

# Slaughter of trees

Have you taken a drive down Eadie Rd. lately and seen the slaughter of trees across from the proposed dump site?

Thousands of trees have been taken down. This practice is known as clear-cutting. We are outraged when we see this sort of activity in the Boreal forest but it is happening right here. There are endangered trees there such as Butternut and endangered birds such as Bobolinks. Spring is a time when migratory birds return or stop over. There are many other areas around Russell and Embrun where this is happening, some for development and some for agriculture.

We received a D rating for tree coverage by South Nation and were warned that we are going back to desert like conditions where we will experience erosion. Many people notice the snow drifting which makes it dangerous for commuters and what about the sand storm we experienced two summers ago (dust bowl effect)? Ero-

sion occurs and makes shorelines unstable. I do not need to list the benefits of trees but there are many. When did trees become the enemy?

Russell Township is sitting around 12% tree coverage and we need 30% just to sustain wildlife. Trees for Tomorrow has been planting trees but last spring when we planted 10,000 trees we lost just as many. Hydro alone took down close to 500 trees in the area.

I urge everyone to be concerned about this as we will reap the results of our actions. Make this an election issue. Ottawa has an urban tree by-law and other communities have clear-cutting by-laws. This is not to say that a woodlot cannot be managed by the owner in a sustainable manner. Trees sometimes need to be cut or thinned to make a woodlot healthier. Speak for the trees!

**Cindy Saucier  
Russell**