



June 9, 2012

Re: May 18, 2012 E-35-12 "Report on Pier Update"

Dear Mayor Goldring and Burlington Councilors,

BurlingtonGreen would like to comment on the decision at the May 30 Community Services Committee meeting not to reconsider reinstating the pier's 10 kw wind turbine feature with discussion on the Report on the Pier Update received from staff.

We ask council to direct staff to:

1. Keep/re-apply for \$100,000 Ontario energy conservation grant money to support the project as originally intended.
2. Maintain their order with the turbine supplier and installer avoiding cancellation fees.
3. Schedule for the turbine installation after the current pier urgencies are resolved.

The rationale for the direction is:

- Turbine costs should have been and may still be able to be covered by an Ontario energy conservation grant given to Burlington Hydro for the purpose of supporting the wind turbine feature on the pier. See article
- Without the turbine, taxpayers will have to pay to keep the lights on at a rising annual cost (as hydro rates increase) instead of receiving a likely reduction in costs.
- Burlington will have to look in perpetuity at a symbol of a forever-uncompleted pier design and what might have been. The pier structure was designed structurally to support a beacon with a wind turbine. Removing the key component is a waste of money spent and will appear pointless without it.
- Cancelling the turbine solely to stay on schedule is short sighted and there are alternative options as noted below. Staff admitted on May 30 that it would have proceeded as planned except for not having accurate information on connecting the power to the grid and issuing a cancellation order without Council approval. Council should and could have allowed staff to focus on the short-term priorities by delaying the turbine installation to a later date.
- Other reasons discussed for the cancellation are inconsistent with previous decisions:
  - The cost of the turbine was mentioned despite that, as we

understand, it should have been paid for entirely with an Ontario energy conservation grant given to Burlington Hydro for this purpose.

- The turbine was presented as a poor return on investment – a requirement that has never been applied to any other design feature in the city, including the entire pier itself! To this end a zero cost inclusion via grants and cost avoidance stream gives an infinitely positive ROI, not a negative ROI.
- The “Burlington, Our Future” Strategic Plan has as an objective to “Promote and encourage lower community energy consumption”

We recognize the pressures Council is facing presented by the pier build and the unfortunate misinformation previously presented which lead to the improper decision. We encourage Council to correct the situation and believe we have offered win-win solutions and rationale that work for all.

Ken Woodruff  
President  
BurlingtonGreen Environmental Association

**What is your vision for Burlington? Status quo or forward thinking?**

