



# What is all this fuss about wind energy and turbines?

Has the Green Energy Act failed the ratepayers?

Observations by a layperson on the proliferation of Industrial Wind Turbines in Ontario's countryside and the resulting backlash that has split rural communities apart

By **Roy Merkley**

Note: This synopsis was written in November 2013



# Preface

In the summer of 2010 my wife decided it would be a good idea to go to Dashwood Ontario and visit an informational open house put on by NextEra Energy that showed their plans for the implementation of new industrial wind facilities in our general area. Since we had seen some installations of these turbines near Shelburne Ontario and had a rather negative first impression of them, off we went to Dashwood. Immediately, many concerns surfaced about this whole issue.

Subsequently we learned of a meeting to be held in Clinton Ontario on September 16, 2010 put on by a group called '*Central Huron Against Turbines*' (CHAT for short) and another group called '*Huron East Against Turbines*' (HEAT for short). We decided to attend this meeting and it was a real 'eye opener'. There were over 800 people gathered in a large horse barn who all seemed to share major concerns about these wind turbines being introduced into their rural neighbourhoods. They had three excellent speakers who included Dr. Robert McMurtry from Prince Edward County who was and still is a very learned and respected advocate for proper studies and consideration for health issues arising from the proximity to wind turbines.

Our concerns and interest were now elevated to the point that we felt we had to learn more about this issue and do what we could to assist those who were fighting to protect their health and way of life.

Thus, began our long involvement in researching and studying the impact of wind turbines on our Ontario neighbours. The more we learned, the more interesting the issue became until much time was spent each day reading the overwhelming amount of information on wind energy and following the efforts of so many others who were passionately speaking out against the heavy handed way in which industrial wind turbines were being forced on rural communities.

It should be noted that we are not directly affected by the placement of turbines in that we will not see them from our home or experience some of the negative effects of those who have to reside in the shade of these installations. Our concern is for the overall impact on everyone in Ontario and the future of the province.

The pictures included with this report are current and are all in Bruce County north of Kincardine.

All comments or criticisms that refer to the Ontario Liberals are not intended to be political in nature but are directed against specific actions and decisions that were made by the governing party at that time.

# In the Beginning

In May 2009 the Ontario Liberal government led by Dalton McGuinty passed into law the **Green Energy Act** that was introduced to the legislature by George Smitherman the presiding energy Minister. This act followed the recommendations of the 'Green Energy Act Alliance' that was chaired by Deborah Doncaster a staunch green energy advocate.

The Alliance's vision was and I quote:

*"The Alliance's vision is to make Ontario a global leader in green energy development through the use of renewable energy, distributed energy and conservation, creating thousands of jobs, economic prosperity, energy security, while ensuring climate protection. Founding groups include: the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, Community Power Fund, the David Suzuki Foundation, Environmental Defence, the First Nations Energy Alliance, the Ivey Foundation, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, United Steelworkers Union and the Pembina Institute."*

This was a very noble goal but the implementation of the act left all of the power in the hands of the province with no checks and balances or control allowed to any lower tier municipalities or agencies. In other words the provincial government could do whatever they wanted without recourse from any opposing parties.

Since this narrative focuses only on wind as a source of renewable energy I will only describe viewpoints relating to what has transpired in the implementation of 'Industrial Wind Farms' as a result of the Green Energy Act. I use the term 'Wind Farm' reluctantly as these large installations of wind turbines are truly industrial in nature and not at all like any farm that has ever been in existence. However, the term has been originated by the wind industry and seems to be part of their jargon.

In 2009 when the Green Energy Act became law there were already approximately 20 wind farms in Ontario consisting of about 720 turbines that operated under the conditions of the day whereby they competed for access to the grid with the other electricity suppliers on a daily basis. Their practical contribution to our electricity supply was very minimal and their overall subsidies were not yet overpowering and seemed to be under the radar of the ordinary ratepayers in Ontario. To many people, wind turbines were a novelty that seemed more like science fiction than a reality that would change rural Ontario so drastically.

These wind developers did however have subsidized contracts called 'Renewable Energy Standard Offer Programs' (RESOP) with the Ontario Power Authority that guaranteed a rate of 11 cents per kWh for their energy output but their overall economic impact on the system was little.

In order to attract more developers to partner in accomplishing their goal of increasing the supply of wind generated electricity into Ontario's power mix the government introduced the 'Feed in Tariff' program for new developers when they introduced the Green Energy Act.

That was the situation that existed in 2009 when the people in rural Ontario slowly started to realize what was going to happen in their communities.

# Basic Information on Electricity Supply

At this point an explanation of the major players in the supply and distribution of electricity as well as some terminology is in order.

A '**Kilowatt**' (**Kw**) is a unit of electrical power and equals one thousand watts. A megawatt (Mw) is one million watts.

A '**Kilowatt Hour**' (**kWh**) is a unit of electrical energy and equals one thousand watts consumed over an hour. In other words a 60 watt light bulb left on for 16.666 hours uses 1 kWh of energy. This is what consumers pay for.

The '**Ontario Power Authority**' (**OPA**) is the controlling body that coordinates province wide conservation efforts, plans the electrical system for the long term, issues contracts for energy sources and works closely with partners and stakeholders.

The '**Independent Electricity Supply Operator**' (**IESO**) is the body that oversees the operation of Ontario's bulk electrical system and the wholesale electricity market.

**'Base Load Power Generation'** refers to electricity generated by sources that can be relied upon to produce a specific amount of output on a continuous basis. Examples of this are nuclear, gas fired, hydroelectric and coal fired. *Note: for example nuclear is a very efficient supplier with zero emission problems however its output is constant and difficult to moderate*

The '**Hourly Ontario Energy Price**' (**HOEP**) is the basic wholesale rate for electricity which is determined by supply and demand. This is also referred to as the spot market energy price and can change from hour to hour.

