

Preserve Grey Highlands – Grey Highlands Wind Action Group

INDUSTRIAL WIND POWER  
AND GREY HIGHLANDS

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Compiled by  
Preserve Grey Highlands members  
2008-2009

# INDUSTRIAL WIND POWER AND GREY HIGHLANDS

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## CITIZENS' REQUEST FOR GREY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL TO RE-EVALUATE INDUSTRIAL WIND POWER

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# **1. Summary**

There is an ongoing and divisive debate in our community regarding the pros and cons of wind power and we are increasingly concerned that members of the public are either uninformed, or are being misinformed. As residents and taxpayers of Grey Highlands we strongly believe that Council needs to consider and further investigate important issues, such as -

## Financial Impacts of Wind Power

Many adjacent and nearby properties to wind turbine sites will see significant declines in their values.

## Wind Turbine Approvals Process

What credibility does an environmental screening report have that is commissioned and paid for by the wind farm developer?

## Environmental Impacts of Wind Power

While impacts on birds and bats are often first mentioned; the degradation of sensitive ecological systems and loss of habitat, which are inherent in the process of industrial wind turbine installation, are equally worrying.

## Health and Safety Effects

There is an increasing body of highly reputable scientific study on the adverse health effects and risks associated with living near wind turbines.

## Science of Wind Power

Wind is intermittent and unpredictable. Wind turbines only produce power 75% of the time, and then operate at about 25-30% efficiency. There is no feasible way of storing this power.

## Economics of Wind Power:

Harnessing the wind requires heavily subsidized turbines and transmission lines, and wind turbines need to be backed up with traditional generation to keep the grid stable. (National Post, Tom Adams and Francois Cadieux, Nov. 20 2007)

## Quality of Life and Spirit of Grey Highlands - Grey County Mission Statement

"The County of Grey is a family of distinctive communities which values its heritage, natural beauty, clean, healthy environment and rural lifestyle."

We are requesting that the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands delay any approvals for industrial wind turbines until the questions and uncertainties that surround them are resolved. Decisions made now will be with us for decades to come.

## 2. Financial Impacts On Individual Property Owners and the Municipality

### **Property Values**

The history and experience with large scale wind turbine electricity generating farms in Ontario is brief, with the first large scale plant becoming operative only in 2006. During 2007 and 2008 there has been an explosion in their development but, because of their newness, hard information in our Province in respect of the impacts on property values and local taxation is difficult to attain. Furthermore, market value assessments for local taxation were frozen at Jan. 1, 2005 values and have only recently been updated to Jan. 1, 2008 values. Therefore, those values could not have reflected the impacts of wind turbines on the values of adjacent and nearby properties, at least until now.

Although those updates were just released within the last month or so, there is evidence that the assessed market values of adjacent and nearby properties to wind turbines have in fact declined while almost all other properties in the Province showed an increase over the three year period between updates. It should be noted that the assessed market values are established by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, a provincial crown corporation.

There are additional indications of the negative impacts on property values:

- In a landmark case, the Ontario Assessment Review Board reduced the market value assessment by 50 % on a property adjacent to a noisy transformer that connected the wind turbines to the electricity grid. These transformers emit noise which, although different from turbine noise, is at similar levels (measured in decibels). The Board decision states, "Having heard the nuisance, apparently sanctioned by the Municipality, the Board accepts Mr. Thompson's testimony that the stigma of noise contamination has a negative impact on the value and marketability of the property ...."
- Although real estate brokers are reluctant to talk about the issue, there are numerous examples of people in Ontario in the nearby vicinity of turbines putting their properties on the market only to withdraw them because there were no buyers. There are other examples of people who, suffering physiological effects from adjacent wind turbines, have been bought out by the developers who then resold the properties to neighbouring land owners with turbines, or employees, at reduced prices. The original owners are required to remain silent about their settlements. There are examples of real estate brokers advertising farm properties for sale and describing the properties as "no wind lease." Clearly, the absence of leases is considered a plus for the marketability of the properties.
- Despite their reluctance, some real estate brokers are beginning to speak up. R. Paul Brisco, a broker in London Ontario stated, "As a real estate broker with nearly 40 years of experience it is my considered expert opinion that any residential property with one or more wind turbines within 1000 meters of the property will be negatively impacted with respect to resale value and with respect to future increases in value." The broker went on to discuss potential purchasers who had declined to proceed because of wind turbine developments.
- Some wind turbine developers in Ontario, as part of their Environmental Screening Processes, have either produced studies denying property value reductions or have cited studies done in other jurisdictions. In fact, some developers have gone so far as to claim that property values actually increase, a claim completely unsupported by the evidence. None of the studies attempt to compare appraised values of individual adjacent and nearby properties before and after construction of turbines. It is apparent that this basic and common sense approach will not yield the results the developers want.

