John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: March 14, 2018 9:01 AM
To: ##Clippings_Distribution_List
Subject: Morning Clippings Summary: Wednesday, March 14, 2017

Good Morning,

There's an article in The Peterborough Examiner suggesting Veridian could buy Peterborough Utility now that Hydro One has bowed out. (article available through Press Reader and full article below)

- Veridian Corp. is a regional electricity distribution company owned jointly by the municipalities of Pickering, Ajax, Clarington and Belleville.
- After PUI had begun negotiations with Hydro One, Veridian indicated it was also interested. The city declined to listen, partly because talks with Hydro One were well advanced. And maybe because Veridian acknowledged it didn't have $105 million to spend.
- Veridian president Michael Angemeer has made it clear his company is still interested.

The National Post reports that despite record net exports, Hydro-Quebec profits slip to $2.89 billion

- That's down from $2.86 billion in 2016 but the results include $45 million it shared with customers because profits surpassed the regulator-approved rate of return. Excluding this payment, Hydro-Quebec's adjusted profit was $2.89 billion, up $30 million from 2016.
- Hydro-Quebec paid the provincial government - its sole shareholder - a $2.14 billion dividend, in line with the previous year.
- The utility has had the lowest residential electricity rates in North America since 2009, paying just 7.07 cents per kWh last year. The monthly consumption of 1,000 kWh cost $71 in Montreal, compared to $111 in Vancouver, $163 in Toronto, $285 in Boston and $297 in New York City.
- The provincial energy regulator last week approved a residential rate increase of 0.7 per cent as of April 1.

The Collingwood Connection reports that Mayor Sandra Cooper and Councillor Kevin Lloyd voted against the 2018 municipal budget.

- They are concerned the upcoming judicial inquiry into the 2012 sale of half of their electricity utility to Power Stream will cost $1 million.
- The mayor calls the costs of the inquiry a "substantial increase (to the budget) which has not been accounted for at all in 2018."

PC leader Doug Ford made the media rounds, telling the Globe and Mail his party will present a short, simple platform to the electorate (Behind Paywall, but full article below.)

- The platform is not finished, but he said it will focus on health and education, creating jobs, getting rid of the province's cap-and-trade program for carbon emissions and reducing hydro rates.

The Toronto Sun has an Op ED that argues " Wynne, not Ford, is the scary one"

- Column focuses on Ontario's debt and energy was mentioned. "Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk says Wynne's signature Fair Hydro Plan, which the Liberals claim will temporarily lower hydro rates by 25%, will in fact cost taxpayers up to $39.4 billion - almost double what the Liberals claim - including up to $4 billion in unnecessary interest payments."
- "Why? Because, Lysyk says, the Liberal government is violating its own accounting rules to keep

these costs off the province's books, meaning Ontarians will ultimately pay far more for electricity than the short-term savings the Liberals claim."

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Morning News Clippings

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Date: Wednesday, March 14, 2018
Edited by: Tara Brautigam (Tara.Brautigam@oeb.ca)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 12 Results

Collapse of PDI sale to Hydro One could open other doors

Peterborough Examiner - Wed Mar 14 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $779
Reach: 19693 **Page:** A4

When a $105-million sale of public property that took nearly three years to put together suddenly and unexpectedly falls apart there's a natural desire to know exactly what happened. Did Peterborough Utilities Inc., ...

Hydro-Quebec profits slip to $2.89 billion despite record exports

Financial Post - Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Positive
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

MONTREAL - Hydro-Quebec's net profit fell slightly last year despite record net electricity exports. The state-owned utility says it earned $2.85 billion, down from $2.86 billion in 2016. The results include $45 ...

Collingwood mayor votes no on municipal budget

Collingwood Connection - Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $497
Reach: 20099 **Page:** 1

Two members of Collingwood council voted against the town's 2018 budget because of uncertainty over the cost of an upcoming judicial inquiry. Mayor Sandra Cooper and Coun. Kevin Lloyd both expressed concerns the next term of council will be ...

Cities find creative solutions to dog-poop problems; Waterloo's receptacles dedicated to the waste are diverting a substance known for spoiling recyclables and turning it into power

The Globe and Mail · Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: NOELLA OVID

Ad Value: $20,281
Reach: 309154 **Page:** A9

Some cities in **Ontario** are turning poop into **power** by building new receptacles dedicated to dog excrement and sending the waste to organic waste plants to be converted into **energy** and fertilizer. It is the latest ...

Doug Ford readies agenda, with eye to expanding pot, alcohol sales and dropping foreign buyers' real estate tax; The new Ontario PC Leader says his party will have a new and greatly simplified platform for the June provincial election

theglobeandmail.com · Tue Mar 13 2018, 10:33pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Justin Giovannetti
Reach: 1188000

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford says he is open to **greater** privatization of alcohol and marijuana sales in **Ontario** and scrapping the foreign-buyers tax on real estate as he looks to streamline his party's priorities ...

Wynne, not Ford, is the scary one

Toronto Sun · Wed Mar 14 2018
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $1,850
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

The real train wreck and dumpster fire in **Ontario** politics is not the election of Doug Ford as leader of the Progressive Conservatives. It's the financial record of Ontario's Liberal government over the past 15 years, first under Dalton ...

Who would win if Trudeau battled Ford over carbon tax?; While different polls show different levels of support for carbon pricing, Ontario and Canadian voters dislike carbon taxes

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Tone: Neutral
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Imagine all-out, no-holds-barred warfare between a Conservative government in **Ontario** and a federal Liberal government over a tax that **Ottawa** has imposed on the province. Imagine the heat of the language, the impact on ...

Halton Hills man invents new clean energy, fights for government recognition

Independent Free Press · Mon Mar 12 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $123

Reach: 22000 **Page:** 1

Roger Gordon's farm truck might have a little rust on the fenders, but it's definitely ahead of the times. The **Halton Hills** inventor and pharmaceutical businessman has developed a new technology to create carbon-free ...

