

# The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



FISHING • YACHTING • CAMPING • HUNTING

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**DOG DAYS OF SEPTEMBER:** On the Labour Day Weekend, the Mississagi Lighthouse was busy with visitors out enjoying some of the best weather of the entire summer. Nicole Taylor, with children Faith, Shaylee and Jenna, and their dog Cowboy, came from Little Current for a weekend of camping. Rebecca Kingsbury of Chelmsford helped keep an eye on their friends Salem Wood and Sebastian Tremblay, grandchildren of the campground manager, Mary Eadie. Visitors signing the lighthouse guestbook came from as far away as Sri Lanka. The lighthouse will remain open until the third Friday of September.

photo by Jan McQuay

## Energy minister pledges millions for wind projects on First Nations

*George Smitherman defends Ontario's focus on renewable power as coal-plant phaseout expedited*

by Lindsay Kelly  
MANITOULIN—The province is being prudent as it moves towards wind power projects, maintains Energy Minister George Smitherman, following last week's announcement of wind energy project funding opportunities for First Nations and Métis communities.

Last Thursday, Minister Smitherman announced the launch of two programs that will help First Nations and Métis communities develop and participate in renewable energy projects.

The first, the Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program, would allow First Nations and Métis communities apply for funding that can be used towards developing community energy plans, pre-feasibility studies, and business cases.

The second program, the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program, which was first announced in the provincial government's 2009 budget, "will provide \$250 million in loan guarantees that will allow FN communities to actually own renewable energy projects or a

portion of them and to receive the economic dividends that go along with that," Minister Smitherman explained in a conversation with

...continued on page 26

## Passengers of three vehicles report cougar on Govt. Road

by Jim Moodie  
CARTER BAY—It's either mass hysteria or critical mass for a confirmation of cougars on the Island.

Evidence, albeit circumstantial, keeps on piling up for a presence of this supposedly extinct species on Manitoulin, with another sighting reported last week of a long-tailed beast, this time on the Government Road near the turnoff to Carter Bay.

Dave Mills of Burlington says

...continued on page 22

## Michigan pipeline, S. Ontario sprawl cited as threats to Lake Huron water

by Jim Moodie

LAKE HURON—Between a recently approved pipeline to Flint, Michigan and the spectre of southern Ontario growth zones tapping into a Collingwood-Alliston line that draws from Georgian Bay, stewards of Lake Huron have plenty to be concerned about these days.

On August 31, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved a plan to flow 322 million litres of water per day to Genesee County, which includes the city of Flint, via a new pipeline that will be built between Lake Huron and this landlocked corner of the Wolverine State.

Meanwhile, the extension of a sewage pipe north of Toronto through the York Region, along with development plans for the Simcoe area, are causing alarm that urban sprawl will edge closer to Georgian Bay and result in a cross-watershed take of H2O.

Mary Muter, Georgian Bay-keeper through the Waterkeeper Alliance and a member of the cottage-based charity Georgian Bay Forever (GBF), has both developments on her radar, and neither one strikes her as boding well for the continent's second-largest lake.

In July, she communicated her concerns regarding the Michigan pipeline to state authorities, arguing that Genesee County's proposal for a new withdrawal from Huron "demonstrates a clear lack of respect for the mainly finite resource that is available in our

...continued on page 22

## Waiting lanes at bridge still stump drivers

*Critics argue queue should fill and empty in opposite sequence*

by Jim Moodie

LITTLE CURRENT—The new collector lanes at the swing bridge may have already helped to alleviate some congestion in town, but they have also sown confusion in the minds of many motorists.

While there are signs at the approach to the wider wait zone indicating that drivers should pull over into the second and third lanes "as needed"—in other words, as the first lane begins to fill up—some travellers feel these directions are vague and are leery of leaving the main route lest they get stuck in limbo, like a train shunted onto a siding.

While there is some validity to this concern—lane one will typically leave first, as the lights are activated by sensors in the pavement, with the first green light going to the lane that has a car

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## M'Chigeeng film institute launches Aboriginal youth program

*Ribbon cut for Weengushk school*

by Margo Little

M'CHIGEENG—"Miigwetch for being here to celebrate a dream," keynote speaker Dr. Shirley Cheechoo said to an audience of dignitaries, film buffs and community members on Sunday. The founder and president of Weengushk Film Institute (WFI) invited government representatives, institute staff, students and directors to celebrate the launch of an innovative Aboriginal Youth Program.

