

# Fraser's looking for relief from wind turbines

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Steve Wadden - Cape Breton Post

Bruce and Janet Fraser, along with their two-year-old son Harland, look out from the front step of their home as a turbine on the neighbouring wind farm in Lingan spins in the background Wednesday. The couple made a presentation before the Cape Breton Reg

LINGAN — Sitting at their kitchen table Bruce and Janet Fraser stare out the window to see five sleek giants just beyond their backyard, churning in a counter-clockwise direction and changing line with the wind speed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It's become the couple's nightmare.

"It's in your face, you can't escape it," Janet Fraser said during an interview in the kitchen of the couple's nine-year-old custom-built, two-storey home.

"You can't go outside to relax and you can't stay inside to relax. There's no enjoyment. There's no peace."

The wind farm's seven turbines have lined the shore facing the north Atlantic since 2006, producing 16 megawatts with a yearly output of about 55,000 megawatt hours that's sufficient to power 6,000 homes. It sits next to the coal-fired Nova Scotia Power Lingan generating station.

The turbines were part of the Glace Bay-Lingan wind farm that had been operated by Cape Breton Power Ltd., before being sold to Confederation Power a couple of years ago.

The Fraser's say the wind farm has invaded every aspect of their lives.

Janet said between April and September, with the worst period being the July to August time frame, the huge 35-metre long blades which are attached to 65-metre high steel

towers create a “strobe effect” as the turbines cast continuous shadows on the house in the early daylight hours.

“It’s like a flickering,” she said, adding the blades impressive shadow pass through the house 60 times per minute.

“It almost feels like we’re in an experiment like a mouse in a box.” - Bruce Fraser

Bruce described it as a light switch being turned on and off repeatedly in their bedroom with no way to stop it.

“It almost feels like we’re in an experiment like a mouse in a box,” he said.

The constant “swoosh” of the blades makes sleeping difficult leading to sleep deprivation and that worries them as the sound, which becomes more pronounced during humid nights and during wind storms, keeps their two-year-old Harland awake.

They both worry about his development if he continues to have sleepless nights.

And even the use of earplugs and face masks haven’t helped Bruce and Janet.

“It sounds like a baby’s heart beat in an ultrasound. It’s that whump, whump, whump, and it’s high, low, high, low,” Bruce said, despite having exterior walls of 2x6 feet with heavy insulation.

Other than sleep deprivation, Janet said the family is dealing mainly with anxiety and their mental health is suffering.

The only solution to their problem is to sell. But the fact real estate agents have said the home is worthless based solely on its proximity to the turbines, it’s unlikely that will happen anytime soon, she said.