

Landowner Voices

Randy Hillier and Jack MacLaren became MPP's



MPP Randy Hillier, MPP Jack MacLaren, Mike Westley, Tom Black

Landowner Voices

Inside these Pages -

20 Years of Memories...



The column below was my first column as a 'new' editor and my first stab at taking over the Landowner Magazine from Randy Hillier and Patrick Meagher in January 2007. It is January 2024 now and I have decided that after 17 great years it is time to retire. It has been a major learning experience, a huge challenge and lots of fun. I was glad that as an

independent magazine we were able to print all the many stories of real injustices that were hitting rural folk from the Conservation Authorities, OSPCA and municipal officials. It's been quite a ride and I thank you all. Scattered throughout this issue in no real order are a small sample of the thousands of photos taken of our landowner events..Enjoy!

THE RURAL WAY OF LIFE

by Marlene Black

It was 28 years ago and we were trying to come up with a date for our wedding. I was a city girl and I was marrying a farmer. How does March sound to you, I remember him asking me? "March?" I replied. Can't you have snow or rain in March? The first clue that I was marrying into a different way of life, flew over my head. "We hay in the summer", he replied.

What I didn't know then, and I realize now, was that I was being introduced to "the rural way of life". Now some may say that there is no such thing but I would have to disagree. Over the years I have encountered an endless list of differences. I've found too, that many of the rural ways were grounded in necessity and common sense. The farm wife who never sat down until all the men had eaten knew that it was important for them to be "fed and watered" and back into the fields while the sun was still shining.

Many of the farm families that I came to know, also didn't take holidays. For my husband, haying in the summer meant haying all summer. It meant endless sunny days on the tractor, cutting, raking and baling the hay, then loading it onto wagons and unloading it into barns.. We were so busy just getting it all done, that the summer flew by and it wasn't until the cool September nights rolled around that it hit me. I hadn't gone swimming or taken "a holiday". I now realize though, that when you have a barn full of cattle and daily chores, and summer is the only time to gather winter feed, you just don't pick up and leave.

Another one of the rather surprising differences for me was the "drop-in" visitors. I was used to people calling before they came over. I remember one particular Sunday, we had planned an outing somewhere. I was just grabbing for my coat when I saw the old truck. It was rolling up our laneway.

"Who could that be", I remember commenting. "They didn't phone to say they were coming". "And they don't have to", was my husband's quick reply. Old Arnold was a neighbour and he was coming over for a cup of tea and a chat. The two men sat around the table and talked about machinery and farm animals and tractors and what they'd found at the auction.

Once again, the rural way of life had woven its way into my plans. Rural people dropped in and that's just the way it was. However, I soon came to value and look forward to these surprise visits. They gave me a good excuse to put down the laundry or stop washing dishes or making the beds and enjoy a break, chatting with friends.

Good neighbours, I soon realized, were more valuable than money. The time spent talking and laughing around the table or in the yard, created bonds that weren't easily severed. Over the years, I have seen the importance of these close rural ties. Whether it's the cows on the road, a broken baler, the tractor that won't start, a vehicle in the ditch, a barn that's falling down, or a new barn that's going up, rural people lend each other a hand and it usually goes both ways. The ties that bind these rural folk are deep and from an outsiders point of view, hard to understand. But when some old guy tells the story of how your husband's grandfather had helped his next of kin in some way, you knew that he'd be there for you in a heartbeat.

Now after 27 years of living in the country, I think that I have adjusted. In my younger days, I knew in February that I was going to a cottage in August. Not many things bumped my schedule. But all that's changed now. This country life has sort of taken hold of me and I know that I could never go back. I know that weather and breakdowns and sick animals and broken fences and drop in visitors, all play a part in altering our plans and sometimes, more often than not, it's easier to "go with the flow" than to fret about schedules. I know the rural way of life has changed me, and for the better, I think. I know that I don't make plans like I used to. Why just the other day my daughter came up to me and asked, "What are you doing tomorrow, mom?"

"Tomorrow?" I replied, "Why I'm not quite sure. I guess we'll just wait and see what the morning brings."

Jan. 2007



by Tom Black

Hello Folks,

Today I want to talk to you a little about the journey that Marlene and I have been on since taking on the task of keeping the Landowner Magazine going since 2007 to help inform people about the rights they are entitled to under the law. We were not lawyers or law professors. We were concerned citizens of Canada living in the province of Ontario. We were also small mixed farmers, farming on the land that we held great emotional value for, since it was cleared by my Irish immigrant family members who came over between 1820s to 1840s.

We joined Randy Hillier on the road with many other farmers to shine a light on the ‘mad cow crisis’ which shut down the border crossing of cattle and sheep from ‘sea to sea’ by the government of the day. This was a similar move to the Covid 19 shutdown that we experienced in 2020 that destroyed many small businesses.

As we interacted with different government agencies, enforcers, bureaucrats and politicians, we started to learn how they kept the citizens in the dark and manipulated the facts and laws to the advantage of the government over the people.

Most of us grew up being taught that we lived in a country that embraced freedom and was one of the most democratic countries in the world. Imagine our surprise when we discovered that what had been the intent of the founding fathers, was easily manipulated by special interest groups, media collaborators, politically appointed judges, climate change fanatics and corrupt conservation groups to the point that hard working people who thought they owned and controlled their private property, often found themselves charged in a never ending show of frivolous charges that put them in court rooms or paying heavy fines. None of us knew what our rights were.

As time moved on, we started to pick up a lot of information from people with a great sense of right and wrong. People like climatologist Dr. Tim Ball who explained the ups and downs of climate with real scientific facts. People like Liz Marshall who, with her ability to recall numbers and facts, spent massive hours dissecting the many laws of Canada and how they were meant to be used and how they had been misread or ignored.

Many really good people helped us get stories for the magazine and direct the OLA as to where there were people in trouble, usually at the hands of an overzealous bylaw enforcement officer.

Marlene did the bulk of the work and design of the magazine, spending many long hours sourcing stories, editing, doing layout and colour coordinating pages, then driving it to printers, getting mailing lists to the post media mailing house and subscription money put in the bank so we could do it all again.

For both of us it has been our greatest blessing to meet and talk with so many great, caring people across this province. There are always a few negative turkeys in a group but we were lucky that the one or two that we had are not worth mentioning for they were outweighed by the generous goodness of the rest.

Good-bye Folks.

Tom



Landowners from across Ontario brought tractors and people to Queen's Part to protest the border closing to the USA for cattle and pigs (2004). It lasted 2 years which almost finished the beef industry.





Garry Otten, Bert Werry and Jack MacLaren in back row

2008

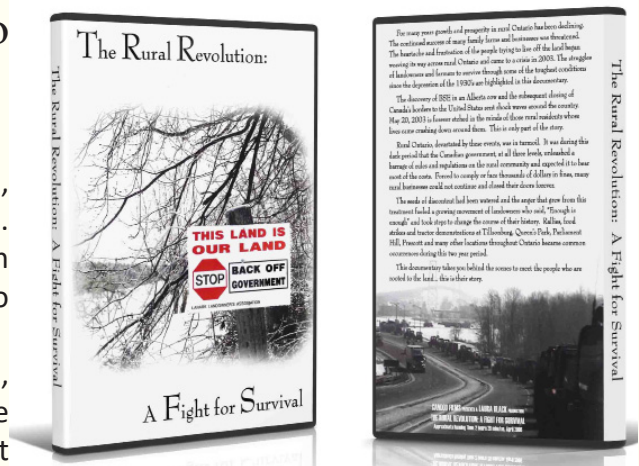
Twenty Years of Landowner Rallies and helping people unjustly abused by authorities

See the link below to watch video footage of the Rural Revolution:

Rallies, demonstrations, interviews on the wagons, tractors at Queen's Park and tractors on the 401. The early days of the landowners are recorded on this DVD which you can now watch on the link to Youtube, below.

