

Clear-cutting: a land grab

THE EDITOR,

Re: clear-cutting on Highway 34.

So we disagree on clear cutting. Don't be fooled, these are not farmers. I know farmers - farmers know the land - farmers are the best neighbours you can have. A farmer will start his tractor and pull you out of a ditch on a stormy winter night. No farmer would have cut everything off the embankment around Peladeau's garage, bringing down the value of his property and leaving the property open to erosion. No

farmer would have cut within a couple of feet of his neighbour's fence line. How can you be a farmer when you don't own one single tractor? Times are changing fast. This is a "land grab" and we have to put some sort of rules in place to protect our community and small business and home owners. Put a real farmer on the job and I'll be okay. We have to know "what's going on." You need a permit to have a garage sale but not to put a small local business at risk. It's about money, that's all. But it's okay, you can roll over and go back to sleep. The government is sleeping too.

KATHERINE RIOPEL,
VANKLEEK HILL

Putting land to productive use is a good thing

THE EDITOR,

I read your article on the tree clearing in Vankleek Hill and am surprised that you have printed such an article. You make it appear that it is a terrible thing that Mr. Lydiate clear cut his property. You should be showing both sides of the argument.

I can remember driving by that property when I was young and it was farmed but through neglect it was allowed to grow back with

many undesirable species of plant materials. From my observation the trees were very young and very low commercial value.

Here is a property owner who has paid substantial sums for the purchase of the property and has paid taxes on it and you make it sound like he does not have the right to do so. These protesters would never put their own money into buying the land so I really don't see the point.

This is a farming community that feeds thousands of people through the use of farmland. Whenever we can put land into productive use, it's a positive.

DONALD S. MCFAUL

One tree can be the beginning of a forest

THE EDITOR,

In 1981, when we

moved to Vankleek Hill, we planted 500 trees and each year planted a few more, hoping for our future grandchildren. We now have 2 handsome grandsons and a mini forest! How wonderful we feel walking in our bush! Our

son now has made many trails since he has taken over the place, fun, fun, fun. For the farmers he has 2 fields cultivated. Perhaps you have a corner or fence line you could tree for your grandchildren. Individually - planting just one

tree each spring will warm your heart and give you hope! How nice to see a young maple growing on someone's lawn! Make a meaningful New Year's resolution! -

SUSAN DAROLD
BURMEISTER,
VANKLEEK HILL

Laws needed to protect forests

THE EDITOR,

The picture of the clear-cut forest in last issue of The Review is stunning and disturbing. While I understand that farmers need land for farming, this cannot be a justification for total destruction of the forests. We, as a society, need to introduce some restriction before our environ-

ment will turn into rubble. The carbon dioxide storage capability of the forest is about 100 (one hundred) times greater than crops growing at the same area. Elected officials claiming otherwise should research this subject more diligently before arguing, that either forest or crops will have the same effect on environment. No, they're not. Forest will produce 100 times more oxygen than crops will do and that air is our collective asset. My hat goes off to Andy Perreault for turning our attention to

clear-cutting in our county. I'm sure a lot more people feel the same and are concerned about the future of the environment. Let's put some pressure on our local representatives to introduce a by-law which will slow down and restrict clear-cutting. The cash crops are not "feeding the cities" any more, they're feeding the pockets of international business. The global economy doesn't care about lost environment here, lost habitat and lost clean air. We shall not let them take from us what we should

leave to our children. For those lot owners, who don't care about the future and allow total deforestation, I have a message - I just planted 3,000 trees this year on my property, in addition to another 20,000 or so, which are growing here happily since half a century. Please feel free to use the air they're producing as you wish. And let your children to use it as well. You're very welcome.

B. MICHALSKY
CHAMPLAIN
TOWNSHIP