Infomart Newsletters

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Subject:	Morning News Clippings - Thursday, January 25, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Thursday, January 25, 2018
Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 13 Results

Innisfil residents can expect InnPower survey call

Innisfil Journal - Tue Jan 23 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $22
Reach: 10070 **Page:** 1

InnPower Corporation has announced it is doing a survey of customers on **electrical** safety awareness. Customers with the **hydro utility** may receive a phone call from a market research firm ...

Mayor wants cap on public exec salaries

Toronto Sun - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Antonella Artuso

Ad Value: $4,091
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A8

Mayor John Tory wants a cap on salaries in **Toronto** Hydro's upper management, but thinks it's too late to do anything about the current crop of well-compensated executives. **Toronto Hydro** CEO Anthony Haines received ...

How to worsen Ontario's power plan

National Post - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Parker Gallant

Ad Value: $6,245

Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP11

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Liberals want to keep spending our money

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Buying Canadian could save eastern refineries millions, says CERI study - Calgary - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed Jan 24 2018
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Paul Crawford noted on Wednesday, January 24, 2018
Energy East is mentioned.

A study by the Canadian Energy Research Institute concludes that refineries in Central and Atlantic Canada would benefit in terms of lower supply costs and lower global greenhouse gas emissions if they bought more Canadian crude oil.

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Innisfil residents can expect InnPower survey call

Innisfil Journal - Tue Jan 23 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $22
Reach: 10070 **Page:** 1

InnPower Corporation has announced it is doing a survey of customers on electrical safety awareness.

Customers with the hydro utility may receive a phone call from a market research firm named Utility PULSE.

Anyone over the age of 18 will be asked questions that will measure their level of knowledge of electrical safety.

The survey is required under the company's licence as a distributor of electricity with the Ontario Energy Board.

The survey started Jan. 22 and will continue for several weeks.

At the same time, Metroline Research will be conducting a customer engagement research survey for InnPower customers over the next few weeks as well. Random customers will be called and asked to participate.

If you have any questions with either survey, call 705-431-4321.

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Mayor wants cap on public exec salaries

Toronto Sun - Thu Jan 25 2018
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Mayor John Tory wants a cap on salaries in Toronto Hydro's upper management, but thinks it's too late to do anything about the current crop of well-compensated executives.

Toronto Hydro CEO Anthony Haines received more than $1 million in salary, bonuses and incentives in 2016.

Other executives earned compensation of between $280,643 and $521,238.

"We can't obviously retroactively change the contracts of people who've been hired before, and I'm not talking about any particular individuals," Tory said Wednesday.

The mayor said he's asking staff to report on a possible upper limit for compensation across the broader municipal public sector, not just Toronto Hydro.

The city should be able to get great talent at a reasonable price, he said.

"It's time that we sort of said, 'Fine, we're going to have some stricter rules on that, but they have to apply going forward as opposed to going back,'" Tory said.

The City of **Toronto** owns **Toronto Hydro**, which distributes **electricity** and maintains street and expressway lighting, and city councillors do sit on its board of directors, including a mayor's designate.

A spokesperson for **Toronto Hydro** said it would be inappropriate to comment Wednesday as the matter of management compensation was being discussed at city executive committee.

The highest paid provincial **public** servant, according to the 2017 Sunshine List, was the head of **Ontario Power Generation** at $1.2 million a year.

OPG operates a number of **power** generation facilities, including nuclear plants.

That same year, the CEO of **Hydro** One, which was semiprivatized by the Wynne government, was paid $4.4 million in salary and bonuses.

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How to worsen Ontario's power plan

National Post - Thu Jan 25 2018
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Byline: Parker Gallant

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When the province of **Ontario** in October announced its **Fair Hydro Plan**, which lowered **electricity rates** to current **ratepayers** by 25 per cent - by passing on costs to future **ratepayers** - the Association of Major **Power** Consumers of **Ontario** (AMPCO) had a problem. The group, representing companies in the province that consume significant **energy** in their production, took issue with a claim in the province's revised Long-Term **Energy Plan** (LTEP) that stated: "Currently, the **electricity** price for industrial **electricity** consumers in **Ontario** is lower than the average price in the Great Lakes region as reported by the U.S. **Energy** Information Administration."

