't get me wrong but in a free and open society there comes a time when we need to discuss and decide upon the concept if "saving lives at the expense of saving the country" must be the compelling priority of the government.

Perhaps focussing vast resources to achieve dubious results when prioritizing these resources would have been better used elsewhere- is the question we need answer, to judge the governments effectiveness.

Canada was founded on common law rights. Freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom of assembly, freedom of choice and freedom to bear the consequences of your choices are part of what makes us Canadians. If these are sacrificed what type of Canada will we become? Re - the governments handling of Covid - It is my personal opinion that the government of Canada could have done a much better job in handling Covid but that is not the focus of this post.

November is when we honour and celebrate all of our citizens who have risen to the defence of our country. We especially focus on those who sacrificed all to protect and defend our rights and freedoms so that we can pass these to the future generations.

Canadas foundation is "its people" and their "common law right to property". It is important to remember and understand that "right to property" includes more than real estate, it includes your personal property and your person itself. We are rational and self sovereign individuals living within a system that is supposed to respect our personal freedoms and right of decision. The consequence of our decisions are the liability we incur for our actions which affect others. The 2 simple mantras are "do no harm to others in your actions" and "he who owns the property has the authority to determine its use"

Knowing history is important. Understanding the why of history is far more critical! Governments control the learning of history by controlling the education system and the press. It does not serve their needs to make us aware of our rights when they interfere with the authority of the government.

Most Canadians have a reasonably good knowledge of Canadian history. We know of our French/English roots, our government being based on a constitutional monarchy, French fur traders, Chinese labourers building the railways, Indigenous peoples living in harmony respecting the land (well that's what the public is being told) of how we helped win the first and second World Wars and our Prime Minister Pearson who helped found the United Nations. However it is quickly apparent that most Canadians have no real understanding of the truths in history or the why's of history, nor the subsequent application of the impacts and/or importance today. We celebrate the sacrifice our prior generations incurred to protect these rights and freedoms. But we fail to really comprehend and understand "what the scope of those rights and freedoms were" and how they have been steadily eroded and diminished in the name of "the common good"

Covid is a battle against a non-human invader. This battle will be won by humankind whether we isolate, shut down the economy, don't wear masks, take or not take drugs— man will survive this pandemic. But if we sacrifice our liberties and subordinate ourself to the dictates of a state that defies our constitutional and common law rights, I fear the Canada that we knew will not survive.

Politicians are elected to protect our personal rights and freedoms from the state encroachments on these. Unfortunately, too many elected officials swallow the Kool-Aid and believe they are elected to protect and expand the power of the state and they submit themselves to the dictates of the Mandarin bureaucracy.

One must also realize that the government is spending considerable sums of money and effort extorting its role as our saviour to defuse any warranted criticism of its actions.

It appears to me that Covid has been transformed into the liberal election campaign platform funded by the Canadian people. Tax revenue is money each of us worked for and provided to the government. The Liberal government failed to have action plans for such an event ready to implement and further failed to have sufficient pandemic PPE's in stock to address a virulent form of a pandemic.

Indeed after SARS the liberal led government deliberately drew down reserve stock levels of PPE's and even worse, actually shipped much of our remaining ready stocks to China before Covid struck Canada. At that time we had to beg borrow and pay massively to get enough PPE's for our emergency responder needs when we got hit. Worse, due to shortages, we the citizens were first told that masks were not needed and then told to make our own cloth mask coverings because we didn't have enough. The liberal government failed in its duty to Canadians to have emergency plans on the shelf prepared and ready for activation when the pandemic struck. The government (and not just the liberals) ignored the seniors situation for years. But the liberals were not just elected and so they bear the responsibility to have corrected past or potential issues and they failed this test. As a result to save face they prorogued parliament and responded in a dictatorial manner.

Citing the common good and specific experts who only address one specific part of the entire more complex situation - their response was jerky and piecemeal, fueled by a sudden realization that they were culpable. So we end up with the knee jerk reaction and actions instigated that snowballed to what happened. Of course these actions were by the liberal party, not the government, because government was restricted and then prorogued. The liberals utilized orders in council and have used Covid to push its other agenda's including the massive spending in reducing carbon emissions while at same time increasing Canada's population through immigration to a projected 40 million by 2030.

It is time for Canadians to debate and challenge the wisdom and real effect of pursuing the goal of increasing Canada's population by a further 10% while striving to reduce overall carbon emissions by 30 percent by 2030. We need full and frank dialogue about the wisdom and real impact nationally and globally from destroying and shutting down one of the nations most important economic engines, that being our petroleum industry. Our farming, timber and mining sectors are also under attack and doing business in Canada is becoming more difficult while productivity is questionable. Indeed the unquenchable need for more and more of the nations wealth to feed the government has brought our nation to an economic cliff. Should the government choose to push its luck and increase the taxation and tariffs it extols on its citizens, the economy will not recover and the standard of living for all Canadians will fall.

Our country
requires fuel
to operate its
transportation
systems, to heat
our homes, to run
our industry and
manufacturing, to
make fertilizer to
grow our crops,
and to generate
income

Our country requires fuel to operate its transportation systems, to heat our homes, to run our industry and manufacturing, to make fertilizer to grow our crops, and to generate income that we can use to buy goods and services from abroad. So the concept that we can shut it down and replace with lithium based batteries and power from wind and solar and tides is a pipe dream. Indeed it is criminal as the fate of Canada is at risk. But more so, if we are prepared to sacrifice all, what will be the net effect to the worlds carbon emissions. They will continue to increase pollution and destroy the oceans through overfishing.

So we must ask; why in the midst of this pandemic is Green energy the continuing major focus of the government? One can only conclude that they know something so scary they dare not tell us or they have other reasons than the publicity arguments they advance. This liberal government makes it clear that it is a firm supporter of an agenda 2030. But what is agenda 2030? I encourage everyone to google search this and take a week to read it.

Agenda 2030 is the former agenda 21 updated. The United Nations goal is to remove rights to own real property (real estate) and to transfer all private owned property into the property of the state. Agenda 2030 states that property owners right of ownership needs to be controlled by government and not only is the federal liberal government a supporter of this but so too is our provincial government along with our municipal governments which includes Hamilton and Halton as supporter signatories to this. Private property rights are under intense attack. The levels of government interference to property rights of owners is intense and escalating .

We the members of the Hamilton Halton Landowners Association and the Ontario Landowners Association do not believe in this concept of world order and removal of our property rights. We believe it is critical that we defend and protect the constitution and respect 800 years of common law, which is our countries foundation.

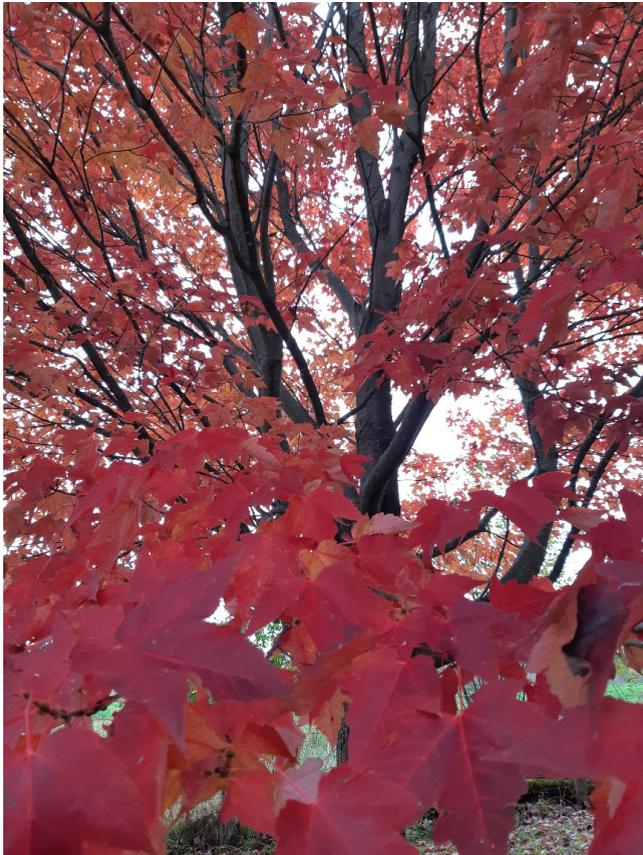
Should we fail in our efforts then the costs endured and the sacrifices made by our citizens to defend our rights as citizens will be in vain. Their memory will be honoured but what they stood for will be politicized, bastardized and modified to confirm and legitimize a new world order in which our grandchildren will be faceless.

In an aside to my friends and readers - be safe and be careful - Covid is real and you must protect yourselves.

Don Johnson is not a lawyer and is not giving legal advice. This article contains the personal observations, opinions and expressions of the writer and are expressed as such under his right of free speech. It is intended to stimulate thought and discussion by its readers.

A Win for the East Gwillimbury Landowners Association

by Russ Robson, East Gwillimbury



Conservation Authority (LSRCA) was stressful to say the least, especially for those of you who had plans in those two years or who may have lost out on home sales or equity.

I believe it is a property owner's right to be notified of proposed changes to their property well in advance of any resolutions being passed through council to do so.

This was a major battle and a bittersweet victory. Although we were able to stop the regulations this time around, there will be new regulations that may come in the near future and if we have learned anything from this experience, it is that being notified of unwanted changes or regulations to private property is the greatest tool in preventing them.

I believe it is a property owner's right to be notified of proposed changes to their property well in advance of any resolutions being passed through council to do so. I will be requesting council to review their ethics on this matter and put a better system in place.

So thank you for your support during these times and congratulations for putting up one of the greatest fights for private property rights in Ontario!

Many other municipalities were closely watching East Gwillimbury landowners to see how they should proceed with regulations in their areas. Hopefully they are now aware that people like their land and don't give it up without a fight.

Most people will be shocked to find out that there was a clear attempt to regulate private lands without notifying the owners. The East Gwillimbury Landowners Association (EGLA) fought hard to stop these regulations and together we were successful. See the links to the maps showing the proposed 'Environmentally Protected (EP) zones in East Gwillimbury.

We no longer have the proposed EP zones on 25,000 (accumulative) acres of your property, and the appeal is now officially dropped by the Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority LSRCA.

Landowners who were targeted by the strict regulations are now able to enjoy their original land use zones from the 1997 bylaw.

