

UPDATE ON WIND ENERGY ISSUES IN BLUEWATER

1.0 REVIEW OF TOPICS OUTLINED AT PREVIOUS BSRA MEETINGS (June 2009, August 2009, June 2010)

- Discussion and debate during 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Local, Ontario, and worldwide debate on the importance and value of wind energy: demand for power, economics, efficiency, costs, global warming, effects on wildlife, land use, settlement patterns in different countries, offshore turbines, scenic impairment
- BSRA Board's position: support wind power but with appropriate turbine set-back distances (2 km from settlement areas)
- Bluewater Council's Debate and By-Law January 2009
 - Set-backs 1,000 meters east of highway 21, 1,000 from villages, 600 from other urban zones, 1,500 from ends of airstrips, none west of #21
- Widespread media reports on health hazards, protests at Queens Park, Scarborough and throughout Europe, clarification of information on websites

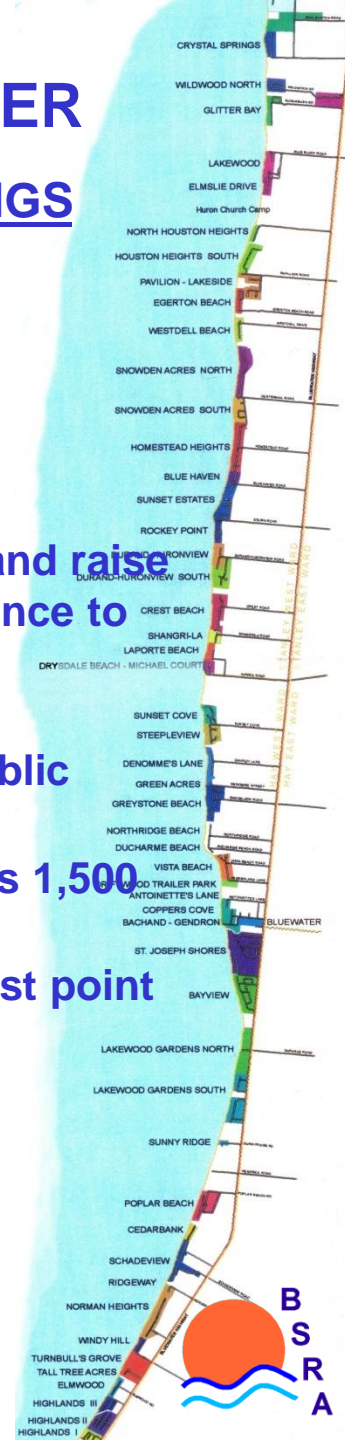


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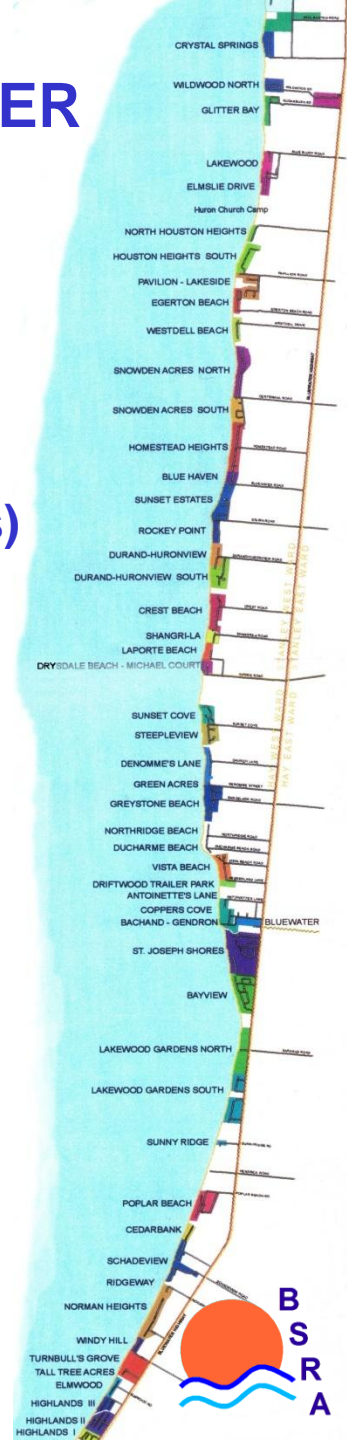
