

## Wind Turbine Impacts in Ontario

A small collection of testimony

Since 2006 rural Ontario residents suffering ill health in wind turbine projects have been filing complaints with the Ministry of Environment, politicians, ministry health officials, public health officials and various wind companies. The complaints number in the thousands. Six years have passed and still no agency, ministry or Premier will take responsibility for the adverse health issues.

In 2009 due to ongoing denial and complete lack of government response, a community based self-reporting health survey was initiated to try to capture what was happening in the province. Responses were on a voluntary basis and privacy was protected.

The WindVOiCe Health Survey follows the principles of Health Canada vigilance monitoring and became an early vital link to the education of government officials, medical professionals and others. It has been peer reviewed and published in a scientific journal and has been cited in the British Medical Journal. The WindVOiCe survey captured an initial 138 responses before it was closed to process the results in 2011.

A sample of submissions follows and the full body of the survey is here:

<http://windvictimsontario.com/wind-voice-survey.html>

- *Changes - for the second time I am not home (billeted) and have to help co-ordinate food, cars, laundry, mail and financial from a distance... and lunches (with ears plugged and sometimes head - June 2008 - up [at] 6:00 home to pick up [daughter] 2-3 times/week...back to town with clothes, homework and bed. Now I am in town and going home every 2/day and into school (maybe). We send love over the phone or on message sheets on the counter. Have spent a massive number of hours, totally days of family time, working to get the problems resolved.*
- *myself and other members of my family are now getting unexplained headaches, even my [age] year old daughter who has never had a headache prior to these towers coming online. I have a feeling of helplessness because I want to get away from the towers but we must remain due to the fact that we can't afford to abandon our home and move.*
- *We keep about 20 nanny goats, for the past 20 months they have had abortions, not a single kid was born alive, all aborted before term, others died within 3 hours of birth.*
- *I would attempt sleep in the spare room or in the basement. \*\*As a family we shut off and unplugged as many appliances as possible prior to trying to sleep and when home. Difficult to form thoughts to come out of my mouth.*
- *Have no family doctor. Went to emerg currently awaiting a CT scan.*  
*Quality of Life:*  
*Constant noise, constant headaches. Sleep disturbance since the windtowers have started.*  
*We have recently put a 500' addition on our home with large windows all around. Not only we get flickering from the towers we cannot open any windows due to the constant noise of the blades.*  
*My occupation is a bookkeeper. These constant headaches are affecting my concentration, especially working with numbers. I work from my home. I simply cannot afford to be in ill health.*
- *I have noticed that the horses are far more nervous and more easily spooked. My dogs at times will not leave the house and are acting very out of character at times.*
- *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)...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 worry about my plummeting real estate value, and if a bank will even renew my mortgage when its time. I'm in a position that if I complain, I fear that my property value will fall even further.*

- *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.*
- *I feel both my children are "different" in their behaviour – two happy, well-behaved children have become irritable and unreasonable w/temper and agitation – reminds me of an overtired or hungry child. This is compounded by the fact that my husband and I are affected and sleep deprived and I imagine have lower patience, tolerance and are irritable also. [Child's name] describes "bees" in his ears – I believe ringing ringing from W.T. s.[wind turbines]*
- *All of us here have suffered with many severe headaches, ringing ears, heart palpitations and unending fatigue. With the stress and anxiety we suffer, we can hardly think straight and are irritable and short tempered with each other. Our nerves are frayed. When will there be some relief? Will it ever end? When will we ever get a good night's sleep again?*

*don't know if it's palpitations or anxiety, but sometimes my heart races like it's going to jump out of my chest.*

*-I now have great trouble getting to sleep in fact I now use sleeping pills, I never used to, EVER!!! 8)[health affected]*

*Yes, I have lost sleep, my appetite and gained headaches.*

*9)[other] Not yet I will contact my doctor for a check up regarding my health.*

*10) [quality of life altered] I have lost sleep and suffered headaches. Last year in March 2008 for one week I suffered nasty headaches, I had no appetite and could not sleep. Never before have I endured such painful headaches in my life.*

*10) [quality of life altered] I am unable to come home to visit my parents as often as I would like. Due to my parents ongoing adverse health effects I feel discouraged & our family dynamic has change. My childhood home no longer feels like a place to relax & where I can be in a peaceful environment. I am sick over what the turbines have done to my family & community. My quality of life has definitely been affected.*

*11) My dog was unable to relax in this environment.*

In the Ripley Suncor-Acciona Wind Project 5 families struggling with serious impacts had endured months of billeting by the project owner in a local motel. On April 15, 2009 prior to the Green Energy Act regulations being finalized, they testified at the Ontario Legislature Standing Committee on the Green Energy and Economy Act in London, Ontario. They described in detail their ongoing tragic situation.

