



As 2013 draws to a close, it is time to reflect on the monumental contributions of volunteers who enabled the Association to Protect Amherst Island to effectively oppose the industrialization of this special place in 2013.

Some of you analyzed Windlectric's reports and made the case that Amherst Island is the wrong place for wind turbines - over and over again! You engaged in spirited debate and documented the lack of completeness of the project documents, made submissions to the various Ministries, and met every response with solid fact-based arguments.

Some counted Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Short-eared Owls and other grassland birds following a weekly route and a strict protocol to record their findings. Some allowed bat monitoring stations to be installed on their land and volunteers to download data daily from early spring to late fall. Many of you recorded sightings of Blanding's and Snapping Turtles and snakes in diverse locations across the Island to enable the submission of documented evidence to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Over 300 of you made heartfelt, passionate submissions to the Ministry of Natural Resources to oppose the issue of an "overall benefit" permit that would allow the destruction of habitat for grassland birds. Another 100 plus submissions opposed the issue of permits under the Public Lands Act for docks and infrastructure.

You researched and gained approval for by-laws to designate and protect dry stone walls. You inventoried heritage properties. You were instrumental in the designation of Amherst Island as one of the Top Ten Endangered Places in Canada by the Heritage Canada Foundation due to the threat of wind turbines.

One of you filled our inboxes daily with the latest news and research about the impact of turbines around the world.

One of you shared your immense expertise on noise and shadow flicker not just with APAI but with others opposed to turbines throughout Ontario.

You welcomed Margaret Atwood, Dr. Roberta Bondar and the Kingston Field Naturalists, Nature Canada, Ontario Nature, Ontario Field Ornithologists, the Hawk Migration Association of North America, the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Pembroke Field Naturalists and birders worldwide and as Friends of Amherst Island.

You protested, stood in the bitter cold, and chanted with MPP Randy Hillier! You talked to the Premier twice!!

Some took on research and monitoring of infrasound and worked to understand this silent phenomena.

Some organized fundraisers and brought the amazing Denise Chong to the Island and planned a great dance in January.

Many of you devoted your Monday evenings to attendance at Council meetings and answered the call whenever the trumpets sounded the need for your participation. Others delivered flyers and talked to neighbours and made the case.

You conducted workshops, helped with letter writing, organized and presented at meetings. You attended meeting after meeting without complaint. You created web sites and facebook pages and blogged and wrote newsletters. You helped with computer challenges. You took minutes and wrote hundreds of letters. You made coffee and brought cookies and celebrated milestones. You kept us advised of the political pulse. You took amazing pictures.

Many of you made generous financial contributions so that this important work could continue.

In short, you did whatever needed to be done. Words cannot describe your collective contribution to our community.

Thank you! Your talent, spirit and tenacity are inspiring. May joy be yours this holiday season. My wish for you is that the night sky remain quiet and dark over our treasured Island forever.

Peter Large P. Eng,
President

Algonquin Acknowledges Project Delays

In a recent presentation to shareholders, Algonquin acknowledged that the earliest possible "commercial operation date" for the proposed turbine project on Amherst Island is the first quarter of 2016 "subject to the project going to an Environmental Review Tribunal".

This new target assumes project approval in June 2014 which the Association believes is unlikely, and a construction window of 18 months which is also unlikely given that no construction can occur during the Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark nesting season.

This is a two year setback from the project's original target completion date of February 2014.



The Arts and Letters Club is west of Yonge and north of Dundas. You are encouraged to ride the subway or take a cab as downtown parking is limited.

The Event of the New Year! This is a great opportunity for Islanders to connect in winter and support the cause.

Please make it easy for all of us and send your cheque now payable to APAI, Box 4, Stella ON K0H 2S0

MNR Ignores Blanding's Turtle

We wrote to the Honourable David Oraziotti, Minister of Natural Resources, to request that Windlectric be required to seek permits under the Endangered Species Act for the Blanding's Turtle on the Island.

Karen Bellamy, Peterborough District Manager responded " I support my staff's assessment that there will be no impact to Blanding's Turtles or their habitat as defined under the Endangered Species Act. Blanding's Turtles will still be able to carry out their life processes if the proposed wind farm is approved by the Minister of the Environment."

This response is simply not acceptable and APAI will challenge this advice.

Welcome Roberta Bondar

APAI is honoured to welcome Dr. Roberta Bondar as a Friend of Amherst Island. The world's first neurologist in space, acclaimed photographer, environmental educator, author and humanist, Dr. Bondar strongly supports the preservation of Amherst Island:

"The danger in changing what naturally exists to a technology-driven use of land, air and water is that it will be impossible to recreate that which has been altered. In particular, areas home to birds and bats include flyways for staging, migration and nesting. These life forms do not have the technical capacity to adapt and thus will disappear once their favoured habitat above and/or on the surface are destroyed.

Ontario, as the only political entity bordering all of the Great Lakes, has a special privilege and responsibility to protect the areas that also affect international migrants."

*Roberta Bondar, OC, O.Ont MD PhD
FRCP FRSC ICD.D*

BE THERE! LET'S DANCE!

An Association to Protect Amherst Island Fundraiser

**Dance to the big band sounds of
Nina Richmond and the ATOMICS
Bring your friends and everyone who loves the Island!**

**Saturday, January 18, 2014 8:00 pm
Toronto Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm Street
TORONTO!!!!!!**

**Art Auction of works by celebrated Amherst Island and
Toronto artists**

Tickets \$100 per person or \$175 per couple
Contact ebarr93@gmail.com or protectai@kos.net

The Atomics' repertoire includes classics played by the likes of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and music from modern talents like Michael Bublé, the New York Voices, and Norah Jones. Believe us, the list goes on!
www.protectamherstisland.com