Objected AMPCO at the time: "That statement sends the message that **Ontario** industrial prices are already competitive with surrounding jurisdictions. That is simply not the case."

AMPCO had lobbied long and hard for special treatment under **Ontario**'s rising **power rates**. It got that several years ago when the provincial **energy** minister directed the **Ontario Power Authority** to develop and deliver a program that would bring relief to large industrial companies. The program - which required that the large industrial "Class A" **ratepayers** drive down peak demand - commenced in 2011 and has grown since then as more and more industrial clients were allowed to qualify with lower and lower consumption limits. Joining the Class A **ratepayers** can result in substantial savings, achieved on the backs of the rest of **Ontario**'s **ratepayers** who are the "Class B" group, made up of households and smaller businesses.

The extent of the subsidy from the Class B **ratepayers** to the A class can be seen on the province's **Independent Electricity** System Operator's website, where monthly consumption and costs for each class are outlined. In 2017, Class A **ratepayers** consumed 33 TWh (terawatt hours), sticking them with a surcharge of $1.7 billion or 5.1 cents/kWh, their share of what the province calls a "Global Adjustment" - a grab-bag of subsidies to renewables, conservation, nuclear and other non-market costs. Class B **ratepayers**, meanwhile, consumed 104 TWh, yet were required to pay $10.2 billion, or 9.8 cents/kWh.

In effect, AMPCO's Class A **ratepayers** made off like bandits given **Ontario**'s electricity regime, paying 42 per cent less on average than Class B ratepayers paid. Yet, last month, AMPCO's president complained that wasn't enough. "The provincial government's Fair Hydro Plan, rolled out earlier this year, is intended to reduce electricity bills for residential customers by 25 per cent. Unfortunately, almost none of it applies to large industrial customers, who continue to watch their bills increase and their competitiveness and ability to attract capital decrease. An industrial Fair Hydro Plan would help to preserve and create jobs and would grow the economy."

That conclusion is perverse and harmful to Ontarians. An industrial Fair Hydro Plan wouldn't "grow the economy," unless the subsidies built into it magically wouldn't have to be repaid.

AMPCO's president should have instead criticized the government for creating the highest electricity rates in Canada and among the highest in North America. He should also have reminded the government that the Fair Hydro Plan's advertised 25 per cent cut to hydro rates is only a cynical deferral, meant to assuage voters, and will have to be paid back in future years by Class B ratepayers, their children and grandchildren.

Parker Gallant is a retired bank executive who looked at his electricity bill and didn't like what he saw.

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New gas plants under scrutiny in wake of trial

thestar.com - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Rob Ferguson
Reach: 999000

Seven years after sparking a major scandal that culminated in last week's criminal conviction (www.thestar.com) of a former top Dalton McGuinty aide, two gas plants are back on the radar as critics question the need for them.

The natural gas-fired power plants abruptly axed (www.thestar.com) in Mississauga and Oakville by the former premier before the 2011 election have since found new life near Sarnia and Napanee at a cost of over $1 billion - but as demand for electricity declines.

Now known as the Green Electron power plant, the Sarnia-area facility began operating in March and was called upon to supply power to the grid just 33 days last year, according to official figures from the provincial Independent Electricity System Operator.

Still under construction, the Napanee Generating Station isn't slated to begin providing electricity until late this year. It is located next door to an older power plant, which also doesn't run often.

"These are just monuments to the Liberals looking after themselves," New Democrat MPP Peter Tabuns (Toronto-Danforth), his party's energy critic, says of the two new facilities.

Opposition parties have long accused McGuinty of scrapping the locally unpopular plants to save Liberal seats at public expense in the 2011 vote that reduced his government to a minority. The former premier has stated the sites ended up being too close to residential areas.

Ontario's auditor general concluded (www.thestar.com) in 2013 that cancelling the plants and moving them to new locations as part of costly legal settlements with their private builders, TransCanada in Napanee and Eastern Power in Sarnia, could cost up to $1.1 billion over 20 years.

