Message

From: John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]
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Today's News

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Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

IESO Mentions

News - 1 Results

Move 10,000 jobs North; Accent: Columnist Stan Sudol has his own ideas on how the new provincial government can spur Northern Ontario's economy. This is the third in a series of four

Sudbury Star - Tue Jun 5 2018
Byline: Stan Sudol
Page: A1 / Front

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Back to Top

Industry News

News - 8 Results

Sudbury battle pits energy minister against former party

thestar.com - Mon Jun 4 2018
Byline: Kristin Rushowy

SUDBURY-It's a riding that has had more than its share of the spotlight since the last provincial election(https://www.thestar.com/»). Sudbury was the main attraction last fall at the height of an election bribery ...

Why things can't get much worse for Hydro One investors; Whoever is elected this June, it seems unlikely that either the Ontario NDP or PCs will follow through on their bluster

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Byline: David Berman

Hydro One Ltd. shares have been walloped by rising interest rates and political uncertainty, but this double-whammy of bad news looks like a gift for investors buying the stock at today's beaten-up price. Or at least that's what I keep ...

Stuck on the wrong side of Hydro One's dividing line

CBC.CA News - Mon Jun 4 2018, 4:00am ET
Byline: CBC News

Tim Priddle knows the old real estate maxim "location, location, location" all too well. He also knows that if his family-owned business, The WoodSource, were located just across Mitch Owens Road, he'd save tens of thousands of dollars in ...

North needs own hydro; It's one of the ideas Nickel Belt's Libertarian candidate is pushing

Sudbury Star - Tue Jun 5 2018
Byline: James Chretien
Page: A2

1. Why are you running? After years of being unhappy with government policy and being unable to effect change from the outside, I believe it's time someone steps up to look out for the North's best interests and puts some common sense back into ...

Welland Hydro invests in sunny future; Two two-hectare solar farms helping to power the city

Welland Tribune - Tue Jun 5 2018
Byline: Kris Dube Special to The Welland Tribune
Page: A1

A $2.5-million joint venture between Welland Hydro Energy Services and the local municipality is running at full capacity and creating less pressure on the electrical grid that serves homes and businesses in the city. Two solar farms ...

Energy board seeks Cambridge customers comments on Energy+ rate increase application

Cambridge Times - Mon Jun 4 2018 **Page:** 1

The Ontario Energy Board is seeking public comment on an application by Energy+ Inc. to harmonize its rates and charges in Cambridge, North Dumfries and Brant County. The move, which would go into affect Jan. 1, would ...

Environmental positions show divisions between parties

Niagara Falls Review - Mon Jun 4 2018
Byline: Mark Winfield
Page: A4

With the Ontario election now just days away, all four major parties have now tabled their platforms. While the campaign has focused heavily on the personalities of the party leaders, a review of the platforms makes it clear that ...

Energy chief defends Trump directive on coal, nuclear plants; Energy chief defends Trump directive on coal, nuclear plants

Canadian Press - Mon Jun 4 2018
Byline: Matthew Daly

WASHINGTON - Energy Secretary Rick Perry on Monday defended President Donald Trump's call to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants, saying a rash of plant retirements is "alarming" and poses a looming crisis for the nation's power ...

Back to Top

IESO Mentions

Full Articles

Move 10,000 jobs North; Accent: Columnist Stan Sudol has his own ideas on how the new provincial government can spur Northern Ontario's economy. This is the third in a series of four

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Page: A1 / Front

Without a doubt, the provincial economy overall is doing great. Growth rates of 2.8 per cent in 2017 and a slightly lower rate of 2.4 per cent predicted for this year has allowed the Ontario to gain 335,000 new jobs and lowered unemployment to 5.5 per cent in March.

However, the vast majority of that prosperity is focused on the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). In fact, over the past decade, roughly 80 per cent of new jobs created in Ontario went to the GTA, 10 per cent to Ottawa and the rest of the province had to make due with the remaining 10 per cent.

Is it any wonder why the GTA is drowning in prosperity, with crowded subways, congested highways and an over-inflated housing market? In the1980s, former Liberal premier David Peterson had an innovative vision of sharing the job wealth with the rest of the province as the government is a major employer. He transferred 1,600 civil service jobs from a number of ministries to Northern Ontario. Thousands of other jobs were also moved to various cities in southern Ontario like Kingston, Peterborough, Orillia and Guelph.

Peterson helped grow the Sudbury Mining Cluster by transferring the Ontario Geological Survey, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and mines section of the Ministry of Labour.

There are an estimated 120,000 Ontario civil service jobs in the Toronto area spread over the Queen's Park ministries and a wide variety of government agencies, boards and commissions. With the impending retirement of the baby boomers and advanced communications technologies, it's time to revisit Peterson's terrific vision to share the wealth and stability that government jobs provide and transfer 10,000 civil servant positions to Northern Ontario. And for good measure, another 15,000 government jobs should be transferred to the cities of the southwest, the Niagara region and the southeast.