There can be no doubt that adjacent and nearby properties to wind turbine sites will see significant declines in their values. As more experience is gained, these declines will become more and more obvious and more and more measureable. Property owners will then be faced with decisions regarding liability claims for their very substantial capital losses.

It is recommended that Council conduct a survey of local real estate agents and appraisers in Grey Highlands to ascertain evidence of current and potential declines in property values.

## Local Government Finances

The assessment for local taxation on each wind turbine is (by Ontario Regulation 282/98 as amended up to and including 437/08 under the Assessment Act) fixed at \$40,000 multiplied by the nameplate capacity of each turbine. Each turbine typically has a nameplate capacity of 1.5 to 2 MW, thus yielding a total assessment of \$60,000 to \$80,000. The industrial tax rate for each municipality is applied to this assessment. In Grey Highlands that tax rate is .04255177 and therefore each turbine yields local tax revenues of between \$2500 and \$3400. Since local taxes include Municipal (36 %), County (41 %) and schools (23 %), the taxes would be distributed as follows:

|           | <u>\$2500</u> | <u>\$3400</u> |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Municipal | 900           | 1224          |
| County    | 1025          | 1394          |
| Schools   | 575           | 782           |

To be sure, each turbine therefore yields, as the wind turbine developers claim, property taxes that are greater than average farm properties yield. However, farm properties are assessed at less than full market value and, in fact, each turbine yields far less taxes than the average non-farm householder pays. The non-farm householder is assessed at full market value and industries in the Municipality are assessed at their full replacement cost. Thus the developers of wind turbines are granted an artificially low assessment relative to other non-farm property owners in the Municipality and thus escape paying their fair share of local taxes. Furthermore, if the assessments on adjacent and nearby properties are reduced according to the previous section, then the reduction in taxes owing on these properties will largely offset any taxes paid by the developers. For example, one property in Grey Highlands, immediately abutting the proposed site of wind turbines, is currently assessed at \$500,000 and will yield local taxes in 2009 of approximately \$5,000. If the assessment on this property is reduced by just 20 % as a result of the wind turbines (not the 50 % granted the above noted property assessment appellant), the taxes owing will be reduced by \$1,000. And this is but one of approximately 10 adjacent properties for this proposed site, not to mention many more nearby properties that could have reductions, possibly of lesser magnitudes. It is simple arithmetic to determine that the Municipality may, on net, lose significant tax revenues due to the permitted land use of wind turbines.

## 3. Wind Turbine Approvals Process

The environmental screening process currently in place allows for the studies to be commissioned and paid for by the wind power companies who are proposing the projects. This is a blatantly unfair abuse of process.

### **Industrial Wind Projects are Kept Small to Play the System**

Ontario's Standard Offer Program, administered by the Ontario Power Authority, came into being to provide smaller wind turbine projects with enhanced payments of 11 cents per kWh, provided the projects have a capacity of no more than 10MW. As a consequence, developers otherwise planning larger projects have been subdividing them into a series of smaller projects (no more than 10MW) in order to qualify for these payments. For example, the so-called Plateau Project is presented in three phases of 6 turbines each. Furthermore, while all wind turbine projects with a capacity of greater than 2 MW are subject to the Environmental Screening Process, critiqued below, by breaking them down to the smaller projects, the developers can and have argued that their negative impacts are limited and easily mitigated. For example, developers argue that a project of 5 or 6 turbines would not have a significant impact on the bird and bat populations. However, when these projects are followed by further projects of 5 or 6 turbines each until there is a concentration of tens and dozens of turbines in an area, then the impact becomes exceedingly damaging to the bird and bat population in that area. This understatement of the total impacts as opposed to the parts applies to all of the negative impacts identified by both the Ministry of the Environment and Grey Highlands in its Renewable Energy Zoning By-law.

