

Infomart Newsletters

From: Infomart Newsletters
Sent: May 9, 2018 7:47 AM
To: Rosemarie Leclair
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, May 9, 2018

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Morning News Clippings

powered by:

Date: Wednesday, May 9, 2018
 Edited by: Paul Crawford (Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca)

[Contact Editor](#)

Clippings Summary

News - 22 Results



Big jump in unpaid bills for Oshawa hydro after winter disconnection ban

Oshawa This Week - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value:\$2,237

Reach: 111985 Page: 1

OSHAWA - A moratorium on **hydro disconnections** over the winter has resulted in more and bigger overdue bills for **Oshawa** residents who are now facing disconnection if they can't settle up. Ivano ...



Is Hydro takeover in public interest?

Toronto Star - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jennifer Wells Toronto Star

Ad Value:\$27,222

Reach: 361323 Page: B1

"Please don't sell us to Canada." That refrain, or versions of it, is on full display at the Idaho **Public Utilities** Commission, which admittedly isn't everyone's go-to entertainment site. But it is vitally important for this ...



PICK YOUR PREMIER; The campaign for the June 7 Ontario election officially kicks off today and it promises to be one of the liveliest in years. An unpopular sitting Liberal premier, an untested mercurial PC leader, an NDP chief hoping it's third

time lucky in a provincial campaign, and a Green leader desperate to finally win his party's first seat in the legislature. Even in the turbocharged, hyperbolic age of Trump, it has all the elements of an electrifying election. Here are the major party leaders and their platforms

Toronto Star - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$18,860

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

Kathleen Wynne Liberal Age: 65 on May 21 Hometown: Richmond Hill
Occupation: Premier of **Ontario** since February 2013, the first woman to hold that position Political experience: MPP since 2003 and a former school board trustee prior ...

Campaign kickoff: Several tight election races to watch in Hamilton

thespec.com - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: ereilly@thespec.com

Reach: 90600

As the four major party leaders vie for the province's top job, here in Hamilton veteran politicians, rookies and rivals are battling to be your representative at Queen's Park. Ontario's 42nd general election campaign begins Wednesday, with Andrea ...

What on Earth is the responsible Ontario voter to do?; Ontarians face a choice between the devil they know, an ill-informed blowhard and an unimpressive politician

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: MARCUS GEE

Ad Value: \$16,625

Reach: 309154 Page: A12

Pity the voters of **Ontario**. They are to cast their ballots in a provincial election on June 7. Campaigning is to begin officially on Wednesday. The options before them are abysmal. Option 1 is to go with the devil they know and re-elect ...

10 good reasons not to vote Liberal on June 7

Toronto Sun - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$3,872

Reach: 171076 Page: A5

If the best indicator of future performance is past practice, then 10 key findings by the **independent**, non-partisan **Ontario** auditor general suggest why it would be a bad idea to re-elect Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals next ...

NOT SOLD ON FORD

Toronto Sun - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lori Sandy

Ad Value: \$1,072

Reach: 171076 Page: A14

I know many are angry at the Wynne government and rightly so. Transparency on **energy** issues has been lacking and I, too, am frustrated with high **hydro** bills. I will vote for a politician from any party who is a hard worker with ...

Ford offers complaints, but no Hydro solutions

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$368

Reach: 3014 Page: A4

Executives at the **power** company **Hydro One** is buying in the U.S. northwest will be paid severance if **Hydro One** fires them, Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford announced angrily on Friday. ...

Anger may not be enough of a platform for Ford

The Sault Star - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mohammed Adam

Ad Value: \$1,080

Reach: 17077 Page: A6

Several commentators have taken Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford to task - as they should - for not releasing a fully costed platform, even as what could well be a seminal provincial election gets closer and closer. Party platforms are ...

Doug Ford campaign confirms actors were hired to play the part of PC supporters at Monday's debate rally | The Star

www.thestar.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

Doug Ford's campaign has confirmed that actors were hired to play Progressive Conservative supporters outside the Monday night leaders' debate in the June 7 provincial election.

Kathleen Wynne admits Doug Ford is giving her sleepless nights | The Star

www.thestar.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

As the Ontario election officially begins, Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne admits Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford is giving her sleepless nights.

Board of trade supports nuclear extension in Pickering



Pickering News Advertiser - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,308

Reach: 51400 Page: 1

PICKERING - While the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade supports **Ontario Power** Generation's **application** to continue operations at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, those in opposition to the proposal question ...

Grieving the loss of electricity

The Hamilton Spectator - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Sheryl Nadler

Ad Value: \$4,061

Reach: 103267 Page: G8

Last week I, like many of you, came home to a devastating discovery: no **electricity**. And, like any great shock, it was met first with disbelief. This must be a mistake, I thought. I paid my **hydro bill**, right? Did I? ...



Reader asks hydro companies to define unreliable power

Pickering News Advertiser - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$502

Reach: 51400 Page: 1

To the editor: If this is reliable **power**, please define unreliable. Regarding the much ballyhooed, self-proclaimed reliability of **Veridian**, **Hydro One** and **Ontario Power** ...

Huron East says electricity bills reduced 25 per cent for residents

Huron Expositor - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Shaun Gregory Huron Expositor

Ad Value: \$76

Reach: 1722 Page: A3

Huron East Administration provided an **energy** report at the May 2 Council meeting and the numbers for **electricity** came back in favour of the municipality's residents. In part of Ontario's **Fair** ...

Ontario launches \$90 million solar rebate program to help save energy, money and the environment | MINING.com

www.mining.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Permalink

The Green Ontario Fund has announced details of the much-anticipated rebate program for solar PV and energy storage installations.

View from the Hill

CTV NEWS CHANNEL - POWER PLAY WITH DON MARTIN - Thu May 3 2018, 5:00pm ET

Tone: **Positive**

Byline: DON MARTIN

DON MARTIN: Welcome back. The Thursday threesome of MP dynamos are here to talk pipelines, the miracle of emission reduction amid economic growth, and the brass bulge developing in the **Canadian** military. Let's call in the members. Ruby ...

Trudeau about to ask taxpayers to bail out his pipeline troubles

Toronto Sun - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Joe Oliver

Ad Value: \$4,541

Reach: 171076 Page: A15

The Prime Minister is about to ask taxpayers to bail him out of a self-inflicted calamity - the inability to ship our oil to overseas markets. Trudeau promised the \$7.4 billion Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) would be built because it's the ...

Gladu to oppose Liberals' omnibus crime bill | Sarnia and Lambton County This Week

www.sarniathisweek.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

It has been a tough start to spring in Ottawa. On May 2, Gord Brown (MP for Leeds—Grenville—Rideau Lakes and the Thousand Islands) passed away suddenly in Parliament.

Lack of Pipelines Will Cost Canadian Energy Sector \$15.8 Billion in 2018: Fraser - Oil & Gas 360

www.oilandgas360.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

Inadequate pipeline capacity to U.S. and no pipelines to move oil to tidewater ports forces Canadian oil to sell at a big discount

National Column: Scheer facing uphill battle for Quebec vote – The Morinville News

morinvillenews.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

Paul Crawford noted on Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Energy East is mentioned.