The booming GTA can more than withstand this job transfer and it might even help reduce some of the congestion. The new government should hire an outside accounting firm to make recommendation on what jobs should be transferred and to where.

In a brief telephone conversation, well over a decade ago, I recall Peterson telling me that there was tremendous "pushback" from the bureaucrats as they didn't agree with his policy. In the Ontario of the 21st century, Toronto can afford to and should share the wealth of civil servant jobs with the rest of the struggling province. Resource education needed Our natural resource sector - energy, mining, forestry and agriculture - provide about 52 per cent of Canada's exports. And yet the disconnect between where the materials to build our cellphones and cars come from or how the lights stay on has never been greater. Even global food production would significantly decrease, leading to mass starvation, if phosphate and potash fertilizers were not used to sustain crop yields.

Ontario needs to implement one mandatory resource course in the high school curriculum to educate all kids about the basic building blocks of modern 21st century society.

I am not looking for a propaganda tool. We need to include legitimate environmental concerns, water and pollution issues, as well as the realistic and costly limits of renewable energy proposals and the poverty elimination aspects of resource development in northern or less developed regions and countries.

Twinning Trans-Canada and passing lanes In a last minute political reprieve, the Liberals committed to twinning the trans-Canada highway throughout Northern Ontario with no timelines or financial commitments.

Aside from the collective eye rolling I suspect most northerners were doing, it probably lowered the Liberal's standing in the polls a point or two - given their desperation of saying anything to get reelected. Aside from the cynicism that announcement brought on, this really an issue that we need to start tackling.

Road and bridge infrastructure is a critical component of the north and that strategic choke point at Nipigon needs to be resolved in some economic manner. In January 2016, a brand new $100-million bridge failed due to some problem with the bolts holding it together, effectively cutting the country in half. We need to have an alternate route preferably in this country as traffic had to reroute through the states to get to southern Canada. Obviously, we need to start twinning the trans-Canada. After all, we are a high-tech supposedly near $2 trillion economy. We should be able to afford it if the prime minister stops spending $4.5 billion on pipelines the private sector should be building.

And there are two secondary highways I really need to complain about. Highway 144 was probably designed the devil himself. I am not calling for its twinning, but we certainly could afford to place some longer passing lanes in ten key places as the construction of IAMGOLD's new Côté open pit gold mine near Gogama that will be employing hundreds and the traffic volume will expand accordingly.

And Red Lake is doing very well. But Highway 105 into the community could also use around 10 lengthy passing lanes strategically placed.

Power Issues Before the breakup of the old Ontario Hydro by the Mike Harris Conservatives - into Ontario Power Corporation (generation) and Hydro One (transmission), the construction of transmission lines to new resource projects was paid for by the utility. Now the mining or forestry company must foot the bill even though their economic activity will create hundreds or thousands of jobs (direct/indirect) and contribute enormous amounts of tax revenue, especially in northern regions. We need to go back to the old system.

The Green Energy Act and its absurd long-term high-priced contracts have caused excessive increases in both residential and industrial power rates. While the Liberal Northern Industrial Electricity Rate Program does lower power rates for industry, there is a limited amount of money in the program and it is not a permanent fixture dependent on the whims of politics. Ontario needs to implement a permanent industrial power rate for all northern industries that is within a "reasonable" range compared to Manitoba and Quebec. I don't expect that we could afford to be at their impressively low rates, but somewhat competitive to retain those highpaying, middle-class jobs associated with mining and forestry.

Regulated by the Ontario Energy Board, Wataynikaneyap (Watay) Power is a licensed transmission company, 51 per cent owned by 22 First Nation communities in partnership with Fortis Ontario Inc., which owns the remainder. The federal government gave $1.6 billion to this great initiative to link 16 isolated Aboriginal communities to the grid and wean them off of costly diesel power generation.

I have to give the Trudeau government credit for this terrific investment that will benefit more than 14,000 people and is the "most expansive Indigenous-led transmission project in Canada's history.

There are also extensive training programs for FNs and the ability to expand and grow businesses in these communities which was severely limited with diesel generation, can now happen.

Here is the small problem. Two key Ring of Fire communities are not part of the plan - Nibinamik and Webequie. Wunnumin Lake FN is a partner. This community is only about 60 km west of Nibinamik and 135 km west of Webequie. It would be very easy to run a line to both of these communities and into the Ring of Fire. The government needs to convince both communities to join the Watay initiative.

The last power issue I want to highlight is the need for a critical upgrade to two transmission lines in northwestern Ontario between Dryden and Red Lake and between Nipigon and Greenstone. Both Greenstone and Red Lake are experience significant growth in their gold mining industries.

