

Guildwood News & Views

Winter 2010 – SPECIAL EDITION

No Wind Turbines in Lake Ontario off the Scarborough Bluffs

In this Special Edition we brought together some of the most informed local opponents to the industrialization of the Lake Ontario shoreline waters.

As President of the GVCA, I am a lightning rod for turbine supporters; and I have started to notice a trend. Many supporters of the wind farm, who claim to be interested in protecting the environment, seem to have abandoned the environment on the lake. I fear that these people are really just concerned with politics and are only using the environment as a cover to hide behind.

Science and engineering have been hijacked and corrupted to sell this to us, and we must fight back with the truth. This is a battle we can win.

Timo Puhakka
President, Guildwood Village
Community Association

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Please check the GVCA website www.guildwood.on.ca for information updates between newsletters.

Dear Residents of Guildwood Village,

The Provincial Government, like many municipalities has a mandate to create green energy. The question is at what cost? Earlier this year the Provincial government announced the Green Energy Act to hasten the implementation of green energy projects including wind turbines. This decision will obstruct the needed environmental assessments to ensure there aren't any medical risks to our community, wildlife, capacity of energy produced as well as a financial analysis to measure the projects feasibility.

Did the Provincial government offer to build wind turbines on Niagara Falls? No. Why support building them off the Scarborough Bluffs, also a world-renowned tourist attraction? An area where all previous studies have shown there isn't enough wind.

Further, I came to this decision after reviewing the proposal to install the wind anemometer and the financial burden the entire project would place on the residents of the City of Toronto, as well as those our community would shoulder. Like many residents, I participate in conserving energy. Wind turbines have been documented to only work at a rate of 18-20% capacity. It would better serve Toronto Hydro to take the money they would spend on this type of project, and use it on energy conservation projects which would get better value for our tax dollars.

The wind anemometer (wind testing device) is being installed. Toronto Hydro Energy Resources will for a two-year period collect wind data to support their desire to install wind turbines in Lake Ontario. It is imperative we as a community voice our opinions on this matter to all of our representatives at the Provincial and municipal level of government. I will continue to speak to City Councillors and Members of Provincial Parliament. I encourage you to speak and write letters to our Provincial representative Minister Margaret Best, all Members of Provincial Parliament who represent the City of Toronto (specifically Scarborough), and the Board of Directors of Toronto Hydro.

I will continue to be committed to working with City Council members, and community groups to lobby against Toronto Hydro Energy Resources' desire to install wind turbines in Lake Ontario off the Scarborough Bluffs.

I would like to thank the Guildwood Village Community Association for distributing this publication to the community. I would also like to thank the community advocacy groups who are investing their time and energy to reach our community on this very important issue.

If you would like to speak to me further, please contact me at 416-392-4008 or email councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca.

Your City Councillor
Paul Ainslie
Ward 43 Scarborough East



Save the Toronto Bluffs

Save the Toronto Bluffs (STTB) is a grassroots group of Guildwood residents who are determined to stop a huge wind turbine factory from being constructed near the shore along the Scarborough Bluffs.

In August 2008 we learned about Toronto Hydro's plan to erect an offshore anemometer to study the wind, a first step toward the installation of 60-100 giant turbines in the fresh water of Lake Ontario. We immediately distributed a "Dear Neighbour" information letter to alert our community. Torontonians had been kept in the dark by Mayor Miller and Toronto Hydro who have been planning development since 2003.

Consider Minister Smitherman's "Green Energy Act" whose purpose is to fast track giant wind farm development by:

- eliminating our democratic rights to oppose inappropriate residential locations,
- removing the Ontario Environmental Protection Act, and
- approving environmental assessments (on health, lake toxicology, noise, effects on aquatic life, ecosystems, etc.) provided by the biased developers only.

This means that all Ontario ministries now have to be active proponents for the wind industry and are reduced to rubber-stamping permit approvals for wind farms anywhere, at any cost. Premier McGuinty is encouraging the rush to develop wind farms all over Ontario via his "feed-in tariff" program.

