

Lone protester shares his thoughts

THE EDITOR,

Yes, hi, it's me again. Don't worry. This is the last time you'll hear from me. I won't bother you again.

I've had a lot of time to think while I was standing by the side of the road. As far as the clear-cutting goes, I have no problem with farmers clear-cutting; hey it's your land.

It's the clear-cutters who buy wooded lots just for the lumber. The land might not be used for years and years.

I am thinking that more than likely, our government has a master plan. It wants to look good for the rest of the world. That handful of politicians still wet behind the ears is deciding our fate. First, they figure that they have that Trans Pacific deal that if realized, would greatly affect the dairy farmers in Ontario and in Canada. So the fair farmers figure they better get out of dairy farming while my quota is still worth something, so out they

go, wanting to do cash crops.

I am not a farmer but I think that alternative is a little easier on the system than milking twice a day, seven days a week, and our government, in all its wisdom, will help facilitate this change. And in doing so, it will make more room for solar panels on prime farm land, or maybe wind turbines going up in people's back yards, but if it's not in the politicians' back yard, it's okay. And then comes all those cash crops coming out of Canada and the U.S. One very large country doesn't have enough food to feed

their populations because they've destroyed their own land, terribly, for the hi-tech dollar.

So with so many farmers going into cash crops, the market gets flooded, the price drops like a rock and it's the farmer who has to go big or go home and the buyer will get it for dirt-cheap.

As far as I'm concerned, we are just pawns in this world, pawns to corporations and to government. Do they think for one minute how these changes might affect the average person in Ontario? No.

Do they care about the third-generation

dairy farmers, or the dairy farmers just starting out? Do they care? No.

Do they care about the loss of our forests? No. Do they care about our water table? No. Do they care about wildlife? No. Do they care about maybe making the wrong choice . . . no, because they can always blame the other guy. Do they care? No.

I figure I'll be standing on the side of the road for a little while cause I figure I owe this land I stand on . . . and the air I'm breathing . . . a debt I'll never be able to repay.

And maybe, just maybe by standing out

there with my sign, I'll plant a seed in a farmer's or landowner's mind that maybe he won't have to clear-cut the full 500 acres. Maybe he'll do just half.

It's a big maybe, but for the forest and the wildlife, I have to try.

I thank you for your patience.

**ANDY PERREAU,
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