



Peter Spicer's hard work on his 1600 acre woodlot in Spencers Island resulting in he and his family being recognized at 2017 Nova Scotia Woodlot Owner of the Year. In this archive photo, Margaret Miller, provincial Forestry Minister at the time, presents Peter Spicer with a new chainsaw, so he can go back to work (Rees Photo)

Bill 4 Threatens Rural Life and Property Ownership

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respond to their values. There were posts on a number of websites by such people hoping forestry contractors would be forced to sell their equipment. As a point of interest, one could find a violation of this act on any piece of land in Nova Scotia, if it was taken literally.

There is a very small group of people that are involved in forestry related activities that support this government action but upon further investigation, these same groups and people are attempting to acquire provincial funding for their forestry related activities, which seems to be a bit of a conflict, or at least a disservice to the people they serve.

In the latest version of the legislation, there was a provision where the land owner must agree for there to be a "biodiversity zone" but in another section, this clause is made totally irrelevant by the section regarding a "biodiversity emergency."

BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY ORDERS

Section 23: Where there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a per-

son has contravened or is about to contravene Section 38 in a manner that resulted in, or is likely to result in, serious adverse effects to biodiversity and for which corrective action is needed to prevent, control, eliminate or manage such serious adverse effects, the Minister or an employee of the Government authorized to act on behalf of the Minister may issue a biodiversity emergency order requiring the person to do any or all of the following:

(a) cease engaging in any activity that resulted in or is likely to result in a contravention of Section 38;

(b) comply with any instructions set out in the order;

(c) do all things and take all steps necessary to comply with Section 38 and to remedy any injury or damage, or to control, eliminate or manage any adverse effects to biodiversity, caused by a contravention of Section 38.

I doubt that anyone actually follows the rules and protects biodiversity more than I do but as mentioned earlier in this document, one could find a violation on any lawn or golf course in Halifax let alone a woodlot in Spencer's Island.



In late September 2017, the Spicer family were all smiles as Natural Resources Minister, Margaret Miller, at that time, presented them with the large sign to be erected at the entrance to their 1600 acre woodlot. The woodlot has been in the Spicer family for seven generations. (Rees Photo)

Deadline for the May issue of
South Cumberland NEWS is April 20

Peter Spicer a Strong Advocate for Forest Management

By Maurice Rees

If you are a woodlot owner or involved in forestry regardless if you are from Spencers Island or just about anywhere in Nova Scotia you would have heard about Peter & Pat Spicer who were recognized as 2017 winner of the Nova Scotia Woodland Owner of the Year during a field day and woodlot tour in late September 2017.

The Spicers own 1600 acres of impressive woodland in Spencer's Island which is located near Advocate, home of Cape Chignecto Provincial

Park. The woodland has been in the Spicer family for seven generations. Peter's father, Max, was a well known and respected forest manager and character.

The diversity of the Spicer's stunning woodland creates opportunities to manage for values and products ranging from large healthy red spruce timber to cross country skiing, snowmobiling, hunting, and wildlife viewing and photography. The Spicers have an objective of maintaining an uneven-aged, healthy forest

that is both productive economically but also provides many ecological and recreational benefits for the long term.

We've provided the above background data about Peter Spicer to add an understanding to his lengthy article published in elsewhere in this issue where he outlines the reasons why he is opposed to the current Bill 4 - bio-diversity act (previously Bill 116, when introduced in 2019) and the dangers he sees for all land owners, whether they be

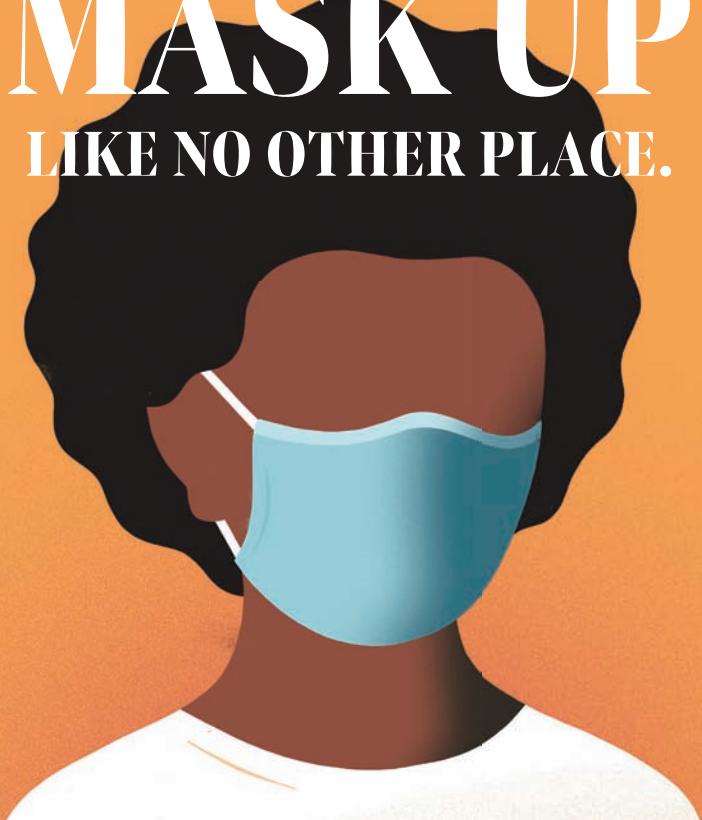
involved in forestry, dairy farming, blueberries, Christmas Trees, or a hunter, hiker or an avid ATV'er.

Spicer sees the possible danger that any activity on acreage, woodlot, or hiking, biking, ATV trails could come to a halt if the emergency order section of the act or environmental groups persuaded an elected member of government or a staff member that an specific area should become a bio-diversity zone.

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