The property "lockdowns" (lands subjected to LPAT appeal as shown in the maps) caused by the 2 year appeal process brought on by the Lake Simcoe Regional

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Bill C-222, An Act to amend the Expropriation Act (Protection of Private Property)



DID YOU KNOW that TRUDEAU pledged ahead of the United Nations meeting planned for Kunming, China to place restrictions on 30 per cent of our land by 2030.

With the long-awaited resumption of Parliament, my Private Member's legislation, **Bill C-222, An Act to amend the Expropriation Act (protection of private property)**, (1) is moving forward in Parliament.

Bill C-222, which amends the Expropriation Act, is intended to provide some protections from government taking people's property without compensation. Given the absence of property rights in the Canadian Constitution, landowners must look to expropriation legislation to protect their rights.

People should be secure in their homes and the best way for that to happen is through clear, enforced ownership rules. Things have not been going very well for liberty-minded Canadians lately, with globalization and the rise of authoritarianism in Canada. The lockdowns have made it convenient to replace free market economics with state control. Is this the hidden agenda of the new generation of radicalized Liberals?

The reality is countries with stronger property rights are more economically advanced.

Other interesting effects regarding property rights come into play. If you don't have clear title to your home, you may not have a strong incentive to improve it. Public housing turning into slums comes to mind.

If owning your home is more costly or difficult, you may end up renting. Making property rights more secure and easier to exercise seems likely to encourage people to maintain their homes.

With record sales, and high prices for real estate, Trudeau and his new "green" Finance Minister have taken notice, and not in a good way.

In the last edition of the Ontario Landowner, I mentioned how the green Finance Minister was looking at ways to raise taxes by taxing principal residences.

Canadians will have to wait and see if a New Federal

Home Equity Tax currently under consideration, will be implemented. Without a doubt, something is being planned. The billions borrowed by the government during the pandemic mean tax increases in the future.

Certain factors are working against homeowners. Left-wing or socialist parties, into which the Liberal Party has evolved under Trudeau, do not believe in property rights. To quote a recent observation in the Canadian media about the current federal government,

"the comments of those who are advising this government on housing wealth and inequality have revealed an attitude that many Canadians have "won the lottery" with the value of homes increasing so much, and that the glorification of home ownership is a "regressive canard". (2)

The decision by the Liberal Government to require each of us to declare our principal residence on tax returns is information being collected for a reason. The homes of Canadians represent their largest asset for most people. A cash-starved government would like to "unlock" the value in your home. Only by unlocking the value will the federal government then be in a position to tax it. The question which needs to be asked by taxpayers is not when principal residences will be taxed, but how.

The most obvious change is removing the exemption on capital gains, including principal residences. The problem with that change is that it requires the homeowners to sell their homes. That is where a Federal Home Equity Tax comes in. If homeowners are required to pay a home equity tax on top of property taxes, the Liberal government reaps the financial benefit immediately.

If that happens, many Canadians, particularly those on fixed retirement incomes, like our seniors, will be forced to sell their homes.

A Home equity tax is not the same as a capital gains tax. It is a broader tax on something called imputed rents. Imputed rent is an estimate of the rent an owner-occupied property would earn if the owner were paying rent rather

than owning the property. Those earnings would be added to a taxpayer's taxable income.

The other method to steal value from private property, is by "defacto confiscation," which is why I brought forward my Private Member's legislation, Bill C-222.

Chances are you missed the recent announcement by Trudeau about land.

The one where he pledged ahead of the United Nations meeting planned for Kunming, China to place restrictions on 30 per cent of our land by 2030.

Of the 10 largest countries in the world by land mass, only Canada has signed on to the United Nations scheme to set aside 30 per cent of its land by 2030.

Not China. Not Russia. Not the United States. Not Brazil, Australia, India, Argentina, Kazakhstan or Algeria.

Just Canada.

Long on talk, short on details, nowhere in his announcement was mention made of compensation to private property owners, who will suffer the loss of the right to enjoy their land they pay property taxes on, when they learn their property is included in the 30 per cent land grab.

This is very similar to the May 1st announcement banning thousands of firearms. Conspicuously missing in that charade of promising a buy-back is an actual dollar figure.

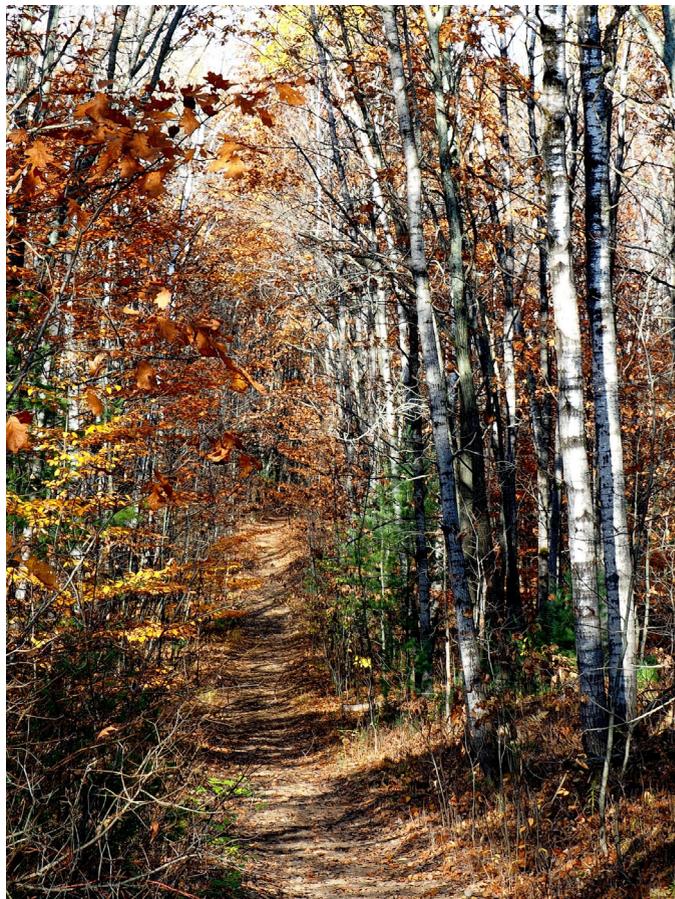
Confiscation without compensation.

Earlier this year I introduced **Bill C-222, An Act to Amend the Expropriation Act (private property rights)** to protect you from government policy that reduces the value of your private property without paying for it.

Should government be legally required to provide fair compensation when it steals value from private property owners?

That is now not the case.

Only by electing a majority Conservative government, will my Private Member's Bill have any chance of becoming law.



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Veggie Bites 13

Combat Gardening



by Judith Cox

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



Greetings fellow gardener

Water and water and water again. I am seeing a trend here. While the temperatures are going down the wind is quite strong. The wind can dry out the soil. If you can, water your garden deeply (at least an inch) every second day but water your pots every day.

Now that you have your garden growing you are going to notice that Mother Nature seems to have it out for you. You may be finding earwigs, slugs, hungry green worms, cucumber beetles, chipmunks, squirrels, groundhogs, and raccoons. In the words of the eminent philosopher Douglas Adams (he wrote *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*), Don't Panic!!

Take a deep breath and take stock of your problem. Instead of trying to control Ms. Nature try going along with her. For example, if the rain forms a path near your garden, make a garden along the path and proudly show your friends and family your rain garden! (I will be discussing rain gardens in detail next week). Research your pests and find out all you can about them. You can use this knowledge against them. If you are using the computer for research, please remember that the first entries of a response to your question are the most popular not necessarily the most correct. Be sure your source of information is a university site or reputable site that will give you credible scientific information. You will also receive amazing home remedy advice that you should research before accepting. Use your powers of observation to decide what works for you.

It is midmorning and you are puttering about in your garden and you lift a pot only to see all sorts

of earwigs scatter in all directions. You might have an earwig problem. Doing your research, you will find that earwigs do have a place in our garden. They are garbage eaters and are important in the way that they keep your garden clean. Too many earwigs mean that they move onto your plants and cause a lot of damage. Earwigs like to crawl into cool dark places after a night of partying in your garden. Find where they are eating and put down a section of garden hose or rolled damp newspaper. The earwigs will crawl into the hose or newspaper after feeding and you come out in the morning with your bucket of soapy water and tap the hose or newspaper into it. I find that within a week the earwigs are no longer an issue. They will always be there but not in significant numbers.

As yucky as it sounds the best way to remove larger pests like Japanese beetles is to handpick them and drop them into soapy water. In the case of those nasty red lily beetles as well as slugs they should be dropped into salt to guarantee an end to them.

Remember that you are not alone in this ongoing battle. Everyone is dealing with something. Keep up the research and observation and learn to live with your environment.

Have a great week! Judith (email: lapisdragonarts@gmail.com)

Plants from the Dark Side

Goutweed (*Aegopodium podagraria*)

Many years ago, I started working as a gardener. My workload increased over time and I had less time for my own garden. I would pick up plants here and there and take extras home. I didn't realize that I brought home

green goutweed and by the time I did it was too late. I have been battling this invasive plant ever since. The variegated variety is a little easier to deal with as it is more visible and does not spread as vigorously. The green one that I have slinks around under perennials and spreads its roots everywhere.

Goutweed was originally introduced to North America as an easy-care groundcover, thriving in shade, partial shade, and full sun. It will also grow in a range of soils but spreads quickest in cultivated garden soil. In terms of survival skills, goutweed is the cockroach of the botanical world. It produces a web of underground rhizomes from which each leafstalk emerges. The leaves are comprised of three groups of three leaflets and can be green or variegated. <https://savvygardening.com/goutweed/>

Unfortunately, you can still buy goutweed as a groundcover but in several states in the United States it is prohibited. Once these aggressive plants are introduced, they are close to impossible to remove. To totally remove goutweed, you need to dig down at least a foot to get all the roots and carefully sift the soil before returning it. Do not compost goutweed as it can grow easily in and around your composting area. I put it in the green bin or in black garbage bags that will sit in the sun for a long time. On Wednesday, a friend of mine came by to help me weed out the goutweed. We took out a lot of it and tossed it onto the driveway. It was quite satisfying to drive over it with the car.



Veggie Bites 14

This time of year is so beautiful. You can almost hear the garden grow after a summer rain and of course we can still use much more of that. I am changing things up a bit this week as I had a request to explain succession gardening.

