

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: December 21, 2017 7:56 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Thursday, December 21, 2017

[View in Browser](#)

Morning News Clippings

powered by: **infomart**

Date: Thursday, December 21, 2017
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 18 Results



Enbridge natural gas rates to rise by 6.5%

Peterborough Examiner - Thu Dec 21 2017
Tone: **Neutral**
Ad Value: \$407
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A1 / Front

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. customers in the **Peterborough** area are facing a 6.5 per cent **rate** increase for **natural gas** starting in the new year. Enbridge said Wednesday ...



Ontario's fake energy hearings

National Post - Thu Dec 21 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Andrew Roman

Ad Value: \$8,101
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP9

Electricity regulators normally make **ratesetting** decisions through an adversarial **public** hearing process. The **Ontario Energy Board (OEB)** has recently been proposing that it ...



Orangeville's Clark Griswold is fine with high Christmas hydro bill

Orangeville Banner - Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: **Positive**
Ad Value: \$546

Reach: 23500 Page: 1

During the holiday season, **Orangeville** resident Kevin Malow's household **hydro bill** basically doubles. He can thank the about 40,000 Christmas lights on his home and roof, along with the life-sized snowmen, ...

THE SUN TIMES

Dobbyn in IESO group; Head of local United Way to bring electricity users' views to table

Owen Sound Sun Times - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Denis Langlois

Ad Value: \$644

Reach: 13178 Page: A3

There will now be a local voice on a committee that advises the manager of Ontario's **power** system as it works to reform the wholesale **electricity** market. United Way of Bruce Grey executive director Francesca Dobbyn will ...



NOTL Hydro calls for simpler electricity bills | NiagaraThisWeek.com

www.niagarathisweek.com - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

As part of its monthly suggestions to the province on how to better deliver electricity to residents, Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro is taking aim at what it calls unnecessarily confusing billing invoices.

The Sudbury Star

MPP has changed tune on regulating gas prices

Sudbury Star - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Walter Wilson

Ad Value: \$236

Reach: 14934 Page: A10

It looks like our **Sudbury** MPP (Liberal **Glenn Thibeault**) has come full circle. It does not seem that long ago we would see his face doing interviews on MCTV (as Sudbury's NDP MP) while protesting at **gas** ...

The Intelligencer

Hydro call a scam

The Belleville Intelligencer - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$120

Reach: 9723 Page: A3

Belleville police are warning of another phone scam following a call received Tuesday at a Belleville business. The caller claimed to represent "**Ontario Hydro**" and threatened to cut off the **electricity** supply to the ...

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Liberals talk tough over imposing carbon taxes across all provinces

The Globe and Mail - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: \$12,656

Reach: 309154 Page: A4

The Liberal government will impose a carbon tax on Jan. 1, 2019, in any province that does not have a pricing **plan** that meets Ottawa's standards, federal ministers vowed on Wednesday. In a letter to their provincial counterparts, ...



Expect a clean energy revolt; Government intrusion in oil industry

National Post - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: \$12,151

Reach: 159480 Page: FP1 / Front

From NAFTA renegotiations to the birth of the cannabis sector, plenty of game-changers impacted Canada's economy in 2017, but - for better or for worse - the government-led **energy** transition packed the biggest punch. Governments in ...



Here comes a fascinating election year

Stittsville News - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$116

Reach: 11918 Page: A8

There were four recent federal byelections in Canada, three of which were won by the governing Liberals. And while they are only byelections, it still amazes that a Liberal government that has backed away from electoral reform, has seen its finance ...



Expect each political party to use hydro rates for their campaigns

Peterborough This Week - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$14

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

To the editor: Mark Waghorne wants to know if the Liberals plans for reducing **Hydro** prices is immoral or amoral. At the end of the day it can be summed up as "politics." In the recent policy release, the Tories committed to ...



Liberals are not immoral or amoral, they are political

Kawartha Lakes This Week - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$16

Reach: 29544 Page: 1

To the editor: Mark Waghorne wants to know if the Liberals plans for reducing **Hydro** prices is immoral or amoral. At the end of the day it can be summed up as "politics." In the recent policy release, the Tories committed to ...



Climate-change action plans being developed for seven Midland-area municipalities

Midland Mirror - Tue Dec 19 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$826

Reach: 19850 Page: 1

Sustainable Severn Sound is undertaking a massive initiative, which will involve creating **Climate Change** Action Plans for seven area municipalities: **Midland**,

Penenetanguishene, Oro-Medonte, Tiny, Tay, Severn and ...



Family and friends mourn Orillia man killed in Hydro One helicopter crash

Orillia Today - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$237

Reach: 22244 Page: 1

Family and friends are mourning the death of an **Orillia** man, one of four **Hydro One** employees killed in a Dec. 14 helicopter crash in Tweed. James Baragar, the 39-year-old helicopter pilot, had been with ...



Celebration of life planned for Orillia man killed in Hydro One helicopter crash | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

A celebration life is planned for an Orillia man who died in last week's Hydro One helicopter crash in eastern Ontario.



