

Stephane Cyr

From: Ronnie Leblanc
Sent: March 30, 2017 3:24 PM
To: Stephane Cyr
Subject: Fwd: Over-cutting, clear-cutting, more access roads, destruction of habitat, when will it change?

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From: guy belliveau <guy.belliveau@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 1:57:36 PM
To: Stephen McNeil; Gordon Wilson; Ronnie Leblanc; jmacalpine@municipality.digby.ns.ca
Cc: Andre Belliveau; jonathan riley; Scott Anderson
Subject: Over-cutting, clear-cutting, more access roads, destruction of habitat, when will it change?

I am writing to you, to voice my thoughts regarding the over-cutting, destruction of valuable habitat and abuse of our wilderness in recent generations. Initially, Europeans, the first white settlers to Nova Scotia harvested the forest in historical times of plenty to present date. Upon the arrival of the first Europeans our forest was a source of raw wood materials for milling, the building of homes, commercial offices, fishing vessels, tall ships, bridges and was also a product that was desired and shipped across the Atlantic and to Caribbeans destinations. Historically, this was done without a second thought due to the vast amounts of raw wood materials available in our Nova Scotia forest. However, in modern times, such is not the case anymore. Our forest has been harvested at least five or six times over in the last 400 years. The present condition of our forest is deplorable and deteriorating beyond its ability to regenerate itself as it once did generations ago. The forest does not even represent anything close to what our original forest and wildlife was. Some of the original big game no longer exist, such as caribou and other species such as moose have been reduced to a few hundred in numbers. It is a strange concept that as Nova Scotians, there are approximately 300-400 mainland moose remaining which are protected under law, and that the Nova Scotia Government continues to issue permits to mills and contracted harvesters that destroy hectares upon hectares of their habitat year after year. Smaller species such as amphibious [creatures](#) and fish types, rodents, insects, bats, small birds, the remaining trout and salmon populations are also affected negatively. My family and friends undertake several wilderness trips into the "outback" (Tobeatic and the Medway areas) each year and have observed the destruction that access road building, clear cutting and over-harvesting does. I have traveled the logging roads of South West Nova Scotia and have testimony to offer regarding the terrible effects of clear-cutting and abusive logging practices. Access roads cut a path approximately 40 to 60 ft wide that go on for kilometers and kilometers. Over harvesting and clear-cutting practices are a total destruction of the forest that takes 50 to 80 years for it to resume any small resemblance of its former self. In some cases the ground surface is washed away and reduced to sand and gravel moon-scape. Jamie Simpson of New Brunswick wrote several books on the matter several years ago and was heavily criticized by industry because industry couldn't handle the negative consequences of over-harvesting. The forest industry eventually realized it's wrong doings due to the overwhelming evidence that surfaced in the wake of the Simpson books and photos. However, the abuse and destruction that clear-cutting is, continues. Nova Scotians are at a cross road regarding our forest and its wilderness. We need to take a huge step backwards and truly examine where we are at. Our forest cannot sustain any further abuse, clear-cutting, over-harvesting, and more access roads. Nova Scotians involved in the forest industry, a complacent and ignorant general public, our Government, have systematically and gradually destroyed one of our most valued and precious gifts...our forest and the wilderness that lives within it. Nova Scotians, our Government, NSE, the DNR, and the forest industry must find a way to change the current forest harvesting practices. We all need to change how we think and we must find methods and ways that are less abusive when harvesting our forests. The forest harvesting industry must rethink and re-consider its logging effects on forest regeneration, wilderness big and small, lakes, rivers, streams, animal habitat, bird habitat and yes tourists habitat. I believe it can be done and there can be room for all, where humans can really appreciate the wilderness and the forest industry can harvest in a responsible way. I believe there is a way of harvesting that will re-establish marginal and endangered species and maintain a sustainable forest industry and wilderness biomass for generations to come. Someone has to take that first important step into the known. Changing forest harvesting practices from clear-cutting to a sustainable harvest is not a step into the unknown but rather, a step into the known. Private land owners have been doing it for generations. We are at the abyss...if the Province of Nova Scotia keeps the blinders on and maintains this destructive path...what do we leave our grandchildren and great-grandchildren and so on...

I am a resident of Digby County.

I do not want over-cutting and clear-cutting of the public woodlands (Crown forests) in Digby County or in Nova Scotia.

Over-cutting and clear-cutting of our public woodlands is a gross abuse of our forests and wild life who live in our forests.

Proper forest management principles should be followed.

The WestFor mill consortium 10 year lease must NOT be signed.

There already has been too much over-cutting and clear-cutting.

Best regards

Guy J. Belliveau.