Laura Black's DVD has footage of many politicians, farmers and supporters who came out to these rallies for freedom in a protest against government overreach. Now you can view the live recorded history of this movement.

<https://youtu.be/rhziBOA--YI>



WHAT TO DO BEFORE THEY COME FOR YOU

Many of you will be familiar with a guide called “What to do WHEN They Come for You”. Written several years ago to help landowners cope with unwanted visitors who enter their property unannounced and uninvited, this guide is available in every edition of the Landowner Voices online magazine. At one time, we also had this information printed on small business-size cards that we made available to members and the general public at Landowner meetings.

The information in the guideline is more important than ever in the uncertain times introduced by governments in the hope of controlling COVID. No matter where you stand on these restrictions, especially in Ontario, of lockdown measures and the removal of civil liberties, it is a good idea to know your rights if/when an unwanted visitor comes knocking on your door.

For our “What to do When They Come for You” document, please see one of the editions of the online Landowner Voices magazine at <https://ontariolandowners.ca/>. We thought we should also provide some guidance on what to do BEFORE they come for you. Two simple suggestions:

- Make sure you have a barrier across the entrance to your property. This can be a gate or a chain, or even a rope – something to signal that there is no right of first entry.

- Post a no trespassing sign. In Ontario, a four-inch red dot is a universal no trespassing sign. You will sometimes see these painted on trees in woodlots along the fence line to indicate that trespassing, without permission of the owner, is not allowed. We prefer our OLA Back Off Government/No Trespassing signs. While the red dot may not be understood by everyone, there is no mistaking the message on our OLA signs. Contact your local Ontario Landowners Group <https://ontariolandowners.ca/ontario-landowners-association-ola-chapters/> to obtain a sign. For a limited time, we are offering the signs at no cost to members and for a small donation to non-members.



- It's a good idea to record (video or audio) any discussions with unwanted visitors about their right to enter your property so make sure your smart phone or other recording device is charged at all times.
- The National Farmers Union also offers some information on unwanted visitors to private property in Ontario. See <https://nfuontario.ca/new/know-your-rights-when-dealing-with-trespassers/>.

by the OLA

Global Boiling

by Roger Graves

No less a personage than the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has informed us in his wisdom that “The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived”.

Duh.

Does this guy ever get out of his office and take a look outside? Or is he deliberately trying to frighten us with an obviously false narrative? And if so, why?

Let’s start with the false narrative idea. Suppose you want to convince people that your husband is a lazy slob, and to do so you post pictures of him on Facebook with his feet up drinking a beer. Never mind if those pictures were taken at the end of a long working day, never mind if he works hard every day and just occasionally relaxes, if all you post is pictures of him apparently unshaven and doing nothing then you can create a false narrative of him as a lazy slob.

Much the same technique on a larger scale is used to create a false narrative of out-of-control global warming. Somewhere on Earth at any given time there will probably be a heatwave, so just concentrate on that and ignore everything else. For example, 2023 was a bad year for wildfires in Canada and the media made a great to-do about it being a sign of global warming. What they didn’t mention was that south of the border the US was having an exceptionally quiet year for wildfires, so that North America as a whole was having an average year. In the same way the media told us that the summer months in the US had record-breaking heat which was obviously a sign of global warming, but conspicuously

did not say that the prolonged extremely cold weather (-38 C in Alberta) earlier this winter was due to global cooling.

This is what you might call a passive false narrative – just report the things which seem to back up your narrative and ignore anything else. But beyond this there are active false narratives in which measured data is actively falsified. The US agency responsible for weather forecasting and general monitoring of oceanic and atmospheric conditions, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) routinely adjusts temperature records from the past to make it look as if there has been steady warming over the past hundred years, whereas in fact there has been very little overall warming. The 1930’s were warmer than today – a good example of this is documented in John Steinbeck’s 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, but according to NOAA this never happened. If you want to delve into this further I can recommend Tony Heller’s blog, *Real Climate Science*.

It is certainly true that the world has been gently warming since the end of the Little Ice Age around 1850. Anyone who has read Charles Dicken’s novels will be struck by how cold winters were in England at that time. Yet this is all part of a natural cycle. Before the Little Ice Age there was the Medieval Warm Period in which wine grapes were grown in Northern England, before that was the cold period known as the Dark Ages and before that was the Roman Warm Period in which the Roman Empire flourished, and so on. But none of this was caused by human activity, so why have we suddenly assumed that the world is

about to come to an end because of us wicked humans burning fossil fuels?

There is no simple answer to this, but there are a number of strands which have come together to create the current absurd folly known as the climate catastrophe. For a start, a lot of people have become rich and powerful by pushing the climate narrative. Once you have scared other people witless by predicting the end of the world (Greta Thunberg, anyone?) you can count on their votes at election time as long as you promise to do something about it. It doesn't much matter what you do, such as banning plastic straws, as long as you tell these people it will slow global warming they will vote for you.

And then of course there is that wonderful scam called renewable energy. Somewhere in the region of five trillion dollars (US) has been spent in the past twenty years on wind and solar energy, with much, much more to come. Never mind that the vast bulk of the world's energy still comes from fossil fuels such as gas, oil and coal, never mind that related technologies such as heat pumps and electric vehicles don't work too well in cold weather, anyone associated with the renewable energy industry has probably become very rich.

But perhaps the most significant strand of them all is the feeling of virtuous superiority that people get when they set out to save the world. Every year the United Nations holds a massive get-together known as the Conference of the Parties to decide what to do about climate change. The latest one, COP28, was held in Dubai last December and had over 70,000 government-sponsored attendees from around the world. The whole thing was a farce. In a world apparently concerned about the use of fossil fuels, all these people flew in on jet aircraft and stayed in air-conditioned hotels. To make things even more farcical the COP28 president was none other than the Chairman of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, which

is one of the largest oil companies in the world. This worthy gentleman bluntly informed the conference that fossil fuels would be around for many years to come, so just suck it up, or words to that effect.

