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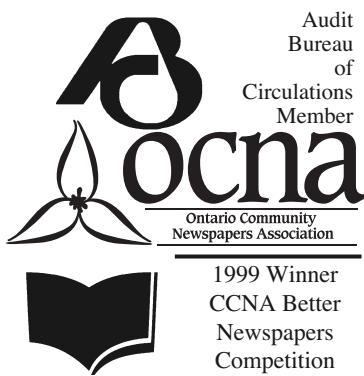
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*"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"*

# One Manitowaning Road

opinion

**editorial**

## AMK candidates should spark voter turnout this fall

There is going to be solid competition for the federal Liberal nomination for the Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing (AMK) riding and this fact portends a renewed interest among voters when the next federal general election comes, likely within the next year of the current Conservative minority government.

New Democratic Party MP Carol Hughes has quickly distinguished herself as a hard-working, constituency-oriented member who is also making her mark in parliament through the introduction of private member's bills on a standard national qualification for Employment Insurance benefits as well as on the concept of a national day memorializing infants and children who have died before their time.

At least on Manitoulin, Ms. Hughes has been a busy presence at community events, following in the tradition established by her predecessors: Liberal MPs Brent St. Denis and Dr. Maurice Foster.

Similarly, just as AMK voters have also come to expect, Ms. Hughes (or her staff) take and/or return phone calls and work with groups and individuals on their needs.

In short, Ms. Hughes has quickly established herself as a presence in this riding—and a hard-working one at that.

But in this Liberal camp, there is keen awareness that the evolving riding of Algoma East—then Algoma-Manitoulin and finally Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing—had been an uninterrupted Liberal stronghold since 1932.

And with that kind of pedigree, the Liberals want Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing returned to the red fold as quickly as possible, and that means the next election.

What is particularly exciting about the process the AMK Liberals are presently absorbed in is the fact that the race for the candidate's job has attracted qualified people from all corners of this vast riding: Joe Chapman from Manitoulin, Francois Cloutier from Moonbeam,

Marc Dupuis from Hearst and Chris Wray from Wawa (although as of this writing, Mr. Wray has not yet been officially recognized as a candidate by the Liberal Party of Canada).

Mr. Chapman is a busy lawyer and former mayor of the Northeast Town. Mr. Cloutier works for the provincial Attorney General's office and is also a small business owner. Mr. Dupuis is a town councillor and vice-president of his area's regional economic development organization and Mr. Wray is the long-time chief administrative officer for Wawa-Michipicotin.

Clearly, the Liberals have put together a stable of heavy hitters who will come together to face riding-wide Liberal Party members for run-off votes in Blind River on August 22 and in Hearst on August 23.

With these four individuals campaigning for support across and around the riding during the next month and with Ms. Hughes going about the business of being an active MP in her riding during the same period, the level of political consciousness of the electors of AMK is bound to be heightened.

With any luck, the federal Conservatives and the Green Party will be as fortunate as the Liberals in attracting a variety of qualified individuals to contest for their nominations.

If we aren't already beginning to take an interest in this process, no matter what the cut of our political jibs, it is the best opportunity in many years to do so by joining one or another of our local riding associations and so become qualified to help select a candidate.

After every recent election—federal, provincial or municipal—we have lamented that voter turnout has dwindled yet again, not a useful comment on our important democratic process.

Just now, we have the opportunity to become involved, learn about the process and the people seeking office, and to help reverse the recent trend of voter apathy—at least in AMK.

**letters**

## Fisher Harbour explanation unsatisfactory

### Public needs to mobilize against environmental damage

**To the Expositor:**

I am writing in response to the July 15 issue of the Manitoulin Expositor regarding the article "First Nations, Fisher Harbour lock horns over water lot lease."

In 2003 the water lot lease at Fisher Harbour expired but this has not prevented the company from operating as it wishes. Are you or I allowed to drive our vehicles with an expired licence? Since then I have met over half a dozen times with various representatives from Alexander Centre Industries Ltd. (ACIL), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Ministry of the Environment and the Whitefish River First Nation and have spent countless hour-reading and researching information regarding Alexander Centre Industries' application for renewal of its water lot lease.

Gillian Woodrooffe, current president of the McGregor Bay Association, on the other hand, has met once with ACIL and the MNR and is presently wading through the mountain of background information available on this issue. She is totally correct in expecting the Ministry of Natural Resources to take a more serious look at the dangers associated with the storage and handling of salt, metal concentrates, and other questionable commodities adjacent to the pristine shoreline of Georgian Bay at the mouth of McGregor Bay.

