Message

From: Mary Bernard [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=7E3E3E8D7F9345C2B0AAB3E0FD7A79F2-MARY BERNAR]
Sent: 2017-07-10 5:49:08 AM
Subject: Today's News - Monday, July 10, 2017

Today's News

powered by:

Date: Monday, July 10, 2017
Edited by: John Cannella (John.Cannella@ieso.ca)

Contact Editor

IESO Mentions

News - 3 Results

278150757

Northern Ontario First Nation to receive benefit payments 20 years after hydro plant started generating

thestar.com - Sun Jul 9 2017
Byline: Ainslie Cruickshank

More than two decades after a hydro plant changed the face of a major river in their traditional lands Constance Lake First Nation will start receiving financial benefits from the electricity it generates. Starting this year, Constance Lake First ...

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Ontario Tories will scrap selling unused power to Quebec, U.S. states, says party's finance critic

Hamilton Mountain News - Fri Jul 7 2017 Page: 1

The Ontario Progressive Conservatives are proposing to end the longtime strategy of various governments of selling excess power to Quebec. Vic Fedeli, the MPP for Nipissing and the party's finance critic, said in a recent interview ...

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Co-gen contract extension

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Jul 7 2017 **Page:** A3

Northland Power Inc. announced this week it has negotiated a Long-Term Enhanced Dispatch Contract with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for Northland's 120MW cogeneration facility located in Iroquois ...

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Mayor hopes latest wind turbines will be the last; Shipments for Belle River Wind project to cause some temporary road closures

Windsor Star - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Dave Waddell
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Motorists in Lakeshore could face delays beginning Friday with the arrival of the latest shipments of turbine blades for the Belle River Wind project. The 55-metre blades will be escorted by the OPP along County Road 22 to Rourke Line Road and then ...

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Power outages mostly restored in the Bracebridge and Gravenhurst areas

Gravenhurst Banner - Sun Jul 9 2017 **Page:** 1

SOUTH MUSKOKA - (UPDATE: Saturday, July 8 at 9:51 a.m.): Power has been restored for the most part in the Bracebridge and Gravenhurst areas, according to Hydro One, after a severe thunderstorm swept through Muskoka in the evening of Friday, July ...

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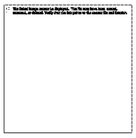
Thousands remain without power

Parry Sound North Star - Sun Jul 9 2017 **Page:** 1

SEGUIN TWP. - The power remains out throughout West Parry Sound after Friday night's storm. While power is on in the Town of Parry Sound, outlining areas remain in the dark. Accroding to the Ontario Hydro interactive map, ...

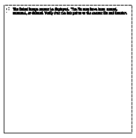


277955737

City won't switch to LED lamps

Star Touch - Fri Jul 7 2017
Byline: Vjosa Isai

The orange glow of Toronto's street light bulbs won't be switched to LEDs anytime soon, as council awaits a report on how to convert the city's 170,000 street lights. Light emitting diode, or LED lights were installed on six streets in the city last ...



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Local businesses recognized for conservation

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Jul 7 2017 **Page:** A3

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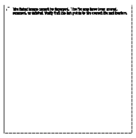

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Enwin shelves plan for rate hike until 2019

Windsor Star - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Brian Cross
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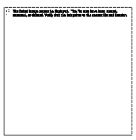

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Liberal plan will cost more

The Belleville Intelligencer - Mon Jul 10 2017
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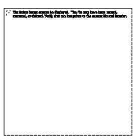
Ontario's financial accountability officer states the Wynne Liberals'hydro plan could end up costing Ontarians up to $93 billion more if this plan is financed the best case scenario is it will cost Ontarians $45 billion more if Ontario ...



278063607

Time for Wynne and her minions to go

Sudbury Star - Sat Jul 8 2017
Byline: Jim Ireland
Page: A10

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, who is also Sudbury's Liberal MPP, says energy costs went down July 1, but he omitted that the consequence of this Liberal largesse will be a time-delayed bill of more than $92 billion after ...

277735874

Northland Power can't find buyer; Energy producer announced review last July

National Post - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Vinicy Chan And Scott Deveau
Page: FP4

Northland Power Inc., a $4-billion Canadian renewable energy producer, failed to find a buyer after running a sale process, according to people with knowledge of the matter. China Three Gorges Corp. and Beijing-based State ...

277954685

Profits up at Bluewater Power; Municipally-owned corporation's results higher than expected

Sarnia Observer - Fri Jul 7 2017
Byline: Paul Morden
Page: A3

Bluewater Power says 2016 was an "exceptional" and profitable year for the group of companies owned by six Lambton County municipalities. Along with an electricity distribution company serving more than 35,000 households in Sarnia, Point ...

