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Down with the Farm: Sean McAdam's Unpleasantville



I see my old compadre **Sean McAdam** is once again pissing off the neighbours in the Quebec duckburg of Chelsea.

'Twas ever thus for the revoltin' developer and president of Landlab, Inc. For years, his bougie enclaves have been blamed by the locals for every commuter traffic jam, asswipe cyclist and unavailable table at Les Fougères.

But this time the shirty emails are coming from inside the housing development: Hendrick Farm, Sean's white-picket Mayberry-to-order scheme in Old Chelsea, is losing its, er, farm.



Sean McAdam

April 19 at 2:06 AM · 🌐



Now that it's super cool to show vaccine selfies, can we expect the trend to continue for gonorrhoea?



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3 Comments

It's been 20 years (and two failed runs for office) since the rebarbative Reform Party/CA staffer started buying up land around his Chelsea homestead, with financial backing from the likes of MP **Art Hanger** and **Howard Singleton**, the moneybags retired diplomat.

The first 18-plot subdivision, Chelsea Park, immediately had the local tree-frotteurs whinging about the wetlands. But **Judith Grant**, then Chelsea's mayor, could always be counted on to see things Sean's way.

Small town, small world: Judy was the unsuccessful Canadian Alliance candidate for Pontiac in 2000. When she lost again for the Conservatives in 2004, she did so with a \$1,000 contribution from...public-spirited local developer Sean McAdam!

That was also the year Sean bought the old Hendrick Farm. And while it's tradition to name suburban developments for whatever used to be there before the bulldozers rolled in, this time was going to be different.

Vince Hendrick's family farm was to live on as a going concern, a bucolic 5-acre organic Elysium, the very heart and soul of Sean's idyllic, walkable "human scale development," (single family homes from \$828K, townhouses from \$650K).

Ottawa Magazine checked in with their faithful advertiser in 2017:



Livin' la vida Landlab

“McAdam says he has been dreaming about creating a community like Hendrick Farm for 15 years. ‘I was never trained as a developer or planner or architect or farmer,’ he says, ‘and I think that helps.’ He may be onto something.”

Or maybe not. McAdam informed homeowners in November he was shutting down the farm after nine money-losing years (*shurely not \$800,000?!—ed.*) Watch this green space for a fun redesign! Amid much popping of homeowner headvalves, McAdam deployed his awesome powers of communication, honed by years as the Reformers’ QP braunshirt, in a damage control email:

“If I have not met you personally, my name is Sean McAdam, and I founded Hendrick Farm in 2004. I wanted to take a moment to clarify a few points on the matter of the farm land because it’s clear that there is some misunderstanding or misinterpretation of some of the facts surrounding its redesign. I hope that the following will give you some broader context and history, but please note that I am writing with my Hendrick Farm Inc. hat on. I am not writing on behalf of the Foundation”.

