



ENTERTAINMENT

Centre Stage

Column by
Stephen Cooke

With Halloween just behind us, what follows might be termed a “slow week” in the business of show, but now that November is upon us, can the Christmas concert season be far behind?

(The answer is no, no it cannot.) But until we get that chance to deck the halls and ding-dong merrily on high, the show to see this week would be a Saturday, Nov. 4 visit to New Glasgow’s Glasgow Square Theatre by U.K. folk group the Magpies, playing a handful of Maritimes dates in the midst of their Canadian tour.

Even if you’ve never heard of the Yorkshire trio of guitarist Bella Gaffney, Holly Brandon on fiddle and banjo player Kate Griffin — each an accomplished player on their instrument of choice — their appeal is quickly understood after a sampling of the videos on their website at www.themagpiesmusic.com or a spin of their albums *Tidings* (2020) and *Undertow* (2022) on Bandcamp at themagpies2.bandcamp.com.

The music is undeniably folk thanks to their acoustic instrumentation, but there’s a pop sensibility in their harmonies and influences that extend from centuries-old ballads to their haunting reworking of Eurythmics’ *Sweet Dreams*.

But the group features some fetching songwriting of its own, and successfully blurs the lines between storied tradition and contemporary tales, especially on a song like *Galileo* that takes inspiration from the Italian giant of science, who marvelled at the natural world and found wisdom in the laws that govern it, only to have his name dragged through the mud for standing up for what he knew was right.

From the Cambridge Folk Festival, where they played one of their first major shows in 2018, to Glastonbury and Folk Alliance International in Montreal, the Magpies have shown their skill and spirit on some of the most prestigious stages around, and now they bring their effervescent approach

to traditional tunes to Nova Scotia. Tickets for the Magpies at Glasgow Square Theatre are \$25 (plus fees) at www.glasgowsquare.com, doors open at 6 p.m., show time is 6:30 p.m.

And if you happen to find yourself in Halifax on Thursday, Nov. 2, the Magpies are paired with the stellar duo at the Bombadils for a terrific double-play at the Carleton Music Bar & Grill.

One of the busiest comics in Canada,

Glace Bay-born standup Ron James is back in his old stomping grounds for a string of shows, including two nights at the Highland Arts Theatre in Sydney — Wednesday, Nov. 1 and Thursday, Nov. 2 — a stop at the Pictou County Wellness Centre presented by the deCote Centre on Friday, Nov. 3. He’s also got a Halifax date at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Saturday, Nov. 4 and a Liverpool Astor Theatre show on Nov. 14.

After graduating from Acadia University and cutting his teeth with the Second City Comedy troupe in Toronto in the 1980s, James is one of the most seasoned pros in Canuck standup these days, having recently recounted his “Rambles and Ruminations From the Canadian Road” in his best-selling memoir *All Over the Map*, but as the title of his current tour indicates, he’s *Not Nearly Done Yet*.

Twenty years ago, James joked that his love of caffeine and cholesterol-laden food meant he might not make it past 50, and the last thing he’d see during his imminent

cardiac arrest is the wheel of the car in the driveway after he drops the snow shovel.

Now, at 65, James can still shovel the razor-sharp wit, keen observations and lightning-fast comedic reflexes that sell out shows from coast-to-coast. Tickets may already be gone by the time you read this, but let that be a reminder to snap some up the next time he comes through town.

On that note, it seemed like a good idea to give a heads up about a Christmas show on Dec. 17 at Port Hawkesbury’s SAERC Auditorium that will likely sell out sooner than later: *Men of the Deeps’* Christmas in the Mine concert with guest, busy fiddler Colin Grant, who seems to be in four or five different groups at any one given time.

The tickets for the 3 p.m. afternoon show go on sale on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 10 a.m., online at tickets.phcivic.com or 902-625-2591, and if the rousing harmonies of the coal miners’ chorus don’t put you in the holiday mood come Dec. 17, you might find some coal in your stocking a week later.



Photos contributed.
U.K. folk trio the Magpies, plays the Glasgow Square Theatre on Nov. 4.

Community Notice of Proposal

- ABO Wind Canada plans to bid the Rhodena Wind Project in response to the NS Green Choice Program RFP in April 2024. The proposed Project is located between Route 19 and TCH 105, in Inverness County, in the general vicinity of Judique, Creignish, Port Hastings, and Port Hawkesbury.
- Following mailouts and information sessions held in 2021 and 2023, ABO plans to do additional community engagement in early 2024.
- ABO Wind welcomes your feedback and questions.

ABO WIND

For information and contact information, visit www.rhodenawind.ca

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HAT General Manager Adriana Dimitri adds, "These are classic characters in a classic story, but the comedy and music is all about what's happening right now in the world. You've got music as iconic as ABBA hits, next to songs as new as Billie Eilish. The comedy pulls from what's happening in the world right now, while pulling gags from things

theatre can. Tickets are priced as \$42 plus HST for adults and \$27 plus HST for anyone age 23 and under.

Tickets can all be booked online at www.highlandartstheatre.com, by phone at 902-565-3637, or in person at the HAT's box office at 40 Bentinck Street in Downtown Sydney between noon and 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The McConnell Library in Sydney will host the book launch for *Cape Breton's Christmas* on November 16th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be readings by the authors, and cookies and coffee and tea, and Caplan's world famous non-alcoholic punch.

"It has been nearly three years since we have been able to gather for the usual launch of the Christmas book," says Caplan. "We continued to publish a new book each year, but *Cape Breton's Christmas* never seemed complete

ers and stopping people in grocery stores and on the sidewalk and on the beach – asking them to submit their holiday stories. "I'm really grateful that so many people took the time to write their stories – actually many more good stories were submitted than we could possibly include."

There are 54 stories in *Cape Breton's Christmas Book 10*, from joyous memories to heartbreaking events, some very short tales, and many long detailed family adventures. The book includes stories ranging from the tradi-

ing called "Stilly Night" is a war correspondent's 1939 memory of a full scale and exquisitely decorated Polish dinner and ecumenical service aboard a destroyer packed with West Novas and Cape Breton Highlanders, as they sailed across the Atlantic to fight the Second World War.

"People again seemed happy to participate in this 10th collection," said Caplan. "Nothing stopped them – not the mask or my height or my asking for Christmas stories in the middle of their summer shopping. And they seemed especially pleased when I

Breton's Christmas series of books have donated over 11,000 dollars to Feed Nova Scotia.

With a holiday painting on the cover by Gary LeDrew, *Cape Breton's Christmas Book 10* is 166 pages and sells for \$19.95. *Christmas Book 10* is on sale in island stores. It can also be purchased online at www.capebretonbooks.com.

And everyone is invited to join the party for the book launch party at McConnell Library, Sydney, November 16th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Leftover turkey or chicken casserole

Ingredients:

- 8 slices day-old bread
- 2 cups diced cooked turkey or chicken
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped celery
- ½ cup green pepper
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup salt/pepper
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1½ cups milk
- 1 can cream mushroom or celery soup
- ½ cup shredded cheese

Instructions:

Butter 2 slices bread – cut into ½-inch cubes and set aside. Cut remaining bread into 1-inch cubes and place half on unbuttered bread cubes in the bottom of an 8x8x2 inch baking dish. Combine chicken, vegetables, and mayo with seasoning and spoon over bread cubes. Sprinkle remaining unbuttered bread cubes over mixture. Mix eggs and milk together and spread over all. Cover and chill for one hour or overnight. Spoon soup over top and sprinkle with buttered cubes. Bake for 50 minutes or till set at 305°F degree oven. Sprinkle cheese over top for the last few minutes of baking.



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Community Notice of Proposal



■ ABO Wind Canada plans to bid the Rhodena Wind Project in response to the NS Green Choice Program RFP in April 2024. The proposed Project is located between Route 19 and TCH 105, in Inverness County, in the general vicinity of Judique, Creignish, Port Hastings, and Port Hawkesbury.

■ Following mailouts and information sessions held in 2021 and 2023, ABO plans to do additional community engagement in early 2024.

■ ABO Wind welcomes your feedback and questions.

For information and contact information, visit www.rhodenawind.ca

**ABO
WIND**

Strait Area Chamber Membership Newsletter



Strait Area Chamber of Commerce <membership@straitareachamber.ca>

To Heidi Kirby

☺ Reply Reply All Forward 📧 ⋮

Thu 2023-11-02 2:58 PM

🔔 If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.

around workplace health and safety.

