Company presents Milton power plant proposal

Pristine Power's bid for Milton Clean Energy Centre power plant would be located on 15 acres at Main Street and Fifth Line and take 3 1/2 years to build

By MELANIE CUMMINGS
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Plans to build a 680-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant on 15 acres of agricultural land at Main Street and Fifth Line could be underway next March.

About 40 residents saw the proposal for the Milton Clean Energy Centre as it was laid out on display boards last week during an open house organized by the project's developer, Pristine Power.

Those who missed out will get another opportunity in September, one month before the Ontario government announces the winning bid for the project.

The request for proposals is a response to a December 2005 report in which the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) determined that there was a critical need for new power generation in this area and toward Toronto.

Established in 2004, the OPA is a regulatory arm of the provincial government's Ministry of Energy and is charged with planning for the province's future energy supply.

According to the OPA's Supply Mix Advice and Recommendations report, gas-fired generation is expected to play an important role in meeting this need because plants can be built relatively quickly, relieve local transmission bottlenecks and when combined with wind generation, replace noxious coal generation.

The Milton Clean Energy Centre would generate electricity for 680,000 homes. Construction would take three-and-a-half years and could provide 300 jobs over that time. Upon completion about 20 highly-skilled employees would run the facility.

In the meantime, Pristine Power must secure planning and zoning approval from the Town and conduct a Ministry of Environment-mandated study to identify the Clean Energy Centre's potential effects on local life, air quality, vegetation, soil, wildlife and water quality.

Pristine Power is a publicly-traded Canadian independent power development company based in Calgary, Alberta. It has already qualified to participate in the bidding process based on its track record for building cogeneration plants in Whitby, Fort Frances, Windsor, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Washington

Julia Ciccaglione is Pristine Power's vice-president of environment and strategic development. She said the Clean Energy Centre proposed project promises to incorporate state-of-the art emission controls that meet all provincial and federal standards.

The Main Street and Fifth Line location was chosen as the site of the potential facility because of its proximity to the 150-foot-tall Hydro One high voltage transmission towers and the Union Gas system.

She also said the design of the 75-foot-tall building and its two 150-foot stacks would be wrapped in horizontal bands to camouflage the industrial purpose that belies the building and make the centre appear as if it were an office complex.

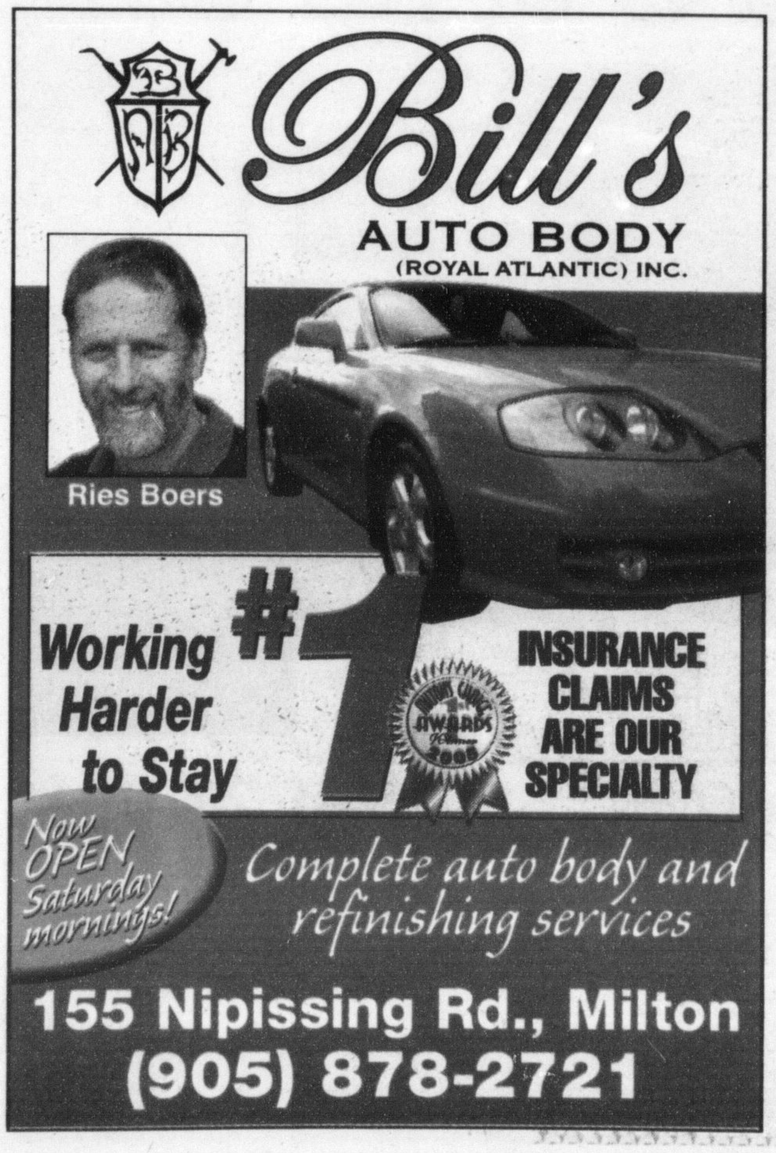
While currently a small forest occupies the agricultural land, it has been designated as a future industrial area, in which electricity generation is a permitted use, according to the Town's 2001 planning document. Ciccaglione said the existing trees would likely be preserved.

