

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Misinformed comments

Dear Editor:

There are some important problems within The Temiskaming Speaker article “Generating Concerns” (Weekender issue of August 7). The article focused on opinions of those individuals opposed to the proposed Silver Centre Wind Power project in the Lorrain Valley. We respect our neighbour’s right to oppose such projects, but TFN only asks that it is done thoughtfully and that the information provided to the larger community is accurate. The issue of Timiskaming First Nation’s aboriginal title was raised by Ms. Roberts dur-

ing her presentation to Temiskaming Shores Municipal Council. The rights of the Timiskaming First Nation are not limited to the Timiskaming Reserve. Our First Nation’s presence in this area has been thoroughly documented, and our territory measures about 12,900 square kilometres, about half of which is in Ontario. Obadjiwan - the narrows in Lake Temiskaming that was the location of the St. Claude Mission (in Lorrain Valley) and Fort Temiscamingue - has been occupied by Aboriginal people, including our ancestors, for upwards of 6,000 years.

When anthropologist Frank Speck carried out fieldwork in the region in 1913 he documented the Timiskaming First Nation’s traditional territory and identified two men - Kitci Pien and Wabanicenabe - who’s hunting grounds covered the Lorrain Valley in the mid 1800’s. We can trace the ancestors of these individuals back to the late 1700’s, and their descendants today include the Stanger family at Timiskaming. My own father, former Chief Albert McBride, was raised in the Lorrain Valley. I’m not sure what more we can do to demonstrate our long-standing con-

nection to our territories.

These connections with Ontario should come as no surprise. People can recall the struggles over the Adams Mine and the Bennett incinerator, which Timiskaming helped to lead, based on our connection to our lands in Ontario. No one complained back then. Ms. Roberts’ comments about the role of the courts are as misinformed as her comments about our history. The Timiskaming First Nation, along with Wolf Lake and Eagle Vil-

lage, have provided substantial evidence to the governments of Ontario, Canada and Quebec, consistent with the legal tests to be met when First Nations assert Aboriginal title and rights. We expect that these matters will be negotiated in due course, but until then we fully intend to participate in, and benefit from, the economic development of our region, and to do so in a way that respects the environment and our neighbours. Respectfully, Chief Terence McBride



PLAY ON

The Earlton Recreation Committee and supporters officially unveiled the new playground equipment in the park between the community pool and the arena on Sunday afternoon. Families attended the ribbon cutting ceremony July 26 as the event turned into a community celebration. From the left are committee members Ashleigh Ceasor, Claude Boileau, Chantal Perron, Jean Marc Boileau, town representative on the committee Melissa Cliche, Michele Rivard, Kelly Prior, Stéphanie Hamelin, Sylvie Boileau and Line Rivard. (Staff photo by Steven Larocque)

Northern Bear Report expanding

TEMISKAMING SHORES (Staff/Special) – An online tool enabling Northern residents to report bear encounters is expanding. The initiative was launched by Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP John Vanthof late last month. This week, the New Democratic MPP announced the extension of the Northern Bear Report across the region. It’ll be operated by himself and fellow NDP MPPs, including France Gélinas of Nickel Belt, Michael Mantha of Algoma-Manitoulin, Gilles Bisson of Timmins-James Bay, and Sarah Campbell of Kenora-Rainy River. Together, he said they’ll use the data collected to convince the Ontario government it must take a “proactive approach” to wildlife management. The MPP said he was spurred by constituents’ accounts of bears in urban areas and their frustration at the lack of response. He said he was told they’d given up on reporting the incidents to the province’s Bear Wise program, which runs a toll-free line offering advice on dealing with bears.

But if incidents aren’t being reported, he said the province doesn’t have information, he said. As of August 12, 63 encounters had been reported to the online report. One-quarter were from Sudbury, while 21 per cent were from Kirkland Lake. The Tri-Town area accounted for nine incidents, or about 14 per cent. In 70 per cent of the cases, respondents said the encounters had not been reported to anyone, be it the Bear Wise program, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, or police. DATA MPP Vanthof said the data will be presented, with names and addresses removed, to the ministry to build a case for better management of nuisance bears. He encouraged residents to report incidents to Bear Wise, at 1-877-514-2327, as well as online, at northernbearreport.com. Anyone experiencing a threatening encounter with a bear should call 911, he said.

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).

