

Who is saying we should ban clear cutting?

TO THE EDITOR,

Last week I read a letter on page 4 (The Review-Jan.27th) that spoke to the priority of property rights and the irrelevance of banning clear cutting. Since Andy Perreault initiated this public discussion on clear cutting, there has been much print and talk about this issue of concern in our community. Over the past few weeks I have participated in this discussion with many people, of many demographic profiles and vocational walks in life, and in many venues both public and private. Although, some of these people are new to our community (My wife and I are still viewed by some as newcomers, and we've been part of this community for over 40 years!), most of them have lived in this community for a long, if not life-long, time. Accordingly, I cannot make any insulting generalizations about where they came from nor their consequent political beliefs.

In my discussions I have not heard one person speak of banning clear cutting. Everyone has approached this issue with reason-

bleness, sensitivity, and respect. (Is this a Canadian attribute?) Their opinions appear to be based on one basic assumption, which is that property rights and social responsibility are not mutually exclusive. They consistently emphasize a priority in respecting property rights, but with modest inclusions of social responsibility in acting as a good neighbor, and in ensuring that agricultural land remain productive and safe for all.

Are so many of these concerned people naïve? Are they so naïve to think that our political representatives, local and provincial, will act in a responsive and creative way to these two concerns of respecting property rights and practicing social responsibility? Based on what our local provincial representative has recently been reported to say in The Review; he seems to take the position of mutual exclusivity with no intention to do anything about this issue. He even went out of his way to indicate that his opinion was a personal one (and not that of his party?).

Does anyone have additional constructive, respectful, and reasonable thoughts about this issue of community concern?

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