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A Metroland Publication • Vol. 147 No. 53

Tuesday, September 12, 2006

44 Pages • \$1.00 (incl. G.S.T.)

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

GOING FOR A DRIVE: Mayor Gord Krantz (at right) and special guest Walter Gretzky check out the newest addition to the Milton Fire Department's fleet, an all-terrain, six-wheel-drive vehicle that'll serve as both a firefighting and rescue vehicle. The ATV was on display Friday at the annual Mayor's Golf Tournament for the United Way of Milton, which raised more than \$126,000. See more photos from the event in Champion Country on page A13.

Another power plant proposed in Hornby

By Melanie Cummings SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Epcor is the latest energy company to bring its power plant proposal to town.

Details about the Auburn Energy Centre, a natural gas-fired system that would supply 600,000 area homes annually if ultimately approved by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), were revealed during an information presentation held at the Milton Leisure Centre Thursday night.

"It's really important that we engage people, find out what they are thinking and set up something that is acceptable to them and to our company," said Neil Levine, Epcor's manager of public and government affairs.

Six 75-foot-tall stacks rising out of a series of buildings would fill the skyline along 20 acres of industrially-zoned land at Auburn Road and Eighth Line. It would be adjacent to the Hydro One, Union Gas and Canadian Pacific Railway lines and be accessible to Hwy.

The facility would work by pumping natural gas into the plant where it would be compressed, mixed with air and injected into six combustion turbines. The steam and carbon dioxide created by combustion would push the turbine blades and rotate the machines that in turn would move a generator shaft and create energy.

Most of the concerns raised by open house visitors focused on noise levels, potential impacts on the local water supply and pollution. In response, Levine said that man-made ponds on site would eliminate Epcor's dependency on the municipal water system.

According to the company report, noise levels wouldn't exceed the Ontario guideline of 45 to 50 decibels (said to be at the same level as the noise generated from a typical living room).

As for pollution concerns, natural

gas emits far lower levels of nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide than coal and oil-fired plants, Levine said, and proposed state-of-the-art combustors and emission monitoring systems are expected to protect the surrounding air quality.

If approved, the Epcor centre would take 15 months to build and become fully operational by 2009. The automated plant would employ four people.

Epcor operates six power plants in Ontario, including the Kingsbridge Wind Power Project near Goderich.

Ontario's population has increased by over three million people in the past 20 years. The need for greater electricity output is most pressing in the Toronto area. That's why the OPA recently put out a request for proposals for a local power plant. Epcor and five other companies qualified to submit such proposals.

• see ELECTRICITY on page A2

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