

F26

[REDACTED]
Forest, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Over the past six months, life has changed dramatically for my husband and I, at Ipperwash Beach. I would like to share with you some of the ways in which our lives have been affected. The Gratton Subdivision, of which we are a part, is on the Army Camp Road, sandwiched between the Army Camp to the South, and the Ipperwash Provincial Park to the North. Subsequently, since September 4, 1995 these are some of the concerns we have to contend with:

1. Firstly, during the hostilities of Sept 4th, 1995, the residents of this community were trapped in their homes and told to remain invisible until further notice. This situation lasted for 20 hrs before evacuation took place. At that time, we were told to evacuate but we were on our own. Upon leaving our homes we found that the Ontario Provincial Police Force had been withdrawn to a perimeter of 3 to 4 km.s. This meant that there was NO protection between us and the Native Hostilities. We must never be placed in jeopardy again and MUST be able to expect police protection at all times.

2. It is of utmost importance that a police presence be visible and active in our area and on the army camp land to maintain law and order, as well as to protect the rights of all neighbouring individuals. This must be accomplished, whether it is by the OPP., the military, or the RCMP. Members of the faction occupying the camp and park must be informed that the Army Camp is not a safe haven for anyone breaking the law and that ACTION will be taken immediately EACH AND EVERY time an illegal act is committed.

3. Loss of property value is of great concern. We retired here with the knowledge that our property values would only increase over time, due to the rich tourist trade of this county, providing us with a wonderful investment for the future. Since the takeover of the Army Camp and the Provincial Park, the equity in our home has plummeted to zero and the retail opportunities are NIL. There is no hope for tourists this coming summer with the present state of affairs so many businesses fear doomed to failure or bankruptcy.

4. There has been an ongoing increase in harassment and aggravation over the past 7 months. Noise from old wrecks racing along the gravel road and the ensuing dust and grime permeates every nook and cranny of our home. This goes on day and night, particularly on the weekends when the population on the army camp increases. The aggravation of not being able to open doors or windows during the nicer weather is both frustrating and wearing upon one's nerves.

5. We are not free to spend time in the park or go for walks along the beach without fear and concern for our well being. These concerns show no sign of abating, in fact they will probably escalate as the weather improves. When, if ever, will we feel comfortable and secure in our homes again? When will we be able to walk the beaches and parks in safety as has been a part of living here? When will we again have some equity in our homes and an investment in our properties. We have a right to live a quiet, content life of retirement, without these concerns and ongoing tensions.

WHEN WILL IT EVER END?????? Thank you for your time and consideration. A reply would be appreciated!

Yours truly,
[REDACTED]