Oxford County warden coming to Guelph to talk renewable energy

GuelphMercury.com - Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: newsroom@guelphmercurytribune.com
Reach: 11700

In 2015, Oxford County adopted a policy that would see the county steer toward 100 per cent **renewable energy** by 2050. And next week, one of the county's mayors will be in **Guelph** to talk about how such a move could ...

Despite Alberta's warnings, oil majors Shell and BP are falling in love with carbon capture technology all over again

Financial Post - Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Geoffrey Morgan
Reach: 607500

HOUSTON - Major oil companies Royal Dutch Shell Plc and BP Plc are taking another hard look at carbon capture storage much to the alarm of Alberta which sank more than a billion dollars in the technology but was heavily criticized for pursuing an ...

Alberta politicians vote unanimously to back province in oil pipeline fight

National Post - Wed Mar 14 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

EDMONTON - Alberta politicians have passed a motion to back Premier Rachel Notley's battle for the Trans Mountain oil pipeline, but division remains on how to carry the fight. The United Conservatives, Alberta Party, and the Alberta Liberals joined ...

TransCanada endorses shareholders resolution for climate-risk analysis; An assessment of the long-term effects of a transition to a low-carbon economy is part of broader effort by shareholders

theglobeandmail.com - Tue Mar 13 2018, 6:14pm ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn McCarthy
Reach: 1188000

TransCanada Corp. management has endorsed a shareholders resolution requiring the company to provide an analysis of how its long-term business prospects would be affected by a transition to a low-carbon economy. The resolution submitted by two ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Collapse of PDI sale to Hydro One could open other doors

THE PETERBOROUGH EXAMINER

Peterborough Examiner - Wed Mar 14 2018
Tone: Negative
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When a $105-million sale of **public** property that took nearly three years to put together suddenly and unexpectedly falls apart there's a natural desire to know exactly what happened.

Did **Peterborough Utilities** Inc., which is owned by the city, push **Hydro** One too hard on the final details of the proposed sale of its "**wires** and poles" **distribution** system?

Did **Hydro** One get cold feet and change its offer?

If **Hydro** One's departure means that any sale of the local **utility** company's **distribution** arm is dead for all time, then PUI should tell city council and **Peterborough** taxpayers exactly what happened.

But until the "for sale" sign is officially tossed in the scrap heap for good there is reason to hold off on a **public** autopsy.

For one thing, another potential buyer is ready to talk.

Veridian Corp. is a **regional electricity distribution** company owned jointly by the municipalities of Pickering, Ajax, Clarington and Belleville.

After PUI had begun negotiations with **Hydro** One, **Veridian** indicated it was also interested. The city declined to listen, partly because talks with **Hydro** One were well advanced. And maybe because **Veridian** acknowledged it didn't have $105 million to spend.

But when the city announced last week that the **Hydro** One deal was off, **Veridian** president Michael Angemeer made it clear his company is still interested.

Perhaps other potential buyers will also come forward.

And, perhaps, the sale to **Hydro** One isn't dead. Negotiations can end and they can be revived. While that seems unlikely in this case it is not impossible.

Until it is certain PUI is going to keep its poles, **wires**, substations and transformers, along with the employees that **service** them and the trucks those employees drive, sharing details of a failed sale would be giving other prospective buyers an edge.

And it seems likely that PUI managers will still want to sell. They have been saying for more than two years that the company, its owner (the City of **Peterborough**) and its customers (**Peterborough** residents and businesses) would all be better off with a sale, the sooner the better.

Not everyone agrees.

There was a long and loud **public** outcry against the sale, based mainly on the argument that the job of getting **electricity** to people's homes should not be trusted to a private, profit-oriented business.

(**Hydro** One was once a **public utility** but the province has sold a majority stake.)

A near majority of city council joined in the opposition. The sale was approved by the narrowest possible margin, 6-5.

Convincing opponents of the wisdom of a sale to publicly-held **Veridian** for less money than **Hydro** One offered would be difficult.

However, PUI management's arguments for a sale still hold: the **distribution** arm, known as PDI, has been losing value; the province wants smaller distributors to merge and is offering incentives that could soon disappear; aging poles and **wires** will soon need expensive replacement.

And some form of partnership with **Veridian**, rather than an outright sale, might be possible.

What is known for certain is that the **Hydro** One deal is off.

Everything else about the future of PDI is up in the air.

While that's the case discussion should focus not on what went wrong with the last deal, but whether a new one should be considered.

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Hydro-Quebec profits slip to $2.89 billion despite record exports

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MONTREAL - **Hydro**-Quebec's net profit fell slightly last year despite record net **electricity** exports.

The state-owned **utility** says it earned $2.85 billion, down from $2.86 billion in 2016.

The results include $45 million it shared with customers because profits surpassed the **regulator**-approved **rate** of return.

Excluding this payment, **Hydro**-Quebec's adjusted profit was $2.89 billion, up $30 million from 2016.

Hydro-Quebec paid the provincial government - its sole shareholder - a $2.14 billion dividend, in line with the previous year.

The **utility** has had the lowest residential **electricity** **rates** in **North** America since 2009, paying just 7.07 cents per kWh last year. The monthly consumption of 1,000 kWh cost $71 in Montreal, compared to $111 in Vancouver, $163 in **Toronto**, $285 in Boston and $297 in New York City.

Revenues increased slightly to $13.47 billion.

Hydro-Quebec earned $780 million from exporting 34.4 terawatt hours (TWh), up from 32.6 TWh a year ago.

More than half of **electricity** exports (53 per cent) went to New England states, up from 46 per cent in 2016. New York bought 23 per cent, **Ontario** 13 per cent, New Brunswick six per cent and other markets five per cent.

