

Public Input from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Property Rights (BRPPR) Meeting in Lincoln, Ontario on April 20, 2017

Host: Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West-Glanbrook
Date / Time: April 20 from 7 PM – 9:15 PM
Place: Rockway Community Centre, 2021 Regional Rd 69, Lincoln, ON
Panel Members Attending: Jack MacLaren, MPP; Tom Black; Marlene Black; Frank Burke; Mark Breckon; Shirley Dolan

Key Points: MPP Sam Oosterhoff introduced Jack MacLaren and thanked the panel members and the audience for attending.



Historical Note provided by Dave Honey:

On Saturday, May 20th, 1217, the First Barons' War took place at Lincoln, England when William the Marshall, Earl of Pembroke defeated Louis VIII of France and saved the throne for King Henry III of England. Marshall, 70 years old, subsequently reissued the Magna Carta. This year marks of 800th anniversary of this historic battle.

Conservation Authorities (CAs):

- Citizens' board for the CA's recommended.
- CA's are bankrupting people and ruining their lives.
- Disband CAs and return the property / assets to the municipalities.
- CAs should be forced to use their expropriation authority: must buy before designation.
- MNR uses MPAC information to let people know that they can claim a rebate for entering into a Land Use agreement with the CA.

Municipalities:

- Bylaw officers are not educated in the law. They should be educated and held responsible for their actions.
- How can we find out how much our municipality / government is paying to defend against the public? Cases like the \$10 permit to keep a migratory bird cost the municipality \$50,000.
- Penalties against bylaw officers should be written into the legislation.
- MPAC – property assessments are bankrupting people.

Legal System:

- Legal system is expensive and complicated.
- Decisions support ideology. Justice goes to the one with the most money.
- How can we enforce proper interpretation of the law?
- In POA court, the penalty should fit the infraction. Case cited where a couple was fined \$80,000 each for dumping dirt.
- Citizens should have a fair and equitable opportunity to represent themselves.
- The system is stacked against Joe Public because the Government defends itself with our tax dollars.
- We need to educate people, the judiciary, and government to the rule of law.
- No land use issue should go before a Justice of the Peace or Tribunal. Don't take a land use issue to traffic court.
- The government should be made to pay damages and costs if they lose. Reference: Mark Tijssen case.
- The answer to too much legislation is not more legislation.

Other:

- Liberals push their agenda by directing funds to organizations such as Friends of the Greenbelt. There are 475 such organizations paid by the Liberals.
- People who report to bylaw on their neighbour need to ask: will what I am doing hurt someone?
- We need to convince the public of the inappropriateness of land use decisions, e.g., zoning equals theft.
- Education on property rights should start in school.