John Bozzo

From: John Bozzo
Sent: August 2, 2017 9:04 AM
To: Brian Hewson; Ceiran Bishop; Christine Long; Corinne Carvalho; Debra Hazelton; Elisabeth DaSilva; John Bozzo; Julie Mitchell; June Colman; Karen Nunno; Ken Quesnelle; Lynne Anderson; Martine Band; Mary Anne Aldred; Nancy Mintz; Neil Brodie; Rosemarie Leclair; Sarah Branco; Veronica Mendes
Subject: FW: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Good morning,

Here is the OEB morning media summary for Wednesday, August 2nd.

Overview
News coverage today is light. Includes references to OESP from Sudbury area MPP and news coverage of HON1's opening of a customer service office in Sudbury.

Sudbury Star Residents should check if they're eligible for Ontario Electricity Support Program: Gelinas
News report on comments from Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinas on OESP as a potential resource for qualified hydro customers. Gelinas encourages those who may have concerns about the arrival of cold weather and rising hydro costs to see if they are eligible for OESP assistance on their hydro bill. Information on how to apply for OESP is included in the article.

Sudbury Star Fraser Institute misses the point
Letter to the editor from Ontario Energy Minister and local MPP, Glenn Thibeault who questions the commentary of the recent Fraser Institute Report on the Ontario electricity system. Thibeault notes that the report ignores the health benefits that have resulted from the elimination of coal power generation in Ontario and the rate reduction benefits provided by the province's Fair Hydro Plan.

Northern Ontario CTV News Hydro One opens a customer service office in

Sudbury

News report on the official opening of a Hydro One office in Sudbury to provide customer service. Includes comments from Hydro One EVP of Customer Care and Corporate Affairs, Ferio Pugliese on how Hydro One is working to improve customer service overall. Additonal comments from Ontario Energy Minister and local MPP Glenn Thibeault who welcomes the announcement and the benefit it provides to the greater Sudbury area. Similar article in North Bay Nugget

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Tweets

CommEnergieOnt: Besoin d'aide à payer votre facture d'électricité? Regardez cette vidéo :
https://twitter.com/CommEnergieOnt/status/892388079796989953

sunshineorillia: Ontario Energy Board puts Hydro One's proposed purchase of Orillia Power's distribution arm on hold. sunshine89.ca/news_item.php?…
https://twitter.com/sunshineorillia/status/892335733498884096

suekings35: Here's our Tuesday Sun Media editorial: Learn from Ontario's green energy fiasco torontosun.com/2017/07/31/lea… #cdnpoli #onpoli
https://twitter.com/sunlorrie/status/892387461556387840

heathrodgirs: ON has highest energy rates in NA. It's not just the companies that left Ontario. It's the companies that chose not to come to Ontario."
https://twitter.com/KarenPtbo/status/892385385841545218

mardakyle: Architect of Ontario's catastrophic energy policies set to become a professional critic of Alberta's energy industry torontosun.com/2017/07/31/ont…
https://twitter.com/jkenney/status/892373531085783046

GerryRitzMP: @sunlorrie Wasn't Ontario's disastrous "green energy" plan devised by Butts & McGuinty....& now is being implemented nationally by Butts & Trudeau?
https://twitter.com/OtagoGrad/status/892368047721336832

Paul_Zilio: Be afraid: The brains behind Ontario's energy disaster are now advising PM - CBC News | Opinion cbc.ca/beta/news/opin…
https://twitter.com/mrbinnion/status/892367999025520640

GYFHAS_: Seattle's experience suggests that this isn't "good policy" and they didn't have Ontario's exorbitant energy rates.
https://twitter.com/GYFHAS_/status/892365345658417152

rutzpipes: @sunlorrie Wasn't Ontario's disastrous "green energy" plan devised by Butts & McGuinty....& now is being implemented nationally by Butts & Trudeau?
https://twitter.com/OtagoGrad/status/892359739153231874

safesetbacks: Plant closure underscores Liberal energy blunders | GOLDSTEIN | Ontario | News | torontosun.com/2017/07/18/pla…
https://twitter.com/safesetbacks/status/892356373794742272

Lars Hansen
Media Relations Specialist

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From: Infomart Newsletters [mailto:Infomart.newsletters@infomart.com]
Sent: August-02-17 7:50 AM
To: Lars Hansen
Subject: Morning News Clippings - Wednesday, August 2, 2017

View in Browser

Morning News Clippings

powered by: infomart

Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017
Edited by: Paul Crawford (**Paul.Crawford@oeb.ca**)

Contact Editor

Clippings Summary

News - 14 Results

Bottom Feeders

Toronto Sun - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Bill Jamieson

Ad Value: $1,113
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Re "PC **energy** critic finds purchase of toxic dump 'alarming'" (Antonella Artuso, July 27): It's unconscionable that the Ontario government could sell off one of our main resources. This should always be an untouchable asset because the ...