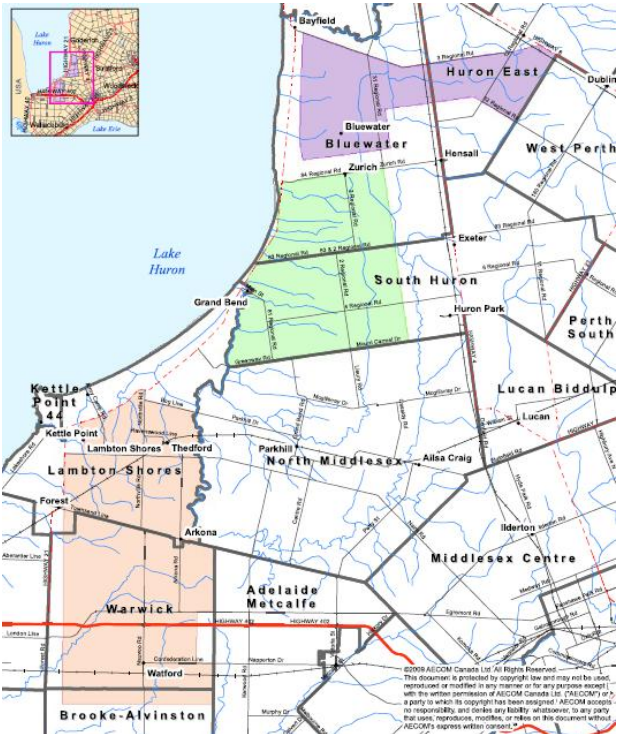
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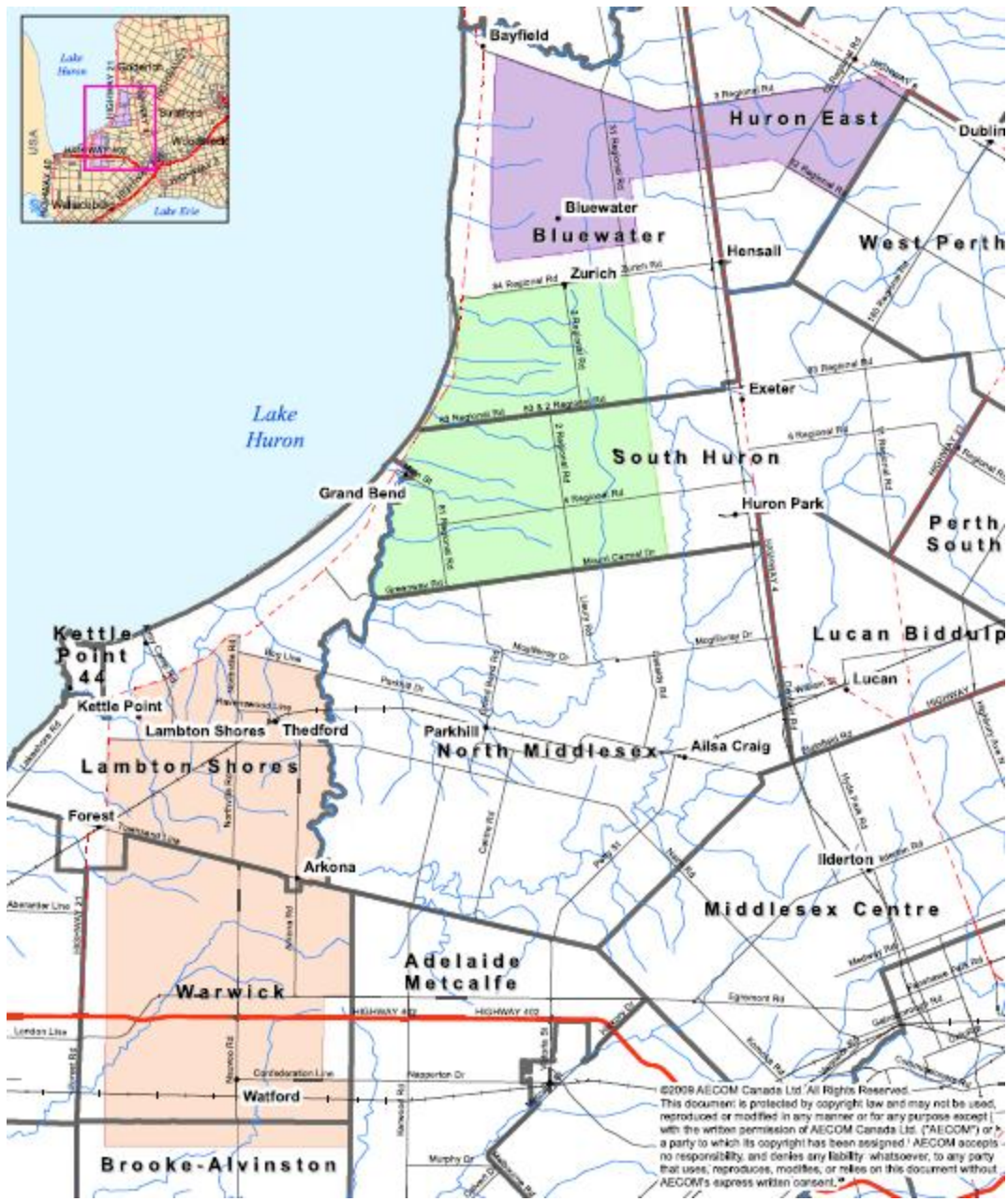
- Green Energy Act
- NIMBY argument and Premier's comments
- BSRA letter to MPP April 26, 2009
- Act Passed May 15, 2009
 - Expected to attract investment, stimulate economy, create jobs, and raise costs of electricity, wind energy projects to be fast-tracked, Province to overrule local by-laws, requirements of Ontario Planning Act and Environmental Assessment Act can be ignored
 - Minister to fund academic research chair to examine potential public health impacts
 - Dr. Robert McMurtry (former dean of medicine UWO) recommends 1,500 meter setback until scientific health study is completed
- Regulations establish setback distances set at 550 metres from closest point of reception
- Process for Renewable Energy Approvals
- Acciona Wind Energy: open house meeting April 21, 2010
 - 10 written questions submitted
- NextEra Wind Energy: open house meeting June 28
 - 12 written questions submitted