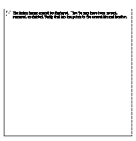
The current transmission lines are extremely old and need to be upgraded to a 230 KV circuit or it will significantly hold back mineral sector expansion. The Watay power project should have its first Aboriginal community - Pikangikum - connected at the end of the year, which is north of Red Lake, putting more pressure on that transmission corridor.

It is appalling that the business sector has been constantly lobbing and fighting with Hydro One, the Independent Electricity System Operator and the Ministry of Energy about this vital issue to no avail. Both these projects involve many FNs communities that will benefit as well. This basic piece of infrastructure needs to be upgraded now. The series: Saturday, June 2: Queen's Park strangling Northern Ontario Monday June 4: How to develop the Ring of Fire Today: Move 10,000 civil service jobs to Northern Ontario Wednesday: Creating the Harvard of Hardrock Mining at Laurentian Stan Sudol is a Toronto-based communications consultant, freelance mining columnist and owner/editor of www.republicofmining.com

Back to Top

Industry News

Full Articles



Sudbury battle pits energy minister against former party

thestar.com - Mon Jun 4 2018
Byline: Kristin Rushowy

SUDBURY-It's a riding that has had more than its share of the spotlight since the last provincial election www.thestar.com .

Sudbury was the main attraction last fall at the height of an election bribery scandal, and a trial that garnered province-wide attention as Premier Kathleen Wynne travelled here to testify.

It's the home riding of the minister of energy, as hydro rates - and complaints - soared amid concerns of people having to choose between "heating and eating."

And then, earlier this year, came news that a Sudbury senior had spent almost two weeks in the local hospital, his bed crammed into a bathroom beside the toilet in another example of the "hallway medicine" the opposition had been hammering the governing Liberals about.

Add to that a community that has been waiting for years for a PET scanner, and a general feeling in the North that it has been overlooked, and this has become a riding where voters are paying attention to the election campaign.

"People in general, but especially in the North, are upset with high hydro prices," said Nadia Verrelli, a political science professor at Sudbury's Laurentian University.

Read more:

Opinion Martin Regg Cohn: A voter's guide to the 2018 Ontario election www.thestar.com

Andrea Horwath tells voters to 'imagine' Ontario under Doug Ford www.thestar.com

Facing defeat, Kathleen Wynne shifts to legacy mode www.thestar.com

And while that issue alone may not sink the re-election bid of Liberal incumbent and Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, it will affect the Liberals as a whole, she said.

"Health is huge - access to health, especially in the North, to general practitioners or nurse practitioners, and having specialists" available are seen as key, she said. And that PET scanner "has been on the agenda for a while."

Thibeault and NDP candidate Jamie West appear to be neck-and-neck, she said.

"It's a pretty tight race," she added. "Glenn Thibeault has the experience on his side, he's well-known in the community - as is Jamie West ... both are quite comfortable with the community and the electorate" and are visible in the community.

But Progressive Conservative candidate and former NHL player Troy Crowder (who declined to be interviewed for this story) has been more visible than PC candidates of the past, she added.

In an interview last week, Wynne said her party was not taking any seat for granted, but called Thibeault "such a strong candidate."

"He's such a strong representative of the community. I really think the people of Sudbury see that," she added. "But you know, it's a fight. You know the fact is, we've got a fight on our hands in every riding. That's the reality."

Then, on Saturday, she publicly conceded that she will not win the election.

Thibeault said that will make a difference for his campaign because, going door to door, "most of what I've been hearing is that no one is really enamoured with any of the leadership candidates," he said.

"I think what Kathleen has done this weekend is allowed us as Liberal candidates to talk about local issues."

When campaigning, Thibeault said, "I've always tried to make this about my record and how passionate I am about the job and what it entails."

He said as MPP and a former MP for the area, he's been "that strong voice for the people of Sudbury," and he finds that voters are extremely engaged in this election.

"I talk about the importance of voting local and the one vote that you do have is for a strong voice in Sudbury," he said in a telephone interview during a break from campaigning.

Thibeault has been an elected representative for Sudbury for 10 years, both federally and provincially. In Ottawa, he represented the riding for the NDP, but was wooed away by the Liberals to run provincially. Now it's a riding that the New Democrats are keen to capture from their former ally.

The NDP's Jamie West, who works as a health and safety representative in the mining sector, says hydro bills grew exponentially under the Wynne government.

West said as he's going door to door, he's hearing "a lot of frustration and disappointment."

Thibeault, he added, is "basically seen as the right-hand man for the privatization of Hydro One," which the NDP has pledged to reverse by buying back the shares the Liberals sold off.

Residents have been waiting for years for a PET scanner, which the community pitched in and raised funds for, and is still waiting to receive - although construction is under way and it is expected to be installed in a new suite at the hospital next year, he said.