Province recruiting hydro team

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Gord Young

Ad Value: $182
Reach: 3014 **Page:** A1 / Front

The province is establishing a team in North Bay that will be dedicated to enrolling social assistance recipients across Ontario in a program to help lower their **electricity** costs. The local Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) ...

Electricity support program

Sudbury Star - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $184
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A3

Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinas reminds residents that **hydro** bills will go up as the mercury drops. Before the colder weather and higher **electricity** bills get here, you may want to check if you qualify for the Ontario ...

Thibeault: Fraser Institute misses point

Sudbury Star - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: $475
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

Re: "Poor policy blamed for **hydro** costs," July 30. It's no surprise now to see the right-leaning Fraser Institute argue that Ontario shouldn't have invested in clean **energy**. At no point do they report recognize the value of ...

Siemens Tillsonburg closure should have others nervous, analyst says

Norwich Gazette · Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jennifer Bieman And Megan Stacey

Ad Value: $381
Reach: 1080 **Page:** A2

The loss of 340 jobs at a Tillsonburg factory that makes blades for **wind** turbines could be a harbinger of troubles ahead in Ontario's green **energy** industry, a leading analyst says. Siemens Canada said Tuesday, July 18 it's ...

Alternative needed on electricity file

Norwich Gazette · Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Ad Value: $190
Reach: 1080 **Page:** A4

Slashing the exorbitant pay **rates** of the most senior **hydro** executives in Ontario, as Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown promised last month if he wins next year's election, is a populist and symbolic measure.We have ...

Hydro One opens a customer service office in Sudbury | CTV Northern Ontario News

northernontario.ctvnews.ca · Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Hydro One officially opened a customer service office at its Sudbury Field Business Centre on Tuesday.

'Flipping the switch'on service; Hydro One opens call centre

North Bay Nugget · Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $322
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A3

Hydro One officially opened a customer service office Tuesday at its Sudbury Field Business Centre. **Hydro One** has been increasing its presence in local communities through drop-in sessions, its mobile ...

Ask us anything about possible mergers for Guelph Hydro - City of Guelph

guelph.ca · Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Permalink

Information events at Home Depot, Stone Road Mall, Guelph library and community centres

County looks at potential of net metering

Ingersoll Times - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Bruce Chessell

Ad Value: $240
Reach: 1318 **Page:** A6

Oxford County is looking to show its residents the potential of virtual net metering. The county wants to partner with the province on running a demonstration of virtual net metering in Oxford, using one of the countyowned buildings as a pilot. ...

Coal-fire investment dirty

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Carole Lavallee

Ad Value: $115
Reach: 7920 **Page:** A4

Re. **Hydro One** deal opposes Ontario's moral values it seems we have come down one huge notch. the point of closing down Ontario coal plants was to quickly lower CO2 levels so we can have a liveable world. How do we reach that ...

Trudeau's carbon-pricing plan out of step with Canadians

Waterloo Region Record - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Ken Green

Ad Value: $2,931
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A7

Canadians are right to be skeptical about the federal government's carbon-pricing plan. At the G20 summit in Hamburg in early July, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took a leading role in promoting a **climate change** agreement that ...

Smothering Petronas to death

National Post - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Joe oliver ,

Ad Value: $11,966
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP9

Last week, Canada received more bad news in its prolonged failure to export **energy** resources abroad. Petronas decided not to proceed with its $36-billion Pacific North-West LNG project, dealing a body blow to B.C. employment, economic ...

Wynne should halt Strong Breeze development

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Darlene Ford

Ad Value: $258
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A5

The tragic job loss for 340 Siemens workers in Tillsonburg is the latest confirmation of the foolishness of the **Green Energy Act**. The evidence is piling up: The Ontario Professional Association of Engineers'recent ...

