

Millpond future debated MPP claims Liberals ignore wind farm effects

By Denise Paulsen

According to Kit Bresnahan – one of the Directors of the Eden Mills Millpond Association – the City of Guelph is in contravention of Ministry of Environment rules. The neighbouring city takes water from the Eramosa River which runs through the village of Eden Mills and the Millpond Association recently filed a claim with the City of Guelph believing that the neighbouring City's pumping of water from the village's river has compromised its integrity, resulting in sinkholes forming in the village's

Millpond. The sinkholes are one-metre wide, eroding the stone in the pond, taking down sand and gravel.

The community-based independent association celebrated its twentieth anniversary last Friday night at the Eden Mills Community Hall. The group was formed to maintain the natural flora and fauna of the village Millpond.

The City had until last Friday to reply and they claimed no fault on their part exists. The Ministry of Environment has been informed of this claim. Bresnahan states that his group is not taking

an adversarial position in this regard.

In a separate issue, the Millpond Association also discussed the ownership of the lands surrounding the pond in the village. Presently, two active members of the Association own the land. For the last twenty-years, the Eden Mills couple has generously leased their property to the group for a nominal fee of \$10 per year. At the meeting, the group voted unanimously to purchase the lands from the couple, who are eager to sell the Millpond land to the Association, for an undisclosed fee.

The McGuinty Liberals has voted down a motion calling for a moratorium on new wind farm development. It was defeated by a vote of 40 to 17.

"They're just not listening to people's legitimate concerns," said Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott.

Introduced by the Progressive Conservative caucus, the motion demanded an independent, comprehensive study to confirm that industrial wind energy sites do not pose a risk to community health and environment concerns. It also called for restoration of municipal planning authority.

The motion was inspired by MPP Arnott, and a bill introduced by Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones.

Wind farm opponents filled the Legislature's public galleries but, after a few interrupted the proceedings, all visitors were removed by the Acting Speaker of the House. They were told that if they didn't leave, they might be charged with trespassing.

During his participation in the debate, Arnott welcomed local organizers in Wellington-Halton Hills, including the Oppose Belwood Wind Farm Action Group (OBWF), which is joining Wind Concerns Ontario and community groups from over 50 other municipalities.

He also drew attention to the Green Energy Act, which the McGuinty Liberals passed last year.

"Fourteen months ago,

when the McGuinty Government introduced its so-called Green Energy Act, I said that a more appropriate title would have been the Power Grab Act," Arnott said.

"This legislation confiscated local councils' decision-making authority, while dismissing serious questions regarding wind turbines and their potential effects on human health," he continued. "It removed opportunities for public input."

During the noon hour, Arnott also addressed hundreds of protesters gathered on the lawn of Queen's Park.

Despite the motion's defeat, Arnott is not giving up. This week he plans to begin introducing his constituents' petitions on this subject.

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