Incredibly, still no one from our government stepped in to help and under unimaginable physical, emotional and financial stress they were forced to retain legal help and had to permanently leave their homes. Today, they are unable to speak about their experience due to gag clauses imposed on them.

An excerpt from the April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Hansard transcript follows and the full text is here

<http://windvictimsonario.com/victim-testimony----ripley.html> or here

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/transcripts/files\\_pdf/15-APR-2009\\_G023.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/transcripts/files_pdf/15-APR-2009_G023.pdf)

Starts - Page 65

....Having an informed opinion is encouraged in a democracy. Our deteriorating health changes are not opinions. The wind industry and some Liberal politicians consistently try to cast doubt by disrespecting our experiences.

....The family unit for each family has deteriorated and has been torn apart. We begged for sleep, and four families were billeted by the wind company from their homes for 90 to 180 days in motels, hotels and a rooming house. The consistent stress has broken apart the family unit-no gatherings, few or no celebrations at home. At present, one family has purchased a separate residence to live in, and two others had to, at the expense of thousands of dollars, modify their hydro connection to try and live in their homes that they've lived in for 19 to 35 years.....

....We are quizzed or defending our health problems at community events such as hockey games, shopping or church. Dysfunctional community relations have been created by the wind project representatives and some community members trying to discredit the validity of our problems.

....Sleep deprivation; sleep disturbances; poor-quality sleep; humming in the head by the ears; edginess; a feeling as if you've had five cups of coffee; bad temper; heart palpitations; heaviness in the chest; pains in the chest like needles; increased blood pressure, 217 over 124; uncontrollable ringing in the ears; earaches; sore eyes, like you have sand in them; digestive problems which continued for months; headaches which caused you to be bedridden; the sensation of your skin crawling or being bitten by bugs; sore joints; nosebleeds; sores on feet that would not heal until you moved out of your home; inability to concentrate or form words; a severe feeling of being unwell; bedridden for days; depression; tiredness; anxiety; stress-

....Neighbours, business acquaintances and media personnel from two different networks have also felt the pressure in the chest and ears and ringing in the ears while in our homes. In an open invitation to the Premier and any other politicians and their families to pack their bags and live in one of our members' homes for two weeks, our MPP suggested that we might trade by living beside a pig barn or beside a grain elevator.....

....We're like the first population of smokers who went to their doctors with health problems. This is the third official warning to the Liberal government of Ontario: There will be harm to citizens of all ages and gender, due to wind projects.....

....Who is accountable for the unseen health changes occurring within our bodies from basically living in a vibrating microwave? What protection is there for a developing two-year-old who cries endlessly and pulls at her ears when she's in her home, but not when she's away from the project? Who's accountable to the young family who are expecting their second child? What if there's a deformity or a miscarriage resulting from infrasound, low-frequency sound and the electrical pollution? .....

....Ms. Sandy MacLeod: I'd like to comment on that. That's exactly what a government should do. A government should take all the money we've given in taxes, use some of it to get the science people out there with no association with the wind industry at

*all-get out there and study this, and don't put up another wind tower or another wind project until you fix the problems. That's what good government does. Good government looks after its people.*

*Ms. Laurel C. Broten: Thank you. For those of us who are trying to assess, "Are there challenges with implementation? What are the specific details?" it really is very important to have someone who represents part of the province where we see a lot of wind development.*

*Interruption.*

*Ms. Sandy MacLeod: Okay, just a minute, please.*

*The Acting Chair (Mrs. Linda Jeffrey): Excuse me, sir. You do not have the floor. Sir, you can leave.*

*Ms. Sandy MacLeod: Okay, just a minute... Let's think through this clearly. If Ms. Mitchell was going to give the Ontario Legislature, and thus the rest of the province, the best information possible, the best way to do that would be to solve the problems within the farms that are in her constituency right now, take that information back and use it appropriately and prudently so that the harm that has come to us will not be experienced by any other families in this province.....*