A select group of youth will complete a seven-month introductory program that offers instruction and hands-on experience in seven core aspects of filmmaking including screenwriting, producing, directing, cinematography, editing, composing and animation.



The Weengushk Film Institute (WFI) launched its Aboriginal Youth Program on September 6. Here Peter Mara, director of development, Marilyn Gray, executive director, Shirley Cheechoo, founder and president, and Shannon Smith, youth director, pose under the brand new WFI sign.

photo by Margo Little

In an impassioned speech, Dr. Cheechoo appealed to all generations to work to help youth avoid the "welfare trap" and to support business ventures that forge a better future for First Nations youth.

"How many more of our people will have to fall into this trap that steals and butchers lives, dreams and hopes of our next generations to come?" she asked. "We must learn to defeat this system and fix the problem now and we must do it together."

In her address, she called upon the youth to act as role models and trailblazers for the next generation. "You are in control of your own destinies," she stressed. "Take this opportunity that is available to generate your own source of income."

She advised her protégés to put 100 percent of themselves into their creative projects in order to

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# ...Minister pledges millions of wind projects

...cont.d from page 1  
the Expositor. "This would apply to projects that we may have heard of before, but have not yet received a contract."

Projects being submitted for a contract under the Feed-in Tariff program would be eligible for either of these programs, including those slated for Manitoulin Island. Currently, projects are proposed for Wikwemikong and M'Chigeeng.

"It would be our hope that these resources would be of benefit to some of those proposals that we've been hearing about from First Nations communities on the Island," the minister said.

These announcements followed another statement made by Minister Smitherman on Thursday: Ontario Power Generation will close four coal-fuelled power units in 2010—two of eight units at the Nanticoke station near Simcoe, and two of the four units at Lambton station near Sarnia—four years earlier than the 2014 target. Together the plants generate 2,000 megawatts of power.

Despite the early closures, Minister Smitherman is confident that the province will be able to continue meeting its power needs, via other sources of energy, such as biomass and wind power.

"Energy reliability is in very, very good shape, and of course we would not move forward to close these coal units if we did not have complete confidence in our energy reliability," he said. "We have, in the last five years, brought 7,000 megawatts of new energy production to life in the province of Ontario. That's from renewable energy projects like wind projects, and also the development of very modern gas-fired power plants, which will be used in reserve and will be fired up as required to meet the important test of reliability."

"We're very, very confident that closing these units early is the right thing to do for the environment, and also because it will stimulate even more activity in the green energy sector, which we think offers good economic opportunity across Ontario," he added.

While the minister clearly sees the closing of coal-fired plants and the development of funding programs for wind energy projects as good news, he acknowledged the concerns of residents living near wind turbines.

When asked how the government responds to concerns expressed by Island residents with regard to the 43-turbine, 77-megawatt wind farm proposed for McLean's Mountain by Northland Power, the minister said that the province takes the health of its citizens very seriously.

"We do take concerns to note that people raise, and the Ministry of the Environment, especially, has taken a look at all of those studies they can get their hands on from around the world related to concerns that are generated from



Energy Minister George Smitherman (left) chats with MPP Mike Brown, Northeast Town Mayor Jim Stringer, and Assignack Reeve Les Fields during a Liberal fundraiser in Spanish last month.

wind projects," Minister Smitherman said. "This is the kind of information that has influenced the nature of the setbacks. So I think that we're being very, very prudent and cautious—always with respect to human health—but in a place as large as Ontario, we do think that there are many, many economic opportunities and environmental benefits to be found in moving forward with green energy."

The minister, who has earned the nickname "Mr. Wind" following his receipt of the World Wind Energy Award for his work in promoting wind energy, said that the incidence of illness and death connected to coal-fired power generation is an "extraordinary human health risk," and that eliminating the plants from the Ontario grid is a "very big goal."

While the concerns of residents are important, he believes the government is finding a good balance between meeting the concerns of individuals and moving ahead with its green energy plan for Ontario, which is a priority.

