

OLA Press Release

Randy Hillier announces his retirement as President of the Ontario Landowners' Association (OLA).

Statement

I wish to thank the thousands of Landowners, members of the media, and politicians across Ontario and Canada who have supported, contributed, and participated in the Rural Revolution. From our humble beginnings at a kitchen table in Lanark less than four years ago, the OLA has grown to fourteen county associations representing most of rural Ontario and continues to grow in influence and effectiveness. The Landowners are clearly the most successful populist movement in Canadian history combining thoughtful discourse and reasoned debate with non-violent civil disobedience, and the indomitable will, courage and resolve to demand justice for rural landowners. Our successes have been many, our mistakes few, and our impact undeniable. The future of rural Ontario has become ours to shape and define.

The OLA is evolving and change is both constant and desirable. The time and need for leadership is evolving into the time and need for greater management. The OLA and county associations have a depth and breadth of high calibre, knowledgeable individuals, the likes of which are unknown in any other movement. It is now the time for these individuals to demonstrate their abilities and move the OLA and rural revolution to even greater heights and successes. The Landowners will continue to travel where others fear and reap the continuing rewards of earnest respect.

Although I'm retiring from my full time OLA position, I'm not leaving my beliefs and commitments behind. I shall never quit my endeavours to have, "the freedom to own, use, enjoy, and the opportunity to earn a living from private property" enshrined in Canada's constitution. Moreover, I will continue to vigorously advocate for less government intrusion into the private lives and private property of Canadians. I will continue to co-publish, write, and edit The Landowner magazine and be available to assist and advise the OLA and county associations while continuing as an active volunteer on The Lanark Landowners' Board of Governors.

Although this chapter of my life is ending, I look forward with anticipation to the next while taking a needed rest and the time to enjoy my family. While plans are not yet concrete, I will begin to explore and investigate employment and career opportunities and options in media, business, and politics, which complement my desire to advocate for freedoms, justice, and property rights. I have not quit the Rural Revolution, but I am opening the door to allow others to experience the great wealth of rewards that I have enjoyed and that have enriched my life, while ensuring future OLA success.

The sign and slogan remains firmly attached at the end of my Laneway- "This land is our Land- Back off government." In addition, I ask all members to continue to support and participate in Canada's greatest and most defining revolution - The Rural Revolution.

I've often been asked, "What is the Landowners greatest achievement?" While there have been many, the answer is - Our greatest achievements are yet to come.

Randy Hillier
January 14, 2007

The OLA has created a steering committee to oversee and manage this transition phase and will solicit participation and report back to the board of directors and member associations including; Lanark, Glengarry, Leeds & Grenville, Prescott/Russell, Carleton, Stormont & Dundas, Renfrew, Northumberland, Prince Edward & Hasting, Durham-York & Victoria, Peterborough, Dufferin, Grey/Bruce, Manitoulin, and Oxford-Norfolk & Elgin. The members of the steering committee are Jack MacLaren (Chair), Wayne Gyde, Jacqueline Fennell, and Merle Bowes.

It is expected the steering committee recommendations will be finalised February 28, 2007

For further info, please contact

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