## **HOW THE WHOLESALE PRICE IS DETERMINED (from IESO website)**

*Running Ontario's power system and the wholesale electricity market is a 24-hour operation, with offers to supply electricity coming in and prices being set every five minutes.*

*Here's a step-by step explanation of how Ontario's IESO maintains a reliable supply of electricity and, at the same time, determines the wholesale price of electricity.*

### **Step 1 - How much electricity do we need?**

*Each day, the IESO issues forecasts of how much energy will be needed throughout the following day and up to the month ahead - including an "energy reserve," of roughly 1400 MW above what is actually consumed. This is extra supply that is on standby and called upon in emergencies. These forecasts are continually updated as new information comes in -- such as changes in weather.*

*Typically, the IESO's day-ahead forecasts are highly accurate, with less than a two per cent variance from the actual demand figures.*

### **Step 2 - Let the bidding begin.**

Generators and importers of electricity review the forecast information and determine how much electricity they can supply and at what price. They send these "offers" to supply electricity into the IESO. Similarly, large-volume consumers of electricity that have the ability to change their consumption patterns on very short notice decide whether there are times of the day when they can cut back on energy use, and offer that into the market as well.

### **Step 3 - Matching Supply with Demand.**

The IESO then matches the offers to supply electricity against the forecasted demand. It first accepts the lowest priced offers and then "stacks" up the higher priced offers until enough have been accepted to meet customer demands. All suppliers are paid the same market-clearing price. This is based on the last offer accepted. **Some suppliers have signed contracts with the OPA to guarantee a fixed price for the energy produced. The difference between the market-clearing price and the contract price paid is trued up with funds collected through the Global Adjustment.**

### **Step 4 - The Price is Set.**

The IESO collects bids and offers until two hours before the energy is needed, so "pre-dispatch" prices, or the price of electricity before the bidding window has closed, can fluctuate as new bids come in. The IESO will issue its instructions to power suppliers based on the winning bids, who then provide electricity into the power system for transmission and distribution to customers. The IESO runs a real-time market, meaning purchases of electricity are made as they are needed.

There are occasions, when the best priced energy may not be available due to limitations on the transmission lines. In this case, that generator's offer is still used to help set the price, but another generator may be asked to provide the electricity.

The '**Global Adjustment**' (**GA**) is a 'catch all' that includes other costs in producing electricity such as conservation costs, management programs and subsidies to suppliers such as the wind developers. It is added to the wholesale rate and is charged to all ratepayers. **The global adjustment is a major factor in the final cost of electricity to the rate payer and will be the 'killer' as our energy mix changes with more renewables (especially wind energy) added to the equation.**

### **What is the Global Adjustment? (from IESO website)**

*It accounts for differences between the market price and the rates paid to regulated and contracted generators and for conservation and demand management programs. As a result, its value may be positive or negative, depending on the fluctuation of prices in the spot market.*

### **The rate is set to reflect the difference between the market price and:**

- The regulated rates paid to Ontario Power Generation's nuclear and hydroelectric baseload generating stations;
- Payments made to suppliers that have been awarded contracts through the Ontario Power Authority such as new gas-fired facilities, renewable facilities (like wind farms) and demand response programs;

*-Contracted rates administered by the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation paid to existing generators.*

***Who is affected by the Global Adjustment?***

*This adjustment applies to business customers who pay the spot market price and customers who have signed a contract with a licensed electricity retailer.*

***Why does the Global Adjustment vary from month to month?***

*The Global Adjustment increases and decreases in response to changes in spot market prices. When the spot market price of electricity is lower, the Global Adjustment is higher in order to cover the additional costs of energy contracts and other regulated generation. It also changes when new projects come into service and the contract payments take effect.*

The ***'Feed in Tariff' (FIT)*** is a contract offered to renewable energy providers that guarantees them a specific price for electricity produced for a specific term with preferential access to the grid. At present the 'FIT' rate for industrial wind generation is 11.5 cents per kWh for a 20 year period and their generating output is to be used before all other sources are considered. Also 20% of the contract price can escalate based on the consumer price index during the operating period.

*(note: for example, present spot market or wholesale rate at this hour is 2.99 cents per kWh. Thus FIT participants at 11.5 cents/kWh are being paid 3.85 times the wholesale rate right now. In comparison nuclear energy from Bruce B generating station has a contract price of 5.2 cents/kWh)*

***'Name Plate Capacity'*** is the rated maximum output capacity that an electricity power source can provide on an ongoing basis. In other words a wind turbine with a 2 megawatt name plate capacity can only provide 2 megawatts of power when conditions are perfect with the wind speed not too low or not too high.

## **Advantages to Renewable Energy Sources**

Obviously there are many advantages to the utilization of renewable sources such as wind and solar for generating electricity. Here are a few that come to mind:

- Wind and sunshine are forces of nature that will always be available and are not proprietary to anyone or any nation, yet are available universally for free.
- These forces are regarded as environmentally neutral and neither add or subtract from the balance of nature.
- Utilization of wind and solar gives most people (especially avid environmentalists) a sense of accomplishment in protecting the future of our planet.

- An industry based on harnessing the energy of wind and solar provides employment on many fronts including research and development and manufacturing.
- **Every Kwh of electricity produced by renewables is a Kwh that did not have to be produced by fossil fuels.** *(This is perhaps the main advantage)*

All of these advantages are very compelling however as you will see, many have caveats attached to them and are debatable.

## Disadvantages to Renewable Energy Sources

I will focus on the disadvantages to wind generated energy although many of the arguments apply to solar as well. Here are the main disadvantages that are prevalent today:

- Wind and sunshine are intermittent and vary in intensity thus are **not capable of providing 'base load' power generation.** In other words they are a fuel source that only provides fluctuating power part of the time.
- For the above reason wind and solar power sources **must be backed up with traditional 'base load' sources** if the outputs from wind and solar are regarded as essential. *(If they are not regarded as essential then why are we using them in the first place. They can only be used in lieu of 'base load' sources and not as a replacement for 'base load' sources. The argument that they can replace or eliminate coal fired generation is absolutely false.)*
- Harnessing wind and solar energy is not free or easy. Manufacturing wind turbines as an example, requires a large amount of materials and energy that use fossil fuels. They also contain 'rare earth' metals, 'carbon fibre' blades and hydraulic oils etc. that are all regarded as environmental hazards. A turbine installation is extremely costly and requires massive amounts of concrete and steel in its base. Most of the commercial wind turbine installations today have about a two megawatt name plate capacity and cost about \$3 to \$4 million dollars each to construct.
- Wind turbine installations in rural Ontario are being **located on some of the best farm land in our province.** By the time access roads to the sites and transmission lines are buried plus the construction damages that result from the whole operation, significant areas of this good farm land are ruined for many years to come. *What will ever happen to the unimaginable amount of concrete and steel that will be left in the ground forever.*
- Wind turbines have a 'limited lifetime' expectancy. Many question if it is even 20 years, thus massive costs will eventually be incurred in either replacing them or taking them down and decommissioning the installations.
- There is factual evidence that some people who reside in areas close to wind turbines **acquire health problems for whatever reason that seriously affect their lives.** Some have had to abandon their homes and reside elsewhere.

