

Wolfe Island Update June 2009

1. Medical Clinic FIRE

A \$1000 donation to the Wolfe Island Medical Clinic, following the fire that destroyed the facility in March of 2009. This was one of the first donations received;

2. Ice Rink

Following a donation of roughly \$100 000 from Don Cherry to build an outdoor ice rink facility at the community centre, construction workers and companies donated time and materials to complete the ice pad, including building materials, concrete, labour and equipment.

It would be important to note that CREC does not accept responsibility for this work, though it was widely promoted in the media. It was completed by employees of Canadian Projects Limited, the construction company contracted by CREC to construct the wind plant. What is strange is that no environmental assessment or monitoring occurred -- it was just done. There are some questions regarding financing of the labour and materials (again, was it excavated material, construction material transferred from a site without an aggregate permit?!) and transparency, but generally it was viewed by the community as a goodwill gesture. Some of the landlease owners -- eager to demonstrate that their financial gain was going to benefit the community -- donated hours of free labour and there were coy suggestions in a community newsletter that landlease owners donated money.

3. 2nd Line Road/ Wetland Encroachment

The request for investigation into the widening of 2nd Line road and encroachment of the Provincially Significant Wetland, Little Sandy Bay, has some purchase on this topic.

CREC required the road to be widened in order to reorganize overhead power lines to the turbine closest to this wetland. A letter was sent to the township October 2008 explaining the requirement of overhead lines and road-widening in this area. The Township authorized the work on the date the letter was submitted by CREC (vote sponsored by a councillor who is also a landlease owner -- he denies conflict of interest charges).

One month later, November 5th 2008, CREC undertook to install an extension to the culvert on this section of road that serves the wetland. November 6th, 200mX6mX5m of shotrock and gravel was dumped into the wetland in the exact area of the overhead lines. Curiously, CREC denies having anything to do with this work. They said it was undertaken by Canadian Project Ltd. under the direction of the Township. CREC paid for the work, including surveying, materials, labour etc. The materials were taken from a turbine construction site elsewhere on the island. There were no preventative environmental measures taken, despite strict provisions in the ERR related to road work

and wetland protection specific to this area.

In other words CREC is denying having anything to do with the work, despite acknowledging that they requested permission to do the work (to accommodate the overhead wires); set the grades and survey; installed the culvert extension the day before the work was done; coordinated the road closure and access to the material (without a permit to transfer construction material under the Aggregates Act); and the labour, equipment and engineering. It is also important to note that this "road widening" took place just before the hauling of turbine blades along this stretch of road to the closet turbine foundation site. There is no way turbine blades could have been conveyed along this stretch without the "widening" (which really is a straightening).

CREC claims that the "road-widening" had nothing to do with the wind plant. Further, CREC considers their financing of this work as a "financial contribution to the Township and Wolfe Island ratepayers".

The Township claims it has no records of the work and refused to supply any information about the work until an appeal to the access to information lawyer was accepted. An extensive pre-construction survey undertaken by the Township and the engineering firm it hired to liaison with CREC and Canadian Projects Limited did not identify this section of road as a haul road, nor did it identify this section of road in need of widening -- despite this, the Township denies the road-widening had anything to do with the project. NOTE: as part of the amenities agreement, CREC pays for all of the Township's legal fees as they pertain to issues regarding the wind project; so in other words, CREC and the Township speak with one voice.

This is the subject of the Environmental Rights Tribunal request for investigation submitted by two residents. The MOE is to respond to the request July 14th. It will be interesting to read their response (we expect the request for investigation will be denied), as it will go far to illustrate that the provisions of the ERR are not enforceable.

We (WIRE and its lawyer) have suspected for a long time that provisions under Environmental Assessments are not enforceable in Ontario, as no legislative authority exists when it comes to wind turbine development. If this is so, then this has implications for all of Ontario.

4. Water Study

Currently there is some strangeness involving, yet again, the Mayor, Jim Vanden Hoek, and money "donated" to the Township. One of the promotional campaigns for the wind project was the amenities agreement. It was hinted at that the money would be used to upgrade the water system for the village Marysville (most operate cisterns and sump pumps). This would require a multi-million dollar investment.

At a meeting in May 2009, the Mayor coyly referred to an "anonymous donation of \$25

000" that was in his possession (not recorded??) by a donor -- winks around -- to conduct a survey and environmental assessment for the water project. Repeated questioning would not loose from the Mayor the name of the donor, the transparency of the record of the money (in whose possession/what Township account?). It seems rather weird and unseemly, and the Mayor has been cautioned that this is not the way public business is conducted. But the way things have been to date, there are many in the community that just assume this has to do with the wind project.

There is a real feeling of apathy on the island, helplessness and a sense that if you raise your head you'll just get it shot off. People are resigned to the notion that Wolfe Island is now, according to the Site Manager and spokesman Mike Jablonicky, "CREC's latest wind park". In other words, I think people are just happy to get out of this what they can. They no longer run the island's economy and political system -- the company does.

Corruption breeds corruption.

5. Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic School Board: Outdoor Education Centre

In the original ERR some very curious statements were made by the proponent regarding the donation of money to the Ryan Outdoor Education Centre, run by a teacher and head of Hearthmakers -- the original instigator of the development of wind on Wolfe Island (for which they received ample public grants from MPP Gerretsen and a tidy profit for selling research to GAIA and CREC). The Draft ERR boasted that the wind project, should it be developed in current form, would include a donation to erect a turbine at the Centre, based on an agreement between the Centre's director (teacher), St. Lawrence college and CHDI. This was imbedded in both the economic benefits and tourism sections, along with false statements that the wind project would result in a direct benefit to the schools based on education taxes (the corporate tax system that was abolished by the Harris government).

A quick investigation led to a discovery that the Centre's "director" had quietly pocketed in an account a \$2200 donation for a turbine at the facility -- the donation was arranged through Rob Miller and the teacher and not reported to the School Board. When it was brought to the attention of the board, the money was returned and a statement made that the arrangement was not authorized.

The Board went ahead and purchased its own turbine. ALCSSB has an arrangement with St. Lawrence College's wind turbine education facility.

This was interesting, given that at the time the Board had reported in the media that the Outdoor Education Centre was on the block due to board-wide cost cutting measures. The "director" of the Centre had made direct appeals to the Township and other outlets to keep the Centre (and his job), and the Mayor had written a letter to the ALCSSB in support of the director and the Centre. This was the context in which the promotion of the donation was made.

The "director" also misrepresented himself in the Tourism Report. In that report he recorded to be a private tourism operator (the Centre was represented as an important tourism business bringing \$\$ into the community). Of course, he was very supportive of the development.

This is noted not because it would constitute a "charitable donation", as the money was returned as soon as the Board realized the indiscretion. This is to give some "flavour" of the shenanigans that have gone on in the community pre and post ERR. This might also indicate why so many islanders are apathetic to arguments of corruption, conflict of interest and influence regarding this situation.

Remember, the Minister of Environment, MPP John Gerretsen, was the Minister of Municipal Affairs when this project was going through by-law approvals. He was the Minister of Environment when the decision to deny an elevation of the environment review came down -- after having been pulled off the file due to a perception of conflict of interest (he accepted a \$1500 donation to his re-election campaign from the same Rob Miller and attended political media functions promoting the development and financed by CREC on the eve of the OMB Hearing on the project in July 2007).