I do, however, take exception to Ms. Woodrooffe's view that she "came away from the tour (of Fisher Harbour) thinking that ACIL was trying very hard to satisfy the concerns of the various stakeholders" and that "they are a company that is going about its job the best way they can." She appears to have taken away any responsibility that should be that of Alexander Centre Industries. Historically, this company has carried

out its operations with no regard for government regulations. Examples of this include the infilling of the shoreline at the port site and installing a very large culvert both without obtaining approval permits before commencing the work.

To this day, ACIL continues to chase the almighty dollar by operating as they wish with little or no regard for environmental concerns. Since 2003 when it was realized that ACIL was handling salt and sand that were not, and still are not, on their approved permit list, the company continues to receive and ship these products with, evidently, the blessings of the MNR. To give the company a little credit, they have cleaned up the debris and rusting machinery parts that used to be blight on the shoreline. Aside from that, salt stored adjacent to the shoreline continues to leach through inadequately built berms toward the lake. Ditches dug to collect salty water from the salt pile area leads to the water instead of away from the lakeshore and into an impervious collection pond. Salt blows into the air and water when salt is unloaded due to the use of open conveyer belts.

We must all take responsibility for our environment and protect this precious little place in our backyard. I ask you all, whether you live or vacation on Manitoulin, in McGregor Bay, in the Bay of Islands, or in First Nations communities, to participate in letter writing to the MNR and ACIL, and by attending future meetings and public hearings to voice your concerns against industrial development that could negatively impact our environment.

**Ann McGregor  
McGregor Bay and Birch Island**

## Wind turbines would deface pristine scenery of Island

### NE Town council urged to wake up before it's too late

**To the Expositor:**

I will keep this short as I believe most of my feelings have been expressed with comments in other letters to the editor. I am just wondering why anybody—whether it's our elected council or residents on our beautiful Island—would ever agree to the proposed wind turbines. One would be agreeing with having our pristine scenery being defaced so people can use our beautiful open areas to supply their wants and needs for their own use. Do they live on the Island? It is almost like selling our souls to the devil. Would they want this in their own backyards? I do not think so, so why would we as residents want this in our own backyards?

With all due respect to wind-farm defenders like Mr. Wilkin, I think

this will be taking away from the tourist industry. A lot of people come here to relax and get away from their city lives. They, like us, are enjoying the night skies with no interference of their view. Nighttime offers such a rare beauty of nature and all she has to offer. This is why our area is so unique. Besides, we are not going to benefit from these turbines. Wake up, council, before it is too late.

Also it makes me think if council is supposed to represent us, the residents, then why didn't we get a say in this? We should have all had a vote in this, especially in something with such magnitude. Did we vote the wrong council members in?

**Margaret Robinson  
Sheguiandah**

## Residents shouldn't worry about McLean's Mountain wind farm

### Nuclear power is a worse evil than wind power

**To the Expositor:**

May I reply to the article in the recent Expositor regarding windmills around the Manitoulin ("NE Council seeks advice on windmills following plea by irked citizens' group," July 15. Well, I have lived with my family in Little Current and area for 60 years, with 30 years in a self-employed electronics business. We came on an old rickety steam train from Halifax. When I saw that Little Current was the "last stop ladies and gentlemen" (as noted by the late Boyn Heis, who worked at the CPR station in Little Current) I said, "My God, what have I done!" Well I did very well, as well as five years as deputy cop with the municipal police department, under the late Fred Sagle, the chief, and 10 years as manager of the Manitoulin Island Telephone Company (Amtelecom) in Mindemoya.

My point is all this bitching and moaning over windmills, by people who weren't born when we came to the Manitoulin, would have got on the train back to Sudbury. These people who do nothing for us except gripe, but do nothing except sit in their summer cottages and then bugger off to Florida and spend their money in the Orange State. Please, I don't include our Manitoulin citizens. It's these outsiders who come and buy up land and think they own the country, but who feel they own the whole Island. The windmills don't bite, by the way.

Don't worry about the windmills. They said that about Dr. Bell, Einstein, and Henry Ford. How do you feel about atomic bombs?

**Don Patrick  
Little Current**

# 'Buy local' a message that requires reiteration in challenging market year

## A farmers' market vendor's view of the home-grown selling scene at age 20

by Jan McQuay

“We make it, we bake it, we grow it.” This is what the Manitoulin Farmers' Markets Association (MFMA) is all about. When I tell people that, they are generally surprised.