West said the problem is politicians like Wynne and Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford come up North, "but they talk about the south" and not the issues impacting those in Sudbury.

West said he doesn't take anything for granted about this election, and neither do his opponents.

"My day starts at 7 a.m. and I get home at 9:30 at night - and my day is spent talking to as many people as possible," he said in a telephone interview.

As the NDP has closed in on the PCs in the polls, the Tories have repeatedly attacked the New Democrats with accusations of "radical candidates." But it hasn't affected voters in Sudbury, he said.

"Most people kind of laugh at it," he said. "They see it as desperate."

West said the NDP has a plan for the North that would pump billions into healthcare and childcare, and that voters are responding to it.

Thibeault said the perception that the North has been overlooked is not the reality, noting the Liberals made many investments, spending billions to expand highways, invest in healthcare and build new schools.

"There's a lot going on in the North," he said, adding, however, that there is more to be done.

He, like West, talks about diversifying the economy, and said he has an advantage because of his experience.

Thibeault said he knows how things work, "how to actually push and pull, and where you need to pull or push, to get things done for the community."

He does acknowledge the hydro controversies. "I'm carrying a lot of the baggage that comes with the ministry of energy, but I'm also carrying the 25 per cent (rate) reduction that we gave every single family across the province."

Ontario, he said, has a "good, reliable, clean system," and the NDP plan to buy back Hydro One won't save taxpayers money.

Although Crowder declined to speak to the Star, he has been interviewed by Sudbury.com, where he blamed a "media shift" in part for the PCs losing their commanding lead in the polls. He was also unable to cite the cost to government for key Tory promises to cut hydro rates or reduce gas prices.

"For me, it's about what can we do in my area," Crowder told Sudbury.com, saying Ford is all about "trying to give relief to people … his whole platform is based on giving relief to everybody."

He said "efficiencies and waste" will pay for such promises, and said "when you stop making those kinds of mistakes" such as the Liberals' eHealth or gas plant scandals "and you actually run an efficient government, you can then give a break in some of the other areas."

He said the major issues for Northern Ontario are high unemployment rates and the need to diversify the economy.

"Doug is about the economy, economy, economy, and Sudbury needs economy," Crowder said.

Back to Top

Why things can't get much worse for Hydro One investors; Whoever is elected this June, it seems unlikely that either the Ontario NDP or PCs will follow through on their bluster

theglobeandmail.com - Mon Jun 4 2018, 6:00pm ET
Byline: David Berman

Hydro One Ltd. shares have been walloped by rising interest rates and political uncertainty, but this double-whammy of bad news looks like a gift for investors buying the stock at today's beaten-up price.

Or at least that's what I keep telling myself. I've owned this stock for a couple of years, and I have been adding to my holdings in three different accounts (a registered retirement savings plan, a tax-free savings account and - apologies to my daughter ? a registered education savings plan), under the belief that electricity distribution is a solid business.

But doubling down has only added to my pain as Hydro One's share price has tumbled below $20 over the past month, from a high above $26 in 2016 - a 30-per-cent belly flop.

Despite nursing losses, I remain convinced that the risks weighing on the stock will soon blow away. And the Ontario provincial election on Thursday should get the winds moving.

That's right, I'm calling the populist bluffs of the New Democrats and the Progressive Conservatives. Both parties have had colourful things to say about the utility ? 47 per cent owned by the province ? as they appeal to voters outraged over rising electricity prices.

One of these parties will prevail in the election now that Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne has conceded defeat, putting their respective platforms to the test.

The PCs, under leader Doug Ford, want to replace Hydro One's board and fire its chief executive officer, Mayo Schmidt. For some reason, Mr. Ford believes Mr. Schmidt's paycheque is connected to electricity rates.

The NDP, under leader Andrea Horwath, wants to return Hydro One to provincial ownership, reversing the utility's privatization through an initial public offering in 2015.

You can certainly understand why risk-averse investors might want to avoid this stock until political clarity emerges. But whichever leader becomes Ontario's next premier, it seems unlikely that either will follow through on their bluster.

Why? The PC's plan would make the pro-business party look like silly corporate meddlers: Even if they succeeded, they would end up removing a highly regarded CEO and replacing him with ? what? - a highly regarded bargain CEO?

And the NDP's plan to nationalize Hydro One, just three years after privatization, would cost the indebted province an estimated $10-billion www.theglobeandmail.com , and it would need to get around an agreement reached during the IPO process that restricts provincial ownership.

"Ultimately, we believe the attempt for an incoming government to purchase the entirety of Hydro One is a very unlikely scenario. In any event, this type of situation is impermissible under the existing governance agreement," Andrew Kuske, an analyst at Credit Suisse, said in a recent note to clients.