“In agriculture, succession planting refers to several planting methods that increase crop availability during a growing season by making efficient use of space and timing.” (Wikipedia)

In the spring I mentioned how I would plant pea seeds every two weeks up until the end of May in order to get a longer growing season, however right now is not the best time to be planting cool weather crops. I started planting my cool weather seeds such as lettuce, peas, radish, and spinach in early spring. I missed harvesting my first two plantings of peas because I didn't realize that the seeds were being eaten as soon as they were planted. Once I figured out that my pea seeds were all inside chipmunks, I put down netting and the next planting of peas are now ready to pick. Cool weather seeds do not germinate well at this time of year, but you can start planting them again in the fall. I found that I could get lettuce to germinate in the summer if I planted it in pots in the shade. Lettuce does very well when you plant it in early September.

One type of Succession planting means to plant a partial row of seeds and then in a couple of weeks plant another row of the same seeds. As you harvest your original row of seeds you can plant more of the same seeds. Another method is the following for example if you find that your row of lettuce has finished, pull out the old plants, add some compost to replenish the soil and try some bush beans, carrots, cabbage or kale. You can start a second crop of potatoes at this time as well. I suggest that you plant your second crop in a different spot so that your original potatoes can get

larger. I will be pulling up some new potatoes soon (I know they are there because my plant has flowers) and if I harvest all of them I will be using the nutrient-rich soil that the potatoes left behind to plant some yellow beans. By using a succession method, you can increase the amount of space you have available. You can also increase your space by trying to grow a number of your vine crops vertically. Growing cucumbers on a trellis works well and the cucumbers are cleaner. In terms of succession I wouldn't grow tomatoes or vine crops later in the season. They need a lot of time. You can double check the dates on your seed packets to see if that seed has a shorter growing time; nothing ventured nothing gained. It is very satisfying to have your garden producing from early spring right into late fall.

Have a great gardening week.

Plants from the Dark Side

Dog-Strangling Vine (Cynanchum rossicum & Cynanchum louiseae)

I remember my first encounter with dog-strangling vine. It seemed to tie itself around everything and it was very difficult to pull out. Now I know that it must be removed as soon as it is discovered, or it will wreak havoc in your garden. Dog-strangling vine is a combination of black swallowwort

and pale swallowwort; they look remarkably similar. The vine grows vigorously around plants effectively strangling them and it produces an amazing number of seeds.

- Dog-strangling Vine forms dense stands that overwhelm and crowd out native plants and young trees, preventing forest regeneration.

- Colonies form mats of interwoven vines that are difficult to walk through and interfere with forest management and recreational activities.

- Leaves and roots may be toxic to livestock. Deer and other browsing animals also avoid dog-strangling vine, which can increase grazing pressure on more palatable native plants.

- The vine threatens the monarch butterfly, a species at risk in Ontario. The butterflies lay their eggs on the plant, but the larvae are unable to complete their life cycle and do not survive. <http://www.invadingspecies.com/dog-strangling-vine/>

This plant requires all of us to do our best to not allow it to take hold. If you see it, pull it out as best as you can and if you find an infestation you can add it to the invasive weed early detection and distribution mapping system <https://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario/>

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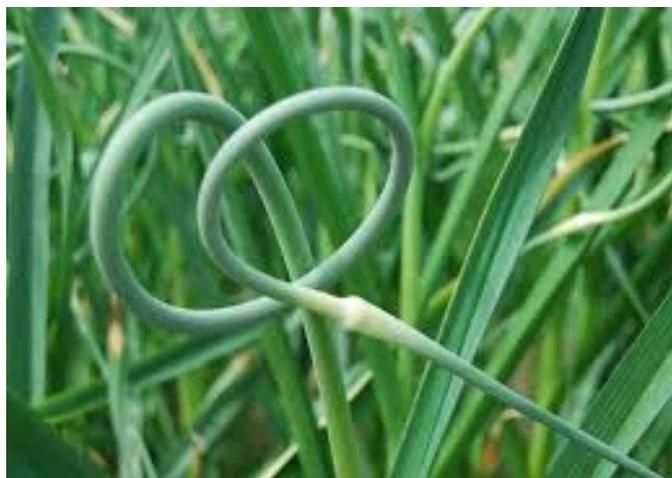
<http://www.invadingspecies.com/dog-strangling-vine/#>

Veggie Bites 15

Oh, do we ever need rain. This is so hard on our plants and our dreams. Of course, the wonderful thing about being a gardener is that we continuously chant.... Next Year!! Next Year!! The dreams never die. And so, we water. I water each morning and I water the pots again around 5pm. They dry out so quickly. What is giving me great joy is the little pool of water that I have in the front yard. The birds drink and splash and then they eat bugs!!

With this type of heat, we are due for a rainstorm that has the potential to do damage. When you get a lot of rain at once flooding can occur; paths become mudholes or plants can be overwhelmed. The first thing to do is to take stock of where the water goes in your garden. To paraphrase my riding coach 'that horse weighs over 1500 pounds do you think your puny little arms are stronger than the horse?' Well no. Mother nature wants the water to go down that path by your garden do you think your puny little diversions are going to stop her? This is where you work with nature instead of against her and build yourself a little rain garden. For example, let's suppose that when it rains the water rushes off the roof, slams into the ground and then floods the area leaving a pile of mud as it dries. What I did in this instance is place a number of flat rocks where the rain hits the ground and planted daylilies, grasses and hardy perennials that can take higher measures of water. The water comes off the roof, splashes and dances on the rocks and disappears into the plants. No more path of water or residual mud. There is a definite movement to make raingardens in our area, check this out https://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/4_Urban-Rain-Gardens.pdf.

Soon I will be harvesting my garlic scapes. If you planted garlic in the fall you should be seeing the scapes now. They make amazing pesto! We will talk about planting garlic closer to the time.



(freshcityfarms.com)

Have a great week; you can control the amount of water, but you cannot control the heat. Next week Master Gardener S.R. Bicket will be our guest article writer. She has written a very useful piece called 'The New Gardener'

Judith (lapisdragonarts@gmail.com) Veggie Bites is at <https://sites.google.com/site/sghortsoc/>

Plants from the Dark Side

Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop.) and Sow-thistle *Sonchus arvensis* L.,

Canada Thistle starts out low to the ground and can easily get ahead of you. The purple flowerheads do attract some pollinators but in my opinion, it is not worth the grief they give you. Canada thistles can get up to four feet in height and have a creeping root system. They are extremely prickly, so I recommend handling them with gloves. I have found that if you dig down the stem there are no prickles below the surface; I can grab the plant there and pull. This is not a plant for your compost so put it in a black plastic bag in the sun or into the green bin.

"Natural communities that are threatened by Canada thistle include non-forested plant communities such as prairies, barrens, savannas, glades, sand dunes, fields and meadows that have been impacted by disturbance. As it establishes itself in an area, Canada thistle crowds out and replaces native plants, changes the structure and species composition of natural plant communities, and reduces plant and animal diversity. This highly invasive thistle prevents the coexistence of other plant species through shading, competition for soil resources and possibly through the release of chemical toxins poisonous to other plants."

<https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wgw/canadathistle.pdf#:~:text=Canada%20thistle%20is%20an%20herbaceous%20perennial%20with%20erect,are%20borne%20singly%20and%20alternately%20along%20the%20stem.>

You should try your best to pull this weed as soon as you see it otherwise you will be battling a large and prickly adversary. While you can try to get most of the roots, be sure that it does not go to seed.



http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/facts/ontweeds/perennial_sowthistle.htm



The sow-thistle has the same type of creeping roots and it is very prolific. Unlike the Canada Thistle the sow-thistle has a sticky milky sap. The flower of this thistle resembles that of a dandelion. Sow-thistles interfere with agriculture and can be a real bother in your vegetable garden. It is easier to pull than the Canada thistle, but those roots spread quickly so try to keep on top of it.

The following submission was written as a presentation to the Town of Meaford council. It was first written before the Covid scare shut down council meetings. Since then it has been added to and modified to its present day form. When presented to council, he was stopped after the first paragraph was read and could not continue as it might present some employees in a bad light.

I have gotten permission to submit this presentation to see what the general public thinks. A lot of the points

presented reflect on how I see our own municipality running and I congratulate the author for standing up to the municipality. It should serve as a template for all of us to stand up and be counted as one who tries to do something about a problem instead of just voicing it at a coffee shop, or a Landowners meeting.

Bob Weirmeir

President, Saugeen Regional Landowners Association

Meaford Resident Offers Council some Suggestions to save Money

Meaford taxes are nearly the highest in all of Grey County. However, when we were informed last spring that our high taxes were increasing another 3%, my displeasure with irresponsible spending, lack of productivity among municipal employees, and the severe, yes, I said severe, overstaffing became important enough to speak up, rather than complain quietly. I can't be the only person who was horrified at last year's budget debacle, where senior staff were given spending parameters for their budgets, which they promptly ignored. After a few days of grumbling, council passed the budget anyway, showing staff that they can spend whatever they want without question, and showing taxpayers that the majority of councillors have no financial grip on reality, and our tax dollars are a bottomless piggy bank to be emptied often. There's no magical pot of gold to finance the municipality; it's taxpayer money that keeps this ship afloat. It shouldn't be an unreasonable request to treat that money with respect. Since budget time is approaching again, it seems a good time to get things under control.

This presentation was originally started before Covid 19 kicked the financial legs from under the municipality and its residents. Some refining of the municipalities financial actions is more important now than ever.

I'd like to remind council what the basic duty of government of any size is: to provide services to constituents as

required by the constitution. Nowhere in that statement is there any mention of providing employment for as many residents as possible, or to compete with the likes of Toronto for public service offerings.

I don't intend to offer any input on parks and recreation or certain other areas of the municipality. If I have no experience in a field, I have no right to suggest specific changes. With general staffing levels and road maintenance, I do have experience, and intend to suggest substantial changes, which, if applied to other areas of the township, can't help but repair our financial situation.

Nineteen years ago, municipal amalgamations took place with the intended purpose of gaining efficiencies and saving money by eliminating overlap of services, and reducing staff. I'm told that at the time of amalgamation, the full-time equivalent staff consisted of 41 people. As of 2013, we had 81, an average increase of more than 3 new positions per year, nearly doubling the staff. The last published number of 2019 shows 94 employees; still an average increase of 2 new positions per year. Apparently adding up the hours actually now brings us to 110, almost triple the original staff. I'd like to ask the rhetorical question to those on council who have been, and still are, business owners or managers: how many of you have more than doubled your own staff, while the work load only slightly changes? Obviously, none of you have. It's a foolish, irresponsible and destructive

business practice which can have no other result than financial ruin. So, if it doesn't seem like a good idea with your money, why is it a good practice with ours? Our current office positions total more than 25% more staff than the previous municipality total, including outside workers. The paperwork involved with dealing with senior levels of government unfortunately requires more office staff, but not the massive staff we have. Most e mail's I've sent to the municipality has been answered by a different person, all with a job title I've never heard to exist elsewhere. As far as outside workers, there is little or no increase justified. Road mileage hasn't increased, nor has the amount of township owned property.