"It is our intention to make renewable projects easier to bring to life in the province of Ontario, but associated with that will be guidance from the Ministry of the Environment, which makes it clear on things like the setbacks from a receptor to a wind tower," he said. "I could tell anyone that the model that we are developing will see those setbacks at a greater distance than what the municipalities have been approving across Ontario so far. So we think that we're headed in a very, very sensible direction."

The revamped Green Energy Act, which is slated to be released this fall, has received some criticism in its ability to override municipal powers when it comes to wind power generation projects. However, Minister Smitherman believes this is a good move, because it ensures that wind power projects are weighed by common criteria across the province, while alleviating municipalities of the responsibility for making those decisions.

"We have established universal standards for the province of Ontario," Minister Smitherman explained. "We've really uploaded those responsibilities from the backs of municipalities. Anyone that's a proponent for a local project has an obligation to have consultation at the local community level around that, but a substan-

file photo by Michael Erskine

tial amount of the permitting associated with green energy projects will be uploaded to the province of Ontario and we will be applying universal standards to those to make sure that we have the same law being applied in all parts of the province of Ontario."

Using the analogy of smoking restrictions, the minister noted that, when smoking bylaws were first enacted, they varied depending on the jurisdiction and the type of establishment, creating inconsistency throughout the province. However, the new Smoke-Free Ontario Act changed that, and all establishments must now meet the same standards. "People asked for one, universally strong law that applied everywhere in Ontario, and that's the framework we've created with respect to green energy projects," he added.

Minister Smitherman said that last week's trio of announcements are three of what he calls "10 steps to green energy," and anticipates that within a few weeks, "proponents will have all the information they need to be able to start to bring projects forward."

# Death Notices

HAROLD RALPH

In loving memory of Harold Ralph who passed away September 3rd in his 72nd year at the Mindemoya Hospital after a lengthy battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Joan, daughter and son-in-law (Jo-Ann and John Carlisle), son and daughter-in-law (Michael and Carolyn), son Daryl, granddaughter Hannah and brother and sister-in-law (Paul and Jenn). Donations to the Mindemoya Hospital would be appreciated.

Memorial donations are gratefully appreciated and can be made at the admitting office to the auxiliaries of the Manitoulin Health Centre and the Renovation Fund in both Mindemoya and Little Current and the Gore Bay Manitoulin Lodge Auxiliary Inc., 3 Main St. Gore Bay, ON, P0P 1H0 and the Manitoulin Centennial Manor Auxiliary, Postal Bag 460, 10 Robinson Street, Little Current, ON, P0P 1K0. Donations can also be made to the Manitoulin District Cenotaph Fund.

## † in memoriam

**DUNN** - In loving memory of Jerome Charles (Jerry) who died September 11, 1995. Gone now for fourteen years Remembered always and on this day.  
Brother Michael.

17c

## thank you

**With heartfelt thanks.** The family of the late Don Gagne would like to thank all of our family and friends who dropped off food, donations and offered their support during this difficult time. A special thank you to the nurses at the Manitoulin Health Centre Palliative Care Unit and Doctors Renwick and Meikleham. The kindness and compassion shown to Don and our family during his brief stay is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered. Don will continue to live in our hearts and through the many, many happy memories we have of him. Brenda, Crystal, Robert, Jessica and Sharon.

17c

**Better late than never!** We would like to thank all of our friends and family for the wonderful surprise 40th anniversary party given to us in July. The beautiful cards, gifts, and the delicious variety of food were much appreciated. Special thanks to our children, Karen and Jay, Craig and Leanne. Lyman and Judy Moggy.

17oa

**I wish to thank** all the wonderful caring people who called, sent cards or sent food during my stay in hospital and since I came home. A special thank you to Lois and Jeff who drove to Sudbury to be with my son while I was in surgery and continue to do chores for me. To my son David and his wife Nancy for your love and support, thank you. I also owe a big thank you to my doctors for their speedy attention and care.