Clippings Summary

Full Articles

Bottom Feeders

Toronto Sun - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Bill Jamieson

Ad Value: $1,113
Reach: 171076 **Page:** A14

Re "PC **energy** critic finds purchase of toxic dump 'alarming'" (Antonella Artuso, July 27): It's unconscionable that the Ontario government could sell off one of our main resources. This should always be an untouchable asset because the demand will constantly increase, as will the revenue. Between discounted prices to the USA, Quebec, curtailments and now the loss of control, it's impossible for Ontarians to ever get a break on **hydro rates**. Subsidizing **rates** with longer amortization is not a sound business practice. It doesn't matter how much supply is produced, the price will not be going down any time soon, unless through subsidy. The company (**Hydro** One) is now profit-oriented and you can rest assured the **Ontario Energy Board** will be constantly knocking on the door for **rate** increases, with poor Ontarians having nowhere to turn. Talk about a lack of leadership. This portfolio has become a complete and utter disaster. Now we are back in the coal business, with cleanup fees that will undoubtedly go through the roof. Who makes contracts like this? There doesn't seem to be a learning curve for our leaders. One thing is for sure, this is what happens when the bottom half of the class runs the government and the top half is in business.

BILL JAMIESON TORONTO

(The "bottom half" may actually be too generous an assessment)

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Province recruiting hydro team

Northern Daily News (Kirkland Lake) - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Gord Young

Ad Value: $182
Reach: 3014 **Page:** A1 / Front

The province is establishing a team in North Bay that will be dedicated to enrolling social assistance recipients across Ontario in a program to help lower their **electricity** costs.

The local Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) office is looking to hire 39 people for up to 12 months or longer to help sign up ODSP and Ontario Works recipients in the Ontario **Electricity** Support Program (OESP).

"There are approximately 100,000 ODSP and Ontario Works recipients that pay **hydro** costs today. We want to ensure that individuals and families are accessing the supports available to them - that's why we're setting up the dedicated team," Kristen Tedesco, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Community and Social Services, said in an email. "The team will be responsible for conducting outreach to existing social assistance recipients across the province and completing OESP applications on their behalf. The team will also complete OESP applications for new grants upon referral."

According to the job listing, the positions pay between $21.71 and $25.10 an hour. They're looking for people who are skilled at customer service and communication, office administration, computers, planning and organizing. Some of the positions are bilingual.

Based on household income and size, the OESP provides a credit for low-income individuals and families on their monthly utility bill.

It was launched last year. But uptake has been slow.

An estimated 570,000 lowincome customers are eligible for the **energy** assistance fund. But according to an **Ontario Energy Board** release issued in the spring outlining changes to the program, it has "provided monthly onbill credits to more than 153,000 lower-income households" since Jan. 1, 2016.

As of May 1, OESP credit amounts have increased and rules have been changed so that social assistance recipients who have an **electricity** account in their name are automatically eligible for the OESP credit.

"The increased credit amounts and enhanced eligibility for social assistance recipients are part of the government's ongoing efforts to reduce **electricity** bills as outlined in the Fair **Hydro** Plan," said Tedesco.

The program could provide between $180 and $300 in savings annually for households in monthly, on-bill credits, depending on their size and annual income. For example: A single-person household earning $28,000 or less could now receive $45 per month.

A four-person household earning less than $48,000 (up from $39,000) could now qualify for $40 per month.

Households with seven people earning a total of $39,000 or less could receive $75 per month.

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Electricity support program

The Sudbury Star

Sudbury Star · Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $184
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A3

Nickel Belt MPP France Gelinas reminds residents that **hydro** bills will go up as the mercury drops. Before the colder weather and higher **electricity** bills get here, you may want to check if you qualify for the Ontario **Electricity** Support Program. The OESP provides a fixed monthly credit on **electricity** bills to low-income households. The credit amount depends on how many people live in the home and their income. There are new income thresholds, as well as new rules for customers with medical devices to qualify for the credit. Visit www.ontarioelectricitysupport . ca and complete the online application. You will have to print and sign the consent form and mail it to them. If you have any questions, call 1-855-831-8151.

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Thibeault: Fraser Institute misses point

The Sudbury Star

Sudbury Star - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Byline: Glenn Thibeault

Ad Value: $475
Reach: 14934 **Page:** A10

Re: "Poor policy blamed for **hydro** costs," July 30.

It's no surprise now to see the right-leaning Fraser Institute argue that Ontario shouldn't have invested in clean **energy**.

At no point do they report recognize the value of the investments we made to eliminate coal and clean up the dirty, unreliable system we inherited from the previous Conservative government.

The end of coal has helped to virtually eliminate smog days in our province, and it remains the largest **climate** change initiative ever undertaken in North America.

These efforts are already having a tangible impact - a 2016 Toronto Vital Signs report shows premature deaths and hospitalizations as a result of air pollution have dropped by 23 per cent and 41 per cent respectively in that region since 2004.

These are benefits that the Fraser Institute completely neglects to mention.