Inasmuch as the first task of a political leader should be to do his or her party no harm, Andrew Scheer's maiden appearance on Tout le monde en parle – the first ever of a federal Conservative leader – was a success.

Opinion: Pipeline obstructionism costs Canada billions | Edmonton Journal

edmontonjournal.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

[Permalink](#)

The recent decision by Kinder Morgan, one of the largest energy infrastructure companies in North America, to halt all "non-essential spending" on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion — which would run from Alberta, through British Columbia, ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles



Big jump in unpaid bills for Oshawa hydro after winter disconnection ban

Oshawa This Week - Tue May 8 2018

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OSHAWA - A moratorium on **hydro disconnections** over the winter has resulted in more and bigger overdue bills for **Oshawa** residents who are now facing disconnection if they can't settle up.

Ivano Labricciosa, CEO and president of **Oshawa PUC Networks**, explained this was the first year for a full moratorium on **disconnections** over the winter.

Hydro utilities were not allowed to disconnect customers between Nov. 15 and April 30 and they were not allowed to charge additional late payment fees during the moratorium.

Last year, there were 3,500 primarily residential customers in **Oshawa** with unpaid bills at the end of winter. This year that number rose to 4,500.

Labricciosa said that the city is growing, so both last year and this year it amounts to eight to nine per cent of OPUC's customers.

"What the bigger number that I get most concerned about is the actual dollar amount," he said. "It was about \$900,000 last year, it's sitting at about \$1.5 million this year."

The moratorium has essentially created a situation where some people who live paycheque to paycheque put off paying their **hydro** bill and are now faced with large bills.

"If you don't have solutions to deal with a problem you had five or six months ago, you're going to have a bigger problem today, so essentially you've built up this pile of bills you have to pay ... in some cases it's significant, if \$100 or \$200 was a problem five months ago, now it's \$1,000," said Labricciosa, adding that some of the unpaid bills are as high as \$4,000 or \$5,000.

Oshawa PUC Networks is drawing attention to the issue in hopes of getting customers to call the **utility** to work out a solution. The **utility** works with several social **service** agencies who offer assistance to low-income individuals and families struggling with **hydro** bills.

"That's why we try to work with people, we know there's difficulties out there," said Labricciosa. "My best advice is give us a call we'll help sort through this with you, but if you're intent on getting something for nothing it's probably not going to work to your advantage and you'll get disconnected."

When the moratorium hit, the **utility** was required to connect all disconnected customers, but Labricciosa said that only amounted to about a dozen customers on the residential side.

Although the province has had disconnection bans in the past, this was the first full winter where **utilities** were prohibited from charging penalties.

They continued to send out bills and notices to customers who were in arrears, but they could not disconnect them.

Now that the disconnection moratorium has ended, Labricciosa said customers will receive final notices if they're in danger of being disconnected.

"People would have had multiple notices along the way to say the moratorium is lifted, you have to settle up," he said.

Labricciosa said he knows **utilities** can "come across as bad guys who disconnect people" but any unpaid and written off bills are ultimately paid for by other **ratepayers**.

Customers can call **customer service** at 905-723-4623 Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to discuss payment options.

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Is Hydro takeover in public interest?

Toronto Star - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Jennifer Wells Toronto Star

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"Please don't sell us to Canada."

That refrain, or versions of it, is on full display at the Idaho **Public Utilities** Commission, which admittedly isn't everyone's go-to entertainment site. But it is vitally important for this reason: the first big test of the expansionist dreams of the politically tempest-tossed **Hydro** One rests with its successful acquisition of Avista Corp., provider of **electric** generation, **transmission** and **distribution** to retail customers spread from Oregon to Washington to Montana and Idaho and up into Alaska.

The proposed deal - announced last summer, but not yet consummated - marks the first time the publicly traded **Hydro** One has embarked upon the acquisition of a U.S. **utility**. And if Idahoans spread from Boise to Coeur d'Alene to Hayden are any indication, they are not at all happy with the idea of foreign ownership. Here's Lisa McCumber, resident of Hayden: "I am stating my objection to this outrageous merger/takeover. **Hydro** One charges excessive fees to the people it provides for, this is a monopoly beyond even what we are used to. I, in no way, support or as a **customer**, agree with the merger of this multibillion -dollar, foreign, company."

Or here's Debra Bentley from Coeur d'Alene: "Fewer things have more control over a nation than its **power** source. In an age where we are desperately trying to bring American companies back home and 'Buy American' is somewhat of a battle cry, how is it even possible that it would or could be allowed for this vital necessity ... to be controlled by a foreign entity?"

Or here's Spencer Hutchings from Sagle: "This is an incredibly bad idea."

There are legion of similar emails from concerned consumers.

The rationale for the deal? Last fall **Hydro** One CEO Mayo Schmidt testified before the Idaho commission, which regulates all **gas**, water and **electricity** providers in the state.

"**Hydro** One is a pure-play **transmission** and **distribution utility** located solely within **Ontario**," Schmidt told commissioners. "It seeks diversification both in terms of jurisdictions and **service** areas. The proposed Transaction with Avista achieves both goals by expanding **Hydro** One into the U.S. Pacific Northwest and expanding its operations to **natural gas distribution** and **electric**

generation. The proposed Transaction with Avista will deliver the increased scale and benefits that come from being a larger player in the **utility** industry."

Translation: now that it is a publicly traded entity, **Hydro** needs to demonstrate a growth curve to the investment community. The value to you and me? Arguable. This is a transaction framed as a benefit to shareholders, one that won't cause harm to customers. Premier Kathleen Wynne is feeling the pain of selling off control of an essential asset. In his testimony to the commission, Schmidt noted that the Avista acquisition would take the province's **Hydro** ownership to under 45 per cent. (The **Electricity** Act technically prevents the sale of shares that would take the government's ownership position below 40 per cent, though acquisitions appear to allow further dilution.)

Stratospheric compensation, bench-marked against other chief executives who enjoy similarly outsized rewards, is part of this game. I have written about Schmidt's unconscionable compensation before, but that was when he was making a relatively modest \$4 million. Relative, that is, to his \$6.2 million in 2017 compensation (\$3.5 million of that is in the form of share-based awards).

Should the acquisition of Avista be approved, amendments to the CIC, or change in control agreements, for certain named Avista executive officers will allow them to voluntarily terminate their employment without "good reason." That includes Scott Morris, the company's CEO, who will exit with severance of \$6.9 million (U.S.) and additional benefits taking the total to a potential \$15.7 million.

Back to the deal: cost savings over time could be achieved, Schmidt continued in his testimony, though he was unable to quantify those. The integration between the two companies, he promised, will be "seamless." Retail customers in Idaho, Washington and Oregon would benefit from proposed "**Rate** Credits" equalling an estimated \$15.8 million across five years. Idahoans would see a 1-per-cent **rate** decrease through that period.

