Message

From: John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]
Sent: 2017-06-27 6:24:19 AM
Subject: Today's News - Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Today's News

powered by:

Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

Industry News

News - 5 Results

Powin and Hecate to install storage projects totaling 52.8 MWh in Canada

Utility Dive - Tue Jun 27 2017

Powin recently signed a contract with San Diego Gas & Electric for a 6.5 MW, 26 MWh energy storage system in Escondido, Calif., and earlier this year brought online a 2 MW, 8 MWh storage facility in Irvine for Southern California Edison. Now the ...

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St. Catharines Standard - Tue Jun 27 2017
Byline:Jim Merriam
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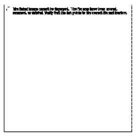

Group protests hydro sale; Former councillor Maurice McMillan joins demonstration

Orillia Packet & Times - Tue Jun 27 2017
Byline: Patrick Bales
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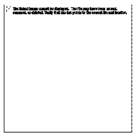
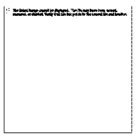


Guelph looking to go ahead with converting street lights to LEDs

GuelphMercury.com - Mon Jun 26 2017
Byline:gmcnaughton@guelphmercurytribune.com

Guelph appears to be moving ahead with converting all of its street lights to LEDs. In a report to be discussed at the July 4 meeting of the committee of the whole, councillors will be asked to approve $8 million in spending for the project that ...



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Powin and Hecate to install storage projects totaling 52.8 MWh in Canada

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Powin recently signed a contract with San Diego Gas & Electric for a 6.5 MW, 26 MWh energy storage system in Escondido, Calif., and earlier this year brought online a 2 MW, 8 MWh storage facility in Irvine for Southern California Edison.

Now the Tualatin, Ore., company says it is rolling out the largest energy storage project to date and the largest project in Canada. The 12.8 MW, 52.8MWh system is being developed in conjunction with Hecate at two sites.

The system in Stratford will be housed in of a building specifically designed to support 20 Powin 2 MWh battery arrays. Six Powin 2 MWh 40-foot outdoor battery systems are set to be deployed at the Kitchener location.

The systems will use Powin's Stack140, a modular 140 kW battery array that is scalable from 125 kW to multiple megawatts. They will be powered by Powin's bp-OS battery management software and Battery Odometer and Warranty Tracker

"We selected Powin Energy for this project because they are a responsive partner with a history of rapidly delivering fully integrated utility-scale energy storage systems," Chris Bullinger, Hecate's president and CEO, said in a statement.

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If Hydro One weren't Hydro One, it would be beyond belief that the utility would have the audacity to seek a hike in distribution rates in 2017.

In the recent past, the utility and the provincial government have endured withering attacks over the costs of electricity in Ontario.

The protests have covered power poverty in the province, indefensible prices for delivery even when no power is used, huge salaries for the top dogs at Hydro One, the unconscionable sell-off of portions of the utility by Premier Kathleen Wynne's government to private interests.

In the face of all that, Hydro One is seeking a hike in distribution rates.

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB)is holding hearings on the rate request and it's here that things get weird.

In a June 6 new release from Hydro One, in response to notices to customers sent by the OEB, the utility says it's "committed to reducing costs and increasing the company's productivity and efficiency. The rate application reflects this commitment and is based on a plan that includes making only the necessary improvements to ensure the reliable supply of electricity."

Translation: We want you to pay more so we can deliver cheaper power sometime in the future. We're from Hydro One and we're here to help. Trust us.

In reality, the utility is working on improving profits by increasing costs to its customers. Once again, we're off down the rabbit hole.

However, an Ontario Energy Board (OEB) spokesperson is quoted as saying: "Any amounts approved by the OEB will not impact the distribution line of the bill of most Hydro One customers, after the Fair Hydro Act credits and changes are applied."

Translation: The government has a plan to borrow from your grandchildren to make sure you pay less for electricity today. So, we are free to approve a higher rate, because you won't notice it. Overall, you'll still pay less. Trust us.

Where is the entrance to that rabbit hole again? The comments from the OEB came in answer to questions about whether the public consultations really meant anything or if they were just window dressing, with decisions already made.

The spokesperson said customer input, intervenors and OEB staff members each have great weight when considering if a requested rate increase is reasonable.

Part of the exercise is to assure customers "there's a regulator that's watching out for them as well."

In the real world, any regulator worth the name would just say no to a rate hike request in 2017. I'm just saying.

We all know that the government's so-called Fair Hydro Act should be renamed the Hydro Credit Card Act, because the piper will have to be paid. And the bill will come due some years down the road.

Both Hydro One and the OEB seem to hope we ignore the non-partisan provincial financial accountability officer. That report says the net result of the Fair Hydro Act will mean future ratepayers will have to come up with an additional $21 billion to play catch up.

So here we have two entities supported by the public purse claiming consumers won't feel jacked up prices, because the government is already pretending to bring prices down.

Can anyone say, collusion?

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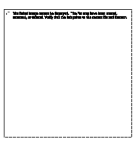

Group protests hydro sale; Former councillor Maurice McMillan joins demonstration

Orillia Packet & Times - Tue Jun 27 2017
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Before Orillia councillors stepped into their summer schedules, a group of concerned citizens told them a mistake was made when Orillia Power Distribution

Corporation was sold to Hydro One.

Ten people, including two children, brought placards into the council chambers Monday night, all branded with anti-privatization messages. Only two of the adults stayed long enough to hear former city councillor Maurice McMillan speak during the open forum section of the meeting.

"Orillia has been at the forefront of rising hydro costs for the citizens of Ontario," he read from a prepared statement at the meeting. "The sale of Orillia Power's distribution is the final damaging act that deprived people of their voice."

