



Municipality of  
**Dutton Dunwich**

## **The Corporation of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich**

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**An Industrial Wind Turbine free zone, designed to protect  
our unique environment.**



## **Interim progress report, supporting our original Business Case & previous Briefs:**

Delivered in-person; by Mayor Cameron McWilliam; August 18, 2015.

In 2012 our Council became aware that an Industrial Wind Turbine (IWT) company, Invenergy, was quietly optioning farm land in D/D for IWT development. When we first met with their representatives, we immediately asked for financial impact details and some specific information, with respect to possible placement of any IWT's. We wanted to be able to educate our Council members & our citizens, with respect to financial benefits & liabilities; associated with such a project. Unfortunately; very limited information was made available until very recently.

We expected Invenergy to bring their best offer; with supported IWT benefits outlined, to their mandatory meeting, with Council, on May 27, 2015.

When that did not happen we asked them if they would submit a proposal on a 'Without Prejudice' basis, to Council.

They did as requested; however, they labelled the document "Confidential" and our lawyer advised we could not share it with the public; without their approval.

We finally got that approval and have now posted the "Initial Invenergy Proposal" on our website.

The first Council meeting we will have to consider Next Steps will be Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Invenergy still claims they cannot tell us where they might locate specific IWT's and will only share a general outline of the area being considered. Ironically; one of our citizens used land lease information from the Registry Office & simple Google map technology to produce a document showing where possible IWT installations might happen.

We did our research, provided our citizens with educational information on both sides of the IWT debate, and in early 2014 solicited public opinion through a formal survey.

As you know that survey showed 84% of our citizens were opposed to this IWT project.

At the May 27, 2015 mandatory "Public Meeting" it was obvious the vast majority in attendance still oppose this project.

Invenergy projected an entitlement attitude and their spokesperson stated they had to right to seek approval; on behalf of the 105 supporters they have found within our population of over 4,000.

It seems to be their position that the majority does not matter and they admitted they are not even trying to getting abutting land-owner approvals; currently.

As requested during our previous meetings; we continue the dialogue with Invenergy; as we try to find a mutually acceptable solution; that does not include the installation of any IWT's in Dutton Dunwich; for the sound reasons, articulated in our Business Case.

Unfortunately; no solution has yet emerged.

Key facts outlined previously; which have not changed:

**Key Fact #1: The Municipality of Dutton Dunwich is a growing and diversified community**

- Two major developers, who are poised to build additional homes, state they may be forced to halt their projects if IWT's are approved for the community. They have not changed that position and continue to be opposed to any IWT project per their written submissions. To be fair Invenergy now recognizes the magnitude of this problem and included a 1 KM setback; from our urban developments, in their draft proposal.
- We currently support the Green Energy Act as a partner in an OPA approved solar project which will be operational in 2015 on Municipal property. We are enclosing some photos demonstrating that progress.

Note how we, with our solar partner, have included a wetlands habitant (pond) and nesting boxes on hydro poles, to accommodate the fact Dutton Dunwich is on a primary migration route and home to significant species at risk.

- Cultural and recreational tourism are large components of our community, which relies on unobstructed natural landscape to thrive.

**Key Fact #2: D/D Citizen Opposition is Clear**

- D/D undertook a formal survey of its citizens' asking them if they support an IWT project and **84% of our citizens expressed opposition to IWT development in D/D**. Recent reaction to the Invenergy mandatory presentation to Council and their Public meeting confirms that position has hardened. At the first meeting of Invenergy's 'working group'; following the public meeting, over 70% of their membership resigned.
- A wide cross-section of our citizens have sent us letters of opposition to IWT development in D/D taxpayers - land developers, local business owners, service organizations, and community citizens. None of those written positions have changed and in fact the Invenergy actions; locally have increased the resolve of those opposed to this IWT project.

**Key Fact #3: D/D has a Unique Natural Environment**

- D/D is the "heart" of the Colonel Thomas Talbot Settlement which spread to include most of southwestern Ontario. Our Heritage Museum and Parks facilities rely heavily on pristine, unobstructed, natural environments.
- Situated between the Thames River and Lake Erie, D/D is an important migration pathway for numerous species of birds and butterflies, some of which are species at risk.