In this regard, it should be noted that large-scale hydro projects, such as the construction of the new electricity transmission line from the Bruce Nuclear Station to Milton, are subjected to full and independent Environmental Assessments. Yet the very extensive development of wind turbines across the entire Province has never been subjected to this comprehensive scrutiny.

## **Seriously Flawed Environmental Screening Process (ESP)**

In his 2008 Annual Report, Ontario's Environmental Commissioner, Gord Miller stated,

***"It would not be too forceful to say that Ontario's Environmental Assessment (EA) process is broken. We have lost the old vision for EA, a new vision is urgently needed. The old test was whether new projects allowed for the betterment of people. The environment included air, land, water, animal and plant life but also the social and economic conditions affecting humans."***

### **The Students are Grading Their Own Papers**

The Environmental Screening Process puts the developers in charge. All objectivity is lost. Local Councils are relegated to the role of passive recipients of reports bought and paid for by the developers; as opposed to exercising quality control during the preparation of the report for the protection of their citizens. The ESP reports are presented to Councils and the public as a "fait accompli" and Certificates of Completion are issued by the developers at the same time.

### **Appeals are Unlikely to Succeed**

Grey Highlands Council has adopted well-conceived policies in Amendment 10 to the Official Plan and reinforced them in the Renewable Energy Zoning By-law. But these are yet to be tested when faced with actual ESP reports and applications for building permits. Further, there is a sense of futility often voiced that any resistance by the Municipality will be overturned by appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board. No request for an escalation to a full environmental review by the Ministry of the Environment has thus far ever been granted.

### **Citizens Don't Trust the Process**

Given this flawed and biased process, Grey Highlands citizens have absolutely no confidence that they are being protected from the numerous negative effects of wind turbine developments. Further, given the propensity of developers to add one small project after another, neither the citizens nor the Municipality have an accurate picture of what the total development will be.

Citizens and local governments won't know the total environmental impacts, the total economic impacts or the total impacts on the nature of our Municipality of Grey Highlands until the turbines are approved and built; but then it will be too late.

## **4. Environmental Impact of Industrial Wind Power**

### **Flesherton Wind Energy**

- is proposing one turbine within, or adjacent to, an Area One, or Settlement Buffer Zone.
- four other turbines are proposed in close proximity to [if not within] The Natural Heritage Site of Eugenia Lake Drumlins (ANSI), Eugenia Lake Wetland Complex (PSW) and, [as identified on Appendix B Constraint Mapping Map 2, County of Grey Official Plan (Draft)] the sites of Significant Woodlands.
- in February 1980, when The Earth Science Inventory Checklist was completed by the Ministry of Natural Resources for the Eugenia Lake Drumlins - an area stretching from the 10th concession south to the 3rd concession was proposed as a "candidate nature reserve based upon scientific, interpretive and educational value".

### **AIM PowerGen**

- is proposing 12 turbines in their Plateau Wind Project Hatherton and Maxwell.
- These commercial turbines are within the Saugeen Watershed, which includes the provincially significant:
  - Maxwell Swamp Wetland and ANSI site [earth and life]
  - Portlaw Fen Wetland and ANSI site [earth and life]
  - Hatherton Esker and Hatherton Wetlands ANSI [earth and life]
- Also within the Saugeen Watershed is the environmentally sensitive Osprey Wetlands – source of the headwaters for the Saugeen, Beaver, Mad and Grand River systems.

- The Nottawasaga Conservation Authority states “Defying the traditional fate of wetlands in Southern Ontario, the Osprey Wetlands has endured more than a century of settlement and remains relatively undisturbed”.