278032742

Big win for people of Wasaga Beach as council votes against selling local hydro company

Marketwired - Fri Jul 7 2017

WASAGA BEACH, ONTARIO--(Marketwired - July 7, 2017) - After months of community involvement, on July 7, 2017, Wasaga Beach council voted unanimously to keep Wasaga Distribution Inc. (WDI) public. With the help of the Keep Hydro Public ...

277879384

Renewable energy surges past nuclear for 1st time in decades; Renewable energy surges past nuclear for 1st time in decades

Canadian Press - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Michael Biesecker

WASHINGTON - For the first time in decades, the United States got more electricity from renewable sources than nuclear power in March and April. The U.S. Energy Information Administration said Thursday that electricity ...

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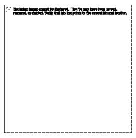

278150757

Northern Ontario First Nation to receive benefit payments 20 years after hydro plant started generating

thestar.com - Sun Jul 9 2017
Byline: Ainslie Cruickshank

More than two decades after a hydro plant changed the face of a major river in their traditional lands Constance Lake First Nation will start receiving financial benefits from the electricity it generates.

Starting this year, Constance Lake First Nation (www.clfn.on.ca) , about 30 kilometres west of Hearst, Ont., will receive about $1 million annually in benefit payments under an agreement signed with the provincial government in late May.

Those payments will continue until January 2047 as long as the 19-megawatt Shekak-Nagagami hydro plant continues to produce electricity for the province, a ministerial directive to the Independent Electricity System Operator shows.

"It's not the saving grace but it does provide some extra dollars to do some extra things that we want to do for the community" said Constance Lake Chief Rick Allen.

What it doesn't do is make up for chronic underfunding by the federal government, the significant changes the dam has caused in the Shekak River, or the fact that the community hasn't received any payments through its initial partnership agreement, Allen said.

The Shekak-Nagagami project is owned by the Algonquin Power (Nagagami) Limited Partnership between Constance Lake First Nation and subsidiaries of Brookfield Renewable, which acquired the facility in 2006. It sells electricity to the province through a power purchase agreement with the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation.

The new benefit agreement signed with the province was the first to be formalized under the Ministry of Energy's grievance table process - a forum for Ontario and First Nations to work out historical energy infrastructure grievances.

"The reliable revenue stream from this project will go a long way in improving economic development opportunities (www.thestar.com) within the community," said Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Minister David Zimmer in a May press release.

"This is one of many steps on Ontario's journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples."

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault added that the agreement "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," he said.

Several other First Nations are also negotiating benefit agreements with the province over historical energy projects like the Shekak-Nagagami hydro facility under its grievance table process.

It's a positive step, Allen said, but one that's long overdue.

"Yes there are agreements out there that are starting to happen but that should have happened on Day 1," he said.

"These are our resources this is our livelihood and I think it's time that we get our equal share back."

For Constance Lake, which has 1,650 members, the newly minted agreement is just "the first bite of the apple" in 20 years, Allen said.

He hopes to also address the project debt that has prevented Constance Lake from benefiting from its partnership agreement with Brookfield.

While Constance Lake has been a partner in the hydro project since 1994 the community didn't support the dam initially.

"At the very beginning it was forced upon us," Allen said, adding that the partnership agreement they were offered was a "take it or leave it" deal.

The project's financial history is complicated. When it became mired in debt, due to lower than expected electricity production and high interest rates - challenges that predated Brookfield's interest in the project - the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation had to step in to help cover repayments to financial backers under the power-purchase agreement.

While the financers are now paid off the OEFC still holds about $48 million on the project and any profit is used to pay it back.

As a result there have been no dividends to share between Constance Lake and Brookfield.

Brookfield declined to comment on the project's finances.

At the same time, the dam has caused significant changes to the Shekak River that have affected the community's livelihoods and traditions, Allen said.

"It's right in the heart of our traditional territory," he explained.

The Shekak is "a major river that many of our elders and many of our people still utilize - I utilize it."

"It's on my uncle's trapline and he wasn't negotiated with during that time. They didn't ask him what the impacts were going to be," he said.

But the impacts have been significant. The dam has "dried up the river" affecting the community's hunting and fishing grounds, Allen said.

"It's not the same river it used to be."

The new benefit agreement with the provincial government is a step in the right direction but "there's no money in the world that would bring back that river," he said.

It's also not enough to make up for a chronic funding shortfall that affects everything from education to infrastructure in Constance Lake.

Ontario provides $11,500 per student in the public school system, Allen noted, while students in Constance Lake receive $4,500 per student from the federal government.

"That's the kind of thing where our money will go to offset being still treated like we're not important to Ontario or Canada," he said.

While the federal government committed new funding for First Nations' education programs and capital investments in the 2016 budget, a report from the Parliamentary Budget Officer said the difference those commitments make depends on how the funding is allocated and if the federal government addresses "the historical trend of lapsing significant amounts of capital funding."