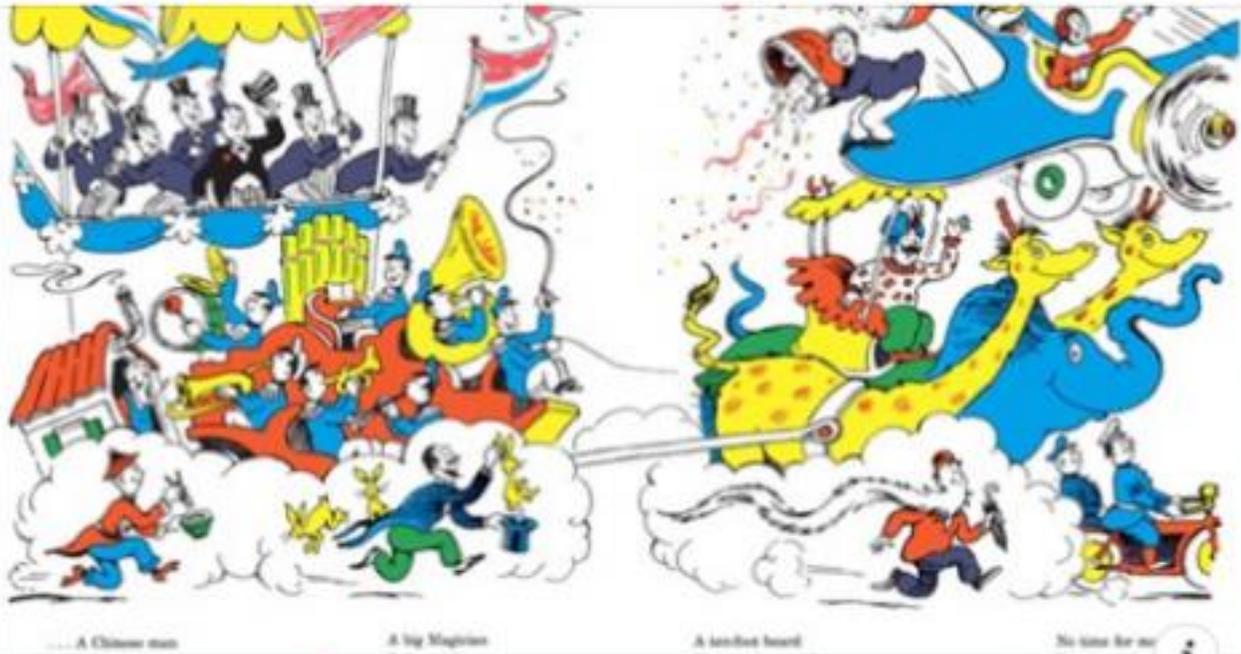


Sean McAdam

March 5 · 🌐

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I have always found that business of green eggs and ham terribly offensive. Shocking that this sort of flimsy whimsy was ever allowed to be published in the first place. And shame on all the parents who introduced their children to such profane foolishness. Did they honestly expect that kids would have the sophistication to take the whole cats in hats thing as idle fantasy?! One can never be too careful where important moral lessons are concerned.



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Two of the six permanently pulled from publication currently rank as the world's ...

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5 Comments

Ah, the Hendrick Farm Foundation, caretaker of the farm and environs, the not-for-profit heart and soul of (*get on with it!!—ed.*) Sean's joined on its board by fellow Landlab execs **Jules Ribian**, **Fred Brisco**, while **Jean-Denis Fr chet**, the former Parliamentary Budget Officer, labours manfully to make sense of the books as resident rep.

The Foundation collects one per cent of every home resale in order to maintain walking trails, fail at farming, etc. So, every time an owner gets fed up with Sean's *oeuvre* and pulls up stakes, ka-ching! "Numerous residents have sent notes of support for the changes being made to the farm. I acknowledge, however, that a number of others have sent notes with suggestions, questions, and concerns. I thought that I would seize this opportunity to write to everyone, rather than reply to individuals. I would also like to give you my personal perspective on this so you know where I am coming from as the guy who dreamed up the farm concept in the first place.

“First, any redesign will make the current farm space more beautiful than it is now. Anyone who knows me will tell you that I will not allow anything to happen anywhere at Hendrick Farm unless it adds both aesthetic and economic value to the neighbourhood. That is my primary job. It’s the foundation of my business and, frankly, with 50% of the properties remaining to sell, I have massively more to lose than anyone if property values take a hit. I know that I am not alone in becoming increasingly concerned about the aesthetics of the farm. Many neighbours have long commented on the disheveled nature of the place. This is an opportunity to address those concerns and to improve everyone’s enjoyment of the place – from both a visual and physical perspective.

“Second, no one is more disappointed in having to shut down the farming operations than me. Entirely lost in the present fuss is that my business partners and I lost several hundred thousand dollars on the farm. Unknown to residents is the multi-year fight with the municipality that preceded the establishment of the farm. That there is a farm at all is perhaps the greatest testament to my refusal to kowtow to the inanities of the municipality’s zoning regime. If it were up to local government there would simply be no farm at all. I don’t expect a trace of sympathy for that loss of time and money, but I would have thought that my demonstrated commitment to the farm would be unimpeachable...”



Sean McAdam

August 23, 2020 · 🌐



More than 80 million people have been killed in the last century by the purveyors of collectivism. Let us never forget.



👍👎 8

3 Comments

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“Furthermore, it’s worth noting that every existing local farming operation that I am aware of makes ends meet by relying on either temporary foreign workers or underpaid ‘interns’...Other local farms have on-site tent encampments where interns and staff live. I haven’t asked White Model owners how they might view a tent city on the land in front of their houses, but my suspicion is that there might be some objection.”

And with that, Sean, one of those heroic anti-lockdown bores who have helped make this such a very long COVID, hived off to Florida for the winter for a well-deserved a holiday from mask mandates and other nanny-state oppressions (statewide COVID-19 deaths: circa 35,000).

He returned home to much ungrateful boo-birding of his visionary proposals for the farmland (to wit: community gardens, picnic tables, a skating rink, beehives, a chicken coop, maybe even a gazebo someday! And look! Raspberry bushes! Isn’t this better than some smelly old farm?)

One owner who had bought into the farm dream was most unimpressed at this lame-o bait-and-switch, and emailed McAdam to register his displeasure.

Came the reply: “You’re an asshole. If it weren’t for my herculean efforts, you’d all be living in drafty vinyl boxes!”

Everybody’s a critic, eh?