Energy Minister **Glenn Thibeault** maintains the plants are still needed for two reasons: as back-ups to help keep the lights on in the event other plants fail; and when **power** demand peaks, as in September's unexpected heat wave following a cool summer.

"We do need redundancy but we also need to ensure that we constantly meet the demands ... we do have times in the winter and, especially in the summer, there are times, many times, when everything we have is going and we're pulling in (**electricity**) from other jurisdictions."

Progressive Conservative **energy** critic Todd Smith insists the **gas** plants court case will serve as a reminder to voters with the June 7 provincial election approaching.

"I think there were a lot of people last Friday when the court ruling came down that went, 'oh yeah, that was still going on?'"

One-time McGuinty chief of staff David Livingston was found guilty of a "scorched earth" scheme to delete documents in the wake of the **gas** plants controversy before Premier Kathleen Wynne took **power** from McGuinty in February 2013.

"It makes people mad, obviously. And as much as there was a guilty verdict in that trial, we're not getting that $1-plus-billion back. That's gone," adds Smith, MPP for Prince Edward-Hastings.

"Where does that end up? On your **electricity** bill."

The plants are coming on line as demand for **electricity** has been steadily falling for years, to 132.1 terawatt hours last year from 153.4 TWh in 2004. A terawatt hour is equivalent to one trillion watts consumed in one hour.

But **Ontario**'s **Independent Electricity** System Operator, which runs **Ontario**'s day-to-day **power** needs, says it is looking ahead because **power** needs must be planned years in advance to avoid **energy** shortages.

"We're always trying to anticipate demand," says spokesman Jordan Penic. "The **gas** facilities are going to be used more over the refurbishment period," he adds, referring to major upgrades of nuclear reactors at the Darlington and Bruce stations.

"We see needs arising in the **electricity** system in the early 2020s."

New locations for the scrapped Mississauga and **Oakville** plants were chosen because a coal-fired generating station was shutting down near Sarnia, meaning there was room to hook up a new plant to major **transmission** lines already in the area.

Ditto with the Napanee plant, next door to **Ontario Power Generation**'s Lennox station near Lake **Ontario** along a major **hydro transmission** corridor that can ship the **power** to the **Greater Toronto** Area where it's needed, Penic says.

Conservative MPP Randy Hillier, whose riding of Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington includes the Napanee plants, bristles at that logic.

"They cancel the plant down in **Oakville** where there's big demand, and they relocate it to eastern **Ontario** where there's no demand, beside an existing generating station that they don't really use."

Tabuns notes the costs of operating the plants fall on **hydro ratepayers** as soon as they begin supplying the grid.

"That's not part of the $1.1 billion," he says in reference to the auditor's figure. "That's on top of it. Ka-ching."

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Why rebuild nuclear plants?; Safety concerns put Darlington project on pause, Jan. 22

Toronto Star - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Positive
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Reach: 361323 **Page:** A14

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Does it make sense to pay seven times more to rebuild aging nuclear reactors than to enhance **energy** efficiency?

Why are we rebuilding nuclear reactors that have to run 24/7 when demand is falling and supply patterns are being rapidly changed by the introduction of low-cost renewable sources?

Isn't cheap **hydro power** from Quebec a much more sensible alternative?

If Premier Kathleen Wynne loves the people of **Ontario**, these are questions she needs to answer, intelligently and honestly, before the next election.

Go renewable. Feel the updraft of good sense.

Barry Healey, Scarborough

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Your letters: Buying Quebec hydro makes more sense than rebuilding nuclear plants

thestar.com - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Positive **Reach:** 999000

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If Premier Kathleen Wynne loves the people of **Ontario**, these are questions she needs to answer, intelligently and honestly, before the next election.

Otherwise we'll have Conservatives running our government further into deficit (even further than the Liberals).

Go renewable. Feel the updraft of good sense.