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Ontario Tories will scrap selling unused power to Quebec, U.S. states, says party's finance critic

Hamilton Mountain News - Fri Jul 7 2017 Page: 1

The Ontario Progressive Conservatives are proposing to end the longtime strategy of various governments of selling excess power to Quebec.

Vic Fedeli, the MPP for Nipissing and the party's finance critic, said in a recent interview the party will look to "stop shopping power" to Quebec and a number of U.S. states, in an effort to create jobs in the province.

"We can use that power here in Ontario," said Fedeli after addressing about 25 people at a breakfast meeting of the Hamilton chapter of the Macdonald-Cartier Club at Marquis Gardens last month.

"If there is a way for us to use that power at night to create some employment and use that power up to cover your hydro bills (and) allow businesses to put on a third shift," the party should do it.

A study by the Consumer Policy Institute revealed that Ontario customers have paid $6.3 billion over the last decade to cover the cost of selling electricity to customers outside the province, predominately to Quebec, New York and Michigan. In 2011, surplus power was sold by the province for about $418 million. In some instances, power is sold for a penny or two per kilowatt hour, and sometimes even given away to the interconnected grid linking Ontario with New York, Quebec, Michigan, Manitoba and Minnesota.

Fedeli said Quebec has lower hydro rates than Ontario and is enticing businesses to relocate to the province. He said Google chose to locate its first data centre in Canada in Montreal, Que. rather than in Ontario due to the lower energy costs.

"This goes on and on, not just the companies that left Ontario, it's the companies that chose not to come to Ontario," he said.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has stated selling surplus power is not new and has happened over the years under governments of all political stripes. Ontario also, it stated, takes advantage of low energy prices on the grid from other areas.

Fedeli said the Tories are also preparing to eliminate the Green Energy Act, which the party has stated has provided expensive subsidies to renewable companies for power that Ontario already has.

"The first thing we have to do is stop signing contracts for power we don't need," said Fedeli. "Second is open up those contracts and look at them."

He also wants to slash Hydro One's $11 million pay for its chief executive officer and four of the top executives to the more manageable salaries of counterparts at Hydro Quebec and B.C. Hydro where they make about $400,000.

"It makes no sense making that kind of money," he said.

During his address, Fedeli took aim at various Liberal ministers and accused them of providing incorrect facts about how well Ontario's economy is doing.

He said Brad Duguid, minister of economic development, has stated that Ontario is "growing faster than the United States." Yet, said Fedeli, Arkansas, Washington, Oregon all have higher growth rates than Ontario.

Fedeli added that Duguid said Ontario is the "top foreign direct investment location" in North America.

"Well, no we're not the top foreign direct investment destination we used to be," he said.

He said Ontario is the fourth highest location for direct foreign investment.

"So we are the fourth, not the top," he said. "We fell, tumbled from $7 billion to $4 billion. That is a serious change in only a very short period of time."

Duguid's office did not respond to a request for comment. But the ministry's website states Ontario is the "North American leader in attracting foreign capital investment, dated 2015.

A report from fDi Intelligence, a division of the Financial Times Limited, showed Ontario leading for the second year in a row for foreign capital investment, receiving $7.1 billion; ranked third when it comes to foreign direct investment job creation with 13,055 from 6,102 in 2013; and ranked second in the number of foreign direct investment jobs in the finance sector and first for automotive and life sciences sector.

In the fDi 2017 report on global investment, Ontario ranks third for foreign investment, surpassing Texas and Florida, from $4.1 billion 2015 to $4.5 billion in 2016.

Fedeli also took issue with the Liberal government's description of Ontario returning as Canada's economic engine. Ministers and Premier Kathleen Wynne have stated, including in visits to Hamilton, that Ontario is booming again.

Yet, said the former North Bay mayor, referring to an analysis from the Fraser Institute, British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec all have lower unemployment rates than Ontario.

"So how can you say we're leading when there are 10 provinces that don't make us the leader," he said. "So why do they do it? It's because our economy is under attack. It is not outside forces that has made this happen, it's the policies of this government that have brought our economy under attack."

Fedeli said the major reasons why Ontario's financial situation is in such a precarious situation is because of the high taxes, topping out at 53.5 per cent and the rising debt of over $300 billion, making Ontario the world's most indebted subsovereign borrower.

"The deficits are going to get bigger," said Fedeli, referring to the Liberals' decision to extend the borrowing plan to finance the 25 per cent hydro rate cut under the party's Fair Hydro Plan.

"We are going to be about half a trillion dollars in debt," he said. "This is sobering and pretty damn scary."