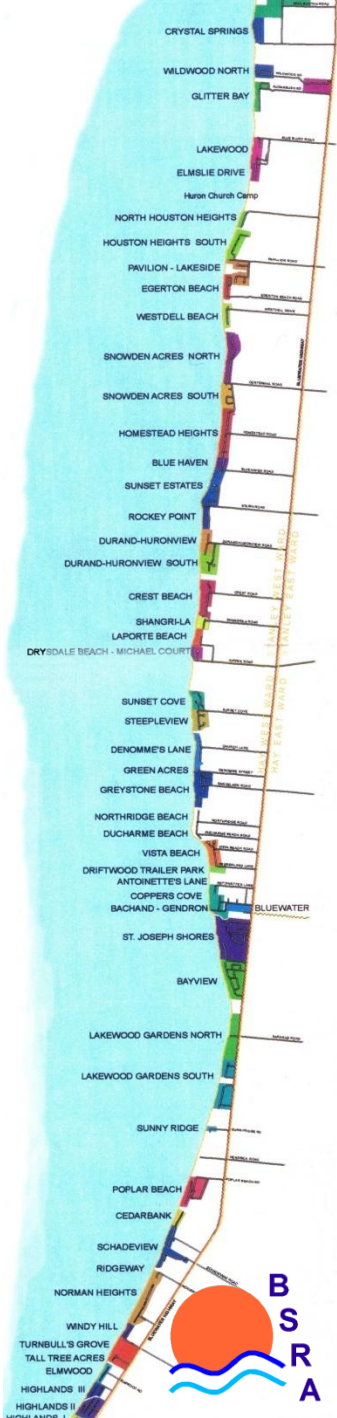
UPDATE ON WIND ENERGY ISSUES IN BLUEWATER

- 2.0 CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS
- 2.1 Land Based Wind Energy Projects
- Four large land based projects are planned for Bluewater and N. Lambton which will result in 300 large turbines
 - Bluewater (90 mw, approx 40 turbines), Goshen (160 mw, approx 70 turbines), Jericho (230 mw, approx 100 turbines)
 - Acciona (39 mw, approx 18 turbines)



