

# Visiting Manitoulin?



Hawater Weekend  
Schedule  
...See pages 10A-11A!

Wiky 49th Cultural  
Festival!  
...See pages 16-17

Take a tour of  
Little Current  
...see pages 4A-5A

Island school of art  
comes of age in new  
book ...on page 8

## The MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR



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Wednesday, July 29, 2009

### BC's Atleo chosen as new AFN grand chief

*Beaucage supporter  
Pat Madahbee vows  
to work with leader*

by Michael Erskine

CALGARY—Shawn Atleo, a hereditary chief from the British Columbia Ahousaht First Nation, was elected the new grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) during a 23-hour marathon involving eight ballots—the longest in AFN history.

A vice-chief of the AFN for British Columbia, a chancellor of Vancouver Island University, and a widely respected businessman, Grand Chief Atleo, 43, was also the youngest candidate in the election campaign. Despite the length of the contest, he had been considered the frontrunner by most observers from the start.

Grand Chief Atleo's campaign blended a modern, forward-looking and aggressive style with a strong personal attachment to traditional lifestyle and culture into a winning formula. In the end, he called upon the First Nations to put any lingering divisions behind them.

"We were supporting one

...continued on page 14



Jane Palmer skillfully assists young Joe to write with a feather quill pen after completing his masterpiece in screen painting at Jack's Farm Museum during Pioneer Day activities in Mindemoya.

SEE STORY AND MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 13A photo by Peggy Smith

### Cottagers threaten to protract renewal of harbour lease on Little LaCloche Isl.

by Jim Moodie

LITTLE CURRENT—Cottagers want more say into the types of material that could be shipped into Fisher Harbour under the terms of a proposed agreement with the province, and are prepared to tie up the port owner's application through a costly, full-scale environmental assessment (EA) if their concerns aren't met.

This warning was issued last week during a pair of public meetings put on by Alexander Centre Industries Limited (ACIL) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to outline the process for a renewal of the water-lot lease at Fisher Harbour, which expired in 2004. The new lease, if approved by the MNR, would not only extend ACIL's use of the deep-

water port on Little LaCloche Island but expand the list of commodities it is permitted to handle.

At present, the only materials flowing through the Fisher Harbour facility are road salt and silica sand—neither of which, critics are quick to point out, are sanctioned under the original lease granted in 1975. The company wants both of those materials, along with a dozen others—including rubber, concrete, slag and agricultural supplies—added to its slate of allowable cargo.

"Our problem is that you're going to do this in the dark," complained cottager Gerry Quinn, during the second of the two meetings, held in Little Current. "If I were you, I would listen and

...continued on page 12

### Citizen group launches petition to put brakes on wind projects

NORTHEAST TOWN—The effects on residents' health, safety and the environment are amongst the concerns outlined in a pair of new petitions being circulated by a citizens' group challenging the proposed McLean's Mountain wind farm project.

A group comprising landowners with property in the vicinity of the proposed project has been vocal in its opposition to the wind farm following developer Northland Power's announcement that the farm had ballooned from a handful of turbines to 43. The group charges that the project will have an incontrovertible effect on the people and the landscape, and questions the ethics behind the developer's plan to exploit the land for its purposes without compensation to the municipality and its residents.

In the first of the two petitions, the citizens' group implores Northeast Town council to "implement policies, resolutions or bylaws regard-

...continued on page 25

### Hawater, Wiky powwow highlight Civic Weekend fare

MANITOULIN—The Island is gearing up for one of its busiest weekends of the summer, and everyone is welcome to take part in the festivities.

In Little Current, thousands will flock to town to take part in the 42nd annual Hawater Weekend, three days of events designed under the theme "messin' with recession" to offer affordable family fun.

On Friday, a slo-pitch tournament begins at Low Island, with the opening ceremonies taking place at the cenotaph, following which Marc Seed will entertain with live music. A Much Music teen dance will follow at the rec centre.

Saturday is chock full of activities, including a soccer tournament, a western show-jumping contest, and an antique and clas-

sic car show. At the rec centre, visitors can view the quilt show, take part in the kids' Hot Wheels racing, or watch the big horses test their strength in the horse pull.