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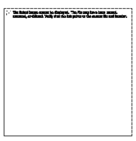

277959123

Co-gen contract extension

The Timmins Daily Press - Fri Jul 7 2017 **Page:** A3

Northland Power Inc. announced this week it has negotiated a Long-Term Enhanced Dispatch Contract with the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for Northland's 120MW cogeneration facility located in Iroquois Falls. Iroquois Falls Mayor Michael Shea said the deal provides sustainability for the operation over the next five years and job security for the 22 people in Iroquois Falls employed by Northland Power. However, the contract also changes the mode of operation at the facility. The contract, which took effect July 1, 2017, replaces the facility's previous contract with the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation, according to a release issued by Northland Power. "Under the agreement, the facility will operate in dispatchable mode rather than baseload, which means that instead of producing a continuous supply of electricity, it will produce power only at times most beneficial to the system." The change in operations will not impact any jobs at the facility, the company said. The contract which replaces Northland Power's previous agreement with the Ontario Electricity Financial Corporation, expires in 2021. John Brace, chief executive of Northland Power, in the release, described the deal as a "win-win." "This contract reduces overall costs for ratepayers while providing a number of benefits for Northland.," he said. Savings will result from reduced costs related to cap and trade, maintenance, natural gas and gas transportation, as well as other variable cost savings, the company said.

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Mayor hopes latest wind turbines will be the last; Shipments for Belle River Wind project to cause some temporary road closures

Windsor Star - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Dave Waddell
Page: A3

Motorists in Lakeshore could face delays beginning Friday with the arrival of the latest shipments of turbine blades for the Belle River Wind project.

The 55-metre blades will be escorted by the OPP along County Road 22 to Rourke Line Road and then ultimately delivered on Lakeshore Road 115.

Three blades will be shipped on Friday, with the same number following over four consecutive days beginning Monday.

"There could be some temporary closures at the intersection of County Road 22 and Rourke Line when the blades arrive, but there'll be no lengthy closures," said Nelson Cavacas, Lakeshore's director of engineering and infrastructure.

"They're using the Rourke Line intersection (at County Rd. 22) because the one at Lakeshore Road 115 (and County Road 42) was too small to turn the blades."

The sets of three blades per turbine will be delivered individually, approximately 40 to 50 minutes apart.

The blades will arrive at Rourke Line between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on the scheduled delivery days.

Beyond the 15 blades for five turbines being delivered over those five days, deliveries of more blades will continue through the summer, with the project becoming operational this fall.

Belle River Wind will consist of 41 turbines, with the possibility of an additional two or three turbines, located between County Road 42 and Highway 401 and extending westward near Puce Road and eastward past County Road 27.

The project is a joint effort between Samsung and Pattern Energy Group.

Though the wind farm is expected to generate an additional $220,000 in property taxes for Lakeshore, council initially rejected the project. However, the province overruled the municipality's opposition.

"We have 109 turbines (in Lakeshore) already, that was one of our arguments for not wanting more," Mayor Tom Bain said. "We've done our bit, but now we have 41 or 42 more.

"They put them in rural areas originally, and our farmers were happy for the extra income. Now they're starting to encroach on our residential areas.

"Originally, they wanted to put turbines along the Lake St. Clair shoreline, but fortunately we were able to talk them out of that."

Bain said the town has spent no money on infrastructure to support the creation of the wind farm.

When fully operational, the project will produce 100 megawatts of power, enough to meet the energy needs of 35,000 homes in Ontario.

The wind farm will also create 15 permanent jobs and 200 jobs during the 12-month construction period.

"There are no other turbine projects on the books," said Bain, who added residents have made it clear they don't want any more wind turbines.

"This is the last one, hopefully.

We don't have any more rural locations to put a wind farm.

"They've become an inconvenience and a hassle being so close to residential areas." dwaddell@postmedia.com

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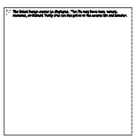

278165931

Power outages mostly restored in the Bracebridge and Gravenhurst areas

Gravenhurst Banner - Sun Jul 9 2017 **Page:** 1

SOUTH MUSKOKA - (UPDATE: Saturday, July 8 at 9:51 a.m.): Power has been restored for the most part in the Bracebridge and Gravenhurst areas, according to Hydro One, after a severe thunderstorm swept through Muskoka in the evening of Friday, July 7.

As of 9:51 a.m. on Saturday, July 8, only a small pocket of 474 customers are still without power to the southwest of Gravenhurst for Hydro One. By Sunday morning, July 9 at 10 a.m., these customers were reported restored, according to Hydro One. Veridian is also reporting power restored to Gravenhurst customers.