- There is factual evidence that the value of **real estate in close proximity to wind turbines has been reduced** resulting in ordinary citizens taking a loss on their investments and the tax base revenue to municipalities being reduced.
- There is factual evidence that **birds and bats in particular are being killed by turbine installations**. Construction of these installations is destroying some wildlife habitat thus upsetting the balance of nature in many cases.
- Conflicts between neighbours and even family members have resulted in rural areas where strong feelings on each side of the issue cause strife and discord. In many cases the peaceful and friendly atmosphere that was a traditional asset in rural communities has been ruined.
- The wide spread location of the large numbers of wind turbines is so **decentralized and so far from the markets** that they serve that heavy investment in expansion of the power grid is required. This again takes up more rural land for power corridors and increases cost not only due to construction and maintenance but also in resulting line losses in power due to the long distances the electricity is transported.
- **The pastoral beauty of rural farmland and countryside will be permanently altered** with intrusion of the proliferation of these giant wind turbines with their ever revolving blades and red warning lights at night. This falls into personal opinion as some people see them as magnificent structures of modern engineering while others hate them and find them obtrusive.
- **Wind turbine generation is inherently very inefficient** for reasons already mentioned. Over a long period of time it is questionable if their overall energy output reaches even 30%. It is likely that about 25% efficiency is closer to the truth. This means that a turbine that has a name plate 'power capacity' of 2 megawatts will only provide approximately .6 megawatt hours of intermittent useable electrical energy on an ongoing basis.
- Wind energy is notorious for **providing electricity to the grid when you least require it** and conversely being **absent at peak demand periods**. In the hot dog days of summer when the demand is very high, wind energy is virtually non- existent most of the time.
- With FIT contracts to wind developers giving **preferential access to the grid** over traditional base load suppliers, it means that when wind is pumping out peak outputs from their turbines and the demand does not need it, **other generating sources have to be cut back** or the excess capacity has to be sold out of province generally at a loss. Cutting back and constantly varying the output from these base load suppliers makes them less efficient economically and less efficient with their emission controls. **As the supply of renewable wind and solar energy to the grid keeps increasing this problem gets exponentially worse**. In other words, if for example our nuclear plants are not viable since they have been converted to a back-up function yet we need their output when '*the wind don't blow*', what do we do? I guess like in Germany, we build more fossil fuel plants that can be easily moderated, but at what cost? It would seem to me that this just drives us further into a black hole without gaining any environmental benefit, *if there ever was one in the first place*.

# History of the anti-wind Protest Movement in Ontario

In 2009 many people in rural Ontario started to be skeptical of the rhetoric that was being distributed by the government and the wind developers. Some citizens researched information on what was happening in other areas in the U.S. and Europe where wind farms had already been operating for some time. They became concerned that there seemed to be issues with wind farms affecting local residents in adverse ways. Small groups grew larger and became loosely organized into action groups focused on gathering information and spreading the word regarding their concerns. They were comprised of volunteers with no funding except for donations at their meetings. At one such meeting in a rural school gymnasium cash donations were welcomed by a volunteer manning a farmer's milk can. **It was now evident that this had turned into a 'David and Goliath' struggle** with these grass roots rural citizens up against big government and the giant corporate businesses with lots of clout, power and deep pockets. As representatives from these small groups approached the government and wind developers with their concerns, they were trivialized and immediately branded as NIMBYs (*not in my back yard*). Their arguments to ministry officials and to their Liberal MPPs as well as Dalton McGuinty were either discredited or ignored.

Thus, these groups turned into the anti-wind protest movement that has grown into what we see today.

- They increased their lobbying of municipal councils to educate their locally elected officials about this issue and demanded they listen to their concerns for their health and 'well being'.
- They held information meetings in local churches and school gymnasiums.
- They had protest marches with signs and banners whenever a Liberal government member showed up in their communities to promote the green energy act.



- They created internet websites and used social media to communicate their message. *Two excellent sites are Wind Concerns Ontario 'windconcernsontario.ca' and Ontario Wind Resistance 'ontario-wind-resistance.org'* A good US website is *National Wind Watch 'www.wind-watch.org'*
- Thousands of letters and e-mails were sent to ministries and government officials asking to be heard and explaining their concerns.
- Untold numbers of 'letters to the editor', articles and interviews were presented to the media challenging the placement of the turbines in rural Ontario.
- People who had been directly affected with health issues and had to abandon their homes and property stepped forward to tell their personal stories hoping it would help others in the same situation.
- Thousands of hours of volunteer time were donated to the cause without any thought of receiving anything in return except for the hope of making a difference in protecting the rural environment that they had cherished for so long.

Confidence of the movement increased as it became apparent that the Ontario protest was not alone in its skeptical view of wind turbines. Information from around the world showed that there was backlash against wind farms in populated areas almost everywhere. Health issues, property values and economic concerns were fueling protest groups in the U.K., Europe, Australia and the U.S. as well. Masses of information appeared on websites and in the global media that challenged the validity of the rhetoric that was presented by the proponents of wind energy. Some learned professionals like engineers, scientists and professors were beginning to show weaknesses in the projections and models that had been used to justify the massive global expansion of wind energy.

This seemed to drive the supporters of wind to fight even harder to protect their point of view and in most cases their source of wealth. Huge amounts of money were spent on lobbyists, lawyers, public relation and sales groups to protect the interests of the developers and governments who were driving wind energy forward.

Also, factual evidence was now proving that problems did exist. The economic cost of heavy subsidies were showing up in the mix of the financial crisis facing some of the countries involved with high investment in wind and solar (Spain for one example). Some people who were living in close proximity to turbines were now appearing to have real health issues caused by the turbine noise. There seemed to be little if any factual proof that there was any real improvement in air quality or the environment for all of this investment in green energy. The complaints went on and on.

As I write this narrative in 2013 the anti-wind protest movement has grown considerably. Now there are approximately 50 such groups in Ontario alone consisting of many thousands of people speaking out against the Ontario Liberal governments actions to install the multitude of wind turbines in our province.