The Fraser Institute also fails to account for the 25 per cent on average reduction to **electricity** bills thanks to our Fair **Hydro** Plan. Under that plan, families, small businesses and farms across the province now have lower bills.

Those facing the largest burden from **electricity** costs - in remote northern and rural communities or on a low income - the savings are even larger, as much as 40 to 50 per cent. And our plan will hold any increases to bills to the **rate** of inflation for four years, ensuring predictability for Ontarians.

This plan was built on taking some of our significant investments over the last decade, and spreading them over a longer period. This reflects a more fair allocation of the investments we have made to build a cleaner, more reliable system for decades to come.

The Fair **Hydro** Plan represents real action and is already providing real relief across the province.

Even so, both the Conservatives and NDP irresponsibly voted against providing this relief for families and businesses.

Unlike them, we're going to stay focused on what's important - making sure our **electricity** system is clean, reliable, and affordable for all Ontarians.

Glenn Thibeault

Sudbury MPP, **Energy** minister

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Gazette

Siemens Tillsonburg closure should have others nervous, analyst says

Norwich Gazette - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Jennifer Bieman And Megan Stacey

Ad Value: $381
Reach: 1080 **Page:** A2

The loss of 340 jobs at a Tillsonburg factory that makes blades for **wind** turbines could be a harbinger of troubles ahead in Ontario's green **energy** industry, a leading analyst says.

Siemens Canada said Tuesday, July 18 it's closing its Tillsonburg plant, one of four Ontario green **energy** factories set up under a controversial, multi-billion-dollar deal with Korean industrial giant Samsung.

The closing of one of the town's largest employers came after weeks of speculation, the fallout rippling as far as Windsor whose mayor was left wondering about the future of a **wind turbine** tower plant there.

"There is a real risk there," Mayor Drew Dilkens said of the CS **Wind** tower plant in Windsor, one of the other factories brought to Ontario under the Samsung deal. "They have not said anything to me about being on the verge of closing, but we have met with them to see if there is anything more the city can do to help them secure more business and keep jobs in the community," he said.

Energy analyst Tom Adams said Ontario's green **energy** industry could be in for a rough ride if it doesn't lay its hands on orders from outside Ontario, arguing the provincial market is saturated with **wind** and **solar electricity** brought online since the Liberal government plunged headlong into green **energy** in 2009.

"I think it was always pretty obvious that whatever jobs were going to arise from the **Green Energy Act** were all temporary or almost all temporary," Adams said, referencing the provincial law that paved the way for big **wind** farms in Ontario under contracts paying **energy** giants more than consumers pay for **power**.

"Samsung had no history in **renewable energy** before they came to Ontario. They came only for the subsidies, and when the subsidies dry up, they'll disappear as quick as they landed," said Adams, an independent **energy** and environmental advisor and researcher.

Demand in eastern Canada has fallen for **wind energy** equipment, said David Hickey, chief executive of Siemens **Wind Power** Ltd. But the plant can't produce the larger equipment the industry now wants, he added.

"Ontario and Quebec were the key growth markets before. We're now seeing the market shifting to western Canada, with Alberta and Saskatchewan being the key opportunities of the future," he said.

Canadian and international markets want the most competitive technology, which means longer blades, he said. "The factory here is constrained. To go beyond the 55-metre blades we have would require significant investment."

The plant couldn't compete with requirements for blades up to 69 metres long for offshore **wind** turbines.

Competition in the industry has exploded in recent years, Hickey added, driving a huge reduction in price.

In 2010, four plants to make parts for **wind** and **solar energy** farms were set up under the Samsung deal between the company and the province to generate **power** for Ontario and create green-**energy** jobs. At that point, Siemens was producing a 49-metre blade.

Besides the Tillsonburg plant, the others include the **wind** tower plant in Windsor and factories in London and Toronto that make equipment for the **solar**-**power** industry.

Siemens employees were summoned by the company to a briefing at a community centre before the jobs axe fell on the town of 16,000.

It's nothing they didn't see coming, said some workers.

"Welcome to Southwestern Ontario - here today, gone tomorrow," Ervin Underhill said of manufacturing in the region.

"It's as unpredictable as the weather."

With so much **power** now available, the Ontario government has been accused of dumping green **energy** and has come under fire for skyrocketing **electricity** prices that have essentially doubled over the last decade.

The government's aboutface on **renewable energy** project, halting further large buys, was the beginning of the end, said worker Lee Blair of London.

"We saw the writing on the wall when the Liberals cut the funding to the green **energy** (projects)," he said.