Restored: Outage in @Gateway2Muskoka affecting customers in Gravenhurst on Gravenhurst parkway, hwy eleven, Langf… (t.co) - Veridian Connections (@VeridianTweets) July 8, 2017

Restored: Outage in @Gateway2Muskoka affecting customers off peninsula rd, Haleway dr, browns way, deepwater dr, … (t.co) - Veridian Connections (@VeridianTweets) July 8, 2017

As of 6:15 a.m., Saturday, July 8, more than 2,600 customers are still without power in Bracebridge. The cause is under investigation and a time of restoration is not yet known as crews continue to assess the damage. North of Bracebridge in the Utterson and Port Sydney areas, more than 3,500 people are still in the dark. Crews are continuing to assess the damage. A time of restoration is not yet known.

Hydro One reported at 12 a.m., Saturday, July 8 of power outages in the Bracebridge area. One outage is affecting 2,594 residences with estimated restoration at 3:30 a.m., while another just north of Bracebridge is affecting 3,503 residences and is expected to be restored at 3:15 a.m.

Veridian Connections is also reporting of a continued power outage in the Gravenhurst area, affecting residences on Gravenhurst Parkway, Highway 11 and Langford Drive, caused by a loss of supply. The estimated restoration time was originally 5 a.m. on Saturday, July 8 but is now pushed to 11:30 a.m.

Cont'd outage in @Gateway2Muskoka affecting customers in Gravenhurst on Gravenhurst parkway, hwy eleven, Langford… (t.co) - Veridian Connections (@VeridianTweets) July 8, 2017

For power outage updates, including links to outage maps and tweets from power providers on status of updates, look to Is your power out in Muskoka?

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Thousands remain without power

Parry Sound North Star - Sun Jul 9 2017 **Page:** 1

SEGUIN TWP. - The power remains out throughout West Parry Sound after Friday night's storm.

While power is on in the Town of Parry Sound, outlining areas remain in the dark.

Accroding to the Ontario Hydro interactive map, those in the Otter Lake area should have their power restored by 10 p.m. as crews work to clear a tree from the line and fix damage.

In Pointe Au Baril the estimated restoration time is 4 p.m.

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277955737

City won't switch to LED lamps

Star Touch - Fri Jul 7 2017
Byline: Vjosa Isai

The orange glow of Toronto's street light bulbs won't be switched to LEDs anytime soon, as council awaits a report on how to convert the city's 170,000 street lights.

Light emitting diode, or LED lights were installed on six streets in the city last spring as part of a pilot project by Toronto Hydro. Each of the sites registered energy savings, but the company is not releasing costs "as it could influence future purchasing negotiations," said Toronto Hydro spokesperson Tori Gass. Lighting levels where the LEDs are being tested, including in the Financial District downtown, have improved, she said.

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277952628

Local businesses recognized for conservation

The Belleville Intelligencer - Fri Jul 7 2017 Page: A3

Four Belleville companies have been recognized for their efforts to conserve electricity at their facilities in 2016.

Veridian Connections recognizes some of its business customers for achieving outstanding electricity conservation results in 2016. These "Conservation Champions" were leading participants in the utility's energy efficiency and demand management programs that provide valuable financial incentives and reduce operating costs.

Locally, Autosystems, a Division of Magna; Kellogg Canada Inc,; Procter & Gamble; and Vision Trnsportation were named champions. They joined Cameco Corporation and CpK Interior Products in Port Hope; Farm Boy and 20 VIC Retail in Pickering; Nordstrong Equipment Ltd. in Cannington; Sklar Peppler Furniture in Ajax and Giant Tiger Stores Limited and Rogers Communication as businesses recognized for their conservation efforts.

"Each year, Veridian pays tribute to our business customers who make reducing energy consumption an integral part of their business," said Melanie Walls, key accounts representative. "The Independent Electricity System Operator's Save on Energy programs - delivered throughout Ontario by the province's electric utilities - are good for communities, the environment and a businesses'bottom line. There are energy efficient programs to assist companies from the smallest of retail stores to the largest industrial complexes."

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277729865

Enwin shelves plan for rate hike until 2019

Windsor Star - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Brian Cross
Page: A3

It will be 2019 or later before Enwin Utilities will raise the rate for its portion of an electric bill, says CEO Helga Reidel.

One year ago, Reidel announced the Windsor electric utility would be seeking its first rate hike since 2009 to pay for rising costs to maintain the system. But thanks to a good year financially in 2016, that application to the Ontario Energy Board has been postponed.

"We're trying to delay it as long as possible," Reidel said Wednesday. The delay will mean a decade without a rate hike from Enwin.

Enwin's distribution costs account for about 20 per cent of a monthly electric bill, with the remainder going to provincial hydro bodies where until recently electricity costs have been escalating. With the implementation this year of Premier Kathleen Wynne's Fair Hydro Plan, Ontario households and small businesses are getting rebates totalling 25 per cent.

"Obviously, we know the rates are high on the cost of power, so we are trying to mitigate our distribution costs for as long as possible," Reidel said. "We might file it in late 2018, but it won't be effective until at least 2019, possibly 2020."

