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David Lea/Oakville Beaver | Oct 07, 2010 - 6:38 PM | 2

Power plant stopped

'The proposed Oakville power plant has been stopped.'

Some Oakville residents opposed to the 900-megawatt gas-fired power plant, proposed for the Ford-owned lands of 1500 Royal Windsor Dr., were probably starting to believe they would never hear those words, but those were exactly the words uttered during a press conference at the Otello Banquet and Conference Centre, Thursday.

Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn provoked thunderous applause and cheering from an audience of councillors, Citizens for Clean Air (C4CA) members and other Oakville residents as he announced on behalf of the provincial government that not only will the power plant not be built at the proposed site, but it will not be built anywhere in Oakville or anywhere else in the GTA.

"As many of you know I have been vigorously opposing the construction of this proposed plant for over a year. Even before we selected the Oakville site I said I will stand and I will be held accountable for the outcome of this issue. I committed myself to working to ensure that the outcome is what the people of my community wanted," said Flynn.

"Today I am very proud to stand before you and be part of government that has listened to one of its MPPs. I would like to personally thank, today, Premier McGuinty, Minister Duguid, who is with us today, for their willingness to take the concerns of Oakville citizens seriously and work towards a positive resolution on this issue."

Flynn also thanked Oakville Town council for uniting in its opposition to the power plant and passing legislation, like the interim control bylaw, which held up the plant's construction.

He also thanked Oakville residents, and in particular C4CA, who organized huge rallies to protest the decision to build the power plant so close to residential areas.

"C4CA deserves the admiration of everybody out there," said Flynn. "I'd like to thank you for the encouragement you've given me, for the support, for the e-mails, for the petitions that were collected as late as this morning to be presented to the Legislature. All of those were delivered to Queen's Park and were listened to."



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"Today I am very proud to stand before you and be part of government that has listened to one of its MPPs. I would like to personally thank, today, Premier McGuinty, Minister Duguid, who is with us today, for their willingness to take the concerns of Oakville citizens seriously and work towards a positive resolution on this issue." - Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn

Chudleigh blasts Liberals for short-sightedness

Myopic, short-term political decisions could add \$1 billion to the cost of energy in Ontario, said Halton MPP Ted Chudleigh, upon hearing the McGuinty government will scrap plans to build a controversial gas-fired power plant in southeast Oakville.

"We told the government that the plan to build in this location was short-sighted, that they shouldn't build, but they went ahead anyway and made a deal that is going to cost taxpayers a huge amount of

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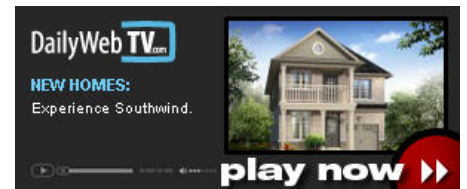


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After taking the podium Ontario's Minister of Energy Brad Duguid discussed the reasons behind the day's colossal decision.

"Our new Long Term Energy Plan will reflect changes in supply and demand over the last few years and in putting together this Long Term Energy Plan it has become clear that the Province no longer needs this proposed natural gas plant here in Oakville," said Duguid to the applause of those present.

"Four years ago, when the need for this plant was first identified we were working to address local reliability issues and the need to build cleaner supply as we phased out dirty coal fire generation by the end of 2014. I am pleased to share with all of you today that because of the changes in demand and the progress of our plan, because of the power we are saving through our conservation programs and because of the investments we've made that have increased supply from clean and renewable resources, reliability has been strengthened."

Oakville residents and Town council had been fighting Oakville's selection as a location for the power plant months before the Ontario Power Authority actually picked TransCanada's Royal Windsor Drive site in September of 2009.

On that day, residents groups vowed to fight, stating the power plant would pose an air quality and safety risk to the nearby residential communities, some of which were only 400 metres from the proposed site.

Over the course of the year these groups like C4CA held a number of rallies, wrote letters to politicians, organized marches and mobilized a community to show their opposition to the power plant.

At the same time, council passed legislation such as the interim control bylaw, Health Protection Air Quality Bylaw and most recently amendments to the Official Plan, which prevented the project from getting started.

C4CA members called Thursday's announcement a validation of their hard work.

"I think it's fantastic, it's incredible," said Doug MacKenzie, former C4CA president.

"I developed a plan a year ago, they took it to the minister and the Premier, that said exactly this. We don't need the power and we haven't needed it for two years."

Frank Clegg, the chair of C4CA, was also overwhelmed by the news that what his group has been fighting for, for more than a year, has finally happened.

"We're just thankful the Province listened. We're grateful to the mayor and the staff and the council for all the work they did and obviously we're grateful for Kevin (Flynn) and his work," said Clegg.

"We're just humbled by all the work the citizens of Oakville did. They came together, pulled together and represented a great cause. This is a great way to start the Thanksgiving weekend."

With the object of their opposition now gone, Clegg said he does not yet know what will happen to C4CA or the money it has raised.

"We've got to sit down together as a group and figure all this out," he said.

With news of the announcement sinking in, the scene turned to one of jubilation outside Otello's.

