



*“Highly picturesque on its height above the Mill Pond, and a reminder of the importance of the church in the Township, Mount Tabor’s steeple is the emblem and focal point of Milford. This building ... remains virtually unspoiled since its construction in 1865, the very model of a community meeting hall.”*

Municipal Designating By-law No. 1677, 28 January 1986

## **Appeal to Protect Mount Tabor & the Panoramic View of Milford from the Proposed White Pines Wind Project EBR 012-1279**

### **OPEN LETTER**

To: Ms Agatha Garcia-Wright, Director, Environmental Approvals  
Ministry of the Environment, 2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A, Toronto M4V 1L5

Copied to:

Premier Kathleen Wynne

The Honorable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

8 May 2014

Dear Ms. Garcia-Wright:

**Appeal to Protect Mount Tabor and the Panoramic View of Milford  
from the Proposed White Pines Wind Project EBR 012-1279**

We, the undersigned, urge you to require that wpd Canada remove or relocate the proposed industrial wind turbines that will severely damage the protected heritage values of Mount Tabor and its setting in the village of Milford in South Marysburgh.

Mount Tabor and its steeple are the focal point of the panoramic view that greets residents and visitors as they approach the village along the Old Milford Road or from Scott's Mill Road, above the Mill Pond. The iconic view of church and village, and the view from Mount Tabor's grounds, are at risk from the White Pines Wind Project.

Almost 30 years ago, on 28 January 1986, Warden J.H. Walmsley signed By-law No. 1677 to protect the following special qualities of Milford's Mount Tabor United Church:

*"Highly picturesque on its height above the Mill Pond, and a reminder of the importance of the church in the Township, Mount Tabor's steeple is the emblem and focal point of Milford. This building ... remains virtually unspoiled since its construction in 1865, the very model of a community meeting hall."*

Six proposed turbines would be directly in the views of Mount Tabor and from Mount Tabor's grounds. For up to 40 years (until 2054), Turbines T01 to T06 would cause visual harm to Milford's picturesque landmark and community gathering place.

Mount Tabor is central to the life of South Marysburgh throughout the year as the location of the agricultural fair, artisans' market, outdoor sports, theatre, dances, and concerts. The dominating presence of six sweeping arcs of turbine blades, seen from its elevated grounds, would spoil Mount Tabor's special protected qualities and destroy the appreciation of it as a central gathering place for the community.

**wpd's disregard of the potential impacts on Mount Tabor and the panoramic view**

In wpd's revised Heritage Assessment Report, its consultant, Stantec, chose only two visualizations to illustrate the turbine impacts on Mount Tabor and the view of the village. Nevertheless, these visualizations demonstrate the negative visual impacts of the project. For example, the visualization from the Old Milford Road shows that the six 45-storey-high turbines will dominate the panoramic view, detracting from the focus on Mount Tabor's landmark steeple. Yet Stantec minimizes the impact by saying (emphasis added) that:

*"Views of Mount Tabor from Old Milford Road ... may include turbines depending on distance from the church; however, none of the turbines obstructs the silhouette of the steeple that defines Mount Tabor as a landmark."*

Stantec does not even consider the iconic, protected view from across the Mill Pond, from where T06 aligns directly with the steeple. To view the obstruction caused by T06, see the video on Heritage Canada's Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ncrduMiiKM>

Stantec concludes with the comment:

*"It is the opinion of this study that views from these two outdoor gathering places [Mount Tabor and St Philips Church] will not be obstructed in a way that detracts from an understanding of the place, its cultural heritage values or its greater context."*

Stantec is wrong: It is the community who understands the meaning of the place, appreciates its cultural heritage value and its importance within the life of South Marysburgh, so well expressed in the 1986 designation by-law. It is the opinion of the undersigned that the views from the grounds, and of the church from the main approach to the village and from Scott's Mill Road, will be visually disrupted by wpd's turbines and destroy the greater context of the church within the village. Stantec's conclusion that "No further mitigation [is] recommended" is unsupportable. ***The only way to protect Mount Tabor and the panoramic view of the village is to remove Turbines T01 to T06.***

Wpd asserts that it cannot remove even one turbine because it will "impact the economic viability of the project." This claim is unsubstantiated and cannot be justified – wpd's financial concerns should not come before the protection of the County's heritage and its economy that derives in large part from its sense of place.

#### **The provincial government's responsibility to protect Prince Edward County's heritage**

The provincial government must respect Prince Edward County's designation by-law, enabled by the *Ontario Heritage Act* and intended to protect Mount Tabor's special qualities for future generations. The Ministry of the Environment must require that wpd remove the turbines that will diminish or destroy Mount Tabor's protected values.

Mount Tabor must remain "*Highly picturesque on its height above the Mill Pond*" and "*a reminder of the importance of the church in the Township ... virtually unspoiled since its construction in 1865.*"

Sincerely,

The undersigned (with affiliation if applicable):

Bruce Dowdell, President Emeritus of Milford Fair Board, Chair of South Marysburgh Recreation Committee, Chair of South Marysburgh Mummers