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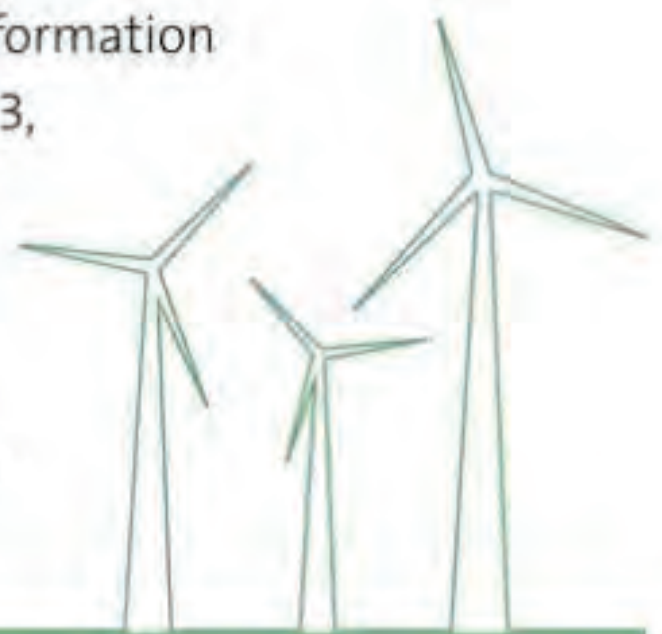
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ABO Wind Invites Applications for the Rhodena Wind Community Liaison Committee



ABO Wind is developing the Rhodena Wind project in response to Nova Scotia's Green Choice procurement program for low-carbon, low-cost energy to fight climate change. Visit www.rhodenawind.ca to learn more.

Wind turbines would be constructed on private land between Route 19 and Trans-Canada Highway 105, in the Municipality of the County of Inverness.

ABO is aiming to form the Rhodena Wind Project Community Liaison Committee (CLC) in **January 2024** to act as an advisory body to ABO Wind for this proposed Project. We're inviting interested local representatives to join this CLC – Please consider participating in this group!

“Effective CLCs maintain good public relations, foster environmental stewardship, and act as a vehicle for transparent and ongoing communications between community, stakeholders, and the proponent on matters pertaining to current and planned development in the community”

(Province of Nova Scotia, 2010)

CLC members:



- Have a regular opportunity to share input, guidance, community views, and concerns to help inform the Project plan and related activities.
- Represent community interests through the mutual exchange of information between the developer and the community with respect to any existing or potential environmental effects of the Project plan and activities.
- Should represent a cross-section of the community, including but not limited to residents/property owners located near the Project, local businesses, municipal elected officials (or their representatives), First Nations, and community or environmental groups, in addition to ABO staff.
- Will meet quarterly, or as needed, on a voluntary basis (virtual or in-person).

If you are interested in joining the CLC for the Rhodena Wind project, please contact ABO's Communications and Community Engagement Lead in Halifax:
Heidi.kirby@abo-wind.com / 902-329-9907.

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and outline your primary reason(s) to want to join the CLC. The ABO Wind team looks forward to hearing from you!

www.rhodenawind.ca

**ABO
WIND**

Ms. Vikki expresses her gratitude to ICMH

Many people from the Inverness area and beyond are fortunate to know a wonderful lady, Vikki MacEachern. Affectionally known as "Ms. Vikki," she is a local teacher who has faced some health challenges recently and is thankful for the care she received at Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital (ICMH).

"I just want to say Thank You to the staff and everyone who works there at ICMH. Things can happen so quickly, so unexpectedly. I am so appreciative of having this hospital so close to home," explains Ms. Vikki. Three years ago, Ms. Vikki felt ill and this eventually led to emergency at ICMH. "The doctor, who was not my family doctor, immediately just took control, knew exactly what to do, what questions to ask. The nurses got my pain under control almost immediately and I quickly had a CT scan. Shortly thereafter, I was told there was a tumor. I honestly don't know if I had much of a response. I had to go for a second CT scan to see if there were more tumors elsewhere. When the techs from radiology came back to get me, they were just amazing, so kind to me and so good with my husband, Glenn, and our whole family."

Ms. Vikki went to



Vikki's family – (l to r) Emily, Luke, Vikki, and Glenn.

Halifax that night for surgery and eventually returned to Inverness. As she recovered from surgery and prepared to undergo radiation therapy, she did experience complications and was admitted to ICMH. "As soon as we were admitted to the hospital, right away someone put a bed beside mine for Glenn to rest and when you are in that situation, it is really comforting to know he could be close by. We needed that extra personal touch," explained Ms. Vikki. She

expressed gratitude to the nurses, doctors, palliative care team, who were all so accommodating and really cared about how her life had changed. Dietary staff asked me, "What is your favourite food" or "can I get you extra cinnamon rolls." The

housekeeping staff would talk to you when they came into the room. The people at reception, the lab techs, physio department, absolutely every person we met at the hospital welcomed us so warmly.

"I just feel the Inverness



Ms. Vikki and Millie.

hospital is a reflection of our community. When we came back home, it felt like a hug, like everyone wanted us to feel safe and at home...we didn't have to cook a meal for months. Then you to go the hospital and it is the exact same spirit, exact same atmosphere. It was like every single person in the hospital reaches out and wants to help make your day a little brighter." Ms. Vikki expressed sincere thanks to the emergency department doctors and how grateful ICMH emergency is open, day and night. "The on-call

doctors were always ready to be in touch with Halifax and have all the mechanisms in place to deal with things immediately. We have been very blessed and the big part of it is our hospital because when we go there. I've always felt confident to be back home in Inverness, where we wanted to be and knew we would get the best of care at our hospital."

Thankfully, Ms. Vikki is feeling better now and is sharing her gratitude for the community and the staff and physicians at ICMH. She hopes her story will encourage people to support ICMH.

If you would like to donate, please go online to at www.icmfoundation.com, or mail a donation to ICMH Charitable Foundation, PO Box 610, Inverness, NS, B0E 1N0 or call 902-258-2236. This year, the foundation purchased and installed a state-of-the-art digital imaging (x-ray) machine, an accessible washroom for our inpatients, a television for oncology department and provided funding for gas cards for our oncology patients.

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ABO Wind Invites Applications for the Rhodena Wind Community Liaison Committee

ABO Wind Canada is developing the Rhodena Wind project in response to the NS Green Choice program to produce renewable energy, locally. Wind turbines would be constructed on private land between Route 19 and TCH 105, in Inverness County: www.rhodenawind.com

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- Meet quarterly, on a voluntary basis (virtual or in-person).

If you are interested in joining the CLC for the Rhodena Wind project, please contact ABO Wind: Communications and Community Engagement Lead (Halifax) Heidi.Kirby@abo-wind.com | 902-329-9907

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FPT

Gerard MacNeil, Grand Knight of Council 7924 of the Knights of Columbus, with Deacon Berkley Guthro. Deacon Berkley organizes a clothing and household goods depot several times a year in the basement of St. Joseph Church in Port Hawkesbury. This month, the focus was on preparing for winter and to that end the KoC supplied around 240 new jackets through the Coats for Kids Program sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and with the support of the community in fundraising. Sizes ranged from small child to adult. Thanks to the KoC and Deacon for this important community outreach.

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Rhodena Wind Project

2024 News

Thank you to all who came out to attend the July 2023 Rhodena Wind information sessions, hosted by the ABO Wind Canada team in Creignish. We value your feedback and local knowledge, and remain committed to transparent, meaningful, and ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

ABO Wind will be hosting two additional information sessions to discuss important 2024 updates for the Rhodena Project with you:

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Afternoon drop-in session: 2pm - 4:30pm

Evening drop-in session: 6pm - 8:30pm

Creignish Recreation Centre

2123 Route 19, Creignish

We are still inviting interested individuals to join the Rhodena Wind Community Liaison Committee (CLC). CLC Members will meet periodically and will have a regular opportunity to share input, guidance, community views, and concerns to help inform the Project plan and related activities.

Do you have general Project questions, or interest in joining the CLC? Please reach out to:

Heidi Kirby

Communications and Engagement Lead (Atlantic),
ABO Wind Canada

Heidi.kirby@abo-wind.com

ABO Wind strongly encourages the public to participate in the Project planning process, issue identification, and problem solving.

**ABO
WIND**

Project Updates

ABO Wind Canada is developing the Rhodena Wind project together with our First Nations partner, Eskasoni, in response to Nova Scotia's Green Choice procurement program for clean, low-cost energy to fight climate change. The Green Choice Program (www.novascotiagcp.com) was developed to allow Nova Scotia's large-scale energy customers to purchase up to 100% of their electricity use from local renewable energy sources.

