

## **Letter to the Editor**

Thanks to Farmers Forum for publishing your March 7<sup>th</sup> article "Trails bill won't take your land, agricultural lawyer says.", which actually says that your land won't be taken by Bill 100.

Where was this comment Feb 4, or before?

Since February, persistent reporting of misinterpretations of the Act and its impacts has scared landowners to the point of closing trails.

At Ontario Trails Council (OTC) we've been taking calls and answering questions for both anxious landowners and trail groups, trying to cope with the scare and worry.

Turns out the "land takeover scare" just doesn't exist according to the lawyer quoted in your article. Which is what we've been saying.

Unfortunately, in some spots, 40 years of good work between landowners and trail groups, has been undone, and honestly we can't figure out who all this scare benefits.

For our part we look forward to great landowner relations going forward, and are hopeful of a repaired network of trails through the summer and winter 2016.

In June this year we are hosting a trails conference, [Trailhead Ontario 2016](#), at Calabogie Peaks Resort. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture will be speaking on landowner relations and trails. OLA has been invited.

Our trail groups remain committed to transparent processes, knowing our neighbours, and working with landowners to have trails.

We appreciate landowners, the land that you share, we don't like trespass either and we want people to stay on the trail and off your land. Many of the enhanced trespass and damage remedies in the Act we want there and even requested.

At Ontario Trails Council we have created information sheets about the Act and its impacts. We encourage you to know your easement, and we hope you'll read our fact sheets too.

For more information on Bill 100 go to [Ontariotrails.ca](http://Ontariotrails.ca) and search [media](#).

Thanks

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