

Wind Concerns Ontario

Community-based health survey

A self-reporting survey: adverse health effects and wind turbine complexes

March/July 2009

10) [quality of life altered]The present govt. has an agenda to promote these mills even though they are unrealable as a steady source of power & will only ever amount to a very small percentage of the power req'd on the grid. I live on the north limit of the [X wind farm] and so far I am fortunate to be as far away from the turbines as I am. However, land options have been aquired in [S. township] and I will not fair as well should they go ahead there.

I know my property value has been reduced to some degree and it is a constant worry where they will relocate to next.

With regards to noise, if the wind is blowing towards our residence they can be heard even at a km (3300') away. (Not inside the house) At night the sky is filled with blinking red lights which is something else to contend with. The above are some of my concerns which I believe contribute to increased stress & anxiety.

11) No pets or livestock

#92

9) [hearing problems] right ear only

[other symptoms] tones change in hearing, popping excessively

[doctor] Yes, My migranes and popping of ears and fatigue. Hearing tests. My tx-treatment higher enriched diet for ears, migranes. Migrane relieve advil.

10) 10) [quality of life altered] People who were good neighbours are now looking away and don't want to talk any more if they have windmills or are in favor. Our beautiful veiw is now gone as from my back deck I can count 72 wind mills. My property values have gone down the drain by around \$100,000. Most of the owners of the landowners with turbines on the farm do not live around here. They live many miles away.

My life has been altered slightly. When I go outside there ugly to look at, when wind is strong my symptoms are strong as well but in the long run, the windmills haven't altered my life significantly. Windmills are the future, whether I like them or not, I am one person I live for change! Do I want more around where I choose to live, the answer will be no. Do I plan to live here long? NO I noticed behaviour changes in my animals, yes, my dogs and horses shake their ears a lot but do I have testing and evidence to back up my theory? NO!

#93

5) [wind farm near property] This occurred when I visited a home in the [windfarm] project

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7) [how long living at property] N/A – was a visit only.

9)[other] pain below my right ear, where my jaw bone ends after visiting in this home for 4 hours. The pain disappeared after I left this home and returned to my own residence.

#94

9)[doctor] not yet.

10)[quality of life altered] Cannot sit outside anymore because the noise. Have to sleep in summer with the windows closed.

11) We have a cat who no longer wants to go outside since we have the turbines.

#95

10)[quality of life altered] The prevailing wind is from the West and we are downwind of a cluster of wind turbines which generate a lot of noise, when sleeping with the windows open. It is being heard in the bedroom.

11) Our cat stays now more inside.

#96

8)[health affected] Stress.

9)[symptoms] I have a pre-existing medical condition. Therefore this question cannot be answered accurately.

10) Noise & radio interference devalued our property

At times: "Noise" from the turbines is very annoying. At times sounds like we are living right next to an airport. Can even hear them "at times" when all our windows are closed

"Radio interference is an issue as well. Can hear the blades turning (static) through our radio

Also, they are unsightly. May have affected our property value.

11) Yes, my "therapy dog" is really apprehensive to go outside at night (to do her business) when the turbines are so noisy.

#97

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8) [health affected] A little stressed

10) [quality of life altered] Somewhat. Noise from the blades turning. Radio interference. Also, may affect our property value.

11) At times: Noise from the blades stresses our dog.

#98

10) [quality of life altered] The flickering bothers us when we sit in our sunroom or deck in the afternoon. The noise is equally disturbing – especially at night sometimes we have to close our windows.

#99

8) [health altered] Yes, there may be a connection

9) [doctor] Mentioned to my Doctor outside of office, have not made an appointment. I am very healthy, thin, athletic and exercise often.

10) [quality of life altered] Prior to the installation I was always a high energy, upbeat person who slept well. Late in the fall of 2008, my wife and I started experiencing heart palpitations when trying to sleep. We can both hear our pulse in our ears. We never connected this to turbines until now. I am less energetic, lacking in ambition, more moody and less optimistic. My whole state of mind has changed. It has impacted my work & home life. I cannot see or hear the turbines from my home. The symptoms were worse in the fall and winter and better in the spring. If our symptoms increase next fall and winter we will know it is linked to the turbines and wind speed/direction.

11) No pets or livestock.

#100

8) [health altered] possibly, but uncertain

9) [doctor] No. I have noticed that I have experienced heart palpitations or increased pulse, sometimes during the day and sometimes while resting through the night, which has caused some disturbance to my sleep. I am not sure if these are linked to the recent start-up of the nearby wind turbines, but I believe I have been experiencing these symptoms over the past 6 – 8 months.

10) [quality of quality of life altered] possibly, if what I have experienced is in fact linked to the operation of the turbines

#101

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9) My doctor does not understand the situation.

10) [approached doctor] My doctor does not have any information on the symptoms. I believe my quality of life has deteriorated as have my property values.

11) My dogs seem to be more clingy towards me and seem to overreact when I return after being away for several hours.

#102

10) [quality of life altered] Some days its like camping at the end of an airport.

11) Deer and turkeys moved out of area.

