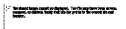


Message

From: John Cannella [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=CD667C6D53774DD0A749783BB02AE89D-JOHN CANNEL]
Sent: 2017-05-30 6:39:27 AM
Subject: Today's News - Tuesday, May 30, 2017



Today's News

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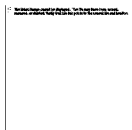
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Energy Minister says Ontario paying for past neglect

Kiss FM Timmins - Tue May 30 2017

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Electricity Agreement to Provide Economic Benefits for Constance Lake First Nation

agoracom - Tue May 30 2017

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Ministry of Energy Ontario and the Constance Lake First Nation have signed an

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Hydro help's here, where are applicants?

London Free Press - Tue May 30 2017
Byline: Patrick Maloney
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CBC.CA News - Mon May 29 2017, 6:32pm ET
Byline: CBC News

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274455137

Saving more hydro than money

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue May 30 2017
Byline: Mary Golem
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274451836

Update on Entegrus merger; Council hears presentation from head of utility

The Chatham Daily News - Tue May 30 2017
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Full Articles



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Energy Minister says Ontario paying for past neglect

Kiss FM Timmins - Tue May 30 2017

The Fair Hydro Act is up for approval in Queen's Park this week, legislation Ontario Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault says will lower hydro bills by an average of 25 per cent.

Hydro costs have been a sticking point for millions of Ontarians. Thibeault spoke to Timmins Chamber of Commerce members last Friday and right away, called the issue the "elephant in the room."

However, he defended the Liberal mandate on hydro by saying governments didn't invest in electricity whatsoever.

"We had to (invest), we had rolling brown outs," Thibeault says, "Some of us can remember being told as a business owner, 'please don't turn your air conditioning on and shut your lights off during the day today, otherwise our system's going to crash'...and then in 2003, the system crashed."

The Minister denounced people who blamed rates on the Green Energy Act, but admits not everything was done perfectly.

"We could've made sure we weren't so specific in our asks," he said, "We said if we needed 1,000 megawatts, we want 400 wind, 400 solar, 50 biomass, 50 storage where if you could be agnostic or neutral, you could actually get the best cost for ratepayers, and that's what we're doing now, moving forward."

Thibeault mentioned before the investments, the province had to spend \$700 million dollars a year just to buy power from the US. But when Ohio kicked out, so did Ontario.

"(And) we didn't have the generating capacity to actually keep ourselves going," he added.

From there, Thibeault says the Liberals made a decision to rebuild the system and put generation into that when they first took over to make Ontario more self-sustaining.

He adds they wanted to do it while being "clean and green" at the same time. Hence, the elimination of coal-powered plants across the province.

"We're seen as a leader, we're the tip of the spear when it comes to climate change in Ontario...I'm fully prepared and happy to defend this decision and the decisions that we've made in our electricity system."

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Electricity Agreement to Provide Economic Benefits for Constance Lake First Nation

agoracom - Tue May 30 2017

Ontario and Constance Lake First Nation Sign Agreement May 29, 2017 10:00 A.M.
Ministry of Energy

Ontario and the Constance Lake First Nation have signed an historic electricity agreement that will provide economic benefits for the First Nation community moving forward.

The agreement between the province and Constance Lake First Nation, a partner in the Shekak-Nagagami hydro-electric project, will provide stable, long-term revenue to Constance Lake based on electricity generated by the project. The Shekak-Nagagami hydro-electric project is a 19 megawatt (MW) facility located on the Shekak River, approximately 80 km west of Hearst. The First Nation has been a partner in the project for over 20 years, but has not received any benefits to date.

This collaborative agreement supports a more prosperous future for the people of Constance Lake First Nation and is a result of discussions between Constance Lake First Nation, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. The agreement exemplifies the objectives of the 2015 Political

Accord being realized, by working together with a community to achieve reconciliation.

This agreement with Constance Lake is one of many steps on Ontario's journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It reflects the government's commitment to work with Indigenous partners, creating a better future for everyone in the province.