I'm told that the annual payroll for this municipality is nearly \$8,500,000. A minimum ten percent staff reduction still entails a huge amount of money for payroll, but saves \$850,000 annually. If a trimmed staff, still much more than double its previous size can't get the job done, you've been hiring the wrong people, condoning seriously underwhelming productivity, or creating positions for too many of your friends, all of which I believe to be true. The current cost of salaries means that every resident is spending \$773 of their tax bill per year on wages. That's not every household, but every resident. If you break it down further, over \$1500 of each tax bill goes to wages.

According to the staff list I've been given, we are extremely management top heavy.

In roads and infrastructure, we

have four office supervisors, compared to pre-amalgamation, where we had no full-time office staff for roads. From what I've been able to determine, while most of the roads managers (those who will actually return calls) are friendly and helpful, it seems none have any first hand, ground level experience at their department, resulting in every question being directed to another employee, generally resulting in an answer which is usually a bogus story, one which might pacify a taxpayer that knows nothing about the equipment. The managers themselves, unfortunately, have no knowledge of the day to day workings of the department they lead, or how the equipment is used, a fact that was proven to me through several such phone calls. How do you effectively manage a department that you yourself don't understand? Simple answer: you don't. The road superintendents of twenty years ago spent time in the office, but nobody full time, certainly not four. Despite such a high level of management, little is accomplished in the roads department, and what is accomplished is generally not done so efficiently.

I've attached two pages of observations of specific instances when our road crew wastes time doing nothing while burning fuel through a \$300,000 machine so as to save time in this presentation, but I will offer one example here. Any road department in an area with a frost cycle knows that the first task when temperatures rise and roads bare off, is to cold patch potholes in pavement. Potholes will only increase in size, raising the repair cost, and deteriorating the road. Two days after the Feb. 28 storm, we had mild temperatures and bare roads. Concession 4 is paved from city road 18 for one concession. Finally, on March 20, the holes 6 inch diameter or greater were patched. Five days later, holes 3-6 inch were patched. Smaller holes still exist, only now, obviously, much larger. Why was everything not done in one pass, rather than waste extra trips? To a typical taxpayer, not experienced in road maintenance or heavy equipment, the outside staff appears to stay busy. To those of us who've done the job,

and are familiar with the equipment, it quickly becomes obvious that a lot of time is spent driving around, looking busy, while filling a shift accomplishing little or nothing, with necessary safety-related tasks being ignored. I don't drive around the entire municipality looking for issues; I routinely travel the three concessions near my house, and the list is comprised entirely of observations while driving through, or walking the dog. I don't look for these serious inefficient actions, they're right there for anybody to see who wishes to notice. The fact that lead-hand patrols don't seem to care fortifies my opinion that lack of productivity or improper machine operation is condoned regularly.

I'm told that at the time of amalgamation, the full-time equivalent staff consisted of 41 people. As of 2013, we had 81, an average increase of more than 3 new positions per year, nearly doubling the staff. The last published number of 2019 shows 94 employees

Building and planning has an office staff of five, which seems like a lot for the limited planning and development happening here. Perhaps less staff would make this township less difficult for developers to deal with, and there would be more development.

Strategic Initiatives has three people. The definition I've been given for this department translates to glorified babysitters that make sure the municipality follows its own directives. This department needs to go. If council and senior staff can't self-govern, you really aren't effective either, and should maybe follow them out the door.

Assets and technology employs five people. According to the function of this department, I'm confused why more than one or two is needed.

Our environment department is most confusing: four supervisors

compared to four operators. I can't imagine any other industry or department that requires workers and managers at a 1:1 ratio. I've delivered machinery to Bruce Power and Darlington, both renowned for ridiculous staffing levels, neither of which has operators and supervisors in equal numbers.

There isn't a single person on council who can, without embarrassing themselves, defend the staff levels we have, or to deny that a smaller staff, still double its previous size can't serve this municipality properly, and I'm suggesting a 10% reduction of staff as the starting point, not the final result. In just a few minutes, I've presented sensible, sustainable, annual savings in the range of \$1,000,000, without touching parks and rec or the library. I thought this was the type of homework we paid council to do. The common argument is that cutting staff requires cutting services. There's no polite way to answer that, so I'll just say it: that's a load of crap. Twenty years ago, there were not multiple managers in every department; where managers did exist, they actually understood the department they supervised. Machinery was far more primitive and less efficient than today, and winter was a lot worse than just three months of bad golfing weather. Less roads were hard-surfaced. Somehow, the work still got done with a fraction of the staff. The difference was that those employed by the municipality were not only qualified for their job, but motivated to do the job thoroughly and properly, with effective management. Let's try that method again, rather than continue to encourage laziness and ineffective action.

We're so management heavy that nothing is being managed. Whether it's a case of 'not my job', or just too many managers tripping over each other on the same projects, or the apparent issue of managers with no relatable skills in their department, you're creating your own inefficiencies. The list of people with the words 'manager or supervisor' behind their name needs to be trimmed dramatically first, then you can start looking at the other workers.

On the subject of roads, there are major changes needed, rectifying situations that should never have happened. We have an evening shift for the winter months, four employees which are completely unnecessary and unjustified. As winters get progressively lighter, the service level and traffic counts of a township doesn't support this shift. Grey county has such a shift, which they will even admit isn't quite justified, even with their increased service levels. It was created to guarantee occasional operators a minimum of 24 hours per week, the magic number to exceed what they could earn collecting unemployment benefits, to entice people to actually work. Also, it enabled them to keep two more people per patrol yard employed full time who would otherwise be part time. Again, we have a government entity creating positions.

In 2018, council was presented with the Winter Control Enhancement Report, a document which was apparently created by staff with an agenda to increase staff and equipment numbers, resulting in the statistics being manipulated. Council of the day either didn't notice the obvious, blatant flaws in the report, or chose to ignore it. This report resulted in the hiring of the four man evening shift. The same report dictates a policy of plowing being complete 24 hours after a snow event, so evening staff is clearly not necessary when regular crews will be returning before dawn. It seems that on weekends, when few operators want to work, it's quite acceptable to drive through a foot of unplowed snow for at least 24 hours before plows pass through. If it's okay for an entire day of the weekend, then it's quite acceptable on weekdays from late afternoon until early morning.

First, the nearly \$100,000 cost of the four operators was supposedly partially offset assuming \$50,000 of the previous winter's overtime costs. The report clearly states that the previous

winter was the worst on recent record, though. It's obviously not accurate to use the worst recent winter as a calculated average, rather than the anomaly that it is. A typical winter would only entail half that amount of overtime, at a cost of \$25,000. And let's not kid ourselves, plans are likely already underway to make these four positions full time, permanent.

A month ago, I sent members of council a single multi-choice question: Is staffing and spending okay as is, needs to grow, or needs to shrink? This was the second e-mail I've sent to the mayor, and the second that wasn't returned, not the behaviour I expected from an elected official at a township that advertises it values taxpayer feedback. Only favourable feedback, I guess. Another councillor assured me these were questions they ask at council all the time. I asked again which was his choice, to which I got no answer. Even by political standards, that's a very lame evasion. One council member was okay with the status quo. I don't have to agree with him to respect the quick answer. The interesting part was that the remaining four councillors, although not sure when or how to do it, agreed that staff needs to be cut, and spending trimmed. Unless you graduated math in Ontario in the last decade, four of seven is a majority, so why are spending and staffing still increasing?

The municipality previously owned a Gradall, replaced by a rubber tired excavator with a brushing attachment, again, not financially justified. Brushing operations still require cleaning up or chipping the leftover brush, if the job is to be completed properly, which apparently doesn't happen. Brush disposal is far easier when taken down in a controlled manner, rather than slashing everything at tree height with a machine. At an assumed MTO rate of \$120 per hour, brushing would be equally efficient, and not leave behind a mess similar to the day after a windstorm, if it was instead performed by three men with chainsaws and a chipper, which would be a comparable hourly cost. Instead, we encourage laziness by randomly cutting everything in reach with a machine and leaving behind jagged piles of dead branches, while long dead, and dangerous trees stay, since they can't be cut with the machine.

Grey county, the poster child for buying every new toy the equipment manufacturers build, whether justified or not, doesn't have such a brushing attachment. Even with their addiction to new and unnecessary equipment, even they have stayed with a three man tree crew, the only way the job seems to get done properly.

As far as ditching operations, the only sustainable justification for this machine, the cost of the operator and fuel alone will be around \$60 per hour. The machine itself, compared to 2018 and 2019 equipment values, will depreciate at a rate of \$20,000 annually. Considering this machine only clocks 250 hours per year ditching, the hourly cost, before any repairs are necessary, become \$140 an hour for ditching operations when depreciation is factored. In contrast, the average gradall rental rate of the area is only \$110, by qualified contractors. Do the math: before this machine requires any greater repair than an oil change, it's already costing us \$7500 per year more than



sub contracting. Even if the entire 600 hours logged on the machine was necessary, factoring long-term repair costs and depreciation, the machine just barely breaks even. You can't financially justify any machine that works so few hours per year.

Our tree and vegetation program, states that problem trees will be dealt with during road reconstruction, or when noticed by patrollers. A drive down some roads being resurfaced this year shows dead trees still standing, with only the usual mound of branches hacked off by the trimmer. In two concessions in my area alone, there are five large trees, dead for several years, somehow still standing, somehow completely invisible to patrollers.

Many taxpayers won't be aware that our fuel comes from a supplier in Orangeville, rather than sourced locally. This, apparently, was because few of our local suppliers were willing to participate in the unorthodox method fuel supplies were tendered. Rather than buy a cardlock system, at an approximate cost of \$60,000, with a typical ten to fifteen year replacement cycle, Meaford chose to include a cardlock lease as part of the bidding, currently paying an equipment lease of \$.05 per liter, on an annual usage of about 200,000 liters, for a lease cost of \$10,000 per year, rather than owning the same hardware for an amortized cost of \$ 4-6,000 per year. Should we ever get a hard winter, this scenario will also open the risk of running out of fuel. A local supplier, worst case, can follow a plow in and out of the works yard, but if your out of town supplier can't get within forty miles, now what?