Developers such as Toronto Hydro may now lawfully pursue costly offshore ventures regardless of low wind yields, migratory bird routes, heritage sites, ecologically sensitive environments, or close proximity to heavily-populated, unwilling communities. Ontario has no five-year wind farm record of experience to evaluate success or failure and is ignoring European long-term wind power

Guildwood residents, please TAKE ACTION NOW before it is too late.

■ **Be informed**

- SavetheTorontoBluffs.ca
- WindConcernsOntario.org
- WindPowerFacts.info

■ **Get Involved**

- Join or support our group or any group working against the offshore development
- Create your own independent initiatives
- Display a lawn sign (order from savethetorontobluffs.com or the S.O.S. sign from torontowindaction.com)
- Write letters to newspapers, city Councillors, MPPs (mbest.mpp@liberal.org), Toronto Hydro (ahaines@torontohydro.com) and the next Mayor of Toronto

■ **Vote for a Mayor and Councillor who will take an informed position and insist on a motion to place a moratorium on all future offshore wind farm development along Toronto's green waterfront.**

experiences that have been proven to be dismal financial failures; just as the Pickering and CNE wind turbines are Toronto's testaments to financial and power-producing failures. Moreover, such projects do not lead to substantial reductions in the emission of carbon dioxide because they have to rely on backup sources of power, provided by coal and gas-burning facilities when the wind doesn't blow.

It is disappointing that our government is proposing a business model that does not require: experience for a wind farm developer; benchmarks for minimum winds; minimum electrical output capacity (experts recommend 35-40%); guarantees that people will not be harmed; agreements that usable power will be produced. Only wind farm developers will profit.

Taxpayers will see their money disappear to the developers and will, as the European experience demonstrates, pay considerably higher rates for electricity.

STTB, through initiatives using grassroots energy and costing thousands of hours and dollars, has over the past year gained the interest and support of the Bluffs' Park Boating Federation, Guildwood Village Community Association and other clubs and associations from Port Union to the Beaches. STTB will continue outreach to others and attempt to enlist city Councillors in the fight to (S.O.S.) save our shorelines.

Our vision of Toronto is to enhance this great waterfront city and conserve the green pristine shoreline of parks, nature trails and wildlife corridors from Scarborough Bluffs to the Beaches.

Let's hope our new City Councillors will apply good governance and common sense, learn the facts and then tell Toronto Hydro to stop the unnecessary industrialization of our waterfront.

*Roy Wright, President
Save the Toronto Bluffs*



Pamela Erickson photo

Overview of Associated Risks with Near-shore Wind Project Proposed for Toronto Scarborough Bluffs

The casebook on why a project should not happen is here and now. Toronto Hydro's proposal to build 60-100 behemoth turbines very close to shore off our Bluffs is a classic example of how money rules, unless we say not, and how an ill-conceived scheme, much like a shell game, could end in disastrous effects for humans, landscape, wildlife and birds and bats.

Here are the classic reasons why you should oppose this project:

- **Economically disastrous.** Your power will cost double or more with more wind projects, and even with optimal wind for this project only 1% of Toronto's hydro can be met. Industry standards only support a reality of 20% of "deemed" results. The project will be highly subsidized (YOUR DOLLARS), and will run into the tens if not hundreds of millions.
- **Health risks are emerging internationally.** There is no reason you and your families should ever suffer health effects from an industry that is proposed (a) too close to your homes and (b) in your drinking water. This is not being done anywhere in the world in fresh water.
- **The effect on the fragile Bluffs could be disastrous.**
- **The effect on migratory birds and nesting and migrating bats will be certainly a disaster.** Don't be fooled by arguments that more birds are killed by cars. It's all cumulative and we are down 50% of all birds and bats from less than 100 years ago. Bird kills are huge – bats are known ecological moderators, and essential to life on the planet. They are fatally attracted to turbines.
- **The nature of the area is historical, cultural and should be declared an international sanctuary.** The Carolinian forest is a rare ancient forest – 1% of Canada's forests space, and yet houses 50% of all bird species in Canada. We enjoy this Carolinian forest band right here in a narrow band to Grand Bend.
- **Near shore turbines will threaten our drinking water supply, stirring up the toxic and radioactive sediments in our Great Lakes.** Installation of huge 40-story turbines will add coolants, lubricating oils, solvents, leaching cement, plus vibrating electric and electromagnetic currents to the lake bed; and we already have thousands of toxic compounds settled in the layers of the sediments. This is not a good idea according to many experts.
- **Property values drop.** Sorry to bring this up, but in a Parliamentary Library research article from 2005, it was noted that after some international studies, property values dropped 30% when turbines were visible from the homes. <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/PRB-e/PRB0508-e.pdf>. A home is for most people their prime investment emotionally, psychologically and financially. Yes, it deserves protection from an ill-conceived plan, too. If there were the

