

Evening Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction - January 18, 2018

From: "Ma, Cesue (CAB)" <cesue.ma@ontario.ca>
To: "@OPO-Media Relations and Issues Management" <opo-mediarelationsandissuesmgmt@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Bevan, Andrew (OPO)" <andrew.bevan@ontario.ca>, "McEachern, Gillian (OPO)" <gillian.mceachern@ontario.ca>, "Donelson, Philip (OPO)" <philip.donelson@ontario.ca>, "Bossin, Bryan (OPO)" <bryan.bossin@ontario.ca>, "Tomney, Genevieve (OPO)" <genevieve.tomney@ontario.ca>, "Jancik, Mike (OPO)" <mike.jancik@ontario.ca>, "@CAB-Trans CO" <cab-transco@msgov.gov.on.ca>, "Baker, Carys (ENERGY)" <carys.baker@ontario.ca>, "Berry, James (ENERGY)" <james.berry5@ontario.ca>, "Bodrug, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.bodrug@ontario.ca>, "Campbell, David (ENERGY)" <david.campbell2@ontario.ca>, "Coker, Meaghan (ENERGY)" <meaghan.coker@ontario.ca>, "Den Heijer, Kevin (ENERGY)" <kevin.denheijer@ontario.ca>, "Esdaile, Trevor (ENERGY)" <trevor.esdaile@ontario.ca>, "Festeryga, Katherine (ENERGY)" <som.1katherine.festeryga@ontario.ca>, "Foster, David (ENERGY)" <david.foster@ontario.ca>, "McGrath, Jessica (ENERGY)" <jessica.mcgrath@ontario.ca>, "Moseley-Williams, Kate (ENERGY)" <kate.moseley-williams@ontario.ca>, "Nekolaichuk, Colin (ENERGY)" <colin.nekolaichuk@ontario.ca>, "Olsheski, Mark (ENERGY)" <mark.olsheski@ontario.ca>, "Ramasra, Raynier (ENERGY)" <raynier.ramasra@ontario.ca>, "Ruttan, Craig (ENERGY)" <som.craig.ruttan@ontario.ca>, "Teliszewsky, Andrew (ENERGY)" <andrew.teliszewsky@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Rachel (ENERGY)" <rachel.thompson@ontario.ca>, "Tresise, Landon (ENERGY)" <landon.tresise@ontario.ca>, "Tretiakov, Ilia (ENERGY)" <ilia.tretiakov@ontario.ca>, "Walman, Evan (ENERGY)" <evan.walman@ontario.ca>, "An, Derrick (OPO)" <derrick.an@ontario.ca>, "Leisk, Madison (OPO)" <madison.leisk@ontario.ca>, "Porter, Maddy (OPO)" <maddy.porter@ontario.ca>, "Whittington, Margot (OPO)" <margot.whittington2@ontario.ca>, "Yaqubian, Farnaz (OPO)" <farnaz.yaqubian@ontario.ca>, "Riggs, Matt (ENERGY)" <matt.riggs@ontario.ca>
Cc: "Sumi, Craig (CAB)" <craig.sumi@ontario.ca>, "Di Giovanni, Robert (CAB)" <robert.digiovanni@ontario.ca>, "Law, Sally (CAB)" <sally.law@ontario.ca>, "Stinson, Jeffrey (CAB)" <jeffrey.stinson@ontario.ca>, "Nutter, George (ENERGY)" <george.nutter@ontario.ca>, "Ma, Cesue (CAB)" <cesue.ma@ontario.ca>, "Electronic Media" <cab.emedia@ontario.ca>, "Selvadasan, Assumpta (CAB)" <assumpta.selvadasan2@ontario.ca>, "Halford, Gavin (ENERGY)" <som.gavin.halford@ontario.ca>
Date: Thu, 18 Jan 2018 21:00:25 -0500
Attachments: 20180118 - Media Scan - Hydro Rate Reduction (Evening).doc (76.8 kB)

Media Scan: Hydro Rate Reduction

January 18, 2018

Click links below to view article:

[TV Transcripts](#)
[None](#)

[Online Coverage](#)
[Mississauga: Can she make the best of a 'No-Wynne' Situation](#)
[Simcoe: A day in the life as a reporter for Simcoe.com](#)

TV Transcripts

None

Online Coverage

Mississauga: Can she make the best of a 'No-Wynne' Situation

By: John Stewart
January 18, 2018 04:00 AM

<https://www.mississauga.com/opinion-story/8049600-can-she-make-the-best-of-a-no-wynne-situation-/>

In the much-ridiculed ad that defined the 2014 provincial election, Kathleen Wynne donned her jogging gear and laboured up and down the Caledon Hills telling us that she was someone we didn't really know and suggesting she might surprise us if we gave her the chance.

She was metaphorically and physically distancing herself from predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, in what you might call a party off-gassing protocol.

"I set goals — really hard-to-accomplish goals," she said in an earnest voice-over. (The premier is nothing if not earnest.) "I never stop until I'm done."

After four lacklustre years, many political pundits have already declared her done. But Wynne shows no intention of stopping.

Heading into the June 7 polling, her current hard-to-accomplish goal is winning a second mandate in the face of all-time dismal personal popularity polling numbers and widespread discontent in her party's listless performance.

After 14 years of Liberal rule, voter fatigue doesn't talk, it swears.

Yet somehow, improbably, Kathleen Wynne appears to have a chance.