Though Blair and Underhill said they knew a closing was inevitable, a lockout July 16 - workers arrived to find the plant closed and were directed to the July 18 meeting instead - still came as a shock.

"There was quite a bit of anger in there because they shut the place down the other night and never really told anybody about it," employee Rick Hunt said.

"It was bang, everything was locked down."

Hunt said workers were told July 18 the company is trying to formulate a plan and keep things running as long as possible.

A very small portion of employees - Underhill estimated about 25 - will stay on to close the plant.

"This was a very difficult decision that was taken only after assessing all the options," said Hickey.

"We have a great team of employees at the plant who have produced quality work for the last six years, and we sincerely appreciate their efforts."

Underhill said employees thought they might have more time.

"In January they told us we were good until 2020," he said.

"They strung us along more than anything."

With Windsor Star file

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Alternative needed on electricity file

Gazette

Norwich Gazette - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: **Negative**
Ad Value: $190
Reach: 1080 **Page:** A4

Slashing the exorbitant pay **rates** of the most senior **hydro** executives in Ontario, as Progressive Conservative Leader Patrick Brown promised last month if he wins next year's election, is a populist and symbolic measure.We have nothing against populism - which means addressing the concerns of ordinary people - and salaries and benefits in the **electricity** sector need to be reined in generally speaking, but there aren't enough **hydro** executives to reduce **hydro** **rates** by long-overdue salary restraint.In a bid to save the political hide of the Liberals in next year's election, Premier Kathleen Wynne has announced a 25 per cent average, temporary **rebate** in **hydro** **rates**, starting this summer.

But it's all financed with borrowed money that will end up costing us even more.Under Wynne's plan, **hydro** **rates** will also be artificially held to the inflation **rate** for four years, but will inevitably skyrocket later.Wynne and her predecessor, Dalton McGuinty, helped to create this mess when they blundered into unreliable, unnecessary, expensive **wind** and **solar** **power**, which had nothing to do with eliminating Ontario's reliance on **coal-fired electricity**.

They did that with nuclear **power** and **natural gas**, meaning the billions of public dollars they have spent on **wind** and **solar** **power** were an unnecessary waste of public money.That said, to defeat the Wynne government in the next election, voters will have to be convinced Brown has a better plan.Brown needs to explain what that plan is.The PC leader, who opposes Wynne's almost $2-billion-a-year cap-andtrade carbon price cash grab, says he will introduce a revenue-neutral carbon pricing plan, fair to all Ontarians. If so, the public needs to hear what it is and how it will work, sooner rather than later.It's vitally important in the next election that voters have a clear idea of where the parties stand on the **electricity** file, which impacts everyone in the province financially.

This as opposed to the last election where Wynne not only said nothing about introducing a **cap and trade** scheme, but added she had no plans to introduce a carbon tax shortly after the election. (Disingenuous because **cap and trade** is a carbon tax by another name.)Finally, taunts by the Liberals that the Tories have no **electricity** plan of their own are specious, given the shockingly reckless and irresponsible way they've handled this file since taking **power** in 2003.But Ontarians need a responsible alternative. If Brown and the PCs want to win, they need to provide one.

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Hydro One opens a customer service office in Sudbury | CTV Northern Ontario News

northernontario.ctvnews.ca - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral

Hydro One officially opened a customer service office at its Sudbury Field Business Centre on Tuesday.

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'Flipping the switch'on service; Hydro One opens call centre

North Bay Nugget - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Ad Value: $322
Reach: 11505 **Page:** A3

Hydro One officially opened a customer service office Tuesday at its Sudbury Field Business Centre.

Hydro One has been increasing its presence in local communities through drop-in sessions, its mobile **Electricity** Discovery Centre and by piloting customer service offices at its London and Markham call centres, in addition to the Sudbury location.

"We've been 'flipping the switch'on how we do business and focusing on how we can better serve our customers in their communities," Ferio Pugliese, executive vicepresident of customer care and corporate affairs for **Hydro** One, said in a release.

"The actions we have taken to date have been specifically aimed at affordability and timely customer service where they need us, when they need us."

Earlier this year, **Hydro** One committed to increasing its local presence to deliver better customer service by meeting with its customers face-to-face, with the goal of helping them in a way that is convenient to them. Customers can visit a customer service office in Sudbury, London or Markham weekdays or visit HydroOne.com to see where the travelling customer service team will be next.

"**Hydro** One's new customer service office is a welcome addition to the Greater Sudbury area," said Glenn Thibeault, Liberal MPP for Sudbury and **minister of Energy**.