While Avista would become a wholly owned **Hydro** subsidiary, it would retain its name, and its headquarters in Spokane, Wash. In the case of Idaho specifically, a proposed settlement in April, subject to final approval by the commission, stipulates agreements on everything from staffing to governance to community contributions.

Will that meet the test? It's up to the commission to determine whether the proposed transaction will keep a lid on **rates** and is "consistent with the **public** interest." **Hydro** One is hoping for a decision from regulatory agencies in all the named states by mid-August and a closing date by the end of September. The Federal **Energy** Regulatory Commission granted its approval in January, followed last week by the Federal Communications Commission. Washington and Alaska have reached settlement agreements. These too are pending final state approvals.

The \$5.3-billion deal (or \$6.7 billion **Canadian**) is subject to ongoing hearings in Idaho. Members of the **public** are encouraged to have their say. The **public** comment deadline is June 27.

jenwells@thestar.ca

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PICK YOUR PREMIER; The campaign for the June 7 Ontario election officially kicks off today and it promises to be one of the liveliest in years. An unpopular sitting Liberal premier, an untested mercurial PC leader, an NDP chief hoping it's third time lucky in a provincial campaign, and a Green leader desperate to finally win his party's first seat in the legislature. Even in the turbocharged, hyperbolic age of Trump, it has all

the elements of an electrifying election. Here are the major party leaders and their platforms

Toronto Star - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Ad Value: \$18,860

Reach: 361323 Page: A6

Kathleen Wynne

Liberal

Age: 65 on May 21

Hometown: Richmond Hill

Occupation: Premier of **Ontario** since February 2013, the first woman to hold that position

Political experience: MPP since 2003 and a former school board trustee prior to entering provincial politics

Family: Three adult children; spouse Jane Rounthwaite

PLATFORM

Increase minimum wage to \$15 on Jan. 1

Expand to senior citizens the pharmacare program that provides 4,400 free prescription drugs to everyone 24 and under

Free child care regardless of income for children from the age of 2 1/2 to junior kindergarten.

Expand the Greenbelt of protected land around the **Greater Toronto** and Hamilton Area

Giving seniors up to \$750 a year to help offset house maintenance costs to keep them living in their homes instead of moving into long-term care homes

QUOTE

"Doug Ford sounds like Donald Trump and that's because he is like Donald Trump. He believes in an ugly, vicious brand of politics that traffics in smears and lies. He'll say anything about anyone at any time because - just like Trump - it is all about him."

Doug Ford

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE

Age: 53

Hometown: Etobicoke

Occupation: President, Deco Labels and Flexible Packaging (a family business inherited from his father) and co-author Ford Nation: Two Brothers, One Vision - The True Story of the People's Mayor

Political experience: One-term city councillor; 2014 **Toronto** mayoralty candidate (lost to John Tory)

Family: Four adult daughters; wife Karla Ford

PLATFORM

Freeze minimum wage at \$14

Eliminate provincial income tax for minimum wage earners

Scrap **cap-and-trade** and oppose any carbon tax to curb **climate** change

Would re-open sex-education curriculum debate

Fire Mayo Schmidt, the president and CEO of **Hydro** One due to his \$6 million-a-year-salary

QUOTE

"After 15 years of Liberal mismanagement, scandal and waste, it's time for change. We have seen this Liberal government make sure that they have taken care of their Liberal insider friends and ... lobbyists. The party with the taxpayers' dollars is over."

Andrea Horwath

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Age: 55

Hometown: Hamilton

Occupation: NDP leader, the first woman to hold the position; prior to that, she was a community worker and labour organizer

Political experience: Hamilton city councillor (three terms); elected MPP in 2004 for the Hamilton area; NDP leader since 2009

Family: A single mother of an adult son

PLATFORM

Free child-care for low-income families, and implementing \$12 a day fees, on average, for others

Spend \$19 billion to end "hallway medicine" by adding new beds, more nursing home beds. Also hire more front-line hospital staff to address wait times

Universal pharmacare **plan**, costing \$475 million a year, covering 125 of the most commonly prescribed drugs for people of all ages

Dentcare for workers, especially those on **contract** or who work part-time

Return **Hydro** One into **public** hands through buying back privately held shares

QUOTE

"What **Ontario** doesn't need is Doug Ford, and what **Ontario** doesn't want any more is Kathleen Wynne, that's why we're offering change for the better."

Mike Schreiner

GREEN PARTY

Age: 48

Hometown: WaKeeney, Kansas (became a **Canadian** citizen in 2007)

Occupation: Entrepreneur and small business owner; co-founded Local Food

Plus organization promoting sustainable food production and connecting farmers to markets; owned WOW Foods and Earthdance Organics

Political experience: Party leader since 2009; first full-time leader of the Greens in **Ontario**

Family: Two teenage daughters; wife Sandra Welsh

PLATFORM

More programs to help homeowners with green retrofits to save **energy**

Universal dental care and pharmacare

Set a date to phase out internal combustion engines to reduce greenhouse **gas** emissions

Carbon pricing to discourage use of greenhouse **gas**-producing goods and services, with revenues returned to Ontarians as dividends

Focus health system more on illness prevention

QUOTE

"The Green party believes in doing politics differently. We're ready to take on all three parties on the issues that matter the most to **Ontario**."

Compiled by the Star's Queen's Park Bureau

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Campaign kickoff: Several tight election races to watch in Hamilton

thespec.com - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: ereilly@thespec.com

Reach: 90600

As the four major party leaders vie for the province's top job, here in Hamilton veteran politicians, rookies and rivals are battling to be your representative at Queen's Park.

Ontario's 42nd general election campaign begins Wednesday, with Andrea Horwath's New Democrats, Mike Schreiner's Greens and Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives trying to unseat Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Locally, Hamilton has several tight races, thanks to newly drawn riding boundaries created in 2015. Two completely new ridings - Flamborough-Glanbrook and Hamilton **West**-Ancaster-Dundas - are up for grabs, while other ridings, including Hamilton **Centre** and Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, have been slightly redrawn to match up with federal election boundaries.

Local political watchers say the three incumbent NDP candidates are likely safe in their traditionally **centre**-left ridings, including Horwath in Hamilton **Centre**, Monique Taylor in Hamilton Mountain and Paul Miller in Hamilton East-Stoney Creek.

"If I was any one of those three incumbents I'd feel pretty good," said Henry Jacek, political science professor at McMaster University.

While Taylor and Miller have both faced allegations of harassment in the weeks leading up to the campaign, the Liberals had difficulty finding candidates to face

off against them. Local lawyer Jennifer Stebbing was nominated in Hamilton East-Stoney Creek only on Saturday, and the vacant Liberal candidacy on the Hamilton Mountain is set to be filled by entrepreneur Damin Starr on Wednesday evening - late nominations that will make it difficult for the Liberals to hit the ground running during the campaign.

Horwath's personal popularity and leader status make her almost impossible to defeat in Hamilton **Centre**, though first-time Liberal candidate Deirdre Pike is a well-known and well-liked face on the local political scene.

