



**association to protect
AMHERST ISLAND**

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Mayor Bill Lowry,
Deputy Mayor Ric Bresee, Councillor Duncan Ashley,
Councillor Ed Daniliunas, Councillor Jim Hegadorn,
Councillor John Ibey, Councillor Penny Porter,
C.A.O. Ms Diane Pearce,
Loyalist Township
263 Main St.
Odessa ON, K0H 2S0

August 29, 2012,

SUBJECT: APAI Response to CAIRE letter to Council, August 7th, 2012

Dear Mayor Lowry, Deputy Mayor Bresee, Councillors Ashley,
Daniliuas, Hegadorn, Ibey, Porter and Ms Pearce,

APAI is aware of how busy Council is. We thank you for the thoughtful consideration you give to, not just APAI but to the majority of Amherst Island residents who value the unique qualities of Amherst Island and who believe strongly that preserving our wild-life, Species-at-Risk and our unique ecosystem should be part of their future here. Our residents are concerned for the health and well-being of themselves, their families and their neighbours. They are concerned, with their retirement or aging in mind, for preserving the value of their homes. They are concerned for the safety of the Island and about the risk from turbine fires, particularly in drought years like this one. They and we look to Loyalist Council to do what it can to protect these very human concerns.

APAI is a registered Association with its current principle objective to stop an industrial-scale wind-turbine installation from being built here. Once that objective is achieved, APAI will turn its thoughts and energies to helping to preserve, celebrate and promote the many Island commercial opportunities that will emerge when the turbine threat is passed.

I am a member of the Association to Protect Amherst Island (APAI) and, on behalf of APAI I am writing a response to CAIRE'S letter to Council, dated August 7th, 2012. This response will address a number of the points in CAIRE's letter in the order in which they occur. We have numbered their paragraphs for easier following:

PARAGRAPH 2:

CAIRE: "On July 16, 2008... we commanded substantial backing from our membership."

APAI Response: CAIRE does not define 'substantial' and their claim of 'backing' is four years old. APAI today has almost 200 paid-up members who oppose the industrial-scale wind-turbine installation proposed by Algonquin Power for Amherst Island.

PARAGRAPH 3:

(a) CAIRE: "Surveys still record that 87% of Ontarians favour wind-power. There is no reason to believe that the people of Loyalist Township are any different."

APAI response: CAIRE provides no proof that 87% of people of Loyalist Township 'favour wind-power', nor does CAIRE show any proof linking Ontario's '87%' with Amherst Island, where we know a majority are opposed to wind-turbines on Amherst Island. The Liberals loss of 10 seats in the last election, including three Cabinet Ministers suggests that there is not the public support CAIRE claims.

(b) CAIRE: "We are very satisfied that the Provincial Government has done its due diligence..."

APAI response: The claim of 'due diligence' is highly questionable.

- CAIRE overlooks the very well-documented peer-reviewed studies showing that there is a connection between turbines and the health of people who live near them and which has led Health Canada to study the matter.
- The Provincial Chief Medical Officer's early report of no harm from turbines has been called into serious question.
- Property devaluation is a fact ignored by the Ontario Government, again not mentioned by CAIRE.
- Damage to the environment and wild-life habitats, especially that of 'Species-at-Risk' (for which Amherst Island is internationally known) is not mentioned by CAIRE or taken into account by the Ontario Government.
- Turbine noise, which causes 'annoyance', stress, sleeplessness and tinnitus in some people has not been mentioned by CAIRE nor taken seriously by the Ontario Government.
- Shadow flicker is not mentioned by CAIRE but is a problem in many parts of the world. It has the potential to affect every-one on the Island if the Algonquin project goes forward.

(c) CAIRE: "This project will bring employment opportunities..."

APAI response: Wolfe Island has had 86 turbines since 2009. The only new employment is one manager who moved to Wolfe Island. Otherwise, there is a secretary, and three others who were hired locally and two who travel from Kingston. The Amherst Island project would have 33 - 37 turbines, suggesting perhaps three employees. Would these even be full time jobs?

(d) CAIRE: "...financial benefits to all tax payers..."

APAI response:

- There will be financial benefits to a few.
- Large profits to developer.
- Property devaluation to all.

(e) CAIRE: "offset global warming"

APAI response: Wind intermittency means variability of electricity production from turbines. Gas generation, nuclear power must always be on 'standby', with the likelihood that global warming will increase, not decrease. Gas and nuclear generators must be kept on 'hot standby, a high pollution mode' at all times. To produce a megawatt of power requires a megawatt of energy in the standby mode.

PARAGRAPH 5:

CAIRE: "...the fundamental right of land owners to utilize their land lawfully to the optimum as they see fit."

