

# The review, February 10, 2016

## Imagine

### TO THE EDITOR

The year is 2026, back in 2016 we never did get a clear cut ban, and after four and a half years, the clear-cutters finally left, because there was nothing left to cut.

Things changed slowly at first, it seems our provincial government at the time did put our province up for sale, but forgot to tell us.

Small lots were sold and cleared for foreign buyers at first as a financial investment, but as their own land back home was not produc-

ing enough, they needed more land to own, grow their own crops, and ship produce back home.

As years passed the small lots were scooped up and as the lots disappeared along with our forests and wildlife, the price of acreage rose significantly, down the road the price finally stopped at \$25,000 an acre. The foreign investors were hungry for bigger lots, more acreage and with their deep pockets they went after large well-established farms. In certain cases local farmers became millionaires overnight.

After the Transpacific deal was signed and ratified the dairy busi-

ness pretty well dried up, the government was more than happy to compensate the farmers for their livestock and foreign buyers were more than happy to take their land of their hands. A few years later the small family owned farm was pretty much a thing of the past.

In the United States there had been a change at the top. But these days between countries it was pretty much watch out for number one, as they decided their crops were more important than ours and made that very clear, and yes they showed interest in our water too. Carbon emissions had not decreased, the meeting in Paris was nothing more than a photo shoot.

Here in southern Ontario the landscape had changed quite dramatically. Trees that acted as buffers between fields were pretty much gone, fences disappeared. Welcome to industrial farming. The fields were vast surrounding various small towns in the area. The amount of round-up being sprayed on the soy crops to increase the yield was staggering.

There were still a few organic farms trying to make a go of it, but it was tough. Thankfully there were quite a few farmers holding out with their woodlots, I definite-

ly take my hat off to them for their courage.

In the towns the population had gotten a little older, respiratory problems seemed to be more prevalent. People don't go out so much anymore, they stay at home plugged in. The younger people also stay in, preferring a virtual world to a real one, the legalization of cannabis adding to the experience.

It seems the air has changed a lot, not quite so sweet anymore, the smell of cedar in the wind on a warm summer night is gone, along with the sound of singing frogs in the ditches because of the dryness. Water filtering is the norm in rural Ontario, for those who still have water.

The climate change and global warming has been insane, like a roller coaster, the winds are so powerful, with nothing to slow them down. Summers are a sweltering heat, drought conditions are long, more severe, and more frequent.

Much less snow falls, and with the loss of the trees to slow down the melt in the spring, it has greatly affected the already fragile water table, where most of rural Ontario gets its drinking water.

Continued on page 5.

## Imagine (continued)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I still have trees on my lot, and I've gotten a little older, like everyone else. I don't protest so much these days; there's no reason to. My saddest time to date was in the fall of 2026, when I filled my birdfeeders with black, oily seeds and never had to refill them once - all winter they stayed full, untouched.

What if.

ANDY PERREAULT,  
VANKLEEK HILL