The Saugeen Watershed would be significantly disturbed by the erection of 12 turbines and the development of access roads to turbine sites. Do we really believe that this development process, once started, will stop at 12 or 20 turbines? We need only to look south on Highway 10...

The number of truckloads involved in the construction of 400 ft. turbines is considerable. It includes the development of access roads, crane pads, concrete foundations, a lay down area for turbine assembly and the transport of the turbines themselves [each blade is as large as the wing of a 747]. In addition trucks need to haul in cranes, electrical components and substation equipment to the sites. Approximately 30 truckloads of concrete are required for each turbine foundation.

### **Industrial Wind Turbine Construction Harms Wildlife and Habitat**

It is generally accepted by both wind farm proponents and environmentalists that industrial wind turbines kill birds and bats. Equally alarming is the impact on aquifers and the habitat in general. The construction required to install wind turbines leads to loss and degradation of habitat, and often to the displacement of wildlife and the disruption of sensitive ecologies.

AimpowerGen identified Grey Highlands as home to the endangered Henslow’s Sparrow and the threatened Redside Dace (fish). Both they and their habitat are protected under Ontario Regulation 230/08 made under the Endangered Species Act, 2007.

So let us think about this - if wind turbines aren’t good for bats and birds, are a threat to endangered species, degrade habitat for wildlife and disrupt ecological links – how does that serve us as a community? Or those who visit Grey Highlands? Many residents, taxpayers and voters of Grey Highlands – many visitors to Grey Highlands, are hunters or anglers, and enjoy outdoor sports and recreational activities.

## **5. Health and Safety Impact of Wind Turbines on People**

### **Noise Effects**

The noise produced by industrial wind turbines has a thumping, pulsating character, especially at night, when it is more audible. Night time noise may disturb residents 1.2 miles away from turbines in rolling terrain and 1.5 miles away in valleys. Reports of health effects on those subjected to long and frequent periods of pulsating low-frequency noise include:

- sleep disturbances leading to depression
- chronic stress
- migraines
- nausea and dizziness
- exhaustion and anger
- memory loss and cognitive difficulties.

Consequences of exposure to this type of noise during sleep can also include cardiac arrhythmias, increased heart rate and blood pressure. Dr. Nina Pierpont, M.D., Ph.D., in her book Wind Turbine Syndrome (forthcoming), recommends that industrial turbines not be placed within a minimum of 1.5 miles of human dwellings. Barbara Frey, B.A., M.A. and Peter Hadden, B.Sc., FRICS, in a recent report, Noise Radiation from Wind Turbines Installed Near Homes (June 2007, [www.windturbinesnoisehealthhumanrights.com](http://www.windturbinesnoisehealthhumanrights.com)), after reviewing the existing medical research recommend that a safe buffer zone of at least 2 km. should exist between family dwellings and industrial wind turbines. They note that a 2006 report by the French National Academy of Medicine recommended halting wind turbine construction closer than 1.5 km. from residences until more precise studies of the risks associated with these installations have been undertaken.

## **Strobe and Flicker Effects**

Large (400 feet) wind turbines produce visual flicker and strobe effects over considerable distances at certain times of the day, an effect similar to driving by a stand of trees when the sun is behind them. A portion of the population which is susceptible to vertigo, unsteadiness, or motion sickness (including many children and a large proportion of the elderly) are vulnerable to unsteadiness and nausea when subjected to this visual disturbance. People with seizure disorders are susceptible to triggering of seizures by the strobe effect of seeing the sun through the moving blades. Strobe and flicker effects have been addressed in the OPA.

## **Stray Voltage**

Residents of areas with electrical collection lines near their homes have reported illness as a result of high frequency electrical pollution in their homes. Where lines carrying electricity from turbines to the transmission lines are located too close to the lines leading into local homes, there is evidence that they create a much higher than normal level of ambient electrical voltage in the homes, causing residents to experience symptoms of electrical hypersensitivity, dizziness, ringing in the ears, fatigue, headaches, feelings of pins and needles and burning sensations. There is also accumulating evidence that stray voltage may cause serious adverse health effects in farm animals, such as breeding cattle. (Better Farmer, December 2008) Power surges from turbines have also been reported to cause burn-out of electrical appliances in nearby residences. (Presentation by David Colling, Public Information Meeting, Osprey Community Centre, November 5, 2008).