At Low Island, there are cardboard boat races, beach volleyball

games, and a new stunt show performed by Summer Water Sports, which will feature flips, ballets and more on water skis. On the way to the park, visit the giant

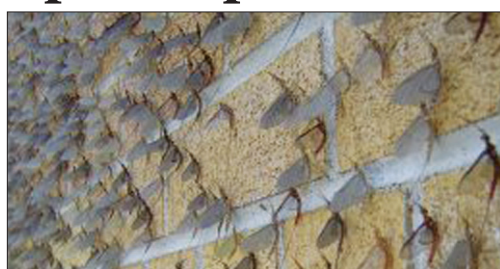
...continued on page 25

### New study should help to explain shadfly scarcity in 2009

*Islanders welcomed to share observations on annual bug bombardment*

by Jim Moodie

NORTH BAY—The annual invasion of shadflies—those big night-flying insects that encrust storefronts and form crunchy heaps on sidewalks—may have been less intense this year than in summers past, but that hasn't put the brakes on a new research project that aims



A Nipissing professor is currently canvassing residents of the North concerning shadfly trends to add to an understanding of environmental change.

to assess this seasonal phenomenon.

If anything, the study through Nipissing University couldn't be more timely, as the idea is to analyze trends in the population over the years based on observations of those who inhabit shadfly-prone shorelines, and the information gleaned will likely help to explain this year's unusually fleeting visit.

Of course, visits of shadflies—also called mayflies or fishflies—are, by definition, fleeting: these insects lack mouths in their adult,

...continued on page 13

## ...Hawewater, powwow highlight Civic Weekend fare

...continued from page 1  
water slide put on by the NEMI Fire Department.

Other highlights of the weekend include the annual parade, being held on Sunday at noon, and the parade of lights and fireworks display, which will take place at dusk.

At the south end of the Island, Wikwemikong will host its 49th annual cultural festival throughout the weekend. The weekend-long event incorporates a competitive powwow, attended by some of the finest dancers from across North America. Come see dancers show off their skills in various special and intertribal categories. Grand entries will take place at 12 noon on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Visitors can also sample some of the tasty local fare from vendors who will be

on-site throughout the weekend, and check out the fine craftsmanship of artisans and artists who will make their wares available for sale.

Also in Wikwemikong this weekend is the second annual Crystal Shawanda homecoming concert. Ms. Shawanda, who earned headlines this year for her debut album, Dawn of a New Day, including nods from the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Awards and the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, will return to her home community for an evening of music.

Held at her parents' place in Wikwemikong on Friday, July 31, the concert is a mere \$10 per person.

Other performers this year include Mason Dixon Line and Keith Secola, singer of the catchy tune "Indian Car," who will additionally judge an Indian car contest. Proceeds will go towards setting up a music

program at Wasse-Abin High School.

The run of Debajehmujig Theatre Group's matinee double bill will also continue through the weekend. Theatre buffs can see How the Raven Got Its Name, an adaptation of a play from this spring's Trickster Festival, and Three Tricksters, the new play from Aboriginal playwright Drew Hayden Taylor.

The performances run daily at 2 pm at the Debajehmujig Creation Centre in Manitowaning.

Theatre lovers can also attend the opening weekend showing of Debajehmujig's mainstage production, From Sinew To Sequins: Our History in Threads, which debuts on Friday, July 31 at the Holy Cross Mission ruins in Wikwemikong at 8 pm, weather permitting. The play will look at Aboriginal history through fashion.

Still at the south end of

Manitoulin, the Michael's Bay Historical Society will hold its fourth annual fish dinner on Saturday, August 1 from 5-7 pm at the John Budd Memorial Park in South Baymouth. On the menu are whitefish, salads, beans, rolls, a beverage and dessert—great value for a scrumptious dinner that isn't to be missed. Historical photos and preserved documents will be on hand for viewing.

Also in South Baymouth, at the Southbay Gallery, the work of acclaimed of Gore Bay artist Jack Whyte will be on display starting this weekend, visitors will have the opportunity to view unique creations throughout the month of August.

As always, the Island's numerous farmers' markets will be operating throughout the weekend, and they are great opportunities to take home some Manitoulin-made products.

Look for additional events in advertisements in the pages of this paper.

## Death Notices

### ROSEMARY PELTIER



In loving memory of Rosemary Peltier, 43 years, who passed away at the University Hospital in London, Ontario on Saturday, July 11th, 2009. Special friend of Mike Wabegijig of Wikwemikong. Beloved mother of Christopher, Amanda (Steve Trudeau) and Ryan, all of Wikwemikong. Cherished grandmother of Kylie and Darlene. Loving sister of Caryn and Janice of Wikwemikong and Brendan of Toronto. She also leaves behind her special father Leo Lewis and mother Loretta of Wikwemikong. Dear aunt of Ashley and Kaelan. She was also the godmother of Tracy Manitowabi and Ashley Peltier. Predeceased by her father Boniface Abel. Rosemary was born in Chicago on March 31, 1966 but she always considered Wiky to be her home. Playing golf and baseball were sports she had enjoyed at one point in her life. Some of her favourite pastimes were cooking, baking, playing Scrabble and cards. She was happiest when surrounded by her family and friends and they meant a lot to her. Rested at St. Ignatius Church in Buzwah (Manitoulin Island). Funeral Mass was at Holy Cross Mission, Wikwemikong on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at 11 am. If so desired, donations to the Trillium Gift of Life Network would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the Loughheed Funeral Home, Sudbury.