#103

9) [other] annoyed at visual sight as well as hearing the noise generated.

10) [life altered] Was expecting to enjoy peace and tranquility, not being intruded upon by the multitude of turbines.

#104

10) [quality of life altered] I resent the fact that WAG [wind action group] has interfered with my privacy by submitting this in my mailbox. I refuse to listen or acknowledge WAG;s underhanded methods.

#105

10) [quality of life altered] I am disgusted with the attempts of WAG to try and brainwash residents. I am sure if you checked you will find these people (WAG) to be less than truthful and very bitter. I have dealt with these people and I am glad NOT to call them friends.

11) I have livestock, no problems.

#106

10) [quality of life altered] I cannot go a day without thinking about Wind Turbines. They are everywhere you look, noisy, lights flashing.

Does the Wind Farm effect our families Health. How long does it take 1year/5 years/10 years.

I do not know exactly how much value our house has lost. 40/50/60 THOUSAND MAYBE?

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If you raise a family today, How long does it take to save 60 THOUSAND DOLLARS. I believe we lost that.

One thing that could make matters worse is the idea that my tax Dollars might be subsidizing a Wind Project.

Thanks for your efforts.

#107

10) Biggest factor is the noise.

Unable to sleep with windows open at night and I'm a poor sleeper under good conditions. Find when I'm outside gardening or reading the constant noise from the blades turning very irritating and I find I have a pressure in my ears that wasn't there prior to the last few months.

#108

6) [nearest turbine to property] There is at least one on each corner of my home (see map attached)
Nearest is 481.8 meters

9) [other] Digestive problems/ chronic upset stomach

9), 10) and 11) Hello, my name is [home owner] and I had a Dream.

I knew in my early 20's that I wanted to move north and build my dream home. I was born and raised in the City, but undeniably a country boy at heart. I worked with my Father who was a Carpenter by trade for most of my life, and I naturally followed in his footsteps. This gave me the skill set and knowledge required to be able to one day realize my Dream.

It was the late 1990's and me in my early 30's, I was financially ready and began looking for the perfect spot. I would need to be close to the city to commute for work, but far enough to enjoy the Country Living lifestyle that I had been dreaming of for 10+ Years now. My search took me all over Northern Ontario and was a 3 year process.

Finally in 2001...I found it!! A 1 Acre Corner lot Located in the Township of [township]. The next step was to go thru the process of obtaining Building Permits, and designing my home to the Townships approval. For anyone that has gone thru this, they will tell you that it is a lengthy and sometimes frustrating process, but worth the reward in the end (or at least suppose to be). In 2002 I started construction on my outbuilding (barn), and in 2004 my home.

It was 2005 when I first caught a glimpse of phase 1. I was on my way home from work and saw these massive windmills being erected. My first thought was "what the heck is going on here?" and my

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thoughts after that I can not mention is this letter. I began making inquiries, and came to find out that [township] Township had become the new home of a [wind company] Wind Farm.

I had, and still have a hard time understanding how this could have happened without me knowing. After speaking with the Township and asking this very question, they informed me that the Residents of [township] were indeed notified, unfortunately for me the means of notification were not (in my opinion) appropriate.

The notification process consisted of:

1.) A notice was posted on the Township Website.

**At that time and up until 1 Month ago, I did not have internet access at my home nor own a Computer.

2) Notices were posted in the Local Newspaper.

** I was working full time and building a home on my own, I didn't have time to read the paper.

3) A notice was in the Township Newsletter that comes in the mail with your Property Tax Bill.

** With all the advertisements, flyers, pamphlets, etc...that come in the mail these days, it is hard to keep up. I am sure that many people are like me, they open it up (whatever it may be) take out the bill and recycle the rest.

At no point in time was there ever a notice or letter sent to my home, it was assumed that I would come across one of these methods of notification. I feel that this was very presumptuous of the Township and [wind company], this information SHOULD have been shared with residents via Direct mail, not left to the possibility that one might come across it.

So here I am, not even half way thru building my home and now I have these windmills almost, but not quite, in my backyard. After much soul searching I decide to forge ahead, block out the images and I concentrate on the things that remind me of why I fell in love with this land. Difficult as it is I manage not to lose sight of "My Dream".

In early 2006, comes the news of phase 2...They are not done yet! And this time they will be right in my backyard, front yard and to both sides of my house. I am surrounded.

Now the windmills in phase one have been up and operational for approximately 1 year and residents have had an up close and personal experience. They have quickly come to realize that they are not all they were cracked up to be.

After attending the Township and planning meetings for phase two, there was definitely not a positive reaction to the news of more noise makers moving into Town. Residents managed to put up enough of a fight to halt it for a short period of time, but it is very difficult to fight a Township that wants the Revenue that comes from allowing this type of project, and a Corporation the size of [wind company].

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The offer is too good, the Corporation is too strong, and eventually Politics and Money win out over Resident's wishes. A modern day David and Goliath.. The giant(s) win again.

In December 2008 phase two was turned on, since then I have not slept thru the night. I have had to go to the Doctor and have sleeping pills prescribed so that I can get to sleep, but I am inevitably awakened each night.