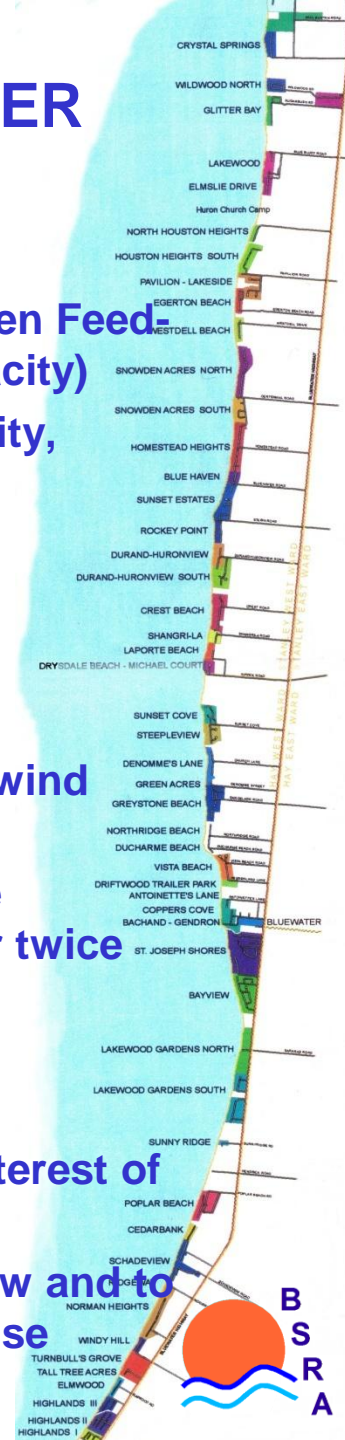


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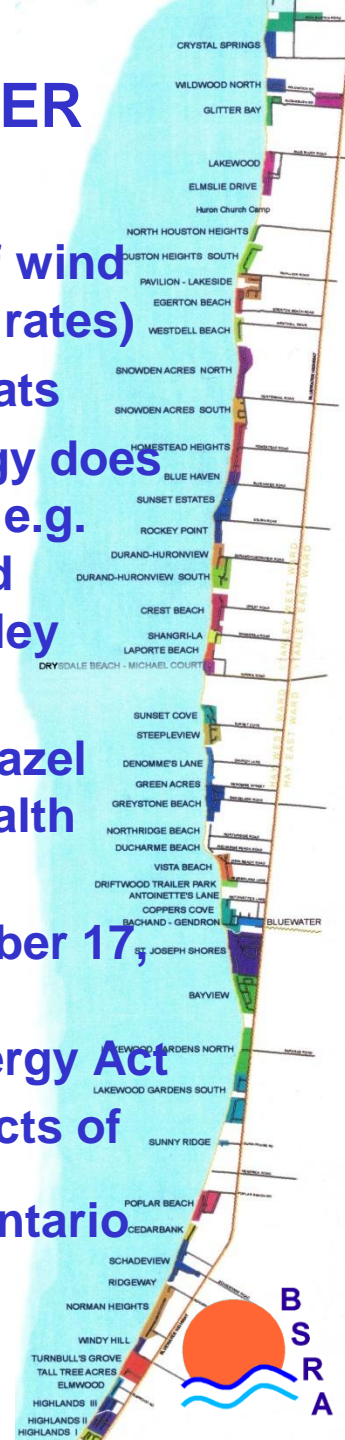
UPDATE ON WIND ENERGY ISSUES IN BLUEWATER

- 2.0 CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS (Cont'd)
- Second Presentation (HEAT)
 - 256 projects in Ontario waiting for Economic Connection Test, then Feed-In Tariff process (queue for planned increased transmission capacity)
 - Significant issues for the land-owner who accepts turbines: liability, insurance, first right of refusal
 - Need for 20 more transmission lines (enablers already planned, apparently without knowledge of Huron County planners)
 - Expropriation issues
 - Wind power facilities do not create permanent jobs
 - Lansink study (London) showed that loss of property value near wind farms is significant
 - Brampton study finds that residences in a wind turbine area have substantially lowered values and are on the real estate market for twice as long
 - If property values drop, tax revenue for the Municipality will drop
 - Asking County and Municipalities to learn the facts, to share the information, to inform the public, and to make decisions in the interest of local residents
 - Huron East has passed a motion to develop a cost recovery by-law and to investigate a “test” by-law for the regulation of low frequency noise



