

Clear-cutting farmers should look in the mirror

The Editor:

Sunday was Mother's Day and as a mother, grandmother and a farmer, I am concerned for our environment and what we as farmers are leaving for the next generations! We owe it to our grandchildren!

I have looked into the matter, and according to the Corn Producers of Canada, about 40 to 50 per cent of corn grown goes to feed animals, about 20 to 25 per cent is for human consumption — of which about three quarters of that goes for corn syrup — and 25 to 30 per cent goes to ethanol. In the U.S.A., 40 per cent goes to ethanol. So much for the argument of feeding people — some large crop farmers are more concerned about feeding their bank accounts. When

land is cleared to the extent we are seeing today, bad things follow — wells go dry, no water, soil is eroded, dust storms, air is polluted (trees purify the air).

I use La Rose forest as an example; in the late 1800s, the trees were cleared, the top soil eroded away, and the soil was just drift sand and not suitable to grow crops. So Ferdinant La Rose began planting trees. They had learned the hard way. To have a healthy eco system, North Dundas should have 30 per cent tree coverage, and in 2006 there was only 13 per cent. Since then, I am sure we are down to about half of that or less. Some farmers are planting solar panels and industrial wind towers instead of trees, with no regard for people or

wildlife. South Dundas seem to be doing the same!

We must remember the environment belongs to all of us. None of us own the water, air and even the land. (It is only ours to use.) We must all be good stewards. When it comes to tunnel vision, farmers who are clear cutting need to look in the mirror.

Yes, farming is a business. I have been involved all my life, but you must respect Mother Nature or she will come back to bite you (all of us).

The rate of diagnosis of autism has gone from a rate of one in 88 children in 2008 to one in 50 in 2013. This is another concern which is more prevalent in farming areas. What are we doing to improve?

Let's not let greed rule us. I have never seen a Brinks truck driving behind a hearse, have you?

**Estella Rose
Mountain**