

# EDITORIAL

## *Rhodena*

It was many and many a year ago in this kingdom by the sea when an outside entity came to us with the future of electricity production.

Nova Scotia Power was going to erect a wind tower in Grand Etang and it looked like the future had finally arrived in Inverness County.

They explained that it would be so tall, with huge blades, not harmful to the environment and would, if memory serves, be able to light 400 of the homes in Nova Scotia.

A lot of people showed up to get a look at this green technology and most thought it was a great leap into a future without hydrocarbons.

Back then we knew the earth was being polluted to the point of changing all life on this planet but we didn't know how little time we had to make things right.

We listened to the tower talk in a relaxed manner and wondered what the future had in store for us in green terms.

When the tower was finally built, it was a wonderment.

While a few at the meeting spoke ill of wind towers most felt we had a winner here.

The tower, as you came over the hill at Grand Etang, was right out of Star Trek, with its blades rotating and bringing clean energy to Nova Scotia.

It was cool.

We were in a new age and it didn't upset the view at all, most of us thought.

It was off and on, people said it wasn't so friendly to the people or the critters and one day it fell to the ground and no tower has taken its place.

That dream didn't come to a wonderful conclusion and it took the shine off wind towers for a lot of people.

Then there were plans to place a wind tower farm on Cheticamp Island.

Well that went over like the proverbial lead balloon.

No one in the area wanted to see the vista around Cheticamp, the base of the Cabot Trail obscured by a large wind farm so the project never made it off the page.

We have a couple of wind towers in the county and they seem harmless and there is a wind farm in the industrial area of Richmond County at the Strait.

You don't hear too much about this wind farm but there is one that is generating a lot of heat.

The Rhodena Wind Project plans to place 15 wind towers on the Creignish Hills and it is more than rattling the teacups.

Residents are angry and they don't want it.

You won't be able to miss a wind farm of this size as you drive to the Causeway from the mainland and what will that do to the tourism project we are counting on for our economic future.

That question and many more involving economics, the environment, our health, and how we see ourselves is being debated in all of the county.

Is there a wind farm in your community's future?

There are places for wind farms. We see them on TV all the time but are the rolling hills of Creignish a suitable location.

NO!

No matter how you sell it, it is going to do more harm than good to our county.

We have to return to the drawing board!

Rankin MacDonald