That same day the committee heard from another impacted resident who in a last minute phone call received a week earlier had been refused the opportunity to testify claiming there was no room. Hardly a democratic process when the energy minister and a prominent industry advocate had each been granted two of the 15 minute public speaking slots. Ultimately, a wind action group forfeited their 15 minutes to let her speak

An excerpt from the April 15th, 2009 Hansard transcript follows and the full text is here:

<http://windvictimsonario.com/victim-testimony---essex-county---wind-action-group.html> or here

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/transcripts/files\\_pdf/15-APR-2009\\_G023.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/committee-proceedings/transcripts/files_pdf/15-APR-2009_G023.pdf) Starts – Page 34

*...Thank you. I really wanted to speak before the standing committee. I was denied the opportunity to do it. I'm not a very good public speaker, so bear with me.*

*You need to know the problems with wind turbines and people living with them. .... When the wind turbines started up in early December, we had terrible noise issues, and it was pretty much instant. There were three nights straight we didn't sleep at all, and that's what prompted my letter to the wind company and to-I actually sent it to the MP because I didn't know how this all worked at that time. I had no idea.*

*We had no thoughts that we were going to have problems. When the wind turbines were actually going up at our place in the summer, we were putting a double-car garage up at the same time. We had put in a new fence, a new deck, everything. We weren't expecting anything. We're not anti-wind, we're not anti-green, but there are big problems with the setbacks in our area.....*

*When I hear people say, "There aren't problems," and "It's all in their heads," and they're just unhappy because they don't have a turbine, I don't even know what to do. My government has not been helping. My MPP (pc), thank God, has been active in trying to work on my behalf with the government, giving everybody my story, and my council has been good, but I'm not getting anything back from anybody.*

*This hum and vibration is not covered in the guidelines. There are no guidelines for interior noise in our house. When the winds are whipping up, and we can't sleep for days and days at a time, there's nothing. You phone the MOE and I cannot tell you how many times I heard, "We're in compliance. We're in compliance." They're in compliance. They're in compliance. In fact, they weren't in compliance. Finally, we dragged it out and got the acoustics study back. It's just been such a fight to get information...*

*..... We didn't want to speak out in December. Finally, I gave up and I started writing letters because I didn't know what to do because now our property value is zero. If I could move out of there, I'd have a for sale sign, we'd be gone, but we can't sell our house.*

Not far from Ripley lies the 2009 Kincardine Enbridge wind project where impacted families have been connected with the assistance of local facilitators who documented their stories. Over the last few years this documentation has evolved to over 20 affected families. Their names have been changed but their stories have been captured.

A portion has been excerpted below. Find the full document here: <http://windvictimsontario.com/harm-20-or-more-families-suffering-health-effects.html>

*Family 1*

*The sound varied from a jet-over-the-house sound, to a gentle whoosh, to a deep beating sound and on some days, to no sound at all.*

*I began to notice pressure in my ears after being outside for any extended period of time, and found myself going inside quite a bit, or wearing earplugs, for relief.*

*"After the first winter, we began to notice headaches, which have increased in frequency. In the last 6 months, I have noticed a high-pitched ringing tone in my ears.*

*"This winter, we have been coping with the health impacts by leaving our farm to spend time in town.... We have purchased a trailer and rented a site at a nearby campground in order to get away from the wind turbines on a regular basis during the warmer weather. However, this can only be considered a temporary solution."*

*Family 2*

*She reports that since the turbines came on line it takes her 2-3 hours to get to sleep, and the sound of the turbines "comes through her pillow". Whether the winds are calm or high, her sleep is disrupted 50 % of the time. Donna describes the noise as a "roaring freight train" going through her home. She also has a tightness in her chest and heart racing, which comes on when she is at home, and not when she is at work. She has developed high blood pressure. She is tired at work due to not sleeping well and reports that her home is no longer a place where she can relax. Her spouse has sleep disruption as well, and notes that it is noisier in different parts of their home, including where they sleep...since the turbines started that there are electrical problems in their home (electrical pollution due to the transmission lines and substations required for the project). Three times they have touched metal door knobs and been thrown backward and landed on the floor due to an electrical charge. They have witnessed bolts of electricity when turning on light switches. This never happened before.*

*Family 3*

*Kim and Mark report that the noise level in their two-story home is very high and that sleeping is a problem. They also report that their home "vibrates". Kim has developed headaches, dizziness and light-headedness, and is going for her*

*second MRI related to these symptoms. Their quiet country property.... is now completely changed by indoor and outdoor noise, sleep deprivation, flicker, and disturbing health symptoms which did not exist before.*