Traditionally, the PC candidates in these three ridings - filled this time around by Dionne Duncan in Hamilton **Centre**, Esther Pauls in Hamilton Mountain, and Akash Grewal in Hamilton East-Stoney Creek - trail in third place behind the NDP and Liberals.

"I tend to think, and this is my projection, that the NDP is going to do better (provincially) than they did last time," Jacek said. "Their three incumbents should win - the Liberals are not going to do well, I'm pretty certain."

The new riding of Hamilton **West**-Ancaster-Dundas (HWAD) is arguably the tightest local race, with Liberal incumbent Ted McMeekin trying to maintain his seat at Queen's Park against NDP challenger Sandy Shaw and PC Ben Levitt.

While McMeekin, a veteran in the former riding of Hamilton-Flamborough - Ancaster-Glanbrook, remains personally popular, dissatisfaction with Wynne may drag him down. Some voters, particularly in the more conservative areas of Ancaster and some enclaves in Dundas, will be drawn to Levitt, 26, who won the PC candidacy after a protracted nomination battle, suggests McMaster political scientist Peter Graefe.

However, the new HWAD boundaries include more left-leaning areas, including Westdale and areas of Dundas, while the more right wing enclaves of Flamborough have been shaved off. That bodes well for Shaw, the NDP candidate, a well-known figure both professionally and politically (she ran for city council in Ward 1 in the 2014 municipal election). Shaw has already had the benefit of a precampaign visit from Horwath, signalling the riding is in play for the NDP.

Still, Jacek suggests that voters who lean toward the NDP may vote strategically for McMeekin to keep the seat from going to the Conservatives.

"It's not easy to be a voter in this riding," he said "They have a strong Liberal incumbent who is on the progressive side, but how are they going to make up their mind between the local candidate and the leader?"

Local political watchers will be keeping a close eye on the race in Flamborough-Glanbrook, where city council colleagues Judi Partridge and Donna Skelly are jockeying for the same seat (Partridge for the Liberals, Skelly for the Conservatives) - a faceoff that makes for "natural drama," says Graefe.

The riding is one of the most right-leaning areas in Hamilton. It's held federally by Conservative David Sweet. And despite Partridge's personal popularity as the area's ward candidate, Graefe says Skelly's chances of taking the area are high.

The NDP have yet to nominate a candidate in Flamborough-Glanbrook.

"It's arguably the most winnable for the Conservatives," said Graefe.

Regardless of riding, political affiliation or experience, Hamilton's local candidates will face four tough weeks of door-knocking, debates, attacks, tough questions and, ultimately, either the road home or a path to Queen's Park. Three local issues to watch

Supervised injection sites

As Hamilton struggles to find a permanent home for a provincially funded safe injection site, the outcome of the election looms large.

Kathleen Wynne's Liberal government has committed to funding supervised injection sites and temporary overdose prevention sites amid an opioid crisis in **Ontario**.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath said she "unequivocally" supports supervised injection sites. "They save lives; end of story."

PC Leader Doug Ford has said he is "dead against" the idea, though has also started to suggest that he'll study the issue with community representatives.

Mike Schreiner's Green Party has called for support for both "government-sanctioned" and community-run "pop-up" sites for supervised, safe drug use.

Jobs and poverty

The increasing strain on low- and middle-income households hits especially hard in Hamilton, where almost 50,000 people rely on either **Ontario Works** or the **Ontario Disability Support Program**, and the poverty **rate** hovers around 16 per cent.

The Liberals have promised to increase minimum wage, introduce rent control, turn tuition loan programs into grants for low-income **students**, and provide free prescription drugs to children and youth.

The NDP is promising universal dental care and pharmacare, a \$12 per day child-care **plan**, cutting **hydro** bills by 30 per cent and to buy back **Hydro One**, and increase tax **rates** for high income earners and successful corporations

The PCs have promised to end the Liberals minimum wage hike from \$14 to \$15 next year, waive income taxes for anyone making less than \$28,000 a year, and end **cap-and-trade** to reduce the cost of **gas** and home heating.

The Greens have called for a basic income guarantee, community benefits agreements for large infrastructure projects, a focus on innovation, retraining and building a greener economy.

LRT

Hamilton's light rail transit project is an evergreen election issue because of the \$1 billion in attached provincial funding - and a never-ending stream of alternative spending suggestions.

The Liberal government promised to pay capital building costs of a 14-kilometre LRT line from McMaster University to Eastgate Square. But the \$1 billion is not transferable to other projects, officials have said.

The NDP supports Hamilton's LRT project, but criticized the **plan** to hand over **public** transit operations to a private consortium. It has offered to fund half of LRT operation costs.

New PC Leader Doug Ford first said he supported LRT because it will "create jobs, countless new jobs," but days later suggested if council abandons the project it can use the \$1 billion for other priorities.

The Green party supports Hamilton's LRT project.

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What on Earth is the responsible Ontario voter to do?; Ontarians face a choice between the devil they know, an ill-informed blowhard and an unimpressive politician

The Globe and Mail - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: MARCUS GEE

Ad Value: \$16,625

Reach: 309154 Page: A12

Pity the voters of **Ontario**.

They are to cast their ballots in a provincial election on June 7. Campaigning is to begin officially on Wednesday. The options before them are abysmal.

Option 1 is to go with the devil they know and re-elect the Liberals under Kathleen Wynne. But her smug gang has been governing since 2003, piling up a mountain of debt and leaving a trail of spending scandals. They richly deserve to get the hook.

Option 2 is to change it up and and replace them with Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives.

But Mr. Ford is an ill-informed blowhard who serves up recycled slogans from his late brother Rob Ford's notorious time as mayor of **Toronto**. Electing him would be inviting the bull into the china shop.

Option 3 is to bypass the two main parties and go with Andrea Horwath's NDP. Voters tried it once before in **Ontario** when they elected Bob Rae as premier.

But Ms. Horwath is on her third rodeo as NDP Leader and still fails to impress. Her standard tax-and-spend program would worsen the hot mess the Liberals created.

No wonder so many Ontarians are shaking their heads in confusion and dismay.

What on Earth is a responsible voter to do?

The first debate among the party leaders did not make the choice any easier. The three sparred on Monday evening in a jazzed-up session put on by CityNews for viewers with a short attention span.

Ms. Wynne accused Mr. Ford of planning to cut, cut, cut. What she didn't say is that her party's spendthrift ways have made some kind of retrenchment inevitable. The Liberals ran deficits for years and managed to double the provincial debt before finally bringing the budget oh-so-briefly into balance, only to plunge back into the red with a spate of votebuying pre-election spending this year. Report after report by provincial watchdogs have called them out on their dubious accounting.

Mr. Ford accused Ms. Wynne of planning to spend, spend, spend.

What he didn't say is how he would rein in provincial spending himself. The guy who last led the PCs into a campaign, Tim Hudak, blew the 2014 election by vowing to cut 100,000 **public**-sector jobs. So Mr. Ford has clammed up about his own **plan**, if in fact he has one. He would save money through "efficiencies," a favourite catchword from the Ford years at **Toronto** City Hall. Oh, and he would fire the "six-million-dollar man," the well-paid head of a **hydro utility**.

