

MPP speaks out on wind farms for Alnwick/Haldimand Township

Milligan strongly opposed to proposed wind farm project

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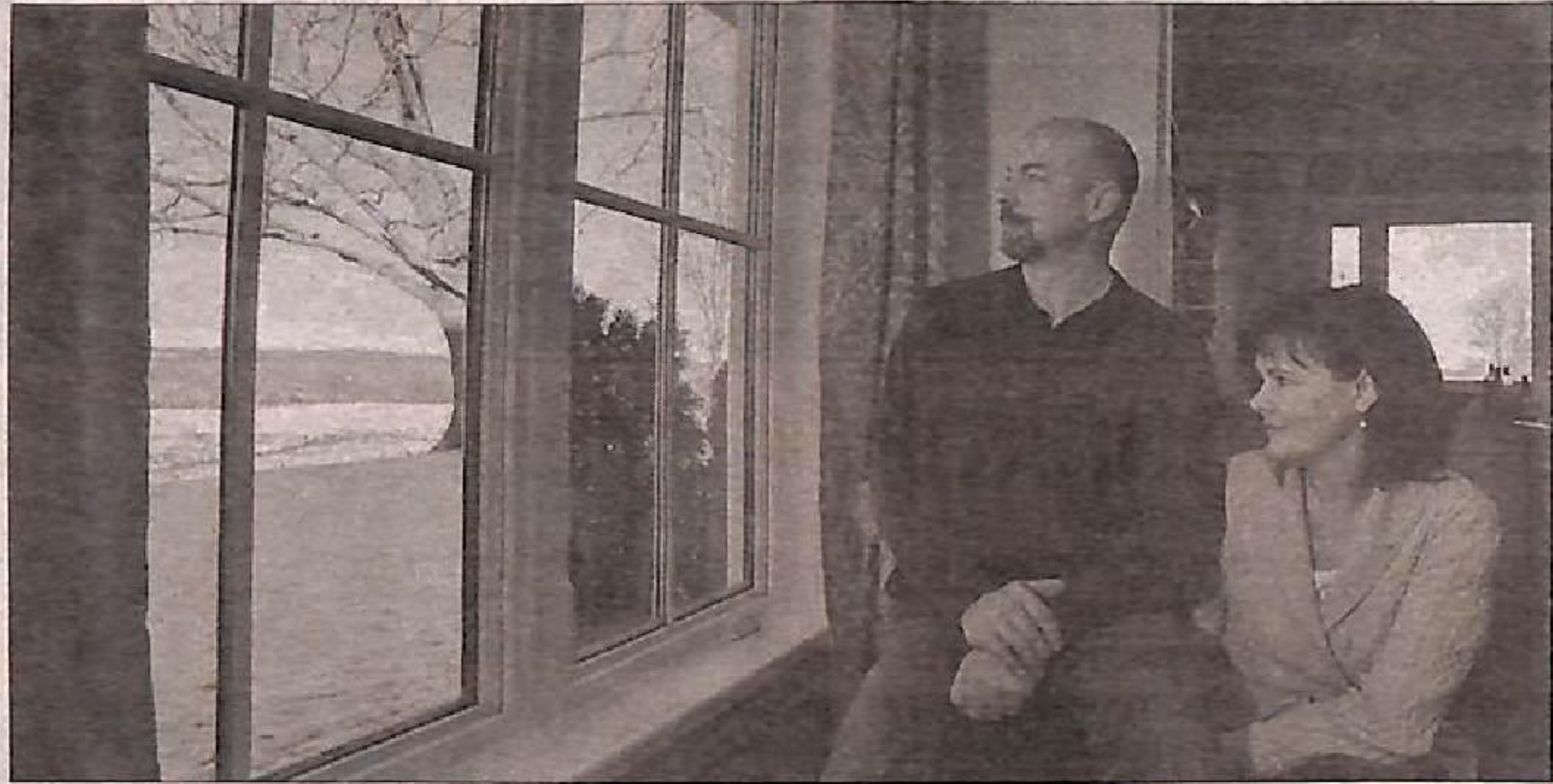
ALNWICK/HALDIMAND TWP -- While sitting down to dinner in their Baltimore farmhouse, Lisa and Mark DeJong enjoy the picturesque view of a Northumberland sunset through their dining room window.