Over \$130 million contract signed for Bruce Power steam generator replacement

Kincardine News - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral** Page: A10

A **contract** valued at over \$130 million has been signed to replace steam generators at Unit 6 of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station in **Ontario**, Canada. A fully integrated joint venture formed between AECOM, Aecon and AREVA NP ...



Wind farm subsidizes Walpole ferry rates

Chatham This Week - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: David Gough

Page: A23

Members of the Walpole Island First Nation now pay a reduced **rate** when they take a ride on the Walpole Island-Algonac Ferry, thanks to the community's stake in a **wind** farm near Grand Bend. As of the start of December, Walpole ...



Residents rally to oppose noise bylaw exemption; C-K denies request to extend construction hours for wind farm project

Wallaceburg Courier Press - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: \$332

Reach: 8941 Page: A31

Several local residents rallied to make sure their opposition was immediately known to a noise bylaw exemption **application** for the **North** Kent One **Wind** Farm project. The **application** was being sought to ...

Full Articles



Enbridge natural gas rates to rise by 6.5%

Peterborough Examiner - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$407

Reach: 19693 Page: A1 / Front

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. customers in the **Peterborough** area are facing a 6.5 per cent **rate** increase for **natural gas** starting in the new year.

Enbridge said Wednesday it has received approval from the **Ontario Energy Board** for new **rates** that take effect Jan. 1.

Typical residential customers (defined as using about 2,400 cubic metres of **natural gas** a year for home and water heating) who buy their **gas** supply from Enbridge will see a total bill increase of about \$58 a year, according to Enbridge. As a result of the 6.5 per cent increase, their total annual bill will be about \$951.

Typical residential customers who buy their **gas** supply from a marketer and obtain **transportation** services from Enbridge will see an increase of about \$56 annually, a release from Enbridge states, but their total annual bill depends on the terms of their **gas** marketer agreement.

The increases are due to changes to Enbridge's **distribution rates** for 2018 and the conclusion of the site restoration clearance refund, Enbridge says.

"Even with these changes, **natural gas** continues to be the most affordable and reliable choice for home and water heating in **Ontario**," stated Dave Charleson, vice-president of **energy** supply and **customer** care at Enbridge. "Over the past five years, **natural gas** has been on average over 65 per cent less expensive than **electricity** and oil."

[Back to Top](#)



Ontario's fake energy hearings

National Post - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Andrew Roman

Ad Value: \$8,101

Reach: 159480 Page: FP9

Electricity regulators normally make **ratesetting** decisions through an adversarial **public** hearing process. The **Ontario Energy Board (OEB)** has recently been proposing that it should itself appoint some sort of **consumer** advocate to represent consumers at its hearings, while precluding the participation of some of the current parties. In substance, the **OEB** is proposing to replace some of the current **consumer** advocates with a proxy advocate subject to its own control, and then considering the result of this substitution to be a genuine adversarial proceeding.

The **OEB's** regulatory process has been legislated for at least four decades. It is supposed to be the normal **public** hearing process commonly found throughout the U.S. and Canada. A **public** hearing process is by definition an adversarial process: an industry participant seeking higher **rates** and those who would pay those **rates** seeking to reduce or eliminate the **rate** request. An adversarial process requires at least two (and usually more) genuine adversaries.

If the decision-maker itself appoints - and thus can control or influence - one of

the key parties, then the adversarial process is no longer open and transparent. It is one where the adjudicator can tell a "party," behind closed doors, what to advocate or what not to advocate. If the **OEB** appoints a lawyer as the **consumer** advocate, the **OEB** would be that lawyer's client. Such an advocate would actually represent no one, and thus would have no legitimacy. This whole hearing process could therefore be called a fake hearing. Such hearings are subject to the risk that any affected **consumer** group denied the right to participate in the **public** hearing could bring a judicial-review application to set aside the process and the resulting decision.

If the **OEB** wishes to restrict representative **public** participation in **public** hearings, the more legitimate approach would be to stop holding so-called **public** hearings altogether. The **OEB** could then close its doors to the **public** and issue its decisions from behind closed doors. There is no room in a democratic society, where government is subject to the rule of law, for a government agency to conduct counterfeit **public** hearings.

However, the current **Ontario** government has recently amended its **electricity** legislation to take away much of what was left of the **OEB's** **ratemaking** independence. Therefore, the honest approach for the **Ontario** government would be to close the **OEB** entirely. If the **OEB** cannot make **rate** decisions at arm's length from government, via a genuine adversarial-hearing process, how can that serves the **public** policy purpose of transparency and accountability? Transfer its key staff into the ministry and let the decision be seen for what it is increasingly becoming: a political decision, informed by some modest bureaucratic **review**. That way the minister couldn't blame or hide behind the **OEB** for escalating **electricity** prices.

By continually and increasingly politicizing **electricity** supply, generation mix and pricing, the current **Ontario** government has lost its way. Unfortunately, there are no better policy proposals from any opposition parties, all of which have forgotten why it was necessary to have created the **OEB** in the first place. All of them seem to believe that the right **electricity** price is the one that will make that party popular in the next election, regardless of economic realities.