17p

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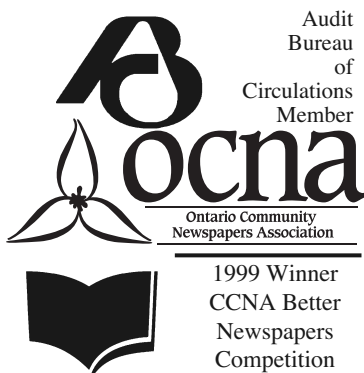
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"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road

opinion

**editorial**

## Hughes's party has power to postpone fall election

Mercifully, summer passed without the annoying buzzing distraction of a general election to confound our leisurely repose. Ordinary Canadians made it clear that they did not want the few lazy, hazy days that came our way this summer spent listening to political pundits and politicians clamouring for attention. Unfortunately, as summer fades fast into fall, the prospect of a fall general election looks nigh unto inevitable.

It takes two to tango in our current minority government, and Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff made it clear in Sudbury this past week that there is no longer any room on his dance card for a government he characterizes as being a boorish and uncompromising suitor.

In an amazing whirl of political doublethink, the other opposition parties, as well as the ruling Conservatives, have been quick to lay the sole blame for this turn of events at the doorstep of Mr. Ignatieff and his party. Canadians do not want an election they point out—Canadians want the Liberals to make government work. Yet there are two other opposition parties in the House of Commons, only one of which needs to side with the Conservatives in order to overrule Mr. Ignatieff's decision to bring down the government. The support of only one opposition party out of three is needed in order to make the current government work.

Carol Hughes, the member of parliament for Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing, has insisted that the Liberals have propped up the Conservative government 79 times since the last election—in a government not yet a year past its debut. The NDP has insisted that the government be made to fall on each of those 79 occasions, and Ms. Hughes has repeatedly castigated her political opponents for not following her party's lead. Yet now her argument is that the perfidious Liberal leader is forcing yet another unwanted jig upon us.

It is time that the NDP prove they are a party capable of making government work. The Bloc has a vested interest in proving that Canada is ungovernable, and Mr. Duceppe has made it clear that his party will only support the government if there is something in it for his province. Only the NDP, in concert with the ruling Conservatives, can now ensure that we do not face a fall election. The time for demagoguery is past—the jig is up.

Ms. Hughes and her party must find a way to step out of the corner into which they have painted themselves in order that they may join in the waltz of peace, order and good government. Canadians will judge them on how well they can twirl in the balance of power—and how well the glass slippers of power now fit.

**letters**

## Underwater turbines suggested as alternative to wind towers

*Energy derived from channel current would preserve natural beauty*

**To the Expositor:**

I couldn't help but notice all the debate over the windmills this summer when our family was at our camp. And rightly so. Many people visit this Island simply because it is void of almost all of the metropolitan trappings and brand name stores that bombard us in the city. To see as many as 43 of these windmills erected along the Island's pristine coasts, would be a shame.

In other parts of the world, it's becoming practical to install turbines underwater to harness the ocean tides. Not that Manitoulin has any tides to speak of, but it does have a notable current. Could the turbines be placed underwater in the channel? A strong, non-fluctuating, inex-

haustible supply of power. If it's underwater, then it's not an eyesore. If deep enough, then no obstacle to boaters. The turbines turn slower because water current is stronger than wind, thus no damage to aquatic life. Probably expensive, but kudos for saving a rare and precious place might well be received from engineering firms to governments for putting the Island's natural beauty first.

It would satisfy both landowners and the power company.

There is one in Scotland and other places—just Google the topic and you'll see it can be done and that there are options.

Geoffrey Allen  
Burlington

## McLean's Mountain an inappropriate site for wind farm

*Project will adversely influence hunting, tourism*

**To the Expositor:**

It seems the debate over the proposed wind farm at McLean's Mountain is getting sidetracked. The issue is not whether wind power is good or bad. The question for us is whether or not McLean's Mountain is an appropriate place to put 43 wind turbines.

To address this question, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) requires energy companies to assess effects on several socio-economic factors (in addition to environmental factors like birds and bats). Some of the factors (in a long list) include the effects on neighbourhood or community character, local businesses, cottaging or tourism, community infrastructure, the economic base of the municipality, local traffic, cultural heritage landscapes, scenic or aesthetically pleasing landscapes or view, and game and fishery resources (e.g. hunting).

The reason these issues must be assessed is because wind farms can do damage to these things. The MOE recognizes that the items in the above list are valuable economic resources that should have consideration in the decision.