Before the meeting, as the protestors congregated in the Orillia City Centre's newly renovated lobby, McMillan elaborated the issue goes beyond the sale of any part of Orillia Power. According to him, people just don't understand.

"We had a good social network system for 150 years; we've come to the point that we're going to destroy it all," he said. "The people don't understand that we're going to an Americanized system of costs for our social structures - all of them at once - (and) you can't do much but get out there and make them understand."

In his remarks to council, McMillan said increased power costs, born in part by privatization, would lead to further privatization of social services, as municipalities and the upper-tier governments will not be able to afford the cost to keep the lights on.

One way to reverse the trend would be to halt the current power contracts. Mayor Steve Clarke was unsure what the city could do.

"To my mind, that doesn't have a heck of a lot to do with the City of Orillia," he said after the meeting.

Clarke was quick to welcome the protestors and applauded their civility and patience in waiting through a nearly threehour meeting before speaking. However, he tends to take a differing view on the potential sale of Orillia Power's distribution arm.

"It's no secret that he's in opposition," Clarke said of McMillan, adding the former councillor has "lived and breathed" the power file for many years.

The mayor also wasn't sure just what the city could do about some of McMillan's other concerns, including the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) not considering the opinions of Hydro One's rural customers that would be opposed to taking on another urban utility.

"He said the OEB was ignoring the voice of 1.3 million rural Ontarians; that's his opinion," Clarke said. "There are so many differences in the delivery of electricity to rural customers than there are to urban customers."

The OEB is expected to provide a decision on the deal between Hydro One and Orillia Power in the coming weeks. pbales@postmedia.com twitter.com/patrickbales

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Guelph looking to go ahead with converting street lights to LEDs

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Byline:gmcnaughton@guelphmercurytribune.com

Guelph appears to be moving ahead with converting all of its street lights to LEDs.

In a report to be discussed at the July 4 meeting of the committee of the whole, councillors will be asked to approve $8 million in spending for the project that would retrofit more than 13,000 street lights in the city to LEDs.

Alex Chapman, the manager of the city's climate change office, says following approval by councillors, he expects lights to start being installed before the end of the year.

"First of all, we have to do an inventory to make sure we know how many we've got, and then following that, we would select a vendor and then they would get started," he says.

"Our target is to have it completed by the second quarter of 2018."

The report says the $8-million project would save money in the long run, coming in at $14.2 million over 15 years, including the money being borrowed internally to pay for the project. Chapman says, based on those cost savings, the project would pay for itself within six years.

The $8 million is being borrowed from the city's Wastewater Capital Reserve Fund.

The majority of the bulbs in the city's street lights use high-pressure sodium and need to be replaced every three to five years. The LEDs would come with a 10-year warranty and are expected to last up to 20 years, with an annual failure rate of between 0.5 and two per cent - or about 66 to 264 LEDs - per year.

The report cites other cities, including Halifax and Mississauga, that have made the switch to LED, noting energy savings of between 40 and 80 per cent, plus a savings in maintenance costs of between 50 and 80 per cent.

The city estimates that, based on those numbers, it will save between $800,000 and $1.6 million per year by going ahead with the conversion.

There has been limited trials of LED street lighting in Guelph, with five different areas - Celia Crescent and Elson Drive, Edinburgh Road South between Bellevue Street and Walter Street, High Park Drive, Echo Drive and Forest Street - having their street lights outfitted with the technology.

"I would say about 80 per cent were neutral to positive results. It's not scientific though, we didn't do a statistically significant survey, but the feedback we did receive was generally positive," Chapman says.

"The areas where we received negative feedback were mostly about the colour (of the light), so we've adjusted our approach to go with a warmer colour in light of that feedback."

The new LED technology would also allow centralized control of individual lamps from one location, as opposed to the current system, which has to be done at each individual unit. This would allow lights to be dimmed when traffic levels are low and identifying when lights are burning out, as opposed to the current system which requires residents to call them in to Guelph Hydro.

Many of the city's traffic signals were converted to LEDs, starting back in 2006, and a city-wide replacement wasn't needed until last year. That initiative came with a savings of 90 per cent, says the city, with the project paying for itself within two years.

The old traffic signal bulbs had to be replaced, on average, every six months.

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The Latest: US mayors OK plan to use only renewable energy

National Post - Mon Jun 26 2017
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MIAMI - The Latest on the U.S. Conference of Mayors' resolutions to fight climate change (all times local):

12:50 p.m.

A bipartisan group of mayors from across the country has unanimously backed an ambitious commitment for U.S. cities to run entirely on renewable sources such as wind and solar in two decades.

As the U.S. Conference of Mayors wrapped up in Miami Beach on Monday, leaders from more than 250 cities voted on symbolic resolutions pushing back against President Donald Trump on climate change and immigration.

Steve Benjamin is the Democratic mayor of Columbia, South Carolina. He proposed the resolution with three other mayors. He says mayors have been on the front line of climate and energy issues for so long and the president's actions have ignited the excitement of mayors and citizens who want to do more.

The clean-energy resolution is one of the many measures that will be sent to Congress and the White House hoping to influence legislation. It was proposed by Democratic mayors in the Republican-dominated states of South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Iowa.

9:05 a.m.

Mayors meeting in Florida are considering an ambitious commitment to have entire U.S. cities run on renewable sources such as wind and solar in two decades.

Leaders from more than 250 cities gathered at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Miami Beach are voting Monday on a resolution to reach the 100 per cent clean energy goal by 2035.

Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine is leading the effort after being in the spotlight for his moves to grapple with sea level rise.

A May survey by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions says 47 cities spent nearly $1.2 billion annually on electricity for city operations.

Mayors at the conference have overwhelmingly expressed support to fight climate change, especially after the Trump administration pulled out of a global climate agreement last month.

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