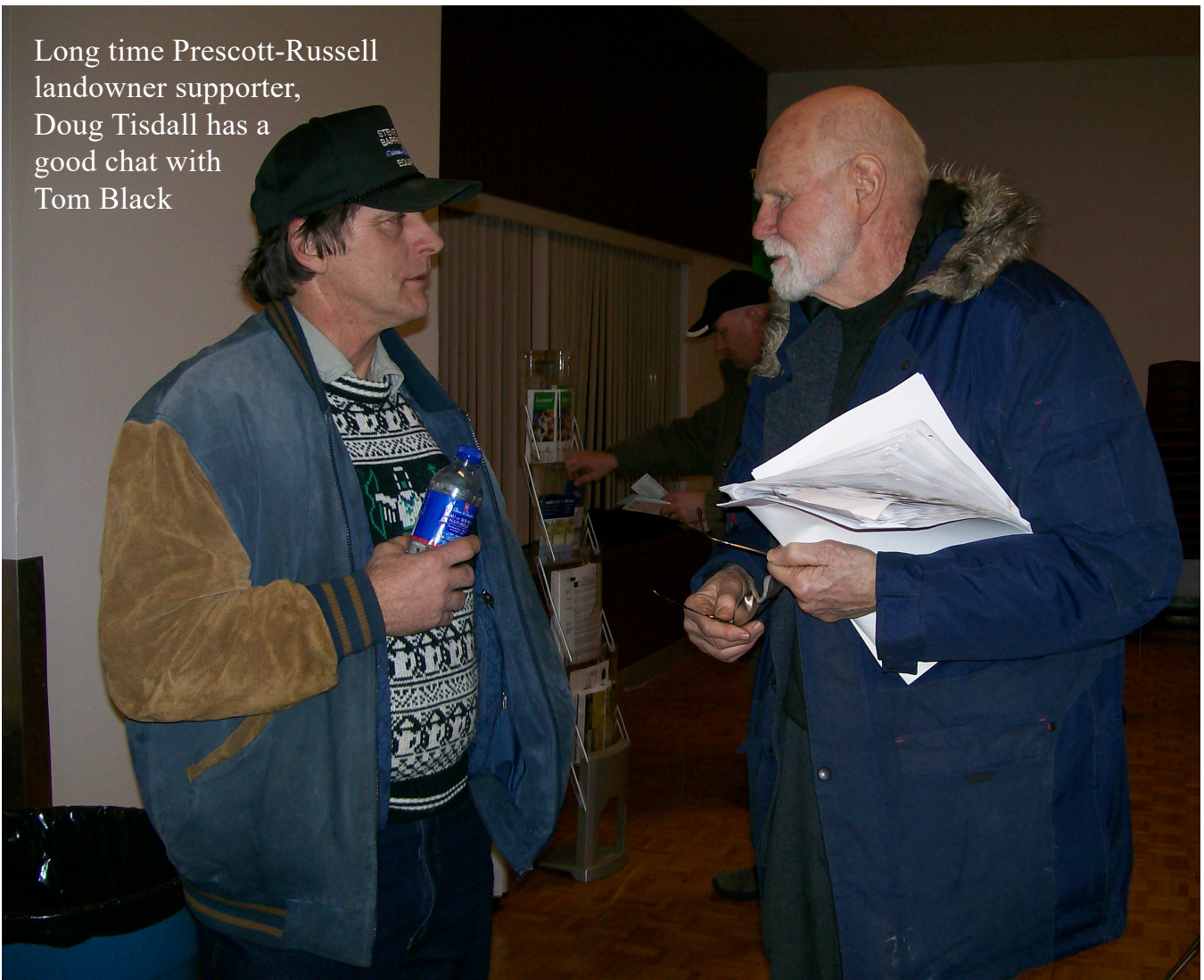
Nevertheless, most of the attendees went home from Dubai with a wonderfully warm inner glow from having striven manfully (oops sorry, personfully) to save the world from Climate Catastrophe. No doubt they will look forward to doing the same thing at COP29 a year or so from now at an even more lavish conference from which they will return with an even warmer inner glow, while the rest of the world goes on much as before.

Climate change has become one of the largest, and certainly one of the most financially successful industries in the world. It is an industry in which you can be honest and ask awkward questions, and be thrown out for your pains, or you can go with the flow and have a good chance of becoming rich and powerful. (At age 21 Greta Thunberg has a net worth of a million dollars.) Our present government is firmly in the get rich quick camp. Let's hope the next government is more intellectually honest. **





One of our early demonstrations (2007) was at the Renfrew Bakery where the owners were being harassed for not having the 'new, expensive' labeling on their bags of bread. They feared they would lose their business.



Long time Prescott-Russell landowner supporter, Doug Tisdall has a good chat with Tom Black



Lambton-Middlesex landowners help out with Bill O'Brien's team of mules at this event.



Landowners Shirley Dolan, Janet MacLaren, Marlene Black, Jack MacLaren (taking photo) and Dave Honey meet in Niagara-on-the-Lake to see Tamara Lich's band (2023)

Why is Doug Ford determined to put more Wind Turbines in rural Ontario?



by Shirley Dolan

In June 2018, Doug Ford and the Ontario Provincial Conservatives were elected to a majority government in large part because of the nefarious Green Energy policies of the Liberal Wynne McGuinty and Wynne governments. These policies saw wind turbines popping up in rural Ontario, much to the chagrin of local residents. In an October 2016 article, the Financial Post had this to say about the results of the McGuinty/Wynne green energy policies:

For all the costs of going green — estimated by Ontario's auditor general to total \$170 billion over 30 years—none of the alleged economic and social benefits have materialized. Claims by former premier Dalton McGuinty and current leader Kathleen Wynne, repeated in a recent speech from the throne, that closing coal plants dramatically reduced smog and saved \$4.4 billion in health care and other costs are demonstrably untrue.

The promise of maybe hundreds of thousands of renewable energy jobs was also a fantasy; today, nobody can say where the jobs are, mainly because few new permanent jobs exist.

Instead of boosting Ontario's economy and the health of its citizens, the province has created an incoherent electricity industry that many say threatens the viability of key industries.

Veterans of Ontario electricity policymaking call the current Ontario electricity structure "badly broken," a "fiasco," a "train wreck in slow motion," and in need of a complete overhaul.

Communities suffering under the effects of the wind farms in their neighbourhoods were ignored by the Liberal government and are largely ignored by the Ford government. For example, according to a Wind Concerns Ontario Facebook post about the Chatham-Kent contaminated water issues:

A complaint was submitted to the office of the Ontario Ombudsman on November 29, 2023 that explains pretty much the whole sad tale. ... Most recently, a motion was put forward by Councillor Jubenville, on May 29, 2023 and it was passed unanimously by the Municipal Council of Chatham-Kent, asking the Ontario Ministry of Health to take the necessary action to investigate the potential health hazard. Bravo to the Councillors and Mayor for their votes on that Motion.

To my knowledge, the Ontario Govt has yet to respond to the Municipality's outreach and request.

During the campaign leading up to the successful election of the Ontario PC Party in 2018, Ford crossed the province promising an end to green energy projects. Indeed, some were axed and to date, no new ones have been started since they were elected. Further, the Green Energy Act was scrapped, and municipalities were given the authority to specify where wind and solar projects could be sited. But they did not go far enough. The set back for wind turbines is still a paltry 550 metres, even though the height of the turbines and the length of the blades has increased significantly. And the new arrangement for

authority to approve green energy projects is not well defined.

And yet, the provincial government is asking for proposals for more wind and solar. <https://financialpost.com/commodities/energy/renewables/ontario-seeks-more-wind-solar-power-green-energy>

Towards the end of 2023, the Independent Electricity Operator (IESO), under the direction of Minister of Energy Todd Smith, issued a request for proposals for battery energy storage systems (BESS). This sent municipalities and communities scrambling to learn about BESS. Many were rejected by residents and their municipalities because of real concerns about the risk of fire and contamination. Indeed, as more BESS projects come online, the incidence of failures is increasing. https://storagewiki.epri.com/index.php/BESS_Failure_Event_Database

BESS are being introduced because of the intermittent and unreliable nature of wind turbines which can't be relied on to produce when demand peaks. They are intermittent, so sometimes they produce too much power at the wrong time resulting in energy being sold at a loss to other jurisdictions. Enter BESS to help with this problem by storing energy from the grid when too much is produced and feeding it back to the grid when not enough is produced. Except that, a BESS will only produce power for four hours.

Our wind turbine installations are aging and likely becoming more prone to failure and gradually diminishing power output. Is it only a matter of time before they suffer the same fate as the wind farm in PEI: wind turbines at 'high risk of imminent failure'.? <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/pei-hermanville-damage-blades-1.7074298> We often hear of wind turbine failures but there does not seem to be a database tracking the incidents as there is for BESS.

Cheers to the PC Ontario government

for their support of nuclear power and natural gas, both of which are considered green in Europe. We currently don't use all our gas plant capacity with a significant amount on standby. Unlike wind turbines which can't be regulated to match demand, gas plants can be fired up to meet demand or turned down/off when not needed. And, they can produce for longer than the 4 hours available from BESS installations. See Parker Gallant's perspective on BESS versus gas plants when the wind fails to blow. <https://parkergallantenergyperspectivesblog.wordpress.com/2023/08/25/battery-storage-replacing-natural-gas-plants-will-cost-tens-of-billions-in-ontario/comment-page-1/>

Wouldn't it be grand if, instead of investing more into intermittent and unreliable wind energy, we could count on the Ford government to keep its promise to fix the green energy problems they inherited rather than exacerbating the situation?