Recently, to add fuel to the spending fire, we've seen the introduction of the Transportation Master Plan, a 25 year projection for transportation improvements. After reading the draft statement and attached survey, I can summarize the draft statement for those who haven't seen it: 'Help us spend even more'. You've hired a consultant for over \$131,000 to advise the direction of future plans. How about the strategic initiative staff of three that we already have, in conjunction with the heavily bloated

transportation management team? If we still need outside consultants, then guess what? My opinion of senior staff and the strategic initiatives team has been proven correct. The consultant you've hired has an impressive roster of former clients, mostly large cities. Guaranteed, the same mentality will be used here, recommending a level of infrastructure spending we can neither afford nor justify. The comparison I used with some people on council was hiring Kevin O Leary to manage a chip wagon. The expertise and experience is so far above our level, it can't realistically apply.

Building and planning has an office staff of five, which seems like a lot for the limited planning and development happening here. Perhaps less staff would make this township less difficult for developers to deal with, and there would be more development.

The survey itself was laughable. Where do we need more sidewalks and bike lanes? Cyclists will want them everywhere, regardless of cost or practicality. What roads should be prioritized for reconstruction? I promise that every gravel road inhabited by big-city retirees, the same people who insisted on such high snow removal levels that we have the expensive evening shift, will deem their road to be top priority. In every case, the survey will lean not to reality, but towards whomever returns it, probably multiple times since it's an anonymous online survey. Also, in every case, you're asking questions of the public that your massive staff, if they were actually effective, would already have answers to. As has become typical, staff continues to grow at an alarming, expensive, and ineffective

rate, as we continue to sub-contract what municipal staff's duties should be.

I have two requests of this council. First, take this presentation as serious as the preparation that went into it. Your own businesses and households don't throw money around like candy at a parade, so stop doing it with ours.

Second, for the next municipal election, I'd ask every candidate to clearly state, for the record, your stance on staffing and efficiencies: is the status quo fine, or should staff be trimmed and equipment financially justified? An answer of 'no comment' should be construed as a spineless method of confirming that the status quo is fine. In that manner, we can more easily determine who has no respect for taxpayer money.

Another wasteful municipality, Georgian Bluffs, also with a bloated staff, as well as part owner of a bio digester that processes more red ink than waste, and owning an airport that bleeds money, their previous taxation levels, 10-15% lower than ours, were actually lowered this year, rather than the increase we were given. That alone should shame any municipal council into more responsible financial management. The electorate that put this council in office was already overtaxed, mostly due to irresponsible spending and high staff levels. After the pandemic, very few people aren't experiencing tighter finances than before. If this council can't get their affairs in order, and spend tax money realistically, rather than in the typical political manner of finding unique ways to justify unreasonable practices, the same electorate can make sure the next council includes several new faces, something I strongly encourage. Justifying your spending is not the same as making justified expenses. I shouldn't have to tell any of you that, but rest assured, those of us who pay your bills know the difference. Financial reality needs to become a priority.

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Brush with Greatness

It's often when we least expect it, that we may find ourselves face to face with a famous TV or movie personality.

by Randy Vancourt

Back in the early days of David Letterman's NBC show "Late Night" he had a regular segment entitled, "Brush With Greatness." The concept was that ordinary audience members would recount their comical chance meetings with various celebrities. It was one of my favourite bits on his show and I was sad that he didn't continue doing it once he jumped to CBS. I always found it much funnier than Stupid Pet Tricks, which he dragged on doing for over 30 years.

Brush With Greatness highlighted the randomness of our daily meetings, proving we never know when we might come into contact with a famous actor, musician, novelist or politician. This chance increases when you live in a major city, exponentially when it's a place with a lot of film production like Toronto or Vancouver.

I've worked in the entertainment industry for a few decades now so my odds of bumping into a famous face are perhaps higher than some. I worked with Jim Henson (The Muppets) and Ernie Coombs (Mr. Dressup) and I am happy to report that these two people were as sweet, warm and wonderful as you might think. I also happened to live a couple of blocks away from Meghan Markle when she was in Toronto and know for a fact that she went shopping (Prince Harry in tow) at our local Loblaws.

On the other hand I did not impress Lily Tomlin when I fell asleep sitting right next to her at one of her film premieres, and I

once had my hand smacked while playing piano for Sharon, Lois and Bram when I didn't perform "Skinnamarink" to their satisfaction.

However my most interesting meetups have been far more random. I was in a Men's room once and the person next to me asked for the time. Certain I recognized his voice but afraid of the social impropriety of turning to look at him, I said, "It's 2:30."

"Thanks, Chief!" he replied cheerily, at which point I felt I just had to turn and look and discovered I was standing next to Don Adams of Get Smart fame...at a urinal. I felt it was probably not the ideal time to compliment him on his Inspector Gadget work.

At a theatre event in Toronto one evening I began chatting with another guest. Eventually I asked her what she did for a living and she said, "I work at Canada AM."

I naively asked, "Are you a researcher or something?" She replied, "No. I host the show."

I had failed to recognize Pamela Wallin, then host of the iconic morning show and later a Canadian diplomat and senator. In a flash of attempted humour to cover my stupidity, I blurted out something I regret to this day. I told her I never watched morning news shows because they conflicted with viewing reruns of "Hercules."

Perhaps my most memorable Brush with Greatness had to have been four years ago in Washington, D.C., where my wife and I had been invited to a wedding. Her two

housemates from her days at the University of Minnesota had finally decided to tie the knot after being together for years and were holding the event at a friend's house.

It was a breathtakingly gorgeous home in the upscale D.C. area of Georgetown (the Obamas lived on the same street); the kind of home that included a massive study with an actual suit of armor. Of course when one was holding their wedding in a palatial home in a wealthy section of Washington, there was only one choice of officiant: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

It was a memorable evening and I guess the obvious highlight should have been the actual ceremony, held at dusk in the sumptuous backyard. If I am honest though, for me the exciting part was sitting a few feet away from Justice Ginsburg and her bodyguards at the reception.

When she passed away recently it struck me that while many will rightly celebrate her amazing work and many successes over the years, I will always think of her as that woman across the table, devouring a plate of gourmet Mac and Cheese.

www.randyvancourt.com

The Contrarian

No-Damp



by Mel Fisher

Gardeners can all relate to this. Your little seedling tomatoes or whatever, growing under lights, get to say 2 inches tall, then topple over like an old tree, the stem has been withered right to nothing at the ground line. That is called ‘damping off’ -- there’s a fungus on garden soil that can attack that delicate new tissue. The solution -- “No-Damp”, add a few drops of this fungicide in a pitcher of water, and your little plants are safe. Comes at a price higher than the best scotch, but hey it’s only a little bottle. No problem.

Then a few years ago, “No-Damp” disappeared from the shelves at Canadian Tire, and if you ask they will tell you that you can save the plants by using Hydrogen Peroxide instead of No-Damp. What? You have been selling me stuff priced higher than the best scotch, when I could have been using stuff priced lower than cheap beer! How crooked is that!

Sadly, many of the products used in large quantities by modern agriculture, fertilizer, insecticide, herbicide, fungicide are similarly

overpriced, in fact bottom line is, all the income raised by modern agriculture goes to buying expensive inputs, and the farmer is able to survive on the various government subsidies that only large farms are eligible for. It’s part of forcing us all to become sheep in the giant shepherd’s paddock that is our cities - we have to get rid of small businesspeople including farmers at all costs, after all they are much too feisty. Besides, as our prime minister puts it, “small business is just a cover for tax evasion!”.

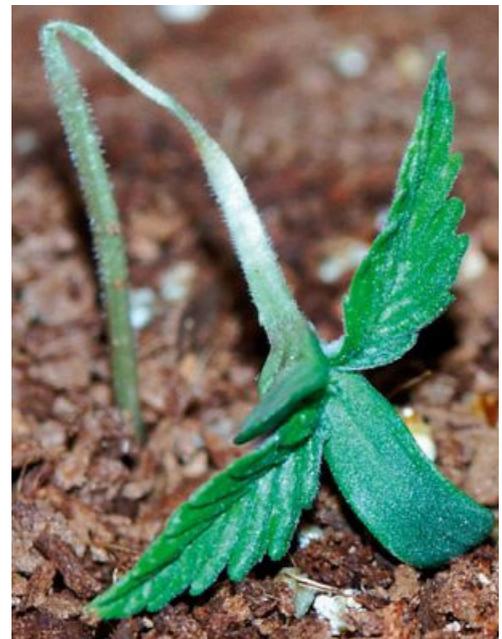
Perhaps our great leap backward began with our universities being corrupted into agents of corporations. So 50 years ago we developed much improved grains, and a Canadian triumph, Canola, a great boon to the small farmer. Now we develop new varieties which can only survive with application of generous quantities of whatever the sponsoring company wants to sell.

But this is not about farmers. No-Damp is a perfect example of the problem of corporations

‘inventing’ miracle drugs which are put through the system at incredible profits, when in many cases the traditional methods are as effective. But your doctor or pharmacist is not allowed, by rule or by financial incentive, to prescribe simple old-fashioned cures, salt water for infections, peroxide for antiseptic, you medical guys know what I am talking about. Instead they have to steer us toward expensive factory drugs. My own example, they steer me to various expensive products for my sore eyes, when simple hot water works better than any of them.

And our universities are similarly corrupt, medical research is much more oriented toward products to ameliorate symptoms, than to actual cures or even worse, prevention! Got to keep those sponsoring corporations happy!

What a great leap forward if we could get the corporations and the politics out of our universities!



SOCIALISM AND THE YOUNG

by Roger Graves

Justin Trudeau's government, particularly with the appointment of Chrystia Freeland as Finance Minister, is lurching to the left at a speed which threatens to leave the NDP in the dust. Joe Biden and the Democrat Party in the US are making similar left-leaning promises, or threats, depending on your point of view. While neither of them are saying it directly, both are hinting at the eventual adoption of socialism, and an awful lot of young people are cheering them on. But why does socialism appeal so much to the young?

The definition of socialism is that the means of production and distribution – shops, factories, farms and so on – are owned by the state. In a socialist state everyone is an employee of the state, owning your own business is illegal, and obviously making money by doing so is also illegal. If you have two dollars and I have only one dollar, then you probably got that extra dollar by some unfair means, and the state has a duty to take fifty cents away from you and give it to me so that we both have \$1.50.