A few years ago, the MFMA made a commitment to help boost the Manitoulin economy by supporting local farmers and small businesses. Now new vendors joining in the MFMA need to be involved in the production of the goods they are selling.

The Manitoulin Farmers' Markets began in 1989, 20 years ago. Over those years the markets grew and the association evolved.

In Little Current, the small market on Saturdays at the waterfront developed a long waiting list of vendors. As a resident of Mindemoya, I became a regular vendor at the Mindemoya market, which was also on Saturdays, but I wanted to sell occasionally in Little Current. I waited all through 2006, but there was no space available for new, occasional vendors.

The Little Current waterfront market is in a small building, but even at the large arena in Gore Bay, at summer's peak this venue became so crowded that the manager also had to turn away some new occasional vendors.

The arena in Mindemoya was also nearly filled to capacity at the height of the season until 2007. Then, in a very slim vote, the MFMA membership decided to keep the markets open for four hours instead of three hours.

I liked having an extra hour to peddle my wares at the markets, and I figured it was more convenient for visitors. What customer wouldn't want a bit more flexibility? They could sleep in on a Saturday morning and still get to the market. But not everyone liked it and so was born a brand-new market in M'Chigeeng in a bright, newer arena.

The same year, in 2007, the Little Current farmers' market overseen by the MFAA switched its schedule and location to Tuesdays at the Little Current-Howland Rec Centre. Now vendors like me can attend all three markets because they are on different days.

Again, not everyone liked the change, so now Little Current has two markets, on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Markets have also sprouted in other communities like Kagawong and South Baymouth.

The saying goes, “You have to make hay while the sun shines.” Being able to attend three markets each week was important to making my little business work. If it's a hobby, a vendor might just want to do one market, but more serious vendors need more than three or four hours a week to sell

their goods.

Local manufacture has always had appeal for visitors. Most travellers would rather buy a product that genuinely comes from the place they are visiting, as opposed to a souvenir made in a factory halfway around the world. New vendors don't have to be permanent Island residents, though. They may be summer residents or visitors themselves, as long as they are involved in the production of their wares. Also, resellers



With a “Pardon Our Appearance” sign outside the door, market manager Maja Mielonen cleans up debris at the Mindemoya Arena one early Saturday morning of late. The municipality of Central Manitoulin is renovating the arena, and construction is scheduled to continue through to mid-August. Then the market will have a brand-new look, including a reflective ceiling that will provide better lighting.

photo by Jan McQuay

who have been coming to the market for years are still most welcome in the Manitoulin farmers' markets. Customers would miss seeing their familiar faces.

This year is a challenging one for the market in Mindemoya. The municipality of Central Manitoulin is renovating the arena in Mindemoya and the construction, scheduled for part of May and six weeks or so at the peak of the season in July and August, comes at a bad time for the market. Customers who read the “Pardon Our Appearance” sign at the door soon find out why. On some Saturdays the vendors may have to move outside or to the community centre.

The idea of an outdoor, open-air market is attractive, but older vendors, and that is most of us, have trouble carrying heavy tables and many of us need shade for our wares. We have to keep reminding ourselves of the good news, which is that next year the market will have a spiffy new look, with new boards and glass, a new roof that doesn't leak in the

rain, and reflective material on the ceiling that will provide better light.

The message that the Manitoulin Farmers' Markets Association needs to get out in its 20th anniversary year is—as always, but perhaps more pressingly than

ever, given the current economic (and logistical) challenges—“buy local.”

By buying locally, Islanders are supporting their neighbours, and the Island economy will be better off for it.

Jan McQuay is a potter and photographer from Mindemoya who markets her wares under the alliterative business banner *McQuay Click'n'Clay*. She is also a frequent freelance contributor to these pages.

## Ballad-writing contest winner focuses on tale of pioneer and his beloved grand piano

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Printed below is the winning entry of the ballad contest sponsored by the Central Manitoulin Historical Society and the Manitoulin Writers' Circle. Five other submissions were deemed worthy of recognition, with their authors each receiving a prize. All six ballads have been published in a booklet that is available for purchase at the Central Manitoulin Welcome Centre.

The background for this ballad came from a Heritage Fair project written by Lewam Gebrekristose in April of 2000. She had conducted interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Helen Crosswell, and was taken to the cabin site by Joellen Sloss. MaryEllen (Waterhouse) Wiber taught Alburta (Greenfield) Cumming and had family connections to the Farquhars, McDermids, Fergusons, Grahams, and Bishops.

Balladeer Jane Best found the story compelling when she read it, and remembered it when she saw the flyer for the ballad contest. “I am very grateful to Almaz for finding Lewam's project after all these years and letting me borrow it!” she noted.

