

# Here we go again

**On Sept. 16/09, Flesherton Wind Energy published a “Notice of Completion”** in *The Flesherton Advance* to announce its intention to develop the Flesherton Wind Farm Project.

**Exactly who is Flesherton Wind Energy?** This company uses many names, including (among others) Windrush Energy, Silver Springs Wind Farm, Flesherton Wind Farms and Skyway 8 Wind Farms. It is reported they have financial “relationships” with Earth First, Schneider Power, Wind Farming Ontario and Greta Energy. So, who are they? And will they stand accountable to the taxpayer for any liability if their project fails?

**The proposed study area for this project includes natural and cultural heritage sites,** the Lake Eugenia Drumlins and Lake Eugenia wetlands (which feed Lake Eugenia and the Beaver River). Premier McGuinty has publicly stated he will not sacrifice our natural environment to wind turbine developments. Wanna bet? He says a lot of things about wind turbines that he has yet to follow through on.

**Their Visual Impact Study** says this area is of “minimal scenic distinction”. Thousands of tourists who come here to enjoy “the heart of Ontario’s finest outdoor recreation” would beg to differ. It further says there are a “limited number of residences”. The occupants of the more than 60 adjacent and nearby residences, not to mention more than 100 cottages on Lake Eugenia, would strongly disagree.

**Affected property owners are excluded from announcements** for long-promised information sessions, which are deceptively held on short notice in small halls with controlled access by the OPP. Like all “public open” meetings sponsored by wind companies, the sponsors are unable or unwilling to answer even the most basic questions. Efforts to get answers from or arrange meetings with the proponent of the Flesherton Wind Farm Project have always been ignored.

**Sound familiar?** A wind company announces its intent, ignores the municipality, holds a sham meeting, avoids any effort to genuinely inform affected property owners and waits for the Green Energy Act (GEA) regulations to ensure smooth sailing through the approvals process. Like other developers, they know the GEA encourages them to bypass serious scrutiny and avoid public input.

**No matter how committed the government may be to the “greening” of Ontario,** it surely cannot tolerate the absolute abuse of its citizens and taxpayers by wind developers who have demonstrated a complete disregard for municipal planning or legitimate resident concerns.

**Does this make sense to you?** People are starting to wake up to those akin to “squatters”— to those who hoodwink others simply to profit from the politically motivated but draconian Green Energy Act. Contact your local political leaders (go to <http://www.gwag.ca/pages/help.html>) and make these wind companies play by the same rules we expect every legitimate business to follow.

**A public service message paid for by citizens who seek to preserve the quality of living in Grey Highlands. People who actually live here and who care about this community.**