So I ask: Why is Doug Ford determined to put more Wind Turbines in rural Ontario?



Trillium leader Bob, Yaciuk, Liz Marshall and MPP Jack MacLaren (in Toronto)

BEDBUGS



by Mel Fisher

When I woke up this morning,
I looked upon the wall
The bedbugs and the roaches
were having a game of ball
The score was 6 to nothing,
the roaches were ahead
I got so darned excited;
I fell right out of bed!

If you are under the age of say 80, you have no idea what this is about. The fact is that before WW2 household insects were a plague we routinely dealt with. Pantry bugs in the food. Bedbugs in the bed. Cockroaches everywhere – tough little guys who seemed indestructible.

Before WW2, the corn earworm was the bane of agriculture especially in the US where corn was a main crop. The earworm moth would lay eggs on the corn tassel, the worms would migrate inside, and when you unwrapped the cob of corn there would be sort of like tunnels through the corn, generally with the culprit worms still in them. Infested corn like this was judged OK for animal feed, but corn for people-food had to be protected. This was done by mopping the tassel as soon as it came out, by hand, with a rag dipped in turpentine or whatever, and that hand work made corn for people food expensive and limited.

Before WW2, one of the main causes of sickness and death in more tropical climes around the world was Malaria, a disease spread by mosquitoes.

Also before WW2, an insecticide called DDT was invented in Nazi Germany, some say given to the Germans by space aliens; it

was completely different from any insecticide available at the time. No patent, easily made, and so, really cheap. As it became available after the war, bedbugs and roaches disappeared from our houses.

DDT was in the form of a powder, and American farms took to spraying this cheap, effective powder on the corn fields, no doubt in vastly greater quantities than needed just to make sure they got them all, and corn for people food became much more popular (see the movie ‘North by Northwest’ in which the hero is chased by a dust-emitting crop-duster airplane).

Households in tropical climes took to mixing some DDT into the whitewash they used to paint the inside of their dwellings, and malaria took a serious nose dive, millions of lives saved every year.

Sometime after WW2, a university student named Rachel Carson wrote a book called ‘The Silent Spring’, very well written and successful, one of the first ‘green’ treatises. She stated that our eagle population was shrinking because their eggshells were not developing properly, and suggested this might be caused by the excessive use of DDT by the American farm community.

A tax to encourage more modest use might have made sense, but instead a movement to ban DDT altogether got started. The US government science people examined her book and the eggshell theory, but could find no solid science, in fact no evidence any of it was true. Appallingly, in spite of this finding (since confirmed by research) the US banned manufacture and use of DDT worldwide – their

dominant stature at that time made it possible for them to enforce that ban.

Much more expensive insecticides had been invented and patented by American corporations and this ruling was greatly to their benefit. The farm industry was able to survive this change, just one more nudge to 'go big or go home'. But the third world could not afford or use those expensive insecticides, and malaria resurged – this ruling has caused millions of deaths worldwide. Just one example of over-regulation to serve the rich at

the expense of the poor, and one of the sources of anti-American sentiment around the world! Bedbugs made a resurgence about a decade ago, people were running into them in motels and so on, and a campaign was undertaken (using 'modern' insecticides of course – can't endanger those eagles)! But much of the world still suffers from malaria. Too bad somebody doesn't have the courage to stand up to the silliness and get that cheap, effective DDT into the whitewash!

Blog and facebook Nov 15/23



Supporters of Michael Schmidt's crusade for the legalization of RAW (Fresh) milk in Canada brought landowners to his home. He has been subjected to repeated searches and seizures of his property, computers etc. We were there to help him.



Advocate Ruby Mekker Exposes Devastating Impact of Industrial Wind Turbines on Rural Communities

Ottawa, Ontario – RAIR Foundation USA was on-site to document Ruby Mekker’s impactful address in Ottawa. In her passionate talk, Mekker, a retired dairy farmer, former Special Education teacher, and advocate for the well-being of individuals near industrial wind turbines, revealed the deeply destructive consequence, these projects impose on rural communities. Collaborating with Concerned Citizens of North Stormont, she was crucial in organizing and navigating through an Environmental Review Tribunal, exposing the substantial personal and financial burdens of opposing such developments.

Mekker began her talk by underscoring the significance of non-violent resistance, encouraging the audience to pay attention to the “notice of non-consent” outlined in the handout.

She linked the proliferation of industrial wind turbines to a provincial government mandate, citing a request for nearly 3000 megawatts of battery storage, a move she attributes to the left-wing government’s pursuit of so-called “renewable energy” goals.

Having been involved in the fight against wind power since 2014, Mekker shared heartbreaking testimonials from individuals living near turbines, detailing health issues such as headaches, joint pain, and brain fog. She stressed the negative impact on people’s lives and the fact that many had to leave their homes due to the harmful effects of living near to wind turbines.

Mekker criticized the government’s role in the wind power initiatives, recalling the actions of past leaders like Former Premier

of Ontario Dalton McGuinty and expressing disappointment in the unfulfilled promises made by current politicians. She highlighted the broken pledges made by politicians like Ontario Minister of Energy Todd Smith and Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, who failed to address operational wind turbine projects despite assurances he would do so.

During the talk, Mekker exposed the environmental impact of wind turbines, including the destruction of prime agricultural land, interference with water systems, and the dangers associated with turbine fires. She questioned the reliability of the renewable energy source and raised concerns about the disposal of turbine blades, which contain hazardous materials.

Much of Mekker's presentation focused on the visual and audible impact of wind turbines, sharing videos and photos of turbine installations and the destruction caused

during construction. She emphasized the interference with internet signals, a lesser-known consequence affecting communities near turbine sites.

The advocate urged attendees to examine the data on power production in Ontario, questioning the efficacy of wind and solar energy sources. Mekker argued that the government's push for renewable energy may be driven more by political agendas than environmental concerns.

Mekker called for reevaluating the Health Protection and Promotion Act, asserting that the government has consistently failed to acknowledge wind turbines as a health hazard. She stressed the need for collective action, imploring the audience to share her message and engage in informed conversations about the long-term impact of industrial wind turbines on communities across Ontario. **



Niagara Landowners Association, 2011



Why is Democracy in Danger

by Ian Cumming
Agricultural Journalist
glengarryfarms@sympatico.ca

It, apparently, is possible to be oblivious to your own utter stupidity. Especially if you're a politician.

It was just a couple of days after Christmas and I was holding the coffee urn handle forward in a rural church hall, letting some black liquid flow into the white cup, winding down into a decompressed mode.

But really needing coffee.

I had tossed and turned the night before, nervous about giving a packed church eulogy for a 99 year old matriarch in my extended clan.

Apparently it had gone all right, family and folks were emotionally congratulating me and this coffee running into the cup was the first 10 seconds of quiet in my ear.

I had merely recounted earlier from the church pulpit, over 10 minutes or so, the saga of an incredible lady, giving voice to what everyone gathered there had instinctively known.

But the brief respite of solace was ruined when I heard a municipal politicians' voice commenting that "democracy is in danger." Don't know what context he was uttering it in, but it was other politicians he was condemning.

Maybe Trump, maybe Trudeau, there would be that exact same comment, depending on the politics of who he was talking to and therefore agreeing with.

I wanted to take a few steps over and verbally unload on him – as I had done earlier in the year at the Farm Show in Ottawa – but out of respect for the great lady we were gathered here for, stayed silent and returned to

the table with my wife and children.

First of all, why was this politician even here, I wondered?

When it came to publicly uttering falsehoods and spinning narratives to bury me on a local school issue, or my brother – organist for this funeral - burning some brush in a land clearing, he was standing on hay wagons bellowing tripe or giving untruthful facts to the press, all too eager to lead the mob laying both of us to the lowest of the low.