*Family 4*

*When he wondered out loud to his physician about the possible link to turbines, the doctor replied to Jim, "That is nonsense. Take these pills for sleep and anxiety". His sleeping problems were temporarily solved, but after a month or two, the pills no longer worked. Jim often sits up all night and cannot sleep. He has taken several dizzy spells at home and is prone to falling, feels dizzy when driving his car, and has experienced a seizure. He has headaches, heart palpitations, and blood pressure problems. Ida reports he has become forgetful and disorganized. When Jim goes away on vacation, he sleeps like he did before the turbines. When he returns home, his health problems resume.*

*Family 5*

*Her husband Dave, who never before had headaches, now has them frequently. Their teenage son and daughter are constantly tired and have headaches which go away when they leave home for periods of time.*

*Family 6*

*Their son who assists with the family farm began to get "sharp, spiking headaches" when the project started, and also suffers from tinnitus, nausea, and exhaustion. When he goes to town, the symptoms of nausea and tinnitus go away.*

*Family 7*

*He has taken to spending more time in the cellar, rather than the main floor, as his headaches ease up when he goes underground. Rilla has had headaches since the start of the project, which go away when she leaves for work. She has also developed nausea and lowered appetite and is "up half the night tossing, turning, and walking around due to noise".*

*Family 8*

*He has to have the television volume up much higher than average to mask the sound of the "whoosh, whoosh, whoosh". He has developed ringing in his ears and chest tension. When outside in certain parameters of his property he gets an unusual vibration across his chest. His spouse Anne, who was a vibrant, healthy person who fell asleep easily, now cannot sleep. She is sleep-deprived continually, and has encountered "hassles" at work due to her fatigue and stress. She has also developed tinnitus.*

*Family 9*

*....that "the continuous rumbling sound of the turbines disturbs my days and particularly my nights". She suffers from insomnia, headaches and ringing and pain in her ears. She likens the noise in her home to the "continuous sound of a generator", which was not there prior to the erection of the turbines.*

*Family 10*

*....notice her sleep deprivation some months after the turbines started. She also developed headaches, unusual sensations in her ears, pressure in her head, restlessness at night, unexplained nausea, motion – sensitivity...a typically highly organized and effective person noticed a change in her cognitive functioning: Over time, she could no longer prioritize her day or multi-task. She could barely carry on. She quit her job, a very significant part of her life....became nauseated around the turbines and dizzy intermittently...began to develop tinnitus, like a high-pitched tone in her ears, intermittently. She lost body weight due to vomiting from migraine and nausea. Her headaches became constant and she began receiving treatment at headache and pain clinics.*

The 2012 Grey Highlands Plateau wind project is one of the most recent facilities to begin operating and numerous reports of health impacts were reported within months of start-up. At least eight families have come forward reporting difficulty and one of them documented information on the families. An excerpt follows. Find the entire document:

<http://windvictimsonario.com/submission-on-behalf-of-8-families.html>

*Shortly after the turbines started my wife and I began to experience dizziness, depression, high blood pressure, ringing in the ears, and sleep disruption. Our grandson, who is 2 years old stays overnight once or twice a week, has experienced a severe nose bleed which covered his pillow and blankets in blood. He does not*

have a history of nose bleeds. He has always been a good sleeper, but recently when he stays the night he wakes up crying. He does not do this at home. His bedroom in our home is closest to the wind turbines

My wife now has high blood pressure and dizziness and depression, which subsided when she left for a couple of weeks. When the noise is extreme I find myself in a position that I can not think or function. I've also been having rapid pulse shortly after the turbine started. I lack energy and I am depressed and I do not even want to go home any more to my home which I've resided at since 1989. I can not sleep any more; it is effecting how I perform at work as I am tired from lack off sleep. I have lost my will to be an outdoors person; we just don't go outside anymore.

"This used to be a great place to live! Peaceful and quiet. Now it seems like living in a WASHING MACHINE! You can't sit outside after dark due to the constant noise on breezy nights. I have six wind turbines all around my house. The noise even comes through your pillows at night! Can't sleep due to the constant noise, and this is affecting my job performance! I have to close all my windows on nice summer nights to try to STOP the DARN NOISE! I have buzzing in my ears and lots of sleepless nights. Also the flicker effect, in the early evening bombards my house. These windmills are bothering my whole family. People who say that these are great should stop and try to get an understanding of what we are going through. HELL!!!! We have had people from down south ( Brampton/ Toronto) who ask " How the Hell can you live here?"