That should do it.

Ms. Horwath was reduced to nipping at the heels of the other two or striking an unlikely pose as the moderate alternative to her quarreling rivals. She even resorted to accusing Ms. Wynne of plotting to privatize the police.

It was all pretty discouraging.

How did **Ontario** get to this sad state? Canada's most populous province used to raise an eyebrow at the colourful politics of British Columbia or Quebec.

Then the Rob Ford show came to **Toronto**. Then the Progressive Conservatives had a headlinegrabbing leadership crisis over allegations of sexual misconduct.

Now, Rob Ford's brother is poised to become premier.

Ontario voters can no longer choose between reasonably sensible parties of **centre**-left and **centre**-right. Neither is on offer in this election. Instead, they must choose between a right-wing populist in the mould of Donald Trump and a left-wing Liberal who has out-NDP'd the NDP, leaving the NDP itself to carve out territory even farther to the left. The political **centre** has vanished like a puddle in the sun.

Mr. Ford wants to blow up the newish, updated sex-education curriculum. He wants to meddle with the independence of universities by tying their funding to free-speech guarantees. Ms. Wynne cooked up a scheme to lower everyone's **power rates** by loading the cost onto future taxpayers, a classic example of how governments kick the can down the road. Ms. Horwath would cancel standardized testing, a sop to teachers' unions and a blow to accountability in the schools.

Voters have four weeks to decide who among these three is fit to govern **Ontario**. Good luck with that.

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10 good reasons not to vote Liberal on June 7

Toronto Sun - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lorrie Goldstein

Ad Value: \$3,872

Reach: 171076 Page: A5

If the best indicator of future performance is past practice, then 10 key findings by the **independent**, non-partisan **Ontario** auditor general suggest why it would be a bad idea to re-elect Premier Kathleen Wynne's Liberals next month.

1 Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk reported on April 25 that the Wynne government's March 27 pre-election budget underestimated government deficits for the next three years by a total of \$16.6 billion, or 84%. A week later, David **West**, chief economist of the legislature's Financial Accountability Office, came to a similar conclusion.

2 In her annual report in December, 2017, Lysyk estimated the Liberals would run a deficit of about \$4.5 billion in 2017-18, contrary to government claims of a balanced budget, which the Liberals later increased to a claim of a \$600-million surplus in their March 27 budget.

3 In the same report, Lysyk said just over 30% of the \$58 million the Liberal government spent on ads in 2016-17 - the most in a decade - "had as their primary goal to foster a positive impression of the government party", adding she would have vetoed them had Wynne not gutted in 2015 a law, passed by McGuinty in 2004, giving the auditor general the authority to veto politically partisan ads.

4 Lysyk reported in October 2017 that Wynne's **fair hydro plan** to temporarily lower **electricity** bills by 25% used flawed accounting methods that will cost the **public** an extra \$4 billion in interest charges, for a total cost of \$39.4 billion over 30 years.

5 In November 2016, Lysyk reported Wynne's **cap-and-trade** carbon pricing scheme will cost **Ontario** consumers and businesses \$8 billion in its first four years of operation from 2017-20 for minimal reductions in industrial greenhouse **gas** emissions.

6 In December 2015, Lysyk, completing work begun by her predecessor Jim McCarter, reported the **public** will pay \$9.2 billion more for green **energy** than necessary over 20 years because the Liberal government ignored the advice of its own experts on how, and how much, to pay private developers for **wind** and **solar power** and other green **energy** projects

. 7 In the same report, Lysyk concluded the **Ontario public** was paying two times the U.S. average for **wind power** and 3.5 times the U.S. average for **solar power**, contributing to a 70% increase in the cost of **electricity** for homes and small businesses between 2006 and 2014

. 8 In April 2015, Lysyk concluded the Liberal government endangered lives on **Ontario's** highways in a bid to save money starting in 2009 "by contracting out winter road maintenance primarily to the lowest bidders ... Even though ministry staff, including engineers, raised serious concerns ... that the majority of winning contractors would not be able to meet their winter maintenance commitments because of insufficient equipment."

9 Lysyk estimated in December 2014 that the Liberal government's installation of 4.8 million smart meters across the province would cost the **public** \$1.9 billion, almost double the government's original estimate, with few cost-saving benefits.

10 In 2013, Lysyk and her predecessor Jim McCarter estimated the cost to the **public** of the Liberals'cancelled **gas** plants scandal at up to \$1.1 billion over 20 years. The government initially said the cost would be \$230 million.
lgoldstein@postmedia.com @sunlorrie

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NOT SOLD ON FORD

Toronto Sun - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Lori Sandy

Ad Value: \$1,072

Reach: 171076 Page: A14

I know many are angry at the Wynne government and rightly so. Transparency on **energy** issues has been lacking and I, too, am frustrated with high **hydro** bills. I will vote for a politician from any party who is a hard worker with a strong platform, a social conscience and positivity. Many PC candidates fit this description and deserve to win in their ridings. However, change at any cost is not the answer. Doug Ford's history in politics is one of inexperience, and of stirring up anger without offering realistic alternatives. His words show that he doesn't know what he's doing. He is not one of the hard-working people of **Ontario**, he is someone who inherited everything. If you look past your anger, I think you will also see that his numbers don't add up. Yes, his family has a history of giving back, but his actions show that he doesn't possess the same generous spirit and genuineness as his parents and even his very flawed brother. I know that **Ontario** isn't perfect, but look at the world around you, it can be much worse. Change is important but Doug Ford isn't the right kind of

change.

LORI SANDY **TORONTO** (We have looked around and it's hard to imagine anything worse than the Liberals)

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Ford offers complaints, but no Hydro solutions

NORTHERN DAILY NEWS

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: David Reevely

Ad Value: \$368

Reach: 3014 **Page:** A4

Executives at the **power** company **Hydro** One is buying in the U.S. northwest will be paid severance if **Hydro** One fires them, Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford announced angrily on Friday.

Rage at the provincial **electricity transmission** company is Ford's No. 1 election issue, repeated so often that it's now performed in a sort of code.

"The \$6-million man and his cronies signed off on massive payouts for U.S. executives," Ford said. "Kathleen Wynne's politically corrupt **hydro** executives gave out more than \$50 million in payouts in golden parachutes to U.S. **hydro** executives, with your hard-earned money, going straight into the pockets of American **hydro** executives."

The "\$6-million man" is Mayo Schmidt, the chief executive of **Hydro** One. The Liberals under Wynne hired him in 2015 to run the place as they sold a majority stake in the company to private investors. Ford objects to Schmidt's pay package and promises to fire him and the board of directors if Ford wins the impending election. Stories with villains are way more exciting than real life as a grown-up.

The U.S. **hydro** executives come in because **Hydro** One is buying Avista Corp., an **electricity** and **natural-gas** company in Washington, with operations in neighbouring states. It's a \$4.4-billion deal. Avista turns an annual profit of around \$100 million as it is and **Hydro** One believes the two can save money by sharing backoffice expenses.