Is it because there are more votes to be seen at this "deplorable" clan funeral of one of our matriarchs, so, well, here he stands?

Such are the slime of politicians.

But I was going to say none of that if I had allowed myself to unload.

My first point would have been to "sweep your own doorstep first" before worrying about government falling apart at another level, or in another nation.

A municipal council has only one responsibility.

Roads.

In early September a farmer neighbour of mine was killed when a tractor hit a real rough patch on our road, which is getting worse year after year. The bale spears on the front end loader jiggled off, jammed under the tractor and threw it and the wagon of round bales into the ditch.

I walk five km every day I'm home and walking over that real rough section of road, seeing the embedded bale spear grooves in the asphalt, I curse this politician and his fellow councillors to the lowest every time.

Because they still, four months later, can't be bothered to come and fix this section of the road.

It was also on a stretch of road where there was a half load exemption every spring and the big trucks do the inevitable, increasing the damage annually.

After this accident, which appears not to have even registered for this farmer councillor, a lad appeared in front of county council wanting a half load exemption to haul manure from farms to his \$9.2 million digester.

This politician is quoted in the press as trying to make that happen for the manure trucks. Talk about a slap in the face to the grieving farm family down the road.

Possibly there is a press release out there explaining why all this is happening, or more accurately isn't being done, that I missed.

I didn't miss the local press release, the winter before last, where the fire truck couldn't get down the icy concession to a house fire where a woman perished. They called a grader which went into the ditch, then another one which got them there far too late.

As it happens two farm neighbours, one the perished lady's son in law, both men on the fire department, but not having any gear or water supply to do anything, had been the ones to call it in and were standing there feeling helpless.

The press release, before being taken down due to outrage from those of us who knew the truth, was that "members of the South Glengarry Fire Department were on site two minutes after calling 911."

I wanted to tell that story in that church hall as well.

Sometimes a photograph is worth 1,000 words and the one that will go down in history, showing politicians utter stupidity in this day and age, is the one of this aforementioned chap, standing outside – yes outside – at a drive through fair wearing a

mask and rubber gloves during COVID.

First of all outside air dissipates everything into the wind inches from your face and COVID had nothing to do with your hands.

The symbolism of that photo is someone who knows nothing and apparently isn't shy about flaunting that very fact.

Democracy is in danger because we're governed by craven idiots on all levels. **

Visiting Australian senator, Len Harris accepts a hand crafted mug from the potter herself and Frank Burke (North Renfrew landowners)



Coalition of Landowners Fight an Egregious By-Law **passed** by Tay Valley Township

In March 2023 Tay Valley Township in Lanark County passed an unprecedented by-law which requires property owners on any “unassumed” road to sign an egregious “Agreement” before being allowed to build on or even for any reasonable “use” of their property, removing long-standing rights. An “Unassumed Road” is a Public Road owned by the Township, but not maintained by it – common to many cottage roads in Ontario. The “agreement” binds the owner to indemnify the Township; install and maintain signage, take out commercial general liability insurance, meet Township requirements for maintenance and many other clauses; and then register the agreement in perpetuity on title for the property.

This affects over 300 property owners in the Township. If enacted it would effectively halt any development, increase owners’ costs and reduce property values. It has already caused considerable grief and anxiety among local owners. Over 60 people objected to the by-law at a Public Meeting prior to adoption of the by-law. All their points were ignored. Over 80 people are now Participants in the case before the Ontario Land Tribunal.

More background may be found on the website of the Little Silver and Rainbow Lakes Property Owners’ Association website <https://lsrl.ca/municipal-affairs/>

A GoFundMe campaign has been started to meet our legal and professional fees. Current

information on this may be found here: <https://gofund.me/99942347>

If TVT succeeds in defending its actions, other municipalities in Ontario may follow suit to the detriment of their taxpayers and citizens.

To be included on our mailing list for this challenge or further details, please contact:

Dr Frank Johnson at president@lsrl.ca.



OLA director Stefanos Karatopis greets MPP Sam Oosterhoff



Renfrew Private
Landowners

A BIG WIN in Court for the Pork Chop Criminal, Mark Tijssen (middle)



News from Muskoka Parry Sound Chapter

by Sandy Max

The Muskoka Parry Sound Chapter (MLA) had a very successful local fair season. The MLA set up vendor booths in Trout Creek, Sundridge and Bracebridge this year. We talked to hundreds of people and helped to spread the Ontario Landowners voice! Our huge success at these local events speaks to the public's rising awareness of the rapid degradation of property and private land rights throughout our province.

A very special thank you to our volunteers, Paul, Lilly, Alfred, Isabella and Sandy who came out in the rain, cold and heat to share information with the public. Your participation IS our success and we sincerely thank each of you for your time and effort.

We look forward to the next fair season beginning in spring 2024. Keep an eye out for our big bold table with signs that can't be ignored!

BACK OFF GOVERNMENT.

This land is our land·

We have much more important work to do. Help us help you by becoming a member and volunteering with your Chapter in the Ontario Landowners.





News from Haliburton County Landowners Association

by Kythe Baldwin

I'd like to start this letter off in a positive fashion and give a huge shout out to those within the OLA who set up the AGM and made sure as the newest chapter coming to the table has been given every bit of help and assurance to help us off to a successful start. We're experiencing the same growing pains that most chapters go through but with the guidance and structure planning we've been getting from different members of the OLA we are going to be a force to be reckoned with. The Haliburton County Landowners Association is pulling a chair up to the table....and we're here to stay.

One of the avenues that we are hoping to drive home is our **YouTube Channel**. It gives us an 'in time' format to be in touch with our members and really drive the message home that we are here to ensure the public's private property rights will not only be respected, but also defended.

With that being said, we are looking for subscribers to our YouTube Channel. We need a minimum of 50 subscribers in order to allow us to go live on YouTube which can be enormous as you know. To be able to control the narrative with a live broadcast takes the control away from the townships and allows us to reach our members when we want to or more importantly, when we have to!!

If you wouldn't mind not only subscribing, but also passing this along to your memberships so that all OLA members can be updated with a simple click of the mouse!

<https://www.youtube.com/@HaliburtonCountyLandownersAsso/featured>

As always...thanks for all that you do and all your support. If there is anything the HCLA can do to be of assistance, please don't hesitate to let us know...

www.Haliburtoncounty-ola.ca

Kythe Baldwin, Vice President
HCLA Media
905-244-0383
kythe@haliburtoncounty-ola.ca

Important Petition to the House of Commons to withdraw from the UN

by Donna Burns

I have become aware of a very important petition to be signed and am hoping that everyone will take the time to read it, sign it and send it off to friends and family members. Now is not the time to become apathetic. We are all tired of what is going on in the world. But we must continue to fight to save our Canada.

The link to the petition is:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4623>

Important to note that signatures only count if the link in the email one receives after signing the petition is clicked. Hope we can get as many signatures as possible soon.

Please read about the issues below and at this website

<https://sites.google.com/view/canada-exit-who>

Urgent: We need parliamentary debate and scrutiny over WHO developed International Health Regulations

Dear fellow Canadians,

Public debate and scrutiny is crucial in our parliamentary democracy, and foundational to living in a strong and free country. Currently, International Health Regulation (IHR) amendments are not debated in our Parliament, by default, becoming enforceable law on each of us. This will potentially result in the World Health Organization (**W.H.O.**) **becoming an unelected legislative authority**, with power to make decisions about our way of life and our health, impacting ourselves and our national sovereignty. **It is imperative that Canadians understand the implications of these amendments on their individual rights and on our nation.**

Canadians have launched a second petition, sponsored by lawyer and Federal MP, Leslyn Lewis, demanding that our House of Commons act. We need more Canadians to sign this petition - the first petition was not heeded by our Parliamentarians. Please read, sign and share it widely.