Well, we can't move /sell our house because, who in their right mind would buy around this area? This home was my retirement place to live, now I'm out property value. Thanks a lot!

People who write in the papers that there are NO problems with the windmills , should stop by and stay a while. NOT JUST INTERVIEW FOR TEN MINUTES!!

I was fine for the first two to three weeks. I thought, hey I'm one of the lucky ones, but things then changed. In March of this year I started to experience sleepless nights, ringing and pressure in my ears as well as pressure in my temples. This continued on non-stop and if this is living Hell, well then welcome. The noise from these giant windmills is horrific..... With them, brings a flicker effect through the house every night when the sun is going down. We have to close our windows and blinds to keep that flicker effect as well as the noise down. Nice way to have to live, huh?

"1. Health-- I have been having intense pressure in the head and ears, as if someone were forcing air into my ears beyond the volume-capacity of the inner ear. Additionally, I have experienced extreme heart palpitations, whereby it feels like one might not be able to breathe.

I was not impacted by these symptoms prior to the date the turbines started operating.

2. Noise-- The pounding and shrieking noise of the 9 turbines behind my house make walking and kayaking on the property (186 Acres) a distinct Non-pleasure.

3. Symptoms began after Feb. 2012.

"I have been experiencing dizziness, headaches, once even shooting pains in my head as if something were piercing my skull, head and ear pressure as though I am descending rapidly in an airplane, and ringing in my ears. I have loose bowls, pounding in my chest and on occasion I have had vibrations within my body while lying in bed which become difficult to tolerate. I am awoken in the middle of the night experiencing one or more of these symptoms. Many times I feel some of these effects in the day time.

My Daughter who has been home from University began to experience ear pain and sleeplessness shortly after her arrival. When she said to me that she thought that

*she might have caught her dog's ear infection, I became alarmed.  
My two year old granddaughter has complained of her ears hurting as she puts her hands to the side of her head. She does no such thing when she is at home in Collingwood.  
Our family dog of has shown behaviour changes that have required multiple visits to the veterinarian. Our dog shakes his head resulting in hematomas that required draining. This behaviour is new and was not present during the 4 years of owning our dog.  
Our family and our home has always been the center of our lives. It is our sanctuary and the place where we all come together. I fear for the well being of my children, their spouses, my grandchildren, and anyone else who comes to stay for an extended visit. I cannot abide that they would experience for one moment what I am suffering.*

*"My family and I are extremely disappointed that the Ontario Government failed to conduct a community health study prior to the installation of the wind turbines near my home.  
My wife and daughter are experiencing migraine headaches, insomnia, and nosebleeds. We believe these ailments are related to the wind turbines near my home.  
These ailments did not occur prior to the turbine installation."*

*I was born in Toronto and have lived on South Kingsway and in Willowdale, Agincourt, Scarborough and Brampton. My husband has lived near and in Brampton before moving to Grey Highlands.  
We have experienced all the noise (traffic, neighbors, sirens etc.) that living in an urban centre entails. It is very different from living in an almost, quiet rural setting. It is totally different from living near or in an industrial turbine array!  
Do not call a turbine array a wind farm. Call it-- what it is --an INDUSTRIAL SITE!.  
The extent to which I.W.T. permeates your life, has to be personally experienced (over a period of time) to fully understand it. The best descriptive word to apply to audible wind turbine noise is "INCONSISTANT"...*

*There are three types of audible "cyclic" noise.*  
*a. a jet flying constantly overhead.*  
*b. a mechanical screech*  
*c. whoosh-whoosh-whoosh-whoosh-whoosh-whoosh-whoosh etc.*  
*This noise is definitely different from a running refrigerator or a vacuum cleaner--- especially when you can't turn them off!*  
*Computer modeling cannot adequately calibrate the impact experience of this audible noise.*

*"Others describe their living conditions as "living in hell". Nonetheless we are all living day to day trying to cope with the impact on our health, that of the children's and worrying about how to escape an intolerable nightmare."*

Finally, a random sampling of communications follows. These were not on any formal site but were taken from scattered media stories, notes and deputations.