Quick Facts The agreement was facilitated through the Ministry of Energy's Grievance Table process, a forum for First Nations and the Ministry of Energy to work towards resolving specific energy infrastructure grievances. The agreement will result in approximately \$1 million to \$1.2 this year for Constance Lake First Nation and increase at 70 per cent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annually in future years. Constance Lake First Nation is affiliated with the Matawa Tribal Council and is a member of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. Constance Lake First Nation is located 34 kilometres west of Hearst. Approximately 850 people live on reserve and over 800 people live off reserve. Quotes "Constance Lake First Nation's Agreement with Ontario is precedent setting. Working within a collaborative process, rooted in mutual trust and respect, we have strengthened our relationship with Ontario. The revenue committed to under the Agreement will help build capacity, strengthen our culture and improve community wellness for decades to come. We will continue to walk the path of reconciliation with Ontario, mindful of the past, with a clear vision of a better future for the people of Constance Lake First Nation."

Chief Rick Allen

Constance Lake First Nation

"The province's agreement with Constance Lake First Nation is an important example of the 2015 Political Accord between First Nations and the Government of Ontario coming to life. Together, over almost two years, we participated in an open, respectful and innovative process that will now result in long-term benefits and increased prosperity for Constance Lake First Nation."

Glenn Thibeault

Minister of Energy

"Our government reached an agreement with Constance Lake First Nation that will help the community benefit from the Shekak-Nagagami hydro-electric project. The reliable revenue stream from this project will go a long way in improving economic development opportunities within the community, exemplifying how First Nations and the province can work collaboratively to reach mutually beneficial solutions. This is one of many steps on Ontario's journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples."

David Zimmer

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274453971

Hydro help's here, where are applicants?

London Free Press - Tue May 30 2017

Byline: Patrick Maloney

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Little more than one-third of eligible Londoners are applying for subsidies to ease power bills, even as rates soar in Ontario, the head of London Hydro says.

While roughly 7,100 local customers are accessing the credit - ranging from \$30 to \$75 each month, and soon more - Vinay Sharma estimates 19,000 households could qualify for the Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP).

"What we see is a little bit of pride" keeping those in need from applying, Sharma, London Hydro's chief executive, told The Free Press editorial board Monday.

"(They're not) applying for a subsidy, not wanting to be labelled with it."

Awareness of the program may be an issue, but Sharma notes the city-owned utility pays for a fulltime employee at the Salvation Army downtown to work with potential applicants.

The credit, Sharma said, is paid by the Ontario government: "It's the province's money. But we should make use of it in London."

While local anti-poverty groups couldn't be reached Monday, Mayor Matt Brown, who has made aiding the poor a priority, said the subsidy could "make a significant difference" for Londoners in need. "We need to all do a better job of making sure those in need have easy access to a service like this."

Two factors determine eligibility for the program: How many people live in a home, and that household's total income. For example, Sharma said, a four-person family making a combined \$45,000 a year would be eligible.

Soaring hydro rates, which have nearly doubled in the last decade, have angered homeowners and become a political headache for Ontario's ruling Liberals.

The government plans to save people a combined \$24 billion on their bills, but the Queen's Park budget watchdog estimates that will cost taxpayers another \$21 billion during the next 30 years.

His ruling also revealed that correctional officers routinely left their units 10 to 15 minutes before their shifts ended, and before a replacement showed up. "These were not clandestine departures," because managers knew about the practice, Stephens ruled.

But correctional officers have to take some responsibility for their actions, and the two men who had been charged criminally in connection with the death, Leslie Lonsbury and Gregory Langford, won't get their jobs back, the board ruled.

Langford was dismissed in part for failing to control the behaviour of the man later accused of killing Kargus and failing to report drinking in the cell the two men shared.

Lonsbury was dismissed in part for failing to respond to noise he heard in the unit at

the time of the assault and later closing his office door to dull the sound.

"The objective of inmate safety is the reason why every CO (correctional officer) has a job," Stephens said. Whatever the long-standing practices in place, that objective "is a matter of common sense."

Kargus, 29, was found dead in the showers of a unit Nov. 1, 2013. Eleven months later, the province fired five unionized correctional staff and one manager.

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which represents correctional officers, appealed the terminations to the grievance settlement board, which heard submissions for 22 days from 2014 to 2016.

The ruling, available online Monday, mentions the inmates involved by initial only, but includes details that may be part of evidence at trial, details The London Free Press will not report.

The second-degree murder trial of Anthony George, Kargus's cellmate, is set to begin this fall.

Charges of failing to provide the necessities of life were stayed against Lonsbury and manager Stephen Jurkus, but the staying of the charges has been appealed. The same charge against Langford was withdrawn in May 2015.

The bitter relationship between management and employees at eMDC is clear in arguments during the grievance board hearings.