Capitalists, on the other hand, don't hold with the state owning the means of production and distribution, or much of anything else come to that, and people who get rich generally do so by working hard. If I have only one dollar while you have two, the remedy is not for me to complain about it, but just to get up a bit earlier and start working harder.

Socialism appeals to the young because of its apparent fairness: no-one should have any advantage over anyone else, rather like the way they and their siblings were all given precisely equal shares of pie at the dinner table. One of the distinguishing characteristics of the type of socialism espoused by Justin Trudeau and Joe

Biden is its emphasis on victimhood: everyone is either an oppressor or a victim. The more of a victim you can claim to be, and consequently the more disadvantaged you are, the greater the compensation the state will shower upon you to bring you level with everyone else. Thus we have the Victimhood Olympics, where everyone except straight white men (who are always oppressors, never victims) competes for the Greatest Victimhood Status gold medal. Of course, judging these contests can present its own problems. Does a transgendered black woman score higher or lower than a lesbian Muslim? Only time will tell.

What the idealistic young never seem to realise is that tidy, orderly societies are usually kept tidy and orderly by the threat of massive force: do as you are told, speak as you are told, think as you are told, or it's off to the gulag with you..

Another aspect of socialism which appeals to idealistic young people is the way in which it seems to be so tidy and well organized compared to capitalism. Everything is done according to multi-year master plans set up by government bureaucrats, who, of course, know far better than mere business owners what people want, or at least ought to want. Capitalism, in contrast, always seems chaotic, with everyone doing

their own thing without a grand master plan, which can be rather frightening to young people barely weaned out of their parental homes and looking for order in their worlds.

What the idealistic young never seem to realise is that tidy, orderly societies are usually kept tidy and orderly by the threat of massive force: do as you are told, speak as you are told, think as you are told, or it's off to the gulag with you – rather like being sent to your room, but with added violence.

If you talk to any socialism enthusiast in Canada or the US today, they will point to Scandinavian countries such as Denmark and Sweden as shining examples of the kind of socialism that we should adopt. However, these are not socialist countries at all. (The Prime Minister of Denmark recently stated explicitly in a speech that Denmark was not socialist.) What they are is high-tax capitalists. To be sure, they have generous welfare systems, free university tuition and so on – all guaranteed to attract young people – but they do so at the cost of tax rates a great deal higher than ours. At one time Astrid Lindgren, the Swedish author of the Pippi Longstocking books, was paying tax at a marginal rate of 102 percent, which meant that not only did the Swedish government confiscate everything she earned above a certain limit, it also made her pay to have it confiscated. This hardly concerns you when you are young and neither earning much nor paying much tax, but as you get older, seeing your money disappear down the government rabbit hole becomes less and less attractive.

Socialism is often a stopping point on the way to communism, where there is no such thing as private property, nobody owns anything at

all, and everything is held in common (hence the term communism). However, once communism has been imposed on a nation it is almost impossible to get rid of it. Eastern European nations managed to reject it largely without violence only because the USSR collapsed, otherwise they would still be communist today.

I am not aware of any country which, without any external pressure, decided to adopt communism via a peaceful plebiscite. In many cases a cadre of trained organizers and agitators works to destabilize society and to infiltrate the education system so as to convince young people of the paradise awaiting them under communism. Organizations such as Black Lives Matter (I'm referring here to the political entity, not the general ideology) openly admit to being run by Marxist organizers, so the whole purpose of these groups is to create the conditions under which communism can take over. And once a communist regime is in place, it usually takes bloody revolution to get rid of it. Elections under communism

are guaranteed to give 100 percent approval to the current rulers, mainly due to the fact that there is only one name on the ballot paper.

Any political system which must be imposed and maintained by force is morally wrong. Communism is always maintained by force, and socialism is often only a step on the way to communism.

One thing that all communist governments have is a massive security apparatus to keep the people in check, and this is both their strength and their weakness. One of the reasons the USSR collapsed thirty years ago is

that the financial burden of its internal state security became unupportable. You can see the same thing happening in Communist China today, where there are massive police and security forces. In addition, the enormous People's Liberation Army owes its allegiance to the Chinese Communist Party, not the Chinese state, which seems to indicate that the PLA exists primarily to put down internal revolts rather than for defence against external forces.

Any political system which must be imposed and maintained by force is morally wrong. Communism is always maintained by force, and socialism is often only a step on the way to communism. We just have to convince our largely idealistic and gullible youth that this is so. **

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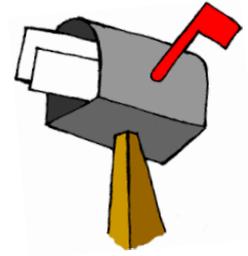
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Letter from a Reader



DEFENSE OF MY PROPERTY

My name is David Dobson and for 30 years I have been defending my title to a property with a deed that is registered in the Ontario Land Registry that can be traced back to the original Crown Patent. Saugeen First Nation(SFN) named me as a defendant in 1995 as part of a claim they made to 1.4 miles of Sauble Beach. The actual claim was filed by Canada on behalf of SFN in 1990 against the former Amabel Township, now known as the Town of South Bruce Peninsula.

As you can imagine after 30 years there are several chapters to my story, but most significant is that in 2017, I conclusively proved that the Saugeen First Nation claim is unfounded by matching the terms of Treaty 72 to the SFN reserve boundaries outlined on the 1856 official survey plan of Amabel Township, completed by chief surveyor Charles Rankin. Rankin's 1856 plan was accepted by Indian Affairs as the official plan and stamped and filed as plan 862. For 30 years no one involved in this case, expert or otherwise, plaintiff or defendant, was able to achieve this feat. An achievement which should be considered the ultimate proof that the Saugeen First Nation claim is unfounded.

However, even though I have matched the terms of the treaty to the final map, my evidence is being ignored and more likely avoided by Canada and the Province. I have reached out and offered my research countless times to both levels of government only to be brushed aside and treated as an annoyance. No one within the government is willing to listen or help. Canada has put a lot of effort into supporting the Saugeen First Nation claim and I am sure my research would not be well received considering the amount of money they have spent in support of SFN. All the same, along with me, three other private landowners, the Province and the Town, Saugeen First Nation named Canada as a defendant in this case and in my opinion, Canada has a responsibility to defend, particularly in light of this new evidence.

This case is slated to go to court as a "mini trial" with the main players in this portion of the proceedings being the Town of South Bruce Peninsula(TSBP) and Saugeen First Nation. My lawyer is advising me to ride the coattails of the TSBP because in his opinion, I cannot afford to defend

in court. The problem is, the Town is also ignoring my evidence for reasons only they know. I am sure at this point you may be thinking that they are ignoring the evidence for good reason, but I believe it is for politically correct reasons, particularly in the case of Canada and Ontario. Their treatment of my material is suspiciously nefarious. The Town's reasons are enigmatic to me since they have everything to gain since my research would bolster their own case.

I have produced several videos on this subject to let you decide for yourself, but I will point you to three in particular:

1. The shortest version possible at 4:35 to give a brief, but fairly significant understanding of my evidence <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r512s0zikg0>

2. At 37:55 this video gives "the meat" of the research, dealing with the main points and how they stack up against the research of Crown Indigenous Relations and Saugeen First Nation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sUx_VVqBurU&t=14s

3. And, at 1:33:51 this first video that I made is comprehensive and includes the background and other relatable evidence which compliments the main focus of having matched the treaty terms to the final map. This video, however, does not include recent evidence regarding the intent of the Treaty which I came across quite recently that corroborates my findings and negates Crown Indigenous Relations reasons for supporting SFN. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAFKamxjZYc&t=4s>

Please let me know if my story interests you and whether it would fit in with your magazine style format. I also have a blog if your interested at: <https://saublelandclaim.blogspot.com/>

*David Dobson
Crowd Inn, Sauble Beach, ON
Owner/Operator*

Drama in the Woods



by Dale Dawson

Once upon a frosty morning a young man followed a trail winding
Through some woods where he was finding solitude that he was minding
With a rush he noticed quickly an unnatural quiet that made him sickly
Causing alarm to him quaking there and a raising of his hair

He moved not a whit and peered about looking for a fast way out
What could it be that caused such fright making critters to take flight
Then ground hemlock began to shake and his knees began to quake
From the bushes with a mighty bound came old Rover the neighbours hound

Old Rover he could plainly see had some place he'd rather be
That old hound was flying low and surely had a place to go
Then quite soon he reasoned why when mamma bear thundered by
After Rover the big bear ran paying no attention to the man

With some relief he turned about and hoped to find a quick way out
He'd been a slow methodical man and hardly in life had ever ran
But all those habits that he once knew disappeared as on he flew
He couldn't tell if his ears were ringing or was it just old Rover singing

He covered ground at an alarming pace with branches whipping at his face
Out of the shadows into the clear and gave a sigh his house was near
Old Rovers cries were getting clearer that old dog was getting nearer
From his back door he had to grin watching old Rover amble in





**Good News from
Jeff Bogaerts,**
President,
Ontario Landowners Association

Congratulations Liz!!!

Hello Ontario Landowners!

I want to announce a news story of Excellent Significance.

This story occurred on Friday October 23, 2020. The story begins with a highly respected organization, the Canadian Justice Review Board.

The Canadian Justice Review Board (CJRB) is a not-for-profit corporation.

The CJRB seeks to promote high standards of practice by all members of the legal profession by identifying those who behave in questionable ways or in ways which are publicly perceived to cast the administration of justice into disrepute.

The CJRB provides a public forum in which its members and supporters can express their views and concerns.

Your support helps to re-establish the integrity of the courts and to affirm the principle that courts are not self-created organizations with unlimited powers.

The courts are institutions created by the people of Canada through their elected representatives for the purpose of protecting Canadians with judicial decisions made according to the rules of law which have been laid down for the courts and not according to arbitrary, unreasonable or inconsistent rules made by the courts themselves

<https://canadianjusticereviewboard.ca/>

Liz Marshall has been a long-time member of the OLA as a board member, speaker, author, political candidate, and a tenacious advocate for Property Rights. She is currently the Director of Research for the OLA and has written numerous articles and reports on Property Rights.

Liz is President of All Rights Research Ltd. and a Published Author. Her book, "Property Rights 101: An Introduction", now in its Second Edition, can be ordered through Amazon or the OLA website. If you

truly want to protect your Rights, this book should be on your desk, in easy reach and well worn.

Liz is also known for her legal research. She has worked with Queen's Counsel, Lawyers, Law Offices, MPs, MPPs and Municipal Councillors.