NEW Map Rhodena Wind Layout: 6 turbines, producing 42 megawatts of clean energy

Now, up to 6 wind turbines would be placed on the hills between Route 19 and Trans-Canada Highway 105 in the Municipality of the County of Inverness on private land where we have the permission of the landowner. This renewable energy project would produce an estimated 42 megawatts of green energy – enough to power more than 13,600 homes annually!

Why the change from 15 turbines to 6?



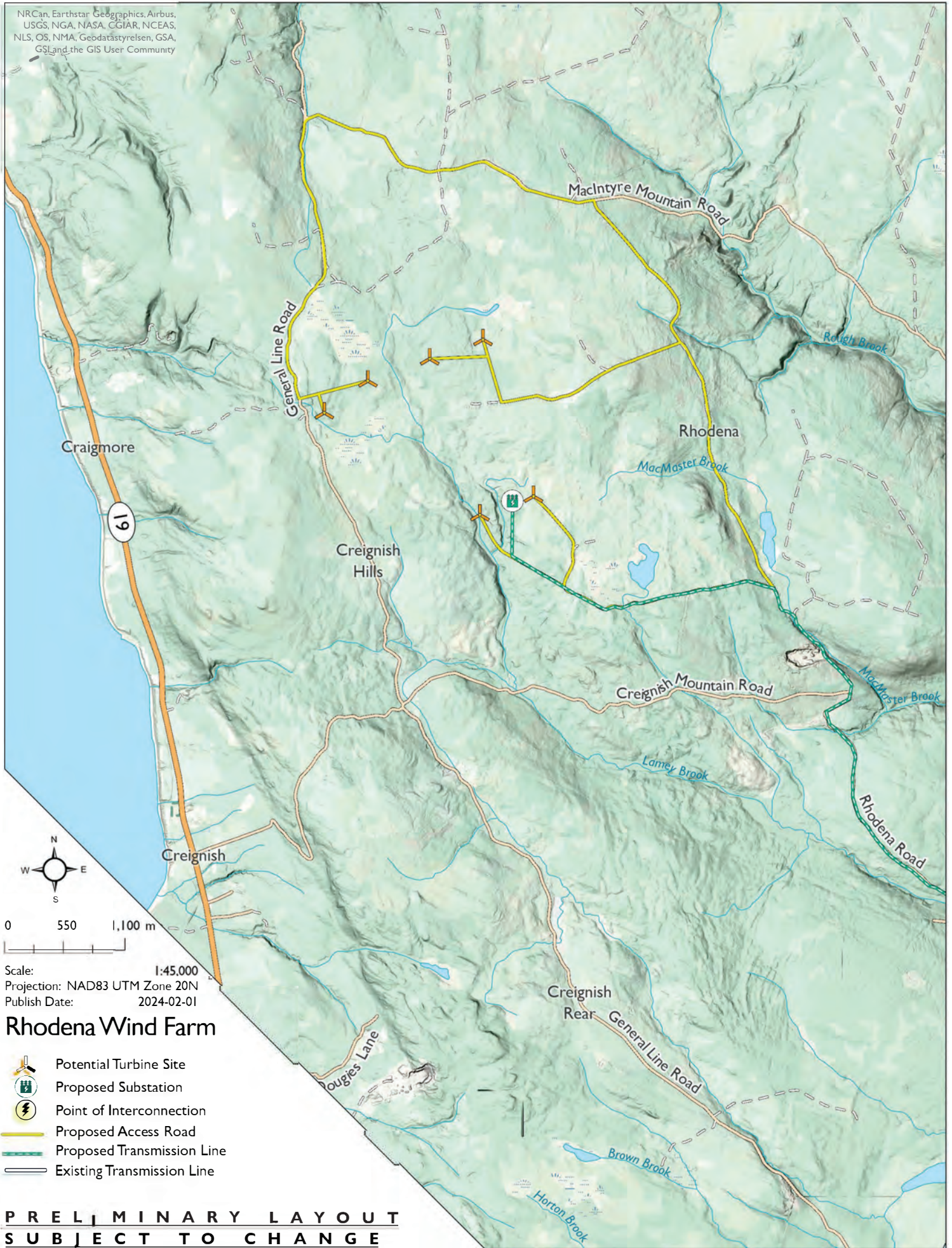
The Green Choice program has a new requirement to build on private land only, so we are no longer utilizing Crown lands for our turbines. We are hopeful this new layout, with a reduced footprint and only 6 turbines (previously 15), is accepted positively by the community. We look forward to hearing your feedback as we prepare to submit our Project into this procurement round in June 2024.

The Green Choice Program is administered by an independent advisor, Coho.

Construction and environment

- Additional environmental studies are ongoing to help inform ABO Wind's Environmental Assessment, a required component to proceed with Project construction.
- The new layout will use nearly 70% existing roads, with about 10% of these requiring upgrades to ensure safe access and sufficient widening for equipment associated with wind turbine installation.
- With our new 6-turbine layout, we have reduced the amount of expected land disturbance caused by site preparation and construction by nearly 50 ha (from 155 ha to 107 ha).

NRCan, Earthstar, Geographics, Airbus,
USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS,
NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, GSA,
GSL and the GIS User Community



Scale: 1:45,000
Projection: NAD83 UTM Zone 20N
Publish Date: 2024-02-01

Rhodena Wind Farm

- Potential Turbine Site
- Proposed Substation
- Point of Interconnection
- Proposed Access Road
- Proposed Transmission Line
- Existing Transmission Line

**PRELIMINARY LAYOUT
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Current Project timeline:

Ongoing	Consultation and engagement with local community groups, businesses, First Nations, government, and other relevant organizations in the region. Consultation will continue throughout the life of the Project.
December 1, 2023	Green Choice RFP was released.
Winter/Spring 2024	Information sessions and ongoing local engagement.
June 14, 2024	The Project will be submitted for the Green Choice Program.
September 2024	Anticipated Green Choice project award.
2024-2025	Further field studies and Environmental Assessment (EA) submission.
2025-2026	Construction anticipated to begin with tree and road clearing.
2027-2028	Commissioning – The Project is producing clean energy.

Schedule is preliminary and is subject to change

Community Benefits



Health Benefits

The Project will offset emissions that would otherwise be emitted through the burning of fossil fuels. It will generate electricity without emitting greenhouse gases or air pollutants or any use of freshwater.



Municipal Tax Payments

An estimated \$8-10M from ABO Wind to the municipality for local services and infrastructure over the lifetime of the project.



Local Contracts and Jobs, and Spinoff Revenue

During development and construction, estimated 30 to 50 local jobs during construction
During operation, estimated 1-3 wind turbine technicians and other required maintenance work



Community Benefits Fund for Local Initiatives

About ABO Wind Canada

ABO Wind Canada Ltd. has been a subsidiary of ABO Wind since 2017, with offices now located in Halifax, St. John's, and Calgary. Founded in 1996, ABO Wind is a Germany-based company with more than 1,200 employees in 16 countries who work with enthusiasm on the planning, financing, construction, operational management, and maintenance of plants for a sustainable energy supply.

Reminder:

Rhodena Wind Project Drop-In Information Sessions



ABO Wind Canada invites you to attend one of our upcoming information sessions in Creignish!

The ABO Wind Canada team will be hosting two information sessions to discuss important 2024 updates for the proposed Rhodena Wind Project (Inverness County):

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

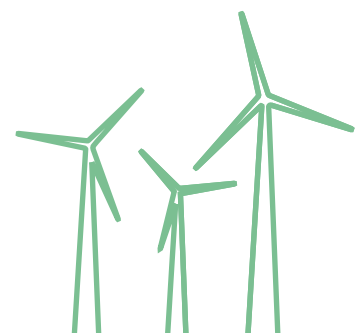
Afternoon drop-in session: 2pm - 4:30pm

Evening drop-in session: 6pm - 8:30pm

Creignish Recreation Centre, 2123 Route 19, Creignish

Refreshments will be served

Visit www.rhodenawind.ca for updated Project information and contact details for our team. We look forward to hearing your feedback on our updated Project layout and answering any questions you may have.



**ABO
WIND**

Community Information Sessions

ABO Wind Canada is hosting two drop-in community information sessions to share updates on our proposed Rhodena Wind Project.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Afternoon drop-in session: **2pm - 4:30pm**

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Creignish Recreation Centre

2123 Route 19, Creignish



More information and contact:
www.rhodenawind.ca

**ABO
WIND**

Fewer turbines proposed for Rhodena wind project [PODCAST]



Our Community lokal [Follow Me](#)

Posted this 5 days ago

CBC
Information
Morning



Information Morning Cape Breton:

There are changes to the Rhodena Wind Project in Inverness County. Plus we let you know about two open houses where you can have your say on the proposal.