Part of the agreement, approved by shareholders last fall and contained in standard U.S. securities filings, is that if **Hydro** One gets rid of Avista's top 13 people within three years of the merger, they'll be entitled to a collective \$50 million in payouts. It's a combination of severances, cashing in stock options and health insurance. The payout applies if they're turfed because of the merger, demoted or made so miserable they quit.

The biggest hypothetical payout, nearly \$19 million, would go to Avista chief executive Scott Morris. But in announcing the merger last year, **Hydro** One said Morris will stay on. The next biggest package, \$6.6 million, could go to chief financial officer Mark Thies.

The five top people at Avista, accounting for \$36 million of the \$50 million, had these "change in control" clauses in their contracts long before **Hydro** One showed up. They're in Avista filings going back at least a decade. These common clauses are to keep senior employees from sabotaging deals that are expected to be good for shareholders because they might be bad for the people in the corner offices.

The deal also includes \$3.2 million in retention bonuses meant to get the same people to stay. The idea is that Avista will mostly carry on as it has, just as a subsidiary.

"Hydro One and Avista will maintain existing brands, headquarters and employee bases," Hydro One's presentation to its investors said when it announced the deal. "Hydro One will benefit from the team assembled by Scott of wellrespected industry leaders who have delivered consistent shareholder value."

"Folks, this makes my blood boil when I hear stories like this," Ford said. "This is a symbol of everything that is wrong in Kathleen Wynne's Ontario ... To Kathleen Wynne, I say this: your days as premier are numbered. We're going to take back our province and we're going to clean up this mess you have created."

He didn't say how. He proposed no reforms or solutions he might apply if he becomes premier other than repeating his promise to fire the Hydro One board. He demonstrated his anger and then walked away.

If all this is gross, it's because corporate capitalism is gross, which is a really weird position for a conservative to take. Especially a wealthy business owner like Ford. It comes with implications.

First, Hydro One shouldn't be private and engaged in the corporate world this way. Electricity is a public good, not transmitted or delivered in a competitive market, and it belongs under public control. The Liberals should never have sold a majority share of Hydro One. It was a bad decision and created a company that doesn't know how to be.

If the Tories proposed buying Hydro One back and reorganizing it as a government agency, that would make sense. They aren't proposing that. (The New Democrats are.)

Second, maybe Hydro One shouldn't be in the acquisitions business. If the Ontario government wouldn't buy a foreign company, maybe a corporation that exists to fulfil a government function shouldn't either.

Ford's also not proposing to limit Hydro One's ambitions.

Third, maybe it's wrong for people to be paid millions of dollars to run corporations, even profitable ones. Ford could demand controls on senior executives' pay. There are things Ford could do. They'd be hard.

Complaining about things you don't like is so, so much easier.
dreevely@postmedia.com

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Anger may not be enough of a platform for Ford

The Sault Star - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Mohammed Adam

Ad Value: \$1,080

Reach: 17077 Page: A6

Several commentators have taken Progressive Conservative leader Doug Ford to task - as they should - for not releasing a fully costed platform, even as what could well be a seminal provincial election gets closer and closer.

Party platforms are important because they define vision and direction - and give voters a road map to the future. When competing parties lay out their platforms and vision, and explain in detail what they'll do in government, they give voters a chance to analyze what's being offered, compare one plan against the other and make a choice.

The Liberal budget, essentially a campaign document, laid out Kathleen

Wynne's program. NDP leader Andrea Horwath, who has already released her platform, officially launched her campaign earlier this week, and there's still time for the PCs to release a manifesto of some kind.

They can't escape that, but it is easy to see why they are stringing it out for as long as they can.

Ford's trump card is voters' anger and frustration with the Liberals. The political environment is such that he may not need a compelling platform to win. He doesn't have to make big splashes. He has to run a minimalist campaign, appeal to people's emotions - their hearts, not heads - and he'll do well.

That's because this may be an election about how people feel - about themselves, about the Liberal party, the government and what's going on around them. So far, they seem angry and frustrated and Ford is trying to tap into this anti-Liberal sentiment. Ford is saying that if you are angry, frustrated, dismayed with what is happening in **Ontario**, and feeling left behind, he is the solution.

It is that simple. Normally, a campaign based on "vote for me because I'm not the bad guy" won't work. Voters would want more. But in this environment, it might work. When people are angry as they seem to be in **Ontario** right now, they tend to vote their emotions - facts, figures, reason and logic be damned.

Many have said Ford is not Donald Trump. Maybe so. But his message is Trumpian. Trump did not win because he offered a compelling vision. Make America Great Again was a slogan that just hit a nerve.

Hillary Clinton's troubles and inadequacies aside, Trump won because he tapped into long-festering anger and frustrations of many Americans and they didn't care that he was crude, bombastic or offensive. Or that his numbers didn't add up. When Trump said he would build a wall and Mexico would pay for it, no one really believed it. For supporters, it was a metaphor for boldness and action they crave, and they embraced it. Trump was the outsider who understood them and spoke their language, and they voted for him.

Ford is treading a similar path in **Ontario**.

He promises to offer big tax cuts, reduce government spending, cut **hydro rates**, fire **Hydro** One's CEO and do his own version of draining the swamp with talk of a probe of **Ontario**'s finances. Critics decry the lack specifics or details in his announcements, but it doesn't matter that much to supporters. He is tapping in to their anger and frustration and they feel good about it.

The question is, are there enough of them to propel him to victory? Will his message resonate, and can he overcome his own demons? The question is apt because Ford didn't ride a groundswell of populism to win the PC leadership race. He lost the popular vote to Christine Elliott but won the electoral vote, which is what really matters. And even as the polls suggest he'll prevail on June 7, they also show that many don't think he is fit for the office.

So far Ford has been wise to not engage Wynne in a battle of visions and platforms. But it is still early days. A lot can happen in a campaign. People can change their minds.

In the end, this election may come down to whether people vote with their heads or their hearts. Mohammed Adam is an **Ottawa** writer.

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Doug Ford campaign confirms actors were hired to play the part of PC supporters at Monday's debate rally | The Star

www.thestar.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Doug Ford's campaign has confirmed that actors were hired to play Progressive Conservative supporters outside the Monday night leaders' debate in the June 7 provincial election.

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Kathleen Wynne admits Doug Ford is giving her sleepless nights | The Star

www.thestar.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

As the Ontario election officially begins, Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne admits Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford is giving her sleepless nights.

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Board of trade supports nuclear extension in Pickering

Pickering News Advertiser - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Positive**

Ad Value: \$1,308

Reach: 51400 Page: 1

PICKERING - While the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade supports **Ontario Power Generation's application** to continue operations at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station, those in opposition to the proposal question why the hearings are taking place nearly 30 kilometres away from the **power** plant.

APBOT recently announced it supports **OPG's** request for a licence extension to 2024.

The plant was scheduled to close on August 31, 2018, but **OPG** is seeking a 10-year license extension, in order to operate the Pickering station until the end of 2024, followed by safe storage activities such as removal of fuel and water until 2028.