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4623>



Winter protest 2017 at John and Beth Trudeau's home.

Trillium Leader Bob Yasiuk supports the landowner cause, 2018



Too much red tape for these Huron-Perth landowners



NEW WINS! 2020-2023 CONGRATULATIONS LANDOWNERS!

TREE PRESERVATION BY-LAW – Since 2019 a very small but persistent group of Landowners have been stopping a “Tree Preservation By-law” in the Town of the Blue Mountains. In December 2018 staff/council decided they wanted to repeal the existing “tree by-law” that limited its jurisdiction to municipal properties only and create a new “modernized” “tree by-law.” This “modernization” would include the Hammer of Thor with applications for permits estimated up to \$4,500.00 and if you needed to supply an Environmental Impact Study – up to and/or over \$50,000.00. Don’t think this is over...the last defeated one, again, is merely put on the back burner for a month or so and then they’ll try again!...Thanks to Bob Weirmeir and those very persistent Landowners.

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES – In late 2019 – early 2020 members of the OLA Executive, attended a number of meetings with the provincial government, regarding the Conservation Authorities (C.A.s). This representation is priceless because in 2020 the Conservation Authorities were put on notice, by the government, that they were to be put back to their original mandate. This was great news for all Landowners throughout Ontario! This has been on-going, over the past few years, and there has been good response from the government in regards to our continued advocacy of upholding private property/land rights v. the C.A.s. This work continues but without the hard work of the OLA Members and Executive we wouldn’t be nearly as far along as we are.

RESEARCHER DOES GOOD - In 2020 Elizabeth (Liz) Marshall had been elected as Chairperson for the Canadian Justice Review Board (CJRB). This was a 2 year stint and during that time the CJRB made comment to the federal government on a number of federal bills, senate bills, and the actions of the federal government. She communicated to the Government that the Emergencies Act usage did not meet the criteria allowed (whether Justice Rouleau determine otherwise or not). September 11, 2001 Canada did not implement the Emergencies Act, even though the U.S. Declared Article 5 of NATO – “an attack on one is an attack on all”...that was the bar to be met and the Convoy most certainly did not meet that bar. Seems certain governments continue to use the term “modernizing” to mean just about anything, don’t they??? That’s for you to decide...and now it will be up to the Courts.

SUPREME COURT OF CANADA – WIN!!! A major win for the OLA, as intervenors, was the “Annapolis Group Inc. v. Halifax Regional Municipality, 2022 SCC 36,” where private property/land rights were upheld at the Supreme Court of Canada. With the ruling one might think Liz was whispering in the Judge’s ear. Mind you, she did say it didn’t go far enough –

but this was a very good ruling, in favour of/for the people of Canada and for all private land/property rights. Let's hope this trend continues.

UPDATE – It seems the trend is continuing. In 2016 the Lynchs' won – not only in Newfoundland – but they also won at the SCC. The municipality they won against doesn't want to pay fair-full compensation for the egregious expropriation it implemented – so the Lynchs' are headed to the SCC and we're head there with them!... Again – let's hope this trend continues of putting municipalities on notice that property rights are constitutionally alive and well, living in Canada!

GREY HIGHLANDS LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION – In July the Mun. of Grey Highlands presented to the public an horrific new ZONING BY-LAW. This document says “there needs to be a balance between private property rights and the public good.” And that statement is correct – but that statement DOES NOT MEAN government get's to tell you that your property, in the rural area, will all be agricultural so you can't get a severance; it doesn't mean they can tell you that the public interest is “walkable towns” or “complete communities”; it does not mean the municipal staff can tell you to get permits to reinsulate your home; and it most certainly does not allow municipalities to violate provincial or federal law! All of that said a couple of fellows who work and live in Grey Highlands heard about the OLA – they contacted Bob Weirmeir and decided to start a “municipal landowners association.” In 3 months, they have over 40 members and are growing. These fellows are out and about talking with folks, letting them know what's going wrong and that we, as a group, are trying to fix things through education and communication with our elected officials. That's the end game – get the elected officials to do their jobs and teach them what their jobs are...even if they don't like it...

HALIBURTON – HERE COMES THE LANDOWNERS! – Waterfront property owners have had enough of the municipalities trying to take their land! Seems the Council and staff just keep taking and taking with no concern about or for the property owners. Enough is enough!

OLA AND DUFFERIN LANDOWNERS – INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH! Again, a GREAT SUCCESS! We also have to give a BIG shout out to Bob Weirmeir for all of his hard work helping to organize (he's done it so many times that it was in good hands), as well as the members of the Dufferin L.A. Not to mention all of the active volunteers who took their time to attend to educate interested people about their rights and responsibilities...

These are just a very few things the **OLA** and the various County and now municipal Chapters/Groups have been doing. Numbers matter – so if you want private property rights, if you want government to actually uphold the law as it was intended; if you want to learn and make change...**THE ONTARIO LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION IS FOR YOU!**



WHAT NEXT?

by Randy Vancourt

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

Some of you will recognize this as the opening lyrics of "Turn, Turn, Turn," an old Pete Seeger tune which was then turned into a 60's pop hit by The Byrds...but the words are far older than that. They're from the third chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes, which dates back to King Solomon in the 10th century BC; they hold the distinction of being the oldest lyrics to ever hit Number 1 on the charts.

The words have been around for 3,000 years...but I'll bet King Solomon still hasn't made any money from Spotify. Seeger kept 50% of the royalties because he wrote the music and he took a further 5% for the lyrics because, as he said, "I did write six words, and one more word repeated three times."

As every farmer knows, understanding that everything has a season is an imperative part of the job. Yet it goes much further than that – as a philosophy it can be applied to every part of our lives.

Birth, youth, adulthood, love, marriage, death...everything has its time. The difficult part is trying to understand when each season has come to an end. When one door closes, another door opens...which I believe is also the slogan of the Boeing aircraft company.

My first involvement with this magazine was back in 2009 when Marlene Black emailed me about reprinting one of my father's poems. My dad had been a longtime columnist for

various newspapers for years but had recently passed away. Landowner then began reprinting some of his work and it was a pleasure to see his words being enjoyed by new readers.

Eventually this grew into me submitting columns of my own, and I have been proud of my association with the magazine over the years.

I was saddened to hear that Marlene was stepping down from the position of "person-who-does-everything," and that this will be the final edition. Keeping a small magazine afloat is a monumental task and a labour of love (stress the word "labour").

I always regretted that I wasn't born during the Golden Age of magazines; back in the day when there were hundreds of them available on news stands, vying for space with the 3 or 4 daily newspapers in every city. After returning from the War my dad worked for the Montreal Standard (which ceased publishing in 1951) so in the 1970s I was the only paperboy in town with a vintage Standard bag over my shoulder. I grew up reading the Star Weekly, The Canadian and Weekend magazines; they offered a world of stories, pictures and glorious comics, and I could never have imagined that someday they would all be gone.

The thing I really miss is balance; as magazines and newspapers downsized the first things they always cut were the comics and humour columns, most leaving just the driest of news behind. It seems like we've forgotten that one biting political cartoon carries far

more power than a hundred angry phone calls to a talk radio station.

Just so I don't sound like an old curmudgeon, I have moved with the times. I quite enjoy books on an e-reader but it can be a risky alternative, especially if one enjoys reading in the bathtub. And I miss the feeling of folding a broadsheet newspaper in half before starting the crossword - playing Wordle on my phone screen is not an acceptable substitute.

Like most people these days I get much of my news from the web, but you have to be so careful of your source. I find it perplexing that in a very short time the internet has managed to make people trust the most outlandish "news" they read on social media before they'll accept well researched and documented stories from respectable news

agencies. There are so many sites purporting to be news that are really just one person (or troll farm), pounding out vendettas to the world.