The previously submitted Business Plan and Ministry Briefs; with supporting documents clearly outline our position that: **"The Municipality of Dutton Dunwich will be negatively impacted by IWT's. We urge the Ontario Government and IESO to allow D/D to remain an IWT-Free zone."**

## **Background – Dutton Dunwich and Wind Turbines**

To the west of Elgin County, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been building large numbers of Industrial Wind Turbines (IWT) for several years. They now have about 500 turbines with many more planned. At the eastern end of Elgin County, in the Port Burwell area, there are 66 IWT in place as well. *(See maps Appendix AA 1&2 and next pages)*

We understand that the maximum capacity for our area can be accommodated by approval of projects being submitted from within ‘Willing Host’ Municipalities; thus, eliminating the need to force Dutton Dunwich to accept any IWT’s.

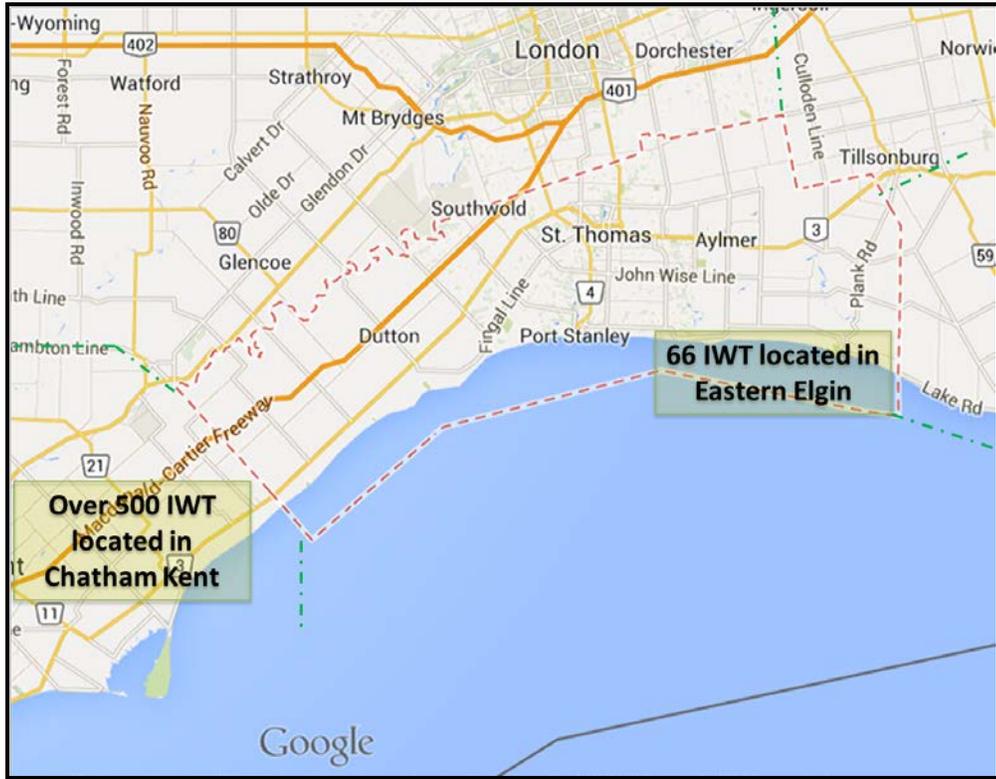
Invenergy’s project has already been downsized due to capacity restraints and we suspect D/D might be at the very edge of viable wind patterns; given the obvious diminishing of IWT sites; as they move East from the primary installations in Chatham Kent.

A wise business decision would be to at least reject the Invenergy proposal this time to allow more time to properly study the outstanding issues.

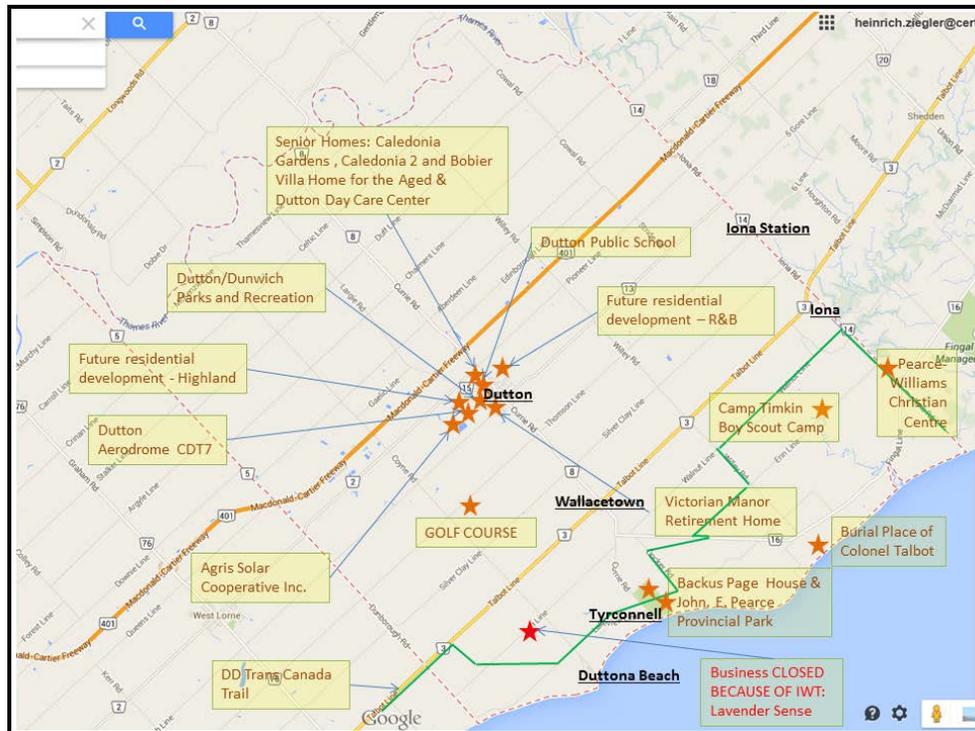
Our Business Case is still valid; with the benefits of not having an IWT project in Dutton Dunwich, far exceeding anything gained by project approval.