With a nerve that belies her schoolmarmish exterior, she's recast herself as change agent.

Her new-found progressivism has raised the minimum wage, provided free post-secondary tuition for low income families and approved pharmacare for those under 25.

A lot of handicappers didn't even see her getting into the saddle again, yet new polls suggest she's in the midst of the fray as the stretch heaves into view.

While politics may be a handicap race, it's also a marathon.

There are only three horses on this first past-the-post card. They all carry hefty burdens.

Wynne's appears to be the heaviest. After pretending hydro rates weren't a problem, she provided subsidies our children and grandchildren will finance.

The other contenders have their own bugbears.

Patrick Brown of the Progressive Conservatives must expunge the ghosts of campaigns past when Tim Hudak and John Tory blew big leads that, like this one, appeared overwhelming.

The good news is that the Tories have a platform that's not just "throw the rascals out."

After winning leadership via his social conservative base, his surprisingly centrist platform is designed to lure back red Tories and attract disaffected blue Liberals. Much will depend on his untested campaigning prowess.

The long shot in the mix is inscrutable NDP leader Andrea Horwath. Her party triggered the last election, then appeared to sit it out in astonishment as the Liberals campaigned with much of their traditional platform.

The Grits have already helped themselves to the NDP minimum wage plank.

In what will be her last campaign if she doesn't win, Horwath needs to again become the Clamour from the Hammer who drives the social activism agenda.

After the last polling I suggested, "Wynne and her party would do well to remember that they didn't exactly win this election. It was more or less ceded to them by the opposition. Lots of people whose vote she attracted have major reservations."

Those haven't been dispelled.

However, her political obituary could be premature. Wynne has a dogged, indefatigable, persistent — yes, earnest — quality that's easily underestimated.

SimcoA: day in the life as a reporter for Simcoe.com

By: Shane MacDonald
January 18, 2018 06:00 AM

<https://www.simcoe.com/opinion-story/8073565-a-day-in-the-life-as-a-reporter-for-simcoe-com/>

For just over a year now, I've called Simcoe County home.

I moved here last December to start a job as a reporter for Simcoe.com, and since then I've seen some really cool things, talked to interesting people and helped tell some great stories.

Before this job, I worked with Metroland Media as a reporter at The Uxbridge Times-Journal, a job I got shortly after graduating from Durham College's print and broadcast journalism program.

I've always loved a good story. Knowing about what is going on in my community has always been important to me, so being a newspaper reporter feels like a natural fit.

I've gotten around a bit. I started at The Alliston Herald, covering municipal council and human-interest stories, and have since moved to the Barrie office, where I am covering the education beat. I've also begun working as morning reporter, monitoring the weather, police and fire, and letting people know what to expect for their commute.

Some of the my favourite stories include visiting Canadian Forces Base Borden and learning about a mysterious German Flakpanzer tank with ties to Canadian author Farley Mowat; hearing a heartwarming story about Alliston residents who replaced a little girl's stolen flamingo ornament with a whole flock of flamingo ornaments; and taking a walk in the forest with a group of ecologists and a forester to learn how cutting down trees and starting a prescribed burn will lead to environmental rehabilitation in Springwater.

These are just some of the highlights. More recently, I've worked on stories about energy costs, head lice and enrolment numbers at the local school boards, which will be appearing in print and online this week.

Sometimes the story ideas come to you by way of a phone call or email; sometimes you find them while you're searching for something else; and sometimes they come because you have a question you want answered.

I'm always reading about what is happening in other communities and asking myself how it can relate to Simcoe County, so when I received multiple emails from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) about hospital hydro costs in other parts of the province, I wanted to know what the story was here.

I think, like most people, I find it hard to imagine paying almost \$4 million for hydro. That was one of the first numbers the CTF shared with me about how much Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) in Barrie pays for hydro.

After some more research, I found Ontario's energy minister had made comments about the CTF's hospital hydro numbers. I reached out to his office and was directed to a letter to the editor the minister had written about another community's hospital hydro costs. I spoke with RVH's operations director of facility support services to learn more about why hydro costs there have increased by 34 per cent in five years, and was told facility additions likely contributed, and that energy conservation is a top priority.

I also spoke with CTF's Ontario director about what the group hoped to achieve by sharing this information, and about what they'd discovered through information requests at other hospitals across the province.

I think the story reveals some interesting information about how our hospitals are dealing with increased hydro bills on a larger scale to which the average resident can relate.

With the winter break ending and kids returning back to school, I was also searching for education-related stories.

On the suggestion of my editor-in-chief, I reached out to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to ask about head lice. I can't say it is a topic I was familiar with, but, after speaking with a public health nurse and a local woman who started a Canada-wide head lice removal service, I was able to write a story about what people should do, or how to tell, if they have head lice.

Continuing my search for education stories, I began reviewing meeting agendas for the Simcoe County District School Board. I read through the agendas for board meetings and committee meetings to see if there is anything of interest to our readers. If there is, I often follow up by attending the meetings and requesting interviews with school board representatives about a given topic. If I haven't got my fill, I'll even watch meetings online.

Last week, the agenda revealed an interesting piece of information on enrolment numbers. It was a rather routine story with an interesting tidbit that secondary enrolment numbers have been declining.

Keeping people informed, keeping an eye on our institutions, and getting to be a part of interesting stories is just a day in the life as a reporter for Simcoe.com.

Here's to being a part of more great stories.