One vital element that many of these websites lack, and that all newspapers and magazines have, is an editor. Someone overseeing what goes on every page, forming the end product into a cohesive whole. There's a reason that editors exist, if only to find spelling errors!

So I raise a toast to Marlene, Tom and their volunteers for the countless hours, love and effort that they have put into this magazine. You created a good thing and should be justly proud of what you accomplished.

Now, what's next?



So far, plans include hanging out with hubby Tom, our kids, grandkids, friends and my dog. Also helping the farmer in the fields and growing micro-greens. The rest is a mystery?



Thanks for the Ride!

It's been a great run,,,



OLD ROOSTER here, and nothin' lasts forever. Now that's the fact whether we like it or not. But just causin' we aint happy don't mean that we aint grateful for everyday, every second we had. If'n your wondering what the sam-hill I'm talkin' about, well it's the retirement of Marlene Black and her Landowner Magazine.

Over the many years, Marlene and Tom have been instrumental in getting the news out. They've been on the front lines time and time again, listening and sympathizing with a friendly ear to folks that's been bein' abused by some government entity or another. They also had their own articles that have shown some of the idiotic things government has been involved in – like the demands to farmers to get licences to remove dead fish from their fields after a major flood, to OSPCA officers taking perfectly good horses from a fella.

Throughout it all Marlene and Tom have been, not only the informers to all of us OLA members, but they've also been a pillar of strength. They've seen friends come and go, they've seen many pass away and yet when someone phones them – they always have that easy way of listening and helping. They always had that tone in their voice that calmed and gave peace to the frightened and abused. And to say that if they didn't have the answer – well they be such good folks they would find somebody who did have the answers.

Over the years this Old Rooster has brought forward some pretty snappy statements. Like the time there was this government fella who wanted to stop a drain ditch from being

cleaned out and he was dead serious. He said it can't be cleaned out until they have...now get this...divers go in to see what's there. Hope you're done rolling over with laughter...Yup, I know it took me a minute or two to get over this one. Can you imagine them divers coming into the middle of this farmer's field looking around and finding a depression down the centre of the field that's a little mucky...think what that's going to do to their scuba equipment, let alone their common sense. Now if they're real folk, they'll probably shake their heads, book themselves a few hours to get paid and go home wondering what the sam-hill is going on. Thingies like that wee gem was the kinds of things, I was known to bring to Marlene and Tom over the years. And didn't we laugh...ditch divers no less...

All of that said, all of us folks need to be given our upmost thanks and respect to Marlene and Tom for all of their hard work and patience over years cause these are the folks that made life just a little easier to get through...

This is the OLD ROOSTER saying WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE, cause with Marlene, Tom and their magazine retirin' let's all hope they get more time to enjoy that much deserved cup and take good care of themselves...Old Rooster saying nothin' lasts forever but maybe memories, friendship, family and a chat over a good cup of coffee...**



Landowners attend the Fur Traders convention



Jack MacLarens WIN against MPP Norm Sterling

Looking back from 2007 to present.....

Almonte...
This is what
Freedom of
speech at a
public
meeting
looks like.



Donna Burns receives
Landowner Special Recognition
Award from Pres. Jeff Bogaerts



AGM Peterborough, 2013



**Saying Good-bye to their
rescue dogs after OSPCA
raid and remove dogs!**



**Well water
after windmills**



**Bert Werry, Wayne Gyde and
Garry Otten to name a few..
protesting MNR overreach at the
Carden Plains.**

Time for a Change



by Marlene Black

Well, it has been seventeen years since we began publishing the Landowner Magazine which in April 2019 morphed into the online Landowner Voices. It was a great experience which we enjoyed thoroughly. Tom and I travelled across the province on a fairly regular basis attending other landowner chapter meetings, speaking at events and trying to get politicians involved in our issues. We met so many interesting people and heard many of their stories. Too many of these stories were about abuses at the hands of our government officials. Hopefully, many of them were resolved either with meetings between affected parties, rallies and demonstrations or as the last resort route, a fight in court. Court battles although we can win, always end up costing a lot of money, a lot of hassles and a lot of your time. Preventing that pathway is good if you can.

With that said, I am stepping down as the producer of the Landowner Voices. I want to thank all of the hundreds of people who made this magazine possible. You took pictures, wrote stories and covered local events. You kept me posted on issues that came up and people that were fighting abuses. Our phone rang regularly with updates and more stories and I can't thank you enough for all your help. I received articles from landowners across the province which we would not have known about without your help so a BIG thanks to all of you for supporting us and helping this magazine survive for so long.

It's time for a bit of a change. I plan to spend more time with family and grandkids. I treasure meeting with friends for coffee and chats and hope to continue those on a regular basis. I also enjoy growing microgreens and gardening so I plan to spend less time on the computer and more time outside. I also want to help Tom with his various projects on the farm and tag along with him when I can.

As the years have come and gone, we have lost many of our helping volunteers, our writers and our reporters both in the Ontario Landowners and the magazine. Today I heard the very sad news that Nick Vandergragt, a regular writer in the magazine, passed away out in B.C. after a tragic accident. His column "Answering the Call", 'Remembering those we never knew but owe our lives and freedom to' honoured the men and women who fought in the wars and he told us their stories. He and his wife Alison were to head out on their dream boat shortly. His family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Although some of the older fighters are dwindling down a bit with each passing year, I am very happy to see new names and new groups getting involved and helping us carry on the landowner mission. Perhaps younger people, now owning property have witnessed some of the ridiculous bylaws and overstepping of authority that we have seen for so many years.

I hope in some small way, we were able to highlight many of the crazy laws that people have thought necessary to control,

harass and keep us in our place. Steve Straub and his father suffered terrible abuse at the hands of these officials who raided his ‘little animal bird and chicken sanctuary’ putting his dad in handcuffs and citing 19 charges against him each coming with a huge fine. So rather than go to jail or owe thousands of dollars, they said they’d remove all charges if he pleaded guilty to ONE. So now Steve has a record that reads he is guilty of having a dirty budgie cage. This seems to be a standard practise. The landowner is so shocked, then worn out from fighting and worried about the growing charges, that they agree to plead GUILTY so most of the charges can be dropped. The agency WINS because they now have a guilty plea so it is assumed that the landowner was doing something very wrong or breaking the law.

Over the years we have seen this common tactic of charging the landowner outrageous fines for outrageous non-crimes. If they want, they can say it’s a daily fine until you rectify the problem. So the landowner has

little choice. The charges for a ‘messy yard’ for example can keep piling up until you clean up your yard to their standards.

Hopefully there are enough people with a backbone out there to recognize when a wrong is happening and stand up to help those people under attack. In the old days, the media would come out to cover our events. Rarely would it be the main local paper but the Farmers Forum and Ontario Farmer as well as some smaller rural newspapers did feature many of our landowner events. Hopefully you can befriend a local reporter or radio station and try and get some coverage for your issues as it certainly helps get your story out there.

We still continue to be part of the Landowners, a great group of friends, and appreciate so much those people who continue to carry the load of coming to the defense of their neighbours. Thank you again for a great ride.

Marlene





Bob Mackie's fight for his archery business takes the Landowners to Georgetown to protest at the NEC (Niagara Escarpment Commission)



Landowners enjoy speeches and a great meal at the AGM hosted at the Klages Mill, Chesley, Ontario by President Bob Weirmeir of the Saugeen Landowners



Bill O'Brien, president of the Lampton Middlesex Landowners shows us his 6-horse hitch that he was famous for making.



Who can forget Brutus the Swan who landed at this Fish farm and refused to leave. He stayed for a few years but not before the landowners had to get involved in helping the owner out in court with his frivolous charges for keeping a wild bird and refusing to get a permit... a bird who was free to leave.