My quality of life is and has been affected, I no longer look forward to coming home. I get a better night sleep in the city (go figure) and will spend some nights there, but why should I be run out of my home?

Summer is now upon us, I have always looked forward to this time of year. My home was built with summer as the focus, the positioning on my property, location of windows, all designed to enjoy having my windows open all summer long, and use Mother Nature's air conditioning. For this reason I do not have A/C in my home (many people out here don't.. it is (was) not necessary). Now the wind that I look so forward to each summer has become my enemy.

I have become intimately aware of the negative effects involved with living in a wind farm. It's pretty sad that I have to put my T.V on the nature channel and close my windows and doors to hear "Nature" when I live in the middle of the Country!

The more I know, the worse the scenario is. I live in the middle of what sounds like an Airport only worse, at least if I lived next to the airport I would get a break every 30 seconds, and have 'No Fly' times so I could sleep. Between the constant whooshing that echoes thru the skies 24/7, and the humming sound that is omitted from the mechanics of the turbine 24/7, I have gone from being a very easy going, relaxed person to struggling on a daily basis with anything from stress to depression to anxiety. I attempted seeing a massage therapist and chiropractor to help relieve the tension, but this proved to only be a temporary fix, and was quite costly, so I had to stop going. Not to mention the other Health related issues that are now becoming a daily struggle. I have headaches at least every other day; and a constant ringing in my ears, I have had 2 ear infections in the course of a 3 month period, and occasionally suffer mild hearing loss. I experience digestive problems, and an upset stomach after almost every meal which will last anywhere from a few hours to days. I have gone from being a healthy person that had to visit the doctor once, maybe twice a year (one of these visits being a regular checkup) to having all these symptoms happen at once, and persist for months on end. It is all a little too coincidental, don't you think? Even guests to my home experience similar symptoms when they stay for more than a day.

I lay awake at night and trying to figure out why this has happened. I have come here to realize what has been my dream for over 20 years, and it has turned into what would be a nightmare if I could sleep. Where do I go from here? I am not only financially bound to my home, but emotionally torn. As I consider my options (none of them good) I cry.

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The Ironic thing about it is I am not even done yet. Just to add a little insult to injury, I have to now finish my dream so that I can walk away from it for the sake of my health.

Why was there not a proper investigation done into Potential Health Risks BEFORE putting these in people's backyards. There is/was so much research available from existing wind farms around the world, none of it was taken into consideration. Had it been, they would not be so close to residences. The required setback in phase one was 400 meters, and was increased to 450 for phase 2. This is crazy, the Provincial Government is now 'Proposing' a setback of 1500 meters from a residence, with a wind farm of this size, and a noise study is required prior to installation. I have a total of 9 turbines surrounding me, on all 4 corners of my property, [1.@481.8M](#) 2.@ 563.9 [3.@576.2](#) and [4.@619.6](#) and beside #2 is another one @ 700.5. The remaining 4 did not have distance readings available at the Township office, but are not too far from the 5 listed here. Needless to say, I am getting it from every end! I cannot go onto my property any time of the night or day ever again and experience the peaceful serenity, and sounds of nature that made me fall in love with this place, and want to build my dream home here.

My goal with this letter is to bring awareness to the issue that I and many others are dealing with. For those that don't live in the middle of a wind farm, but merely drive thru once in a while, my situation would be hard to understand. It is quite an awe to see for the occasional passer-by, but there is far more to this than meets the eye.

For the land owners that have agreed to have these turbines on their property, I would be curious to know, how much was my Dream worth? Because it is worthless to me now. And what is [wind company] and [township]Township prepared to do?

Thankyou,

[home owner]

#109

6) [how far are turbines] 481.8 meters - Total of 9 surround

9) [other symptoms] -Nausea, Dizzy (occasional) – Digestion

[approached doctor] No, symptoms stop when I return home.

10) It is difficult when you want to visit your loved ones, however, you know that you are going to an environment that will cause you harm. Not a choice anyone should have to make!

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Essentially, the wind energy industry is forcing people to stay away from their families and loved ones, which is unacceptable!

#110

8) [health affected] yes, (mostly mental health

9) [other symptoms] cannot deal with noise

10)[quality of life altered] –cannot enjoy the outdoors and sounds of nature because of noise

-hesitate to invite friends over

-feel upset that we built our amazing energy efficient ICF home in an area full of horrible noise pollution.

-feel violated

-upset that my lonely elderly mother came to live with us to have a happier life but now has vertigo (we have not mentioned to her the possible correlation to windmills.)

-feel like we should have known better!

-we trusted township and [wind company]

#111

9) [approached doctor] yes, for tinnitus – pending

10)[quality of life] – do not feel desire to improve our house (finish work started)

-do not enjoy outdoor exercise when windy and noise from windmills

#112

9) [other symptoms] vertigo

[approached doctor] yes for vertigo – take medication

-she's never had this before.

10) [life altered] because of vertigo * we are looking after [mother] and do not wish to give her windmill details.