MacKenzie could be seen with tears running down his face as he hugged and congratulated C4CA colleagues while councillors lifted Flynn and Oakville Mayor Rob Burton off their feet in victory and celebration.

"I think everybody on council is as exhilarated as I am," said Burton.

"When Brad Duguid became minister we talked that day and he promised me that he would have this decision reopened and re-examined from the bottom up and he would make the right decision about it once he had done that thorough examination. He warned me it would take time and as he explained today he kept his word and he did that re-examination and he changed the decision. There's a minister who kept his word, there's a minister I will always appreciate."

Burton said the decision to scuttle the plant because the energy was not needed was vindicating because this was part of the case the Town had made to the Province.

Duguid would not comment on whether TransCanada was compensated for the loss of the contract. He would only say the government had a positive relationship with the energy giant. TransCanada's response

In a press release issued by TransCanada, it was noted the discussions regarding compensation have yet to begin.

money now that they've changed their minds," said Chudleigh in a release.

"The inability to see beyond their immediate decisions to the implications of those decisions is a hallmark of this government."

Chudleigh suggested that today's announcement is politically motivated in that current Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn would have trouble facing voters in a year should the power plant have been constructed.

"This power plant simply did not make sense from a safety standpoint," said Chudleigh. "It was foolish to have entertained construction of this plant in the first place and downright reckless to financially bind the people of Ontario to this plan."

It is possible that the plant will be built in another location, such as Nanticoke which had lobbied for the plant, but today's announcement suggested the power the plant should have generated is no longer required for Ontario's power grid.

Chudleigh was skeptical given he had asked the minister this very question last March.

"I asked Energy Minister Brad Duguid if there was any need for this plant, given that electricity demand has fallen substantially from a peak of 27,000 megawatts in 2005 to just over 22,000 megawatts in 2009. At that time he said that the Oakville plant was being built to take up the capacity of coal plants that were going to be closed. As far as I know no coal plants have been closed recently," said Chudleigh. "It seems to me that the Liberal government is willing to forego their plans to close coal plants and spend up to \$1 billion in taxpayer funds to try to hold onto Mr. Flynn's riding. That is shameful."

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"We acknowledge the Government's decision that, in its words, a gas plant in Oakville is no longer needed and, as a result, the plant will not proceed," reads the statement.

"In order to comply with the Government's direction, TransCanada has been informed that the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) wishes to begin discussions where both sides mutually agree to terminate the contract and discuss reasonable payments TransCanada is entitled to.

We appreciate the fact that the Ontario Government and TransCanada have had a positive working relationship and we look forward to discussing potential opportunities of working together in the future as the government's Long Term Energy Plan is developed."





A representative from Ford said the company is looking to the Province for further details about this decision at this time.

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 <p>ihatetaxes Oct 8, 2010 12:52 PM</p>	<p>Dont be fooled</p> <p>I knew it would eventually come, but I didnt expect it until closer to the election. This was nothing more than trying to win votes in the next election, but I hope everyone can see past that and send the Liberals packing. In Toronto they say Anyone but Ford, but it should really be Anyone but McGuinty. There will be a price tag on this boondoggle. McGuinty will pay TCP millions upon millions to settle and then tell us that's why our hydro rates will go up. That's exactly how he works. His time is up because the longer he stays the more damage he will do. His legacy: HST, E-health, Lottery scandals and payoffs, metered hydro, skyrocketing auto insurance premiums, new taxes when he promised there wouldn't be and the hell he put oakville residents through with this power plant. I can't wait until October 2011.</p> <p>Agree Disagree Offensive</p>
 <p>PeterLe Oct 8, 2010 9:03 AM</p>	<p>"now we need to flush..." I agree</p> <p>And look what Burton and his cronies have done at Oakville Hydro. They took over this utility, and replaced its seven corporate directors with two boards and twenty six directors. The jobs went to his supporters. To hide how much he is paying these individuals, only their per-meeting and annual base stipends are released to the public. The citizens have no idea that the directors often meet several times in a single week, boosting their compensation to levels unrivaled in the industry. Some also double dip. They sit on both Oakville Hydro boards, and collect two fees to attend a single combined meeting of the two boards. For example, Gary Burkett serves the Chair of both, and collects full compensation from each one.</p> <p>Agree 2 Disagree Offensive</p>
 <p>johnskay Oct 7, 2010 10:47 PM</p>	<p>Now we need to flush our Liberal Mayor and councilors out of town hall Oct 25th</p> <p>We need a change from party influenced municipal politics. We came so close to having this power plant because the Liberal Party thought Rob and the boys could calm residents down with the 2 for 1 deal or other resident calming devises. Oh and I heard tonight that the "Burton Bumps" the Mayor ordered to put on 8th line have been quickly removed. Another example of Burton leadership we can't afford!</p> <p>Agree 3 Disagree Offensive</p>
 <p>GlenAbbeyWarrior Oct 7, 2010 7:18 PM</p>	<p>We got to look out for # 1</p> <p>All I can say is wow. Our crooked premier has just flushed ONE BILLION dollars down the toilet in order to save Kevin Flynn's job. The liberal crime family strikes again.</p> <p>Agree 1 Disagree Offensive</p>

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