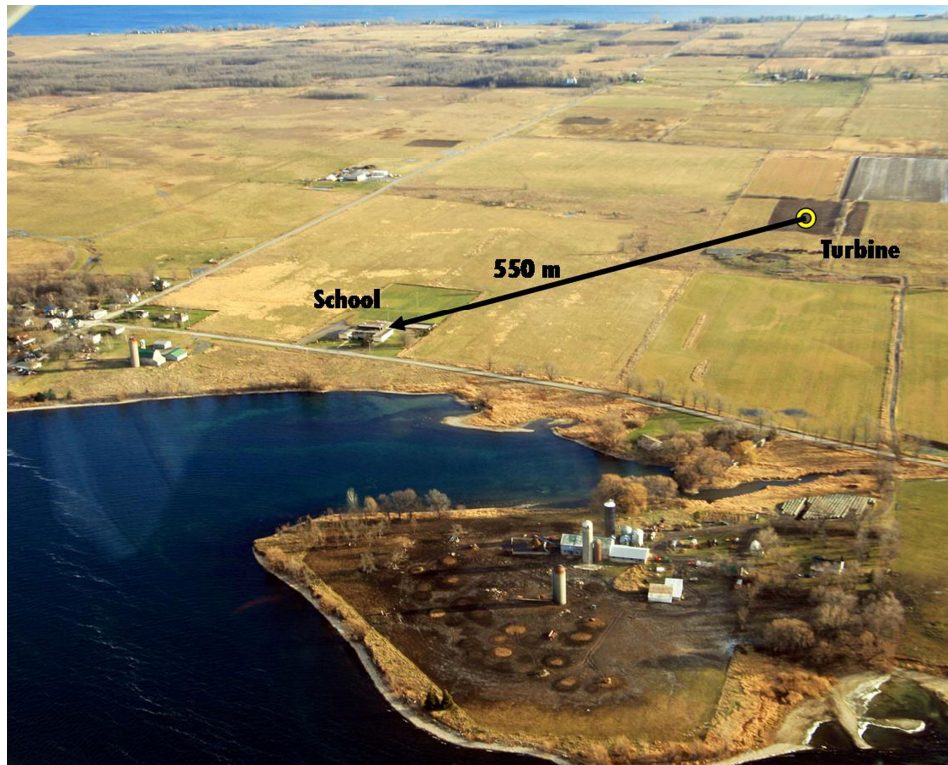


And the children?

The Amherst Island Public School is a small but vital part of the community, providing a fine elementary education for our children. Unfortunately, Algonquin, the wind turbine project developer, plans to place wind turbine #06 a mere 563 m from the school ("receptor" number 557).



AMHERST ISLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL



The 550m setback (already inadequate) is defined as to the center of a building. The AIPS isn't a large building, but it is certainly larger than 26m and thus part of the school is within the 550m setback, not to mention a large part of the playground behind the school.

We won't know for sure until the project is into operation if it will introduce noise into the school. We think the odds are very high that it will and it is well established that noisy schools produce lower achieving students.

"The constant noise produced by wind turbines can have detrimental effects on all children, but especially children with Special Needs. Children with Autism and Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) are particularly vulnerable to the negative effects of intrusive noise. Children and adults who live with these disorders have difficulty processing auditory sensory input; they often do not possess the ability to filter noises. Thus they may hear all noises at the same level. The noise created from wind turbines would produce a noise that can cause continuous auditory sensory overload. This would result in severe interruptions in the person's ability to concentrate and focus. Aggressive behaviors could also increase in individuals with ADD/ADHD. The constant noise can negatively affect the physical and mental well being of all children. The cardiovascular system, central nervous system, memory, language processing and cognition as well as learning abilities can all be affected by intrusive noises, such as the noise made from wind turbines."

Julie Eby B.A., E.A. Preschool Behavior Therapy, "Opening Windows When Doors are Closed"

"The presence of noise in the environment degraded how children's brains processed language sounds, which in turn degraded their ability to learn to read. It wasn't that the noise just kept them from hearing things they needed to learn; the noise actually harmed their brain's ability to process language, even when that language was coming in through their eyes, as it does when we read. Moreover, these effects of noise on reading occur at sound levels far less than those needed to produce hearing damage. Children at higher grade levels are more affected, and longer exposure produces larger deficits, other studies have shown."
Evans GW. 2006. Child development and the physical environment. Annu Rev Psychol 57: 423-51

Depending on the proximity of proposed industrial turbines to their homes, the children may also be exposed not only to turbine noise during daytime school hours, but to nightly noise levels which may cause sleep disturbances. These environmental factors cannot help but have a negative influence on the well being and academic performance of our children, some of whom are already struggling to succeed.

In addition to the noise, there is the risk from being predominantly downwind from a large industrial machine, one that is 100m up in the air, and is documented to throw blade shrapnel a great deal further than 550m. Documentation also exists of the frequency of turbine fires. Because of turbine height, often all fire-fighters can do is to watch it burn. In dry and windy weather, such as this past summer, there is a wider risk, especially for those close to forest areas, grasslands and to housing, farm buildings or indeed, the Amherst Island Public School.

The odds of a disaster are not great, but neither are they trivial. Blade failures and turbine fires do happen.

If the noise becomes a distraction, if children are injured, what recourse will the school have? None.

The parents do have recourse; pull their children out of the school - with predictable consequences for AIPS!

The provincial government could force the movement of the turbine, but to date, that government has shown no inclination to do anything to protect rural residents. Our concern is that the learning environment inside the school will certainly degrade and the students and teachers will be subjected to real and non-trivial risks.

What can you do?

**Contact and/or Donate to:
SAVE AI/APAI
through**

<http://protectamherst.yolasite.com/>