



Thanks for a respectful discussion

THE EDITOR,

On Wednesday, January 13, I had the opportunity to attend my first Champlain Township council meeting and what I saw was a great example of democracy in action. The first person to speak

was Andy Perreault, who, as many people know, has written several letters to the editor and courageously mounted a one man protest on Highway 34 against the province's clear cutting practices. Andy managed to speak both passionately and reasonably about a subject close to his heart: the destruction of our forests and its impact on wildlife, air quality, the water table, and our visual landscape. He had done his homework, and he presented an informed and balanced picture of the causes and effects of our lack of legislation. But what made it all the more remarkable was the respect with which the mayor and councillors listened to him. The mayor, Gary Barton, treated Andy with warmth and respect, and while he acknowledged that he had no intention of passing

any bylaws at the meeting because of the complexity of the issue, he too expressed concern and recommended that everyone write to Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MPP Grant Crack to encourage him to create a provincial solution. It was at that point that another councilor then requested that the Council write a letter to Mr. Crack, as well as other nearby municipalities to encourage everyone to come together to find a solution to this problem. Obviously it is only a first step, but at least it is a concrete step, not a mere brushing off of the issue. I would like to applaud both Andy, for standing up for what he believes, and our mayor and council for their respectful response.

**REENIE MARX
VANKLEEK HILL**