Net exports generated 27 per cent of the **utility**'s profits even though they accounted for 17 per cent of sales volume.

The provincial **energy** **regulator** last week approved a residential **rate** increase of 0.7 per cent as of April 1.

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Collingwood mayor votes no on municipal budget

Collingwood Connection - Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
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Two members of Collingwood council voted against the town's 2018 budget because of uncertainty over the cost of an upcoming judicial inquiry.

Mayor Sandra Cooper and Coun. Kevin Lloyd both expressed concerns the next term of council will be faced with finding $1 million - or more - to cover the costs of the inquiry, approved by council in February, which will examine the 2012 sale of half the **electricity** **utility** to **PowerStream**.

The town has officially asked the Chief Justice of **Ontario** to appoint a judge to oversee the inquiry.

"I think we should have been looking at at least bearing some of the brunt of that expenditure in this budget," Lloyd said.

The mayor concurred, calling the costs of the inquiry a "substantial increase (to the budget) which has not been accounted for at all in 2018."

Cooper praised the work of municipal staff on the budget, as well as a "process that was supported by accountability and respect for the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars."

Coun. Kathy Jeffery countered that it wasn't unusual for the municipality to have unanticipated legal fees for issues, citing as an example the Environmental **Review** Tribunal on the Fairview **Wind** project.

The town's costs to be part of the ERT hearing was approximately $400,000.

"We have the resilience to absorb these kinds of things," Jeffery said. "I'm pretty sure our treasurer would be beating us over the heads with something if there was something different we should be doing."

The town anticipates collecting $30.9 million in property taxes in 2018, a 2.37-per-cent decrease from the previous year. Between operational and capital expenses, the town is expected to spend $82.3 million in 2018.

The phased-in assessment for the average residential property valued at $299,000 would increase the tax bill by $70.05; however, combined with the tax **rate** decrease of $51.55, the annual increase on the municipal-only portion of the tax bill is $18.51.

The County of Simcoe has not yet established its tax **rate**. The education **rate** decreased from .179 per cent to .17 per cent, which municipal officials stated would decrease the overall tax bill by $9.

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Cities find creative solutions to dog-poop problems; Waterloo's receptacles dedicated to the waste are diverting a substance known for spoiling recyclables and turning it into power

The Globe and Mail - Tue Mar 13 2018
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Byline: NOELLA OVID

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Some cities in **Ontario** are turning poop into **power** by building new receptacles dedicated to dog excrement and sending the waste to organic waste plants to be converted into **energy** and fertilizer.

It is the latest attempt by municipalities to tackle the urban dog-waste epidemic that is taking place as dog ownership increases.

The dog population in Canada has steadily risen over the past decade, going up to 7.6 million in 2016 from 6.4 million in 2014, with approximately 41 per cent of households including at least one dog.

This has created a problem for cities across the country as the canine waste that gets picked up in parks is being thrown into the wrong garbage bins - and even when it is put into the correct bins, it still ends up in a landfill.

The new poop-**power** system has been in place in **Waterloo**, Ont., for the past year, where dog waste makes up 80 per cent of the waste in garbage cans in city parks and along trails.

Last April, **Waterloo** became the first city in **Ontario** to implement dog-waste containers in three parks. After four months of testing in the summer of 2017, the three containers were found to have diverted 2,350 kilograms of dog waste from landfill. Instead, the waste ends up in an organic waste plant where it is converted into **electricity**.

In "just those three sites, we've actually redirected tonnes of dog waste from landfill sites, we've diverted half a tonne of CO_2 from the atmosphere and we've generated enough **electricity** to **power** 100 homes for a month," **Waterloo** Mayor Dave Jaworsky said.

Mr. Jaworsky said that if the project is successful, the city hopes to eventually move back to putting blue bins in parks. Currently, **Waterloo** parks do not carry recycling bins, to prevent dog waste from getting mixed into them, as it is in garbage bins.

"It's 250 tonnes of waste, of which more than half is dog waste just in **Waterloo**, Ont.; imagine how much it is across Canada. It's almost like we've discovered brown gold," Mr. Jaworsky said.

In Mississauga, the viability of recyclables has already been compromised as people continue throwing dog poop into park recycling bins.

"Even 30 seconds after telling them that dog waste is not recyclable, it has to go into the garbage, they put it into the recycling container anyway," said Christopher Pyke, project lead and supervisor of waste management for the city.

The city also receives a lot of complaints regarding the amount of dog waste on boulevards and in parks, Mr. Pyke said.

"As the population grows and urbanization increases, you're finding that more people in apartments and condos in urbanized parts of the city have dogs and are looking for places to walk them," Mr. Pyke said. "In those small parks now, you've got a lot more people in a confined area that have to have a place for their dog, and a dog does what a dog does."

Waste audits completed in 2015 and 2016 found that 100 per cent of mixed-recycling bins in the inspected city parks were contaminated with non-recyclables and approximately 55 per cent of the total recycled material weight was contaminated with dog waste.

Even 1 per cent of dog feces mixed into recycling bins forces the entire container to be classified as contaminated and end up in a landfill, Mr. Pyke said.

Starting in late April, the city of Mississauga will be installing 15 in-ground waste containers in eight city parks, including Jack Darling Memorial Park, Lakeside Park and Lake Aquitaine Park.

The cost of installation is $90,000.

The concrete containers, created by a **North** American inground waste-containment company called Sutera Inc., will be placed underground so they remain cool and out of direct sunlight in order to reduce odour.

The containers will be able to hold dog waste for up to six weeks.

Once the containers are full, the waste will be emptied by vacuum truck and taken to an organic waste plant to be converted into **energy** and fertilizer.

The city will be assessing the amount of dog waste taken away from landfills, the amount of dog waste collected, the amount of uncontaminated recyclables and pet-owner engagement.