Mon, Oct 26, 2009



*Where do I start... my family and I feel as though we've been lied to by the wind company that has built in our community [community name] We were told that these things were whisper quiet THEY'RE NOT !!! – I have a \*\* year old child that has never had a headache in their life, now (after the towers came online) has a headache every week or two. My spouse has migraines, or very severe headaches several times a week, I am now taking sleeping pills to get to sleep.*

*We would sell and move in a second, but there is no way anyone would want to purchase our property, we have about 5-7, 2.3 meg towers within a mile of our home.*

*But here is another problem, and I suspect there are several people in our position. We feel that if we complain there would be repercussions for our family, we have children in school. I believe that if we register a complaint with the company, the township, or the MPP that everyone in the community would know about it the next day after all meeting at the local restaurant for coffee the next morning.*

*I wish that we could find more like minded people in our community, but we're reluctant to ask around. Where does someone start, to try and make this right. (Private)*

*Ross and Darlene Brindley have been hanging on for dear life since their home and barn became a receptor of stray voltage after the Kingsbridge 1 industrial wind project started turning. For 5 years they have been pleading with the government to help them. They just can't hang on any longer. Ross and Darlene had to sell off all of their livestock, irreversibly changing their lives when stray voltage rendered the farm buildings uninhabitable for cattle. No one in authority has helped them. It seems that no one really gives a care about the destruction of their livelihood or health. (Brindley, Goderich)*

*Ernie Marshall at first supported the wind farm that was placed near his home near Goderich, Ont. However, he also says that once the turbines got rolling, his health began to suffer. "I had problems with my heart, with my eyes, my digestive system," Marshall told CTV News. "It traumatizes your whole body.".... "Everyone was calling me a liar," (Marshall, Goderich)*

*"After six and a half years we are physically emotionally and financially drained. I fear we are going to lose the little bit we have left. MOE has all our information except our doctor's letter which they will not take and still will not do anything for us," said Whitworth.*

*In fact the Whitworth's have filed complaints and have had on-going meetings and phone calls with the MOE for six years.*

*"We cannot sleep, we are sick, our animals are sick, our children cannot live in our house, friends come and have to leave, our doctor says we should not be living in our house etc. but the Ministry still says everything is good...the MOE is not responsible for the problems the station has created but yet cannot tell us who is responsible. Please tell me how I can care for my family both from a physical and financial standpoint." (Whitworth, Amaranth)*

*"We have taken three-year-old Keiara to the emergency room 10 times with problems and Dr. McMurtry said my daughter shouldn't be there (at their home in the Ripley Wind Project). Melissa as well because she is pregnant," said Kent Wylde. "My daughter has had earaches with screaming at night and not being active at all. Since we've been in Kincardine she's been a totally different kid." (Wylde, Ripley)*

*April 9th, 2010*

*For over a year we have been trying to convince the wind farm developer and the government authorities of our personal situation regarding wind farm noise (sound pressure/vibration) without success... And, yes, depending on wind direction and wind speed, the impact of the cyclical noise can be extreme. Believe me, I have tried to "get used to it"- alas, it doesn't work. (Seeliger, Clear Creek)*

*The strobe effect gave her a pounding headache, Ms. Fraser said. "One day after 45 minutes I went to the basement — the dog beat me there. I thought the top was coming off my head. I was holding the sides of my head, my eyes were running, I was sick to my stomach." Beyond the physical symptoms, Ms. Fraser recalls a feeling of uneasiness. "You can't get that anxious feeling out of yourself; feeling like you're in an Alfred Hitchcock movie. It upsets your equilibrium." In 2007, on their thirty-fourth wedding anniversary, the Frasers moved into a house in the nearby town of Shelburne. The company had made them an offer and, after talking to the grown children, all living in Toronto, the couple decided to take it. "It was heartbreaking when we sold that house," Ms. Fraser said. "Just heartbreaking." (Fraser, Melancthon)*

*"Each day is a struggle with excessive stress, anxiety, depression, headaches, and ear and stomach problems," says Roger Oliviera, who lives on Seventh Line in Melancthon. "I rarely get a full night's sleep, and have become dependent on prescribed sleeping pills to fall asleep. The sound comes right through my walls, I can no longer open my windows." He says his symptoms became "very clear and persistent" about a month after turbines became active. His house is surrounded on all four sides, on adjacent properties. The closest turbine is about 480 metres away and the farthest about 600 metres. He too has filed complaints against the wind farm, which he firmly believes is to blame for his sleeplessness and anxiety. (Oliviera, Melancthon)*