A key difference between **Ontario** and nearby U.S. jurisdictions to which it is losing industry as **Ontario electricity rates** rise to uncompetitive levels is **public** ownership of the monopolies providing most of **Ontario's electricity**. As **Ontario** moved from largely **independent**, **OEB**-regulated **electricity** pricing to now essentially politically directed pricing by publicly owned monopolies, **Ontario's** competitive situation has deteriorated. Eventually this will affect **Ontario's public** finances. The Trump administration's revisions to NAFTA and its "America First" policy will make **Ontario's** competitive situation even worse.

Despite these risks, the **Ontario** government is giving **electricity** users a lower **electricity** price as a political decision. How can it practically do this? Governments can legislate a lower price, but they cannot legislate a lower cost of producing it. The costs remain what they are. The political miracle of lower prices is only accomplished by transferring today's **consumer** costs to the consumers of tomorrow, at higher future cost than if they were paid today. What does the **Ontario** government have against our children? Andrew Roman, a director of the **Energy** Probe Research Foundation, has been a regulatory lawyer in **Ontario** for more than 40 years.

[Back to Top](#)



Orangeville 's Clark Griswold is fine with Christmas hydro bill

Orangeville Banner - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$546

Reach: 23500 Page: 1

During the holiday season, **Orangeville** resident Kevin Malow's household **hydro** bill basically doubles.

He can thank the about 40,000 Christmas lights on his home and roof, along with the life-sized snowmen, reindeer and Santa displays lining his property for that. The visits and comments his home at 2 Park Lane receive from the **public**, however, make it worth those extra overhead costs.

"The community has been so strong with the response to it that I can't stop now," Malow laughed. "I think it would upset a lot of people and kids if I did."

Last year, the Malow's family home was named winner of the **Orangeville** Communities in Bloom (CIB) committee's second annual Christmas lights contest. To many in town, Malow is known as **Orangeville**'s version of Clark Griswold.

"I've been called that many times already. I'm used to it," Malow said. "To me, it just shows that I'm doing something right. I'm keeping people happy and I'm doing something good."

Now, the Malow home hasn't always looked so decadent. Since moving to Park Lane from Amaranth five years ago, the decorations have evolved from a handful of holiday characters into the lavish display it has become today.

"My daughter is the one that drove me to do this," Malow said, noting 10-year-old Marissa always convinces him to add more and more each year.

"If it wasn't for my daughter, I never would have started this," he said. "It is a great feeling, a warm feeling. There is nothing better than Christmas."

As soon as the calendar hits Nov. 1, Malow gets started on decorating the house. The self-admitted perfectionist usually spends about three to four hours a night making things look just right.

"I'm always adding and changing things," Malow said. "Sometimes I catch myself wondering, 'What am I doing out here freezing?'"

Then, the convoy of cars driving past his house remind him why puts in all that hard work. The compliments he hears from residents when they recognize him in **public** don't hurt the cause either.

"Oh, there is the guy whose house we always go by every single day and look at. The kids love your house so much. Thank you'," Malow recalled hearing earlier this month. "When you have comments like that, it warms your heart."

Malow has survived a few close calls putting his display together on his roof. Fortunately, the mason by trade is used to working on chimneys, scaffolds and roofs.

"Luckily, I'm used to being up there," he said, chuckling that his wife Gelene is a chiropractor. "If I fall off the roof, she can fix it."

It was Gelene's idea to add a charitable element to the Malow's display this year. The family has placed a bin out front of the house where people can donate non-perishable food items to the **Orangeville** Food Bank.

"We were just discussing how much traffic we had here," Kevin said. "My wife said, 'You know what we have so much traffic. Let's put a bin out there and ask people to give'."

Despite all the work and the increased **hydro** bill, Malow doesn't **plan** to stop anytime soon. For long as possible, he intends to keep 2 Park Lane in **Orangeville** lit.

"I don't see stopping anytime soon," Malow said. "It is a great feeling of accomplishment. I can't wait once the lights come on to see who is coming around the corner looking."

[Back to Top](#)

THE SUN TIMES

Dobbyn in IESO group; Head of local United Way to bring electricity users' views to table

Owen Sound Sun Times - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Denis Langlois

Ad Value: \$644

Reach: 13178 Page: A3

There will now be a local voice on a committee that advises the manager of **Ontario's power** system as it works to reform the wholesale **electricity** market.

United Way of Bruce Grey executive director Francesca Dobbyn will represent the interests of low-volume or residential consumers on the **Independent Electricity** System Operator's Market Renewal Working Group.

"I want to bring to the committee a real focus on the end user," Dobbyn said Wednesday in an interview.

"That it's not about just the companies themselves and what they need to run their company and perhaps protect their interests and their workers, but a real understanding that the ultimate person they're working for is the end user."

The **electricity** system must be affordable for people and "make sense in this day and age," she said.

"For example, **time-of-use** was put in place when there was not enough supply and so it was to get people to shift to off-peak hours. And now we have too much supply and when we've got **solar** running during the day, why do we have **time-of-use** that says we should be using **electricity** at night?" The **IESO**, which manages the province's **power** system and plans and prepares for future **electricity** needs, says the market renewal will reshape the foundation of **Ontario's** \$17 billion annual **electricity** market.

