## A Collaboration of two Co-operatives

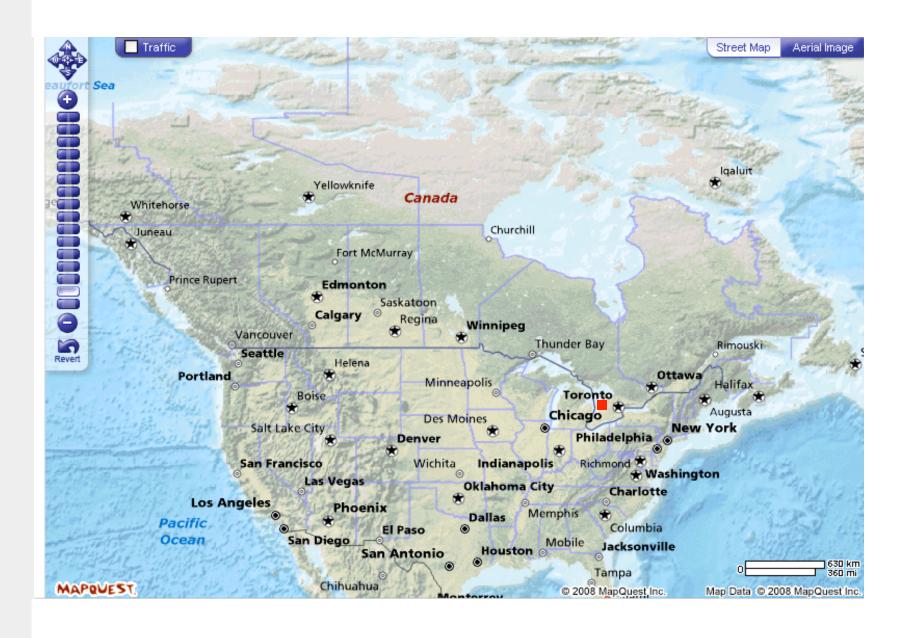
**Doug Fyfe** 

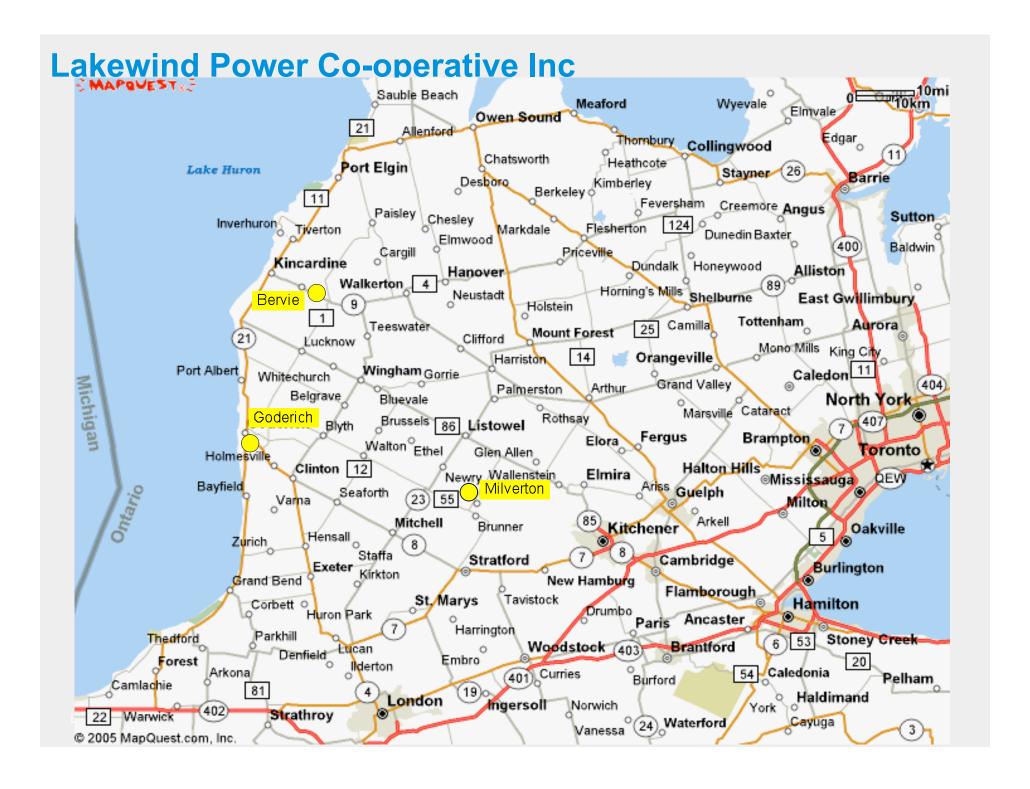
**General Manager** 

World Wind Energy Association
Annual Conference, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
2008 Jun 25 Wed

## **Lakewind Power Co-operative**

- what and who we are:
  - a sustainable energy development entity comprising two Ontario co-operatives :
    - Countryside Energy Co-operative
       (rural : geographic area Mid & South-West Ontario)
    - TREC-Windshare 2 Co-operative
       (urban : geographic area Greater Toronto Area)
  - = a collaboration of rural and urban co-operatives with the same vision and goals -





# Countryside Energy Co-operative &

## **TREC-Windshare 2 Co-operative**

- who we are:
  - separate co-operatives registered under the Ontario Co-operatives' Corporations Act
  - operate under the one-member-one-vote principle
  - distribute profits back to members in proportion to business done with their co-operative -

# What drives our interest in communityowned sustainable energy?

- adverse climate change
- adverse health & productivity impacts caused by atmospheric, land and water pollution
- depletion of unsustainable fuel sources (eg oil, coal, gas)
- to use and maintain control of a valuable, local resource
- to initiate & lead rural employment growth in a new and sustainable industry
- to improve the viability of rural and urban communities -