She said a hot summer in 2016 led to high electricity use, which contributed to Enwin's bottom line. Those favourable results meant the rate increase application could be deferred.

"Every year we're going to look at it and hopefully we have good results every year," she said. "Eventually, we will have to file a rate application though."

She said it's too early to say what the increase will be. That will depend on the capital projects needed and Enwin's ability to offset some of those costs.
bcross@postmedia.com

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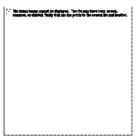

278162291

Liberal plan will cost more

The Belleville Intelligencer - Mon Jul 10 2017
Byline: Ross Ayotte
Page: B2

Ontario's financial accountability officer states the Wynne Liberals'hydro plan could end up costing Ontarians up to $93 billion more if this plan is financed the best case scenario is it will cost Ontarians $45 billion more if Ontario can manage to balance the budget for the next 30 years. What this means is we are going to be paying a lot more money for hydro in the long run for a very short period of relief on a pre-election bribe.

What Premier Wynne failed to tell everyone is that Hydro One has applied for a large rate increase on distribution rates, disconnections/reconnections removal of load limiters, account collections and access to their poles all increased in 2018 a $2.79 per month increase - 2019 a $2.47 per month increase - 2020 a $2.31 per month increase - 2021 a $1.95 per month increase and 2022 a $2.23 per month increase then we will have other rate increases.

The OPG has also applied for a 69 per cent increase to produce nuclear power by 2022. This would add a further $5.25 a month to our hydro bill, a decision on this rate increase will come later this year, the increases will keep coming each year.

Wynne stated our rates would be tied to inflation for four to five years. Do the math here people, how can Wynne say she is going to temporary subsidize 25 per cent of our hydro bill when our rates continue to rise? This Liberal plan does nothing to lower our cost per kilowatt-hour on our hydro bill or to produce hydro, so what is the true cost of this failed energy experiment when you add up everything? While Wynne preaches her Fair Hydro Plan I ask you, is this fair that Ontario has the highest hydro rates in North America? Also in 2003 Ontario owned 100 per cent of Hydro One in 2017 we only own 40 per cent now due to Premier Wynne selling 60 per cent of it. The CEO of Hydro Quebec, who is also the president of Quebec Hydro, makes roughly $558.149 in total pay. The CEO of Hydro One, with a smaller customer base, makes roughly $4.5 million a year.

In 2003, hydro was 4.3 cent a kWh all day long, before the Liberals came to office. Under the Liberals our rates have risen roughly 225 percent and they continue to rise, so a 25 per cent temporary subsidy is nothing as this Liberal plan will hurt us even more than doing nothing as they fail to see we must produce affordable kWh hydro and not a pre-election bribe of temporary subsidy that gets added on to our provincial debt and future hydro bills.

Ross Ayotte

Smiths Falls

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Time for Wynne and her minions to go

Sudbury Star - Sat Jul 8 2017
Byline: Jim Ireland
Page: A10

Energy Minister Glenn Thibeault, who is also Sudbury's Liberal MPP, says energy costs went down July 1, but he omitted that the consequence of this Liberal largesse will be a time-delayed bill of more than $92 billion after only four years of emergency crisis management.

Thibeault refuses to undo the damage caused by former premier Dalton McGuinty and current premier Kathleen Wynne - that is, Wynneguinty - over the past 10 years, which would go a long way toward balancing the manufactured energy crisis these people created in order to pursue their personal agenda.

They can start by repaying the $1.2 billion spent to relocate the two natural gas fired generating plants just to retain two critical southern Ontario ridings. Perhaps they should also pay back the millions being wasted every month because the two relocated plants sit idle due to poor planning by the Liberal strategists.

They could follow up by cancelling the ridiculously generous contracts let out to the international wind and solar monopolies that pay them 10 times the going rate for electricity. When was the last time anyone ever won a 20-year contract with a guaranteed return on investment of over 100 per cent in private industry? I am so ashamed of this travesty, it makes me cringe when I have to tell anyone I am a proud Ontarian.

Local contributors to the solar energy supply, including residential individuals, are also paid handsomely for their contribution, but you can't blame them for taking back the money they would otherwise have had to pay for energy if they had not installed solar. That deal is still available, by the way, for those interested.

Fudging the books may make this boondoggle look clean but nothing can hide the fact that Liberal mismanagement has made Ontario a have-not province for the first time ever. When one looks into the credentials of those people we chose to lead this province, it becomes apparent that they pursued personal agendas, not provincial priorities. It's so sad that we need to be in such dire straits before realizing our mistakes.