## **Blade Failure**

Tall wind turbines in Ontario have a demonstrated blade failure rate about four times higher than that recorded in Europe. Blades weigh over ten tonnes, and blade pieces have traveled up to 500 meters. Higher rates of blade failure tend to be experienced in areas with severe wind conditions, thunderstorms, and lightning strikes (such as Grey Highlands).

## **Ice Throws**

Particularly in severe climatic conditions, such as often experienced in Ontario, wind turbine blades have been reported to throw large chunks of ice more than a hundred meters. (Presentation by Bill Palmer, P.Eng., Public Information Meeting, Osprey Community Centre, November 5, 2008; Henry Seifert, Annette Westerhellweg, Jurgen Kroning, Risk Analysis of Ice Throws from Wind Turbines, April 11, 2003)

In this respect we note that a recent advisory was published in our local newspapers

**PUBLIC ADVISORY**  
**ICE THROW ADVISORY**  
**Melancthon EcoPower® Centre**

*Please be advised that, under certain local weather conditions, accumulation of ice on wind turbines is possible. Ice may shed from the blades causing the area directly under the turbine to be a potential risk zone. Canadian Hydro has taken necessary steps in developing its monitoring program to anticipate these icing events and will shut the turbines down where necessary.*

*If an icing event has been identified, Canadian Hydro will perform individual turbine blade inspections for the presence of ice. If environmental conditions are appropriate for returning the turbines to service, Canadian Hydro staff are required to ensure that the immediate area surrounding the turbines are clear of all personnel while turbine start-up commences.*

*Canadian Hydro urges you to please be aware of your surroundings and take proper caution when approaching wind turbines.*

Many of the adverse health effects caused by wind turbines are only beginning to be studied scientifically, so there is much uncertainty to be resolved. However, once turbines are installed, it is will be too late to reverse the decision – regardless of what subsequent medical research may show. The question of liability for any adverse health effects, including municipal liability, raises more unresolved issues.

## 6. The Science of Wind Power

Wind power does not reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“Power generated from wind energy is intermittent. The biggest problem with wind is that it doesn't always blow. Inconveniently, these times of low production tend to coincide with times of high demand. The second problem is we cannot effectively store electricity on an industrial scale. So no matter how many turbines you put up, you always need backup power. Usually that means fossil fuel, or in Ontario's case, nuclear”. [Globe & Mail, M. Wentle, November 25 2008]

Because it is intermittent, unpredictable, and largely unstorable, wind power turbines have never (anywhere in the world) replaced a coal-fired generator, nor shut down an existing nuclear or coal fired generation plant.

If wind power doesn't save greenhouse gas emissions, and it costs double the going rate, could wind power simply be the wrong technology for our time? Is wind power the next ethanol - a technology that appears attractive at first - but once the story is fully understood, does not make sense?

Money spent subsidizing industrial wind developers could be better spent pursuing more effective energy solutions, such as –

**Conservation** – smart meters can bill electricity usage at different rates depending on the time of day, or night. This shifts load away from peak demand, reducing the the total capacity required in the grid. Incandescent light bulbs use so much more electricity than compact fluorescent ones, that they are being banned in many jurisdictions over the next few years – in April 2007, Ontario's Minister of Energy Dwight Duncan announced the provincial government's intention to ban incandescent light bulbs by 2012.

**Alternatives** – Biomass. Deep geothermal. Mini-nuclear. Clean coal. Solar. Small scale residential wind and solar using two way metering [you buy when you need power, sell when you don't].

**Technology** – to increase the efficiency of new power plants, to better manage the grid – for example Toronto Hydro is installing "peak savers" on residential A/C units that allows them to remotely reduce draw by 5% if the demand is getting close to capacity ["peak shaving"]. Walmart is actively pursuing deals with utilities to shift their usage, or to agree to "peak shaving"; in return for lower rates.

