

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Rhodena Wind in Inverness County, Community Wind Farms Inc. and ABO Wind

Dear Editor,

With community determination and input, Inverness County has grown and flourished – Canada's Musical Coast, Celtic Shores Coastal Trail. Now a company wants to place massive industrial turbines, 800-metres tall, in the Creignish mountain range. Not compatible with the eco-tourism goals of the community.

What a lovely negative image for tourists as they first catch sight of Cape Breton on their drive here; just wanting to see our beautiful part of the world. Stop the world, slow down, see the scenery,

travel our trails, listen and move to our music, enjoy our culture, good food and welcome company. Cape Breton Island "The Island of Islands" was voted the number one island by readers of Travel & Leisure Magazine. Again rated at Top # 1 of 10 Most Romantic Places in Canada. The New York Times ranked Canada #1 on their list of places to visit. Golf is growing and drawing folks here, many to set down seasonal roots.

We are fortunate to live and raise our families here. We love to have visitors from all over the world, who come

to soak up some of our culture, amazed at our fall colours, have a cuppa tea, listen to some music, even get in a step or two, to unwind away from the noise, hustle, and bustle of urban life.

How many volunteer hours went into the creation and maintenance of our Celtic Shores Coastal Trail, 92-km stretching from Port Hastings to Inverness? "Explore the best of Canada's seacoast as you journey along the trail where awe-inspiring natural beauty is matched by the vibrant Celtic culture of our region. This exceptional trail system meanders along

the coast providing first-class trail experiences for bikers, hikers, runners, quadders, skiers, snowmobilers and horse-back riders."

Now you want to kill all this with massive industrial turbines currently being proposed that rumble on 24/7, destroying our view plains, keeping us awake, ruin our peaceful sunsets, sleeping with the sounds of waves rolling on our shores.

Instead the endless flickering of wind turbine blades, their grey noises, and even the earth moving with their vibrations. As more and more folks express their expressed

concerns about noise and light pollution, habitat destruction, and property devaluation, the company tweaks their proposal, less turbines. But increasing their size to achieve their 100 megawatt goal.

Another of their proposed ideas is to move turbines farther back, away from coast but closer to the largest natural reserve in the province – the Bornish Hill Nature Reserve.

How is this project going to provide a benefit to local tourism initiatives?

World wide there is discontent with folks suffering

wind turbine woes: trouble selling property, getting mortgages, and health issues. Foreign companies promise wonderful job offers and dollar incentives.

With outdated regulations, do we want these industrial 800-foot-plus to kill all we hold dear?

Say goodbye to tourism, land values will drop, health issues will increase. A massive anti-bird wall with strikes and animal habitat lost.

Do you want to see a turbine next to you?

Our ten-year-old bylaws
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are out of date, developed for 150 feet tall wind turbines. There is no recourse for people with issues about wind turbines. Quality of life of people living near turbines is given prominent and serious consideration.

Future wind development must also require a bond/surety, or other guar-

antee, for 125 per cent of the cost of turbine removal and site remediation; a hold back fund in each wind farm to cover our issues.

And politicians need to be better educated on wind farm issues – instead of taking for fact what the wind farm companies sell.

This proposal will have

unwarranted implications on future development in the culturally significant area – a place that means a great deal to people. Our home, we just want to protect the natural beauty, wilderness, endangered species, and outdoor tourism economy we hold so dear here.

Decisions made today

will determine the legacy that we leave for future generations and that we have a responsibility to our children and grandchildren to make choices that best protect our environment.

We thank the council and appreciate their action.

Michael M. Little
Port Hood