

Everything else is regulated

TO THE EDITOR,

To hear politicians speak about the sanctity of private property rights is almost laughable. Other than destruction, what is not regulated? Amongst all the trees which were cut were there no elm, ash, walnut or butternut? These species are all governed by strict rules regarding harvest and transport. Lacking any inspections, the diseased wood was shipped out, spreading the bugs farther.

After the indiscriminate flat cut is complete, permits are required for everything, including fences. Buildings must be constructed of union-produced lumber and permission obtained before beginning any project. Beyond that, yards and structures must comply to aesthetic standards. Municipalities have been known to take aerial photos of properties to see what rural land owners are up to. No government interference? I don't think so. Governments exist to interfere with private enterprise.

There is the issue of moral high ground, which as Canadians is a place where we like to stand. What does a person who accepts flat cutting here say to a Brazilian farmer doing similar along the Amazon? Go for it! There is no more need for that forest than this. It is only busybodies and ingrate whiners with no understanding of progress or food chains who complain. Prosperity begins with destruction; never a step forward without a push back.

To compare modern farm-

land clearing methods to those used in the 1800's is moot. I have the history of an Irish family who moved onto raw land circa 1840. After 35 years of labour they had 50 acres cleared with about 40 under crop. That area today could be ready to till in a matter of weeks. No comparison.

There is however one similarity between the 1800's and now: Busybodies and whiners. As the old growth forest was cut and shipped to the mills and the land left to stumps, brush and wild fires, the native Indians complained bitterly. The forests where they once roamed were being flattened; eliminating not only the game but their sugar maples, nut trees, garlic and herbs. As today, those whiners were dismissed as visionless simpletons. When a band of Algonquin came begging, asking the lumber baron Philemon Wright that a sacred stand of ancient maples be spared, they were scolded and told to be gone.

The Great White Mother (Queen Victoria) wanted the trees and she must have them, he said. To appease their Spirits he gave the Indians two bottles of rum, on the Queen's behalf.

It is ironic that our last freedom, right if you will, is to cut trees en masse. Everything else is regulated; from baby bottles to burial plots. Milk sales, light bulbs, yard care, church suppers...everything. Soon even your cat's movements will be regulated. Freedom lovers, grab an axe.

**GORDON FRASER,
GRENVILLE-SUR-LA-ROUGE**

It's about moral fibre

TO THE EDITOR,

Regarding Mr. Tremblay's letter -

Andy Perreault standing by the side of the road protesting every day in temperatures below zero, day after

day, for months now, is not about appearances. It's about commitment, determination moral fibre and a genuine concern for our community. We don't see Mr. Tremblay taking a stand for what he believes, but maybe he's too busy looking out his kitchen window.

**K. RIOPEL
VANKLEEK HILL**

Regulation is coming... eventually

TO THE EDITOR,

Politicians are going to regulate deforestation!

Yes they will, but do not hold your breath on it. Maybe when there are hardly any more trees to cut down and only a few patches are left here and there and our landscape looks like the prairies or worse a desert, then they will.

By then politicians will realize what a big mistake they have made by not acting then, but it will be too late. They will go overboard with new woodlot cutting restrictions and laws of all kinds to stop the irreversible. And who do you think will pay for that, well, it will be the ones like us, that kept their small parcel of forest still standing.

Right now another stand of mature trees are being decimated just down the road from us and for what? Don't get me wrong, I like

the mixture of nice fields but not at the expense of all the forests. It seems like they (the politicians) are waiting for somebody else to make the right decision to protect our still beautiful countryside. This way, they do not have to worry about what might happen at the end of their mandate.

I was councillor in the early 90's and never once when time came to take a decision, did it cross my mind what was going to happen at the end of my term, because of the choices I made.

I think it is now time for politicians of our municipalities and better still the counties, at least the ones that cannot afford more deforestation, to take the right decision and stop this savagery. PLEASE ACT NOW.

**YVES DUVAL
ST-BERNARDIN**