



## *Leamington Yacht Club*

For centuries sailors have harnessed the wind and have known it as both a wonderful ally and a fierce foe. It has driven the commerce of the world and soon may provide part of its increasing energy needs.

With this in mind, the Leamington Yacht Club has read with some interest the proposal of Southpoint Wind for multiple wind farms in the water of Pigeon Bay, located on the north shore of Lake Erie. Although not opposing wind farms, we do have the following concerns regarding the safety of the boating public, which we feel should be addressed.

Pigeon Bay is host to four commercial and recreational harbours, namely Cedar Island, Kingsville, Leamington and Sturgeon Creek. It is also some of the most travelled waters of western Lake Erie including Ferry service between Leamington, Kingsville and Pelee Island, recreational traffic between the Detroit River Light to the west, Southeast Shoal Light to the south and central Leamington Marina. The proposed wind sites are in the direct path of these routes. Even indirect passageway would be restricted as sailing vessels often are forced to tack on several different courses depending on wind conditions.

Each tower will require proper aides to navigation as well as aircraft clearance lighting. Unfortunately, multiple aids to navigation in close proximity to each other can cause confusion or misdirection to night time reckoning.

Fog is also prevalent in these waters and navigation around the towers in all but the best of visibility could be extremely hazardous. Even with the installation of fog signals, the echo effect between towers could cause similar confusion or misdirection.

Pigeon Bay is shallow. The high voltage cables and their corresponding magnetic fields which will be placed on the lake bed between individual towers and shore will be only meters away from the electronic and magnetic navigation devices onboard transiting surface vessels. Radio communications could also be effected by the close proximity to such electromagnetism.

Any change in the lake bed will change navigation, silting of existing harbours or newly created sand bars can create severe hazards to boating. Shoaling or the grounding of a vessel in heavy seas is one of the most dangerous situations a mariner can face.

The Leamington Yacht Club, representing collectively over 1300 feet of private vessels by definition, is not opposed to the harnessing of wind. We do however, have concerns with the logic of placing such obstructions as 410 foot high wind turbines in so frequently travelled waters when there is ample shore based locations, together with willing hosts sharing the same wind patterns as Pigeon Bay. This would be akin to placing a wind farm in the median of the 401!

Sincerely,

Leamington Yacht Club.

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