

*Editorial*

# People power

"There are a lot of things you can do without, but electricity isn't one of them." With those words Monday, Premier Ernie Eves offered Ontarians relief from skyrocketing hydro bills as he went well beyond what many thought would be a simple rebate.

To his credit Eves heard the complaints of Ontario residents upset with outrageous hydro bills and instead of using a scalpel to solve the problem brought out an axe.

Included in the Tories' hydro turnabout were:

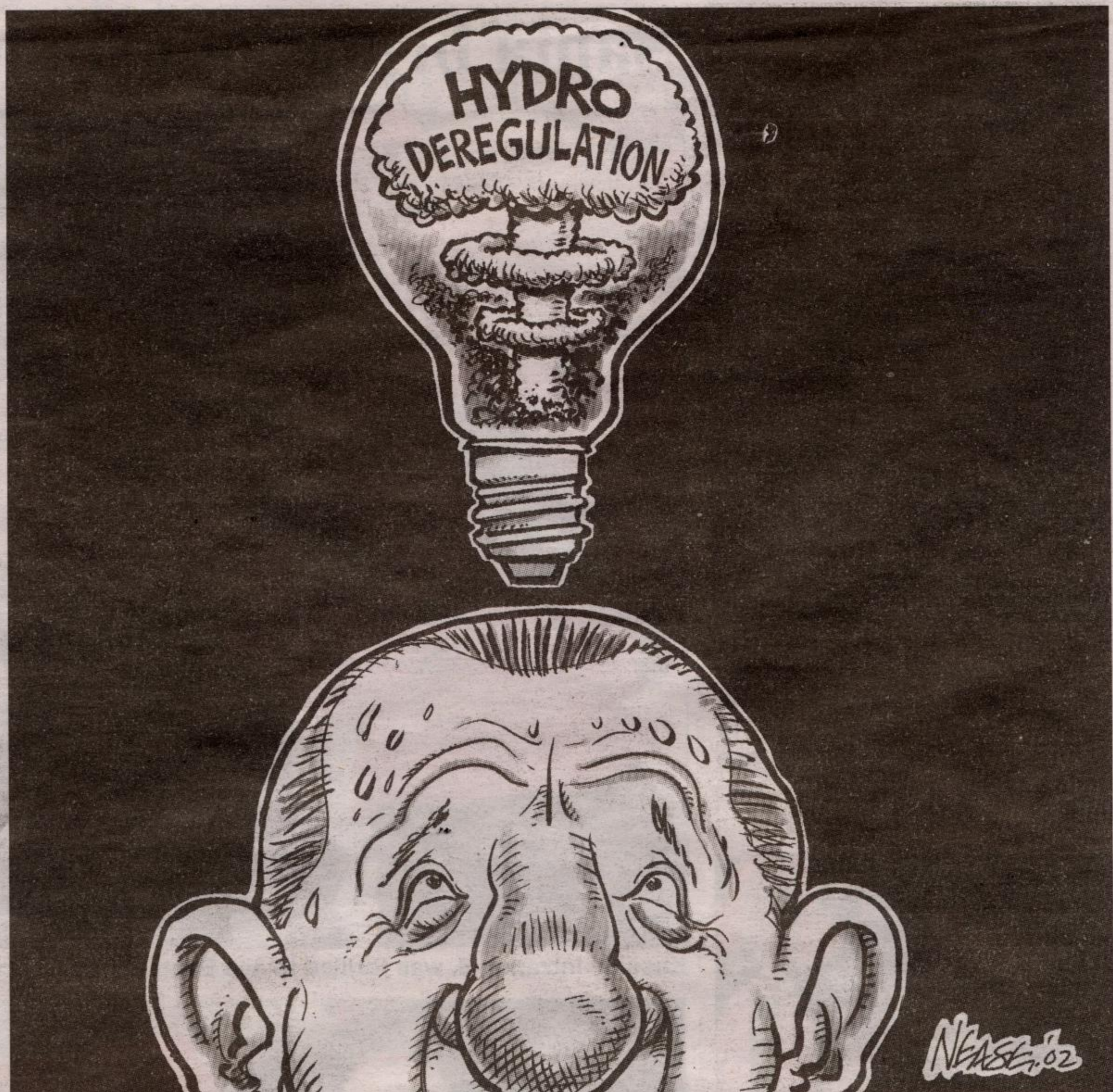
- A 4.3 cents per kilowatt hour cap on energy costs retroactive to May 1, 2002 that will last to 2006
- Refunds to residents and small businesses that paid more than 4.3 cents retroactive to May 1, 2002 and credits to their hydro bills next year
- A promise to not cut off anyone's power for unpaid bills until at least March 31, 2003 (essentially the end of the winter)
- A standardized easy-to-understand hydro bill
- An investigation into why the Pickering nuclear station is so far behind in restoring power