What's more, neither plan would have any significant impact on electricity rates: Rates are set by the Ontario Energy Board www.theglobeandmail.com , not the distribution utility. And if either plan continues to linger over the share price after the election, the uncertainty will most hurt the utility's single biggest shareholder: Ontario.

So betting that the next provincial government will leave Hydro One more or less unchanged looks like a reasonable approach. And if the next premier backs off, the political nonsense weighing on the share price will disappear.

Beneath this overhang is a compelling investment.

Yes, the shares have also been hit by rising interest rates, which tends to lower the valuations of utilities that are prized for their stable dividends. The utilities sector within the S&P/TSX Composite Index has slumped more than 10 per cent this year.

But as the share price has declined, Hydro One's dividend yield has risen to a compelling 4.7 per cent.

As a publicly traded company, Hydro One has already raised its quarterly payout three times, most recently by 5 per cent. And investors can expect additional hikes as management transforms a lumbering government division into a more efficient operation that can take advantage of consolidation within the North American electricity sector.

Robert Kwan, an analyst at RBC Dominion Securities, expects the shares will rebound to $25 within a year, underpinned by Hydro One's efforts to update aging infrastructure and streamline its operations.

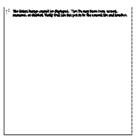
"We expect a high-single-digit total return profile (i.e., yield plus growth) plus upside into the low-double digits, which we see as attractive for a stock with a below-average risk profile," Mr. Kwan said in a recent note.

The stock trades at just 15 times estimated 2018 profit, according to Bloomberg, which is below the valuations for utility stocks in the S&P/TSX Composite and the S&P 500.

Clearly, Ontario's politicians need to play along here. But until they do, the stock is cheap.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Why things can't get much worse for Hydro One investors www.theglobeandmail.com The viewing of this article is only available to Globe Unlimited subscribers.

Back to Top



Stuck on the wrong side of Hydro One's dividing line

CBC.CA News - Mon Jun 4 2018, 4:00am ET
Byline:CBC News

Tim Priddle knows the old real estate maxim "location, location, location" all too well.

He also knows that if his family-owned business, The WoodSource, were located just across Mitch Owens Road, he'd save tens of thousands of dollars in electricity costs each year.

"It's kind of hard to move about 100,000 square feet of buildings across the road," said Priddle, who purchased the custom lumber mill with his brother Phil in 1998.

The WoodSource sells 40 different species of wood including reclaimed lumber from old barns and logs salvaged from riverbeds. The mill produces custom flooring and mouldings, much of it for heritage restoration projects including Centre Block on Parliament Hill, and counts Robert De Niro and Barbara Streisand among its more notable customers.

The Manotick Station business, which includes a showroom, warehouse and offices, gets its electricity from Hydro One, the provincial power utility. In January Priddle paid 28 cents per kilowatt hour.

That same month, businesses on the north side of Mitch Owens Road ? the dividing line ? paid 19 cents per kilowatt hour. A short drive away on Rideau Road, LRT Industries, a commercial woodworking operation that produces cabinets and doors, also enjoys that lower rate for its power.

The difference is, they're Hydro Ottawa customers.

"It's strange," Priddle said. "We're in the same city and we're competing with people just across the road."

Bill more than doubled

Eight years ago, Priddle paid $4,000 a month for his electricity. The monthly bill recently ballooned to $8,500.

The mill did recently undergo an expansion, but Priddle was careful to install high-efficiency motors and LED lighting.

Not only does the operation miss out on the lower Hydro Ottawa rate; it also fails to qualify for a discount similar to the 25 per cent reduction that residential customers, farmers and some small businesses received last year under Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan. Nor does it make the cut for a federal grant available to larger manufacturers.

"We feel cheated," Priddle said. "We'd obviously love a 25 per cent discount. It would help us gain more market share, maybe export more material and generate more jobs in the Ottawa area."

Priddle said he feels ignored by provincial politicians.

"Manufacturing plants are disappearing by the dozens every year from this province, and politicians must decide what manufacturing employment means to Ontario," he said. "The handling of our electrical system over the last decade has been a disaster."

Joined coalition

Priddle has joined the Coalition of Concerned Manufacturers and Businesses of Ontario, a group of 150 businesses lobbying the government for electricity discounts for medium-sized manufacturers like The WoodSource.

The coalition was started by Jocelyn Bamford, vice-president of Toronto company Automatic Coating Ltd., after the electricity at her plant doubled over 10 years.

"We need to compete globally, and we just can't with these rates," Bamford said.

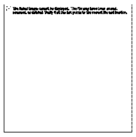
Bamford blames the 2009 Green Energy Act for the high price some businesses pay for electricity. She believes the province is paying exorbitant, artificial rates to solar and wind generators and forcing companies like hers to underwrite the costs.

"When the government talks about fairness, it's not fair to burden one part of the industrial base with the costing of everything else," she said.