Changes will ensure the market "functions more efficiently and is prepared for the **electricity** sector of tomorrow," the **IESO** says.

"These efforts will help provide a level playing field for all **electricity** resources, including emerging technologies, to compete and provide **electricity** when and where it's needed."

The market renewal is expected to result in an estimated net benefit of up to \$5.2 billion over 10 years, the majority of which will be realized by consumers, it says.

Members of the working group represent market participants in several categories, including generators, emerging technologies, local **distribution** companies and consumers.

The **IESO** says it is "delighted" to have Dobbyn on the group, noting she has been "championing the needs of her community" through her role with the local United Way and working with policy makers to find solutions to high **energy** costs for Ontarians.

"The skills and experience she brings will mean she will be an important asset to the work being done by this group and help ensure that the views of residential consumers are represented as we renew **Ontario's electricity**

market," Chuck Farmer, director of stakeholder and **public** affairs for the **IESO**, said in a statement.

Dobbyn's first meeting with the working group is today. Meetings will be held once every two months.

[Back to Top](#)



NOTL Hydro calls for simpler electricity bills | NiagaraThisWeek.com

www.niagarathisweek.com - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

As part of its monthly suggestions to the province on how to better deliver electricity to residents, Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro is taking aim at what it calls unnecessarily confusing billing invoices.

[Back to Top](#)



MPP has changed tune on regulating gas prices

Sudbury Star - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Walter Wilson

Ad Value: \$236

Reach: 14934 Page: A10

It looks like our **Sudbury** MPP (Liberal **Glenn Thibeault**) has come full circle. It does not seem that long ago we would see his face doing interviews on MCTV (as **Sudbury**'s NDP MP) while protesting at **gas** stations about how something had to be done about the ridiculous prices we northerners have to pay.

In conversations with friends (even back then), I would tell them that no government would regulate fuel prices because the higher the price, the more tax money they collect. And this was even before the carbon tax was added.

But still, it's funny to see him change 'his tune' because now that he is in a position where he can do something about it, he bows before his real master ... not the people he represents, but the premier.

Hope our MPP has remembered there is an election next year, because I certainly do.

Walter Wilson

Sudbury

[Back to Top](#)



Hydro call a scam

The Belleville Intelligencer - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$120

Reach: 9723 Page: A3

Belleville police are warning of another phone scam following a call received Tuesday at a Belleville business. The caller claimed to represent "**Ontario Hydro**" and threatened to cut off the **electricity** supply to the business, charging the business had not paid an **electrical** bill, police reported. The caller also said the situation could be resolved by providing a credit card number by phone.

Police remind the **public** not to give out personal or financial information by phone. Suspected scams may also be reported to the **Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre** at 1-888-495-8501 or www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

[Back to Top](#)



Liberals talk tough over imposing carbon taxes across all provinces

The Globe and Mail - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: SHAWN McCARTHY

Ad Value: \$12,656

Reach: 309154 Page: A4

The Liberal government will impose a carbon tax on Jan. 1, 2019, in any province that does not have a pricing **plan** that meets **Ottawa's** standards, federal ministers vowed on Wednesday.

In a letter to their provincial counterparts, Environment Minister Catherine McKenna and Finance Minister Bill Morneau said **Ottawa** will be releasing a draft carbon-tax bill next month and will have a national system in place within a year. The federal government is on a collision course with a number of provinces who either refuse to adopt a broad carbon price or fail to meet **Ottawa's** benchmark.

"We know that a price on pollution is one of the most efficient tools we have to drive clean innovation and curb greenhouse **gas** emissions," the ministers said in the letter released on Wednesday. "That's why our government has set a carbon pricing standard, or benchmark, that all jurisdictions must meet."

Ottawa has indicated that four provinces already meet federal standards - British Columbia and Alberta with their tax plans, and **Ontario** and Quebec with the **cap-and-trade** approach, which effectively sets a price by capping emissions while allowing companies to purchase credits to meet their regulated limits.

However, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall has steadfastly refused to consider implementing a carbon tax and has slammed **Ottawa's plan** to impose one. Mr. Wall met this week with Jason Kenney, Leader of the United Conservative Party in Alberta, who praised the Premier's stand against the federal carbon levy.

"Our government has developed a made-in-Saskatchewan **climate-change plan** to reduce emissions without a federally imposed carbon tax," Mr. Wall's spokeswoman, Kathy Young, said in an e-mail on Wednesday.

"Saskatchewan will not be imposing a carbon tax or accepting a federally imposed carbon tax."

Manitoba plans to set a carbon tax of \$25 a tonne starting next year but, unlike the planned federal levy of \$20 a tonne, it would remain at \$25; **Ottawa** would increase its 2019 **rate** by \$10 annually, to \$50 in 2022. The provincial **plan** "will achieve **greater** emissions reductions than the federal backstop **plan** would," Rochelle Squires, Manitoba's Minister of Sustainable Development, said on Wednesday.