## **Mission**

To develop community-owned sustainable energy from renewable sources -

## Scope

- wind (via community-owned windfarms)
- energy conservation education -

## Goals

- to develop co-operative-owned sustainable energy generation in rural communities
- to engage rural & urban citizens as co-op members
- to build strong rural & urban communities
- to enable local ownership of key commodity
- to demonstrate environmental awareness and land stewardship benefits
- to develop community-owned sustainable energy as part of a holistic vision of <u>sustaining & improving</u> our current lifestyles and the environment -

# What is Community Power?

- locally owned and sited
- rooted-in and responsible to a community
- generated from wind, solar, water, bio-mass, and anything sustainable and practical that protects our environment, and does not harm our environment
- profits stay in a community = viability
- results in a more distributed energy system -

## **Electricity from Wind as a Cash Crop**

- in mid & south-west Ontario, optimum wind areas are mostly on agricultural land
- creates a new income-stream for farmers
- provides new, skilled jobs (manufacturing, construction, management, operations, maintenance)
- provides long term investment for co-op members
- allows co-op members to use their own sustainablygenerated electricity (actual or virtual)
- creates new tax revenue for municipalities
- keeps energy \$ (dividends) in the community
  - locally generated money circulates up to 6 times or more in a community!

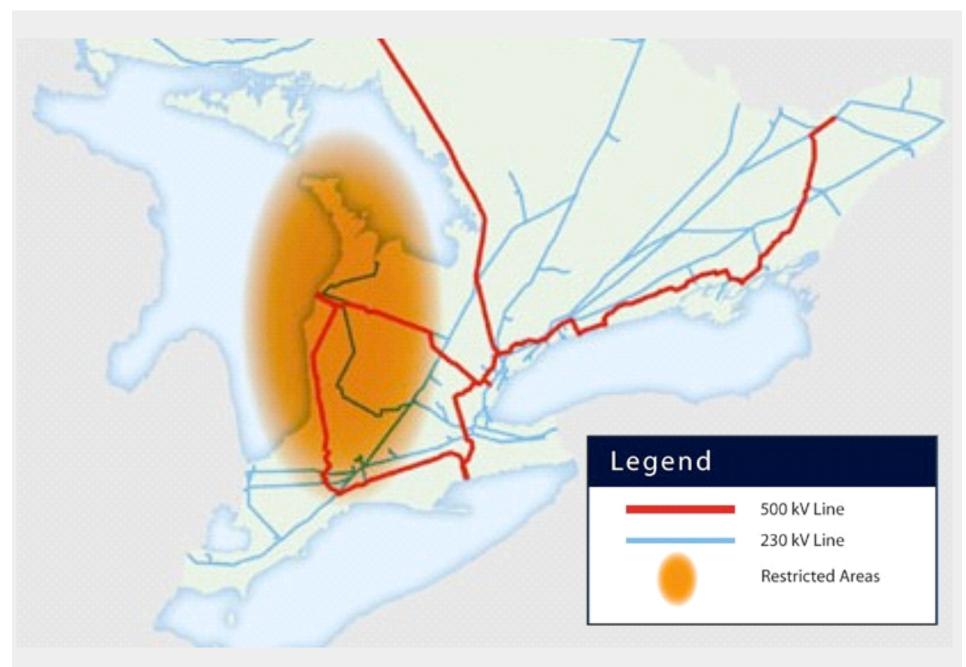
## Collaboration

- intention:
  - to develop a 10MW community-owned windfarm
     Lakewind-Bervie Community Windfarm
     via the Ontario provincial government's Standard Offer
     Offer Contract legislation the first in North America
  - members of Countryside Energy and TREC-Windshare\* will jointly invest to raise equity to develop the windfarm and receive annual dividends based on profits from the sale of electricity to the Ontario Power Authority via the OPA's Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program
    - \* installed the first urban wind turbine in North America, generating electricity since 2003 January



## **Constraints**

- Nov 2006 Ontario Power Authority introduced its Orange Zone restriction, stopping development work on the Lakewind-Bervie Community Windfarm
- the Orange Zone constraint also stopped other community groups' projects, and prevented others from starting -



source: www.powerauthority.on.ca/sop



## **Removal of Constraints**

- 2007/2008 Hydro One engaged the public in an Environmental Assessment for a new 500kV transmission line between the Bruce Nuclear generating station and Milton, near Toronto
  - 1700MW dedicated to renewable energy generation
- May 2008 Ontario Power Authority announced its revision to the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program [RESOP]
  - eliminates commercial interests splitting a multi-MW project into 10MW chunks which have sidelined community groups
  - projects able to (re)start soon (2-4 year lead-time) -

# Facilitating the Way Ahead

- with the removal of constraints the door has begun to reopen for community sustainable energy groups and their projects
- we thank the Ontario Power Authority for revising the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program [RESOP]
- we applaud the Ontario provincial government for its foresight in their sustainable energy generation legislation which is allowing wind and other renewable energy generation to develop
- specific thanks go to the Ontario Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture Food & Rural Affairs (grant \$), and our local MPPs John Wilkinson (Perth-Wellington) and Carol Mitchell (Huron-Bruce) -

#### **Countryside Energy Co-operative Inc**

# **Poignant Proverb**

"We do not own the Earth, we borrow it from our children."

...an astute North American First Nations' proverb which concisely expresses the sentiments of sustainable energy generation, and the holistic meaning of sustainability itself -

# **Thank You**

Let's help each other succeed!

**Doug Fyfe** 

**General Manager** 

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