The city's targets include collecting 60 metric tonnes of dog waste annually and approximately 60 per cent of uncontaminated mixed-recyclable material.

Bill Higgins, director of business development at Sutera, who came up with the idea for the project with Mr. Pyke, said he's since had about 50 municipalities contact him for the containers, which cost less than $3,000 each.

All of the municipalities he's spoken with have said that 40 per cent to 80 per cent of what they collect in their parks is dog waste, he added.

The city of Cambridge, Ont., is the latest to install two of Sutera's containers, while a number of other cities are currently working through the process. The containers installed so far have been in **Ontario**, but Sutera has received interest from California, Seattle and South Carolina, Mr. Higgins said.

In the summer, the dog-waste containers will also be installed in some private properties and high-rise condominiums across **North** America.

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THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Doug Ford readies agenda, with eye to expanding pot, alcohol sales and dropping foreign buyers' real estate tax; The new Ontario PC Leader says his party will have a new and greatly simplified platform for the June provincial election

theglobeandmail.com · Tue Mar 13 2018, 10:33pm ET
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Justin Giovannetti
Reach: 1188000

Progressive Conservative Leader Doug Ford says he is open to **greater** privatization of alcohol and marijuana sales in **Ontario** and scrapping the foreign-buyers tax on **real estate** as he looks to streamline his party's priorities before the June election.

Ontario's Official Opposition will have a new and greatly simplified platform, he said on Tuesday, confirming that he is ditching the 78-page election document the party adopted only a few months ago under former leader Patrick Brown.

The new platform will reflect his populist agenda, Mr. Ford told The Globe and Mail during an interview at his family's company headquarters in northwestern Toronto.

John Ibbitson: Who would win if Trudeau battled Ford over carbon tax? (www.theglobeandmail.com)

"We're going to keep it very simple, five points that we're hearing from the grassroots people," he said, promising the costs will be verified before the election.

The platform is not finished, but he said it will focus on health and education, creating jobs, getting rid of the province's cap-and-trade program for carbon emissions and reducing hydro rates.

One area of concern for Mr. Ford is Ontario's debt, swollen from hefty deficits after the financial crisis. He promised to find efficiencies in government to reduce spending. "We have to do something with our debt, it's terrible," he said, a mantra he repeated while campaigning for the PC leadership.

One area he will consider is opening up to competition Ontario's sales of alcohol, currently dominated by a government-controlled monopoly. More private sales have been permitted in a few grocery stores. Mr. Ford said the piecemeal moves have been unfair.

"What concerns me about the alcohol is that we've cherry-picked retailers. This retailer gets it, but all these guys don't get it. I don't believe in that. Be fair to everyone," Mr. Ford said.

With the introduction of legal marijuana expected this year, Premier Kathleen Wynne has unveiled plans for a government monopoly called the Ontario Cannabis Store. Mr. Ford said he was open to free-market involvement, but said the government should move slowly in this area.

The former Toronto councillor also said he was concerned with the province's efforts to slow the increase of housing prices in the Greater Toronto Area. In early 2017, the government introduced a foreign-buyers tax in the region and expanded rent control. The housing market cooled significantly after those moves.

Mr. Ford said he was considering a policy that would do away with the tax. The better solution, he said, is to build more affordable, single-family homes on underused land.

"I just don't like the government getting involved. I believe in the market dictating. The market, no matter whether it's the stock market or anything, it will always take care of itself ? supply and demand. We're short on single-dwelling homes," he said.

He said his government would reflect those values if his party wins the election in less than three months. He pledged that he would want to hear from nurses on how to run hospitals and from teachers on how to run schools. "I believe in surrounding myself with smarter people than myself in their areas of expertise, I think that shows good leadership," he said.

While Mr. Ford had little support in the party's caucus before his win, he said the elected members have told him they would fall in line. "They're going to follow me," he said.

The Tories have had record fundraising over the past year and have consistently bested the long-governing Liberals in polls, but have struggled with allegations of impropriety. Even before Mr. Brown was felled by allegations of sexual misconduct (which he denies), the party faced allegations of ballot-box stuffing or other ethical lapses in about a dozen nomination races.

The party's interim leader, Vic Fedeli, ordered new votes in two ridings, but Mr. Ford said he would **review** all of the party's nominations and is willing to deal with any allegations that come up.

"I'm going to look at all of them. ... If I see any inappropriate action, it's going to be dealt with immediately," he said.

While he said he had not made up his mind on whether to let Mr. Brown run for the party in a Barrie-area riding, he said the door was closed on the former leader's senior advisors working in his office.

Mr. Ford said his new job will not change him. He was dismissive of people who have approached him now that he could become **Ontario**'s next premier, calling them "weasels."

"I can't stand it when people, weasels, try to get in there and weasel and try to get a job or **contract**," he said. "I'm going to be Doug, I can't change. ... That's what I can't stand about politicians, they are so phony. I don't care what party they are, they act one way behind closed doors and then in **public** they are prim and proper."

While Mr. Ford tilted toward social conservative during his leadership campaign, saying he would revise the province's sex-education curriculum and allow a debate on restricting access to abortion for minors, he said that was about respecting the values of some people in **Ontario**.

"I wouldn't consider myself a social conservative, I just don't. I respect it. I think we need to respect each other's values. There are so many different religions and races that are very socially conservative," he said. "I'm not a bible thumper. I'll put it that way."

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Doug Ford readies agenda, with eye to expanding pot, alcohol sales and dropping foreign buyers' **real estate** tax (www.theglobeandmail.com)

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Wynne, not Ford, is the scary one

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The real train wreck and dumpster fire in **Ontario** politics is not the election of Doug Ford as leader of the Progressive Conservatives. It's the financial record of **Ontario**'s Liberal government over the past 15 years, first under Dalton McGuinty and now Kathleen Wynne.

