

## Are we good care-takers?

### THE EDITOR,

On the subject of clear-cutting - the elephant in the room is Ownership. No one wants to touch it; especially politicians. This begs the question: why not? Our legal and democratic systems are based on telling people what not to do. Ontario, unlike Quebec which has strong laws on land use, seems content to let the municipalities carry the ball.

The plain and simple fact is we own

nothing, especially land. Most things were here before us and most things will go on well after we're gone. Yes, there are legal documents attesting that we own this or that, but it's all fiction. We are, at best, caretakers. If we are good caretakers, we leave things as we found them. If we are exceptional caretakers, we leave things in better shape than we found them.

It doesn't matter if County statistics tell us clear-cutting isn't a problem as we still have 30% forest cover. Unfolding environmental destruction on an industrial scale is to be seen on a drive down any sideroad. Wherever deforestation has

taken place like this - think the Amazon Rainforest - soil degradation and environmental collapse follow. We are well on the path.

The question is will greed and political cowardice prevail or will the recognition that we are no more or less than caretakers guide our actions and determination to preserve what is passingly ours. Future generations will be the judge.

**IAN HEPBURN,  
VANKLEEK HILL**

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