**This has turned out to be the largest protest movement against government actions in Ontario that has occurred in my lifetime if not ever.**

There are 73 municipalities in Ontario who have declared to the provincial government that they are not a 'willing host' for industrial wind turbines within their jurisdictions or who have passed restrictions and by-laws against their installations. This is a high majority when you include only the areas that will be affected by proximity to wind farms. The rest of the municipalities seem to be holding back, likely hoping this never appears in their back yard.

There are about 45 organized websites distributing all sorts of relative information about wind energy. It is apparent that this movement has made a difference and will continue to do so. How much of a difference remains to be seen as it is very difficult to back up such a massive initiative once it gets rolling with so much money and politics involved.

Even the Ontario Power Workers Union has spoken out with media ads criticizing the Green Energy Act and the expansion of wind and solar sources for electricity supply.

## **A Snap Shot of a Few People Who Influenced the Anti-Wind Movement in Ontario**

The following are just a very few examples of key players in the anti-wind protest movement. There are so many great people from all walks of life devoting their lives to making a difference in this fight for justice in rural Ontario. These few profiles are intended to give you an idea of the variety of people who give so much and only ask that they be heard and have their message be given respectful consideration.

### **Dr. Robert McMurtry:**

Robert McMurtry retired to Prince Edward County after a distinguished career in medicine. He is a member of the 'Order of Canada' and was former Dean of Medicine at Western University. He also was the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Population and Public Health Branch of Health Canada as well as Special Advisor to the Romanow Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada. Dr. McMurtry was a self-proclaimed environmentalist who initially thought the introduction of wind energy was a good idea and would help the environment. However, he became concerned when health related illnesses were reported in the areas close to wind farm installations. After researching the issue further he became an advocate for a moratorium on any more industrial wind turbine installations until a proper independent health study was conducted and became a guest speaker at information meetings throughout the province. *(as mentioned in the preface he was the first expert that I heard speak on this issue)*

McMurtry also worked with specialists in this field from other major countries and presented information to the McGuinty government. He testified at hearings where he was challenged by some of the best paid lawyers that the developers could hire. He also supported the 'North American Platform Against Wind Power' and the 'European Platform Against Wind Power'. These federations brought together more than 600 associations of victims of industrial wind turbines from 26 countries.

It is unbelievable that McMurtry was constantly dismissed and discredited by Dalton McGuinty, and his government barely gave him the time of day. Instead they steadfastly stood behind Dr. Arlene King Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, who kept saying there was no link between wind turbines and health complaints. Dr. King would only cling to reports that backed her opinion and to my knowledge never went out and actually faced some of the people whose health had been affected and their lives turned upside down. (*A classic case of I don't want facts to get in the way of my opinion.*)

Dr. McMurtry in my opinion always expressed factual knowledge and common sense in his message unlike many of those who spoke out against him.

### **Professor Ross McKittrick:**

Ross is a professor of economics at the University of Guelph and is an economist specializing in environmental economics and policy analysis. He is also a senior fellow of the Fraser Institute and a member of the academic advisory board of the John Deutsch Institute.

McKittrick has been an outspoken critic of the Green Energy Act and has spoken publicly many times and debated this issue in various forums. He has written many papers and reports on the economic aspect of renewable energy and been a witness at Environmental Review Tribunals. As with Dr. McMurtry I have found his arguments to contain credible logic and common sense.

### **John Laforet:**

John was a staunch Ontario Liberal and had been a Queens Park staffer as well being involved in Liberal campaign projects. He became disenchanted with the Liberal party when the industrial wind turbine issues arose and fought hard against the initial proposal to install them in Lake Ontario at the east end of Toronto.

He left the Liberal party and dedicated at least a year of his time to travel around Ontario educating and rallying the protest movement against industrial wind turbines and the way the green energy act was implemented. He was instrumental in founding the grass roots group called 'Wind Concerns Ontario' with one of the best informational websites on this subject, and was their first president. He constantly tried to bring the concerns of rural Ontario to everyone's attention and spoke to various universities, organizations and service clubs including the prestigious Empire Club in Toronto. He also participated in many public debates on wind energy. John was a true pioneer of the anti-wind protest movement in Ontario.

### **Jane Wilson:**

Jane is a retired registered nurse in Ottawa and took over from John Laforet as president of Wind Concerns Ontario and has devoted all of her time and efforts to this expanding role of president. She is a recipient of Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal for service in rural Ontario.

Like Dr. Robert McMurtry she has gone against some of her peers that are supporting the Green Energy Act and the proliferation of industrial wind turbines in Ontario. They challenge organizations such as CAPE 'Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment' and others that have taken a very political stance on wind energy and refuse to listen or respond to valid evidence that does not support their point of view and seem to be hand in glove with the government and the likes of the David Suzuki Foundation.

### **Parker Gallant:**

Parker Gallant is a retired banker whose 33 year career with the TD bank included lending positions in the domestic market and many years in international banking where he had responsibility as VP for both trade finance and correspondent banking relationships. Between stints with the domestic and international parts of the TD, Parker spent several years with the Canadian subsidiary of a UK trade finance lender where he gained much of his knowledge on trade finance. During his time with TD Parker served a term as Chairman of the Canadian Bankers Association's Trade Finance Committee interacting with EDC, the Canadian Exporters Association and the Trade Ministry.

Parker's retirement allows him to spend time researching the energy sector and apply his banker's common sense to analyzing the sector's approach to the production, transmission and distribution of electricity to Ontario's consumers. Parker is a regular contributor to the Financial Post on matters related to the energy sector and has become an important 'watchdog' on this issue.

He is also a key member of Wind Concerns Ontario and shares his information continuously via his blog.

### **Esther Wrightman:**

Esther is the classic grass roots anti-wind protester.

She lives in the municipality of Adelaide-Metcalf and is a full-time mom to two young children. She supports her family financially working at her parents' nursery. She represents a modest hard working rural grass roots citizen of Ontario who receives few breaks in life. She is fearful of the intrusion of giant wind turbines around the house that she and her family live in and the school that her children attend. She has been a thorn in the side of wind developer NextEra for the past few years as she stands up and fights to protect the health and 'well being' of her family.



NextEra Energy as you will see in the following section is a huge multi-national energy supplier that is very good at going where there are guaranteed subsidy dollars to develop industrial wind farms on a huge scale. They have deep pockets and are here because our present provincial government has turned them loose on rural Ontario.