Host: Steve Sutherland

24

More artwork on display at Friends United



Photos contributed. A new display at Friends United is dedicated to Cape Breton Indigenous artist Loretta Gould.



Formerly 3rd Baron self-taught artist, Jay Bell Redbird, who passed away in 2019, has a

Host the newest Cape Breton artist to your community!

Do you have a spare room or apartment rental?

Would you like to provide a residence for an artist who is relocating to Unama'ki Cape Breton to develop their craft business at the Port Hawkesbury Customs House Artisan Incubator on Granville Street?

In partnership, Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design (the Centre) and the Town of Port Hawkesbury provide artist studio space and entrepreneurial development experience to artists who have applied to relocate to our beautiful island in order to grow their craft business.

As hosts or landlords, you could be the first to meet these new creative residents and in turn receive a handmade piece of craft made just for you, along with your negotiated rental fees.

Our newest residents arrive in June and October respectively.

Please reach out to **Cassie MacDonald** at: cassie@capebretoncraft.com or 902-270-7491 if you are interested in providing a rental space.



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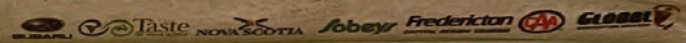
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Community Information Sessions

ABO Wind Canada is hosting two drop-in community information sessions to share updates on our proposed Rhodena Wind Project, to be located between Route 19 and TCH 105 in Inverness County.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

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2pm - 4:30pm

Evening drop-in session:
6pm - 8:30pm

Creignish Recreation Centre
2123 Route 19, Creignish



ABO Wind looks forward to hearing your feedback and discussing our wind farm project with you!

More information and contact:
www.rhodenawind.ca



ABO WIND

Canada's Nature: A Call of the Wild photography exhibit draws huge crowd

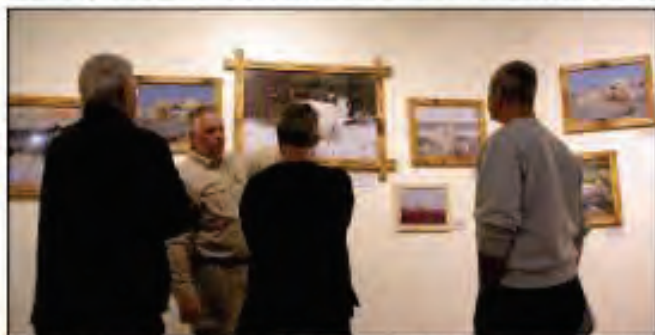
by Shelly Hail

Michael Gerhartz is one of those people who is difficult to write about. That's because trying to fit his stories and knowledge into a few hundred words is a challenge. The entire paper could be filled with just one of his many fascinating stories about just one of the many amazing animals he has captured with his camera, or just one of his many areas of expertise. In addition to being an award-winning photographer who specializes in the animals of Canada's north, Gerhartz has also gained extensive knowledge of those animals, becoming a de facto wildlife biologist. He is also a best-selling author, and a scuba instructor.

But his photography is the "focus" of this article as well as a new exhibit now on at the Franklin J. Wright Gallery in the Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. Entitled *Canada's*

in the exhibit, you don't see many where the animals are looking straight at the camera because the animal doesn't know I'm there. For me, a wildlife encounter is one that ends the same way it started, with the animal not being disturbed," Gerhartz explained, which was a great segue into asking him what he thinks of using drones for wildlife photography.

"Generally, I don't like it," he said. "The typical drones that people buy are very loud and people often get too close, which can be very stressful for the animal." He went on to say that there are instances he has personally been involved in when drone photography was done ethically. "I've worked with drone photographers from the BBC who have done an amazing job, but that's because they have high-end, virtually-silent drones that don't bother the animals; the animals don't even look at them. But when not done correctly,



It was a full house on opening night with people enjoying a chance to speak to Gerhartz. *Canada's Nature: A Call of the Wild* is on until April 30th.

Nature: A Call of the Wild, it opened March 28th and was so well attended, at times it was difficult to see some of the images for all the people crowded around each one.

Originally from Germany, Gerhartz and his wife now live near West Bay, Cape Breton. His love of photography and wildlife began underwater, where his passion as a scuba instructor intensified once he got his first underwater camera in 1993. From there, he began to pursue his passion for photography on land, across Canada. "I have had the privilege to see Canada from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific, with all its beauty in between," Gerhartz said.

Gerhartz has worked as a photo guide in the Rocky Mountains as well as BC's coastal area and, for the past three years, has spent time working around Hudson Bay, as a polar bear guard and film crew guide, where many of the images in the exhibit were taken. Of all the animals on display, the polar bear was one of the stars of the show and his stories.

"If you want to get a good picture of a polar bear, you have to remember that to a polar bear you are one of three things you are either food, sweat (meaning an odor the bear will notice), or you are part of the landscape. If you are invasive and are noticed by the animal, it is either going to walk away or it is going to want to investigate and come towards you. You don't want either of those things to happen; you want to be part of the environment so you can get candid, natural images," Gerhartz explained.

Being part of the environment is a philosophy central to both his approach to photography and his respect for the animals. All of Gerhartz's images are taken under ethical wildlife photography guidelines meaning no hunting of animals took place and no camera traps were used. "If you look at the photos

sure you can get an amazing shot of the animal looking right at the camera, but it can be absolutely horrible for the animal. Unfortunately, social media is full of these kinds of images, as well as ones where you know baiting was used."

When it comes to animals being attracted to food, there are times when he's been in the right place at the right time to get a great shot, naturally. "One day, on the Hudson Bay we saw a dead beluga whale washed up and there were 17 polar bears feeding on it. So yes, they came for the food, but we didn't put it there," Gerhartz said.

When asked if he has had any "close encounters" with polar bears, he said he has had a few "curious ones" but that you can act accordingly, if you understand polar bear behaviour. "The polar bear is an honest animal. It's not going to lie to you. If it's interested in you, you will know, if it's not interested in you, you will know. It's the apex predator so it doesn't have to fake anything or rely on strategy. It does what it wants to do. And if it thinks that you are food, then you are food," he said, matter-of-factly.

When asked if he has any desire to photograph exotic animals in warmer climates, such as jaguars in South America, Gerhartz said, "I like Canada and Canada's animals. And for me, I want to give a voice to these animals that don't have a voice and to tell their story." He is passionate about educating the public on the need for preserving wild spaces that support these "incredible animals and ecosystems."

"I see myself as an ambassador for wildlife, being wild," he said and explained that's why he doesn't manipulate his images. "My photos are far from perfect from a photography point of view, with only a minimum of post-editing. I hope to show you the wildlife how you would have seen it."

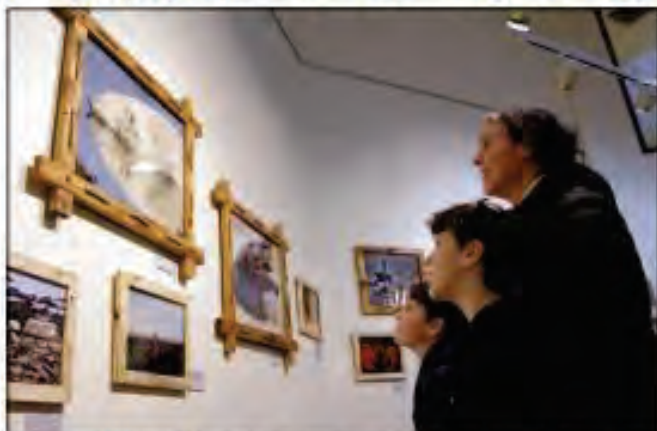
Art classes inspire creativity...

While other instructors may teach by bringing in one image for everyone to paint, Tom prefers to let people bring in and paint images that appeal to them. "It is definitely interesting to see how different people interpret and paint the same image; but I like people to bring in the things that they want to paint," he said. Students are also invited to work at their own pace and in a style that appeals to them. Some enjoy perfecting fine details while others explore a more impressionistic or abstract approach.

In addition to speaking to the entire class about techniques such as establishing horizon lines as well as how to use colour to

create the impression of distance, Tom also spends the class walking around the room and guiding students, one-on-one. Monica Goodall must like this approach as she has been attending Tom's classes for 13 years. There are many other "regulars" who have also been learning with Tom for years, as well as total "newbies" to the class and to painting, and everyone else in between.