### LAWRENCE ALBERT CAMPBELL NOVEMBER 27, 1921 - JULY 21, 2009



Lawrence passed away at the Manitoulin Health Centre on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at the age of 87. Beloved husband of Justine (nee Laidley). Dear father of Sharon (predeceased 1951), Larry (wife June) of Dundas, Don (wife Susan) of Val Caron, Mark (wife Peggy) of Terrace Bay, and Sandra Petruzzi (husband Vince) of Columbus, Ohio. Cherished grandpa of Justin (Melissa Hemy), Laura-Ann, Ryan (Nicole Lamarche), Adam (Amber), Travis (Vanessa Labine), Thomas, Megan, Josh, Jarrod, and great-grandfather of Skylar, Jack, and Charlie. Loved brother of Leonard (wife Jessie) both predeceased, Leila Faulkner (husband Wes) both predeceased, Ivan (wife Irene) both predeceased, Clayton (wife Marg) both predeceased, Pearl Lewis (husband Ron) of Sheguaindah, Jean Rudevics (husband Victor predeceased) of Little Current, Floyd (wife Barb) of Newmarket, Keith (wife Betty) of Markham, Karl (Jean Benning) of Espanola. Visitation was 7 - 9 pm on Friday, July 24, 2009. Funeral Service was 11 am Saturday, July 25, 2009, all at Island Funeral Home. Burial in Mountainview Cemetery. Donations to the Cenotaph Fund or MHC Aux would be appreciated. Island Funeral Home.

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.

## ...Petition launched to put brakes on wind project

...continued from page 1  
ing this and other green energy projects, to have setback limits in place to have the least effect on their adjacent landowners and constituents."

The petitioners argue that the noise generated from each turbine contravenes Ministry of Environment guidelines that set the acceptable limit at 40 decibels. Each turbine in the Northland project will create 103.5 decibels of noise, yet there is no way to prevent the noise from spilling onto the properties of non-participants, nor is there any plan to address future land use for properties that are currently vacant, the petition charges.

"May we request the implementation be such that has the least effect on the health, safety and environment on the Town of NEMI's current and future

residents," the petition entreats.

The second petition adopts a more far-reaching approach, imploring other Island communities to bring a halt to any wind-farm proposals slated for Manitoulin "until such time it can be demonstrated that all reasonable concerns regarding the health, safety, planning, setback requirements, taxes, royalties, assessments, legal rights, liability, electrical infrastructure, decommissioning, aesthetics, lifestyle, and environmental impact the construction of wind towers will have on the inhabitants of Manitoulin, have been addressed."

In the interim, the Northeast Town council has already heeded the complaints of residents by passing a resolution temporarily halting applications for wind farm proj-

ects "until such time that regulations regarding renewable energy project approval transition procedures and wind turbine setbacks prepared under the Green Energy and Green Economy Act have been proclaimed."

The decision was made during an in-camera session at the last regular council meeting on July 21.

### + in memoriam

**SMITH**--In loving memory of Warren Smith. To Our Dearest Pappa Four Wheeler Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear. Love always, Randy, Sonja, Brenden, Ryan and Grant. 11oa

### + thank you

**Sharon Gleason** would like to thank all those who called, visited or sent cards and flowers following her surgery. Your prayers and good wishes are very much appreciated. 11oa

**I wish to thank my family** who were with me at all times in the Mindemoya and Sudbury hospitals at the time of my accident and incidents following later. I would also like to thank friends and relations for cards, phone calls, visits, etc. while in the hospital and after coming home. Special thanks for wonderful care of nurses, doctors and staff of Mindemoya and Sudbury Memorial hospitals, also ambulance drivers and attendants. Words cannot express my appreciation for everything. So once again, thank you all. Sincerely Elwood Lewis. 11p

**We would like to thank** everyone who remembered us on our 60th anniversary with cards, gifts, and phone calls congratulating us. Ralph and Audrey Moggly. 11oa