"**OPG** Pickering continues to be a wonderful neighbour and supporter to both business and the community at large," said Christine Ashton, APBOT president. "Throughout Ajax and Pickering, **OPG** has shown their partnership through their in-depth and ongoing interaction with us. In addition to being a community leader, they make an incredible contribution to the local economy, creating almost 3,000 jobs in Durham Region alone. The continued operation of the Pickering station until 2024 will bring benefits to **Ontario's greater** economy, **energy** system and keep our local communities vibrant and prosperous."

A **public** hearing regarding the renewal **application** is scheduled to be held in Courtice from June 26 to June 28, at which APBOT plans to share its support of continuing operations. It says Pickering Nuclear's ongoing relationship with the APBOT, offering space for **public** education forums, giving insight on APBOT committees and, in turn, looking for feedback on their operations, are among its reasons for its support.

However, not everyone is pleased with the decision to hold the hearings in Courtice, instead of in Pickering.

A letter to **Canadian** Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) president Michael Binder, signed by Angela Bischoff of the **Ontario** Clean Air Alliance, on behalf of

five other interested parties such as Greenpeace and Durham Nuclear Awareness, said the proposed location for the hearing is a mistake that needs to be rectified.

"The proposed hearing venue at the Hope Fellowship Church in Courtice is 28 kilometres east of the Pickering Nuclear Station," the letter said. "It is on the far eastern edge of the GTA, upwards of two hours by **public** transit from the Pickering GO Station, including a 1.3-kilometre walk. We find it disconcerting that the CNSC would **plan** a major hearing far from the millions of people potentially affected by a severe offsite accident, and far from major news media. One important purpose of CNSC license renewal hearings is to listen to **public** concerns; another is to allow the **public** and other interested parties to hear first-hand from experts testifying at the hearings. Neither of these will be well served by the location you've chosen."

In an emailed response to the News Advertiser's questions, the CNSC explained it looked for available venues that were as close as possible to the Pickering station.

"CNSC staff called local hotels, conference centres and recreation facilities," read the email. "They also sought the assistance of the City of Pickering, **Toronto** Tourism as well as others. Venues were called from Pickering to **Toronto**, however none were available the week of June 26 to 28 that met our requirements for proximity and capacity. We also considered other dates for the hearing, but ran into the same challenges."

The CNSC looks for a location that can be booked for a full week, can be set up prior to the actual hearing and later dismantled, and that can accommodate a large number of intervenors. The CNSC noted Hope Fellowship Church has successfully been used for other **public** hearings in the past, has free parking and is wheelchair accessible.

"For those individuals not able to attend the hearing in person, all commission proceedings are video webcast live and archived, which allows anyone to view the proceedings live or later at their leisure," said the CNSC.

Pickering Continued Operations: An Impact Analysis on **Ontario's** Economy, an **independent** economic analysis released in partnership with the APBOT, the **Ontario** Chamber of Commerce and the **Canadian Centre** for Economic Analysis, and sponsored by **OPG**, found three major benefits to continued operations until 2024: \$1.54 billion to **Ontario's** GDP per year; 7,590 full-time equivalent jobs per year; and \$290 million in government taxation revenues (\$155 million to federal and \$135 million to provincial).

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Grieving the loss of electricity

The Hamilton Spectator - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Sheryl Nadler

Ad Value: \$4,061

Reach: 103267 Page: G8

Last week I, like many of you, came home to a devastating discovery: no **electricity**.

And, like any great shock, it was met first with disbelief. This must be a mistake, I thought. I paid my **hydro** bill, right? Did I? Pretty sure I did. And anyway, they'd send me a warning letter or something, wouldn't they? No, this is wrong. I'll just phone them to straighten this out and hopefully it'll be back up in five minutes. I mean, this can't go past five minutes, right?

As I waited on hold to speak to an actual live human at the **utility** company, simultaneously scrolling through last month's bill payments on my phone to ascertain that yes, I did pay that bill, disbelief turned to anger.

How much do we pay for **hydro**? A lot. Can they at least hire a few more people to answer the damn phones so we can get answers about when we might expect our very expensive **electricity** to return? And when I finally do connect with a human, can she please be knowledgeable enough about Hamilton that when I say I'm in Dundas, she doesn't respond with, "Is that near Upper Wentworth or Upper James?" No. Dundas. **West** end. "Oh, you must be in Stoney Creek. Yes, we have an outage in Stoney Creek and Winona, extending into St. Catharines ..." GAH.

I glanced down at my phone. The battery bar was starting to inch downwards. The internet tells me there are two types of people in this world: lunatics who let their phone batteries go until they're drained of every molecule of **power**. And normal people like me, who panic the minute the phone battery dips below 97 per cent. I was now at 89 per cent.

No internet. No **electricity**. Phone battery **power** rapidly dissipating. The full force of what was happening washed over me like a Kanye **West** tweet on the Twitterverse. I paced. I phoned.

I tweeted. The pets, not grasping this new routine, followed me in circles around the house. What was I expected to do now? Read a book? Geez. But that's what I decided to do. In the face of adversity, we must innovate, think outside the box. So I grabbed one of the books I bought a million years ago before subscribing to Netflix and decided to give this new, sedate form of entertainment a go.

It was fine. I guess. A strange new sensation I think some people refer to as "calm." Until I started to doze off, that is, which is ... ridiculous. If it was just a titch less windy outside, I could take the dog for a walk, I thought. But she was all stressed out from that flower pot flying into her head when she went out earlier. So that's out.

If I had **electricity**, I could hop on the treadmill, I suppose. The one I bought for just such occasions (albeit with **power**), when the weather outside is frightful and ... oh, who am I kidding? If I had **hydro**, I'd be working. Or watching Netflix. Or doing something else entirely. Treadmill ... pfft. Why do I even still have it?

And if I was to get rid of the treadmill, what would I write in the ad? Please take this constant reminder of my failings as a fit person off my chubby little hands? It's almost brand new, barely used at all, stickers still in place. And for your dollars you'll get a slice of hope - much like buying a lottery ticket, as a former boss was wont to say. Which, I mean, is kind of depressing when your boss is throwing money at hope in the form of lottery tickets, but this machine will be a positive force in your life. Really. Because even if you don't use it as treadmill, it stands in well as a laundry pile holder or as a resting spot for the extra cushions from your bed.

Oh ya, did I mention I squeezed that sucker right in next to my bed so I'd really have no excuse to use it? But, alas, I did find a way. It does do great things for my piles of laundry, though.

Again, if I could spare an ounce of battery **power**, the virtual world would be my oyster. But I couldn't. So I finally accepted my situation and just went to bed. At 8 p.m.

The **hydro** returned the next morning and I got to engage in another fun new exercise: chucking all the contents of the fridge and cleaning it from top to bottom. It might just be wishful thinking, but is it too much to ask that this not happen again any time soon?

Sheryl@sherylnadler.com

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Reader asks hydro companies to define unreliable power

Pickering News Advertiser - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Ad Value: \$502

Reach: 51400 Page: 1

To the editor:

If this is reliable **power**, please define unreliable.