Stunning orange, red and yellow streaks in the sky could soon be replaced by the flicker of blades of five wind turbines proposed for the area.

Looking out all windows on the west side of the house, the sprawling fields and hills of Northumberland County paint a better picture than words could describe. However, two proposed wind park projects in Alnwick/Haldimand Township have the DeJongs and other local residents upset, concerned about their health and the effect such wind parks could have on the value of their homes.

"It really is sad. A lot of people have purchased property up here for their retirement and for peace and tranquility of living in the country," Ms. DeJong said.

The Grafton wind park plan includes five turbines to be built on The Scots Line, south of Noble Road. Centreton's wind park includes five turbines to be built on Nelson



KAREN LONGWELL / NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

BALTIMORE -- Mark and Lisa DeJong look out a window in their home on Baptist Road. The view from the window could soon be different if a plan to install wind turbines at a neighbouring property goes ahead.

Road, between Baptist Road and County Road 22 -- all turbines 150 metres tall, including blade length.

"Plus, the big red lights on top of the turbines will flash on and off all night," Ms. DeJong said. "It won't be a pretty sight then."

Ms. DeJong said she and her husband are not against wind-powered energy, just opposed to building them in her backyard.

"We have to keep striving for clean energy sources," she said. "Everyone wants clean energy, but we need to consider common sense before placing turbines wherever it'll

make the most money. There are lots of other places to put the turbines."

Although the DeJong's home sits atop a hill on Baptist Road with breathtaking views in every direction, Ms. DeJong said if the turbines are built her family may have to consider moving.

"But I don't know who would want to move here," she said, adding the turbines would be built just outside the 550-metre setback from her home. "People have moved to the area for the peace and quiet, not to live next to an industrial area. We'll move ... if we can."

Recently, more than 50 concerned residents joined the DeJongs in their home to discuss the matter with Northumberland Quinte West MPP Rob Milligan, who vowed to do what he could to stop the turbines from being built.

"The people have made it very clear they don't want (wind turbines) in their backyards," Mr. Milligan said. "Personally, I am not against renewable green energy, but we have to look at what are the best practices available and how that impacts our communities."

During the gathering, residents expressed concerns surrounding safety, health, protection of the environment and property value.

"You don't have to be a rocket scientist to know the impact these turbines will have on the area," Mr. Milligan said. "Property values will go down."

Mr. Milligan said if his party was in charge, a moratorium would be placed on the construction of wind farms until further studies on the health effects of turbines, the effect on the environment and the devaluation of property are completed, adding "any projects not already hooked up to the grid will be cancelled."

In order to express his constituents' concerns, Mr. Milligan has written letters to the three provincial government ministries that deal with wind farm approvals: the ministries of environment, energy and municipal affairs.

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Warkworth hospice project manager honoured

WARKWORTH - Sonny Lennon's former colleagues at the Canadian Security Traders Association Inc., where he was president for seven years, have donated \$25,000 to The Bridge Hos-

pice in his honour.
The donation recognizes the devotion and hard work the Warkworth retiree put into his role as project manager in charge of the hospice's

construction.
The Bridge Hospice also paid tribute to Mr. Lennon's team for the countless hours they gave to the project.

Deaths Feb 13/13
JONES, Harry Ivan - at the Northumberland Hills Hospital, Cobourg, on Sunday, February 10th, 2013, age 88 years. Harry Jones of Castleton, son of the late Clare Jones and the late Maude (Tuck). Beloved husband of the late Myrtle Beatrice (Vansicklen). Loving father of Wayne and his wife Sandra of Castleton, Yvonne and her husband Wayne Smith of Port Hope, and Lynn Jones of Castleton. Predeceased by his son Terry Jones, and his daughter-in-law Nancy Jones. Brother of Elwood Jones of Castleton, and predeceased by his brothers, Charlie, Allan, Lyle, and Ralph. Sadly missed by his eleven grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, one great great granddaughter, and his many nieces and nephews. A private family service will be held. Cremation with interment Castleton Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Parkinson Society Canada, would be appreciated by the family. Arrangements in care of the WALAS FUNERAL HOME, Brighton.
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