## 7. The Economics of Wind Power

**Wind energy is expensive. Electricity consumers and taxpayers are forced to bear the higher costs.**

- Ontario pays roughly twice as much for wind power as it does for conventional power - the standard contract now guarantees 11 cents [or more] per kWh for wind energy at any time of day - when cheaper energy could be purchased from other sources. Furthermore, off peak power can usually be purchased at a discount from normal rates on the spot market.
- Backup generation power must be provided to balance the intermittent and volatile output from wind turbines.
- Transmission infrastructure must be added, at the public's expense
- Grid management becomes more expensive because of the need to stabilize the grid when wind produces power that is not needed by current demand
- "... it is much much cheaper to invest in using less electricity, especially in a place like Ontario, where there are many wasteful energy practices in use". [Tom Andersen, Ph.D. Meaford, Ontario]

## Wind energy projects are based on large tax subsidies

- "...about 80% of the operating costs for a wind turbine come directly from government tax breaks and other incentives". [Tom Andersen, Ph.D. Meaford, Ontario]
- taxpayers end up bearing the burden of these tax breaks and incentives
- tax avoidance – not environmental and energy benefits – has become the prime motivation for building "wind farms." Many large oil companies are large investors in wind energy. Emissions credits gained from their investment in wind energy are then used to offset the carbon emissions of their oil operations.
- Wind power can't survive without massive subsidies, courtesy of you and me. "If these hidden subsidies were taken away, there would not be a single wind turbine built in Britain," says David Bellamy, a well-known environmentalist... [Wente in the Globe & Mail]
- "Ontario is turning to wind turbines to help create jobs and power a green energy future," brags a government press release. But wind companies are chasing another green. The biggest wind project in the world, on the Thames Estuary, nearly collapsed last spring when a major backer, Shell, pulled out. Shell said the "incentives" were better in the United States." [Wente, Globe & Mail]

## Jobs created, jobs lost

What good is one temporary "green job" for Grey Highlands, if we lose two actual permanent jobs to get it?

- Very few permanent jobs are created. There are no industrial wind turbines being manufactured in Grey Highlands. Most of the jobs in a wind energy project are temporary, lasting between 6 and 18 months during construction. The high-paying jobs in particular, are usually filled by people who come to the area briefly to assemble the towers, turbines, and associated electronics and to build substations and transmission lines necessary to connect wind turbines to the electric grid. [www.windaction.org]. Once they are built, very little maintenance is required
- Jobs lost – Fewer tourists, fewer seasonal residents and fewer retirees will mean fewer dollars in the local economy. Residents close to proposed sites are already halting work on their properties. This translates into less work for local contractors, suppliers, stores and restaurants.

## Transfer of Wealth

There is an enormous transfer of wealth, both in dollars and quality of life, inherent in the current policy.

"When will we stop pouring billions into wind? I have no idea. Politicians really love their turbines. Meantime, that soft whooshing sound you hear is your friendly green government, vacuuming money out of your pockets." [M. Wente in the Globe & Mail]

Wealth is not being *created* by industrial wind turbines. Wealth is simply being *shifted from*

- Taxpayers
- Electricity users
- Surrounding landowners
- Local business owners, shopkeepers and tradespeople
- Grey Highlands and Grey County governments

A small amount of this wealth is being *shifted to* a few landowners who lease to the developers, but the bulk of the money goes to the wind turbine developers.

## 8. Quality of Life

Here are two definitions of Quality of Life:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quality\\_of\\_life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quality_of_life)

Quality of life is the degree of well-being felt by an individual or group of people. Unlike standard of living, quality of life is not a tangible thing, and so cannot be measured directly. It consists of two components: physical and psychological. The physical aspect includes things such as health, diet, and protection against pain and disease. The psychological aspect includes stress, worry, pleasure and other positive or negative emotional states.

<http://www.businessdictionary.com>

Daily living enhanced by wholesome food and clean air and water, enjoyment of unfettered open spaces and bodies of water, conservation of wildlife and natural resources, security from crime, and protection from radiation and toxic substances.