Earlier this month, New Brunswick announced it would allocate an increasing portion of its existing **gasoline** tax to a greenhouse-**gas** (GHG) reduction fund as a way of meeting the federal carbon-pricing standards. Ms. McKenna immediately declared that approach was insufficient.

Nova Scotia is pledging to adopt a **cap-and-trade** system that would include a modest carbon price.

Ottawa can avoid a fight with Manitoba for now, but will likely have to implement its carbon levy - either in full or in part - in Saskatchewan and some Atlantic provinces, said Dale Beguin, research director for the EcoFiscal Commission, an **independent** group that tracks **climate** policy.

The federal government made it clear on Wednesday that new provincial carbon-pricing plans must be applied on top of whatever taxes or regulations currently exist. It will also assess the provincial programs annually to ensure they still meet the federal benchmark.

This week, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development issued a report card on Canada's environmental performance that stated that a rising carbon levy is a critical component of the country's effort to meet commitments to reduce GHG emissions by 30 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

[Back to Top](#)



Expect a clean energy revolt; Government intrusion in oil industry

National Post - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Claudia Cattaneo

Ad Value: \$12,151

Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP1 / Front

From NAFTA renegotiations to the birth of the cannabis sector, plenty of game-changers impacted Canada's economy in 2017, but - for better or for worse - the government-led **energy** transition packed the biggest punch.

Governments in Alberta and **Ottawa** worked hand-inhand to wean the economy away from the Western-**Canadian** based fossil fuel industry in favour of clean **energy**.

They did that by taxing carbon, jacking up oil and **gas** regulations, accelerating the shutdown of coal plants, and capping growth of the oilsands sector. They provided incentives to **renewable energy** and promoted economic diversification to soak up excess capacity - such as unemployed oil and **gas** workers and empty **real estate**, especially in Alberta. They also supported some major fossil fuel projects while discouraging others to show they are balancing **energy** and the environment.

In reality, the giant government intrusion, tepid market response, no let-up in anti-oilsands campaigns, disconnect from other jurisdictions - such as the United States, which is producing and exporting record levels of oil, and China, which really wants oil and **gas** from Canada, not lectures about the environment - keep raising questions about where it's all going.

There's plenty on the horizon to suggest it's going sideways, because there will be big pushback next year.

The first spoiler will be Jason Kenney. He's already upsetting the Alberta-**Ottawa** order and if he becomes Alberta premier in 2019, as he seems on track to do, relations with **Ottawa** will be hostile.

He's already put the federal Liberals on notice that Alberta will no longer be their "doormat" and that he will join Saskatchewan to sue them over the carbon tax.

Even before the next provincial election, Kenney will sit as United Conservative opposition leader in the legislature after winning last week's byelection in

Calgary and amplify the voice of thousands of Albertans left behind by the **energy** shakeup. At the very least, he will make it politically uncomfortable to pursue the next big plans, from methane emissions reductions to the 50-per-cent increase in the provincial carbon tax Jan. 1, to \$30 per tonne, leading to the federally mandated \$50-a-tonne price in 2022.

"Alberta families are already struggling under the weight of a carbon tax that this NDP government never campaigned on," Kenney said.

"Their job-killing carbon tax has made virtually everything Albertans buy more expensive, from groceries to kids'hockey fees, and everything in between. The NDP is even slapping Albertans with a whopping 75-per-cent tax on **natural gas**. It's all economic pain with no environmental gain."

The former federal cabinet minister also said he will oppose federal National **Energy** Board reforms to include upstream and downstream emissions in pipeline reviews and retaliate against provinces that block pipelines.

Another setback will come from the widening gap between the costs of the **energy** transition, whose bills have been piling up for nearly two years in the form of higher taxes and bigger government deficits, and the yet-unrealized economic benefits. So far promised pipelines have not broken ground and even if they do, oil won't start moving until the next decade. Things will get politically indefensible if one or both of the Trans Mountain and Keystone XL pipelines remain as challenged as they are today.

Meanwhile, for those keeping score, the heavy discounts on domestic oil and **natural gas** because of lack of export infrastructure will serve as a reminder of governments'failure to deliver. **Canadian** oil has been selling for half the price of U.S. oil, making it the cheapest in the world today.

The final straw will come if one or more major **energy** projects are cancelled or delayed. It would confirm that Canada's high environmental expectations are too expensive.

The one to watch is the proposed Shell-led LNG Canada project in Kitimat, B.C., which is expected to announce a final investment decision in mid-2018. Major **energy** project cancellations in the last year have tarnished Canada's reputation and likely played a role in the new British Columbia NDP government's decision to move ahead with the Site C \$10-billion **hydro** project, even if it campaigned to stop construction. At this point, no government wants to wear another investment pullback, even in a sector (oil and **gas** or big **hydro**) that isn't favoured.

Longtime Alberta political and industry insider David Yager noted there are plenty of past examples of punitive policies against Canada's oil sector that got reversed - from the federal national **energy** program to Alberta's past oil royalty increases - and those currently being implemented will be no different.

"Not immediately, of course," said Yager, who now advises oil services executives.