Time for Wynneguinty and her minions to go. Jim Ireland Ontario

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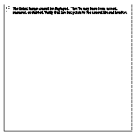

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Northland Power can't find buyer; Energy producer announced review last July

National Post - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Vinicy Chan And Scott Deveau
Page: FP4

Northland Power Inc., a $4-billion Canadian renewable energy producer, failed to find a buyer after running a sale process, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

China Three Gorges Corp. and Beijing-based State Power Investment Corp. were among companies considering second-round bids for the Toronto-based utility earlier this year, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the matter is private. China Three Gorges didn't secure Chinese regulatory approval to proceed with an offer, while SPIC's final bid didn't meet Northland Power's expectations, the people said.

Some Canadian pension funds looked at Northland Power earlier in the sale process and balked at its valuation, people familiar with the matter have said.

The company announced a strategic review last July, led by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and JP-Morgan Chase & Co., just weeks after its stock hit an all-time high. Since the announcement, the company's shares have risen 1.3 per cent.

Though the formal sale process has ended, it's still possible another suitor will emerge, according to one of the people. The company could decide to pursue other options as part of its strategic review, the person said. Spokesmen for Northland Power and China Three Gorges declined to comment, while a Beijing-based representative for SPIC didn't immediately respond to phone calls and an email seeking comment.

Chinese companies have become more cautious about overseas investments, after regulators warned about the risks in foreign purchases and clamped down on certain types of deals. The value of Chinese outbound acquisitions has dropped 55 per cent this year to US$66.8 billion, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Northland Power owns or has investments in power generation facilities in Canada, the U.S. and Germany, with the majority in Ontario. Its facilities produce electricity from clean natural gas and other renewable sources including solar, wind and biomass, according to its website.

Shares in Toronto-listed Northland rose 1.0 per cent Wednesday to close at $23.23.

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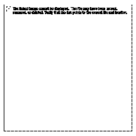

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Profits up at Bluewater Power; Municipally-owned corporation's results higher than expected

Sarnia Observer - Fri Jul 7 2017
Byline: Paul Morden
Page: A3

Bluewater Power says 2016 was an "exceptional" and profitable year for the group of companies owned by six Lambton County municipalities.

Along with an electricity distribution company serving more than 35,000 households in Sarnia, Point Edward, Petrolia, Alvinston, Warwick and Oil Springs, Bluewater Power includes five other companies run by the corporation which recently held its annual meeting.

"Overall, 2016 was what I would call an exceptional year," said CEO Janice McMichael-Dennis.

She pointed first to Bluewater Power's good safety record in 2016 and said, "Whenever you have a safe year, than you've met the most important thing."

But, it was also an exceptional year for revenue.

"We had a couple of our companies, within the group of companies, who had all-time high revenue," McMichael-Dennis said.

"We're up to about $20 million in annual revenue now from sources other than the distribution of electricity."

Created in 2000 when six Lambton municipal electricity utilities merged as part of a provincial restructuring of the industry, Bluewater Power has grown beyond being a local distributor of electricity.

"This was our attempt, years ago, to add more forms of revenue so we can bring more dollars home here to our communities, without being on the backs of ratepayers," McMichael-Dennis said.

She said that while profits overall are up, the distribution section of electricity bills Bluewater Power controls saw "minor rate decreases" of 1.5 to two per cent for residential and commercial customers in 2016.

Those bills also include the cost of the electricity customers use and regulatory charges which are controlled provincially.

Profits for the Bluewater Power group of companies in 2016 totalled approximately $6.2 million, which was 25 per cent higher than expected, McMichael-Dennis said.

"That's actually an all-time high for the group of companies... driven mostly by those affiliated companies exceeding their budgets."

Payouts of a portion of those profits to the municipal shareholders were made at the end of April and included $2,483,894 to Sarnia, $212,453 to Petrolia, $97,277 to Point Edward, $62,638 to Warwick, $20,783 to Alvinston and $5,280 to Oil Springs.

"That's the beauty of this model," McMichael-Dennis said.

The six municipal partners own 100 per cent of the group of companies.

"So, 100 per cent of the growth in these companies is to the benefit of our communities," she said.

"It doesn't go into private pockets, it doesn't go out of the province, it doesn't go to the GTA… all this money stays here, locally."

Bluewater Power has returned a total of nearly $40 million to its municipal owners since 2000, McMichael-Dennis said.

At the same time, it spends between $5 million and $10 million annually on electrical infrastructure, and also supports community groups and projects.

"I call that the softer returns of having a community-owned organization," McMichael-Dennis said.

She said 2016 was also a good year for reliability.

"Our bread and butter is still keeping the lights on, and for 2016 the power outages were about 30 per cent less than average."

The corporation's growth continued in 2016 with the first full year of its new fibre network company, Bluewater Regional Networks.

Other companies in the group include Unconquered Sun Solar Technologies, Electek Power Services, Bluewater Power Services and Bluewater Power Renewable Energy.