*"I am now going to beg you to please shut these turbines off at night....I cannot even begin to sleep with this situation. I have spent yet another night on the couch with the TV on low to try to cut out the vibration. But it doesn't do it. I tried ear plugs again last night too. The vibration comes right through. I am pleading with you now. I cannot go on any longer like this. It is like a form of torture right in my own house....I have a hard time believing that you understand or you just wouldn't put us through this night after night." (private)*

*"I am angry, helpless, and disappointed our government would let something like this happen. I am appalled at their ignorance and lack of compassion. It saddens me to watch my family and friends suffer from the same [health] effects of the turbines. "I spend as much time as I can away from my home, away from my son who is also sleep deprived. We are exhausted and miserable. I often seek refuge with friends, often falling asleep minutes after I arrive. I feel like a gypsy. "What was once a beautiful place to live has been destroyed." – (Whitworth, Clear Creek)*

*"You might think that if a group of 11 victims reached out to the Premier of the province, the highest elected Liberal official, in a faxed letter, not once, but, four times that that would be enough to get intelligent, unbiased, scientists to investigate and help. But you would be disappointed. That is what I tried and my Premier or his Ministers didn't and don't care about rural Ontario taxpayers being harmed by wind projects," said Sandy MacLeod. (MacLeod, Ripley)*

*There's been no scientific studies on the impact of human beings surrounded by wind turbines," said Johnston, who has resorted to sleeping in a trailer at her son's home near Langton. "Nobody's looking at the effects these wind turbines have on us." Johnston and two other residents at the meeting followed Timm\* outside the council room and pleaded with him to get his company to do something.....Johnston told Timm living near the turbines amounts to a form of "torture." (Johnston, Clear Creek)*

*Living with turbines for almost 5 years, we have become used to the lack of sleep and all of the side affects that go along with it. We live within 700m of two turbines, there are 6-8 within 1 km, and at least 12 within 2 km's. Yesterday was report card day and my eldest son's report card broke my heart. It*

*started with a glowing report "...is a very responsible student in every area within the school. He walks in the hallways in the manner that is expected, demonstrating to others what a responsible student looks like. He works hard to ensure..." but my heart broke when I read "...should continue to put his best effort forth in paying close attention to the teacher and his classmates when they speak, rather than resting his head on his desk surface." My son complains often that he has a hard time at school because he is so tired all the time, and when I asked him how he handled it he said he tried to close his eyes on his desk from time to time, but it really hit home when it was there in black and white on the report card. (Ill Wind Reporting – Ontario - verified)*

*Hello my name is Brent Green I live in Melancthon township in the village of Corbetton I have been here 17 years loved living here until the nightmare started when they turned the turbines on In 2008 shortly after they were up and running I realized I was being woke up during the night the turbines were waking me and keeping me awake I had to go on medication now life is hell living here and nobody cares I am an innocent resident I know this is not fair that my life could be so disrupted by green energy please help because someday I would like to get back to a normal life without medication brought on by the Turbines." (Green, Melancthon)*

*It was another restless night in a long string of interrupted sleep. Amaranth's Leo Mendonca didn't feel quite right, like something was wrong, but he didn't know what, or why. When he got out of bed, he was struck by a wave of nausea... "I couldn't function or leave the house," he says, suggesting the feeling that overwhelmed him that May morning had been building for months. "I gave up. I had a breakdown. ... I was afraid to be alone." Part of that fear, he acknowledges, stemmed from not knowing what was causing him to feel as he did. At the time, he didn't know others living near turbines reported similar experiences. (Mendonca, Amaranth)*

*David Libby has two wind turbines operating behind his home in the Ridgeway area. Despite having a well-insulated house, Libby said the turbines are extremely noisy at times. "Since the first day these turbines started operating, I have had headaches, sleeping problems and sometimes nausea," he said. Libby added that one area in his house where he doesn't seem to be bothered by the noise is a room in his basement that's surrounded concrete walls. (Libby, Ridgeway)*

*Thompson introduced evidence at the hearing showing that the transformer station noise was audible within the house with the windows closed. He described the noise as a "nightmare" and a constant nuisance that not only affects his day-to-day activity, but also impacts the sales value and marketability of his property. In reaching its decision to cut his assessment in half, board member Marques wrote, "The Board finds that the constant hum alleged by Mr. Thompson does exist and significantly reduces the current value of the subject property. (Thompson, Amaranth)*

