

Honorable Chair ,Members of the Integrated Community Planning Committee and members of the gallery

My parents moved to West Lincoln in 1947 . A time when smaller farms were abundant .Students walked to one roomed schoolhouses in safety. Dairy cows were milked by hand. Milk was separated into cream and churned into butter for personal use . In fall grain was threshed by machines that looked like metal dinosaurs . Delicious food was prepared to feed the hungry workers at the "threshing bees" that brought neighbours together and built a stronger knit community.

Relationships within a community were built on trust and respect . You could purchase groceries from your local merchant on credit and a handshake was as valid and binding as a signed contract on paper.

From my experience in living on a farm all my life , trust has always been the fibre and backbone of a community. That trust was severed and destroyed when farmers in my area signed contracts to host wind turbines .

Secret meetings were held and those who chose not to sign were firmly asked to leave .

Some family members and neighbours kept their signed leases a secret and others denied doing so. This was pointless since their properties were outlined on the developer's maps.

The slow erosion of social justice had begun to infiltrate and spread like a toxic spill as community after community was being targeted for industrial wind development. Can you imagine being blindsided by the fact that stakes being driven into a neighbouring property were marking the entranceway for the construction of a 60 story high wind turbine and you had no prior knowledge of this ?

There are rules and regulations as members of the community that apply to you and to me. Some twenty Provincial Acts and Regulations were modified with the creation of the Green Energy Act to circumvent our rules and regulations to accommodate the industrial wind industry.

It is not surprising that citizens faced with the potential 40% loss in their property values would file class action law suits for property devaluation.

In Jan. 2012 the first lawsuit filed was by the Wiggin's couple in Stayner against the host farmer for two million dollars for property devaluation.

On Apr.13, 2012 twenty plaintiff's also in Stayner filed a seventeen million dollar law suit against host farmers for property devaluation .This area has a proposed eight turbine project.

If you apply the same ratio to West Lincoln with it's 52 proposed industrial wind turbines then class action lawsuits in excess of ninety million can potentially happen in the Niagara Region. This region is known worldwide for it's tourism,agricultural fruit belt and wineries. Stayner is well identified now with it's class action lawsuit as a result of industrial wind turbines. Would we want the Niagara Region to have this same distinction?

The class action law suit conversation has taken place amongst neighbours and farmers suing farmers is a nasty business.

It is very troubling that the Precautionary Principle was never applied to the Green Energy initiative. The onus now falls on the shoulders of the citizen to prove that wind turbines placed within inadequate setbacks are harmful to the health of people, rather than on the proponent to prove that they are safe .

The Michaud family from Thamesville began experiencing health problems almost immediately when the turbines became operational in May of 2011. The closest turbine is 1,146 meters away and is 85 meters to the hub in height and is a 2.5 MW turbine.

Here in West Lincoln the proposed Niagara Region Wind Corporation turbines are 124 meters to the hub and are 3 MW.

Our setback distance is 50%less and the turbines 45% higher .Can the neighbour living next to the host farmer be assured that not a single person will suffer health problems? This would be an unrealistic assumption on our part. It is not a matter of IF it will happen but to WHOM and to what DEGREE. We already know that the elderly and children are the most vulnerable.

In Sept of 2011 the Michaud family filed a lawsuit against the developer for  
for 1.5 million dollars.

On May 13, 2012, at a San Diego Planning Commission hearing, Ontario's own Shelburne victim Barb Ashbee gave a very compelling testimony. She testified on behalf of "Victims of Wind". Numerous residents have been forced to leave their homes citing serious health problems. "Some days our house was vibrating audibly and other days you could not hear it. Some say it felt as though your organs were vibrating ", she stated.

People in 22 other countries are calling for a halt to wind turbine

construction. "Ordinary people remain powerless and continue to suffer in their homes. Some have moved in with friends or relatives or sleep in their basements, she stated.

Barb and her husband ultimately accepted a settlement in 2009 from the wind company to escape the torture.

Wind turbine noise is likely to trigger human rights violations.

When families can no longer live in their homes and abandon them forcing them to become Wind Farm Refugees is it not a human rights violation?

Article 5 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, S,4.1 Article 5 Dec.1984, states: No One Shall be Subjected to Torture or Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Ashbee accused Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health for ignoring health problems by not speaking to a single victim and preparing a report that was favourable to the wind industry. The CMO irreparably betrayed the public trust and shamefully this study has been touted by the wind industry worldwide .

Dr.Robert McMurtry an orthopedic surgeon in London ( with to many credentials and appointments to list here ) was initially in favour of wind turbines. He has recorded his concerns about the effect on human health in a powerful video titled " NO SAFE PLACE". Dr. McMurtry has devoted thousands of hours to learn about "Victims of Wind".

He castigates the Ontario government for rushing and building more wind turbines across the landscape and asks the question how morally and acceptable is it to continue building when it is clear that people are becoming ill and being forced from their homes. He suggests a minimum setback of 2 km.

There are enough precedents for governments allowing (even supporting) things which have not worked out so well for mankind in the end, to give us concern.Thalidomide, asbestos, DDT, lead water pipes, UFFI insulation are all examples of "good ideas" that were to revolutionize their industries at one time or another .

There are so many issues here ----- stray voltage ,dirty electricity, connecting to the power grid can be problematic,the callous placement of turbines to close to barns which house cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, goats and poultry. Who will be their advocate? Wild animals can at least vacate the area. The setback for animal barns is only 120 meters.

This is so, so wrong on all levels, socially ,environmentally and economically. If you haven't done so yet, please take the time to

research this issue. Whether you are a rural citizen or an urban citizen, it is your Ontario also. The evidence is overwhelming.

By-laws can be enacted to protect the safety of citizens and their properties as one small, brave and courageous Niagara council did . We congratulate Wainfleet for their forward thinking and pro-active position to protect the health and property values of the citizens of their municipality.

It is unconscionable that as a result of the Green Energy Act and the Industrial Wind Industry that the health, quality of life, property values and democratic rights of some people have been traded for huge profits to wind corporations and then you and I are saddled with having to pay the highest electrical rates of all the neighbouring Provinces and States.

Will these new electrical rates bring industry and business jobs to the Niagara Region? What do you think?

Respectfully submitted