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Liberals want to keep spending our money

Peterborough Examiner · Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Mark Williamson

Ad Value: $504
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

I read with interest Jeff Leal's speech to the Rotarians and the one thing that stood out was that he is not finished the job and plans on spending more and more money.

The last thing this province needs is more debt and higher taxes, because that is the only way to satisfy his spending and liberal waste.

This province is so close to bankruptcy nobody wants to talk about it fearing the end result. It seems everything Mr. Leal and the Liberals do is never thought through and ends up costing more in the long run. The **gas** plant cancellation cost $1 billion. The smart meters cost billions, **electricity rate** reduction costs billions in subsidies, the minimum wage increase is costing millions in subsidies, **electricity rates** have skyrocketed and you know to set up and establish marijuana sales outlets is going to cost billions where all they had to do was sell licenses and sit back and collect the taxes.

It is going to take decades to pay for all these spending mistakes. Your children's children will be feeling the effect of these policies.

Finally, let's not forget for all the time Mr.

Leal was our MMP the unemployment **rate** in **Peterborough** was the highest in Canada for all but one, maybe two years tops, but it was near the top in those periods also. The only way to sustain this province and our city is through job creation, not spending. If you continue to put up barriers for employers you will never have enough money you so desperately want to spend. Socialism only works until you run out of other people's money.

Mark Williamson

Rishor Cres.

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Former Hydro One negotiator to lead Orillia's economic development

Orillia Today · Tue Jan 23 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $534
Reach: 22244 **Page:** 1

A former **Hydro** One employee who served as principal negotiator in the company's bid for **Orillia**'s **power distribution utility** has been hired as the city's interim director of economic development.

In a statement, Mayor Steve Clarke welcomed Richard Bertolo to the job, adding council was "confident that he will provide a tremendous level of assistance and mentorship to the department."

Bertolo, whose hiring was approved by council Jan. 22, fills a role left vacant following the sudden departure of Ian Bromley in early November.

Coun. Mason Ainsworth was alone in voting against the new hire, arguing the process should have been made **public** given Bertolo's involvement in the **Hydro** One negotiations.

"Richard has a phenomenal resume and he has had some great work experience, but I just think the context of that - as we are still in the process of dealing with **Hydro** One - makes people ask a lot of questions about what's actually going on behind the scenes," Ainsworth said.

Bertolo brings a wealth of experience to the job, including negotiating the purchase and sale of **utilities** in South and Central America, said Coun. Ted Emond.

His involvement in **Orillia**'s **Hydro** One negotiations should not be viewed as a negative, he added.

"The fact that he is knowledgeable about the **Hydro** One deal will only be a real asset to us once the deal is authorized by the **Ontario Energy Board**, and we can go forward and begin to do economic development around the facilities that **Hydro** One will be bringing to the city," he added.

Residents who attended a January 2016 **public** meeting focusing on the proposed sale of **Orillia** **Power**'s **distribution** arm may remember Bertolo, who was **Hydro** One's director of value growth at the time.

When an audience member was critical of the company for tying a proposed technology hub to the **utility**'s sale, Bertolo replied that **Hydro** One only located facilities in the communities it served.

"If you're not my customers, I'd have no need to put facilities here," he said.

Bertolo retired from **Hydro** One in 2017 and starts work with the city Jan. 24.

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Upcoming Ontario election is Progressive Conservative Party's to lose

Peterborough This Week - Wed Jan 24 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $33
Reach: 47038 **Page:** 1

This June, **Ontario** will head to the polls.

The fact is, whether anyone wants to admit it yet, the Progressive Conservative Party should win the election with ease.

It shouldn't be close. The Liberals have been in **power** far too long (15 years). They seem bereft of new ideas and **energy**.

And the people are angry.

Whether it's rising **electricity** prices, the minimum wage hike or an economy that seems to continue to sputter, voters are not happy.

Yet, the Liberals could still win. In their 15 years in government, they have skated past a number of scandals.

It's a testament to both their political acumen as well as the weakness of their opposition.

But if the Liberals remain in **power** following the June 7 election, the Progressive Conservative Party will need to take a long look in the mirror.