On the Nick Vandergragt CFRA radio show with Tom Black & Liz Marshall

CARLETON COUNTY



Before our townships became City of Ottawa, the Carleton landowners tried very hard to return to the old Carleton County again. We put up this huge sign on Highway 416 with politicians support



Stephen Dion protest- Ottawa

Landowner Meetings



Hamilton



Renfrew



**North
Renfrew**



**Carleton
Landowners**



**Closing snowmobile trails
being considered...**



**Speeches at
Legion in
Kanata**



Lanark Landowners host a great fishing derby



A WIN for Gullicks Sawmill



A cold demonstration in Ottawa



Landowners protest at Energy Minister, Bob Chiarelli's office

Dufferin Landowners



**AGM Facilitator,
JoAnne Cooney**



**Hal MacGregor &
Randy Hillier**



Tom Black & Brian Lilly



Ottawa made sure there were no more coffee chats with this retired veterinarian's chickens. **GONE!**

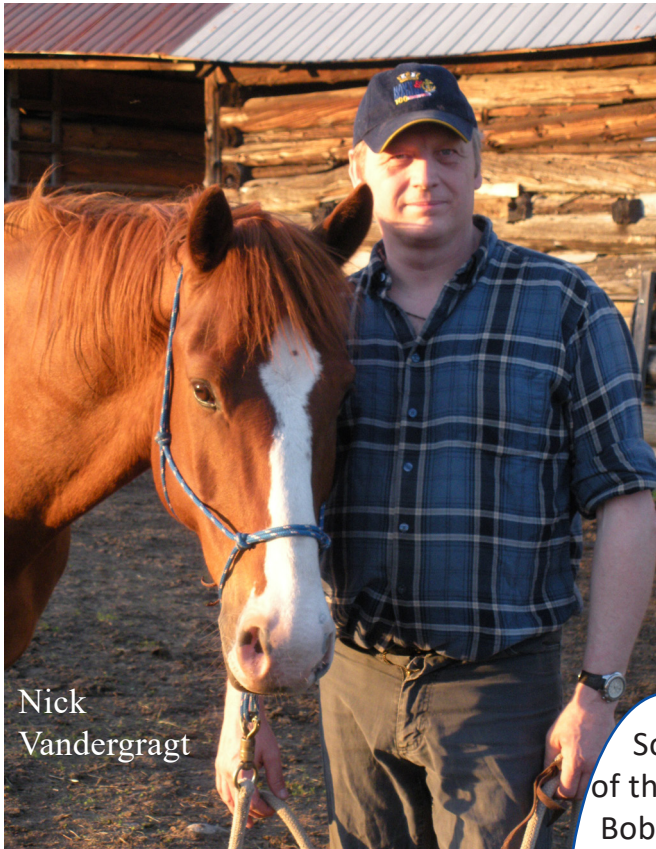


True story of the unjustified raid on Steve Straub's 'sanctuary' farm where his dad was handcuffed!



Bob Weirmeir, his mom and Tom Black enjoy time together





Nick Vandergragt

Nick Vandergragt was well known for his Nick at Night Show, CFRA Radio (Ottawa) and he was a regular writer in the Landowner. We miss them all!!



Bob Mackie

Some of the best
Bob Ralph
Garry Kelly,
Nick Vandergragt,
Bob Mackie..
Gone but never forgotten



Garry Kelly



Bob Ralph



OSPCA raided Dave Pryers horses (above) and (right) and took them saying he'd never get them back. Landowner rallies changed their minds.



International Property Rights Convention, 2018



Senator Len Harris - Australia,
Ron Gibson, USA,
Tom DeWeese -
USA





Simcoe



Peterborough



Tillsonburg



**Douro-Dummer
2023**



**Tyrone Directors
meeting**



**Pratac -
Almonte**



Carleton Landowners meet in Jacks MacLaren's barn



Meeting Dr. Tim Ball in Victoria (one of our writers)



Hydro protest at Parliament Hill



Landowners assist Tillsonburg tobacco farmers with eight miles of tractors on the 401



Bob Weirmeir presents award to Mark Tijssen



Building a ramp for Larry in Bob Ralphs shop



Carleton Landowners enjoy a restaurant meal together, 2023



The conservation authorities harrassed Jim Wilson continually for leveling a low spot on his Christmas tree farm, even as he lay dying in hospital...



Meeting landowners in New Brunswick



**Outdoor
Farm
Show**



**OLA president Tom Black presents
Jeff Bogaerts and Liz Marshall with
awards**



**Landowners were always welcome
at the Canadians for Language
Fairness meetings**



Farmers were being charged for taking out thorn bushes on their property because the loggerhead shrike like to nail their prey to these bushes. So landowners rallied to support these farmers.



**Huron-Perth
Landowner
meeting**



**Leeds and Grenville
Landowner meeting**



**Niagara Landowner
meeting**



MPAC protest



Manitoba SPCA remove Murrays dogs in raid on his property



Stormont-Dundas landowners protest



Peterborough landowners protest



Always a great feast (pig roast) when Mark Tijssen invites the landowners over for food.



Leeds and Grenville meeting and fun games



Helping to save the Stittsville Barn



Landowners arrive early at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority offices situated on the wetlands plain in Manotick to protest unmonitored flooding on farm fields



Landowner Mike Westley (right) finds a spy lurking around his back fields who seems to report to the conservation authorities





MPP Jack MacLaren invites Landowners to Queen's Park



Jack MacLaren enjoyed his time in the house as an Independent for the Trillium Party with leader, Bob Yaciuk



Volunteers on the Trillium campaign

Carleton Landowners



Norfolk meeting



OSPCA – Have they gone too far? Is it animal protection or People ABUSE?

One of the stories that really tugged at the heart strings of most landowners was Sunny Reuters. She lived in Toronto and had not heard of the landowners until this event. This is her story:

August 2003 the OSPCA seized and killed my dog while I was on vacation. Arko was a twelve and a half year old Akbash – a large, slender rare breed.

The OSPCA when visiting the kennel that he was in, determined that Arko was an emaciated, abused 5.5 year old Great Pyrenees in pain. They euthanized him, refusing to speak to my vet or my sister. Arko had received a clean bill of health 90 days earlier.

On my return a few days later, I was asked to produce Arko's veterinary files and met with the OSPCA Chief Investigator who introduced himself as the "Chief of the Provincial Animal Police". He refused to accept the file, refused to answer questions, demanded I give a

statement to a uniformed officer and advised I was "guilty until proven innocent". Arko was in their freezer as "evidence".

Police powers and a mandate to enforce animal welfare have been offloaded by the province to the OSPCA who must raise \$13,000,000 annually to do the job. The OSPCA is accountable to no one and knows just how to manipulate the media to generate income.

The OSPCA has been labelled "a private police force empowered in cases involving animals to lay charges and seize property and using these charges or seizures to campaign for funds for their private coffers" (Justice Anton Zuraw, 2005)

Crystal Mackay, executive director of the Ontario Farm Animal Council (OFAC) states, "They (the OSPCA) need publicity to raise funds." The system is dangerous and it stinks...

Sunny Reuter



*It hangs on
our wall in the
office.*



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!

**

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 allowed. 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 govt. issued ID, proof of employment, employee # confirmation phone #(business cards don't count but keep one for later)
They have NO authority without a warrant, ask them to leave. Ask them 3x then call 911.
If they insist they have authority, make them show you. Remember Criminal code is Federal legislation and if no warrant they could be charged with trespass or mischief.
- **Ask** for insurance confirmation and sterile boots and clothing, You don't know where they've been. Follow bio-security measures.
- **If they are there on a complaint,** ask for the name and actual complaint as everyone is allowed to face their accuser. You might have to file a freedom of information request.

ALWAYS REMEMBER:

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

**THIS IS INFORMATION ONLY,
NOT LEGAL ADVICE**



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