Priddle shares Bamford's views, and points to the example of a friend who bought a large warehouse near Pembroke, Ont., and installed solar panels on the roof.

"He's now generating $350,000 a year in revenue with a 20-year guaranteed contract on a vacant building where wood manufacturing used to take place," Priddle said. "My high cost of electricity is paying him his handsome fee. It hurts, and I feel an ache in my gut."

Back to Top



North needs own hydro; It's one of the ideas Nickel Belt's Libertarian candidate is pushing

Sudbury Star - Tue Jun 5 2018
Byline: James Chretien
Page: A2

1. Why are you running? After years of being unhappy with government policy and being unable to effect change from the outside, I believe it's time someone steps up to look out for the North's best interests and puts some common sense back into government actions and sees tax dollars as their own hard-earned money not to be wasted

2. What are your qualifications for political office? As this is my first time running, the only qualifications I have is from living my whole life in the North, having been unemployed, on social assistance and employment insurance, put myself through an apprenticeship and college while being a single dad, and having struggled to get through life without being rich. I truly can understand what government has done to taxpayers and what changes need to be done to make Ontario a prosperous place to live and raise a family, and why we need our rights and freedoms returned to us at no cost from government.

3. What makes you stand out from the other candidates in your riding? I stand out from the other candidates because I bring in a realist attitude, common sense views, blunt honesty and truth, as well as having the upmost respect for all of Ontario's diversities, and I know from a poor man's perspective what will actually help the people of the North and that I will voice myself for the North in Queen's Park as few others could.

4. What are your top priorities? My top priorities for Northern Ontarians are to lower taxes, make the North a job magnet by enabling the use of our natural resources and to feed the returns to the North, fix the health-care funding problems, restore our rights and freedoms, and work with all native peoples to make the North the best place to raise a family and earn an honest, adequate living where we all prosper.

5. Northern Ontario has struggled economically compared to other parts of the province. How would you change that? I'd like to create a new electric company in the North that would purchase our hydro electric stations and many of our local energy sources, as well as a large portion of our transmission systems, so we could create a local market with affordable energy prices that, in turn, would attract new businesses as the rates would be much more affordable and thus infusing our local economy with new jobs and funds that would help diversify our economic position. I would also like to review and remove as much red tape legislation as environmentally possible when it comes to creating new mines, mills, manufacturing plants, redevelopments of older sites and lower tax rates to create a thriving area

where businesses want to setup as opposed to leaving our province for more profitable locations.

6. Should Northern Ontario be given more power to control its affairs? I stand firm in my beliefs of the North needing more local control over its affairs as the southern areas have a completely different economic environment and they cannot fully understand our economic situations and for this reason alone, I would fight for that right on behalf of all my local constituents.

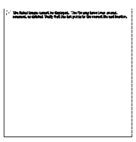
7. What would you do with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund? I would review the successfulness of the heritage fund before making any changes to the program as it is beneficial to the North and we need incentives to promote growth in our area. That being said, I am a firm believer in ending corporate grants, bailouts and funding to help reduce the cost and size of our government so we can start reducing the debt burden on our taxpayers that will allow for lower taxes.

8. What are your thoughts on the Ring of Fire? I believe the Ring of Fire will help our northern economies, but we need to push through the construction of roads to get the project off the ground before spending any more tax dollars or partnering with any companies as I feel that this project has been slowed by many of the 380,000 regulations in Ontario

9. Are you committed to finishing the four-laning of Highway 69? I am committed to the completion of the four-laning of Highway 69 as it will help with economic development in the future, as well as making it a much safer highway for all to travel along. I would like to see the same done to Highway 17 once 69 is completed.

10. How would you improve health-care in Sudbury? I'd like to concentrate on all health care concerns not solely in Sudbury by abolishing the local health integration networks created in 2004. I'd also like to change legislation preventing private funding of health care services and open new avenues for health services to create new non-government funding resources, which should allow for a much more fiscally sound operations around the province, as well as reducing the bureaucratic positions that are funded with health care monies as nearly half of the budget is spent on non-front line services. Furthermore, I'd like to prevent future government funding for CEO positions by allowing hospitals to find alternate private funding measures to cover any of their salaries, as I believe managerial positions should not be covered by funds allocated to front line services for health care. James Chretien is the Libertarian candidate for Nickel Belt.

Back to Top



Welland Hydro invests in sunny future; Two two-hectare solar farms helping to power the city

Welland Tribune - Tue Jun 5 2018
Byline: Kris Dube Special to The Welland Tribune
Page: A1

A $2.5-million joint venture between Welland Hydro Energy Services and the local municipality is running at full capacity and creating less pressure on the electrical grid that serves homes and businesses in the city.

Two solar farms both consisting of 1,757 panels began fully operating recently - one behind the local utility's headquarters on East Main Street and other near the recreational canal and Thorold Road.

