

## Letters | All must work for wood supply solutions

Published Friday August 1st, 2008

### A4

In a Telegraph-Journal article July 22, I was quoted as saying "There is a strong case for some legislation to control the flow of wood into the United States."

[ENLARGE PHOTO](#)



This is not my view. My intent was to highlight the issue of the inherently short-term relationship between private wood suppliers and wood buyers such as AV Nackawic.

Government, wood producers and industry together should look at this issue. As announced by the Minister of Natural Resources, a new trial process is underway to attempt to develop viable longer term supply options.

I support free trade and this is true also for private wood suppliers.

We are locked in a system that forces us to optimize our wood supply based on month-to-month wood availability which hurts both sides. We are our own

worst enemies.

A boom-and-bust mentality must be addressed. Wood suppliers and wood buyers chasing the last dollar isn't helping.

Wood owners deserve a reasonable return on investment and a secure outlet for their product. Wood companies need longer term certainty to allow us to compete in difficult global markets. We also need longer term supply commitments to attract investment for our planned expansions. Landowners need long-term markets and stability to survive and prosper. We need to work together to develop long-term relationships and have these underwritten by long-term agreements which will serve the needs of all sides of the industry. The answers are within our control. With a co-operative approach we can and will find creative solutions.

PETER VINALL

President and CEO, AV Group

#### Another award best for Morgentaler

An open letter to Dr. Henry Morgentaler.

How does it feel being in a group of people who made Canada better, devoting their lives working, or fighting for the people of Canada? Do you honestly think you are one of them? I do not know what happened between your first refusal (rightly to my opinion) to the acceptance recently. I can not imagine anything else, but a few thousands of abortions. What a contribution to the future of our country.

I think that the quiet majority of Canadians would be happier if you were awarded the Christopher Tietze "Humanitarian" Award instead of the Order of Canada. The Tietze Award is given by the National Abortion Federation (U.S./Canada) honouring significant lifetime contribution in the field of abortion service delivery or policy (which I feel is rather a business). I would be happy to promote you to be a member of that award-winning group of people.

Dr. KALMAN PROTZNER

Rothsay

#### Time for some reality checks

Let's have a reality check on some claims.

First, MLA John Betts claims (letter, July 30) that tax reductions the Lord government claimed it achieved "were not creative accounting, as the numbers were supported by the Department of Finance," which published the misleading numbers in the first place. The Lord government reduced personal

income tax rates by a small amount, but much of the so-called tax reductions were amounts New Brunswickers 'saved' by not having their taxes increased (if the government had failed to prevent taxes rising by not adjusting tax brackets with inflation). Sounds like creative accounting to me.

Second, John Staples (letter, July 30) claims that "Canadians already pay the highest carbon taxes in the world!" He then defines the world to be "oil producing nations" and says that Canada is the only one that "doesn't protect the domestic price of oil," citing cheap gasoline prices in developing country oil producers.

But a litre of gas costs about \$2.74 in Norway these days; Norway is the world's third largest oil exporter. In the UK, another major producer, gas costs about \$2.35/litre. Outside North America, most of the industrialized world pays serious gas taxes, which is one reason their per capita emissions are so much lower than ours.

ROD HILL

Professor of Economics, UNBSJ

### **Church open to gays a beacon for all**

Sobering information: A church shooting in Tennessee was caused by its liberal views.

The Knoxville congregation of the Unitarian-Universalist church, like others in that denomination, promotes progressive social work, including advocacy of women and gay rights.

It is alleged that the man accused of shooting in that church was upset by the policies embodied there. Of course, this happened in the U.S.A., where same-gender marriage is restricted to few states; certainly not permitted in Tennessee. Yet the attitudes are deep seated in our continental culture; though we are less blatant in our expressions of prejudice. Thankfully, same-sex couples can marry any place in Canada; civil authorities must oblige - the window is open.

