



MEDIA RELEASE

Wind Action Group Going Legal

SMITHVILLE, ON – February 16, 2011

The standing room only audience silently watched in shocked disbelief at the numerous video clips taken from TV news reports and victim interviews from across Ontario and the United States of the multiple negative impacts associated with Industrial Wind Turbines (IWT). The February 9th gathering of over 140 residents at the Caistor Community Hall was jointly sponsored by the West Lincoln and Glanbrook Wind Action Groups for the 320 homes and families who live within or immediately adjacent to the 2km IWT impact zone who stand to be negatively impacted by this development.

While the debate rages on with the Provincial government and the wind industry stating that there is no scientific proof of negative health or environmental impacts or even property value losses, the firsthand video accounts of the numerous citizens forced to live adjacent to these 50 story high industrial turbines clearly stated otherwise. Ross Moulton a retired dairy farmer from Port Rowan Ontario told how he had planned on spending his retirement years in his lifelong family home but now has doubts that he can stay since the turbines went up. Ross jokes that people say it's all in his head and he agrees it is in his head, "every day the same sinus headache and ringing in my ears" and he says "people should not have to put up with that".

Tragically the audience listened to the news report of two and a half year old Kieara Wylde who's family lived in the middle of a 38 turbine wind farm near Ripley Ontario. Once the turbines went up her mother said Kieara would repeatedly wake up screaming with ear aches night after night resulting in ten visits to the local emergency hospital. This carried on until the wind company rented alternate accommodation at a local motel and suddenly the earaches stopped. The family has now been forced to relocate to a townhouse in the nearby town of Shelburne for their daughter's sake.

Similarly the audience watched the news report of Helen and Bill Frazer who lived next to a wind farm near Shelburne who spoke of complaints of not sleeping, major headaches and terrible body aches all over. The Frazers along with five other impacted neighbours eventually had their properties purchased by the wind company.

With close to one hundred T. V. news reports and video clips from around the world to choose from the chairman of the WLWAG, Neil Switzer said the biggest challenge to the evening's event was narrowing down all the informative videos to the final selection of only nine videos. Interestingly enough he said there was a lot of repetition in the videos as "it's the same bad news story worldwide, only different people and different places".

www.wlwag.com
westlincolnwindactiongroup@gmail.com



From across the border in the United States a montage of personal interviews and community impacts were presented from the States of Maine, New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Kansas, Wisconsin and Oregon. Switzer said one cannot appreciate the seemingly innocent impact of “shadow flicker” from the rotating blades until one actually witnesses the pulsating brightness within someone’s living room that even penetrates through closed drapes. The American experience was the same as is reported worldwide with normal every day residents speaking of the negative health impacts including vertigo/dizziness, insomnia /sleeplessness, high blood pressure, earaches/tinnitus, heart palpitations, migraine headaches and nausea.

Additionally the American residents spoke of the significant property value losses resultant from adjacent turbines and community strife and social disintegration where neighbours are pitted against neighbours. Property value losses of houses shown ranged from 50 up to 80% of their previous assessed value. One farmer who had leased his lands for three turbines spoke of his own health deterioration and noted how the community had changed for the worse and now even little old ladies are “mad as hell”.

Following the video presentation the first question from the audience was how the Ian Hanna’s legal challenge action against the Province had turned out. Deb Murphy, Chairman of the Glanbrook Wind Action Group (GWAG) responded that the divisional court session was completed January 24th and the panel of three judges is currently deliberating the evidence before rendering judgment. She explained that Mr. Hanna’s case is based on the argument that the provincial government did not exercise the “precautionary principal” when it established the 550m setback distance of industrial wind turbines from residential homes.

The prosecution with the assistance of three medical expert witnesses submitted there is great scientific uncertainty surrounding the health effects of industrial wind turbines which the Province did not take into account. This is contrary to the government’s own statement of environmental values which directs decision-makers not to act if there is uncertainty whether harm will be caused as a result of their actions. The Hanna case has asked the court to halt all wind development until a full medical study is performed to remove all uncertainty which if successful would halt all turbine construction across the Province.

Another resident asked how this project could be proceeding as he thought we had a moratorium against wind turbines in our township. Mr. Cam Pritchard, Co-chairman of WLWAG answered that last October the West Lincoln Township Council had passed a moratorium against the installation of industrial wind turbines until health studies can prove they are safe, similar to the moratoriums passed by seventy-five other municipalities across the province. Unfortunately as Pritchard said the



moratoriums are only symbolic resolutions passed by local Councils to send a message to the Province since under the Green Energy Act of October 2009, both regional and municipal governments have been stripped of all planning authority regarding approvals for approvals of industrial wind turbines.

Adele Turek, a local real estate agent spoke of her experience that very day where a potential buyer of a rural property near the proposed turbines had stated he was only prepared to submit a lowball offer for the property as he knew wind turbines were coming and properties weren't worth as much now. Turek stated that before the turbines are even built she's noticed that they depress property values once people know they are coming..

When asked what the community could do to fight this Switzer stated that we can either keep on talking and nipping at the heels of IPC Energy or we could take it up one notch by fighting them in the courts with the submission of an appeal against the Province's upcoming rubber stamp approval. Switzer continued to state that WLWAG and the GWAG had met with Mr. Eric Gillespie, legal counsel for the Hanna's case and the current ongoing legal appeal against the Kent Breeze Wind Farm in Kent County.

Mr. Gillespie has agreed to represent the West Lincoln community and launch an appeal but the executives of WLWAG and GWAG agreed they cannot proceed until two conditions are met. First the two groups need to amalgamate and incorporate as a legal entity with a combined and expanded membership. Secondly, they need confirmation from the wider community that they support this action and are willing to personally contribute towards the financial costs.

To emphasize why one would want to support this cause Switzer noted that if you have a \$300,000 home, erection of wind turbines typically wipes out 30% of your personal house asset value which equates to you taking a loss of \$90,000, assuming you can sell it at all. Furthermore he stated one must consider all the reported health impacts which if conservatively only impacts 15% of the residents in the 320 nearby homes could still result in 100 neighbours destined to become seriously ill.

The audience then heard that the two wind groups have established an initial fundraising goal of \$10,0000 to cover the costs of incorporation, engaging legal counsel and filing the appeal. Switzer stated that the fundraising goal appears feasible if we work together as a community as we need only a \$50 commitment from 200 homes to reach this target. At this point the audience was asked by a show of hands who would financially support this action and almost all hands went up in support.

To strengthen the appeal case and chances for success Switzer informed the audience that the WLWAG would be making a presentation to the West Lincoln Township Council requesting that they join the legal action as co-appellants against this wind turbine approval and provide financial assistance to cover the appeal costs. However should the appeal fail, their group will also be asking Council to request that



West Lincoln Wind Action Group

certain conditions of approval be imposed on this industrial wind turbine development. Conditions including measures to protect property values, monitoring and reporting protocols, health and environmental safeguards, emergency fire protection services and performance bonding for final site decommissioning. In order to gain Council support for these requests a petition of support was circulated at the meeting and the audience was encouraged to ensure that all concerned friends and neighbors sign the petition which is posted at the local Fulton Convenience Store.

In closing Mr Switzer thanked the community for their show of support against the industrialization of their rural neighbourhood and encouraged all to take out a membership, sign the petition and make a donation or pledge to the legal appeal fund. Further information is available online at WLWAG.com or by contacting westlincolnwindactiongroup@gmail.com.

-30-

Attachment: (1) Meeting photo

Media Contact:

Cam Pritchard

Phone: 905-957-2768

www.wlwag.com
westlincolnwindactiongroup@gmail.com