Under their leadership, **Ontario** has become the most indebted sub-sovereign (non-national) borrower in the world, with a current debt of $312 billion, 125% higher than the $139 billion the Liberals inherited from the PCs in 2003.

The Liberals have already broken Wynne's election promise to run a balanced budget next year, now saying they will add up to $8 billion to the debt, consistent with their dismal performance of achieving only three balanced budgets from 2003 to 2017 while doubling provincial spending.

The Liberals are addicted to debt, and have tripled provincial debt. Because of that they are the real cause of deteriorating **public** services such as health care, education and welfare.

Under the Liberals, Ontarians are spending almost $1 billion a month just to pay interest on provincial debt, without paying back a penny of the principal.

If interest payments on Ontario's debt funded a government department, it would be the fourth largest after health, education and community services.

That's $11.6 billion annually that doesn't go toward the purchase of MRIs for hospitals, improved public transit, better drug coverage under OHIP, or lower taxes.

Trying to hide the enormity of their debt infects every election promise the Wynne government has made.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk says Wynne's signature Fair Hydro Plan, which the Liberals claim will temporarily lower hydro rates by 25%, will in fact cost taxpayers up to $39.4 billion - almost double what the Liberals claim - including up to $4 billion in unnecessary interest payments.

Why? Because, Lysyk says, the Liberal government is violating its own accounting rules to keep these costs off the province's books, meaning Ontarians will ultimately pay far more for electricity than the short-term savings the Liberals claim.

Ford didn't create the financial mess Ontario is in. The Liberals did that all by themselves and under them it will only get worse. To have any chance of saving public services in Ontario the answer isn't to re-elect Wynne and the Liberals.

It's to defeat them.

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Who would win if Trudeau battled Ford over carbon tax?; While different polls show different levels of support for carbon pricing, Ontario and Canadian voters dislike carbon taxes

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Imagine all-out, no-holds-barred warfare between a Conservative government in Ontario and a federal Liberal government over a tax that Ottawa has imposed on the province. Imagine the heat of the language, the impact on political brands, the damage to national unity. We could face that reality in a matter of months.

Justin Trudeau's government has declared that it will impose a carbon tax on any province that doesn't have one in place by next January. Doug Ford, the new leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, has vowed to scrap the Wynne government's cap-and-trade carbon tax. Polls show that the PCs are favoured to win a majority government in the June 7 provincial election.

If a new Ontario Conservative government were to scrap cap-and-trade, then the Liberals would impose a carbon tax on Ontario. The federal budget released two weeks ago is emphatic on that point. "The government will ... implement the federal system [the carbon tax] in whole or in part on January 1, 2019, in any province or territory that does not have a carbon-pollution pricing system that meets the minimum standard."

Who would win such a donnybrook? Ask yourself this question: If one level of government is trying to impose a tax on your province, and another level of government is fighting that tax, which level of government are people likely to support?

This is not to discount the value of a carbon tax in fighting **climate** change. As part of the Paris accord, Canada pledged to do its part to limit global warming to 2 degrees in this century. A carbon tax is a necessary (though not sufficient) condition of meeting that pledge.

But while different polls show different levels of support for carbon pricing, **Ontario** and **Canadian** voters dislike carbon taxes. How do we know that? By the way people live their lives.

Last year, Ford moved more than 133,000 F-Series pickup trucks, the bestselling truck in Canada. Honda sold only 63,000 Civics, the country's bestselling car. Fifty-four per cent of **Ontario** families live in single, detached dwellings, which are mostly heated by forced-air, **natural-gas** furnaces. More than 70 per cent of commuters in the **Toronto** area drive to work.

People choose to live carbon-intensive lives, however much environmentalists warn about melting icecaps.

How many pickup-truck owners, how many car commuters, how many people with **natural-gas**-powered homes do you think truly support the Wynne government's carbon-tax regime? No wonder federal Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer is also opposed.

The Saskatchewan government already opposes the tax. Alberta will go to the polls between March 1 and May 31, 2019. United Conservative Party Leader Jason Kenney vows to scrap his province's carbon tax if elected, and current polls suggest he will be. Are the Liberals in **Ottawa** determined to impose a carbon tax on all three provinces in an election year?

Political warfare is not inevitable. First off, Mr. Ford is a polarizing figure; he is hardly an inevitable premier.

Second, as my colleague Shawn McCarthy recently observed (www.theglobeandmail.com) , cancelling the **cap-and-trade** contracts could cost the **Ontario** government billions in penalties, encouraging a new Tory government to find a way to wriggle out of its commitment, or at least fudge the timing of withdrawal.

Conversely, the Grits in **Ottawa** may seek to find some route to compromise with a Premier Ford, rather than having to fight him as well as Andrew Scheer in **Ontario**, in defence of an unpopular new tax.

But those who think Justin Trudeau would love to wage a federal election with Doug Ford as the effective opposition should think again.

No federal Liberal party would willingly fight a Conservative **Ontario** government as well as the federal Conservatives in an election campaign. Those who claim **Ontario** voters strategically choose to have opposing parties in **Ottawa** and at Queen's Park have never produced evidence of such intent.

For the moment, all the Grits can do is hope and pray that the polls shift, and that Mr. Ford does not become premier of a majority **Ontario** government in June. Because if he does, things could get very messy.

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: Who would win if Trudeau battled Ford over carbon tax? (www.theglobeandmail.com)

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Halton Hills man invents new clean energy, fights for government recognition

Independent Free Press - Mon Mar 12 2018
Tone: Positive
Ad Value: $123
Reach: 22000 **Page:** 1

Roger Gordon's farm truck might have a little rust on the fenders, but it's definitely ahead of the times.