For gay couples who are religious, the opportunities in New Brunswick are much more restricted. In spite of the fact that the United Church of Canada is noted for its liberal practices, local congregations must buy in, in order that same gender weddings can occur. The province is profusely peppered with United Church congregations, yet those with open doors are a very decided minority.

As a gay rights activist, I am profoundly grateful to the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Fredericton. Early, consistently, and convincingly, that fellowship has been open in policy and practice to all members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. And now, this is a religious institution with windows fully open to gay and lesbian couples anywhere in the province; a beacon to all faiths and religions.

ELDON HAY

Sackville

### **Stage a boycott that really hurts**

As the Olympics draw closer, more and more well-meaning organizations are suggesting some sort of boycott for reasons ranging from human rights, to Tibet, to Darfur, to press freedom.

Such organizations are missing the mark. There's no need to boycott China or the Olympic Games. To make a point, all we have to do is to stage a boycott that really hurts!

On Aug. 8, the opening day of the Games, North American consumers could go to every Wal-Mart store on the continent and, instead of shopping, leave a polite note promising not to shop there again unless there are changes in China before the Games end.

Then we same consumers could wander home, watch the (presumably) magnificent opening ceremonies, all the while jotting down the names and websites of every advertiser. After the ceremonies end, we could send the same polite note to all of them.

I doubt there would be much change before the end of the Games. But, if we actually followed through with our promises, I suspect there would be major changes before year's end.

Of course we will never know.

We are, after all, gung-ho North Americans! When push comes to shove, we have a tendency to shove. A 'push' is much too simple for us to understand.

And besides, we do dearly love those 'Roll-Back' prices for those Made-in-China things we don't need down at the local Wal-Mart.

JOHN STEEVES

Sussex

#### **Parking lot is quite a vision**

So now we know the mayor's master plan for the future development of the city - so creative in its simplicity.

Parking lots. Of course - a brilliant concept.

Firstly, the Long Wharf parking lot followed by the North of Union parking Lot. Then we will all wait, with bated breath, the announcement of the wonderful Coast Guard site parking lot.

Wow! What a vision.

Just one problem, though - there will no one coming to downtown to park there.

However, not to worry, I guess we can trust the mayor and his union friends to figure that out too. I could swear that the light at the end of the tunnel just became really dim.

BRIAN STONE

Saint John

#### **Someone must help poor cats**

I read the article concerning a house which was torn down with cats inside.

Couldn't there have been a thorough investigation of the house before someone tore it down? Knowing that there were cats in the house before to me indicates that there very well could be more cats inside.

Someone in Saint John needs to start an organization such as we have in Moncton, Ca-r-ma or Cat Rescue Maritime. They trap feral cats and have them neutered/spayed and then find homes for the kittens. Someone has to step up and help these poor animals.

KELLY SHERRARD

Moncton

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Remember Joni Mitchell's song Big Yellow Taxi and her observation on the wonders of paving paradise to create a parking lot?

"They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot  
With a pink hotel, a boutique  
And a swinging hot spot  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till its gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot

They took all the trees

Put em in a tree museum  
And they charged the people  
A dollar and a half just to see em  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what youve got  
Till its gone."

Brian Stone is right on regarding the unions' Mayor's vision for Long Wharf!

23  THUMBS UP 3  THUMBS DOWN

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**Anonymous Reader, Saint John** on 01/08/08, 8:16:04 AM ADT

Thank you to Mr Rod Hill for setting the record straight on the price of oil. There are way too many myths propagated by people who have not done their research.

2  THUMBS UP 7  THUMBS DOWN

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**JG R, Moncton, NB** on 01/08/08, 11:53:19 AM ADT

With left wing anti-establishment, anti-business, pro-taxation educators like Rod Hill and Ivan Court teaching kids it is no wonder there is so much scepticism and negativity found in today's youth.

What happened to the unprejudiced educators who used to present impartial, unslanted views of the world to their students?

14  THUMBS UP 2  THUMBS DOWN

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**Anonymous Reader, Saint John** on 01/08/08, 12:38:19 PM ADT

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