"This office - and others across the province - is a concrete example of the company's renewed commitment to better serving its 1.3 million customers," said Thibeault.

Customers can contact the **Hydro** One call centre at 1-888-664-9376 weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for any questions about their service or account.

For more information, visit www.HydroOne.com.

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Ask us anything about possible mergers for Guelph Hydro - City of Guelph

guelph.ca - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral

Information events at Home Depot, Stone Road Mall, Guelph library and community centres

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County looks at potential of net metering

Ingersoll Times - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Positive
Byline: Bruce Chessell

Ad Value: $240
Reach: 1318 **Page:** A6

Oxford County is looking to show its residents the potential of virtual net metering.

The county wants to partner with the province on running a demonstration of virtual net metering in Oxford, using one of the countyowned buildings as a pilot.

Jay Heaman, the county's director of strategic initiatives, explained that virtual net metering involves using facilities that can generate a good deal of **renewable energy** to offset loads at other buildings.

"If you take a water treatment facility, it's a fairly small land with high **electricity** requirements. You would never be able to generate as much **electricity** as you need from that one property," Heaman said. "In the case of the county, there is the landfill out at Salford that has all kinds of opportunities to install **solar**... on lands that can't be used for anything else.

"You could aggregate all of that **renewable energy** from a remote location and offset the larger **electricity** loads that you might have."

Heaman said Oxford is ready to go forward with the demonstration. The next step is county Warden David Mayberry approaching the **minister of energy**.

"The demonstration that we purposed is to identify some buffer lands at the landfill in Salford for the generation side of it, and then identify higher-density loads that the county might own," he said. "One idea that we thought of was the county courthouse buildings. There's a cluster of seven buildings that include the courthouse.

"Really, what we need is to use lands like we have in Salford and buildings like we have in Oxford County to be able to illustrate the renewable generation -the aggregate of **electricity** loads in a certain area -and be able to demonstrate the net difference between the two. Then we'll create a visualization of what we're actually talking about. It is a bit of an abstract concept for most."

If the county can make this demonstration work over the next 12 months, Heaman said its success would help promote the idea of virtual net metering.

"We could expand this out to other facilities," he said. "The whole concept could be expanded out to other municipalities in Oxford " We become that incubator, where we start with one demonstration project and then we expand within Oxford. At the same time, the province is there as a partner, helping to understand the very regulation that they're helping to implement."

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Coal-fire investment dirty

Woodstock Sentinel-Review - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Carole Lavallee

Ad Value: $115
Reach: 7920 **Page:** A4

Re. **Hydro** One deal opposes Ontario's moral values it seems we have come down one huge notch. the point of closing down Ontario coal plants was to quickly lower CO_2 levels so we can have a liveable world. How do we reach that goal if **Hydro** One makes self-defeating business deals? did those of us who divested from the fossil fuel industry make a foolish mistake now that we are about to own shares in the biggest coal-firing plants in the u.s. Midwest? Contrary to Mr. thibeaut, i suggest that what another business does is our business when it defeats our purpose. let's forge a law that complements our coal law. let's make it illegal for Ontario to profit from coal related ventures. let's make this retroactive to include the deal between **Hydro** One and avista utilities.

Carole Lavallee

Chelmsford, Ont

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Trudeau's carbon-pricing plan out of step with Canadians

Waterloo Region Record · Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Neutral
Byline: Ken Green

Ad Value: $2,931
Reach: 63465 **Page:** A7

Canadians are right to be skeptical about the federal government's carbon-pricing plan.

At the G20 summit in Hamburg in early July, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took a leading role in promoting a **climate** change agreement that would reaffirm the Paris targets. Nineteen members of the G20 signed on, with the United States declining.

Several Canadian provinces have implemented **climate** change action plans containing several key components: subsidies to renewable **power**; household, business and vehicle efficiency programs; and, of course, a carbon pricing program.

After adopting the Paris **climate** commitment, the federal government announced it would establish a "backstop" price for greenhouse **gas** emissions starting at $10 a tonne in 2018, rising to $50 a tonne in 2022. Provinces that don't adopt equivalent policies will have that new federal tax imposed on them.

However, a new poll by the Angus Reid Institute suggests that the more people learn about carbon pricing, the less enamoured they are of such schemes, particularly at the federal level. According to the poll, at least half the population (outside Quebec) oppose the federal tax plan.

A large swath of those polled in Alberta (68 per cent) and Saskatchewan (71 per cent) want their leaders to oppose the federal plan.