The province accused corrections staff of failing to do their jobs and showing a "complete lack of remorse."

The union countered that policies had been universally ignored for years with full knowledge of managers and officers did show remorse, a belief largely upheld by the grievance board.

The ruling came as no surprise to London lawyer Kevin Egan, who represents hundreds of inmates and former inmates in civil action against the province.

"I think they (correctional officers) have been handcuffed from the highest level," Egan said. "The policies are created for the ideal number of inmates with the ideal number of staff. eMDC is poorly designed, overcrowded and understaffed."

OPSEU had a mixed reaction. "Obviously, for three people, it is the right decision," said Monte Vieselmeyer, co-chair of employee-employer relations for the union's corrections unit. "If we followed every policy to the letter of the law, we wouldn't be able to function." Spokespersons for Corrections Services Ministry and Corrections Minister Marie-France Lalonde could not be reached for comment.
richmond@postmedia.com Twitter.com/RandyRatLFP
Press Correctional officers' fates Dismissal upheld: Greg Langford, Leslie Lonsbary Reinstated: Dan Tyler, Suzanne Pinkney, Steve Guylee

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274433296

West-end residents concerned over transformer station doubling in size

CBC.CA News - Mon May 29 2017, 6:32pm ET
Byline: CBC News

With a west-end transformer station set to double in size this summer, some community members are questioning the safety of the electromagnetic fields being emitted from the growing facility.

Construction is set to start on the Runnymede Transformer Station at 99 Woolner Avenue on June 12, as part of Hydro One and Toronto Hydro's Power West Toronto project.

Approved by the Ontario Energy Board this spring, the project includes the addition of two transformers to the Runnymede station, and the replacement of overhead wires along roughly 10 kilometres of the transmission corridor located in Toronto's west end. Improvements the hydro providers say are needed to electrify the Eglinton Crosstown LRT.

The additional transformers are a concern for Cam Watts, who lives in the St. Clair Avenue West and Jane Street neighbourhood.

"We just don't know what we're getting," he told CBC Toronto. "They're basically going to double the footprint of the transformer station."

Watts said he's worried about the electromagnetic fields coming from the facility, which is against a park where local kids regularly use the playground and basketball court.

"We're creating more industrial land in the middle of a neighbourhood we're trying to make more welcoming," he said.

'No negative health impacts' with electromagnetic fields

When it comes to community concerns, Hydro One spokesperson Denise Jamal said the project won't increase the voltage, and there will be a negligible increase in electromagnetic fields.

"Health Canada and the World Health Organization are very clear: There are no negative health impacts with electromagnetic fields," she said.

Around a decade ago, the WHO concluded a review of the health implications of emitting electromagnetic fields, which tried to find a causal link between exposure to the fields and some forms of cancer.

"The international agency for research on cancer did a very large review of all the evidence and could not find that the experimental studies confirmed a link," said Dr. JinHee Kim, a public health physician with Public Health Ontario.

Hydro One is holding a public information session about the project on Tuesday night, and notified residents about the changes in a letter last fall.

But Watts said that's not enough. He questioned why a public meeting is being held

so close to shovels hitting the ground ? and said not enough information has been shared with the community.

"I'd love to stop it until we know what we are getting into," he said.

With files from Chris Glover

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274452587

Activity on power plant site at peak

Kingston Whig-Standard - Tue May 30 2017

Byline: Elliot Ferguson

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The number of people working on the construction of a new power plant west of Kingston is at a peak.

In the first half of this year, approximately 1,000 workers are expected to be on the site near Bath.

Calgary-based energy company TransCanada is building the Napanee Generating Station next to the existing Lennox Generating Station.

"In 2016, construction employment levels ranged between 550 to 775, ending the year with approximately 750 employees onsite," TransCanada spokesperson Jennifer Link wrote in an email to the Whig-Standard.

"Employment levels were anticipated to increase during the first half of 2017, and we will have more than 1,000 employees onsite for the next few months, before levelling and beginning to decline as construction activities are reduced."

TransCanada is building the \$1.2-billion, 900-megawatt facility to replace coal-burning power plants that have been taken out of service and the nuclear power plants that are to be taken off line to be refurbished.

TransCanada has hired and is training the 19 people - power engineers and electrical and mechanical technicians - who are to help commission the plant and work at it when it comes online in 2018.

Work on the site is now focused on installing above-ground mechanical and electrical installations before moving into pre-commissioning activities.

