

How many do you feed?

The Editor,

Re: Pro-tree petition (January 6, *The Glengarry News*);

Well, after reading your article in the paper I realize that you have forgotten that logging has gone on for decades. There were clear-cuts and selective cuts performed during this time so this practice is not new. It was common practice to replant trees in clear-cut areas, which in certain areas is still done today.

You fail to mention all the farm land that gets used up by big houses and commercial buildings plus parking lots but that practice has gone on for years as well but that's OK.

More recently large fields and in some cases whole farms have had solar panels put up. Prime land was not to be used for this purpose but it is in a lot of cases.

I'm in the process myself to clear a large area but I'm doing this because I can't justify to purchase land around me due to high prices. The alternative is to clear land that is sitting idle just at the end of my farm. This second choice has a few pros that you wouldn't know about. One of those is by clearing land at home I'm staying off main roads

therefore eliminating traffic and providing me more time to manage the land I currently have better.

Now if I was a big business you would be happy and give me credit if I repurposed a building

for something else instead of just building another building to suit the need. Clearing my land should be viewed the same way. I'll be the first one to admit there are places where farmers are clearing that shouldn't be clear-

ing. Did Walmart ask you for permission to move the last time? No. Therefore, I don't want to ask for anyone's permission to do anything on my land!

We as farmers are renting the land basically from the next generation so we would not be very smart to abuse this!

In closing I will recommend that if your petition should come to be that we as farmers approach authorities to have a bylaw put in place!

This bylaw would restrict the replanting of trees on productive farm land that is currently in production. It would also prohibit the use of installing solar panels in any way! So if farm land is currently active it should be maintained by the owner whether he does it himself or rents it to a farmer.

I have yet another idea. Why don't you pay us an amount per acre for however long we farm?

So you see before you make big plans to save all the trees on someone else's property think of what will come next for you. Not fair, you say. Well, how many people does your job feed?

**Rob McDonald, North
Lancaster**

'Farmers like trees, animals'

The Editor,

We at the Glengarry Federation of Agriculture (GFA) would like to point out a number of facts about the recent article "The fallout of forest loss" and two letters to the Editor.

First, we the farmers like trees and animals and are both not only deeply concerned but also directly affected by our changing climate.

Second, the "Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program" is the only way many of us can bring our products to market at a price the consumer can afford. To qualify we must actually farm the land. If we need (not want) to clear land to plant a crop we do so at great expense and with a very long-term recovery of

investment.

Third, we anticipate that the study being compiled by SD&G Counties, MNR, SNCA and the RRCA will find that deforestation is also a result of rezoning and residential development, not only agricultural necessity.

Finally, if anyone is genuinely concerned with deforestation and wants to help implement a solution, we would point out that the "Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program" is available to anyone owning a minimum of 9.88 acres on a single property in Ontario. Plant trees, save the environment, and get a tax reduction.

**Wendy MacPherson
Director, Glengarry
Federation of Agriculture**