thought that giving up the property value might save a slice of the planet, maybe we would all sacrifice this value. But this is not an industry that is green by any stretch of the imagination. It is mired in cement and made from steel, manufactured parts, plastics, and transported thousands of miles to your community. Turbines are often decommissioned after 10-12 years, not the industry standard hopeful view of 20 years. Do your reading.

- **Aesthetics, yes aesthetics, matter.** People come from far and wide to view the gorgeous shoreline, the last remnant of the retreat of the ice age some 13,000 years ago. It is gorgeous by itself, without man-made atrocities, as some would see it. Please read Dr. Etherington's recently released book, *The Wind Farm Scam*. The Scarborough Bluffs is Toronto's last remaining natural shoreline: it deserves to be preserved for future generations.

Do you need more reasons to oppose this plan?

Write letters and demand that the anemometer come out of our lake immediately and express that you oppose any industrialization to the Great Lakes.

For more websites documenting these concerns and for a list of addresses as to where to send YOUR concerns, please visit www.torontowindaction.com.

Sherri Lange
Toronto Wind Action

Rock the Turbines

The Guildwood Village Community Association and Toronto City Councillor Paul Ainslie are joining forces to raise funds to fight the placement of wind turbines along the Scarborough Bluffs. That takes funds, a lot of funds – for billboards, banners, ads, and possible legal action. That is why the GVCA and Councillor Ainslie are jointly sponsoring a fundraising event, the *Rock The Turbines* dance at Laurier Collegiate, on February 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., featuring Guildwood's own GWood band. This will be an old fashioned 50s and 60s rock 'n roll dance, so come out and support the cause, and bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Admission is \$10.00. Tickets are available now, so don't miss out.

Please contact
tspindel@pathcom.com
or (416) 261-0264
if you would like to order
tickets for this event.

This community is serious about preventing the ruin of a beautiful natural shoreline, the contamination of our drinking water, the potential negative health effects of wind turbines this close to a heavily populated area, as well as the dubious economic and energy benefits of a project like the one Toronto Hydro is proposing.

Guildwood has done its homework, studied what this project means, and the verdict is in – this is a very bad idea. And Guildwood is not alone in its objections to this kind of project – all across Europe and North America resistance is building to the placement of wind turbines too close to populated areas. The European Platform Against Wind Turbines <http://www.epaw.org/> and the North American Platform against Wind Power <http://www.na-paw.org/> as well as countless smaller organizations all

City of Toronto Councillor Paul Ainslie
 The Guildwood Village Community Association
Present

ROCK the Turbines!

Featuring



Guildwood's own 50's and 60's high energy rock n roll band.

A good old fashioned rock n roll dance to raise funds to fight Toronto Hydro's plans to plant wind turbines on our shoreline.

Where: Laurier Collegiate
When: Saturday, February 13, 2010
Time: 7:30 PM
Admission: \$10.00 per person

For advance tickets
 e-mail tspindel@pathcom.com
 or call (416) 261-0264.
 Only 300 tickets are available

Be There or Be Square!

Save Our Shoreline! **Stop the wind turbines!**

www.gwoodband.com flyer by Sandra Kay - www.muttmoments.ca

across Ontario are fighting wind power because they know it is not the “green energy” solution that the Ontario government would have us believe.

Please come out to the dance, have a great time, and show your support on this issue.

References

Health effects of wind turbines

<http://www.wind-watch.org/ww-noise-health.php>
<http://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/?p=100>

Environmental Impact

<http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/news/2005/10/69177>
http://www.sciencedaily.com/videos/2005/10/12-wind_farms_impacting_weather.htm

Economic Impact

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm?aid=842>
http://www.ff.org/centers/csspp/pdf/20060331_wind.pdf

Harry Spindel