The Halton Hills inventor and pharmaceutical businessman has developed a new technology to create carbon-free ammonia, which he has converted his Ford F350 to use as fuel.

Using only nitrogen and hydrogen, Gordon creates a green ammonia that can be used as fuel for truck engines, farm equipment and even mining operations.

He patented the technology back in 2014 and has since fought to get the government on board with his project.

"Given the choice, people don't want to use dirty fuel," he said, explaining that he has relentlessly tried to get a response from provincial politicians on the project. "Trudeau and Wynne are saying we've got to get rid of carbon, but they won't respond to us. They're stonewalling it."

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott has met with Gordon on numerous occasions and has requested to sit down with provincial ministers on Gordon's behalf.

In January of last year, Arnott requested that the ministry establish an inter-ministerial scientific working group to sit down with Gordon and make an evaluation of his technology.

Arnott says he has not received a satisfactory response on the request.

"Regular ammonia is made from coal and natural gas," said Gordon, explaining that he has designed a machine that produces NH3, or ammonia from its core components - Hydrogen and nitrogen.

"The nitrogen is in the air for free," he said. "Hydrogen is in the water for free."

Since patenting the machine, he has built two separate prototypes. One is in Brampton, and a second is with the University of New Brunswick, in Fredericton. "The machine combines them under heat and pressure," he said.

Gordon is also partnering with Norm Olson, a fuel scientist with the University of Iowa, who says that research for ammonia-based fuel alternatives is taking place all over the globe. Siemens is currently researching a wind power to ammonia system, and both Japan and China have invested millions into research projects of their own.

The fuel is cost effective too.

Where the average cost of fuel sits just above $1 per litre, Gordon says his ammonia fuel costs 30 cents for the same amount of energy.

His goal is to manufacture the machines and sell them to large scale farmers and mining companies.

"We just want to build machines that are ready, and we can put them on a farm and go," said Gordon, who has received interest from not only local farmers, but mining companies like Teck Resources, for their Polaris zinc mine in the Northwest Territories.

The issue with introducing the technology to civilian vehicles is regulation.

"I'm a little afraid to drive my vehicle on the roads," said Gordon, whose pickup truck has a propane tank of ammonia sitting in the corner of the box, with a hose feeding to the engine in the front.

The new technology would require safety regulations and government approvals to be used for vehicles on the road.

"I can do farms and mines without regulation," he said. "I want the big farmers to have a machine, the big mines to have a machine and then it'll trickle down."

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Oxford County warden coming to Guelph to talk renewable energy

GuelphMercury.com - Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: newsroom@guelphmercurytribune.com
Reach: 11700

In 2015, Oxford County adopted a policy that would see the county steer toward 100 per cent **renewable energy** by 2050. And next week, one of the county's mayors will be in **Guelph** to talk about how such a move could work here.

Slated for March 22 at 10C at 42 Carden St. and starting at 7 p.m., eMERGE **Guelph** will be hosting A Mayor's Vision: 100% **Renewable Energy**.

David Mayberry, warden of Oxford County, will be speaking at the event on how such a move not only helps the environment, but helps drive the region's economy.

"If a jurisdiction of just over 100,000 can commit the investment, infrastructure and political partnership it takes to adopt green **energy** for a more sustainable future, consider the impact of more communities following suit," Mayberry states in a news release announcing the event.

"We think **Guelph** can do this too," adds Evan Ferrari, executive director of eMERGE **Guelph**, in the same release.

"This opportunity creates more local jobs and grows our economy in a sector bound for unprecedented growth."

Also speaking at the event is Neetika Sathe, the vice-president of advanced planning for Alectra **Utilities** - which will soon be merging with **Guelph Hydro**.

"Who better to highlight the path forward than a mayor already working to meet the 100 per cent target, alongside an industry insider who works to understand the role that innovation will bring to the **energy** system," Ferrari adds.

Tickets for the event are available at Eventbrite.ca.

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Despite Alberta's warnings, oil majors Shell and BP are falling in love with carbon capture technology all over again

Financial Post - Tue Mar 13 2018
Tone: Negative
Byline: Geoffrey Morgan
Reach: 607500

HOUSTON - Major oil companies Royal Dutch Shell Plc and BP Plc are taking another hard look at carbon capture storage much to the alarm of Alberta which sank more than a billion dollars in the technology but was heavily criticized for pursuing an expensive method to rein in carbon emissions.

"I'm fairly surprised," Alberta **Energy** Minister Marg McCuaig-Boyd said of the widespread enthusiastic touting of CCS investments at CERA Week, an important Houston **energy** conference organized by IHS Markit at the beginning of March.

Alberta had once been an enthusiastic investor in CCS projects and committed $1.3 billion to two projects in 2014, which at the time accounted for 10 per cent of the total global investment in carbon sequestration. But the technology was considered too expensive relative to other emissions reduction strategies and further investments in CCS in Alberta were abandoned.

Jim Prentice says to **wind** down carbon capture fund in Alberta, new projects 'on hold' (business.financialpost.com)

Delegates from 16 countries at carbon capture symposium in Regina (business.financialpost.com)

"Right now, there are technologies out there but it's very expensive," McCuaig-Boyd said. Alberta has since wound down its $2-billion fund for CCS investments, citing the high costs.

But now some of the world's most influential oil executives are touting CCS - now rebranded as carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) - as a way to reduce global emissions. Apart from Shell CEO Ben van Beurden and BP chief executive Bob Dudley, the boosters include International **Energy** Agency executive director Fatih Birol, U.S. **Energy** Secretary Rick Perry, Norway's Minister of Petroleum and **Energy** Terje Soviknes and others.

"This is an extremely important technology and we have seen recently a strong interest here," Birol said of CCS, which he said is "critical" for **energy**-producing jurisdictions meeting their **climate** change goals under the Paris Agreement.