If they can't beat a Liberal Party under these circumstances, it's unclear if they ever could.

In Peterborough, MPP Jeff Leal should be in for quite the challenge. Peterborough's Progressive Conservatives have put forward Dave Smith, a well-connected member of the community who appears to fall more on the fiscal conservative side of the aisle. He's well-known, a good public speaker and pretty sharp. It's hard to see the party selecting someone more capable.

The only thing that may save MPP Leal from losing his seat is the fact he may not face a strong challenge from his political left.

The NDP had just two names come forward in Peterborough to carry the party's standard in the upcoming provincial election - teenager Zach Hatton and 20-something Sean Conway. Conway, a talented Peterborough musician, came out on top.

On one hand, it's encouraging to see two young men be so actively engaged in politics.

On the other hand, it should be concerning to the NDP that they did not have a more competitive nomination process.

Regardless, this upcoming election is not just about whether Ontario is sick of the Liberal Party, but whether they are ready to trust the Progressive Conservative Party with power once again.

Mike Lacey is digital news editor of myKawartha.com.

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Lakeshore News

Windsor-Essex Regional and Ontario Chambers call for tax reform, smart spending to support Ontario business, communities

Lakeshore News - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $372
Reach: 9480 **Page:** A6

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WER-CC), in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC), has provided the Ontario government with 11 recommendations for the upcoming provincial budget that will help businesses manage costs, offer smart spending ideas, and help secure the province's competitive advantage.

"Employers of all sizes in the Windsor-Essex region are feeling the pressure and uncertainty from rising costs including a 400 per cent increase in electricity costs, cap and trade costs, NAFTA uncertainty, border uncertainty, and the implementation of Bill 148," said WERCC president and CEO Matt Marchand.

"The WERCC is concerned about business confidence in Ontario's economy."

"Ontario needs comprehensive tax reform that encourages investment, reinvestment, and reduction in red tape, such as one-stop shopping as described in the WERCC's non-partisan Policy and Solutions Forum in 2016," he added.

"In addition, as the U.S. implements one of their largest tax reforms in 30 years that essentially negates Ontario's previous tax advantages, we must find more ways to keep Ontario competitive."

Ontario's Chamber Network is recommending the government reinstate the scheduled corporate income tax rate from 11.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

The submission also calls on the harmonization of the Business Education Tax across the province, as well as targeted reductions to the Employer Health tax.

Another recommendation includes gradually increasing the 'Heads and Beds Levy'on institutions to $100 per bed and then **tie** future yearly increases to the **Consumer** Price Index (CPI).

Since 1987, the annual in lieu of taxes or "Heads and Beds Levy" on specified institutions has not been raised from $75.

Municipalities with post-secondary institutions, hospitals, and correctional facilities face significant competitive disadvantages when compare to other municipalities and must make up for lost revenue in other ways, including property tax increases.

The economic impact of the increase could be realized by municipalities, such as Windsor-**Essex**, immediately.

The **Ontario** Chamber Network is also asking the government to preserve tax exemptions of private health and dental plans.

Taxation of private health and dental plans could potentially place a heavy cost on a strained primary health care system and would likely translate into a loss of coverage for about one million Ontarians and their dependants.

The recommendations outlined in the OCC's pre-budget submission all come directly from **Ontario**'s Chamber Network through policy resolutions at the OCC's annual general meeting.

Read the full submission and all 11 recommendations at OCC.ca

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Ontario households drowning in red ink

THE TRIBUNE

Welland Tribune - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $330
Reach: 13164 **Page:** A4

When Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz recently announced a hike in interest **rates**, even though it was just a quarter of a point, too many people immediately went into a panic. Raising a bank's benchmark lending **rate** by a quarter of a percentage point from the almost as-low-as-you-can-go one per cent should not have folks figuratively standing on the ledge and looking to jump.

But it did. While low interest **rates** going back to 2010 have supported economic growth, they have also created a situation where people - especially Ontarians - are spending beyond their means and racking up debt, all in the great hope that interest **rates** will forever remain low.