Apparently NextEra's 'nose was out of joint' because Esther used a little poetic license referring to NextEra as NextTerror in a derogatory way with some of her writings and videos as she protested the actions of NextEra and the proliferation of industrial wind turbines. She also filmed them cutting down a bald eagles nest to make way for their wind installation. These were posted on the 'Ontario Wind Resistance' website and on 'You Tube.com'. When NextEra demanded Esther to cease and desist she refused and stood her ground. She is passionate about this issue and was not about to be bullied into submission. Believe it or not, NextEra decided to sue Esther. She has no resources to fight this on her own but with support of many and pro bono advice from legal counsel she is not backing down and will represent herself in court.

She has also been instrumental in challenging the government and the wind developers with her group of women protesters (plus others as well) who keep the public pressure on with their signs and marches in all types of weather whenever Liberal politicians appear in her area or public meetings

occur. She also heads up the group called ‘Middlesex Wind Action Group’. She has caught the attention of people all over the world due to the social media.

Esther has also been the appellant in Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) cases that appeal against the placement of wind turbines and has been subject again to the overpowering force of high paid corporate lawyers who stop at nothing to discredit and dismiss all arguments and actions against their client’s plans to forge ahead with their wind farms.

People like Esther are devoting their lives to fighting the injustice of having the wind turbines jammed down their throats while all the time financing it out of their own pockets. There are no government grants or tax receipts for these people unlike those whom they oppose.

As an example of the power politics that the ordinary citizen faces when opposing the entrenched system of this renewable energy lobby I have included a copy of Esther’s opening statement to an Environmental Review Tribunal after almost all of her witnesses had been shot down, her requests denied and being legally bullied to submit and give in. Bear in mind she was already being sued by NextEra with a SLAPP lawsuit (*Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation*) for refusing to back off with her protests.

**The following statement is a powerful example of what it is like for an ordinary person to stand up to the power and wealth of the establishment. Here is what she said.**

*Opening Statement Esther Wrightman  
ERT Case# 13--102 to 13--104  
NextEra Adelaide Wind Project Oct 15 2013*

***This isn’t a hearing.***

*Literally, the word “hear-ing.” It means “listening.” If I was told that my testimony was not to be ‘heard,’ 2 months ago, I wouldn’t be standing here.*

*Diligently, I brought together 11 witnesses for the Environmental Review Tribunal to hear. This was my duty – to demonstrate to the panel how the wind turbines would affect the health and safety of my community.*

*Over half of the witnesses were experts ...Doctors, engineers, acousticians, appraisers... from Ontario, Michigan, New York, Chicago, Australia....*

*Essentially all but 2 of the 11 have been, or will be, eliminated or severely restricted in what they speak to, by this legal system.*

*And so it is no longer a “hearing,” for the obvious reason that there is now nothing to hear. I can’t wrap my mind around how this can be a good thing for democracy.*

*After 2 and half months of organizing this appeal, witnesses, schedules, statements, motions etc., I am having these experts chopped off from my appeal, like a leg here and arm there — removed, for reasons not given. Of the remaining motions that the MOE and NextEra have on me, I don’t expect to be able to win them either, for the same “ERT undisclosed reasons.”*

*From here on, I won’t participate in the “motion” part of this hearing anymore. I’m done with it; it’s a farce. I won’t force my remaining witnesses to be degraded and*

*humiliated in this manner. Actually, I'm handing over this box of motions to the ERT. I don't want them in my home; I am shocked by what they represent.*

*Almost too personally, I realize that like a SLAPP suit, this is how the proponent and the government choose to win an appeal: with intimidation and overwhelming actions against the appellants. That is what most would call "below the belt."*

*Why not face me, it's only me, and the case I've brought forward? Why not just sit down and listen, if the reason is to make sure all information is heard so an informed decision can be made?*

*I haven't the time, resources or will to do the same against the MOE and NextEra. I could rip apart their witnesses just the same, but what solution would that be to this problem – how would that protect my community and wildlife in my habitat? My goal wasn't to limit testimony; it's to have testimony HEARD.*

*What this has shown me is that there is no way an average Ontario resident can file an appeal successfully. Even if they jump through the months of obstacles placed before them, they will still be brought down at the last hurdle, which was for me last Friday.*

*In order to put all my energies into this appeal I had to stop working for the months needed. I thought this would be do--able, worthwhile. I mean, this is my home and my family, it's worth everything. I thought, "Esther, you know this project inside out after over 4 years. You can do this. You have to do this."*

*The burden of proof was laid on me, to show 95% certainty that this project will seriously harm someone in the township of Adelaide Metcalfe — proof before it happens.*

*So I tried, with what I believe was a very good shot at it. Wonderful professionals recognized my lack of funds and offered to help—help not just me, but help the community and help the ERT panel grasp the situation.*

*But then motions were thrown at me, equally by the MOE and NextEra. (Amazingly, none were the same ! How did you guys do that, without overlapping, without duplicating---without collusion? Surely you both had the same issue about Mr. Lansink and Mr. McCann. Or about Dr. Pierpont? Or William Palmer and Rick James!)*

*To think that the wind developer and the Ministry of Environment are so closely linked, bedded together, so as to strategically design motions together, against citizens filing appeals, begs the question: How legal is this for our government to do?*

*As a resident bringing forward this appeal, it appeared to some that my approach was like "sand in the wheels of justice."*

*I laughed when I heard this. "Maybe", I thought. My un--lawyerly conduct could seem like the grit of sand in such a smoothly functioning system.*

*Waking up on Sunday morning it occurred to me that, no, this isn't so at all. Justice is defined as "the quality of being fair and reasonable."*

*This isn't justice that I disturbed! Not at all! Actually, it's the opposite! I was asking for justice – wishing that the ERT would "honor and respect the quality of being fair and reasonable."*

*My objections — what was perceived to be my "grit" — were directed at the motions and orders that were unjust.*

*“If a law is unjust,” wrote Thomas Jefferson, “a man is not only right to disobey; he is obligated to do so.”*

*It wasn't only me who felt the sting from these motions. The expert witnesses were appalled; they had never known government and legislators to act in this way.*

*I quote from Chicago Appraiser Mr. Mike McCann: “This is a first for me. I have testified at well over 100 hearings, trials, depositions, committees, etc., and have never been barred (or failed to qualify)...not even 1 time. Denial of the right to present expert testimony is improper and disturbing on many levels, not least of which is the deviation from fundamental principles of democracy.”*