"Many people have begun their hobbies and even careers in this class. Many even have become very good artists and I know the classes have allowed them to find a wonderful hobby that entertains them and challenges their imagination," Tom said.



Wildlife fans Max and Ethan Cluett, nine-year-old twin brothers, with their mom, Kim. In addition to polar bears, the boys also liked an image of a large black bear and another of two arctic foxes wrestling.



The night began with a talk by Gerhartz during which he spoke about doing very little "post-editing" in order to show people wildlife "how you would have seen it."

Community Information Sessions

ABO Wind Canada is hosting two drop-in community information sessions to share updates on our proposed Rhodena Wind Project, to be located between Route 19 and TCH 105 in Inverness County.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Afternoon drop-in session:
2pm - 4:30pm

Evening drop-in session:
6pm - 8:30pm

Creignish Recreation Centre
2123 Route 19, Creignish



ABO Wind looks forward to hearing your feedback and discussing our wind farm project with you!

More information and contact:
www.rhodenawind.ca



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OPEN HOUSES #4 & #5

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

AFTERNOON DROP-IN SESSION, 2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM

EVENING DROP-IN SESSION, 6:00 PM TO 4:30 PM

CREIGNISH RECREATION CENTRE

2061 CEILIDH TRAIL, CREIGNISH

Welcome!

Thank you for coming to our information session and for welcoming us to your community.



ABO Wind is committed to ongoing engagement, transparent dialogue, listening to feedback and working together with you. Our team members are here to listen to you and provide information. We invite you to:

- Visit our informational posters throughout the room that outline various elements of this proposed wind project.
- Provide feedback and ask any questions you may have to the ABO Wind team as you visit the informational posters.
- Fill out a comment card! Our team welcomes comments or questions and will follow up directly with more information as requested.
- Join our Project Community Liaison Committee (CLC).

Questions or feedback following this session, or wish to join the CLC? Please contact:
Heidi Kirby, Communications and Engagement Lead (Atlantic)
heidi.kirby@abo-wind.ca | 902-329-9907

Did you know?

In addition to sharing your feedback with ABO, The Environmental Assessment Registration Document we must submit and have approved before constructing the Project will also have a 30 day comment period for residents to submit support for the Project or outline any concerns.



Project Information

www.abo-wind.ca



Our team



A local team working for a more renewable Atlantic Canada, backed by global expertise

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- A company since 1996, ABO Wind now has 1200 employees worldwide. Internationally active in 16 countries in Europe, North and South America, Africa.
- ABO Wind Canada Ltd. is a subsidiary of ABO Wind AG and was founded in 2017. We developed Canada's largest wind farm to-date, Buffalo Plains (AB). 30+ staff in Canada, half based in our Atlantic Canada hub in Halifax to embrace the growing renewable energy section in this region.
- ABO Wind is focused on wind, hydrogen, solar and battery storage projects throughout the region. Our local team works closely with ABO Wind team members in Canada and globally.
- Our team is committed to building relationships and working together with First Nations, local communities and all stakeholder groups.



ABO Wind becomes ABO Energy in 2024

We are changing our name. But why?



Our new name better captures the entirety of the clean energy projects we develop, demonstrating the value of working with (and for) ABO. We started with wind, then added solar and battery, and are now also developing hydrogen projects. The name ABO Wind no longer fully describes our business.

Project Information

www.abo-wind.ca



What we're working for

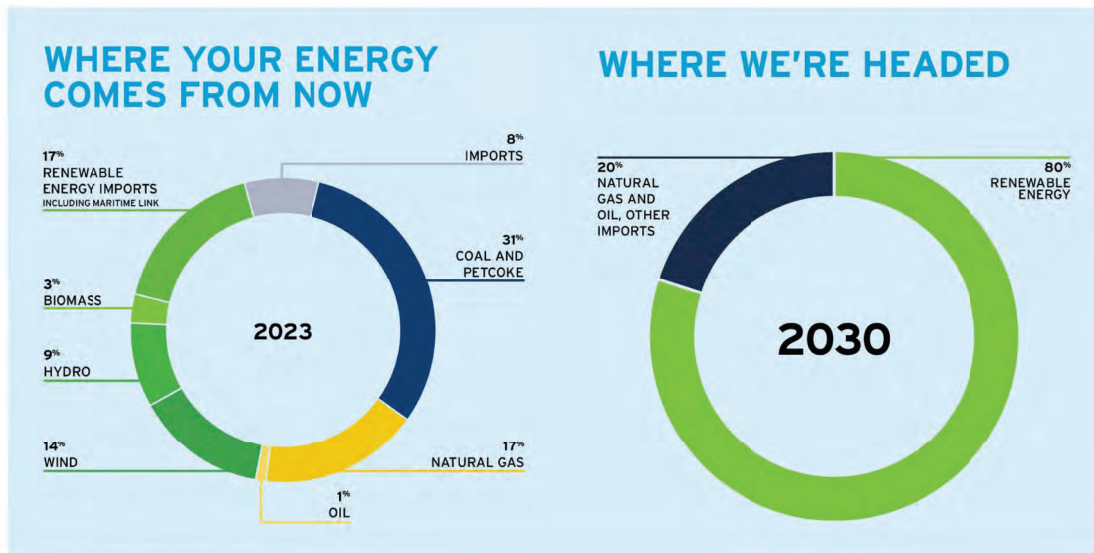
Helping create a cleaner, more sustainable Nova Scotia



ABO Wind is currently developing two wind farm projects in Nova Scotia to submit into the Green Choice Program this year: Melvin Lake Wind and Rhodena Wind.

Our wind Projects will be part of a large and collective effort to meet provincial and federal goals to reach 80% renewable energy and move off coal by 2030.

ABO Wind Canada will submit a proposal in the Green Choice program issued by the Province of Nova Scotia. The submission deadline is now June 14, 2024.



What is the Green Choice Program?

- An emerging green power offering developed between the Province, suppliers, the utility, and large energy buyers.
- The Green Choice Program will allow large energy customers in the province to purchase up to 100% of their electricity use from local renewable energy sources.
- This could include governments, educational institutions, factories and more.
- More access to renewable energy will help to create jobs and ensure that Nova Scotia continues to lead in the fight against climate change.

Image Credit: Nova Scotia Power (2024)

Project Information

www.abo-wind.ca



Rhodena Wind

In Partnership with Eskasoni First Nation

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How many wind turbines?

Up to 5 in total

Why has the number of turbines changed since 2023?

The Green Choice program has a new requirement to build on private land only, so we are no longer utilizing Crown lands for our turbines. We made modifications based on land access which also aligns with feedback we have heard.

We are hopeful this new layout, with a reduced footprint and only 6 turbines, is accepted positively by the community, and welcome your feedback on this change.

Where will it be located?

In the hills between Route 19 and Trans-Canada Highway 105 in the Municipality of the County of Inverness on private land. This area has very favourable wind speeds, an existing network of forestry roads, and the ability to adhere to and exceed company, municipal and provincial setback guidelines.

How far from the nearest home?

The smallest distance from a turbine to a residence is 1238m.

How much clean power?

42 megawatts of green energy – enough to power more than 13,600 homes annually!

How high are the turbines?

118m to hub, 199.5m including the tip of the blade.

Are existing access roads being used?

The new layout is expected to use nearly 70% already existing roads, with about 10% of these requiring upgrades to ensure safe access and sufficient widening for equipment association with wind turbine installation.

Total footprint of infrastructure when complete?

With our new 6-turbine layout, we have reduced the amount of expected land disturbance caused by site preparation and construction by nearly 50 ha (from 155 ha to 107 ha).

