

Long-time Volvo employee and Goderich resident retires

Dave Flaherty
Goderich Signal Star

On June 30, an important part of Goderich's history ended, although some may not have been aware of it.

On that day, Volvo produced the last grader at its Shippensburg, PA factory after almost 140 years in the business.

Also on that day, Goderich resident PJ Romano retired after more than four decades of selling graders.

Romano got into the business in the mid-1970s in his native

country of Yugoslavia and would eventually work at the Goderich Volvo plant for 30 years.

After the decision was made in 2008 to close the Goderich plant, Romano stayed with the company and made the commute to Pennsylvania for the last seven years.

Romano said he doesn't like to dwell on the plant's closure but he always believed it should have stayed in Goderich.

He said he has always had a real appreciation for graders and called them the "king of

machines".

At the time of his retirement, Romano was the oldest serving employee in the Volvo grader division.

He acknowledges that Volvo made "some mistakes" that led to the company's departure from grader production.

Romano said Volvo was producing top of the line machines with the newest technology but they were too expensive for their traditional public-sector employees, who he said require cost-effective graders that are reliant and durable.

He also noted that due to the global recession of the late 2000s and early 2010s, the market for premium graders had shrunk.

He acknowledges that other companies such as the market leader Caterpillar began to emulate ideas Volvo had implemented.

He believes John Deere is making gains in grader production and may take over the niche Volvo used to hold with cost-effective but productive machines.

Romano still stays in touch with many of his former colleagues at the Goderich plant and they have had a number of reunions over the years.

Now with more free time on his hands, Romano said he can work on his classic bright yellow 1972 Opel GT, which he proudly shows off in a number of area car shows.

In his office at his home in Goderich, he has a number of model graders, which will remind him of the business he spent so much of his life in.



Contributed photo

The eye of the storm

Goderich resident Roy Lamond captured this photo the coming storm on Sunday, August 3.

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ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF UNION GAS LIMITED

Union Gas Limited has applied for approval to change its gas commodity, storage and transportation rates effective January 1, 2016.

Learn more. Have your say.

Union Gas Limited has applied to change its rates to better reflect how it supplies natural gas to its customers. The proposed changes include the following:

- A change in the reference price used to set rates on a quarterly basis for a majority of its customers; and
- A change to how it allocates costs to the different types of customers that it serves.

An average residential customer would see the following annual bill impact, but these impacts would only start in 2018:

Residential Customer – Service Area	Approximate Bill Impact
Southern Ontario (Windsor to Hamilton)	Decrease of \$20
Northern Delivery Area (North Bay to Kapuskasing)	Increase of \$26
All Other Delivery Areas	Decrease of \$1.50 – \$51.50

Other customers in Union Gas Limited's service area, including businesses, will also be affected.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING

The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) will hold a public hearing to consider the application filed by Union Gas.

We will question Union Gas on the case. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent the customers of Union Gas. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide whether to approve the changes that Union Gas has requested in this application.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process.

- You can review the application filed by Union Gas on the OEB's website now.
- You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by **August 25, 2015** or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

Our file number for this case is **EB-2015-0181**. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number **EB-2015-0181** from the list on the OEB website: www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings – oral and written. The OEB will determine at a later date whether to proceed by way of a written or oral hearing. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by **August 25, 2015**.

PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and e-mail address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This hearing will be held under section 36 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B).



Ontario

Ontario Energy Board
Commission de l'énergie
de l'Ontario