After an application process initiated in 2015, construction started about four months ago and each site, with a price tag of $1.25 million, was switched on in the past two weeks.

The solar energy generated by each location eases the tension on the amount of electricity that comes through the system, said Welland Hydro Energy Services president and chief executive officer Wayne Armstrong.

"All solar we have in the grid, it stays in Welland and reduces the load on the transmission stations," he said.

The project will also minimize waste when there is a power outage, as much energy is lost through heat when the power goes out, said Ross Peever, retired president and chief executive officer of the city-owned utility who has served as a consultant on the project.

"By generating locally, you don't have those losses," said Peever.

"Theoretically, it costs less," he added.

Armstrong said advantages for the hydro provider from the solar farms are the creation of a return on investment for the hydro provider and the municipality. There are also environmental benefits, he said.

As consumers begin to shift from the feed-in-tariff and MicroFIT programs to producing their own energy and a net-metering structure, Armstrong said solar energy is becoming more common.

"I think with the (provincial) government's long-term green energy policy, that's the push," he said.

Armstrong said the panels at each of the new setups have a lifespan of about 20 years, but as technology advances that doesn't mean at all that the sites will be useless in two decades.

"Fifteen years from now, you may be able to generate far more from these projects by just replacing the solar panels," he said.

Both two-hectare solar farms that are part of the partnership are expected to generate 700,000 kilowatt hours of energy annually.

"That's enough to power roughly 192 homes for an entire year," said Armstrong.

In the past year, roughly six per cent of the kilowatt hours generated within Welland's boundary are the result of third-party solar sites.

Seeing the relief renewable energy has given to people in the private sector, Armstrong said there's no reason why the local government and utility provider can't reap the same benefits.

"With the expertise we have, we can get the same returns and work together," he said.

Back to Top

Energy board seeks Cambridge customers comments on Energy+ rate increase application

Cambridge Times - Mon Jun 4 2018 Page: 1

The Ontario Energy Board is seeking public comment on an application by Energy+ Inc. to harmonize its rates and charges in Cambridge, North Dumfries and Brant County. The move, which would go into affect Jan. 1, would increase rates by about $2.43 a month for customers in Cambridge and North Dumfries, while dropping rates to Brant County customers by roughly $2.76 a month.

The Ontario Energy Board meeting will take place July 11, at the Galt branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, 4 Veterans Way at 6 p.m.

At that meeting the public can learn about the Energy+ application, find out how the application is reviewed and provide comment about the application.

To learn more about this hearing, finding instructions on how to file letters or become an intervener, or to access any document related to this case, select the file number EB-2018-0028 from the list on the Ontario Energy Board website: www.oeb.ca/notice.

Back to Top

Environmental positions show divisions between parties

Niagara Falls Review - Mon Jun 4 2018
Byline: Mark Winfield
Page: A4

With the Ontario election now just days away, all four major parties have now tabled their platforms. While the campaign has focused heavily on the personalities of the party leaders, a review of the platforms makes it clear that environmental, energy and climate change issues are central points of division.

Electricity issues have been at the core political discussions for the past decade. Yet only the NDP and Greens seem prepared to raise fundamental questions about the direction of the province's electricity strategy, particularly the Liberal government's proposed "life-extension" of the end-of-life Pickering nuclear plant and the enormously expensive refurbishments of Darlington and Bruce nuclear facilities. The Greens have been alone in having the courage to question the viability and wisdom of the Liberal government's "Fair Hydro Plan" rate cuts, which transfers major costs onto future ratepayers.

The divisions are perhaps even deeper over the issue of climate change. Here the Liberals, NDP and Greens are in agreement around the need for carbon pricing and low-carbon transition strategies, with the Liberal and Green plans around the latter being the furthest developed. The Liberals are alone in addressing the need to adapt to an already changing climate as well. In stark contrast, the PCs promise not only to repeal the existing cap and trade carbon pricing system but also to reduce the provincial gasoline tax by 10 cents/litre, and to mount a constitutional challenge to the federal government's national carbon pricing plan.

Similar divisions emerge around land use and transportation. The Greens, NDP and Liberals all promise further protection of prime agricultural lands and drinking water sources. The Liberals and NDP also promise to halt the loss of provincial wetlands. The PCs propose to revive the recently abandoned proposal for a Brampton-to-Guelph highway through the Greenbelt. All of the parties make major commitments around transit, although the PCs are overwhelmingly focused on subway expansions in Toronto.

The NDP emerges well ahead of the other parties in its thinking around the development of a comprehensive provincial food strategy. The Greens introduced the idea of payments to farmers for providing ecological services like habitat protection and source-water protection. The NDP and Liberals are strong on the protection of supply management in the dairy and poultry sectors and, along with the PCs, on addressing issues with the provincial farm risk management (i.e. insurance) program.