*Mike was to speak to human habitat destruction — something he could quantify by the studies he and Ben Lansink have undertaken in Wind project areas.*

*But the ERT continued to refer to this testimony as “loss of property value.” I don't even OWN property! So how could I be appealing on property value loss? I was speaking to human habitat loss – I don't believe this is a complicated concept – that human beings, Homo sapiens, have a habitat. That people are being forced from their homes – their habitat. How is this any different from TURTLE habitat loss? The ERT accepts that as a reason to halt a project, but they won't even listen to it for humans?*

*Mr. McGuinty seemed to understand this when it came to gas plants, admitting, “In Oakville and Mississauga, we were faced with a circumstance where gas plants were sited right next to schools, condominium towers, family homes and a hospital. That wasn't right.”*

*Wow! Let me reword this and see if Kathleen Wynne could say it this way: “In Adelaide--Metcalf, we are faced with a circumstance where wind turbines are to be sited right next to schools, farms, family homes and workplaces. That isn't right.”*

*It's the same habitat destruction. In fact there will be 11 wind turbines within 2 km of my kids' school. Does anyone want to hear about that? I can't believe the number of backs I have seen when asking for help in protecting this sensitive environment where our children spend a huge portion of their developing years.*

*I'll read an excerpt from a letter from Bill Tucker, way back in 2009. “In my position as Director of Education for the Thames Valley District School Board my main responsibility is the safety of our students. The proximity of Adelaide W.G. MacDonald School to this proposed project makes it very much my concern.”*

*And so it should be the MOE's, NextEra's and the ERT's concern as well.*

*Also struck were the testimonies of Ben Lansink, a qualified appraiser. Entirely. William Palmer, an engineer — who is bound by his profession to alert public authorities if he knows or suspects that the public may be at risk of harm. Not allowed to speak to that, either.*

*Larry Swart, a resident affected by the turbines near Forest in Lambton County. He didn't wish to release his personal health records: including every doctor's note, every prescription taken etc. And he is barred from speaking because of this.*

*Seriously? Can't even be heard without disclosing this extremely confidential information to a horde of lawyers to pick through and cross examine him? It is not even filtered through a doctor first – just straight to the lawyers? But this tactic is*

*good for the government; it decimates the number of people willing to speak about how they were affected by the wind turbines. It limits testimony. I see a pattern emerging.*

*I'm embarrassed. This is Ontario, not some Third World country. We think we have democracy. This hearing demonstrates we don't.*

*It shows the ERT cannot accommodate the needs of ordinary citizens in rural Ontario, who are tricked into believing they actually have an "opportunity" to appeal a wind turbine approval by our provincial government.*

*As for the idea of transparency of these hearings, and the absolute fury I raised when I asked that the hearing be videotaped to accommodate a person with a learning disability. Not only was this request thrown out into the public forum, it was actually going to be forced to be DEBATED with the opposing parties.*

*Since when does a request for accommodation for a disability go up for "debate"?*

*And when I refused to follow the disrespectful process of the ERT, of begging the MOE and NextEra to allow for videotaping for those with disabilities, the retaliation by NextEra's lawyers was astonishing.*

*Mr. Mahoney said that if the hearing were to be recorded, "we may have to make a court application" against the ERT. Another threat. More bullying. I can actually feel for the ERT here; this is eerily similar to the SLAPP suit and the pile of bogus motions.*

*I am fed up with all the legal threats from these wind companies. I'm at the point that I'll just tell them to "get in line, and you can quarrel over the pennies I have. "The real issue is the fact that this hearing is going ahead, void of accommodating the public.*

*Later on Friday I received a letter from NextEra's lawyers addressed to the ERT's Accessibility Coordinator, trying to influence her decision on whether to allow videotaping.*

*Are they serious? I ask for videotaping for accommodation of a person's disability, and part of the objection is that it will create a "threatening environment" for NextEra and the MOE? The threat of — TRUTH?*

*This whole process has been barrier after barrier for me to try and get over. Endless, callous barriers to justice.*

*Along the way you have all witnessed some things I just can't do: I can't afford couriers to bring documents to your doorstep in one days time. Nor can I afford to print thousands of dollars worth of witness statements for each of the parties. Or even fathom the price of real video conferencing. Really, if it wasn't for the generosity of the witnesses, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to bring them forward either.*

*Access to justice should be a basic right. Just like health care and education.*

*Since this is the government's decision I'm appealing, I ironically can't even apply for legal aide.*

*We sped along this appeal process, barely able to keep up with the arbitrary deadlines.... deadlines for who? The affected residents? Nope. Deadlines to satisfy the wind developers need to quickly construct their turbines. Once again the system is set up to run for the needs of corporations, and their lawyers, nobody else.*

*So when a resident can't afford the tens of thousands of dollars needed to appeal a project, or 2 or 3, should they just ...quit? Walk away from their rights?  
If I can't organize an appeal, and fight a heap of motion SLAPPs at the same time, in several days, should I be disqualified?  
Or should there be a serious look had at this process that is failing the residents its supposed to 'give the opportunity to appeal' to?  
I suppose what upsets me the most is that it is our lives you are playing with. Not just mine, it's my kids lives. It's my husbands, and parents lives.  
It's my next door neighbours, and the kids that go to Adelaide W.G MacDonald school. It's our land, it's our wildlife. It's the eagles nest and the bats. It clearly is not NextEra, or Kathleen Wynne's life hanging in this appeal.*

*With the stroke of a pen, so many lives were altered. I've tried in vain to inform the government about the risk that this project will pose on us and our environment, but I am unable to break through yet one more barrier....the Environmental Review Tribunal itself.*



## Who Are These Wind Energy Developers?

In general they are large corporations that specialize in supplying all forms of energy to international markets throughout the world. They are an essential player in meeting the demands of the electricity market in Ontario. However, one must remember that any successful corporation has its top priority being to satisfy the shareholders and to create a profit. Doing what is right for society and the consumer takes a back seat to this company mandate.

The following is a list of just some of the wind farm developers that are involved in Ontario at this time.