*"Dec 17: Early AM. Neil not sleeping well, me neither." Monica Elmes wrote those words in her diary back in 2010. It wasn't until some time later that she realized what had happened the previous day outside her home in Chatham-Kent. After years of preparation and close to nine months of construction, Enbridge Inc. had flicked the switch and started 44 powerful wind turbines turning near the Elmes household. Lack of sleep was just the first symptom for Elmes and her family. "To me, the visual intrusion is huge but, also, when they started to function, the noise intrusion was way more than I ever thought. When I first saw the map and saw where we were located, I thought, 'Oh, good, we're 1.5 km away from the closest one,'" says Elmes. She almost let out a sigh of relief at the*

time, not expecting the noise would be bothersome. Nothing could be further from the truth. Noise levels today with the turbines operating are often ten times what they were before. (Elmes, Ridgetown)

"We live 600 meters from the wind turbines and in the beginning were supportive," said Mrs. Horton. "That was until we started to have health problems." According to Mrs. Horton, those problems included not sleeping, whooshing in the ears, and vibrations that go right through the body. "It is hard to explain, but I swear you can feel the vibrations in your bones," said Mrs. Horton. "We are planning to spend thousands of to soundproof our home." Mrs. Horton also pointed out that when their family is away from the turbines they don't experience the symptoms. (Horton, Port Alma Ont.)

"We had a 30 minute meeting with Mitchell on Feb. 13. She stated that she knew all about us and the project. When asked if she would like to live in Glen's home to experience the harm, she fired back and asked if we would rather live near a pig barn or grain mill," (MacLeod, Ripley)

"Once again, turbines extremely loud around my property and have been for quite a while - this is causing a loss of enjoyment of normal use of our property and causing an adverse effect on the health of the people who live in this house. There is no point calling the TransAlta noise complaint line, it's an recording and nobody is available to solve the problem - there is no point calling the Spills Action Centre, they are collecting data and nobody is available to solve the problem. Data has been collecting in my file for a very long time! I have binders full of data sent to both these numbers and to all of you. Your mitigations do not work! Nobody at either of these numbers can give us immediate satisfaction. We need the turbines turned off. We are tired of being guinea pigs." (Private)

Norma Schmidt says she was a long-time green energy supporter who even pondered putting a turbine on either end of her property when the project first came to the area.

"I'm surrounded by the Enbridge wind farm ... and my life is an absolute living hell," she says. "Do everything within your power to keep those turbines away from your home."

Schmidt says while the ill health affects came over time, she now finds herself in a position where she can't sleep, suffers migraines and nausea, and feels constant pressure in her ears.

"These symptoms just didn't come one day ... I didn't wake up one day and say, 'I hate turbines.'" Schmidt says she finds herself disappointed, disillusioned and fearful of what the future may bring since she does not want to sell the home where she raised her children and hopes to one day invite her grandchildren. "Please don't let them come into your neighbourhood because I don't want you to get sick," says Schmidt.

As for the politics of it, Schmidt says she is disappointed with both Premier Dalton McGuinty and MPP Carol Mitchell. "I can't even get an appointment with Carol Mitchell to talk to her. She won't see me." (Schmidt, Underwood)

"I as of next week will be renting a room 12 km's away for \$500.00 per month, hoping my life will return to normal, I have spent much money on natural supplements, special diets, time travelling to diagnostic appointments, blood tests, specialists that are not covered under OHIP, but who can possibly repay me for losing a year of my life. In frustration driving to my son's home just to escape going mad. There is no amount of money that can reimburse me for my suffering. I have spent quite a bit on medications but suffering who can pay for that??? I would love it if someone could just buy this place and just use it for an office and business but not to sleep and live here." (Kelly, Melancthon)

*"It was just like the whole room was spinning," says Lisa Michaud of Thamesville, Ont. as she recalled the weeks after the Kent Breeze wind farm began operating in May. "The noise at night keeps you awake. But it's not just the noise that you hear. It's something else that's coming at you constantly that you don't hear, but you feel. It's just not right." (Michaud, Thamesville)*

The above snapshots are a very small sampling.

Though people have made formal deputations to every agency possible and have followed every rule and every protocol in place no one has received any help.

Under immense pressure families in wind projects are in a constant struggle trying to cope, some fleeing their homes.

The overwhelming body of evidence compiled over the last number of years cannot be ignored. Freedom of information documents exposing intentional suppression of fact cannot be ignored.

The inhumanity of government and industry tied together to force harmful policy is tragic.