If approved, noise during construction and after the plant is up and operating is expected to range between 55 to 70 decibels, which is the same range as a household dishwasher. Ciccaglione said the facility would operate during hours of peak power demand, most often occurring during the daytime.

The power plant's operator is also promising that, if given the go-ahead, it would create a conservation area on part of the 15-acre area and a community liaison committee to provide feedback during construction and operations.

Pristine Power is one of six companies that've put forward proposals for similar hydro generating plants that would be located in Milton or Halton Hills. A public meeting has already been held for one in the Hornby area, but details on the other four haven't been made public yet.

The Ontario Power Authority will ultimately award one of the companies with a contract.



* Leasing and financing plans from Toyota Financial Services. O.A.C. Lease offers valid on 2006 Corolla (Model BR32EMB), 2006 Corolla (Model BR32EMT), 2006 Sienna (Model ZA30CPA), 2006 Matrix (Model KR32EMB), 2007 Camry (Model BE46KPA), 2007 Yaris (Model JT923MA) and 2007 Yaris (Model BT903MA). MSRP of $17,725/$18,855/$30,800/$19,905/$25,800/$13,725/$14,530 at 3.9%/3.9%/3.9%/4.5%/6.9%/6.9%/6.9% for 48/48/48/48/60/60 months. Monthly payment includes $1,140/$1,140/$1,390/$1,140/$1,240/$1,090/$1,090 freight and PDE. Down payment or trade equivalent of $1,995/$1,995/$3,718/$2,472/$2,557/$1,203/$1,574 plus first payment due at lease inception. Security deposit waived on all 2006 leases. For 2007 leases, security deposit for Camry (Model BE46KPA), Yaris (Model JT923MA) and Yaris (Model BT903MA) of $425/ $225/ $250. Total lease obligation of $12,987.55/$13,747.11/$21,910.77/$14,926.77/$19,309.03/$12,543.07/$13,513.95 and purchase option price of $7,799/$8,296.20/$13,552.44/$8,559.15/$12,900/$5,627.25/$5,521.40. License, registration fees, insurance and taxes extra. Based on a maximum of 96,000 KMS (120,000 KMS for Yaris). Additional KM charge of $.07/.07/.10/.07/.10/.07/.07 for excess kilometers if applicable. ¥ MSRP of 2006 Corolla (Model BR32EMB), 2006 Corolla (Model BR32EMT), 2006 Sienna (Model ZA30CPA), 2006 Matrix (Model KR32EMB), 2007 Camry (Model BE46KPA), 2007 Yaris (Model JT923MA) and 2007 Yaris (Model BT903MA), is $17,725/$18,855/$30,800/$19,905/$25,800/$13,725/$14,530 financed at 2.9%/2.9%/1.9%/2.9%/5.9%/5.9%/5.9% APR equals $514.68/$547.50/$880.85/$577.98/$497.59/$264.70/$280.23 per month for 36/36/36/36/60/60/60 months. Cost of borrowing is $803.48/$855/$910.60/$902.28/$4,055.40/$2,157/$2,283.80 for a total obligation of $18,528.48/$19,710/$31,710.60/$20,807.28/$29,855.40/$15,882/$16,813.80. Freight and PDE cost of $1,140/$1,140/$1,390/$1,140/$1,240/$1,090/$1,090. License, registration, insurance and taxes extra. **MSRP is $17,725/$18,855/$30,800/$19,905/$25,800/$13,725/$14,530 for 2006 Corolla (Model BR32EMB), 2006 Corolla (Model BR32EMT), 2006 Corolla (Model BK32EMT), 2006 Sienna (Model ZA30CPA), 2006 Matrix (Model KR32EMB), 2007 Camry (Model BE46KPA), 2007 Yaris (Model JT923MA) and 2007 Yaris (Model BT903MA). Freight and PDE cost of $1,140/$1,140/$1,390/$1,140/$1,240/$1,090/$1,090, license, registration, insurance and taxes extra. These are limited time offers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. See your participating Toyota Dealer for full details. †† Based on 2006 Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. † These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide 2006. All rights are reserved.