

## **Wind Energy as Social Paradox: the Case of Prince Edward County, Ontario.**

Prince Edward County, Ontario, is an island exposed to high winds crossing Lake Erie. Consequently, it has been courted by wind energy companies for several years as an ideal location to install wind turbines. However, conflicting attitudes among local residents exemplify what has been called a paradox of social perceptions regarding wind power: broad societal acceptance yet frequent local resistance to individual projects. Analysis of news articles and letters to the editor highlight conflicting views regarding local planning decisions by county officials in response to two proposed projects in 2002. For a variety of reasons, neither these, nor a more recent project to be developed in 2009, came to fruition. This has pleased advocates for tourism and county aesthetics and frustrated farmers and other landowners denied revenue from turbine leases. This presentation explores the multidimensional factors that have kept Prince Edward County free of wind turbines.