The group of companies has approximately 150 employees.
pmorden@postmedia.com

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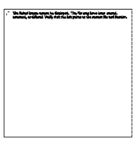

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Big win for people of Wasaga Beach as council votes against selling local hydro company

Marketwired - Fri Jul 7 2017

WASAGA BEACH, ONTARIO—(Marketwired - July 7, 2017) - After months of community involvement, on July 7, 2017, Wasaga Beach council voted unanimously to keep Wasaga Distribution Inc. (WDI) public. With the help of the Keep Hydro Public Coalition, local residents successfully pressured their municipal council to retain and grow the local distribution company, which is rated as one of Ontario's most efficient hydro providers with the lowest electricity cost in the province.

The community was looking forward to a public council meeting on July 18, where more than 1000 local supporters were expected to attend. Instead, with a sole member of the community in the audience, Councillor Bill Stockwell asked for permission of the Council to break traditional protocol during an emergency council meeting convened to consider a single municipal lease. Councillor Sylvia Bray and Deputy Mayor Nina Bifolchi appeared to have been blindsided by the move.

The discussion at the council table included criticism directed at the residents of Wasaga Beach by the Mayor and Councillors Stockwell, Ron Ego, Bonnie Smith and Joe Belanger.

Councillor Bray and Deputy Mayor Bifolchi reiterated their ongoing position of not selling and expressed disappointment in the method by which the vote was being moved forward. Councillor Bray pointed out that the community may look at the decision as a cowardly way of avoiding public scrutiny.

"The incredible staff at Wasaga Distribution might be able to sleep a little better this evening. You do an incredible job of serving this community. You are a public service. WE ARE THAT PUBLIC, and we have got your backs!" said Mark Winegarden, a local resident who has been leading the fight in Wasaga Beach.

"Congratulations to the people of Wasaga Beach for stopping the sale of your local hydro system. You are an inspiring example of what we can accomplish when we come together and hold our political decision makers accountable," said Fred Hahn. "If only Premier Wynne had listened to the people of Ontario the way your local councillors eventually listened to you, we wouldn't be in the mess we are today."

Lawyer Mark Rodger has been advising the Council to sell WDI since 2016. Mayor Brian Smith sat on the Board of Directors for WDI because of his position as Mayor. He claimed to be forced to wear two hats and as a board member felt the need to recommend a sale, but as Mayor, the delays began. Most of the Council members appeared to be persuaded by the presentation to sell WDI in October of 2016, however Deputy Mayor Bifolchi and Councillor Bray, were strong opponents from day one.

Thousands of residents became engaged, demonstrating their opposition to privatizing the local utility. With the persistent efforts of local volunteers, over 4200 Keep Hydro Public lawn signs were distributed in the community and over 8000 petition signatures were collected from residents opposed to privatizing WDI.

Residents kept pressuring Council members by voicing their strong opposition to selling WDI during Council meetings and through emails. The public pressure forced Mayor Smith, who has been a strong proponent of selling WDI, to announce that he will not support the sell of WDI.

Wasaga Beach volunteers are a shining example for the rest of the Province on how we can win back the ownership of Hydro One through grassroots campaigning. Keep Hydro Public is grassroots movement supported by CUPE Ontario, OPSEU, and Unifor along with other community groups and unions.

Doly Begum

Keep Hydro Public Coalition

647-998-3659

www.keephydropublic.ca

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Renewable energy surges past nuclear for 1st time in decades; Renewable energy surges past nuclear for 1st time in decades

Canadian Press - Thu Jul 6 2017
Byline: Michael Biesecker

WASHINGTON - For the first time in decades, the United States got more electricity from renewable sources than nuclear power in March and April.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration said Thursday that electricity production from utility-scale renewable sources exceeded nuclear generation in the most recent months for which data is available. That's the first time renewable sources have outpaced nuclear since 1984.

The growth in renewables was fueled by scores of new wind turbines and solar farms, as well as recent increases in hydroelectric power as a result of heavy snow and rain in Western states last winter. More than 60 per cent of all utility-scale electricity generating capacity that came online last year was from wind and solar.

In contrast, the pace of construction of new nuclear reactors has slowed in recent decades amid soaring costs and growing public opposition. Nearly all nuclear plants now in use began operation between 1970 and 1990, with utilities starting to retire some of their older reactors.

Still, experts predict output from the nation's nuclear plants will still outpace renewables for the full year, due to such seasonal variation as less water flowing through dams in the drier summer months. Also, nuclear plants tend to undergo maintenance during spring and fall months, when overall electricity demand is lower than in summer or winter.

Despite the growth in renewables, the U.S. still gets nearly two-thirds of its electricity from burning fossil fuels, primarily natural gas and coal. Nuclear and renewables account for roughly equal shares of the rest, each accounting for less than 20 per cent of total output.

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Follow AP environmental writer Michael Biesecker at www.Twitter.com/mbieseck

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