"Only after the economic damage is clear - companies and workers have suffered mightily and capital outflows begin to affect the presiding jurisdiction - do governments undo what they have done. Often it takes a change in government to fix things entirely."

ccattaneo@nationalpost.com

[Back to Top](#)



Here comes a fascinating election year

Stittsville News - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$116

Reach: 11918 Page: A8

There were four recent federal byelections in Canada, three of which were won by the governing Liberals. And while they are only byelections, it still amazes that a Liberal government that has backed away from electoral reform, has seen its finance minister pilloried for possible ethics violations and hurtful policies, has struck out with a free trade deal with China and is reeling in the renegotiations of the **North** American Free Trade Agreement, takes three out of four byelections. Imagine if the Liberals were doing everything that they promised in the last election campaign - it would be landslides everywhere.

Alabama's Dec. 12 election, that elected Democrat Doug Jones over Republican judge Roy Moore demonstrated that voters will not accept everything. The allegations of sexual misconduct by Roy Moore, while just allegations and not proven in court, were enough to turn a rock solid Republican state into a Democratic state, albeit by just the narrowest of margins. Voters stood up for decency and were not all slaves to their traditional voting patterns.

Just where is this tipping point that sees a politician lose the support of the majority? This is always uncertain, which is what will make this June's provincial election in **Ontario** such an interesting happening.

Are people disenchanted and fed up with **Ontario** Premier Kathleen Wynne, given her problems with **hydro**, political scandals, questionable budgetary accounting measures and more ... the list goes on and on! Will the voters decide that it is time for a change or will the Liberals once again turn back the Conservatives, now under leader Patrick Brown? Who knows? But that's what makes elections so watched - you just never know the outcome.

The year 2018 is a municipal election year as well, with voting day in October. This may be a most interesting civic election because it would appear that some incumbent city councillors, perhaps sensing a restlessness among the voters, recently opposed Mayor Jim Watson in advocating for a special extra tax levy for infrastructure spending. This may be the tip of the iceberg, revealing discontent among the populace for the steady-as-you-go ways of the current mayor. Some new ideas may be coming into play and this might - or might not - impact the election that is coming up.

That's why elections are such fascinating events. You just never know when the electorate will opt for different ideas and different faces. So hang onto your hats - 2018 promises to be a most interesting voting year.

[Back to Top](#)



Expect each political party to use hydro rates for their campaigns

Peterborough This Week - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value:\$14

Reach: 47038 Page: 1

To the editor:

Mark Waghorne wants to know if the Liberals plans for reducing **Hydro** prices is immoral or amoral.

At the end of the day it can be summed up as "politics."

In the recent policy release, the Tories committed to reducing **Hydro** bills by 12.5 per cent on top of what the current government has done.

So either they will immediately pay back the money the Liberals have borrowed to make the cuts and find the money elsewhere or they are going to leave in place and then fund the extra 12.5-per-cent cut.

In other words, after condemning the Liberals for mortgaging the future the Tories will most likely use it as a springboard for their own promised savings.

It's all just politics.

Marc Dodsworth

Peterborough

[Back to Top](#)



Liberals are not immoral or amoral, they are political

Kawartha Lakes This Week - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$16

Reach: 29544 Page: 1

To the editor:

Mark Waghorne wants to know if the Liberals plans for reducing **Hydro** prices is immoral or amoral.

At the end of the day it can be summed up as "politics."

In the recent policy release, the Tories committed to reducing **Hydro** bills by 12.5 per cent on top of what the current government has done.

So either they will immediately pay back the money the Liberals have borrowed to make the cuts and find the money elsewhere or they are going to leave in place and then fund the extra 12.5 per cent cut.

In other words, after condemning the Liberals for mortgaging the future the Tories will most likely use it as a springboard for their own promised savings.

It's all just politics.

Marc Dodsworth

Peterborough

[Back to Top](#)



Climate-change action plans being developed for seven Midland-area municipalities

Midland Mirror - Tue Dec 19 2017

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$826

Reach: 19850 Page: 1

Sustainable Severn Sound is undertaking a massive initiative, which will involve creating **Climate** Change Action Plans for seven area municipalities: **Midland**, Penenetanguishene, Oro-Medonte, Tiny, Tay, Severn and Georgian **Bay** Township.

The first step of the project is to map out the **energy** consumption for each municipality and create a greenhouse **gas** inventory to establish a baseline of data. This data will then be analyzed and goals will be set to help communities cut down on pollution levels and move towards a low-carbon future.

"We have contacted **Hydro One**, Enbridge **Union Gas** and local providers such as **Midland PUC** to collect **energy** consumption data on a postal code level to see the baseline current greenhouse **gas** emissions that each community is currently emitting," said Victoria Ervick, **Climate** Change Action **Plan** coordinator.

In the new year, Ervick plans on contacting all seven municipalities to collect specific **energy** consumption data for each.

"We will be reaching out to municipalities to get corporate data such as wastewater statistics, or how much they are spending on fuel for their municipal fleet," said Ervick.

While undertaking a project to create seven different **climate** change action plans might seem like a daunting task, Ervick believes the scope of the project makes sense due to the inter-connectedness of the region.

