

Nuclear plant locally headed the list of concerns of residents at open meeting

Citizens aired views at Town Hall Meeting

The first of four Norfolk County 'Town Hall Meetings' held in Port Dover Community Centre last Wednesday attracted about 100 citizens. Deputy Mayor Jim Oliver chaired the meeting in the absence of Mayor Dennis Travale who is recovering from surgery.

What started as a "meet-and-greet" in the smaller reception room to informally discuss residents' concerns quickly became something quite different. When the session got underway those in attendance complained to the county councillors their intended format was not satisfactory ... so it was mutually agreed to move into the larger auditorium for a broad question and answer discussion of community-wide concerns.

When the adjournment came two hours later, Councillor John Wells told The Maple Leaf that during the meeting he had learned, "that people have thought long and hard on many issues." When asked if he was surprised by anything he heard, the long-serving councillor stated he was not aware that the proposed nuclear power plant at Nanticoke was such a concern, saying nuclear "was the number one concern of the meeting." He commented, "it sometimes surprises me what the people are thinking."

Port Ryerse resident Dick Goodlet detailed his concerns about the proposed nuclear plant suggesting questions from the people to council should be passed on to the provincial government. He also outlined and asked about carbon sequestration (removing atmospheric carbon dioxide) technology, which lacks sufficient funding, suggesting this area could be in the forefront of developing the new technology. Mr. Goodlet said "if we don't ask the questions, it won't happen."

Ward 7 Councillor Harold Sonnenberg asked if Mr. Goodlet would attend a council meeting to enlighten councillors, saying council "would be very interested in hearing more about it." Mr. Goodlet replied that attending a coun-



About 100 citizens attended the Town Hall Meeting at the Community Centre last Thursday.

cil meeting "doesn't do anything," then stated, "we need a community appeal. We need federal money. Port Dover is the key to stopping nuclear." He expressed fears of what would happen to the fishing industry, farming and tourism if there was a nuclear accident.

Councillor Charlie Luke spoke about storage of spent nuclear rods as being his major concern.

Port Dover commercial fisherman Rick Misner told the meeting that 32 years ago 1.6 million pounds of fish were sucked into an intake at a Lake Ontario nuclear plant, suggesting that occurrence could have caused a nuclear disaster. He pointed out that Lake Ontario has only 6 per cent of all the fish in the Province of Ontario and yet that serious problem occurred ... but Lake Erie has 70 per cent of all the fish in Ontario so he compared the danger factor of a nuclear plant disaster happening here.

Mr. Misner stated the electricity power grid is at the Nanticoke OPG plant and "there is no other logical reason for it (the nuclear plant) to be here."

Port Dover resident Rodger Pearllie expressed concern about the amount of tax dollars paid into the county from Port Dover properties and the amount of dollars spent in this community ... and why the county was unable to provide a breakdown when requested. He stated, "no records are kept,

that is perplexing." Deputy Mayor Oliver replied that the County asking a fee "is standard practice" and Mr. Pearllie and others "should not feel it was personal. It is standard practice across the province." Mr. Pearllie continued to press the point, suggesting the "answer that no records exist is not a suitable response," stating "to get that kind of an answer is arrogant." Councillor Wells suggested to Mr. Pearllie that he watch the telecast of the council meeting the following Tuesday as he will ask Treasurer John Ford his question.

Councillor Oliver said "we're trying to think of this as one big community and I hope you all are trying to think that way."

Councillor Luke stated that any fair comparisons of spending in each ward had to go back over eight or nine years to the start of the County.

Port Dover resident and pleasure boat owner Pat Young enquired about the Harbour Marina's Advisory Board, asking, "what is its purpose?" Councillor Wells replied the advisory board advises the marina's manager on operation of the facility. A brief list of concerns was expressed.

Katie Buck, a longtime resident and businesswoman, expressed her concerns that "certain areas of the county are impacted more than others" by council's decisions. Ms Buck suggested that on major is-

ssues "a veto is important for any ward".

