

September 11, 2014

Ontario Energy Board,

EB-2014-0116

P.O. Box 2319,

2300 Yonge Street

M4P 1E4

Dear Board

RECEIVED
SEP 17 2014
ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

Toronto Hydro in asking for a rate increase is nothing more than an admission that ineptness has become firmly entrenched. Following the Auditor general's report in 2013 on Ontario Power Generation, which includes Toronto Hydro, most of the published reductions were unimportant or trivial. Vital recommendations were scrapped. Hundreds of \$millions in available savings were deftly ignored.

Doubtless, union power is a significant reason for this unbearable burden but they are not alone. Managers who openly or secretly decry union excesses, use them as an excuse to bulk up their own incomes at a rate greater rate than unions achieved. Catch up is circular and the norm.

OPG president Tom Mitchell our highest paid public servant, seems utterly enthralled with nuclear and The Green Energy Act, ignoring less expensive resources like gas and clean coal. Nuclear costs, dangers and uselessness are atrociously understated. No refit or installation has come in at budget. They are unable to respond quickly to unexpected power demands. Requires high paid staff who are management and union protected no matter if they flaunt safety regulations or how venial their misbehavior. Are choice targets for terrorists. There is major discussion about burying nuclear waste in Kincardine. Not a volt will be generated while over \$20 billion is

sucked out of tax-payers to bury this dangerous waste. Future budgets for Nuclear installations (hopefully there is none) must include these costs.

I've included two documents; one is a montage of headlines expressing public concern about costs of various public services. Police departments are foremost. The other is a story about the actions taken by the police department of Prince Edward County. With a meager police budget of \$4,954,617 they actually saved almost \$300,000 with more to come.. This works out to a 6 percent saving .Applying this percentage to Toronto Hydro's \$3.2 billion revenue generated by 1530 employees , savings would be \$19.2million.

If Prince Edward County can save on police expenses regarded as "not sustainable" why can't Toronto Hydro do something similar? With intelligence combined with efficiency they could ask for a reduction. Dream.

Respectfully,

Ron Dabor Sr

Fire, police wages 'not sustainable'

Municipalities group boss says arbitration to blame for high cost of first responders

RICHARD J. BRENNAN
QUEEN'S PARK BUREAU

The president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario says the cost of first responders — fire and police — in the province is not sustainable.

"We need to rethink how we deliver policing . . ." Russ Powers said Monday in a speech to 1,500 delegates at the AMO's annual conference in London, Ont.

"When it comes to wage and benefit increases, police and fire are in a class of their own . . . and it is not sustainable."

News / Queen's Park

Auditor general report: Executives fired at 'top-heavy' OPG, which is rife with nepotism and generous benefits

Hydro bills are skyrocketing in part because Ontario Power Generation is "top-heavy" with managers, rife with nepotism, and paying out far more than necessary in wages and benefits, warns auditor general Bonnie Lysyk.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 TORONTO STAR | A7

>> OPINION

Ontario paying too much for police and firefighters

R. MICHAEL WARREN

Ontario municipalities are struggling with the escalating cost of essential emergency services — police, firefighters and paramedics. They are a prime driver of the debilitating cycle of higher property taxes, followed by service cuts, followed by higher taxes.

Emergency services swallow up half the budgets of many smaller municipalities. Eighty-four per cent of Toronto's operating budget increases for the last 10 years have been driven by salary increases for essential services.

In 2011, Ontarians spent \$320 per person on policing alone. That's 18 per cent higher than B.C., 11 per cent higher than Alberta and 8 per cent more than Quebec. There's no convincing rationale for our higher policing costs.

Election debate avoids nuclear energy dialogue

"There doesn't seem to be a whole lot of interest being generated in Ontario on this issue."

PHIL PAVLOV
STATE SENATOR,
EXPRESSING
ALARM AT OPG'S
PROPOSED
NUCLEAR
WASTE SITE

billion if interest and contingencies are included. The price tag at privately operated Bruce Power — where six reactors will undergo mid-life refits — comes in at \$2 billion per reactor, but with associated work over the next 15 years, spending will total \$15 billion, company officials said earlier this year.

In addition to the nuclear overhauls, Ontario Power Generation proposes to construct a permanent disposal site for low- and intermediate-level nuclear waste at the Bruce.