"These municipalities are so inter-connected. A lot of people live in **Midland** and work in Penetanguishene or vice versa. Doing this on the watershed level puts everyone in the same position to move forward," said Ervick.

The **public** is going to have several opportunities to influence the direction of these **climate** change efforts. An online survey has been released calling for the region's "**climate** changers" to offer their thoughts on what issues are important to them.

The survey, which can be found through the Sustainable Severn Sound website, touches on eight sectors: people and health, economy and employment, ecological assets and water, **transportation**, **energy**, waste, land use planning and agriculture and local food.

"When people think of **climate** change they think of it globally. They don't bring it back to their local scale. People think it isn't happening here, but it is all inter-connected. What is happening globally is happening here," said Ervick.

In the early spring, Sustainable Severn Sound plans on hosting an interactive **public** seminar on **climate** change. This will aim to start the local conversation around **climate** change, see what ways it is impacting the region and how we can begin to mitigate those impacts.

Once all of the data is collected it will be used, along with **public** opinion, to develop individual **climate** change actions plans for each of the seven municipalities.

With funding for the initiative coming through the **Ontario** Trillium Foundation, the project has hard deadlines. A report, including **energy** saving recommendations for each municipality, has to be released by June.

The **public** will have a chance to comment provide input on the report. These comments will be taken into consideration and a final report will be completed by the summer.

[Back to Top](#)



Family and friends mourn Orillia man killed in Hydro One helicopter crash

Orillia Today - Wed Dec 20 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$237
Reach: 22244 Page: 1

Family and friends are mourning the death of an **Orillia** man, one of four **Hydro** One employees killed in a Dec. 14 helicopter crash in Tweed.

James Baragar, the 39-year-old helicopter pilot, had been with **Hydro** One since May 2009, the company said in a statement.

He leaves behind a wife and two children.

A celebration of life will be held Dec. 28 at Steam Whistle Brewing in **Toronto** from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Guests are invited to bring handwritten memories and/or photographs of Baragar, to be included in a scrapbook for his children.

In lieu of flowers, donations to an education fund for his children, Jackson and Lincoln, can be made at any RBC location to transit #01256, account #508-507-1.

More information to come.

[Back to Top](#)



Celebration of life planned for Orillia man killed in Hydro One helicopter crash | CTV Barrie News

barrie.ctvnews.ca · Wed Dec 20 2017
Tone: **Neutral**

A celebration life is planned for an Orillia man who died in last week's Hydro One helicopter crash in eastern Ontario.

[Back to Top](#)



Over \$130 million contract signed for Bruce Power steam generator replacement

Kincardine News · Thu Dec 21 2017
Tone: **Neutral** Page: A10

A **contract** valued at over \$130 million has been signed to replace steam generators at Unit 6 of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station in **Ontario**, Canada.

A fully integrated joint venture formed between AECOM, Aecon and AREVA NP - the Steam Generator Replacement Team (SGRT) - was signed Dec. 12, 2017 and work is scheduled to reach substantial completion in the first quarter of 2022.

In addition to the **contract** for Unit 6, SGRT signed a long-term Preferred Supplier Agreement, with a firm pricing structure, for steam generator replacements at the plant's remaining five units as part of the Bruce **Power** Major Component Replacement (MCR) project.

"Replacement of steam generators is a key part of the Major Component Replacement project," said Mike Rencheck, president and CEO of Bruce **Power**. "We have established an agreement for the Unit 6 steam generator replacement to start and to establish a firm path for steam generator replacements in our subsequent five units, securing both resources and estimates for future work. Partnerships, like this one, set up our life extension program for success by bringing certainty, innovation and technology, which are critical in building a high-performing team that is prepared to deliver projects on

time and on budget."

The agreement, with provisions for a long-term partnership through 2032, gives Bruce **Power** the benefit of experience and relationships of multiple projects, and allows SGRT to establish a long-term presence in the Bruce **Power** community.

"We are proud to serve as a longterm strategic partner with Bruce **Power** to support their Major Component Replacement project," said Robert J. LoCurto, president of SGT, a company co-owned by AREVA NP and AECOM, and chairman of the SGRT Executive Committee. "SGRT provides the depth and experience of Aecon in **Canadian** nuclear projects with SGT's experience with steam generator replacement and the resources of AECOM and AREVA NP. With our team based in Kincardine, **Ontario**, we are committed to developing our workforce locally and becoming an integral part of the community."

This award to SGRT is the initial phase of Bruce **Power**'s MCR project. It includes the removal of the eight original steam generators at Unit 6 and the installation of replacement steam generators with related plant modifications.

SGRT is currently completing the engineering work for the Unit 6 steam generator replacements.

In **nuclear energy** facilities, steam generators use heated water to create steam, a key step in the process of producing **electricity**.

"The Bruce Nuclear Generating Station will play a key role in supplying clean, reliable and affordable **energy** to **Ontario** and will create skilled jobs to stimulate the local economy," said John M. Beck, president and chief executive officer, Aecon Group Inc. "This **contract** illustrates Aecon's diverse, industry-leading expertise in the nuclear industry and we look forward to working with Bruce **Power** and strengthening relationships with our joint venture partners as we support this critical project."