In addition to being a board member of the OLA, Liz has been a long time board member of the CJRB.

It is my honour to announce that Liz Marshall has been elected to the position of Chair of the Canadian Justice Review Board.

We are proud of you and your accomplishment Liz. Well Done!

Sincerely,

*Jeff D. Bogaerts, President
Ontario Landowners Association*



DEFENDING YOUR PROPERTY RIGHTS

“Property Rights” - we hear people talk about property rights and then those around them often snigger, smile, laugh or offer derision, but why is this?

The foundation of Canada’s being was built on the basis of persons from all parts of the world coming to this great land and seeking life, which would let them generate riches, to feed, cloth, house and educate their families and to be self sustaining in their golden age.

This worked because Canada was based upon the British parliamentary system and 550 years of English common law at the time of our confederation.

English common law, in simple terms, defined “what is yours is yours and how you use it is up to your authority and not the authority of others” - with the simple caveat “that should you cause harm through your authority and actions to another person’s property that you can be held accountable for the damage you caused to that person”.

In our Constitution, the power of the Crown is the highest authority in the land and its job is simple - to protect its authority and to protect, defend and maintain the individual rights of all Canadians against encroachments, nullifications, removals, or minimizing actions of elected officials.

Most people equate the terminology “property rights” as being really oriented but it goes much further than that: for it encompasses not just real estate but includes any physical asset you own, your body and even your thoughts and freedoms including expression.

Elected officials get elected and it’s as if while being sworn into office there is a secret back room initiation akin to the old “invasion of the body snatcher” movie, and their minds are taken over, they forget their job is to protect the individual rights of the citizens against the level of government they are elected to - and they become part of a great conspiracy to pass more and more restrictions

upon us and our property in the name of the common good and enforcing the power of the civil servant mandarins.

If there is one thing history has taught us, it is that the call of communal decision making to control and dictate what you can do or not do with your property, is failing or has failed in every state in the world that has gone down that rabbit hole.

When we stand up and ask our politicians and various authorities from “where do you get your authority to dictate your demands and restrictions upon us, respective to our use and exploitation of our lawful property” they look stunned as if “how dare we ask”. They ridicule us and ignore us and create massive numbers of charges for violating their authority - but the simple question remains unanswered because quite simply - there are a great number of instances in which they do not have authority and we the citizens are so afraid of their power that we submit to their bully actions.

Our submission to their dictates doesn’t mean we agree the authorities have the authority; it means we as citizens either do not know our rights or are afraid to stand up for them.

We, the Hamilton Halton Landowners Association, have had to disassemble our meetings due to COVID, but we remain firmly entrenched in our battle defending our constitution, defending our authority rights over all our property and in standing up to those who would take away our authorities and abilities to make decisions that are for our self benefit.

Our country was great because our ancestors were brave, bold, courageous and ready to tame this land. They came, endured significant hardships and often paid for their mistakes with their lives but they persevered and overcame. They built a nation that was the envy of the world - but that was then and now our country is afraid, without a national vision and has squandered the riches our ancestors fought to provide.

To environmentalist and green activists: we recognize your right to your beliefs and right of expression.

However, if you believe the use of legislation and municipal by-laws, zealous conservation authorities and the need for consensus of numbers of experts to justify an action, that you have the right to take the possessions and authorities away from citizens, without fair compensation to the individual, then this country will spiral ever more into the rabbit hole in which all citizens will see the continuing erosion of living standards, till you have no rights, no freedom and your children will bow before the authorities with a beggar bowl pleading for more government handouts.

We are here to speak truth to power and to defend the rights of every citizen - all of the rights for each of them - for if we do not then at what point are your rights truly unalienable not inalienable.

We ask all who would stand up to defend your rights - to join our group and help support us.

We are here to stand at your side; come stand with us!

Pass this on to your family and friends and encourage all to check out the Ontario Landowners website at ontariolandowners.ca.

Encourage all to become members and to indicate they want to also be members of the Local Hamilton Halton Landowner Association or the Niagara Landowners Association.

The pandemic will end but the government attack on our rights will not. Neither will our defence of the constitution and our rights based on over 800 years of common law.

It is time that we emulate our ancestors and be brave, bold, courageous and willing to endure the hardships of defending our rights and freedoms, for if we want our children and grandchildren to have a future which includes their having property rights - then it is up to us now.

*President Don Johnson
Hamilton Halton Landowners
Association
teamjohn@idirect.com*



Thought of the Day

October 8, 2020

by Elizabeth Marshall

What can be done about corruption in government?

As for the integrity of the House – it is on those we’ve elected to ensure that those who violate the law are held accountable, so the question begs to be asked – why haven’t they?

That is for you and your elected officials to decide...

As of late many have been asking what can be done about corruption in government – all governments. This is not restricted to only those in the Federal House of Commons but also to the Provincial Legislatures. As for Municipal Councils there are sections in the Municipal Act, Criminal Code of Canada, etc., which can be used, by the people, if they so choose – that is for them to decide.

As for the House of Commons and the Legislatures one can find the answers at the Library of Parliament web-site.

From the web-site one finds a link to a document entitled “Criminal Charges and Parliamentarians” by Marc-Andre Roy written in 2017. This will be a very informative read, for those who are interested, but suffice it to say it is entirely up to those sitting in the House as to whether a sitting MP, or a Candidate, who has been charged and convicted of a criminal offence can (i) continue to sit in the house or be expelled, and (ii) whether said criminal offender would be allowed to run. From the 2017 paper:

“In general, the laying of criminal charges against a member of the

Senate or the House of Commons has no immediate legal implications with respect to their right to remain in office, with the exception of a procedure applicable to senators in certain situations. However, in the case of a conviction for a criminal offence, the legal implications with respect to the parliamentarian’s right to keep their seat and their future eligibility are more serious. In all cases, both houses of Parliament retain the power to expel members, whether or not they have been convicted of a criminal offence.” [1]

In this paper is included a Supreme Court ruling which is also of great interest regarding these types of situations. In *Harvey v. New Brunswick (Attorney General)*, [1996] 2 S.C.R. 876 [2] there are some key statements which include:

“Parliamentary Privilege and the Courts

61. If democracies are to survive, they must insist upon the integrity of those who seek and hold public office. They cannot tolerate corrupt practices within the legislature. Nor can they tolerate electoral fraud. If they do, two consequences are apt to result. First, the functioning of the legislature may be impaired. Second, public confidence in the legislature and the government may be undermined. No democracy can afford either.

62. When faced with behaviour that undermines their fundamental integrity, legislatures are required to act. That action may range from discipline for minor irregularities to expulsion and disqualification for more serious violations. Expulsion and disqualification assure the

public that those who have corruptly taken or abused office are removed. The legislative process is purged and the legislature, now restored, may discharge its duties as it should.

Is Parliamentary Privilege Established in this Case?

76. The authorities establish that expulsion from the legislature of members deemed unfit is a proper exercise of parliamentary privilege. Regarding the British House of Commons, Erskine May, *supra*, wrote that, “[n]o power exercised by the Commons is more undoubted than that of expelling a member from the house, as a punishment for grave offences” (p. 58). In Canada, J. G. Bourinot, in *Parliamentary Procedure and Practice in the Dominion of Canada* (2nd ed. 1892), at pp. 193-94, affirmed the same rule:

The power of Parliament to expel a member is undoubted. This power has been repeatedly exercised by the English and Colonial Parliaments, either when members have been guilty of a positive crime, or have offended against the laws and regulations of the House, or have been guilty of fraudulent or other discreditable acts, which proved that they were unfit to exercise the trust which their constituents had reposed in them, and that they ought not to continue to associate with the other members of the legislature.

77. Expulsion may be justified on two grounds: to enforce discipline within the House; and to remove those whose behaviour has made them unfit to remain as members: Heard, *supra*, at p. 392. Both objectives are

important. With respect to the latter, Heard points out that within the past decade, “at least eighteen Canadian legislators were convicted of criminal offences, including sexual assault, assault (on a wife), and murder; while most resigned, a few hung doggedly on until they were expelled by their assembly or defeated at the polls”. He adds:

No legislature can be venerated as an institution of governance if it is populated with such unsavoury characters. Indeed, some would add that the civic virtue of a society requires the removal from public office of the corrupt, criminal, and profoundly immoral.

78. The right of expulsion on these two grounds -- discipline and unfit behaviour -- is a matter of parliamentary privilege and is not subject to judicial review. Thus Maingot, *supra*, concludes at pp. 161-62:

What is clear is that the ordinary civil and criminal jurisdiction of the courts does not extend to determining the rights of members to sit in the House, and the courts equally have nothing to do with questions affecting its membership except in so far as they have been specially designated by law to act in such matters as, for example, under the Dominion Controverted Elections Act.

81 ... As Heard notes at p. 394, there are ample examples in Britain and Canada of legislators being expelled, re-elected in the ensuing by-election, only to be expelled again for being still unfit for the legislature. As to the ill effects of such fruitless cycles of expulsion and re-election, Heard concludes that:

A legislature does not have conclusive authority to discipline its members if it expels someone simply to have that person returned to carry on where he or she left off. Disqualification would give finality to a disciplinary decision to expel a member.

82. Disqualification may also fall within parliamentary privilege in its own right. It serves the same purposes as expulsion for acts committed outside the legislature, which has long been recognized as privileged. A person’s fitness to sit as a lawmaker is called into question by criminal acts committed outside the legislature just as surely as misconduct within the legislative chamber. That unfitness is as manifest at the time of election as when the person takes his or her seat in the legislature. The legislature should be permitted to determine in advance of the person taking office whether he or she is fit to serve, rather than being required to wait until the person assumes office. In so doing, unnecessary election costs may be saved and the riding is not left without a sitting member while a new election is held. In short, the right to disqualify is necessary to the dignity and efficiency of the legislature. If we accept that a legislature has the right to prevent people convicted of crimes or corruption from sitting as lawmakers, then common sense and the need for efficiency require that the legislature be permitted to disqualify potential members as well as to expel existing members.

84 The history of the power of a legislative body to make statutory rules of disqualification for candidature goes back at least two centuries. Convictions for corrupt and illegal election practices have been automatic disqualifications for many years both in Britain and in Canada. It may be concluded, therefore, as does Heard, *supra*, at p. 397, that “[t]he setting of disqualifications by statute . . . seem[s] logically to belong to [the] ancient privilege to determine matters relating to the election of members.”