So the question is - if 400 ft. high turbines are installed in our community of Grey Highlands, let's say right across the road from your house - how will your quality of life be affected? Physically and psychologically?

Recreational tourism, vacation property owners and retirees are all major drivers of our local economy. The natural beauty of Grey Highlands, and Grey County are the main attraction! In 2003 Harrowsmith magazine chose the Beaver Valley as one of the ten best rural areas in Canada to live in.

Grey Highlands is our back yard! We believe it is everyone's responsibility to take care of their own backyard for future generations. We don't think industrial wind turbines should be in anyone's back yard, because they don't solve our greenhouse gas problem and they don't solve our power problem. In addition money is being diverted from pursuing other renewable energy technologies – not to mention being diverted from paying for hospitals, education or other pressing social needs..

### **Spirit of Place, Spirit of Grey Highlands**

The soul of this place, what makes it special for the people who live here, who were born here, has to do with tangibles - the kind of landscape it is - farmland, forest, drumlins...as well as with intangibles like scent, the course of the seasons, and how they manifest themselves here, and nowhere else.

This sense of deep belonging to a particular place, this place and no other, has its roots deep in the human past. No one wants to live just hand to mouth, wants nothing except to be warm and to be fed. Everyone has the scent and sound and sight of their own place in their bones.

To think that it does not matter what a place looks like is as illogical as to think that it does not matter what it smells like, or sounds like.

Of course it all matters - it all combines to make this place, this beautiful Grey Highlands, our place.

## 9. Request for a Moratorium on Wind Power Development in Grey Highlands

We are requesting that the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands delay any approvals for industrial wind turbines until the questions and uncertainties that surround them are resolved. Decisions made now may well be irreversible for decades, for generations to come.

**Preserve Grey Highlands, 2008-2009**

**Further documentation available on request.**

Email – [preservegreighighlands@gmail.com](mailto:preservegreighighlands@gmail.com) or [info@gwag.ca](mailto:info@gwag.ca)

Website – [www.gwag.ca](http://www.gwag.ca)

## Ten Ontario Councils that have taken steps

- Tiny Township (Simcoe County)
- Loyalist Township (Lennox and Addington County)
- Dawn Emphemia Township (Lambton County)
- Norwich Township (Oxford County)
- Township of Essex (Essex County)
- Township of Leamington (Essex County)
- South Algonquin Township (Renfrew County)
- Prince Edward County
- St. Clair Township (Lambton County)
- Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards Township has unanimously voted to place a minimum 10 year moratorium on all wind developments now and in the future in their township.

## Prince Edward County Resolution

The following is the motion that was put forward by Monica Alyea and amended.

A vote was then taken on Motion 2008-605 as Amended as follows:

“WHEREAS Prince Edward County is an island municipality located in Lake Ontario just west of Kingston and has been identified for significant wind farm development, both onshore and offshore; and  
WHEREAS currently six (6) wind turbine development companies have publicly signaled a desired presence with three (3) applications in place at the formal planning application stage ( 1 of these at the Ontario Municipal Board); and  
WHEREAS the need for renewable energy sources is recognized at the federal, provincial, municipal and local community levels; and

WHEREAS wind generated power is an established source of renewable energy being created globally; and  
WHEREAS populated and publicly owned and occupied lands and waters are being identified for industrial wind turbine development; and

WHEREAS discrepancy exists on the health effects potentially created by the presence of industrial wind turbines; and  
WHEREAS this discrepancy on the potential health effects is proving to be destructive and divisive to the social and cultural fabric of rural communities; and

WHEREAS other Ontario municipalities, being the Township of Loyalist and the Township of Dawn-Euphemia, have passed resolutions expressing concern with the health effects association with wind turbines;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward requests that the Federal and Provincial government agencies responsible for public health, energy creation and energy management complete the following:

1) Dedicate resources to the necessary scientific research to consider the impact of

a. low frequency noise and,

b. electrical and electromagnetic disturbances

in areas of industrial wind turbines with the intent to confirm/deny public health implications; and

2) Create and provide authoritative regulations and guidelines for the locating of wind turbines to municipalities and wind energy developers.