At our March 12, 2014 Council meeting we passed a formal resolution opposing IWT projects in Dutton Dunwich. The Council has been given no valid reasons to change that position. The resolution was sent to the Ministry of Energy offices, and is also attached here. *(Appendix BB)*

This Brief and our business case clearly outline the reasons for our Council passing and continuing to support this resolution.

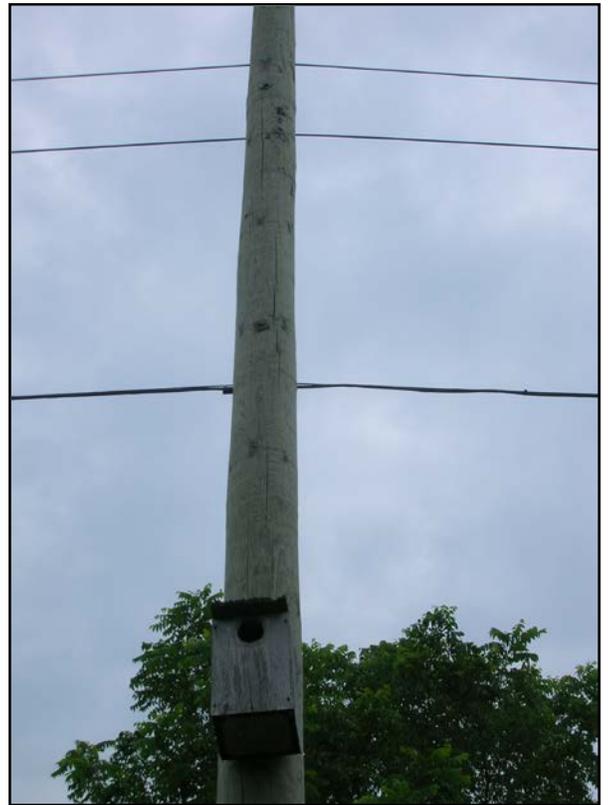


Elgin County with IWT to the west in Chatham-Kent and in eastern Elgin



Dutton Dunwich listing Important Features of Note

**SOLAR PROJECT PROGRESS**



**Pond and Nesting Boxes  
on Hydro Poles**





**An unobstructed skyline is priceless!**

Tourists from Whitby, Ontario took the time to write to the Mayor expressing their concern regarding any IWT project within Dutton Dunwich.

***“We were returning from a visit with friends in Essex County. Their horizon that had been previously wide open and scenic is now blighted with wind turbines. Your part of Southwestern Ontario brought us back into beautiful uncluttered skies and picturesque farmland....”***

Another visitor, from Michigan wrote to say:

***“As I drive back to Michigan; along Hwy 3, from my cottage at Duttona Beach, I am sickened by what has been done to the lakefront.”***



**A roadside view in Dutton Dunwich**

## **A roadside view in Chatham/Kent**



### **D/D Citizen Opposition is Clear**

Dutton Dunwich provided our citizens with a complete opportunity to be educated on the pros and cons of an IWT project. Public meetings and open presentations to Council, along with full disclosure by way of a special Green Energy section on our Municipal website was provided. We continue to be open to any solution which does not include the installation of IWT's.

Invenergy has not been able to provide any clear evidence to contradict our Business Case or change the minds of the vast majority in our community; that believe IWT's are not beneficial and in fact will be harmful to the Dutton Dunwich lifestyle.