Regarding the much ballyhooed, self-proclaimed reliability of **Veridian**, **Hydro One** and **Ontario Power Generation**. We live within five kilometres of the Pickering nuclear plant and within km, just south of the Cherrywood transformer station.

Despite this, we have had three major **power** interruptions in the past two weeks. Also, several minor interruptions in between.

First, there was the late-season snowstorm April 16. Our **power** was interrupted at least eight times that night. It may have been more, as I fell asleep around 1:30 a.m.

Then on May 2, about 1:30 p.m., the **power** was cut for an hour and a half in some kind of fiasco between **Veridian** and **Hydro One**, to the whole area that Cherrywood services in Pickering and Ajax.

"You may be experiencing a **power** outage in your area due to loss of **Hydro One** Supply. Investigation is in progress and we expect **power** to be restored within 2 hours."

Now, last night, May 4, the **power** went off before 7:30 p.m. due to the windstorm. **Veridian** claimed it would be restored within three hours. It was actually 1:20 a.m., as in six hours.

"You may be experiencing a **power** outage in your area due to high winds. Investigation is in progress and we expect **power** to be restored within 3 hours."

Question for these **hydro** entities and the politicians who oversee them is, if this is reliable **power**, please define unreliable.

Bruce McLeod

Pickering

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Huron East says electricity bills reduced 25 per cent for residents

Huron Expositor - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Byline: Shaun Gregory Huron Expositor

Ad Value: \$76

Reach: 1722 Page: A3

Huron East Administration provided an **energy** report at the May 2 Council meeting and the numbers for **electricity** came back in favour of the municipality's residents.

In part of Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, two major changes are responsible for a decrease in electricity are as followed: An eight per cent rebate from HST was added to bills launching Jan. 1, 2017.

In the Plan, it reduced residential bills by approximately 25 per cent.

Local customers experienced a roughly 7 cent per kwh reduction in net residential costs.

For the Municipality's larger accounts though, the eight per cent reduction does not apply since they receive most of it back as a municipal HST rebate.

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Ontario launches \$90 million solar rebate program to help save energy, money and the environment | MINING.com

www.mining.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The Green Ontario Fund has announced details of the much-anticipated rebate program for solar PV and energy storage installations.

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Trudeau about to ask taxpayers to bail out his pipeline troubles

Toronto Sun - Wed May 9 2018

Tone: **Negative**

Byline: Joe Oliver

Ad Value: \$4,541

Reach: 171076 Page: A15

The Prime Minister is about to ask taxpayers to bail him out of a self-inflicted calamity - the inability to ship our oil to overseas markets.

Trudeau promised the \$7.4 billion Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) would be built because it's the last opportunity to prevent our vast reserves from being permanently landlocked. Letting the project die would cause so much economic, constitutional and reputational damage that no amount of spinning could save his government from grievous political damage. B.C. Premier John Horgan declared he will do everything to kill the pipeline. Trudeau cannot tolerate a province thwarting the federal government on a critical matter within an exclusive federal jurisdiction. He has to defend the constitution and rule of law or the very viability of our confederation will be undermined.

Moreover, Canada's credibility with foreign investors would be tarnished when capital is already heading south because of a dramatic reduction in U.S. corporate tax rates.

Trudeau's face-saving plan mirrors Ronald Reagan's observation: "If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it." Due to B.C. hostility, federal inaction and regulatory overreach, TMX became too risky and expensive. Trudeau and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley exacerbated the problem when they naively proposed a grand bargain doomed to fail - impose a costly carbon tax in exchange for the social licence to construct Trans Mountain. Now the Feds, perhaps with the Province of Alberta, will write a whopping cheque or provide indemnification to Kinder Morgan or another private investor, possibly accompanied by support for First Nations' investment.

Most Canadians understand our oil must not be stranded. The opportunity cost

of this project alone is estimated at \$74 billion in revenue over 20 years. For a country with 10% of global proven reserves not to export its fossil fuel would be unconscionable madness. However, Trudeau is caught in an exquisite dilemma of his own making. According to a Nanos poll, over two-thirds of Canadians support the project, yet two-thirds oppose the use of taxpayers dollars to fund it.

The Prime Minister is responsible for why TMX is the lastgasp opportunity to access tidewater.

He rejected the \$7.9 billion **Northern** Gateway pipeline after Enbridge received the go-ahead from the National **Energy** Board (NEB) and the previous Conservative cabinet. Then TransCanada cancelled the \$15.7 billion **Energy** East pipeline because the NEB extravagantly expanded the scope of its **review** to include downstream emissions. Since the government didn't overrule its **regulator**, Trudeau cannot hide behind its project-killing policy.

Finally, the new Impact Assessment Act politicized the **review** process and exacerbated uncertainty to such an extent that no private sector sponsor will ever propose a major pipeline again unless the legislation is fundamentally changed. Think about it. The government of a fabulously oilrich country has precluded overseas sales. Ironically, that would harm the environment since exporting **Canadian** crude could replace higher greenhouse **gas** emitting coal and lessen foreign imports arriving by tanker up the Saint Lawrence **River**.

Trudeau won't punish British Columbians by withholding infrastructure funding or social transfers since that would damage his electoral prospects in 18 Liberal seats in the Lower Mainland. It would also send a provocative signal about federal **power** to Quebec with its 40 Liberal seats and whose moribund sovereigntists are always one perceived outrage away from resurgence.

Trudeau will try to take credit for rescuing Trans Mountain. That is like a CEO whose blunders drove a company to the brink, but demands a bonus when shareholders are forced to inject funds to keep it afloat. The executive should be fired. Next year, voters will determine Trudeau's fate.

Joe Oliver is the former minister of finance and minister of natural resources and currently is chairman of Echelon Wealth Partners @joeoliver1

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Gladu to oppose Liberals' omnibus crime bill | Sarnia and Lambton County This Week

www.sarniathisweek.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

It has been a tough start to spring in Ottawa. On May 2, Gord Brown (MP for Leeds—Grenville—Rideau Lakes and the Thousand Islands) passed away suddenly in Parliament.

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Lack of Pipelines Will Cost Canadian Energy Sector \$15.8 Billion in 2018: Fraser - Oil & Gas 360

www.oilandgas360.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Inadequate pipeline capacity to U.S. and no pipelines to move oil to tidewater ports forces Canadian oil to sell at a big discount

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National Column: Scheer facing uphill battle for Quebec vote – The Morinville News

morinvillenews.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

Inasmuch as the first task of a political leader should be to do his or her party no harm, Andrew Scheer's maiden appearance on Tout le monde en parle – the first ever of a federal Conservative leader – was a success.

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Opinion: Pipeline obstructionism costs Canada billions | Edmonton Journal

edmontonjournal.com - Tue May 8 2018

Tone: **Neutral**

The recent decision by Kinder Morgan, one of the largest energy infrastructure companies in North America, to halt all "non-essential spending" on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion — which would run from Alberta, through British Columbia, to the coast — made headlines across the country.

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