And 55 per cent of Canadians who were polled don't think Canada should move forward with its carbon-pricing plan if it could impact our competitiveness.

A recent Fraser Institute study showed the provinces are implementing carbon pricing in ways that fundamentally violate the three key principles of efficient and economically benign carbon pricing, which are:

the tax must displace existing regulations, not be atop them;

the tax must be fully rebated to the public as reductions in other distortionary taxes such as income and corporate taxes;

and the tax revenues must not be used to distort **energy** systems by supporting one form of production over another.

No province meets all three of these principles. Most don't meet any.

Consider Ontario's **cap-and-trade** system. The province estimated it would bring in $2 billion in revenue per year.

According to the Ontario auditor general, out of the $8 billion to be collected in four years, $1.32 billion is earmarked to help with residential and business **electricity** bills. The rest will be spent on the usual governmental preferences, like transit, subsidies to **renewable energy** and dubious efficiency programs.

Alberta's new carbon tax of $30 per tonne is expected to generate almost $3.95.4 billion from 2017 to 2020. Part of that (28 per cent) will be given to low- and middle-income Albertans, ostensibly to ease the pain of higher **power** bills, and the indirect impact of driving up costs of other goods and services in Alberta. The rest will be spent on government projects.

And then there's Quebec, which has a **cap-and-trade** system that has brought in $330 million as of 2016 and is expected to bring in $2.5 billion by 2020 (and perhaps more, if Quebec matches the escalating national price floor established by Ottawa). Where does the revenue go? Free permits are given to emitters, with the remaining revenue to be spent on "programs to fight **climate** change."

Another Fraser Institute study verified that in the B.C. carbon tax's early years, it was truly revenue neutral. Personal and corporate taxes were reduced, and additional tax reductions were introduced to ensure revenue neutrality. But by 2014-2015, only five years into the tax system, the government had taken to shaky bookkeeping to preserve the appearance, but not the reality, of revenue neutrality. And from year two of the tax, various tax credits diverted revenues away from general public tax relief.

Despite promises to the contrary, provinces with **climate** action plans and carbon pricing have actually increased both regulation and tinkering with their **energy** systems.

Trudeau may have doubled down on his Paris pledge and postured as the anti-Donald Trump **climate** warrior at the G20. But there's growing evidence that Canadians don't like carbon taxes and are realizing they're not the efficient and economically benign eco-tax sold by politicians.

Instead, carbon taxes are quickly turning into funding mechanisms for expanded government meddling in Canada's **energy** economy.

Kenneth P. Green is senior director of the Centre for Natural Resource Studies at the Fraser Institute. Distributed by Troy Media.

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Smothering Petronas to death

National Post - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Joe oliver ,

Ad Value: $11,966
Reach: 159480 **Page:** FP9

Last week, Canada received more bad news in its prolonged failure to export **energy** resources abroad. Petronas decided not to proceed with its $36-billion Pacific North-West LNG project, dealing a body blow to B.C. employment, economic growth, funding for social programs and revenue to First Nations. Understandably, the federal and provincial governments sounded defensive, characterizing it as a business decision based entirely on the decline in liquefied **natural gas** prices.

However, Petronas had previously emphasized it considers the industry's long-term prospects, including costs, not just the current market. Furthermore, LNG projects are moving forward south of the border and in Australia. An initial project description was filed with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) in February 2013, raising the question why it could not have been approved sooner when prices were higher and costs potentially lower. For the sponsor, it must have felt like death by a thousand cuts, with frustrating delays and ceaseless demands for concessions from politicians and regulators, as well as lawsuits from environmental and Aboriginal opponents.

When I was minister of natural resources, our Conservative government legislated "one project, one review" in a defined time period, a significant regulatory improvement. Later, we provided an accelerated capital allowance for the project's facilities and extended export licenses. In contrast, the Liberal government denigrated the National **Energy** Board (NEB), politicized, duplicated and lengthened the consultation and review processes and broadened their scope. It is now considering the addition of social and cultural impacts, which would exacerbate uncertainty and delay.

Former premier Christy Clark imposed a provincial carbon tax and took her time in pressuring Petronas to commit up to $1 billion in investment over 20 years. For its part, the CEAA's numerous and onerous requests for information stopped the clock and added a oneand-a-half-year delay. Meanwhile, the B.C. NDP, later to form government, officially rejected the project. In September 2016, the federal cabinet finally gave its approval, subject to 190 conditions including a cap on carbon emissions. So, a lot of people contributed to killing the deal.