A hot dog cart located in Port Rowan owned by Port Dover resident Tracey Bennett asked why her county-approved licence to operate was revoked when one complaint against it was received. She asked, "why can someone put in a complaint and shut us down?" Deputy Mayor Oliver replied, "we will get a report from staff." Councillor Wells injected "we will get the facts. You will get a copy of it." Councillors were scheduled to discuss that report at last night's (Tuesday) council meeting.

As the meeting wrapped up, Councillor Wells told the gathering, "I do not think that you as individuals understand the power that you, the people, have. The only way you are going to access that power is to come to council and speak to us. We have never refused a deputation that asked to speak to us." He admitted that Norfolk County Council "does not do everything correctly. We know that. But we do our best to respond." He urged his listeners not to stay at home and complain, but to "call or come and talk to us."

John Wells told The Maple Leaf it had been a good meeting of citizens and councillors and he thought "everyone went home satisfied."

Three more Town Hall Meetings will take place this year in other Norfolk County areas.



Choristers rehearse for concert: Members of Vittoria Community Choir are rehearsing for 'A Summer Serenade' for their annual spring concert on Sunday, June 7 at 2:30 p.m. at the Vittoria & District Community Centre. Special guest artist will be Ian Bell. Tickets \$12, children under 12 free. Tickets are available by calling 519 428-1831 and from choir members. Shown in the photo are (left to right) Mary Cable, George Davidson and Mary Boll.

ComParrot by Bonnie J. Malcolm
Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?

www.comparrotpuzzles.com © 2009 Bonnie J. Malcolm

Solution: 1. Leaf on flower is missing. 2. Battering helmet is different. 3. Stitching on baseball is missing. 4. Rock in flowerbed is missing. 5. Shoelace is hidden. 6. Number on jersey is different. 7. Pocket on ball glove is colored in. 8. Heel on shoe is colored in. 9. Crest on batting glove is colored in. 10. Flower has moved. 11. Bandage on boy's arm has moved. 12. Crest on bat is wider.

Flowers by Ann
Personally Yours

All Occasion Floral Art Studio - Wedding, Birthday, Anniversary, Sympathy & more.
Daily Worldwide Delivery
Browsers Always Welcome

(519) 583-0973
1-800-701-2811
www.flowershoppebyann.com
66 Highway #6, Port Dover

Port Dover & Area
Church Services

Grace & Woodhouse United Churches
583-0342 gracecupd@bellnet.ca
Rev. Murray Rounding Rev. Frank Walker

Sunday, May 31st
Sermon: "God's Gifts" • Guest Speaker: Heather King
9:30 a.m. Woodhouse
11 a.m. Grace United Church & Children's Ministry

Knox Presbyterian
Minister: REV. CATHY KAY, BA, M.Div

Sunday, May 31st
Sunday School and Church Service
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
17 Lynn Park Avenue, Port Dover
Office Phone: 519-426-0887

Mass
Sundays 9 a.m.

St. Paul's Anglican
Rector The Rev'd Fr. Kendall Reimer

Sunday, May 31st
Services at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. Eucharist and Bible Study

519 583-1330

The Harbour
A Unique Church Ministry
Worship ~ Praise ~ Sharing
The Word Made Alive
Come as you are.
Lower level of the Erie Beach Hotel
Sundays at 10 a.m.

St. John's Anglican Church Woodhouse
Corner of Hwy. #24 S. and St. John's Road

Cordially invites you to Worship with us on Sundays
Worship Service at 11 a.m.

Open Door Bible Church
Sundays 11 a.m.
(located in Farmer's Market)
Wednesday Bible Study - 271 Blue Line Road
Eric Hilton, Teacher 519-587-4717
www.odbcportdover.org

Helping, listening and encouraging. Allowing the Holy Spirit to make us ready for His imminent return.

Tyrrell & Vittoria Baptist Churches
Rev. J. Landsborough • 519-428-6793

Sunday Worship
Tyrrell at 9:30 a.m.
10 min. north of Port Dover
Vittoria at 11:00 a.m.
10 min. west of Port Dover

Memorial Anglican Church
King Street, Port Ryerse
Rev. Tony Bouwmeester • 519-586-3401

Worship Service and Children's Program each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
All Are Welcome.

This Church Notice sponsored in part by

Thompson Waters Funeral Home

102 First Ave.
Port Dover
Phone 519-583-1530