### + thank you

**In beloved memory of** Ferdie Lizares who passed on Sunday, July 12 at 2:30 pm in Honora Bay. The Lizares and Daroczi family would like to thank all cottagers, residents and search and rescue who helped in the recovery of our brother, brother-in-law, father to Jayden and Quin, uncle and dear friend to so many. The effort was overwhelming as all were tirelessly searching by foot, land water and air. Our families thank all for food and sympathy. Special thanks to Silver Birches Resort for coordinating the search effort and accommodating the search authorities. Ferdie will be sadly missed by all and be remembered as a loving father, caring to all, fun loving, great fisherman! God bless. 10p

**Heartfelt thanks to all** who attended Jim's memorial. We appreciated the wonderful service given by Rev. Mary-Jo Eckert Tracy and the presence of Ted Culgin. Thanks also to Wayne, Anna, Joellen and Stef for preparing and hosting the luncheon after the memorial service. Jessie Nighswander and family. 11p

### + thank you

**I wish to thank all those** who visited me, made phone calls, sent cards, and offered prayers for my recovery. I also want to thank those who offered their help and support to my wife and family while I was in hospital. It was greatly appreciated. Ron MacDougall. 10p

**Bruce and Helen Gordon** would like to thank our family for their help in making our 50th anniversary party so perfect. Thanks to the many friends for joining us in celebration. Thanks for the lovely tea the ladies provided at our church; also for the cards and gifts we received. Thanks Bruce and Helen. 10p

**I would like to thank** my family and friends who travelled from near and far to attend my 90th birthday celebration. Also for the cards, gifts and best wishes. A special thank you goes out to Linda Sapp, Caroline Piche and to the Ladies Aux. BR 177. Thank you and God bless each and every one for making it a huge surprise and success. Tessie Hill and the St. Jacques. 11p

### + in memoriam

**MCCAULEY**--In loving memory of my dear niece, Alicia Marie Violet Rose, who passed away July 25, 2005. A silent prayer is said today To remember you in a special way, "Chunky Bum." My heart may break with silent tears. But it's with my heart I keep you near. Love you and miss you. xxoo Your Godfather, Uncle Stephen McCauley. 11p



**MCCAULEY**--In loving memory of a very special granddaughter, Alicia Marie Violet Rose, February 28, 1998 - July 25, 2005. In a quiet country graveyard Where gentle breezes blow Lies the one we love so dearly Whom we lost four years ago. Her resting place we visit And put flowers there with care But no one knows the sorrow As we turn and leave her there. Many things have happened since you've gone Alicia, Birth - Brother - Ian Jr., August 1, 2007 Wedding - Mommy and Daddy's - June 20, 2009. But we knew you were looking down on us And wishing Mom and Dad those new beginnings. We love you and miss you, "Chunky Bum." Always in our hearts, Grandma (Carol) and Grandpa (Dale) McCauley xxoo. 11p

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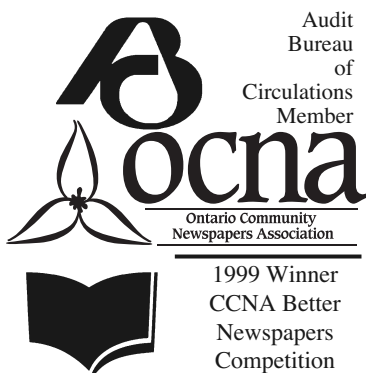
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"who dares not offend, cannot be honest"

# One Manitowaning Road

opinion

**editorial**

## Time ripe for universal suffrage in AFN elections

Time seems to pass with lightning speed in this electronic age, but the pace of resolution of the issues facing First Nation communities, and the non-reserve Native population, seems to move with familiar glacial speed.

Time has not stood still, in any sense, either on or off reserve: if anything it is picking up exponential momentum. And unless the leadership of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) comes to recognize that change is in the wind, they run the danger of becoming increasingly irrelevant as the 21st century matures.

The First Nation component of the Canadian mosaic is its youngest demographic, with the bulk of the population lying securely in the under-30 quintiles. It is also a demographic that is, despite sky-high dropout rates, becoming more sophisticated and educated than at any era in post-Columbian history.

The off-reserve population is now larger than that living on-reserve, and yet many of the issues confounding both are similar. Endemic poverty and structural discrimination collide with the perception of entitlement held by a wide selection of the other components of Canadian society to make dealing with those issues even more difficult than it already is. The First Nations need solid, determined leadership with a clear mandate to represent the needs of all status Natives.

Many First Nations, particularly those close to home, have demanded to negotiate matters of resource sharing and development on a government-to-government basis, rather than band to corporation. The argument for such a government-to-government relationship would be much stronger if the leadership of the AFN held a clear

mandate from both on- and off-reserve status Natives.