"There are plenty of questions (facing the **energy** industry) but the biggest one of them is still, in my mind, **climate** change," van Beurden said, adding that further investments in CCS/CCUS could be part of Shell's strategy for reducing its net **carbon footprint** by 50 per cent by 2050.

On Monday, IEA analysts Simon Bennett and Tristan Stanley published a prediction that policy changes in the recent U.S. federal budget "could trigger the largest surge in carbon capture investment of any policy instrument to date."

The 2018 U.S. federal budget includes tax credits of up to US$50 per tonne for captured CO_2, a move which IEA analysts believe will boost the total amount of CCS/CCUS capacity around the world by 66 per cent by 2026.

Right now, CCS facilities around the world capture 29 million tonnes of CO_2 per year - and projects in both Alberta and Saskatchewan make a large contribution to that total.

With $745 million in funding from Alberta and $120 million from **Ottawa**, Shell Canada Ltd. built the Quest CCS project at a bitumen upgrader near Edmonton, which reduces the upgraders emissions by 35 per cent and has the capacity to sequester 1.2 million tonnes of CO_2 per year, the equivalent of 250,000 cars, at an estimated cost of $1.35 billion.

The technology's high price tag has made it a controversial method for reducing emissions and there were some initial performance issues at the sites where it has been installed.

SaskPower's $1.5-billion Boundary Dam CCS project at a coal-fired **power** plant near Estevan, Sask. uses nearly identical technology as Quest - SaskPower purchased the system from a Shell subsidiary - and is sequestering less than its designed capacity.

The provincially-owned **utility** announced Monday it had sequestered 2 million tonnes of CO2 since the project became operational in Oct. 2014, which translates into a carbon capturing **rate** of approximately 585,366 tonnes per year, compared to initial design estimates of 1 million tonnes per year.

SaskPower spokesperson Jonathan Tremblay says the company's target is to operate at 65 per cent of the CCS project's design capacity because it sells a portion of its design capacity to a third party, which uses the CO2 to stimulate oil and **gas** wells, and sequesters enough to meet those obligations.

"In our first year of production, we learned a lot," he said, adding the company did experience some inconsistent performance from the technology when it was first installed.

The Boundary Dam project has also been criticized for being so expensive as to be uneconomic.

"Using CCS to delay the shut down of coal is ultimately not going to be cost-effective in the long run," said Pembina Institute policy analyst Jason Switzer. "I would think the answer is that solutions are coming on the generation side (like renewables) and in **power** storage."

Still, Switzer said CCS or CCUS investments could make sense in other applications, such as steel mills or pulp mills that are expected to operate over a longer period of time so the high initial investment can be recouped. "We do need to work on bringing the costs down and making the technology more viable," he said.

The investments in CCS technology in Alberta had become so controversial that former premier Jim Prentice scrapped the fund in 2014 as, he said, "This is a very sizeable investment of taxpayers' money and prudence dictates that we should ensure that we begin to see some commercial viability to these investments."

Still, other jurisdictions are moving ahead with new CCS instalments, including NRG **Energy** Inc.'s US$1-billion Petro Nova CCS project at a coal-fired **power** plant near Houston and new facilities in Europe.

"It is not a big contradiction between being a big producer of oil and **gas** and having ambitious **climate** policies," Norwegian **energy** minister Terje Soviknes said at the Houston conference. Norway, which produces oil from the **North** Sea, is considering further CCS investments including at a cement plant, an ammonia plant and a waste-incineration plant.

"Everybody agrees we need CCS on a large scale, and affordable CCS, if we are going to reach our goals on **climate** change," Soviknes said, adding that "today, it's quite costly and we have to bring down the costs."

He said other jurisdictions should also invest in CCS research and deployments in a collaborative approach.

In his speech at Houston's CERA Week conference, U.S.'s Perry touted the U.S. commitment to CCS technology to reduce emissions while growing its oil production to exceed that of Saudi Arabia's.

"America is in the middle of an **energy** revolution," Perry said, adding that CCS would allow that revolution to continue while reducing emissions, rather than oil production.

In Alberta, the province's NDP had campaigned on a promise to back out of all CCS investments but did not follow through once forming government as the contracts the previous Progressive Conservatives signed were binding.

Despite the oil industry's renewed fascination with CCS, the Alberta government says it has no plans to revisit its defunct CCS fund but McCuaig-Boyd said the province is willing to consider new technologies as they emerge.

"Economic Development and Trade has launched a carbon prize, so I can see that there might be some projects come through that - ways to use that carbon," McCuaig-Boyd said, but indicated that would be as far as the provincial government would be willing to fund CCS investments at this point.

"If someone comes up with a good use for carbon, I don't think the door is shut on that," she said.

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Alberta politicians vote unanimously to back province in oil pipeline fight

National Post - Wed Mar 14 2018
Tone: Neutral
Byline: The Canadian Press
Reach: 607500

EDMONTON - Alberta politicians have passed a motion to back Premier Rachel Notley's battle for the Trans Mountain oil pipeline, but division remains on how to carry the fight.

The United Conservatives, Alberta Party, and the Alberta Liberals joined with Notley's NDP to back the government motion in a vote Tuesday.

The final tally was 70-0, with Notley and United Conservative Opposition Leader Jason Kenney in the chamber for the vote.

All sides agree on the need for the pipeline, but have disagreed over how Notley's government has carried the fight to B.C. and to the federal government.

The NDP voted down a United Conservative amendment designed to make that distinction clear.

UCP house leader Jason Nixon said they voted for the motion anyway, saying it's important to stop B.C.'s delay tactics on the project, which would triple the amount of oil flowing from Edmonton to Burnaby.

"It was important for us to show we were united in the legislature as Albertans," Nixon said. "With that said, that does not let the NDP off. They have not gone far enough."