When you look at what gives NEMI, and in fact most of Manitoulin Island, a sustainable economy (thus allowing most of us to live here), the items on this list are the most important things!

I do not believe that Northland Power has given sufficient attention to these issues in their environmental screening, which is why many of us have requested the MOE bump up the process to a full environmental assessment. To give you just one of many examples: of course wind turbines will not kill deer, but the deer will certainly move out of the area; what will happen when hunting is no longer viable for all the people who own land in the Green Bush for this traditional use? Will it cause a drop in property values? These are complex issues that cannot be dealt with lightly and which are not small potatoes to our cottage country economy.

Wind power can be a very good thing. The problem is that cottage country is not the right place to put a lot of turbines. You have to decide what you want to see happen in NEMI. Do you want turbines or do you want cottages and tourism?

It's probably going to come down to one or the other because they don't go together very well.

Judith Jones  
Winter Spider Eco-Consulting  
Sheguiandah

## Treatment First Nations people experience at US border unfair

*Society should recognize treaty rights and resolve problems*

**To the Expositor:**

On August 26 I was en route to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario to go and pay my bills. When I approached the toll to pay the fare at the bridge, US customs had a roadcheck point on the US side stopping vehicles. They pulled me over and asked where I was going. I told them I was going over to pay bills. Then they asked me how much money I had. I told them I did not know the exact amount but told them I had over \$10,000. Then they told me I had to know the exact amount, which I could not verify because my wife prepared the money; and in my mind, being a Canadian treaty Indian from Ontario, and having the Jay Treaty, we have rights that other societies as a whole do not have. The treatment I received on that day is uncalled for.

After the incident happened the border protection officers were very kind and helpful to me. I know these fine people have a very stressful job, and are doing a very good job, from my eyes, in protecting this great country that we live in and whose freedoms we enjoy. I know first-hand as I had an uncle that was a Canadian but went into the US when the Vietnam War was on and fought for the US and died in Vietnam for their cause, of which I am very proud of.

But to get back to the question of treatment that the North American Indians are going through as they pass into the USA from Canada or vice versa. I feel the treatment that we endure at this border crossing is uncalled for. I feel it is about time the Canadian and US governments get these problems resolved. I also feel it is about time that the Indian leaders in Canada and the US, as well as the public as a whole, get moving on the problems that plague us as Indian people. It's about time that societies realize that they are living in our country and that we are not

living in theirs and that they start to treat the Indians of North America fairly. This generation should live up to their grandfathers' agreements that they signed years ago, because those treaties signed hundreds of years ago are just as real today as the day they were signed.

So people of North America, let us be fair to each other—after all, we are all here for a short time. So in this generation let us do each other proud and right the wrongs. Whoever believes in fair treatment at the border should call their parliamentary leader in Canada, or congressman in the US, and tell them it's time to treat their Indian peoples fairly. Canadian and USA Indians, as you know, 100-percent blood Indians are slowly dying away, and once we are gone we are gone forever.

In addition, let us all live in peace. God bless North America.

Lyman Corbiere  
M'Chigeeng

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# Wiky farm promotes healthy food, plans community root cellar

by Nancy McDermid

WIKWEMIKONG—The Way Out In Farm in Wikwemikong is set in amongst the maple trees of owner Clayton Trudeau's sugar bush. It is a peaceful and tranquil setting, which lends itself well as a place of welcome for those who visit.

The property has been in the Trudeau family for many years and has recently been developed into an organic garden, which is 300' x 60' and features a great variety of produce. The garden is farmed naturally with no additions to the soil, which was tested and is in excellent condition.

Mr. Trudeau's hope is that the community will come together to meet and greet as well as have access to fresh fruit and vegetables. Wilma Nadjiwon, who also shares Mr. Trudeau's dream, has been aiding to make this a reality. The health of the community is important to them, and because of this and for the security of preserving food through the winter, they have decided to build a large community sanjgon or root cellar on the property.

"It will be too big for us and I want to share it with the commu-



Clayton Trudeau stands inside the large hollowed-out area that will be developed into a huge root cellar, or sanjgon, in Wikwemikong.

photos by Nancy McDermid

nity," Mr. Trudeau noted.