Certainly the provisions of the Corbiere decision, mandating that bands must allow non-resident members a voice in local elections, went a distance toward ensuring some enfranchisement of off-reserve status Natives, but those rights clearly do not go far enough.

The added legitimacy and credibility of a universal vote, where every status Native could vote in the selection of the leaders speaking on their behalf, would strengthen the hand of anyone wearing the bonnet of the grand chief. Certainly the argument could be made that mainstream society in this country does not directly elect the leader of the country either, but under the current circumstances that fact hardly weakens the thesis.

Shawn Atleo will fill the role of grand chief of the AFN with the flair he has exhibited as a businessperson, an educator and as a regional chief of British Columbia, and, at a still youthful age of 42, he also well-positioned to engage youth in finding the solutions to the challenges facing the First Nations. But the First Nation youth need hope and a sense of a vision that they have had a hand in creating—without regard to whether they live on or off reserve. If that representation takes place through the election of urban delegates, or through universal suffrage, it will go a long way toward strengthening the voice of the grand chief in speaking truth to power.

If reform of the selection process is sacrificed on the altar of expediency, the results could be devastating to the main voice of the Anishinabek. In the end, however, any reform must come from the people themselves.

**letters**

## Chance for Island to be exporter of green power welcomed

*Friendlier source of hydro should generate sense of pride*

**To the Expositor:**

Several years ago I made a decision to support wind power as an eco-friendly method of power generation. Hydroelectric dams are not only a problem due to the huge tracts of the natural landscape flooded and changed forever and the lack of sites that can be utilized, but the huge power corridors necessary to transport the power.

For several years I was a member of a study group on the feasibility of a nuclear reactor in the North Channel. I still have huge stacks of studies and plans proposed by Ontario Hydro. Despite the potential for employment for the people in our area, I could not endorse this idea. Although the project seems to be long dead, I suspect it is still on the back burner of future planning in head office.

As far as a fossil fuel generating station anywhere in Ontario, just forget it. This comes down to solar power and/or wind generation. The technology has been in use for many years and is widely utilized in many countries. When Manitoulin was chosen by several companies for future wind-power developments, I was delighted.

Certainly, there are drawbacks. Among them is the fact that some people object to the sight of a tower on the horizon. This is their God-given right. Some people object to a transmission line and this is understandable. There are those who complain about the sight of an out-

house. I myself find a privy to be somewhat lacking in aesthetics.

However, if the electricity is off, that line truck fixing the transmission line looks alright. If the lack of power causes your water and sewage system to become unusable, the humble outdoor bathroom starts to look pretty darn good sooner or later.

Let's face, if we are dependent on electrical power. I hope to see the day that our fiercely independent Manitoulin Island residents can point to the horizon and say: "We are a green island using green power." With the First Nations projects, the Schneider Wind Farm and the Northland project, it could happen. Manitoulin could be a net exporter of clean power.

I refuse to let my hatred of change (and the fact that I don't like the thought of a new look to the landscape) keep us dependent on imported nuclear and coal-generated power. I hope to be able to look at the towers and view them as a source of pride in being independent and unique, a huge island community where everyone from Wikwemikong to Meldrum Bay can be proud of the fact that we are producing and using green power, and totally in harmony with our environment.

Ed Ferguson Sr.  
Howland

## McLean's Mountain wind farm tip of the iceberg

*Project first step to Island becoming wind capital of Ont.*

**To the Expositor:**

I learned last week that the McLean's Mountain Wind Farm has grown to 43 wind turbines. The towers will be 80 meters high, supporting a blade 180 metres across and will generate 77 megawatts (MW) of power. I can't comprehend such a huge industrial development on the Island.

Then I learned that the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) plans to have the Manitoulin provide 500 MW of power to the province from seven different potential wind-farm locations by 2015: Little Current, Manitowaning, a site west of Lake Manitou, a site north of Lake Kagawong and three sites at South Baymouth. The OPA map did not include the wind farms proposed by M'Chigeeng and Wikwemikong.

Peak energy demand at Manitoulin in 2006-2007 was 30 MW. The OPA wants Manitoulin to bear the impact of the development of seven wind farms in order to export 470 MW of power to other parts of the province. It's like asking the turtle to carry the province on its back.