Let's put the project in perspective. Canada has enormous **natural gas** reserves (1,100 trillion cubic feet), enough for 350 years of domestic use at current consumption. It is just common sense that we export as much as we responsibly can, as soon as we can. However, according to the NEB, Canada will be a late entrant in the highly competitive global LNG market and "the next several years will be critical to the development of the Canadian LNG industry." Unfortunately, only the $1.6-billion Woodfibre LNG project has any chance of being built in the next five years.

Canada's strategic challenge is that our sole customer, the U.S., has discovered vast domestic shale reserves. Its companies are buying our **gas** at the low Alberta border price and exporting **gas** at the higher Henry Hub price. A substantial oil price differential also exists between Western Canadian Select and international Brent. Our exporters'only option is to pay U.S. pipeline tariffs and **contract** with Gulf Coast facilities. For Donald Trump, it's a great deal. For Justin Trudeau, not so much.

That leads to Kinder Morgan's $6.8-billion Trans Mountain pipeline extension, which would transport 890,00 barrels of oil a day to Burnaby, east of Vancouver, for export to Asia. The new minority NDP government promised its Green Party supporters it will "immediately employ every tool available to stop'its construction. To avoid being sued for bad faith, the government is cautious about how it handles permit approvals and its role in lawsuits launched by opponents. Nevertheless, its historical opposition was fierce and Green votes are crucial to keep it in **power**.

The $12-billion **Energy** East pipeline is also encountering NIMBY opposition. It would deliver 1.1 million barrels of crude from Western Canada to Quebec and New Brunswick for refining, consumption and export.

These are nation-building projects. Trudeau should look to Norway, whose passionate commitment to green policies has not prevented it from enthusiastically exploiting its vast offshore resources and becoming the world's third-wealthiest country per capita. Canada is 19th.

In terms of safety, a new Fraser Institute study demonstrates that while global tanker shipments doubled from 1970 to 2015, spills plummeted by 98 per cent. Therefore, when a project's environmental impact has been scientifically vetted, it is time for the federal government to grab the nettle and use all its authority to get it built. Ambivalence does not cut it.

We urgently need a national campaign strategy and a federal champion to explain to Canadians what is at stake. Otherwise, time will pass without progress, lengthening a distressing record of lost opportunities. It would be an inexcusable failure for Canada to be the only resource-rich country incapable of exporting its resources for the benefit of its people.

Joe Oliver, chairman of investment dealer Echelon Wealth Partners, is the former minister of natural resources and minister of finance.

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Wynne should halt Strong Breeze development

Stratford Beacon-Herald - Wed Aug 2 2017
Tone: Negative
Byline: Darlene Ford

Ad Value: $258
Reach: 10143 **Page:** A5

The tragic job loss for 340 Siemens workers in Tillsonburg is the latest confirmation of the foolishness of the **Green Energy Act**. The evidence is piling up: The Ontario Professional Association of Engineers'recent report validating the Ontario auditor general findings of the eye-popping waste of taxpayers'dollars caused by the excessive **wind turbine** subsidies resulting in massively inflated **hydro** bills only add to the logic of stopping the Ontario **wind turbine** madness.

However, the collective sign of relief when the Ontario Liberal government announced the suspension of the LRP2 (Large Renewal Project 2) may be premature. Zombie-like, this madness continues. The owner of a local registered federal aerodome - Dutton DCT7 - a local farm airstrip, received the official Nav Canada notice letter that the Strong Breeze **Wind Turbine** project in Dutton, part of LRP1, is still slated to go ahead. This letter serves notice of a 10-day warning before start of the **wind turbine** construction.

For reference, these new-generation industrial **wind** turbines, at 590 feet, are almost twice the height of One London Place. Go stand next to it. How would you like a tower that height literally and actually in your backyard? Industrial **wind** turbines of this size are a hazard to airplane navigation and a recognized risk by a previous Ontario tribunal to the health and safety of the flying public.

Premier Kathleen Wynne and her ministers publically confirmed that we do not need this hugely expensive **power** generation, yet the Strong Breeze project of up to 20 twirling, thumping, blinking monsters is cleared by your federal government air safety watchdog to start construction shortly in Dutton Dunwich.

This despite that 84 per cent of the Dutton Dunwich community by survey doesn't want these 590-foot monsters in our peaceful, rural community.

Where is democracy? Where is common sense? Premier Wynne: It's time to stop this madness. Do the right thing and announce the cancellation of the remaining LRP1 projects and specifically stop Strong Breeze from destroying our peaceful rural community and wasting millions more of taxpayers' dollars.

Darlene Ford Dutton

Dunwich

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