



## association to protect AMHERST ISLAND

### **APAI NEWSLETTER – February 2011**

#### **WINDLECTRIC 75MW CONTRACT**

As many of you will know, Windlectric was offered a contract by the Ontario Power Authority to provide up to 75 MW to the Ontario grid. Windlectric is a partnership between Gaia Power and Algonquin Power. If the offer is accepted by Windlectric, then it would mean about 30 turbines on Amherst Island. These are still early days. Mr. Murray Beckel, Loyalist Township planner, was quoted in the Whig Standard: “We’re basically at step 1 in a 10-step process. We’re at least a year away from any ground-breaking or building. It will probably take longer.”

In a press release, Algonquin Power announced that it will be developing the project. The company also announced that it would be feeding approximately 247 GWh of energy into the Ontario grid annually. This number presumes a 38% capacity factor (actual average power divided by the 75 MW nameplate power). This compares with 24% for the Wolfe Island development in its first full year of operation and 27% for the 2010 calendar year. The Ontario wind atlas makes it clear that Amherst Island is significantly less windy than the western half of Wolfe Island where the wind farm is located. A more realistic estimate for the Windlectric development is 130 to 160 GWh. If the Windlectric development needs the 247 GWh to be viable, it is unlikely to go ahead.

#### **ACTION BY THE APAI BOARD AND ADVISERS**

These are early days. Nobody knows where the turbines or transformer sub-station (a substantial source of noise) will be; how the turbines will be connected to the substation and on to the under-water cable to the Lennox power station; what will be the impact on the ferry and the roads; what tree cover we will lose. In the press release Algonquin writes: “We have a strong track record of working closely with our community stakeholders and look forward to contributing to the local benefits of wind energy.” Does this mean keeping turbines at least 1.5 km from residences and other sensitive receptors? Does this mean limiting shadow and flicker to the internationally accepted maximum of 30 hours per year under the worst case scenario (full sun and continuous blade rotation)? We will be addressing all of these issues and more.

A letter has been sent to Mr. Sean Fairfield of Algonquin Power. It gives in detail the reasons for not developing wind energy on Amherst Island, at least not in the form used by the wind industry across Ontario to date. If you would like a copy of the letter, please request one from [protectai@kos.net](mailto:protectai@kos.net). The file is too large to

attach here given that many are on dial-up. A limited number of copies are available by writing to our mail address given above.

Signs are a controversial issue. Sentiments in favour of signs are far from unanimous within the Board and Advisers group. However, for those who do wish to put up a sign on their own property, a number will be available at the AGM.

### **APAI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

An Annual General Meeting of APAI has been set for Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the Community Centre (the school). This will be the first AGM since incorporation. An important item of business will be the first election of members of the Board and Officers. A further announcement will follow.

### **APAI MEMBERSHIP**

Now that a wind development is closer to reality for Amherst Island we need to up-date our membership list, bring in new members and re-establish a membership fee. It would help the Board members if you could re-affirm your membership. This can be done by e-mail to [protectai@kos.net](mailto:protectai@kos.net) or by mail to the address above. Those not responding will be contacted by a phone committee.

Please encourage others, who are concerned about potential health effects and adverse environmental effects of 30 industrial wind turbines on Amherst Island, to join APAI.

Membership fees will be collected at the AGM. The fee will be modest. If at a later time the development receives approval from the Ministry of the Environment and a legal challenge is deemed necessary, the Board will go to the membership for more substantial donations.

### **KENT-BREEZE APPEAL**

This Environmental Tribunal hearing is at the half-way point. The Tribunal has heard from about a dozen witnesses for the appellants and in the next two weeks will be hearing witnesses for the Ministry of the Environment, Suncor and the Canadian Wind Energy Association. A member of the Society for Wind Vigilance who has attended all of session said that on occasion the ability and quality of the appellants' witnesses brought tears to her eyes. The appellants belong to a community group just like ours. If they succeed, it will help all of us. To provide support to them, consider making a donation. Cheques should be made out to: Douglas Desmond, In Trust (mention Kent-Breeze Appeal). The address is: Douglas Desmond, Barrister and Solicitor, PO Box 129, 27, Main St. E., Ridgeway, ON N0P 2C0.

### **WORKSHOP ON WIND TURBINES AND MIGRATING BIRDS**

The Kingston Field Naturalists workshop will be held on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, in the Outdoor Centre at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, just north of

Kingston on Division St. There is no entry fee to the Conservation Area for workshop participants.

Registration: 9.30am - 10.00am

Bird Migration Routes over and around Lake Ontario.

- \* Waterfowl Movements - David Okines of the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory
- \* Raptor Movements - Gerry Smith of the Derby Hill Bird Observatory in New York State
- \* Songbird Movements - notes by Ron Weir, editor of Birds of the Kingston Region

Lunch: 12.00 - 12.45

Measuring bird migration and the potential impact of windfarms

- \* Wolfe Island Windfarm Monitoring Program - Andrew Taylor and Valerie Wyatt from Stantec.
- \* Potential Impact of Wind Energy Projects on Important Bird Areas - Ted Cheskey from Nature Canada
- \* Designing a Beached Bird Survey - Barrie Gilbert, Wolfe Island.

Break

- \* Impact of the Ostrander Point Windfarm Project? - Cheryl Anderson and Myrna Wood, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
- \* Balancing Support for Wind Energy - John Bennett, Executive Director, Sierra Club Canada.

Discussion.

Close: 4pm

Everybody is welcome to attend this workshop. The cost will be \$10 for registration, (and free coffee and snacks throughout the day), plus \$5 for lunch (pizza) or bring a contribution to a salad buffet.

Participants should register in advance, but pay on March 8th. To register, or for more information, please contact Chris Hargreaves ([hargreavescp@sympatico.ca](mailto:hargreavescp@sympatico.ca) 613 389 8993)

**WINDFALL – THE MOVIE**

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011; Clayton Opera House, 405 Riverside Drive, Clayton, NY.

There are two free showings: 12:30 and 4:00pm. Reserve your seats by sending an e-mail to: [windfallinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:windfallinfo@yahoo.com)

“Windfall”, Laura Israel’s feature-length film, documents how a wind development proposal divides Meredith’s residents, as they fight over the future of their community. Beautifully photographed, “Windfall” looks at both sides of wind energy development.