

# COMMENT

## Fighting high hydro rates

Dear Minister Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy:

I have been holding off on contacting you regarding my escalating hydro bills until I have had a couple of months of hydro bills under the new rates and the elimination of the Clean Energy Benefit and debt retirement charges under my belt.

To summarize, my average hydro bill has gone up approximately \$41 per month, or approximately 25% for my February and March bills. Yet, comparing this to the exact two months from 2015, for exactly the same number of days and the same consumption pattern, I have reduced my electricity consumption by ½% year over year. May I add that I am a modest electricity consumer, averaging just over 750 KWH per month. I do not heat my home with electricity.

So, it looks like I will be shelling out approximately \$500 more than last year for my basic electricity needs for 2016. I shudder at what increases those who heat their home with electricity have to burden.

Analyzing my hydro bill further, I notice that my delivery charges have gone up by 17% from the same time period as last year, all the while delivering less electricity to my house. My delivery charges now account for over 45% of my hydro bill.

When you announced the elimination of the Clean Energy Benefit and the debt retirement charges for Jan. 1, 2016, you said that our hydro bills would only go up 6-7 % on average. May I ask you was that 6-7 % increase on the rates after your Nov. 1, 2015 rate increase? Or was it on the rates after the May 1, 2015 rate

increase? Or was it on the rates from the winter of 2015, from before the May 1, 2015 rate increase? You have increased our hydro rates three times over the past year.

In order to have an accurate comparison of rates, you should compare rates year over year, not just to the most recent rate. Perhaps you should increase the rates on a daily basis, so you can claim that the rates are only going up a miniscule amount.

We are not rich like you and your colleagues on the Ontario Sunshine List and these increases are outrageous. It's about time you started looking after the average, privately employed citizens of this province.

*Bill Roest  
Georgetown*

## From our readers



## GARDEN OF SENSES

Yuko Matsumoto Japanese author, and Mrs. Miyama a famous Japanese opera singer and 40 others travelled from Japan to visit the Norval Lucy Maud Montgomery Garden and newly designed Childrens Garden of the Senses.

*Photo by Rein Pater*

Got a photo you want to share? Email [cuernon@metroland.com](mailto:cuernon@metroland.com) with details.

## Wishing everyone a Happy Canada Day

Tomorrow, we celebrate Canada's 149th birthday: our proud history and heritage, our people, and all that we have accomplished and built together.

Carving out a nation on the northern portion of the continent, our climate helped to nurture a desire for collective well-being, not just individual success.

While we will always have our differences, Canadians have lived together side by side, coast to coast to coast, in relative harmony.

Our individual freedoms are spelled out in our Charter of Rights, and they are implicitly balanced with our collective responsibility to give back.

We have our democratic political institutions which seek fairness, and our legal system which seeks justice: the rule of law, not the rule of man.

Peace, order, and if not always good government, at least government we can change when necessary through a free election.

Our talented artists have nourished a distinct Canadian culture.

In the realm of sport, we are ferociously competitive, but we play by the rules. From abroad, observers see in us a compassionate spirit of community and tolerance.

Canada is viewed as a beacon of light and hope in an increasingly troubled world. May we always be so blessed.

June is one of the busiest months in any Member of Provincial Parliament's calendar.

In recent weeks, I was glad to be invited to attend numerous public events.

Since writing my column last month, I was able to make it to the Georgetown Kiwanis Club Lobsterfest, the Norval United Church Chicken Barbeque, the Georgetown Lions Club 85th Anniversa-

ry dinner, two Lions Club Walks for Dog Guides in Erin and Fergus, the Georgetown and Acton ALS Walk, a Duff's Presbyterian Church community fundraising dinner, the University of Guelph's Alumni Awards of Excellence, Nexans of Fergus 50th anniversary, the Georgetown Highland Games, Doors Open in Erin, the 197 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Typhoon Squadron inspection at the Acton Legion, Acton's David Dills 90th birthday celebration, the University of Guelph's Summer Convocation, a Town-



**TED ARNOTT**

ship of Puslinch Council meeting, the Halton Hills Sports Museum and Resource Centre's 2016 Hall of Fame induction, the County of Wellington's Cottontail Road Trail opening, the Confederation Clubs 40th anniversary lunch, the KidsAbility Annual General Meeting (AGM), the

Groves Memorial Community Hospital AGM, the Centre Wellington Chamber of Commerce AGM, Royal Terrace's Strawberry Social, a Habitat for Humanity/Community Living North Halton event in Acton, the reopening of the Red Door Gallery in Georgetown, and the County of Wellington Taste Real Local Food Fest in Guelph/Eramosa Township.

As you can see, our Riding is strengthened by amazing and dynamic community organizations. That's also something worth celebrating on Canada Day.

To everyone involved, please accept my heartfelt thanks.

Happy Canada Day!

Wellington-Halton Hills MPP Ted Arnott welcomes your comments. He can be reached at 1-800-265-2366. His website address is [www.tedarnottmpp.com](http://www.tedarnottmpp.com).

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