



## Time line of Michael Schmidt's 22 year Raw Milk Battle in Ontario

### Feb 1994

First raid on Michael Schmidt's Farm. Michael charged. Health Appeal Board in Ontario rules against raw milk. Michael has to plead guilty after insurance cancels farm policy. Loses most of his farm.

### Mar 1995

Michael proposes research project to Ontario government. Threatens with hunger strike if government raids farm again.

### Nov 2006

25 Armed Government agents raid farm again. Michael is charged with 18 offences. Michael on hunger strike for 28 days

### Oct 2008

Michael convicted of contempt of Court for continuing to provide cow share owners with their own milk. A total of \$55,000 in costs and fines issued against Michael. He refuses to pay.

### Jan 2009

A 6 day trial in front of the Provincial Offences Court Justice of the Peace Kowarsky presiding. 5 government lawyers vs Michael, representing himself.

### Jan 2010

Michael is acquitted on all charges. Kowarsky ruled Cowshares legal and that "*educated people can opt out of government's protection*"

### Feb 2010

Government of Ontario appeals the decision. Canadian Constitution Foundation takes over the pro bono defence for Michael.

### Sep 2011

Appeals Judge Tetley finds Michael guilty and reverses Kowarsky's ruling. A \$9500 fine is imposed. He refuses to pay.

### Nov 2011

Michael meets the Premier of Ontario after a 39 day hunger strike.

### Jun 2013

Michael and Gordon Watson charged and convicted to a 3 month suspended jail sentence for helping *Home on the Range* Cowshare operation in British Columbia. Again a \$55,000 fine is imposed. He refuses to pay.

### Feb 2014

Court of Appeal hears appeal of Tetley's decision.

### Mar 2014

Court of appeal turns down appeal and sides with Justice Tetley, confirming the guilty verdict.

### Aug 2014

The Supreme Court of Canada refuses to hear appeal against the Ontario Court of Appeal.

### Jul 2015

Michael finds surveillance cameras on Concession 2 in West Grey, south and north of the farm, and reports them to the police.

### Sep 2015

Milk and food delivery to Glencolton's Farmshare members raided by York Region.



### Oct 2015

Farm is raided by 20 officers. Cow share members block driveway and prevent looting of the farm by Government agents. Schmidt is criminally charged for theft of cameras he reported to Police in the first place.

### Nov 2015

5 people are criminally charged for obstruction at the peaceful farm gate defence in October.

### Jan 2016

York Region and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food file two applications to the Court for injunctions against the farm and its member owners in an attempt to stop the flow of raw milk in Ontario.

# RAW MILK IS NOT A CRIME



LEGALIZE OUR FOOD AND FREE OUR FARMERS.

By Glencolton Farm's Farmshare member Mascha Perrone  
Oct 2015 (written at Canadian Thanksgiving)

## My Thanksgiving to Glencolton Farms

Over the past fourteen years, I have had the privilege to pick up my weekly allotment of dairy products and other wholesome, farm-fresh food from Glencolton Farms at a local drop-off site. First Michael Schmidt and now Elisa Schmidt have faithfully driven to this site so I, as a part owner of the farm, can receive my weekly share of food in a convenient manner.

Glencolton Farms is a beautiful farm in Durham, Ontario, where Michael Schmidt has tended livestock and grown produce for more than 27 years in a sustainable, organic, biodynamic way – in harmony with nature. I am a teacher, and not a dairy farmer; I totally entrust the care of my (our) farm into the skillful, experienced and dedicated hands of Elisa and Michael Schmidt. In this way I make sure my dairy and other foods are professionally sourced, to the highest standards and pose absolutely no risk to my and my family's health!

To the contrary, it is my firm belief that these dairy products, which have formed a substantial part of my daily diet for more than fourteen years, have sustained my good health! If it were not for me receiving the benefits of the love of my family and friends, my Kripalu yoga practice, and my Weston A. Price Foundation (WAPF) food knowledge (in my case largely consisting of Glencolton foods), I would not have had the energy to do what I have done over the past years!

I have always worked and will continue to work with dedication, energy and integrity. Parents have entrusted their children to my care for twenty-five years. Elisa and Michael Schmidt are farmers. They work incredibly hard, with honesty, with pride, with dedication and with integrity. I have entrusted the farming of my farm to their expert hands for the past fourteen years.

**Together with many others, I now partially own the farm in order to make sure that I legally have the right to drink the milk and consume the other products that our farm yields.**

Why did I feel that representatives from the York Region Health Department, accompanied by the police, approached us as though we were criminals last Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015? Why did the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Finance, also accompanied by local police, raid our farm this past Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015? Is it a crime to grow and eat sustainable food? Is it a crime to take responsibility for our own good health?

These are questions I would like to ask my Member of Parliament! With the Canadian Federal election around the corner, I am well-aware that I will have to vote for someone that will truly represent me in Parliament; a person that will stand up for my rights to choose the foods that benefit me, so I can sustain my good health. Who will do that? To whom shall I entrust that responsibility?

My gratitude goes out to the people that stood their ground last Tuesday when the York Region Health Department came to the drop-off zone and was only able to take samples of our raw dairy products. My gratitude also goes out to the people that came to Glencolton Farms this past Friday and made sure that the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and others were not able to confiscate our equipment and dairy products when they raided our farm.

Dear Friends, during this time of Canadian Thanksgiving I count my many blessings and give thanks for them. Glencolton-Farms-food is one of the huge blessings I receive in my life. I don't ask you to agree with my choices; we are all different and each of us has different blessings in her/his life. What I ask from you is that you respect my choices – as I respect yours – and that, maybe, you help me find a way in which I can have the political and legal support for these choices!

I offer my gratitude to you for taking the time to read this and for letting me ask for your input and support.

## DECLARATION OF FOOD RIGHTS

*In a spirit of humility, and with respect for the law of the land, we declare that it is the inherent right of all men and women to grow, and procure wholesome, unadulterated foods for the nourishment of body and soul.*

*The undersigned respectfully declare that we will peacefully reject unjust laws and regulations that infringe on our basic human right. We are willing to suffer the consequences rather than comply with laws and regulations that deny people the fundamental freedom to choose and be informed about their own foods.*

*Together, we pledge to engage in the pursuit of fostering direct relationships between farmers and any individual.*

*In support of this declaration, we pledge our commitment to protect and secure these rights.*

--Drafted by and for the Farmshare members of Glencolton Farms