### Ballad of the Grand by Jane Best

A professor in fair England teaching music day by day  
Imagined his own homestead where he'd live and work and play,  
So he left the university, and crossed the ocean wide,  
With his loving wife, and children, and his piano by his side.

What were they to live on? Could he run a farm?  
Bears and wolves and winter's cold would threaten and alarm.  
People must have thought it just a crazy scheme,  
But nothing stopped John Waterhouse from living out his dream.

When they came to Manitoulin the piano came along,  
By train, up to the North Shore, then by barge to Kagawong.  
They braved 30 miles of Huron on that overloaded boat;  
But somehow from Spragge to this fair Island shore they stayed afloat!

Wasn't it a wonder, wasn't it a shock  
When they hauled that grand piano out onto the dock?  
Who had ever seen one? Who had heard it play?  
Imagine how they danced and sang that strange and wondrous day.

Well, John had built a cabin down in the forest green.  
'Twas six miles out in Billings where no road had ever been.  
Now, his Ojibwe neighbours were quite willing to help out,  
So he hired them and together they worked all the problems out!

Then the woods were silent, creatures hid away,  
And no birds sang as axes rang to widen out the pathway.  
Next they laid down round logs, rolled it right along,  
With sheer determination, aching backs, and courage strong.

How the treble must have trembled, how the mighty bass strings moaned,  
The jostling, and bumping, how that grand piano groaned.  
It was three long weeks it took them just to travel those six miles!  
When they fin'ly reached the clearing, how John's fam'ly cheered and smiled!

But, he said, “There's trouble! My front door's too small!”  
They opened up the cabin, rolled it in, replaced the wall!  
The piano filled the cabin, not much more would fit,  
So sweet, young MaryEllen's bed was placed on top of it!

Now, MaryEllen's daddy helped her practice every day.  
The clearing rang, the iv'ries sang- that girl could really play!  
In 'eighty-one she married, soon taught students of her own,  
And all through Billings Township joyful songs were heard and known.

She passed on her talent; many shared John's dream-  
Music gives to life a joy and gives you strength and peace.  
This is a true story, the tale I'm telling you,  
So take hold like John Waterhouse and make your dreams come true!

## More letters

### Benefits of wind farms trivial next to those of major local employers

*Bigger land-use tax should be levied in return for massive change*

**To the Expositor:**

We live on an Island with a swing bridge. With respect to future wind projects on the Manitoulin, it's time to swing the bridge.

Please recognize that the McLean Mountain wind power project is likely a done deal. Northland Power is a global Canadian company with just shy of \$200 million in revenues last year. This McLean's Mountain project is fast-tracked for completion as the government has provided sufficient incentive to Canadian wind-power companies to allow them to quickly monetize their investments. Northland Power's stock has increased 10 percent in value in the month of July.

The benefits to Manitoulin Island have been stated as follows: There are the lease payments to the 14 farmers/property owners, there are the taxes which will be approximately \$100,000 per year, and following all of the initial building and placing of the turbines which will have a huge impact on the Island job-wise, there will be two-three

operating positions and six-seven full-time maintenance positions.

The benefits are clearly trivial and mostly short-term, especially when compared to the benefits that other Island businesses provide. Consider Manitoulin Transport, the largest employer on the Island, which contributes millions to the Manitoulin every year through employment, technology and training with little negative environmental impact, or Lafarge, which patiently chips away at our western edge and employs many men from Gordon Township to Meldrum Bay. The Anchor Bar in Little Current employs more people than this operation will.

We, as the community, are giving up a huge piece of pristine environment so that 14 farmers/property owners can get lease payments, the municipality can pick up a pittance a year in taxes, and a handful of people can get employment. The shareholders of Northland Power get to reap profits for in effect perpetuity. Our representatives at least should have bargained for stock in the company so that we

could see a reasonable return on this investment. Alternately a substantial land-use tax should be levied on this project that is a fair annual payment to the community for its tolerance of a massive change to our environment.

As a community we should look for businesses to invest on the Manitoulin that will enhance our lives and employ our people. We are being flim-flammed, and unfortunately in my opinion it is probably too late to bar the gate on this project. We should do what we can now to mitigate the many negative effects: light pollution, noise pollution, visual pollution, and I am sure numerous other unanticipated effects. We should at the very least bargain harder with Northland. They need us more than we need them.

Our representatives are dupes for accepting so little for so much. Let's not continue to cede our territory for baubles.

**Bert Liffmann  
Gordon Township**