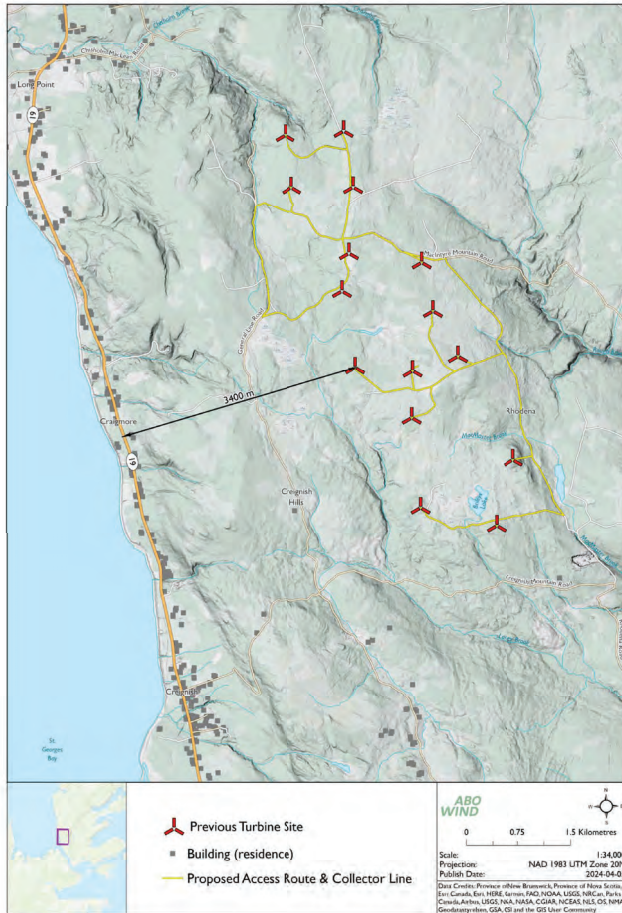
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Evolution of Rhodena Wind



Old layout (2023) 15 turbines



New layout (2024)

6 turbines
42 megawatts



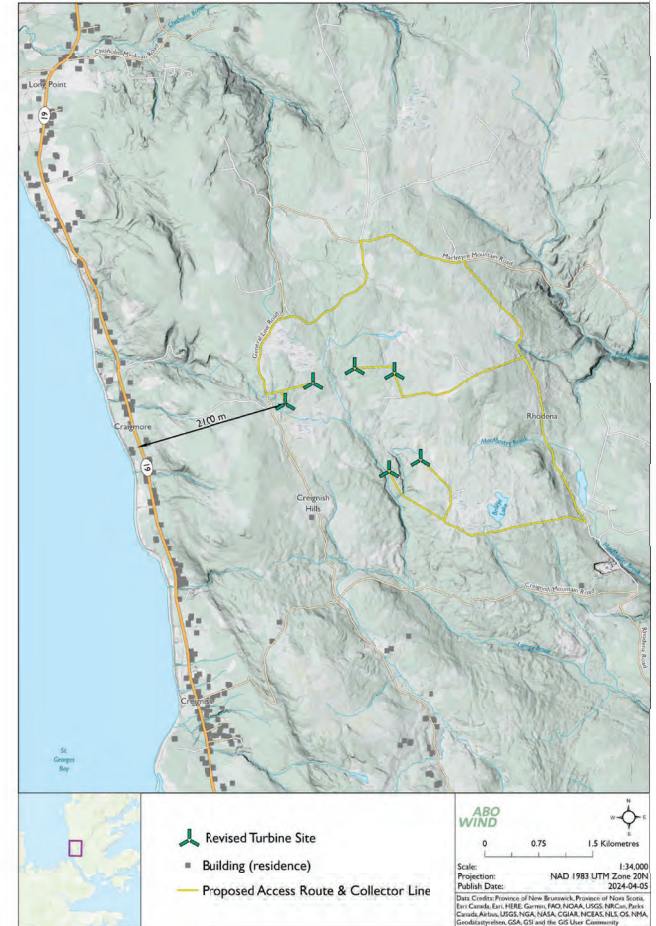
Why this change?

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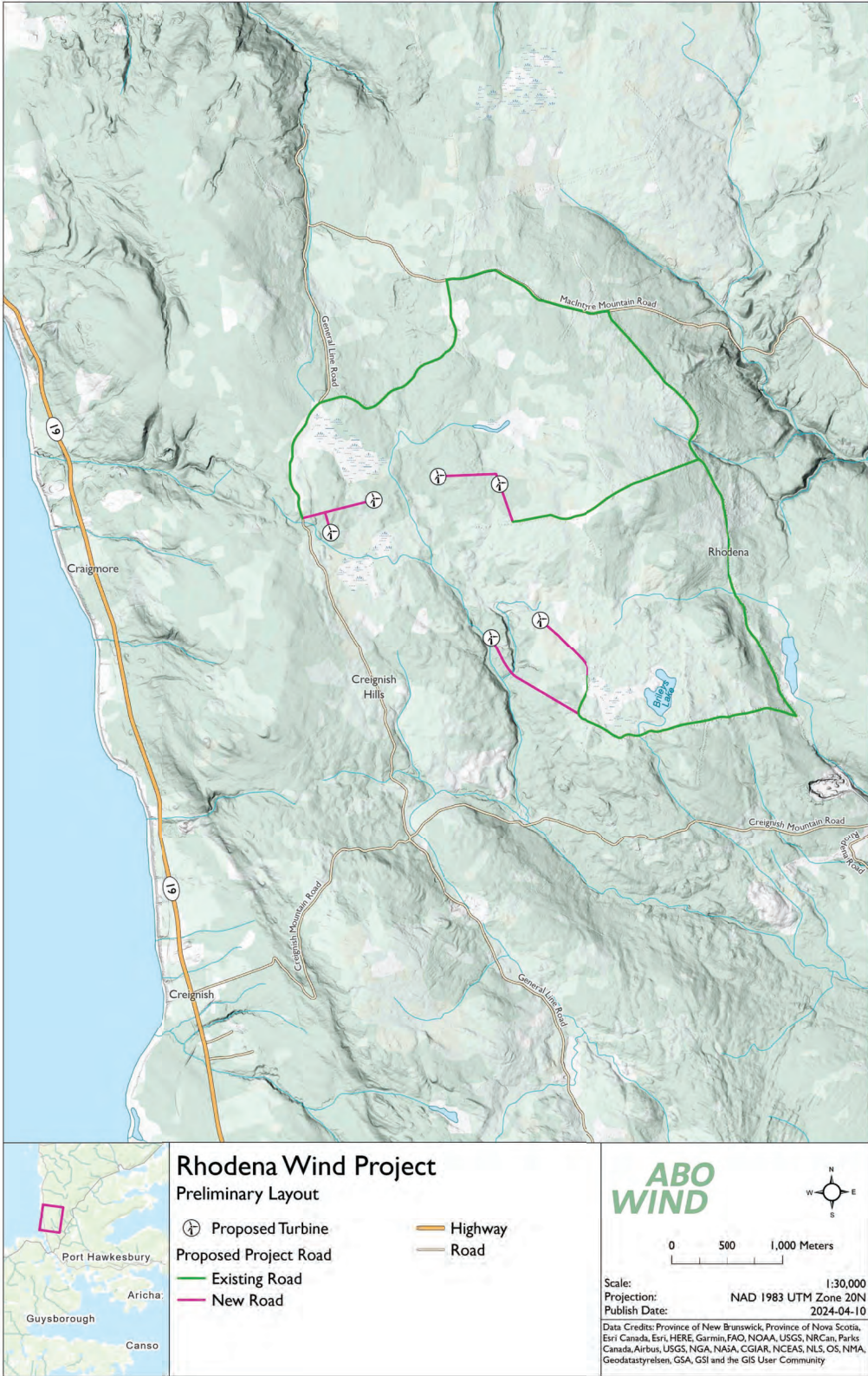
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We welcome your feedback on this change.








New vs. Existing Access Roads



Rhodena Wind Project

Preliminary Layout

-  Proposed Turbine
-  Proposed Project Road
-  Existing Road
-  Highway
-  Road

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0 500 1,000 Meters

Scale: 1:30,000
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 20N
 Publish Date: 2024-04-10

Data Credits: Province of New Brunswick, Province of Nova Scotia, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, NRCAN, Parks Canada, Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NIMA, Geodatasystemen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community

Benefits & Opportunities

A significant Project in the region, valued at \$85 - 95 million total



Clean, renewable energy production will create significant opportunities in the region, and across the province - from direct employment, contracts, and spin-off benefits. :

ABO believes that those in close proximity should benefit from the project.

- We have many mechanisms we use that captures this mindset, including our Local Economic Development Policy, Indigenous Inclusion Policy, Community Benefit Funds.