"SGRT brings together companies widely recognized for their expertise across the **nuclear energy**, construction and infrastructure industries," said Nicolas Maes, executive vice president of AREVA NP's Installed Base Business Unit. "Through this work, AREVA NP will support local economic growth and help to ensure that the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station powers **Ontario** with reliable, low-carbon **electricity** for decades to come."

AECOM has performed steam generator replacements at 24 nuclear units over the last 25 years through our SGT joint venture with AREVA NP, said Art Lembo, president of AECOM's **power** business unit.

"We are pleased to take the capabilities of this successful enterprise and combine forces with Aecon to perform this important work for Bruce **Power**," Lembo said.

[Back to Top](#)

Wind farm subsidizes Walpole ferry rates



Chatham This Week - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: David Gough

Page: A23

Members of the Walpole Island First Nation now pay a reduced **rate** when they take a ride on the Walpole Island-Algonac Ferry, thanks to the community's stake in a **wind** farm near Grand Bend.

As of the start of December, Walpole Island status band members pay \$5 a trip. The **rate** for everybody else is \$8.

Walpole Island First Nation has owned the ferry for a few years.

Ferry general manager Lorne Loulas said a **wind** farm project in Lambton County that's partially owned by Walpole Island is subsidizing the cost for band members. The Grand Bend **Wind Farm** is a partnership between Northland **Power** (who owns 50 per cent) and Giiwedini Noodin First Nation **Energy Corporation**, which is formed by Aamjiwnaang and Walpole Island. Both First Nations own a 25 per cent stake.

Loulas said band members have been calling for a reduced **rate** for the ferry. Walpole Island council recently made a motion for the Walpole Island Algonac Ferry Ltd. board look at a possible **rate** decrease for band members.

"It was approved at our board level," Loulas said.

For non-natives who use the ferry often, ferry operators are looking at possibly bringing in a pass system, where they will get a free ride for every eight rides purchased.

"So this way they get a bit of a benefit as well."

Loulas said they're also looking at possibly bringing in free wifi on the ferry, as well as debit machines in the future.

"All are being looked into right now, and hopefully to be introduced to the **public** in the near future."

[Back to Top](#)

CourierPress

Residents rally to oppose noise bylaw exemption; C-K denies request to extend construction hours for wind farm project

Wallaceburg Courier Press - Thu Dec 21 2017

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Ellwood Shreve

Ad Value: \$332

Reach: 8941 Page: A31

Several local residents rallied to make sure their opposition was immediately known to a noise bylaw exemption **application** for the **North Kent One Wind Farm** project.

The **application** was being sought to allow construction on the 34-**wind turbine** project in the former Chatham Township area to occur all night as well as on Sundays and holidays from Dec. 1 to March 31, 2018. The developer wanted the leeway to pour foundations and erect turbines during this time.

Chatham-Kent's director of building services Paul Lacina said the request was denied to due to objections received from the **public** and inconsistency with the principles established by council within the bylaw.

Lacina said the calls, emails and texts he personally received was well over 100 on this issue. He added objections were also received by council members and other administrative staff.

"Most times we do an exemption, we don't get anyone calling, or maybe a handful of people, but nothing like the number of calls we received for this issue," he said.

Postmedia Network received an email from Pattern **Energy**, one of the developers of the project, that the exemption was requested in case the construction schedule was delayed.

The email added, "but we have remained on schedule, so there is no need for evening work."

Controversy has swirled around the project with several property owners experiencing water well problems, including turbid water and wells being clogged with sediments, which they blame on the pile driving to install spiels for erecting the turbines.

"I heard lots about it," said Coun. Michael Bondy, adding the request to have construction go 24/7 as well as on holidays upset many people.

Bondy said a comment he saw on social media was "first they took our water, now they're going to take our sleep."

The councillor said people were also upset with the timing of an advertisement in a local Chatham weekly newspaper to provide **public** notice of the **application** for the bylaw a day before the company wanted it to begin.

Lacina said there wasn't any intention to not give people time to object, noting the applicant was late in submitting the noise bylaw **application**.

He added the notice included the dates the applicant was seeking, but the exemption wasn't going to be granted the next day.

Lacina also explained the inconsistency with the principles of the bylaw, which was the other reason the **application** was denied.

He said the basis for the noise bylaw is to ensure people can enjoy their property without being inconvenienced or annoyed by different noises, such as people playing music late into the night or construction.

As an example, Lacina said the Ministry of **Transportation** often requests noise bylaw exemptions to work at night, but it is usually on Highway 401 where there are no houses nearby. He added the work is often done at night due to **public** safety reasons, such as not wanting to close Highway 401 during a busy holiday season.

Lacina said many factors are considered when an exemption is sought for the noise bylaw, such as who will be affected, the time frame requested, and if the request exceeds what the noise bylaw is designed for.

"We felt that there was a concern on a number of fronts," he said.

Lacina noted the developer is currently allowed to work until 11 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

"I'm glad it was denied," Bondy said, adding many residents in the area "feel they're getting burned by these **wind turbine** companies in the first place."

[Back to Top](#)