But the megaprojects have raised scarcely a ripple on the hustings.

In some ways, the lack of attention is not surprising, as nuclear energy is well entrenched in the province.

Ontario has relied on nuclear energy for half a century.

ENERGY continued on B2

Nuclear energy policy has been almost a no-go area in Ontario since 2010 campaign.

The sector is on the verge of spending \$25 billion or more on two massive projects, and constructing a nuclear waste site that must last for millennia to come.

But while voters will ultimately pay for the projects through their hydro bills, the nuclear issue has barely raised a ripple in the current election campaign.

In fact, it doesn't even rate a mention in the New Democratic Party's election platform.

Denton's overhaul of two nuclear stations — Bruce and Darlington — are on the table.

Their link to Darlington's four reactors alone is

■ **REDUCTION: DECREASE IN PRICE TAG FROM LAST YEAR**

County policing costs down

Bruce Bell
County Weekly News

Policing costs in Prince Edward County actually decreased last year.

Coun. Robert Quaife, who doubles as chairman of the Prince Edward County Police Services board, said council yesterday night, cost for policing in the municipality decreased by almost \$300,000 in 2013 compared to the previous year.

"There are a number of reasons for it, but I know number Barry Freeburn has found a number of efficiencies, things like staggered start times, the

use of auxiliary officers and other efficiencies that have helped reduce costs," he said. "Last year, policing cost the municipality \$4,663,301 and in 2012 it cost us \$4,954,617 - that's certainly a move in the right direction."

With local police logging almost 70,000 hours of service last year, Coun. Barry Freeburn questioned the amount of time spent on administrative duties - almost 20 per cent - asking if it was in line with other police services.

"It seems to be fairly consistent with other services, but it is something that has caught our attention," explained Quaife.

"There are plans to update trailers with computers and other components to help reduce those costs."

There are currently 48 employees at the Prince Edward detachment, including three civilians. Of the 39 constable positions, seven are designated as provincial duty officers. While the current contract calls for 47,633 hours of service plus a predictable percentage of overtime, 69,203, were actually provided by local OPP and Quaife pointed out the extra hours were at no charge to the municipality.

Coun. Terry Shortt asked about the busiest months and said he was not surprised it coincided with the local tourism season and the influx of visitors to Sandbanks Provincial Park.

However, Mayor Peter Menzies said while tourism does add to the burden of policing in the County, the municipality does not

pay for the actual service provided inside the provincial park. Those costs are assigned to the Provincial duty officers responding to park calls as well as traffic calls on provincial highways.

Quaife said one of the easiest cost-cutting measures would be a reduction in 911 hang ups and cell phone "pocket dials." In 2013, local OPP spent 630 hours responding to these types of calls or almost 10 per cent of the 8,091 calls for service.

"People call by accident and then hang up and by then it's too late," he explained. "They need to stay on the line and explain what happened because once that call comes in, police are obligated to respond and that means two officers. If they stay on the line and explain to the operator, this can be avoided and that would mean a significant cost reduction."

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■ **INDUSTRIAL PARK: FACILITY ON McDONALD DRIVE**

Council green fire hall site

Bruce Bell
County Weekly News

Prince Edward County council endorsed a plan to build a new fire hall and possibly ambulance facility in Picton's Industrial park.

The decision came at Tuesday night's council meeting and followed the decision made by the committee of the whole at its June meeting to endorse a 10-hall Fire Plan.

Municipal staff have identified more than eight acres on McDonald Drive as a suitable location. At Tuesday night's meeting, council gave approval to proceed with site evaluation, detailed design and tender preparation at the new location.

Staff identified the industrial park as a suitable location after council rejected a nine-station plan in March that would have seen a new hall constructed in the vicinity of the traffic circle at the intersection of County Road 1 and Highway 33. That option would have

shared unc 10-station facility was hesi plans to inc vices at the 1 "Have we from the own rent facility ven Dr.) and what their r this?" asked Marisset.

CAO Merl said the municipality give notice to renew the lease of the current 30,2016.

"They would have to give us ing for nothing worth our wh there," he e: "That's not lik pen and by cc ambulance with be saving mo ongoing basis."

Ambulance the municipa lter by Hasling EMS and Dewing Hastings side of t tion fully supp locating with fire at a new location. Coun. Terry Sh it was time to

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