"The next major milestone will be to 'backfeed' the power plant," Link wrote. "This will allow the facility to receive electricity from the high-voltage transmission system. It will allow us to access power for the numerous buildings and systems onsite."

Eventually, 2,000 trees and 10,000 shrubs are to be planted to help screen the plant from the Loyalist Parkway.

As part of its host agreement, TransCanada is also making \$2 million available over 20 years for community projects in the municipality. elferguson@postmedia.com

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274455137

Saving more hydro than money

Owen Sound Sun Times - Tue May 30 2017

Byline: Mary Golem

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Arran-Elderslie has yet to see the full savings council expected when it converted the municipality's street lights to LED bulbs.

The conversion began in October 2015 and was completed in December 2016. Eight hundred and thirty-one lights were covered and 675 lights were rewired at a total cost of \$561,981.31.

Although promised significant savings and a five-year payback, Mayor Paul Eagleson says the municipality "hasn't seen the savings we thought we would."

He wants ERT (Holdings) Inc. to appear before council to explain why the savings aren't there.

But treasurer David Huncks told council kilowatt hours have dropped significantly and says the current state of the electrical system in Ontario "is what makes the base energy costs almost insignificant in the total cost."

In a written report to council, Huncks noted the kilowatt hours consumed from January to May 2014 to January to May 2017 dropped by 133,924 kilowatt hours or 52.9 per cent.

Costs have also dropped by 32.3 per cent, he said, during the same three year period.

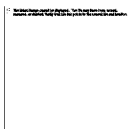
However, Huncks noted, yearly total electricity costs only show an overall decrease of \$8,355.94 or 9.2 per cent.

"The reason for this is when you compare the base energy savings which saw costs drop from \$14,149.02 in the first five months of 2014 to \$2,553.41 in the first five months of 2017, representing a drop of 82 per cent.

Unfortunately," he added, "the base energy charge only makes up 7.47 per cent of the total cost of electricity. The global adjustment and delivery charges constitute 82.77 per cent of the total cost."

Deputy-mayor Mark Davis pointed out an August 2016 example when the base energy charge was \$476.97 but with global adjustment and delivery charges, regulatory charges, debt retirement charges and light charges, along with unclaimable HST, the cost to the municipality was "a whopping \$11,401.42."

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Update on Entegrus merger; Council hears presentation from head of utility

The Chatham Daily News - Tue May 30 2017
Byline: Trevor Terfloth
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A proposed merger between Entegrus Powerlines Inc. and St. Thomas Energy Inc. will benefit both communities involved, Chatham-Kent councillors heard on Monday.

Jim Hogan, president and CEO of Entegrus, provided an update on the issue, with the projected merger date slated for Jan. 1, 2018.

He said the goal is to have a larger, yet still locally owned utility, that will help the respective partners as well as customers.

"It would assist us in managing the many industry changes," Hogan said. "We're going to have additional resources to meet all those changes and to meet expectations for the customers."

Currently Entegrus, of which the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a majority owner, operates and maintains electrical distribution systems for more than 40,000 customers in Southwestern Ontario.

The merger with St. Thomas Energy, which requires Ontario Energy Board approval, will see that number grow by more than 17,000 more customers.

Hogan said it's anticipated that electricity rates would be lower compared to if the two utilities remained separate.

"Over time we're going to look for reduced costs," he said. "We're going to be sharing some of the back office activities. ... That should make us more efficient and again find lower cost for the customers."

The total equity value of Entegrus, including wind energy, is \$126.2 million, while the value of St. Thomas Energy is \$32.3 million.

Public information sessions also took place this past March in Chatham, St. Thomas and Strathroy.

Hogan said the head office would remain in Chatham-Kent, including central administration and the majority of the company's employees.

"We're going to be a bigger, regional utility," he said.

"Therefore there's going to be some diversification. There might be some opportunities for growth in other areas."

With some at the table questioning if there would be a name change, Mayor Randy Hope, who sits on the board for Entegrus, said he expects it to stay the same.

He noted that fact was kept in mind when switching it from Chatham-Kent Energy in 2012. "Entegrus is a good name that could be used in any community," he said.

Hope said he's seen growth and added value for the utility since that time and believes the merger will be a positive move for each community if approved.

The companies have launched a website - www.poweringourpath.com - where

information concerning the merger will be posted as it becomes available.
TTerfloth@postmedia.com @DailyNewsTT

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