What is being stated in this long court ruling is that there must be equality between the legislative part of government and the judicial part of government – neither can be above the other nor is there to be interference from one in to other’s jurisdiction. It is also telling Canadians that if we

want our elected officials to be held responsible for their corrupt actions we need to pressure the other elected officials to expel them. If they truly want Canadians to have any faith in government or elected officials this must be done, wouldn’t one agree, based on this ruling and other information?

That being said with the SNC scandal and the preferred prosecution allowance there will always be that temptation to interfere, won’t there? As for the integrity of the House – it is on those we’ve elected to ensure that those who violate the law are held accountable, so the question begs to be asked – why haven’t they?

What can be done about corruption in government?

That is for you and your elected officials to decide...

References

[1] https://lop.parl.ca/sites/PublicWebsite/default/en_CA/cations/201728E?fbclid=IwAR0XfcryGEcF4Ludo9InjMQPe1XuXoz0zReD31TA0I9JlzoM851_ArYHRE

[2] https://scc-csc.lexum.com/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/item/1413/index.do?fbclid=IwAR21kFUyq9uqTce_zk2uYz6Hh3EMVJLrDw-VDB9bno8YPSZqmV3ZVLpLZo

Elizabeth F. Marshall, President All Rights Research Ltd., Non-Partisan Advocate, Director of Research Ontario Landowners Association, Author – “Property Rights 101: An Introduction”, Board Member/Secretary – Canadian Justice Review Board, Legal Research – Queen’s Counsel, Lawyers, Law Offices, etc., Legislative Researcher – MPs, MPPs, Municipal Councillors,

I am not a lawyer and do not give legal advice. Any information relayed is for informational purposes only. Please contact a lawyer. “The rule is the public interest is always paramount but NEVER when it is at the expense of a private individual.” Ontario Legislative Assembly, February 11, 1965 – Vol. 1, p. 478.



Believe it or Not Pandemic Harassment



by Marlene Black

Greetings from my house to yours,

It came to me the other day as I was thinking about some of the landowner calls that we have been getting lately that something was very wrong with this picture. It took me a few minutes to figure out what it was. I was pondering on how to help someone who had a building inspector bothering him about building permits with his well established buildings.

How do these bylaw officers and conservation officers get away with coming onto peoples property to squeeze more money, fines and heartache out of regular people? Trying to make a living off the land, growing your crops, tending to your livestock, building some sheds to get by, all while working at a pretty steady pace are what people do to etch a living off the land and yet, they also have to deal with ridiculous and unnecessary rules that some bureaucrats have thought up to give themselves a job. I am not talking about common sense rules that we do need, I am talking about frivolous rules that we don't need, like you can't walk down your back lane because you might disturb a rock, flower or weed, you can't take the mattress out of your ditch that someone threw in because you might disturb a minnow, you never got a building permit for your engineered coverall building that holds hay in it...the list goes on and on... And then it hit me.

We are in PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN, told we can't go out, can't congregate with people, can't go to restaurants, can't go to church, can't go outside our bubble, can only have 10 people in our house etc. and yet, the government can send out BYLAW inspectors and CONSERVATION officers, to walk on our property, open our gates, fences, walk up to our door, breath on us while warning us of all our offences and even hand us a notification or fine...YET do we know that they don't have Covid? Do they know that we don't have Covid? NO because the symptoms aren't yet showing. Do they ask if we are isolating? I don't think so.

So how does our government confine us with one stroke of the pen, yet send out people to harass us, during this time, who should NOT be coming into our bubble?

I think that anyone who has the heavy arm of government coming onto their property when it is not an emergency situation, should be calling the health department and the Ford government (your local MPP) and telling them that no one should be going onto people's property at this time. It is unsafe. No one knows

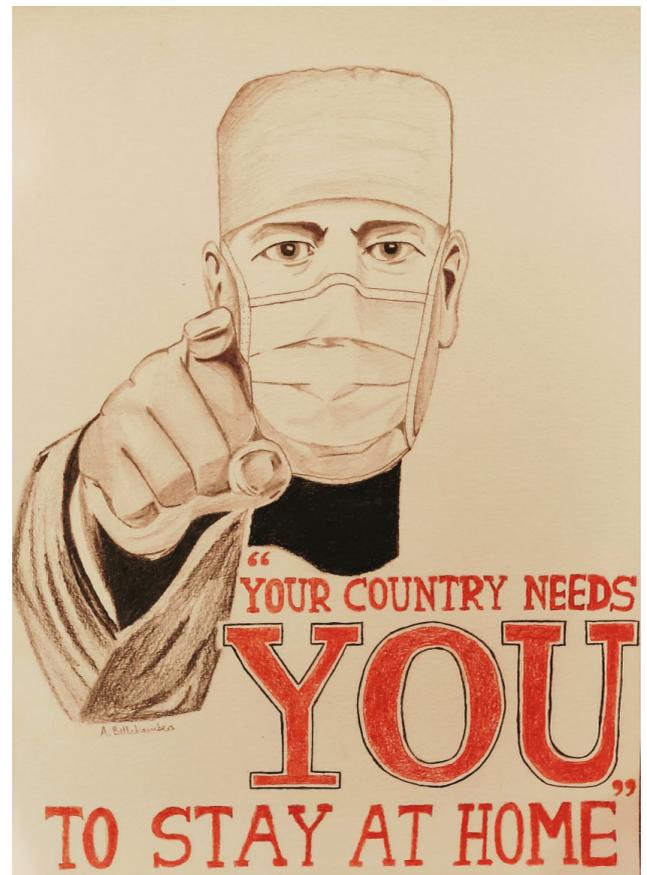
who has Covid or if these unwanted visitors are spreading it to us.

It is difficult enough to protect ourselves without having to open the door and talk to pandemic harassers.

If that doesn't work call the newspapers and tell them that government agents are breaking your isolation and trying to leave you with fines and court visits.

Is this a case of do what we say and not as we do? It is horrendous to me that one arm of government pretends to care about us on a daily basis by reminding us to wash our hands, don't touch our faces and wear masks and don't go out AND then sends government agents to complain about our ditches and buildings and lay the heavy hand of the government at our feet. We don't need this extra stress and we sure don't need outsiders bursting through our bubble.

There is something wrong with this picture folks.





The ONTARIO LANDOWNERS Association

*To all past and present landowners,
(This is a copy of a mailout that was recently sent to many
of our members)*

We hope that you are all managing well during this difficult COVID time. Because of the pandemic rules, the Ontario Landowners Association has been unable to hold face to face meetings. We have been active though and we wanted to keep you up to date on what we have been doing.

Some of you may not have heard from us for some time and we want to change that. First off, we have a very strong and active executive that we'd like to introduce to you:

President of the OLA – Jeff Bogaerts: jdbogaerts@bellnet.ca
Co-Vice President - Donna Burns: donnaburns1@bell.net
Co-Vice President – Bob Weirmeir: saugeenregionalla@outlook.com
Governor – Duaine McKinley: mckinley@xplornet.com
Governor – Ed Kaminski: olakaminski@bell.net
Governor – Vaughn Johnstone: tvjohnstone@gmail.com
Governor – Stefanos Karatopis: stefanos.karatopis@gmail.com

The OLA Executive and the county group representatives meet regularly, most recently using Zoom and they are planning a Zoom Annual General Meeting.

Some of the projects that we are working on are supporting landowners against some very aggressive by-law officers and conservation authority officers. In addition, last year many in the OLA attended public consultation meetings throughout Ontario, by invitation from MPP Jeff Yurek (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks). The purpose of the meetings was for us to provide input on how the conservation authorities should and should not operate.

We are heavily involved in protesting the May 1st Order in Council (OIC) by the Federal Government that banned over 1500 firearms and turned legal gun owning citizens into criminals. We are supporting all six Federal appeals of the OIC. For example, one of the OLA governors, Stefanos Karatopis, has initiated a Go-Fund-Me site to support the judicial review and interim injunction filed by Toronto Lawyer Arkadi Bouchelev. For more information, see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/gun-ban-court-challenge-judicial-review/>. We also attended the Integrity March on September 12 at Parliament Hill hosted by the Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights.

We are also doing something new in Eastern Ontario. We are combining administrative and financial resources to better communicate with you. This letter is part of this communication. The four county groups participating are Carleton, Lanark, Leeds & Grenville, and Stormont Dundas. All four county groups will remain autonomous within the OLA and will continue to function

independently to address issues in their area. Combining our resources will allow more time for county groups to focus on issues.

The Ontario Landowners are all volunteers who donate many hours of our time and money to do the work that needs to be done. However, we do require funds to support our website, to buy signs and literature, to hold meetings where we rent halls, pay for guest speakers, and mailouts to our members. Your memberships and/or donations help us continue to advocate for private property rights.

An annual membership is \$60 per household. This money supports both your county group and the OLA. If you feel that you can help us, we have enclosed a membership/donation form and a self-addressed envelope. We appreciate any support that you can give us.

In keeping with the combined administration, please make your cheques payable to:

Eastern Ontario Landowners

One of the benefits of this new system is better communications with our members and supporters. If you have an email address, we will add you to our OLA monthly Enews list. You will receive our "electronic-newsletter" in your inbox on the first of every month which includes articles of interest to landowners. You will also receive a notification of publication of our FREE and printable, online, Landowner Voices magazine. Both the magazine and the Enews are hosted on the OLA website. Check out past issues and articles at <https://ontariolandowners.ca/news/>. The OLA also has a very active Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OntarioLandownersAssociation>.

Finally, when we are able to have face to face meetings once again, we'll let you know about any events happening in Eastern Ontario. Please make sure to include your email address on your membership/donation form or send us an email at info@ontariolandowners.ca to let us know you want to be included in the Eastern Ontario contact list. If you have a friend or neighbour who might be interested in joining us, please let us know. Don't have email? Call Shirley at 613-623-0675. Please also let us know if you would like to be removed from our list.

Contacts for Eastern Ontario Landowner County Groups:

1. Ottawa/Carleton – Tim Mount mount.haven@hotmail.com
2. Lanark, Lennox & Addington, Frontenac – Jeff Bogaerts jdbogaerts@bellnet.ca
3. Stormont Dundas – Christina Suffel christinasuffel@yahoo.com
4. Leeds & Grenville – Duaine McKinley mckinley@xplornet.com

Thank you very much for your past support. We couldn't have done all we did without you.

Shirley Dolan, email: sjdolan@xplornet.com Phone 613-623-0675 and Marlene Black

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