- **Enbridge Inc.** -- It is a Canadian corporation based out of Calgary Alberta with operations in North America primarily consisting of oil, gas and renewable energy.
- **Suncor Energy** -- It is a Canadian corporation based out of Calgary Alberta with operations in North America primarily consisting of production of crude oil and gasoline retailing (Petro-Canada) It is also into the renewable energy market as well.
- **Samsung** -- It is a giant South Korean corporation with renewable energy divisions spreading into Ontario in both wind and solar. They both manufacture components and develop installations
- **Kruger Energy** -- It is a Canadian corporation based out of Montreal specializing in wind, hydroelectric, biomass and biogas renewable energy supply.
- **NextEra Energy** -- It is a multi billion dollar U.S. based energy supply company. The Canadian operation is controlled by NextEra Energy in the U.S. and all of this is a subsidiary of NextEra Inc. with head offices in Florida. They own Florida Power and Light (*no industrial wind turbines in Florida by the way*) and are involved in all aspects of energy supply including nuclear, gas, oil and renewable. The Canadian division appears to me to be a shell of the U.S. division as it has no CEO and answers directly to the U.S. However, it seems they have 5 paid lobbyists at Queens Park and employ the prestigious international law firm 'Torys LLP' to protect their interests. NextEra is the name that seems to surface more than others in the clash between the anti-wind activists and the big industrial wind proponents.
- **Leader Energy Services Ltd** -- It is a Canadian corporation based out of Calgary specializing in services to the energy industry and starting to get into renewable energy supply.



## Conclusions and Comments

I believe that supply of electricity to our province is one of the key issues for our future and is a very complex and difficult task in this day and age. I also believe that the OPA and the IESO are doing a good job in doing that while working within the mandates that they have been given by the government.

**Therein lies the problem. They have to work within the parameters set down by the political powers.**

Politicians are not qualified for obvious reasons to make good technical decisions on their own and must rely on staff and advisors for the expertise. In too many cases lobbyists and special interest groups with lots of money and resources seem to have the advantage in selling their vested interests to government.

- In this case **too much influence has been given to environmental groups** that have good intentions but sometimes get carried away with radical ideas and anything that has the word 'green' or

'clean' attached to it. They tend to look at only the idealistic side of the arguments. *I am a bit suspicious of the true motivation of some of the evangelistic environmental leaders who have become wealthy and famous preaching their message while building a pretty large 'carbon footprint of their own'.*

-The **Wind energy developers** with their deep pockets and their lobbyists and lawyers have had **too much influence.**

-The scientific community and the professional consultants will always have differing points of view on issues like this and rarely will you ever find overall consensus. Plus, they will aggressively defend their opinions and findings especially if they reinforce the position of those who give them grants or contribute to their funding. (*Pembina Institute is a prime example of this*). Thus it was easy for the proponents to be selective with whom they chose to make their case and sell it to the likes of McGuinty and Smitherman who had dreams of Ontario becoming the Green Energy capital of the world. Given this environment, the Liberal government then seemed to say *'we like this' and the hell with more due-diligence in looking into the long term effects and what would be best for the ratepayers of Ontario. We have made up our mind and we will set up a system that will not allow anyone or anything stand in the way of implementation of our plans for wind and solar energy.*

Before the Green Energy Act became law there should have been some key questions debated and resolved, such as:

-What is the key reason for this action and what do we hope to attain from it? **It had to be to provide electricity with low environmental impact and reduce the use of fossil fuels.**

- That should trigger the question – **Is there any way of factually verifying that these goals will be met with actual data rather than wishful speculation?**

- Does it make sense to pay rates for renewable energy that are so much higher than our traditional electricity sources if in fact we still need the traditional base load suppliers anyway?

- Is there any chance that there are negative side effects to wind and solar relative to the people who will live close to the installations and how do our plans fit into the culture and lifestyle of rural communities where we will put them in great numbers?

- Will we have any procedures or mechanisms in effect to handle problems or situations that question the wisdom of our actions?

- Is there any chance that instead of investing the massive amount of money and resources in the proliferation of industrial wind turbines, could better results be attained by investing in research and development for better utilization of renewables and alternative more efficient ways of producing electricity?

- **Finally the all-important question would be – Do we need to do this now? In retrospect I don't think the Liberal government gets very high marks on any of these questions.**

I realize that wind and solar initiatives have provided much needed jobs within that industry and provided opportunities and financial benefit to land owners who have signed lease agreements. (By the way, I question why the lease agreements from the wind developers were so shrouded in secrecy with gag orders and penalties for disclosure to the public). Some municipalities are being offered perks like financial benefits or ‘vibrancy funds’ from wind developers in exchange for co-operation with their projects. Obviously it has also provided work for Ontario law firms and lobbyists. All of this does benefit a few in our society but **every penny ultimately comes from the rate payers of Ontario and shows up on our Hydro bills.**

When we have exceedingly high electricity rates in Ontario, jobs will be lost as businesses move to more competitive areas and new investment in any industry requiring electrical power will dry up. Even the renewable energy component manufacturers in Ontario won’t be able to compete. **We may eventually have ‘shot ourselves in the foot’.**

Personally I have found it very disappointing that with all of the letters and communications that I have sent to the Liberal government officials and some to the NDP as well, that there never is a response. It appears to me unless you are ‘patting them on the back’ or supporting their actions they are not interested. It seems that everything becomes adversarial and they don’t want to hear anything that contradicts their preconceived ideas, so they just shut their ears to opposition. Obviously the PC members are supportive and willing to work with the anti-wind movement since they realize that this is what gave them rural Ontario in the last election and hopefully also realize that this is the right thing to do for their constituents.

This is rather interesting. In researching projected sites for wind farms I discovered this. On a map included in an OPA report dated October 2008 it showed future wind farm locations proposed for Ontario. Many were situated where we now see them in operation or in the process of being installed. However it showed significant numbers in the lee of Georgian Bay in the Muskoka region. In current maps siting the location of the masses of turbines to be installed in Ontario, there are no sitings in the lee of Georgian Bay or anywhere near Muskoka or Haliburton etc. This makes we wonder if the decision to exclude that area was that the wind did not blow across Georgian Bay anymore (*I think not*) or were there political reasons for not wanting to inflict the turbines on an area dear to the hearts of many of Toronto’s elite. You be the judge.

I previously referred to the question regarding any factual evidence that these green energy initiatives have any real positive environmental effect on our planet. Anything that I have seen so far seems to indicate that no one really knows for sure. I wish that there was solid proof one way or the other rather than relying on computer models and studies that can be influenced by the biases of those controlling them. This to me is a very grey area relative to this issue.