And the bad news doesn't end there. In order to get Manitoulin's wind power into the grid, the 115-KV power line from Little Current to Manitowaning will be replaced with a 230-KW high voltage power line. More big towers. The visual and noise impacts of the giant turbines up on the escarpment is no small matter: nor is the number of people along Highway 6 or possibly Highway 542 who are going to have high-voltage transmission towers in their front yard. These towers will be much larger than the ones spanning the North Channel at the swing bridge.

I'm in favour of wind-energy development that is appropriate and proportionate to the landforms, land uses and the community. I'm in favour of sharing and exporting some of the wind energy from the Island. The OPA study said that Manitoulin could add 100 MW of power to the grid using the existing power lines. I think that would be generous, like sharing two-thirds of what your garden grows. I could feel good about that. But because we've been kept in the dark, there is no chance to talk about reasonable alternatives.

The McLean's Mountain wind farm is a size-12 steel-toed boot in the door to making Manitoulin the wind capital of Ontario. Once the McLean's Mountain wind farm has been built, it will be impossible to stop the construction of Northland's power line under the North Chan-

nel to Goat Island, regardless of its impacts. A submerged power line across a navigable body of water, the North Channel, should be subject to a federal environmental assessment. This has not been done. When I asked Northland's Gordon Potts if the underwater power line has been approved, he said, "There's no permit for that yet."

I have to wonder why a private company would invest \$28 million in a wind farm when they have no sure means of getting their electricity to the point of sale at Goat Island. Seems like putting the cart before the horse, to me.

Northland's 500-page Environmental Study Report, to have been released on July 23, gives the public 30 days to comment, object or suggest changes to the project. Two copies will be available at the municipal office. Mr. Potts declined to send me one by snail mail.

It takes at least two years to do the studies for that report, and the public only found out about it a month ago. Northland should have held a public meeting at the beginning of the study, not at the end. It must have taken months to negotiate leases with the 12 landowners on McLean's Mountain who will receive \$6,000/year for each turbine on their property. But the company waited until June to let the public in on their plans.

This wind farm has been in the works for seven years, and now the company is rushing to get shovels in the ground—more likely explosives—next spring. Northland is rushing to get its approval from the Ministry of the Environment by the end of the summer. Why the rush? Could it be that they want to get all of their "permits" before the Green Energy Act comes into effect this fall? The Green Energy Act will require a setback of 550 metres. Right now the setback is 500 metres.

It all leaves a bitter taste in my mouth, like certain interests are trying to pull the wool over our eyes while they do an end run. And we only have a month in the middle of summer to do anything about it. So if you are inclined to contact your politicians or the Minister of the Environment, do it today.

For the record: my land is not within sight or sound of the McLean's Mountain wind farm.

Joyce Young  
Kagawong

**More letters**

**Scheme for Kagawong marina would put township in hole**

*Strategic plan better than plotting behind the scenes*

**To the Expositor:**

Boondoggle: a term for a scheme that wastes time and money.

Here in Kagawong, things move in mysterious ways. A small group of residents that wanted to tell council what to do (excuse me—offer advice to council) and wanted council to “communicate with them” is doing it again—plotting behind the scenes! Nothing gets my goat more than people plotting behind the scenes, and apparently I’m not alone.

What is up for “discussion” are grandiose plans for upgrading the Kagawong Marina to be presented on August 6 in Park Centre. Council is “welcome” to attend. Also under discussion is the termination of stunts like jumping off the dock that Haweaters have celebrated here for generations. I am a relative newcomer to the Island myself, but I can’t help noting that the key folks behind this are imports too, not that I want to be associated with them!

These proposed changes come despite the fact that the marina doesn’t pay for itself under current economic conditions (as these folks well know) and that they missed the boat when Gore Bay and Little Current went through major expansions. I enquired of the powers that be and found that while money might have been available for this project back in 2003 from provincial and federal governments, the township couldn’t afford its share then—it was in the middle of the water capital project following Walkerton—and is even deeper in the hole now.

Anyway, that part is moot, because anyone looking at Little Current and Gore Bay dockage this year can’t avoid the

empty slips. How adding more slips to the Island’s inventory will pay for itself is frankly a mystery to me and any accountant who might wish to examine the facts. The argument being made, no doubt, is that there are infrastructure monies to be had and we should grab them. Trouble is it is always a three-way split, which means that for every million the feds and the province come up with, Billings Township will have to match, and we just don’t have it. Last time this pie in the sky (or boondoggle on the water) was priced, the bottom line came to \$6 million—\$2 million of that to come from the municipality. Also, I don’t believe the province has any more in the pot, and frankly, Billings has already had its fair share of grants recently for upgrades to roads (like the Maple Point hill project) and the museum.