With the Tories essentially dismantling their plan to privatize hydro, problems such as the hydro debt, finding alternative sources and determining a fair price for power still exist. New, well thought-out ideas are needed. Included in these should be incentives for those who conserve energy, perhaps in the form of reduced bills.

Another aspect that can't be overlooked is the fact that the Tories' election hopes were seriously compromised the longer this hydro mess dragged on. With this announcement, Eves has bought time both for his party, and the province, to find long-term solutions.

Not surprisingly, neither opposition party has managed to come up with a solution to the power problem or a new vision; just criticism.

In that regard, Eves can be thankful the lights are out and no one's home.



## Letters to the editor....

### Quarry ruling sets a dangerous precedent

Dear editor,

I was deeply saddened at how easily Dufferin Aggregates succeeded in destroying the volition

of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Dufferin Aggregates played a canny game using finesse and in the end forcing the "higher-ups"—NEC director Mark Frawley and chairman Don Scott—to surrender to the very environmental desecration which they were entrusted to protect in the doctrine of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

This decision has an air of paradox, bordering on the immoral. NEC planner David Johnston points out he was instructed to include an alternative recommendation by "higher-ups" NEC director Mark Frawley and chairman Don Scott.

Frawley states "the alternative recommendation was included in the report due to the complexity of the application". The paradox is how a union representative—Doug Grey of the CEP Union—could, in good conscience, betray and hypocritically find environmental justice in this freakish rul-

ing against the Niagara Escarpment.

A dangerous precedent has been set here, the principle of empirical generalizations. The precedent is a sweeping generalization about the necessary relation between economic prosperity, industrial development and the environment. Dufferin Aggregates took the democratic notion of citizens being "forced to be free" and unwillingly consenting to the implementation of the self-interests of economic prosperity and industrial development, while corrupting the whole commission process "in the interest of their own true self".

Dufferin Aggregates used the democratic process to repress a valid and ethical decision for their own expediency, meanwhile endangering the preservation of the pristine Niagara Escarpment for the posterity of future generations.

Peter R Higgins,  
Georgetown

### GLT thankful for support

Dear editor,

May I express through your newspaper, Georgetown Little Theatre's gratitude to Elizabeth's Fashions for offering to co-ordinate a fashion show as a fund-raising event to offset costs involved with the re-building of our studio after the fire in 1998.

We are appreciative of the wonderful response from the local merchants who donated door prizes. I know they are inundated with requests from many groups, which makes their donations extra special to our fund-raising committee, whose ultimate goal is the elimination of our mortgage.

The evening was deemed a great success due to the camaraderie, the desserts, and wonderful fashions and, last but not least, the tour of our new facility. To all those who purchased tickets, thank you for your support.

Special thanks are also in order to the Georgetown Rug Hooking Guild. It won't be too much longer before the donors to the rug hooking will be able to view the finished project. We will notify you personally when the actual "hanging" will take place. Thank you for your donations and patience.

Dorothy Hunt, fund-raising chair, GLT

### Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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