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- 2.0 CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS (Cont'd)
- Increased reports of concerns about the economic impacts of wind power (particularly following the recent increase in electricity rates)
- Continuing concerns about impacts on migratory birds and bats
- Increasing concerns in the scientific literature that wind energy does not actually result in a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions e.g. Kent Hawkins (Canada), Peter Lang (Australia), James Oswald (Britain), Robert Bryce (USA), David White (Britain), David Tolley (Britain)
- On August 16, the Grey-Bruce Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hazel Lynn, recommended set-backs of 1.2 to 1.5 km because of health concerns regarding low frequency noise
- A public information meeting has been scheduled for September 17, 7:30, in Clinton, with speaker Dr. Robert McMurtry on health concerns, and others on the Judicial Review of the Green Energy Act
- The first International Symposium on the Adverse Health Effects of industrial Wind Turbines to be held October 29-31 in Picton Ontario



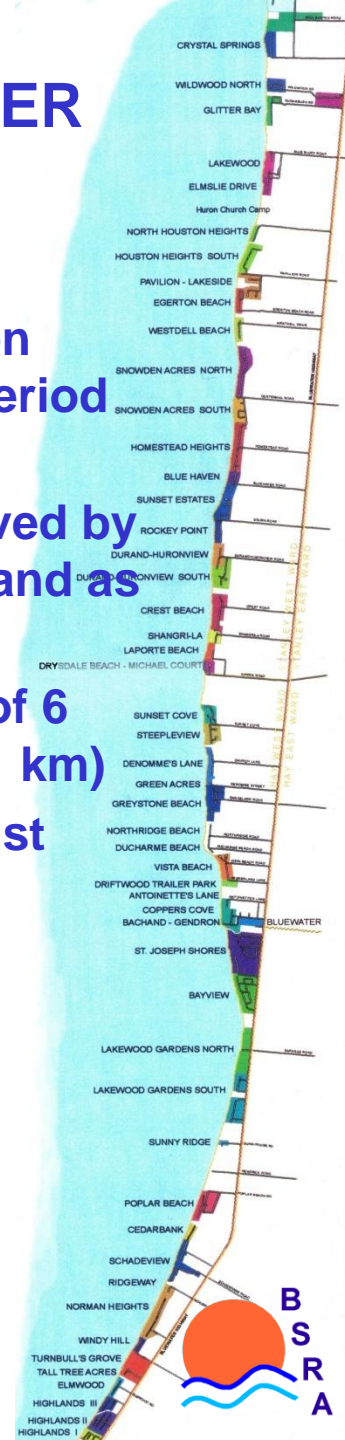
UPDATE ON WIND ENERGY ISSUES IN BLUEWATER

- 2.0 CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS (Cont'd)
- 2.2 Off-Shore Wind Energy Projects (Cont'd)
- Ministry of Environment call for input into approval requirements for Off-Shore Wind Energy Projects (comment period June 25 to September 07, 2010)
 - To find information, Google “Wind Ontario Environmental Registry”
 - Ministry proposes a five kilometre shoreline exclusion zone (“to ensure safe beaches, drinking water, food and fish, and the natural and cultural heritage”)
 - Transmission cables and infrastructure will be allowed within the 5 k exclusion zone
 - Federal government may also develop requirements for off-shore wind energy facilities
 - Project applicants must consult with the public, aboriginal communities, and municipalities



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- 2.0 CURRENT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS (Cont'd)
- 2.2 Off-Shore Wind Energy Projects (Cont'd)
- Ministry of Environment has also called for input into policy on making Crown Lands Available for wind turbines (comment period August 18 to October 4)
- Free Press report August 19: 12 applications have been received by Ontario for Lake Huron for sites as close as 50 m from shore and as far as 30 km
- Michigan Wind Council recommends a buffer from shoreline of 6 miles (10 km) and from National Park shoreline of 13 miles (21 km)
- Free Press reports concerns from group Huron-Kinloss Against Lakeside Turbines (HALT)
 - 5 km set-back from shore is not enough
- Threats to vistas, tourism, property values, migratory birds



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- [3.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION](#)
- Set-back distances for wind turbines in Ontario are currently the subject of widespread and vigorous debate
- Many local citizen groups are emerging in various segments of Huron County (and elsewhere) to restrain wind energy projects
- Ontario government has embraced wind energy in ways that could transform our economy, our landscape, and our settlement patterns in significant ways
- Clear answers are needed about wind energy projects in relation to environmental, health, and economic impacts, costs to the taxpayer and the electricity consumer, and the appropriate role of local officials
- Citizens should respond now to the MOE requests for input on policies for Off-Shore Projects
- Interested Citizens can stay up to date online:

www.windconcernsontario.wordpress.com