Notley introduced the motion Monday. She said actions such as B.C.'s delay tactics leave Canada lagging while other countries eagerly fill new orders for oil.

"I'm hard pressed to think of another country that so willingly handcuffs its economy this way," Notley said.

The motion urged all members of the legislature to back the government's actions in getting Trans Mountain built, and to push Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to do what it can to get the Kinder Morgan project completed.

But United Conservative Leader Jason Kenney told the house Notley waited too long and has not done enough to force B.C. to stop obstructing the project, which was approved by the federal government in 2016.

"We should prepare an entire suite of potential economic reprisals, saying that if they (B.C.) start a trade war, they'll have to learn that Alberta will finish it," Kenney told the house Monday.

Greg Clark of the Alberta Party said the NDP government has failed to make the case to B.C. that Alberta shares its concerns on **climate** change.

But government house leader Brian Mason said the government has been carefully leading the fight, and said it's easy for those on the opposition benches to issue broad statements and threats.

Notley has been fighting with B.C. Premier John Horgan's government over what Alberta terms delay tactics on the pipeline, including court challenges and permit delays in an area that Notley considers to be a federal responsibility.

The premier suspended negotiations on **electricity** sales and cut off wine from B.C. after Horgan's government announced in late January it would not take in more oil from Alberta above current levels while it studies spill safety.

Notley lifted the wine ban last month after Horgan reversed his stand on the oil moratorium and said he would instead seek a ruling in the courts.

Last week, Notley announced her government would consider cutting oil and **natural gas** exports if B.C. continued to delay.

Horgan said B.C. will stick to its legal **plan** to test its jurisdiction on environmental and economic grounds.

"Ms. Notley can take care of business in Alberta to the extent that she believes she has to take on British Columbians," Horgan said Tuesday.

"That's her right. I would prefer to see people coming together. I would prefer that our federation was a co-operative one, a consensus driven operation, not a subservience federation."

B.C. has retained lawyer Joseph Arvay to prepare a reference case in the courts to test the province's right to protect its land, **coast** and waters.

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TransCanada endorses shareholders resolution for climate-risk analysis; An assessment of the long-term effects of a transition to a low-carbon economy is part of broader effort by shareholders

theglobeandmail.com · Tue Mar 13 2018, 6:14pm ET
Tone: Negative
Byline: Shawn McCarthy
Reach: 1188000

TransCanada Corp. management has endorsed a shareholders resolution requiring the company to provide an analysis of how its long-term business prospects would be affected by a transition to a low-carbon economy.

The resolution submitted by two Quebec religious orders will be voted on at TransCanada's annual meeting in April, and is part of a broader effort by institutional shareholders to assess the **climate**-related risks faced by the **public** corporations in which they invest.

The proposal would require TransCanada to report on how it is assessing long-term risks and opportunities that arise as a result of global efforts to avert the worst impacts of **climate** change, AEQuo Shareholder Engagement **Service** Inc. said in a release on Tuesday. The company should also provide analysis based on various scenarios, including one in which governments act to limit the average increase in global temperatures to less than 2 degrees Celsius.

Calgary-based TransCanada has been front and **centre** in **North** America's contentious **climate**-change debates, with its proposed Keystone XL project that was rejected by the Obama administration in 2015 and resuscitated by the Trump administration last year, and with its proposed **Energy** East oil sands pipeline that the company abandoned after a series of regulatory delays.

"TransCanada has long recognized the need for transparency in our greenhouse **gas** reporting," spokesman Mark Cooper said in confirming management's support for the resolution. "We are committed to continually improving our disclosure, and we welcome this opportunity to provide - within reason - external reporting that meets the needs and expectations of shareholders and stakeholders on this increasingly important issue."

The company already includes a discussion of **climate**-related risks in its annual report. It also submits an analysis of risks and opportunities each year to the U.S.-based Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP).

In its 2017 CDP report, TransCanada outlined the growing prevalence of carbon pricing and other regulations across **North** America, and highlighted its ownership stake in the Bruce nuclear facility in **Ontario** that is investing $13-billion to extend the life of its reactors for emissions-free **electricity**. It also states that concern about **climate** change has had an impact on its ability to win project approvals and represents a "reputational risk" as well as an operational one.

However, the company focuses largely on its direct emissions, and has not analyzed how a rapid transition to a lower-carbon **energy** economy would affect the demand for pipeline capacity from the **North** American oil and **gas** producers.

Mr. Cooper said the company believes that oil and **gas** will continue to be "a key source of reliable and affordable **energy** for the foreseeable future," even as renewable sources take a bigger share of the market.

Institutional investors are putting increasing pressure on **energy** companies in particular to disclose their **climate**-related risks in a manner that can be used to compare industries and companies within sectors on their vulnerabilities.

While more **energy** companies are issuing **climate**-related risk reports, they are often little more than statements of existing regulations and efforts to play down the impacts, AEQuo chief executive Jean-Philippe Renaut said Tuesday.

"In theory, any information on the markets that helps investors understand how the company evolves in this context is useful," Mr. Renaut said in an interview. "If the investors don't find it convincing, it is their duty to push back and say this is not worth the paper it is printed on, or is not rigorous enough."

Under securities law, companies are already required to outline any material risk that may arise from **climate** change, whether that be a threat to physical infrastructure from extreme weather events or more costly carbon regulations.

In a report last year, Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada concluded that, while many **Canadian** companies are issuing statements on **climate**-related risk, the information often provides little guidance for investors.

"Our study often found insufficient context was provided when it came to helping investors understand both the existing and the potential risks and opportunities posed to that specific entity," the report's co-author Sarah Keyes said on

Tuesday.

With files from Jeff Lewis

Follow this link to view this story on globeandmail.com: TransCanada endorses shareholders resolution for **climate**-risk analysis (www.theglobeandmail.com)

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