APAI response: The GEA took away these 'rights' for landowners and appropriate planning agencies which, in normal times would not have allowed the construction of a 50-storey tower on private land. Land-use rights will be taken away from land-owners once they sign leases with developers. As well, the fundamental rights of non-lease holders' to the use and enjoyment of their property will be removed on those sections of land adjacent to wind turbine locations.

PARAGRAPH 6:

(a) CAIRE: "Algonquin Power...ethical, informative and co-operative"

APAI response: There are many examples where Algonquin Power has failed to properly inform the Community. Examples include: (The majority of the points date from the December Open House):

- Failure to disclose health risks from turbines.
- Failure to disclose property devaluation.
- Failure to disclose why Algonquin is proceeding when Amherst Island is an internationally known Important Bird Area, sheltering many avian Species-at-Risk.
- Failure to explain on what basis they plan to proceed when just 18 landowners are proposed to have turbines and when a large majority of land-owners (150) did not sign for turbines and do not want them.
- Failure to disclose the purpose of the new anemometer tower on the Art McGinn Road.

(b) CAIRE: "They will bring some prosperity and good will to the Island."

APAI response: With regards to prosperity and good-will.

- The fact remains that only a few Islanders will benefit financially from the decimation of the island.
- All will suffer property devaluation.
- Revenues from property taxes will decline.
- As has occurred everywhere that turbines are installed too close to homes, some houses will be unsaleable.
- Some Islanders will get sick from turbine noise, vibration and shadow flicker.
- At this point, the island community is seriously divided on the topic of turbines. There is already a decided lack of good will.

PARAGRAPH 7:

CAIRE: "for the people of Ontario..."

APAI Response: see 6b above.

PARAGRAPH 8:

(a) CAIRE: "87% of Ontarians support wind-energy projects."

APAI response:

- Comparing Amherst Island to Ernestown is an inappropriate comparison.
- Amherst Island does not want or support turbines.
- Premier McGuinty has said that communities that don't want them will go to the bottom of the list.
- 87% of Ontarians were not asked the next questions: 'Are you in favour of a wind-turbine on your property? On your neighbour's property?' 'Would you be in favour or opposed to wind-generated electricity if it put your health at risk? Devalued your property?'

(b) CAIRE: "Council ran on a platform of encouraging increased industry."

APAI Response: Council did not run on a platform of permitting turbines on Amherst Island among the community where people live, and with disregard for the unique, internationally known Important Bird Area which brings hundreds of people annually to the Island.

PARAGRAPH 9:

CAIRE: "We therefore encourage the Municipality to quickly proceed..."

APAI response: With all due respect, we know that Council will take the unique qualities and characteristics of Amherst Island into careful account before making a decision to 'proceed'. Particularly, we urge Council not to proceed until Health Canada's study is complete and its results understood.

PARAGRAPH 11:

CAIRE: "The Roads Agreement... can not think of a more appropriate benefit for all the tax payers."

APAI Response: What agreement? "The appropriate benefit for all" is not defined. Road construction for the massive machinery and turbine components will devastate our narrow roads and their historic alignment. Island heritage artifacts, stone walls, old buildings and habitats for the many 'Species-at-Risk' would be crushed or irreparably damaged.

PARAGRAPH 12:

CAIRE: "The Vibrancy Agreement will bring up to \$375,000"

APAI Response: For 16,000 residents of Loyalist Township, this works out to \$23.44 per year, per person, a poor return for a destroyed community, very little new employment, 20-years of turbine misery, a crushed environment and reduced property-tax revenue.

The \$100,000 in tax revenue cannot be considered a benefit from the turbines.

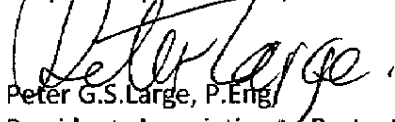
PARAGRAPHS 13, 14:

CAIRE: "The Island...has not been able to pay its own way."

"Substantial subsidy...for the ferry..."

APAI Response: Community cost burdens are shared by all to give reasonable equivalent services to both 'have' and 'have not' communities. This is a Canadian principle of social sharing and is NOT a benefit from turbines. This point should be removed from any discussions about turbines.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter G.S. Large, P.Eng.

President, Association to Protect Amherst Island

cc: Premier Dalton McGuinty

Hon. John Gerretson, MPP

Hon. Christopher Bentley, Minister of Energy

Doris Dumais, Director, Environmental Approvals Access and Service integration Branch

Ms Andrea Horwath, MPP

Mr. Tim Hudak, MPP

Hon. Senator Robert Runciman

Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources

Mr. Randy Hillier, MPP