Two dates have been set for the building of the sanjgon and it is hoped that volunteers will come out to help erect it. Once built it will offer a place where vegeta-

bles, fruit and preserved foods can be stored over the winter. Donations are being accepted to help fund the materials for building and the maintenance of the road going into the farm to allow easy

access for visitors.

The idea of a sanjgon is an old one and there used to be a number of them on the Island. Ms. Nadjiwon spoke about the need for the sanjgon. "We have a lot of produce here we want to preserve," he said. "We are also thinking about what we can offer if an emergency situation arises."

Ms. Nadjiwon recently attended

The farmers are also thinking about future generations. "We think ahead seven generations and instead of leaving them with a bill we want to leave them the knowledge."

Other visitors to the farm include Phyllis Williams, who is trained as an Anishnaabemowin language instructor and who brings students to the garden to learn the language on site.

The building of the sanjgon is supported by a number of Island groups including the Manitoulin Community Food Network and the Manitoulin Farmers' Market Association.

Recently the Debajehmujig Theatre performed their student production Thrive at the farm and all proceeds are going to the project.

The fall equinox occurs on September 21 and the couple extends an invitation to the community to celebrate on the farm with a sunrise ceremony and a potluck at 5 pm. Attendees are asked to bring their own cutlery and dishes as the



The long rows of crops attest to the success and health of the garden.

celebration will take place outside. The two dates chosen for the building of the sanjgon are on September 26 and October 3. The farm is located at 179 Whiskey Harbour Road. Anyone interested in helping with the project, or seeking further information, can contact the farm at (705) 859-2105 or wilmanadj@hotmail.com.

the Native Agricultural Conference in Guelph with 35 other people from Wikwemikong. A message she took from it was that here on the Island we are at the end of the line for delivery trucks, and in the event of a pandemic or a possible extreme weather condition they may not arrive as easily as under normal conditions, so food should be set aside for such an event.

## Harvest fundraising dinner to be held in Gore Bay

GORE BAY—September 26 will mark the third annual celebration of locally grown foods.

The Harvest Bounty Dinner and Dance will raise funds to be used by the Manitoulin Community Food Network (MCFN) for educational purposes and for an MSS bursary for further study in nutrition, culinary or agricultural studies.

The dinner menu is created by Ruta Tribinevicius. The meal will feature Manitoulin-grown foods including meats, fruit, vegetables, grains and flour, all from local producers. These include Burt Farms, Gypsy Family Farm, Joyce Family Farm, LoonSong Garden, Maja's Bounty, and Our Garden.

A dance following the meal will feature music by Daune Freeborne and Paul Best, and the beautiful music of Jane Best on harp and Paul Best on cello will provide a special ambience during dinner.

When asked how the idea came about, Kevin Droski, of MCFN, said that "so many people work hard all

summer, farming the land and serving the many people who live on and visit the Island. We want to take time to enjoy the fruits of the summer's labour, and invite others to celebrate together. We are also glad to support the students going on to further their studies in a field that relates to food."

The Harvest Bounty Dinner will be held in Gore Bay this year at the Curling Club, with dinner starting at 6 pm. "We are trying to hold the event in different areas of the Island each year and feature local talent," indicated Mr. Droski.

Tickets are \$30 each, which includes the dinner and dance. For tickets please call Maja Mielonen at 377-4471.

Tickets are also available at Manitoulin Farmers' Markets in Gore Bay on Fridays, Little Current on Tuesdays, and Mindemoya on Saturdays. Get your tickets early, as limited seating is available and tickets go quickly for this popular event

# Economics prof questions efficiency, market logic of wind turbines

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is an abridgement of an article in the C.D. Howe publication *Verbatim*, published on April 15. To read it in its entirety, visit [www.cdhowe.org](http://www.cdhowe.org).

## Speaking Truth to "wind" power

by Michael J. Trebilcock

*The Case Against Industrial Wind Turbines*

1) Industrial wind turbines have minimal impact on carbon emissions.

There is no evidence that industrial wind power is likely to have a significant impact on carbon emissions. The European experience is instructive. Denmark, the world's most wind-intensive nation with more than 6,000 turbines generating 19 percent of its electricity, has yet to close a single fossil-fuel plant. It requires 50 percent more coal-generated electricity to cover wind power's unpredictability. Pollution and carbon dioxide emissions have risen (by 36 percent in 2006 alone). The German experience is no different.