Rhodena Wind - Local Benefits and Opportunities



Local Contracts and Jobs, and Spinoff Revenue

30-50 jobs during construction, 1-3 long-term for operations and maintenance



Community Benefits Fund

Funds will go to communities in the vicinity of the Project to help local initiatives through the life of the Project



Municipal Tax Payments

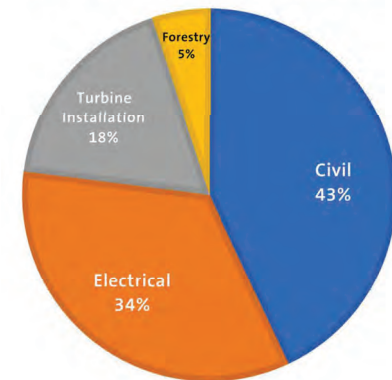
\$8-10M from ABO Wind to the municipality for local services and infrastructure over the lifetime of the project



Health Benefits

The Project will offset emissions that would otherwise be emitted through the burning of fossil fuels. It will generate electricity without emitting greenhouse gases or air pollutants or any use of freshwater

Major Works Required



- Wind turbines (transport to site, erection)
- Measurement Equipment (installation, etc.)
- Access roads (clearing and other civil works)
- Electrical transmission lines and collector lines (geotechnical, transmission line installations, etc.)
- Substations (electrical)
- Operations and Maintenance Facilities

Join ABO Wind's Contractor Portal: Scan Phone Here



Minimizing Environmental Impact

Rhodena Wind



Environmental Studies



- Bird surveys were completed across all seasons in 2022-2023 (spring migration, breeding, fall migration, and winter).
 - The number of birds observed during the surveys is not considered high relative to other wind Projects that have been approved in NS.
- Two Species at Risk (SAR) are known in the area – wood turtle and Canada lynx. Targeted surveys for both species were completed. Neither species was detected during surveys.
- Bat acoustic monitoring was completed and there were detections of bats.
- One SAR lichen (blue felt lichen) was observed within the study area and the location was and included in Project design to avoid disturbance.

Environmental Mitigations and Reporting



Based on the field results ABO undertook additional infrastructure siting activities to avoid wetland and wildlife features, where feasible. This includes avoiding Canada Lynx Range.

Construction footprint and disturbance of regular activity reduced to:

- Prioritize use of existing roads
- Minimize tree clearing.
- Reduce disruption to recreational uses and hunting activities. No fencing is anticipated to be installed at the Project except for around the substation for safety reasons. Disruption is only expected during construction due to construction related safety measures and temporary road closures.

Interactions between the Project and environmental components will be reviewed as part of the Effects Assessment in the Environmental Assessment Registration Document.

Next Steps

- Continue Studies within New Project Footprint (i.e. turbines now sited on private lands)
- Updated Wetland and watercourse delineation, rare plants surveys and lichen surveys
- Updated Fish capture studies within new catchment area
- Wood turtle assessments within new watercourses
- Updated Archeological assessment
- Other previous environmental studies were determined to have suitable coverage.
- Environmental Assessment Registration winter 2025



Wind Power

How does it work?

- Wind turbines are installed on concrete foundations, and have several key components: Tower, nacelle (generator) and the turbine blades.
- Wind causes the blades to rotate. The blades are connected to a gearbox in the nacelle, which turns the generator to produce electricity.
- This clean electricity is transmitted through cables and collected at a substation before feeding into the Nova Scotia electrical grid through overhead power lines.

How high?



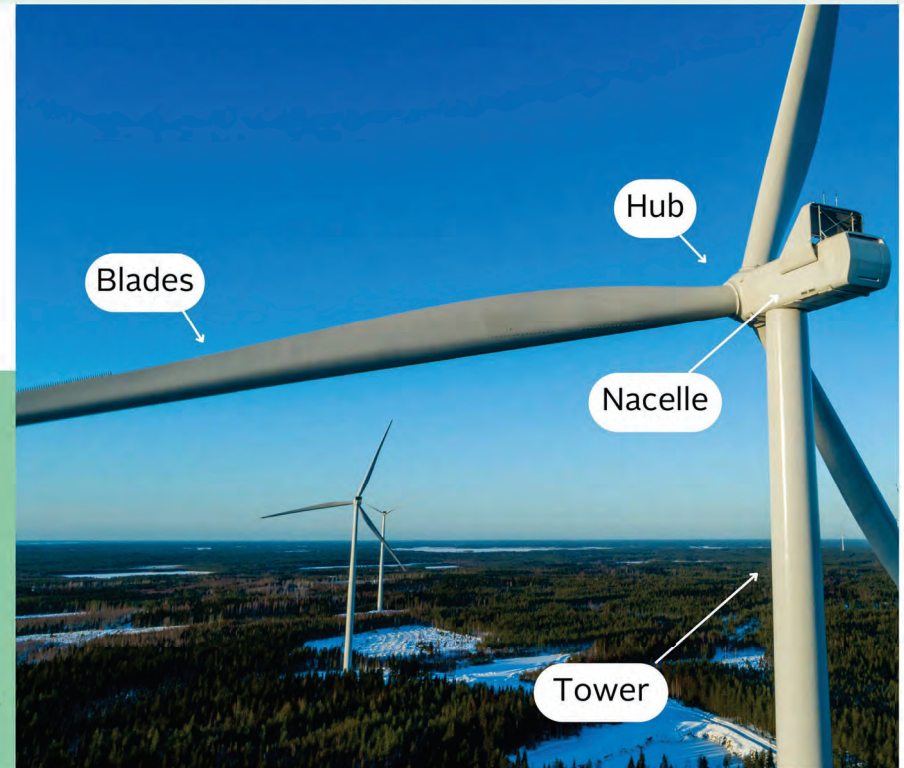
Nova Scotia Projects

Rhodena Wind turbine height - 387 ft. hub / 655 ft. tip
Melvin Lake turbine height - 410 ft. hub / 676 ft. tip

Comparison to Large Structures

Length of Canso Causeway - 4544 ft.
Length of MacDonald Bridge, Halifax - 4265 ft.
Height of CN Tower - 1816 ft.
Height of Eiffel Tower - 1063 ft.
Height of New Transmission Tower at Straight of Canso - 525 ft.
Height of Purdy's Wharf Tower 2 in Halifax - 288 ft.

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Project Information

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Health and Safety

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Human Health

There have been well over 100 peer-reviewed research papers published by academics, consultants and medical agencies around the world on the potential health effects of people living near wind turbines. The studies include issues of audible sound, low frequency noise, infrasound, shadow flicker, and electromagnetic fields (EMF).

Health Canada conducted the largest study in the world of people living, working and playing near wind turbines:

- Largest study ever undertaken around the world on wind turbines and health. 1238 people participated, including those in homes as close as 820 ft out to 7 miles from wind turbines.
- Conducted self-reported questionnaires and for the first time ever, tested objective measures of health including: sleep studies, hair cortisol (stress), and blood pressure.

The overall conclusion to emerge from the study findings is that the study found no evidence of an association between exposure to wind turbine noise and the prevalence of self-reported or measured health effects beyond annoyance.

Municipal setback distances - that we meet and exceed - will ensure the protection of public health from wind turbine sound.

Safety

- A Project-specific Emergency Management Plan will be developed. It will be informed by industry best-practices, ABO's global and Canadian expertise in developing wind farms, and local emergency responders.
- We'll use existing access roads along with some new access roads as part of this Project, working to ensure adequate emergency access, including identified egresses for the Project site are incorporated and shared as part of the Project safety plans.
- For the safety of workers and residents, like any construction site, there would be periods of limited access in zones that are under active construction (i.e., turbine installation, foundation pouring, etc.).
- Once turbines and other infrastructure are installed in a given area, if there is not active construction happening, in-season hunting, hiking, ATV use, snowmobiling, and other activities can occur in/around the Project site.



Canada

Wind turbine failures, fires and ice throw are very rare events

- 1 blade failure per 10,000 a year
- Fires are very rare events with <1 a year in Canada
- Ice throw can occur but only as far as the height of the turbine

Project Timeline

The timeline is preliminary and subject to change

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Sound

How we're reducing and measuring noise related to wind turbines

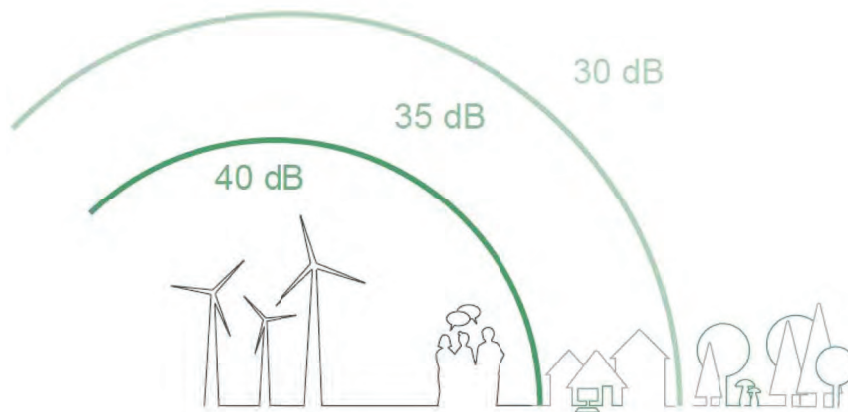


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The Project will be designed in accordance with the Province of Nova Scotia's Environmental Assessment ("EA") requirements for Wind Power Projects.