THAT the resolution of the Township of Loyalist dated September 25, 2008 be supported; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded with a request for action to:

The Ontario Ministries of Health, Environment and Energy,

Medical Officers of Health at Public Health Units,

Environment Canada,

Health Canada,

All MPPs and MPs,

The Premier’s Office,

The Prime Minister’s Office,

The Association for Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and

THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities and native territories in Ontario requesting their support.”

CARRIED

## Township of Norwich Resolution:

Resolution #13

Moved by Pat Lee, seconded by Larry Martin

“That the Draft Alternative and Renewable Energy Policies re: the County of Oxford Official Plan be received as information; and further that Council provide the following comments: no consideration be given to wind turbines until County of Oxford encourages the Province of Ontario to provide more research on guide lines and impacts.”

Kimberley Armstrong

Deputy Clerk

Township of Norwich

519-863-2709 ext. 26

**Township Of Dawn-Euphemia Resolution**

# 8, duly Moved and Seconded, from the December 1, 2008 meeting of the Council of the Township of Dawn-Euphemia

WHEREAS the community of the Township of Dawn-Euphemia have expressed sincere concerns regarding the health effects associated with commercial wind generation and transmission;

AND WHEREAS the issue requires provincial participation to provide practical study to generate meaningful results for the benefits of all of our provincial residents;

AND WHEREAS community project proponents in our community ought not to be unduly penalized by higher municipal scrutiny; the Council hereby calls on Premier Dalton McGuinty to direct the current government to initiate a thorough health study based on current scientific data and provincial experience to provide leadership in the province;

AND FINALLY that a moratorium be put in place province wide until such study is completed to satisfy the health of our communities;

AND FURTHER that the Members of Parliament for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex be so advised and that this motion be circulated to the Provincial Opposition Party Leaders.

**Loyalist Township Resolution**

“WHEREAS the Council for The Corporation of Loyalist Township recognizes the need for energy conservation and the development of renewable energy in the province in order to promote a sustainable future;

AND WHEREAS Council has recognized this reality and has recently adopted progressive energy conservation and renewable energy policies in its Official Plan in a manner which is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement;

AND WHEREAS a recently completed study commissioned by the Ministry of Environment entitled Wind Turbine Facilities Noise Issues, December 2007, as prepared by Aiolos Engineering, stated that there is a need to conduct further research on wind turbine noise in a manner to provide scientifically consistent data for effects such as meteorology (in particular atmospheric stability), human response and turbine noise character;

AND WHEREAS wind turbine noise data should be collected in a scientifically defensible manner from locations in the vicinity of currently installed wind turbine arrays in Ontario and other Canadian locations to verify if actual noise conditions are similar to those that were expected through study and modeling; or to determine if there are deviations and then a need to adjust modeling requirements;

AND WHEREAS there have been concerns expressed that noise from wind turbine arrays might impact human health negatively and, meanwhile, the Ministry of Energy has requested that the Ontario Power Authority secure another 2,000 MW of renewable energy, with the first 500 MW round to close October 28, 2008;

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated the bulk of the 2,000 MW of renewable energy projects to be awarded will be based on wind power and the likelihood is that most, if not all, of these projects will be in proximity to houses and other sensitive land uses;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for The Corporation of Loyalist Township requests that the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Health immediately develop and implement scientifically defensible wind turbine monitoring programs in Ontario to determine actual noise conditions at various wind farm sites and to decide if the actual data collected supports current Ministry of Environment guidelines, or whether the guidelines need to be adjusted in order to protect human health, and that Council strongly encourages that the two Ministries cooperate with the Consumer and Clinical Radiation Protection Bureau - Acoustics Section of Health Canada for collaboration purposes and to broaden the study scope to include installed wind turbine arrays in other locations in Canada.”

2. AND FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Minister of Health, local M.P.P.'s, Health Canada and any other parties identified by Council.

**Preserve Grey Highlands, 2008-2009**

**Further documentation available on request.**

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