The NDP stands out again in proposing significant improvements to the province's control of air and water pollution, with specific reference to issues in Hamilton and Sarnia. The Liberals, for their part, make an innovative proposal for the labelling of presence of toxic substances in consumer products.

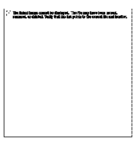
As is the case with climate change and land use, the divide between the PCs and the other parties around economic strategy is stark. The Greens, Liberals and NDP all present variations on the theme of strategies to address the economic transitions the province faces focused on specific sectors that are seen to be important to Ontario's future. Cleantech, manufacturing, information and communications technologies, and film, television and digital media all come up in these strategies. The PCs, on the other hand, present a simplistic strategy of corporate tax cuts and deregulation straight out of Mike Harris's 1995 "Common Sense Revolution."

The NDP, PCs and Greens all emerge supporting resource revenue sharing with First Nations and northern communities, but only the Liberals and NDP present detailed strategies around reconciliation with Indigenous communities.

The debates around the province's direction on environmental, energy and climate change issues are now profoundly connected to the parties' overall strategies around the role of the provincial government itself and the long-term direction of Ontario's economy and society. Ontario voters will need to look beyond the personalities of the party leaders and consider the choices that they will be making on June 7 in these more substantive terms.

Mark Winfield is a professor of Environmental Studies at York University.

Back to Top



Energy chief defends Trump directive on coal, nuclear plants; Energy chief defends Trump directive on coal, nuclear plants

Canadian Press - Mon Jun 4 2018
Byline: Matthew Daly

WASHINGTON - Energy Secretary Rick Perry on Monday defended President Donald Trump's call to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants, saying a rash of plant retirements is "alarming" and poses a looming crisis for the nation's power grid.

Experts disagree and say Trump is attempting to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

In a speech in Austin, Texas, Perry said coal and nuclear plants "are retiring at an alarming rate that, if unchecked, will threaten our ability to recover from intentional attacks and natural disasters."

"The president is right to view grid resilience as a serious national security issue," Perry said at a conference on cybersecurity. He's taking steps as directed by Trump to keep coal and nuclear plants open.

A regional transmission organization that oversees the power grid in 13 Eastern and Midwestern states said there's no immediate threat to system reliability. Pennsylvania-based PJM Interconnection said Trump's proposal to force electricity sales from coal and nuclear plants would damage markets and be "costly to consumers."

"There is no need for any such drastic action," the group said, calling the electrical grid in a region that stretches from Illinois to Virginia "more reliable than ever, with 23 per cent reserve and billions of dollars of new investment" in a range of power sources.

John Hughes, president and CEO of the Electricity Consumers Resource Counsel, an association of large industrial electricity users, said Trump's proposal would "devastate U.S. manufacturing" and destroy competitive wholesale electricity markets.

"Fuel security and resilience are phoney issues," Hughes said, calling concerns about national security a "pretext" that allows the federal government "to pick winners and losers in the energy markets" by propping up uneconomic power plants that have struggled to compete against cheap, abundant natural gas and renewable energy such as wind and solar power.

David Hayes, executive director of the State Energy &Environmental Impact Center at NYU Law School, said there's no legal basis for Perry to declare a grid emergency based on coal plant retirements.

Hayes, a former deputy Interior secretary under President Barack Obama, said, "It would be a fool's errand for the Department of Energy to try to concoct a national security argument as a solution to a problem that does not exist."

Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., used similar language, saying Trump's directive was unjustified.

"Donald Trump is ginning up a fake grid emergency to bail out donors in the coal industry while ignoring a real grid emergency that has killed thousands of Americans in Puerto Rico," Beyer said, citing a recent report that more than 4,000 people may have died in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria, a significantly higher death toll than previously estimated.

Beyer called Trump's directive "blatantly corrupt" and said the president was acting on behalf of coal industry executives such as Murray Energy CEO Robert Murray and others who made major donations to Trump's presidential campaign.

Murray and other coal executives were being "rewarded" for their investment in Trump, Beyer said.

Trump on Friday directed Perry to take "immediate steps" to bolster struggling coal-fired and nuclear power plants to keep them open, calling it a matter of national and economic security.

Trump, who has frequently promised to bring back coal jobs, believes that impending retirements of coal and nuclear plants are harming the nation's electric grid and reducing its resilience, the White House said.

The president wants immediate action "to stop the loss of these resources," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said.

A plan being considered by the Energy Department would direct PJM and other regional transmission operators to buy power from coal and nuclear plants for two years to ensure grid reliability while promoting national defence and maximizing domestic energy supplies, the Energy Department said in a draft memo.

If ordered, the action would represent an unprecedented intervention into U.S. energy markets.

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Back to Top