I will bet, when push comes to shove, that several things will be decided: 1) That the vast majority of Billing taxpayers don’t use the marina and will be damned if they pay for some brand-spanking set of empty slips for the very few who do (I’m a boater and have my boat in Kagawong marina and I don’t want any expansion); 2) Those who are part of the congregation of St. John’s Church, sitting as it does right on the marina wall, will come to their senses when they realize that any expansion to the marina will have a severely detrimental impact on that beautiful little place of worship; and 3) Just in case anyone wants taxpayers’ money to go into major expansion—putting the township in the hole such that they have to look at selling some assets—that a poison pill clause be put into any plans for the marina, maintenance or otherwise, so future councils can’t sell

off this little gem to some private group at a fire-sale price just to balance the books.

Anyway, all this is putting the cart before the horse. This township has no strategic plan on the books to determine in a democratic manner what the majority of citizens want and think they can afford.

Going off half-cock is always dangerous in shooting, and even more so in planning. This same group of folks (then wearing a hat calling itself the focus group) came to council claiming council didn’t listen to them. I have an idea that will give them, in a fair and balanced manner, a chance to put in their 10 cents’ worth, along with all of the other citizens of this fine community. With council’s approval I will help put together a strategic plan for the community, and will even welcome input from the local representative of the LaCloche-Manitoulin Business Assistance Corporation, as long as my mandate is directed to be balanced, and inclusive of all community members. A structured questionnaire could gather a great deal of information, as well as a number of community meetings. What I will stand in front of is any attempt to bulldoze a preconceived idea through that would put a great hole in the budget without providing benefit for the wider community. Ask Mike Brown’s colleague in Queen’s Park, MPP Mike Colle, who was very much the driving force behind the Green Belt strategy around the GTA. I am pretty good at standing in front of bulldozers. Just try me!

**Paul Darlston  
Kagawong**

**Serious questions require answers before wind farm okayed**

*A look at other areas where turbines have sprouted is warranted*

*EDITOR’S NOTE: The following letter was sent to the Northeast Town council and is reprinted at the author’s request.*

**To the Expositor:**

Dear Mayor Stringer and members of council:

I was glad to read in the Expositor that the town of NEMI will be hiring a consultant to investigate issues pertaining to the McLean’s Mountain wind-farm project. I think it is very important to try to ascertain what effect this project will have on our township. Before council approves or rejects this wind project, there are some serious questions that must be answered. These will be important items for the consultant to address.

I suggest the following topics be investigated:

1) A lot of new roads will have to be built in order to construct and maintain these turbines. Will NEMI have to maintain and plow these roads once they are built? How many kilometres of road will be built, and how much will the future maintenance of these roads cost the township?

2) In other areas where wind farms went in, did property values go up or down as a result? Did assessment go down or up? Did people move from the area? The answer to this may depend on proximity to the turbines. Did the local township receive any economic benefit from the project, or was the benefit limited to one year of construction jobs and the leases with individual landowners? Find out in a general way what the experience has been in other places where wind farms have been built.

3) Some adjacent landowners will lose their rights to build on their properties due to finding themselves within the setback zone from the turbines. What sort of financial compensation were these landowners given? Who paid it?

Were there lawsuits to force compensation or did the company or township pay the landowners up front? If there were lawsuits involving the township, approximately how much did the legal fees (and compensation) end up being?

4) It think it will be important to find out what happened at Gros Cap, just outside of Sault Ste. Marie, as a comparison for the situation in NEMI because at Gros Cap there were cottages below the bluff where the turbines were installed. Did people sell and leave the area? Were they compensated financially? Did the township have problems from the project or not?

5) It can certainly be argued that a wind farm is an industrial use going into an area zoned rural or agricultural. What sort of zoning changes were required in other townships where wind farms went up (I suggest Shelbourne or North Bruce Peninsula as examples of areas where the land was originally agricultural). Find out whether landowners in other townships challenged the zoning, and whether other projects had to go to the OMB. I believe this was the case in Tiny Township (Simcoe County) with two proposed turbines at Cedar Point, but I may be wrong.

6) We must have some assessment of how this project will affect tourism (including cottaging) in our township. There is no way to know concretely whether seeing/hearing wind turbines will prevent people from wanting to stay at motels in Little Current or visit the Cup and Saucer, but it might be worth doing a random sample of interviews in downtown Little Current on a busy summer Saturday. Ask visitors directly what they will think of our place when they can see the turbines and when the turbines will flash at night. We need to know.