2) Industrial wind turbines are uneconomic.

Industrial wind power is not a viable economic alternative to other energy conservation options. Again, the Danish experience is instructive. Its electricity generation costs are the highest in Europe (15 cents/kilowatt hour compared to Ontario's current rate of about six cents). The chair of energy policy in the Danish parliament calls it "a terribly expensive disaster."

3) Industrial wind turbines cause insufficiently researched health effects.

A growing body of scientific and medical evidence suggests that the health effects on those subjected to long and frequent periods of pulsating, low-frequency noise associ-

ated with wind turbines include sleep disturbances leading to depression, chronic stress migraines, nausea and dizziness, exhaustion and anger, memory loss and cognitive difficulties, cardiac arrhythmias, increased heart rate and blood pressure. A prominent academic study lists no fewer than 13 studies that show that wind turbines at night can disturb residents more than two kilometres away. This living close to the source of noise can develop what has been termed vibroacoustic disease (VAD). Noise from wind turbines exhibits the characteristics of noise experienced in various occupations (aircrews, aircraft maintenance workers, ship worker and an islander population to environmental infra- and low-frequency noise). Complaints from people living near wind turbines are the same as those from persons who develop VAD. Also flicker from turbines at a minimum is disruptive and annoying. Flicker poses a potential risk of photosensitive seizures.

3) Industrial wind turbines have adverse effects on adjacent property values.

A three-year study of 600 properties near the Malancthon wind turbine developments north of Shelburne, Ontario found that property values decreased by 20 percent to 25 percent (an average of \$48,000), were on the market more than twice as long as properties in adjacent areas, and a large number (four times those that did sell) could not be sold at any price.

4) The decision-making process is undemocratic and will undermine efficient regulation.

When Premier Dalton McGuinty first ran for public office in 2003, his platform included a prominent commitment to "democratic renewal" in Ontario. In a June 2004 press release, he and his minister of democratic renewal,

Michael Bryant, declared that they were embarking upon "the most democratic renewal process in Ontario's history."

The Green Energy Act will gut locally elected governments of major planning responsibilities, remit most key decisions to subsequent ministerial regulations that no one will see until after their promulgation and will centralize most important powers over the electricity sector in the minister's office.

Even if one thought (contrary to my views) that wind turbines were a good idea environmentally and economically, there would be a simple solution to the impact on rural residents who face being conscripted to bear most of the burden of a problem they did not create. The solution is to ensure that setbacks conform to international standards as endorsed by renowned medical and scientific bodies that have closely examined the health and environmental risks. The French Academy of Medicine in a 2006 study recommends 1.5 kilometres, pending further research on health effects of persistent exposure to low-intensity noise.

Alternatively, the government could concentrate wind farms in more remote or sparsely populated areas. These measures would also minimize negative impacts on property values. But these are modest palliatives to the policy flaws in Bill 150 and do not address wind power's two key inconvenient truths: failure to reduce significant carbon emissions and exorbitant cost to taxpayers and consumers.

Compiled by William Ritching of Little Current

Michael J. Trebilcock is a professor of Law and Economics at the University of Toronto.

## More letters

## Firefighters praised for professionalism and sacrifice

*Dedicated volunteer service to community appreciated*

To the Expositor:

At 4:30 am on a Sunday in August we were wakened by loud voices and saw flashes of red and white lights through our window. We got up to investigate and witnessed NEMI firefighters attacking a blazing house only two lots away.

We dressed in case of an evacuation, then watched the professionalism of our firefighters. After an hour and a half we felt safe enough to return to bed.

We believe that firefighters have one of the most danger-

ous jobs in the peaceful world. We are very impressed knowing that our fellow friends and neighbours volunteer to protect persons and property from the violence of fire. They are on call every hour of the day, interrupted from their family, from sleep or play, to face danger in critical situations.

They were still at the scene when we got up in the morning and didn't leave until 9:30 am. This was five hours of dedicated volunteer service to our community on this one

call.

We can't imagine how many times they fight fires each year, but we want to thank every member of the NEMI fire department and to publicly tell them that they are so appreciated for what they do.

Keep up the good work.

Linda Valiquette  
Little Current