This Project not only meets, but exceeds the requirement for sound levels: "a proponent must ensure that the wind farm design and turbine siting does not cause sound levels to exceed 40 dBA (A-weighted decibels) at the exterior of receptors" (Province of Nova Scotia, 2021).

- The Project-specific noise modelling study indicates that cumulative noise level, including turbine-generated noise, will not exceed 40 dBA at any existing residences.
- A 40 dBA sound level is similar to a quiet library or a suburban area at night.



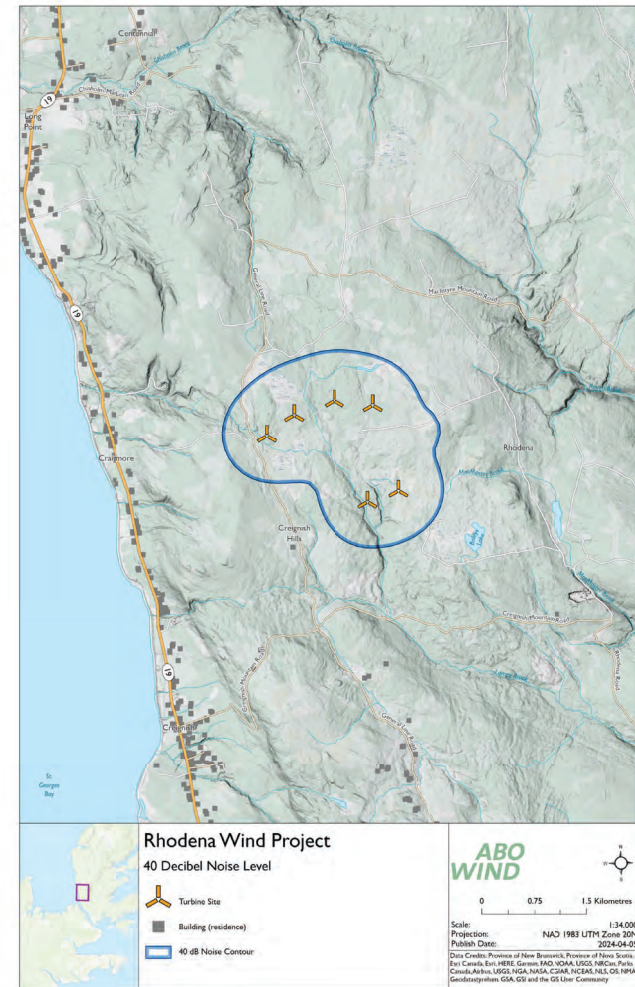
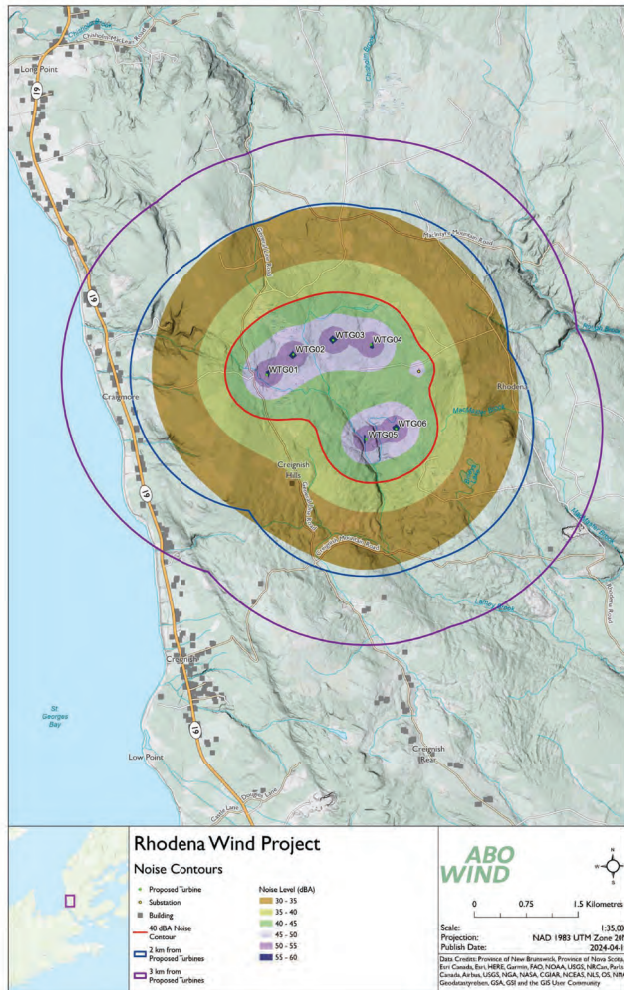
Examples of common sound levels (dBA)

140	Threshold of pain
130	Jet take off
120	Rock concert
110	Jackhammer
100	Power saw
90	Street traffic
80	Doorbell
70	Office
60	Normal conversation
50	Quiet urban neighborhood, daytime
40	Library
30	Soft whisper
20	Ticking of a wrist watch
10	Rustling leaves

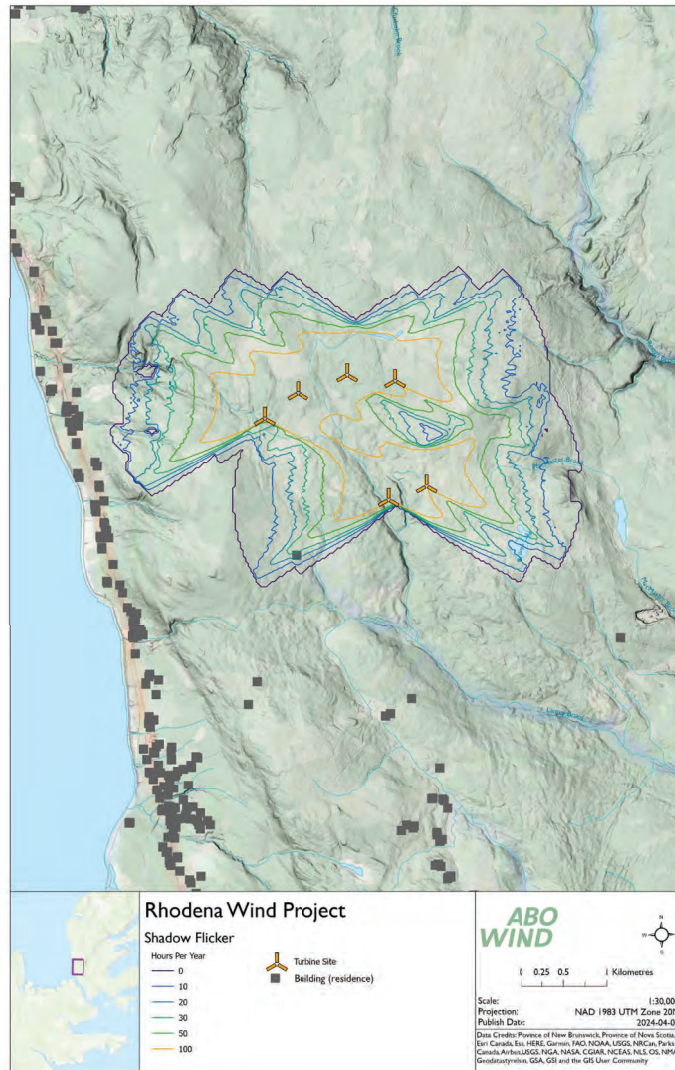
Sound Contours



40 dBA Zone



Shadow Flicker



What is “shadow flicker”?

Shadow flicker occurs when the spinning rotor is located between the sun and a building, and the turbine blades alternately block and allow the sunlight to shine through.

This causes a ‘flicker’ effect and only occurs when certain conditions are met such as the sun shining and turbine(s) operating.

A Shadow Flicker study has been conducted to assess the potential for shadow flicker at nearby receptors (residences).

The assessment will be included in the Project Environmental Assessment that is being submitted to the Province of NS for approval.

Shadow flicker study results:

Shadow flicker modeling indicates that regulatory thresholds will be met by the Project.

There are no predicted exceedances of 30 mins per day and/or 30 hours per year at any existing residential receptors.