Finally I am sure many reading this will ask this question of me ***‘If you are so damned smart, what would you do now?’***

If I put aside my knee jerk reaction to this question and think realistically it would be ***‘Slow everything down and reconsider what is happening. Stop blindly forging ahead’.***

The push to dramatically increase the number of industrial wind turbines in Ontario has gone so far down the road now that a lot of damage has been done that cannot be easily reversed. Thus, the issue

should be to minimize things getting much worse. **I would suggest a moratorium of some sort be instituted to stop all pending wind contracts from being granted final approval until this cooling off period is over.** Five years seems like a fair figure to evaluate the right course of action to follow.

No matter what action is taken some people will get hurt. If we slow things down the developers will cry 'bloody murder' that their plans and projects have been jeopardized and Samsung's manufacturing facilities will have to lay off employees and on and on. However, as far as the developers are concerned their investment in Ontario's wind industry is a drop in the bucket to these huge operations where this is just a sideline and their bottom line will hardly notice it. The 'green energy job losses' have to be compared to job losses in the private manufacturing sector that can't compete anymore due to high electricity costs.

If we do nothing and proceed as is, I foresee everyone in Ontario getting hurt more than they already have been. Uncompetitive high electricity rates affect everyone in our society including the most vulnerable. This is especially true in Ontario's case when our neighbouring provinces have lower electricity rates and our largest trading partner the United States can beat the pants off us with lower operating costs.

This issue is a small scale replica of so many other major mistakes that have been made in this world due to '**willful blindness**' where evidence was constantly ignored until it was too late. A striking example of this is the 2008 economic collapse where Wall Street should have known better.

*I strongly suggest that everyone should download and watch the video by Margaret Heffernan titled 'The Dangers of Willful Blindness' Take the time to google it and you won't be disappointed.*

As far as the future of Ontario is concerned, who knows where this will all end up.

However several things are for sure

- We will never have low cost reliable electricity like we have enjoyed in the past
- Rural Ontario will never look or be the same again in our lifetime
- Mother Nature will still throw curve balls at us no matter what we do
- Our planet earth will have to change due to the heavy load of human population growth which is hard for us to imagine
- **But despite all of this we will endure.**

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### **About the Author**

Roy Merkley is a long time resident of Grand Bend, Ontario who is now retired. He was a mechanical design consultant to the machine tool industry and the auto industry. He was involved along with many other volunteers in creating the Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre and headed up the Facilities Committee that was responsible for putting the building in place. He was and still is actively involved in volunteer activities that benefit the communities in his area.

## **A look at the gas plant fiasco in Oakville and Mississauga:**

This entire scenario relative to the McGuinty government cancelling the gas plants in Oakville and Mississauga in 2010 has to have set a new record of governmental incompetence. How they could have progressed so far into these projects without absolute assurance they were on solid ground is astounding. Then to pull the plug apparently without having a clue as to what the economic costs would be is even worse. There are only two reasons that they were so far off in estimating the cost of their actions. One is that they were completely incapable of performing such a task. The other is that they had an idea what the cost would be but did not want to divulge it to the people of Ontario. Either way it is very scary that these are the ones running the show.

### **Gas plant in Oakville:**

- Gas plant was contracted to be installed and operated by Trans Canada.
- It was located in an industrial area on Ford of Canada property beside their Oakville facility close to Hwy. 403 and the main rail line.
- It was to be a natural gas fired generating facility to produce 900 megawatts of base load electricity **close to where it was needed most.**
- It had ample supply of natural gas and water in close proximity.
- The proposed gas plant was officially cancelled by the Liberals in October 2010 (as promised during the election campaign) one day after the provincial election reportedly due to opposition from the residents in the area who had concerns that it would add to the airborne pollutants degrading their air quality.

### **Gas plant in Mississauga:**

- Gas plant was contracted to be installed and operated by Eastern Power with head offices in India.
- It was located in an industrial area in Mississauga north of the Queensway and south of Dundas Street and was about 30% complete in the construction process.
- It was to be a high efficiency combined cycle natural gas fired generating facility to produce 280 megawatts of base load electricity **close to where it was needed most.**
- It had ample supply of natural gas and water in close proximity.
- It was again cancelled at the time of the provincial election reportedly for the same reasons as the Oakville plant.

Both of these gas plants were intended to pick up for lost base load capacity when the government closed coal fired generating stations. They were located where the market demands were highest thus

transmission of their electricity output would be most efficient with minimal cost to accommodate to the grid.

It would seem to me that there would be no visual or acoustic side effects to their location since they were in industrial areas and in the case of the Oakville site it was right beside the giant Ford plant. In fact they might be an improvement on some of the other existing industrial ‘*street scapes*’ around them.

With regard to health and safety issues: They were a user of natural gas as a heat source the same as most of the other industries and residences in the area with more than likely better safety controls than the multitude of the residential furnaces, hot water heaters, stoves and bar-b-ques that were everywhere around them. How could property values be affected since nearby residences were already packed in beside industrial installations, rail lines and major highways with all of their hazardous risks as well?

Thus the increase in gas fired emissions had to be the only logical complaint. Both Trans Canada and Eastern showed facts and figures stating that critical emissions would be well below environmental standard requirements and posed no threat to human health (*even Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Arlene King agreed*). The opponents claimed otherwise with their expert analysis and had Erin Brockovitch a high profile activist from the U.S. come to their rally at Queens Park and support their claims.

It is now generally agreed that these two plants were cancelled by the McGuinty government to save Liberal seats in the impending election.

It is debatable that the original plan to construct these gas plants in Oakville and Mississauga may well have been the only good decision that the McGuinty government ever made with respect to Ontario’s energy policy. However, he cancelled them for political reasons and forged ahead with his Green Energy Act instead, driving us into the energy mess that we see today. **The auditor general estimates that this fiasco will cost the ratepayers 1.1 billion dollars and we have barely started to see the impact of what increases in the global adjustment are going to do to our electricity bills in the future.**

**What is so annoying to the thousands of people in rural Ontario that are trying to be heard with their concerns about the industrial wind turbines, is that the government claims they were just listening to the people in Oakville and Mississauga. Yet here they are closing their eyes and ears to the rural massive protest and continuing to jam the turbines down their throats with the same old rhetoric.**

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