Please note that the visual simulations presented by

Northland Power in their public presentation to show how the towers will look very much underplay the visual effect of the turbines. The company has inserted the turbines in a very light-grey colour to down play their impact, and has chosen vantage points from which only a few turbines are visible to their full height. For example, the view approaching Little Current is simulated from back on La Cloche, rather than on Goat Island at the Swing Bridge. The view from Town Line Road is simulated from a low level near Bass Lake, rather than higher land by Green Bay Road. Still, it might be possible to use these simulations to poll people on how they will feel about the turbines if you pencil the turbines in the picture with a darker outline.

7) Eventually, the turbines will have to be decommissioned. The company’s presentation says Northland will be responsible for these turbines for 20 years. What kind of legally binding contract do other areas have in place to ensure the company will be responsible for taking the turbines down? What if the company fails in the meantime? Is there any backup from the government (provincial/federal) to ensure the township will not be stuck with the cost of taking these down in 20 years?

As you can see, there are some very serious questions that urgently need answers. You, our elected officials, are charged with making sure that this project does not negatively affect our township and our lives.

We, the taxpayers, will be expecting to see the answers to these questions made public. I’ll look forward to seeing the results of the work of the consultant.

**Judith Jones  
Sheguiandah**

**Wind farm would help balance large carbon footprint in North**

*Aesthetic objection specious given industrial clutter in area*

**To the Expositor:**

It is with some trepidation that I add my voice to the cacophony surrounding the proposed wind farm on McLean’s Mountain. Much of the discussion seems to reflect the current tone of discussing public policy through the “climate of fear.” There also seems to be some convenient NIMBYism.

I find the aesthetic arguments against this development particularly specious. The approach to Little Current from the north is littered with various industrial relics. More-over our culture imposes roads with wide margins, communications towers, electrical and often separate telephone poles, lines and right of ways in our field of vision. And let’s not forget our Island’s penchant for many abandoned and active gravel/sand quarries. Not only do our visual filters gradually adjust to our culture’s clutter but relative to most industrial architecture, these windmills

are graceful.

The suggestion that the Island communities first develop common standards for wind farms seems to be either wishful thinking or stonewalling, as I seem to remember that over 15 years ago Vic Badendorst (among others) worked on an Island-wide approach to garbage disposal, and lately there were still more reports of how individual communities are choosing to dump. As to the concerns raised by local property owners about the effect upon the value of their real estate, this seems legitimate; but I thought that value increases when someone wants to use your property.

My main reason for supporting this large wind farm, and the central issue this project could address, is that it seems to be the most effective way that we can balance the large carbon footprint we make by living in the North due to heating and travel. Such developments as the wind farm are the first bridges between our carbon-based dead end

and development of other widely available energy systems. Wind farms will also bring more and new skilled persons to our communities and these people will likely contribute their expertise in our communities in ways to help us adjust to a less non-renewable-resource-based, carbon-driven economy.

While there are no silver bullets in the real world, I think that this project is a starting place. Will there be some negative adjustments such as a more lit-up night sky? Yes, but on balance I think the wind-farm project presents an opportunity to have our communities, and especially the Northeast Town, begin our contribution towards participating in solutions to lessening our reliance on carbon sources of energy and ushering in a renewable energy culture.

**Ken L. Mackenzie  
Gore Bay**

**Resident unsatisfied with answers from wind developers**

*Bases for turbines will be difficult to build*

**To the Expositor:**

I attended the public information centre at the complex regarding the proposed wind turbines. Upon entering I observed that they had many placards posted and on a number of them they stated that the turbines would not affect migrating bats. I think this statement was indicative of the mistruths as bats don’t migrate.

When I asked individuals from Northland about this statement they finger-pointed others, but no answer was available. I asked one of the principals from Northland where he was from and he said “southern Ontario” and I asked if he had a turbine close to him, to which he replied

“No.” I asked if public money, grants or tax easements were being given, to which there was no answer. I showed him the June 2009 issue of Canadian Geographic which gives great detail on turbines and no-one from Northland was familiar with this article.

I appreciate Councillor MacNevin stating in the July 15 Expositor that no-one on council understands the whole issue.

For the record I informed Northland that I was involved in the first large turbine in Northern Ontario and why it failed; the unit was also foreign-made.

The units being installed will likely fail because it will be

impossible or extremely expensive to put in a proper base because the bedrock is badly jointed and will require a lot of blasting which may affect groundwater and/or a lot of support cables. The lateral forces and motion on these turbines require very good bases. I am making these statements as a geologist and engineer.

I hope that the complacency of the council is not the shades of “green cedar lumber.”

**Fred Delabbio GBSC, P.Eng  
Green Bush Road  
Little Current**