Ontario's Financial Accountability Office (FAO) just released a report assessing the debt burden of the province's households, and the financial vulnerability they are facing as interest **rates** begin to creep higher.

And it doesn't look good. Last year, says the FAO, the average **Ontario** household owed nearly $154,000, up $35,000 from 2010. Of that, $103,000 was mortgage indebtedness. But the days of cheap mortgage loans are coming to an end.

As a share to disposable income, total household debt reached a whopping 171 per cent in 2016 - 21 percentage point higher than in 2010, and eight points higher than households in the rest of Canada.

We can blame the Wynne Liberals for a portion of this, of course, since they are driving people out of house and home with the tax costs associated with various billiondollar boondoggles, their green **energy** experiment that lit a rocket under **electricity rates**, and their lust to put everything on the figurative credit card.

Free pharmacare for young people and free college and university tuition, to cite just two recent Liberal boasts, are not "free." They cost each and every **Ontario** taxpayer a little more of their disposable income to the point that it is now drowning in red ink.

Soon to be gone as interest **rates** rise, and debt payments build, is the discretionary money that households use to bring a little joy into their lives with occasional nights out at restaurants and putting their kids in sports programs.

The time is now, therefore, to get our households in order.

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Turbine collapse noted in Dutton Dunwich; Mayor says CK incident is particularly concerning

Chatham This Week - Thu Jan 25 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Tom Morrison
Page: A8

The buckling of a **wind turbine** tower in the southern area of Chatham-Kent is another reason to be concerned about a proposed **wind** farm in Dutton Dunwich.

The incident occurred sometime between late Jan. 18 and early Jan. 19 at the Raleigh **Wind Energy Centre** on 16 Line.

The tower appeared to be broken in half with the top half inverted and the **wind** blades damaged by the impact. No one was injured.

Dutton Dunwich Mayor Cameron McWilliam said the incident particularly concerning because the original owners of the Raleigh project - Invenergy - is the same company behind the proposed project in his municipality.

"Normally when that happens, any new construction it's all halted until it can be determined what happened," he said Monday. "It just makes sense."

McWilliam said he has always had an issue with how the Dutton Dunwich project - known as the Strong Breeze **Wind** Project - proposes setbacks of 550 metres from a house, which he said is not far enough considering the **greater** length of the towers.

The turbines at the Raleigh farm are 80 metres high, according to a 2009 document from the **Ontario** Ministry of the Environment. But Invenergy has proposed the towers in Dutton Dunwich be 110 metres high.

"A taller structure has a bigger **turbine**, bigger blades," said McWilliam. "It's just common sense prevails that you know there's going to be more noise and more potential for vibration."

The collapse was a first for Chatham-Kent, which is home to over 500 **wind** turbines.

McWilliam said he believes "they've just been lucky in Chatham-Kent." He pointed to other incidents in Europe, as well as a **turbine** that caught fire in **Huron** County.

Jamie Littlejohn, a spokesperson with Dutton Dunwich Opponents of **Wind** Turbines, said it could only take one **turbine** collapse in his municipality to cause injuries.

"If one person is killed, what does that mean? I guess it just depends on how you value things, I suppose," he said.

Littlejohn said he mostly blames the provincial government more because they are allowing **wind** companies to move ahead without addressing residents' concerns.

He said he would like to see the Ministry of Environment and **Climate** Change take action following the Chatham-Kent incident, but doesn't expect them to do much.

"I want them to put a stop to them all. That's what I would like to see happen, not just in Dutton Dunwich, but throughout **Ontario**," he said.

"That's what I would like to see, until the engineering is looked at a little better, find out what actually happened. There should be a moratorium on them."

McWilliam said he has received several emails from community members about the incident in Chatham-Kent and he expects his council will discuss it at a future meeting.

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Buying Canadian could save eastern refineries millions, says CERI study - Calgary - CBC News

www.cbc.ca - Wed Jan 24 2018
Tone: Neutral

A study by the Canadian Energy Research Institute concludes that refineries in Central and Atlantic Canada would benefit in terms of lower supply costs and lower global greenhouse gas emissions if they bought more Canadian crude oil.

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