

'Stop taking land from farmers'

The Editor,

Reading *The Glengarry News* over the last few weeks has prompted me to write this response. It amazes me how near sighted the general population is. Where to start...

Question to ponder: What do we need to be sustainable? Well, we need food, water, shelter. Am I correct? Let's compare the difference between contributions.

Farmers provide you with food. In the process of producing food, we have land that is fertilized, crops produced and processed for consumption. While those crops are growing in the field there are many benefits including converting carbon dioxide to oxygen. Land that is not productive is planted in trees to keep the ground covered and provide wind breaks.

Farmers protect the water sources. It is important that we have good quality water to pro-

vide for humans as well as our livestock and crops. Shelter is a natural requirement as well. More and more products are being used to insulate and build houses from agricultural resources. For each farm house we provide food for the other 98 per cent of the population.

Now, let's look at the non-farmers.

Produce food, well, a small percentage of non-farmers may have a vegetable garden or small greenhouse that will produce food for themselves and maybe a couple of friends.

Water - well, many water their lawns, wash their vehicles, some conserve water usage but it is not a high priority for many and when required unprocessed sewage is dumped into water courses.

Shelter - how much land is under concrete and asphalt on your property? How many trees

do you have on your lot? Look at the houses around you and determine how much land and trees were taken from the environment to be covered and never see the light of day again!

If you don't have farmers, then where do you propose your food will come from? Your local farmers provide you with some of the safest food in the world. Farmers are not clearing bush to make more profit. The cost of land has gone up so much due to the urban pressure wanting to build their homes. What thought is given when you are pushing the farmers from their land so you can have your city centres and housing developments? Why don't you allow farmers to provide you the food and you stop taking land from us? Why is it that every time there is an issue it gets thrown back at farmers? We are only two per cent of the population providing food for 100

per cent. We are busy providing for your needs. Without food you will not survive. Maybe look at how you are giving back to the environment and nature in your area. Is this the society we want for our next generation? Do you have any idea what a farmer does and how much they contribute to the well-being of the community? Look around our local area. Without farmers you will rely on other countries to provide you with your food.

Comparing the contributions, I believe farmers are doing their share.

From your local farmers of Glengarry County you are welcome for the care we take in providing you with solid safe food plus the clear air you get to enjoy. We would appreciate it if you would stop taking our land and dictating to us on where and when to have trees!

Paul Vogel, Apple Hill