

"Consider the trees of the forest..."

A clear-cut beside, ironically, Bush Road in North Glengarry



'My life would be immeasurably poorer'

The Editor,

I have always loved these magnificent words attributed to Jesus during His time of ministry: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. And yet I say unto you: That even Solomon in all his glory was not arraigned as one of these." (Book of Matthew.)

In recent years I have come up with these words: Consider the

trees of the forest, woodlands and fields. Not even Solomon in all his glory was arraigned as one of these.

To me, the trees are the crowning creation of the kingdom of plants. They are beautiful and, speaking only of my personal experience, I find they provide visual nourishment at a spiritual, mental and emotional level. At the physical level, the list is very

long regarding the benefits we receive from trees. As to the contributions trees make at the scientific, biological and ecological level, I leave that area to ones such as Jim Hendry, Norm Genier, Benjamin De Haan and so many other qualified professionals. They can speak most eloquently of these matters as well as those I mentioned in the aforementioned paragraphs.

I marvel at the sounds I hear from the songbirds in the trees around our house and garden and in our treelines. How can such pristine sound, clarity and power emanate from such tiny forms? I love it!

Recently I was driving my tractor through one of our small fields and was about to enter another when out of the corner of my eye I saw a doe poke her head out of a treeline. She looked around, saw me and after a calm and appraising look, drew back inside the shelter line.

About a half hour later, upon my return trip to the barn, I saw the doe emerge from the trees and at her heels was her young fawn. What gentle grace of movement.

I was transfixed and, yes, filled with awe.

What to say from these encounters? I feel strongly that one should speak only from one's personal experience and let it stand for itself. I know my life would be immeasurably poorer without these experiences with the natural world and trees cer-

tainly provide shelter and homes for so many of nature's inhabitants. I'm not a "tree hugger," and I don't consider myself an environmentalist. I cut down trees appropriately marked for firewood and I do it with a thankful heart. I'm simply a human being living on this beautiful planet. With the topic of our woodlands being up for discussion, I wanted to contribute to the conversation.

Rod McRae, Glen Nevis

We must make ourselves heard

The Editor,

I am sure that many read the letter 'MPP asked to explain Hydro solutions' by Mrs. Flip Flockton on Dec. 9 with great satisfaction because they could not agree more. With facts she showed how we have reason to be upset while keeping her sense of humour!

Too many of us think nothing can be done about Hydro One but politicians have to listen to those who can vote them out of office: us. We have to make ourselves heard.

Martine Nadeau,
Alexandria

Plant trees

The Editor,

We are all responsible for some form of tree-cutting, building lot clearing, road right-of-ways, but some people are cutting on a larger scale. The answer to this problem that we can control is tree planting. Plant native trees on a small or large scale but please do plant.

The future forest will be highly managed but on small areas that we control. If we control the land we control the forest. As soon as the land base is sold the forest is destroyed. So let's start planting this spring, say one tree per person in each family, on our own land. Every tree planted helps us be carbon neutral. It is a start, so grab a shovel. A good time to plant a tree is 25 years ago.

John Filioli, Maxville