

# Wind farm has precautions against ice throws

By WES KELLER  
Freelance Reporter

Even when it comes to the giant blades of the turbines in Amaranth and Melancton, there might be truth in the old expression that "it's an ill wind

that blows no good." This might have been the case when the Melancton I wind project had to be shut down for nine days in December 2006 because of an ice storm and the resultant imbalance of the blades.

The phenomenon of ice there led to concerns about the possibility of ice throws from the rotating blades, and then to agreements on ice protocols in the interests of safety. It was also a learning experience for Mike Jablonisky and the rest of the Canadian Hydro Developers crew at the site. And it also led to computerized innovations at the turbines.

Even prior to the ice storm, the turbines would automatically shut down when the buildup of ice came close to a critical point. In the two years following the storm, the computerized system that shuts them down has been enhanced.

"Now we have software within the turbine that detects the slightest change in ratio of torque to wind speed and the turbines shut themselves down automatically. This software works incredibly well," said Mr. Jablonisky. "All that said, the way to beat ice build up is to not let it happen at all.

"When we have a local forecast stating freezing rain for a certain time period (usually in the off-hours of operation), we would monitor the facility for any variation of the turbine power curve (curve that shows the relation of wind speed to power output of a turbine). When we see a variation starting, we know that this is the start of an icing event.

"Protocol is to shut down the entire facility until the freezing rain has stopped," he said.

When the ice on the turbines built up two years ago, the Melancton crew "would yaw the turbines so the blades were facing into sun, every day, all day.

"We would do this until the blades were clear of all ice. After the eighth day, we brought one turbine on line and the power curve reflected the exact performance that the turbine was expected to do," he said.

"We brought the rest of the facility on line one turbine at a time to ensure we didn't have any ice that may have not been detected.

"We were all good, so by the end of that Sunday, almost nine days later, we were back online."

According to a Swiss study in climatic conditions similar to those of Dufferin, ice throws ranging from 50 to 100 metres from the base of the turbine are possible under certain conditions. The study found nothing beyond 100 metres.

Despite all precautions, CHD in November issued an advisory warning that ice build-up is possible. The advisory outlined the basic protocol in such an event, and said that following a shutdown the staff would ensure that the area around a turbine would be clear of people before starting the blades up again.



Photo/DAN PELTON

SORRY, NANCY, but a donation this big just won't fit into an ATM machine. Employees at the Bank of Nova Scotia raised \$1,158 for the Dufferin Big Brothers/Big Sisters and management doubled that amount for a total of \$2,316 for the worthy cause. Pictured with the local chapter's Nancy Stallmach (right) are Bank of Nova Scotia employees Donna Kells (left) and Cathy Lyon-Knowlton.

## Headwaters board supports safety initiatives

The board of directors for Headwaters Health Care Centre has endorsed a new set of initiatives for patient safety.

"We are committed to promoting a culture of safety and educating our patients on how they can be more involved in their care," Cholly Boland, Headwaters president and CEO told the hospital's board of directors at its February board meeting.

The hospital reported to the board on patient safety initiatives including infection control monitoring and medication reconciliation (review of patient medications).

"At time of admission, staff discuss safety with patients and family and distribute the hospital's patient safety brochure. A medication list form is available on the hospital website at [www.headwatershealth.ca](http://www.headwatershealth.ca) for individuals to track their prescription and non-prescription

medications and herbal remedies.

"The list provides emergency services and medical staff with vital information in the event of a visit to Emergency or admission to hospital," said Liz Ruegg, Vice-President Patient Services and chief nursing executive at Headwaters. The hospital also has a mandate to review with the patient, medications taken at home at time of admission, transfer and discharge.

The Board also discussed the hospital's participation in accreditation, a voluntary process that evaluates a hospital's

quality and safety policies and procedures against national standards. The goal is to achieve a culture that is patient-centred, encourages continuous quality improvement and ensures patient safety.

The Board also granted Associate Staff privileges in the Department of Medicine to Pathologist Dr. Francoise Truong. Dr. Truong, who is also on staff at William Osler in Brampton, will look at tissue samples from the operating room to determine whether they are cancerous. The hospital's Medical Advisory Committee and Board of Directors extended a

warm welcome to Dr. Truong.

The February board of meeting began with a moment of silence in memory of Emergency Department nurse Yolanda Suidgeest. The hospital will be holding a memorial service for staff later this month in the chapel at Headwaters Orangeville.

The next Board of Directors meeting is March 24, at 7:15 p.m. at Headwaters Orangeville.

The public is invited to provide comments and suggestions about hospital services.

Please contact Mr. Boland at 519-941-2702 ext. 2200.

## Finch seeks public input on attack ads

Rebecca Finch, Dufferin-Caledon Liberal candidate in the last federal election, is encouraging residents of the riding to write to MP David Tilson to let him know how they feel about attack ads the Conservatives are said to be planning on interim Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff.

"While companies like Setex are permanently closing their doors and putting hundreds of people out of work all over the riding, our Conservative Members of Parliament who are making six figures and their staff, who are also paid by taxpayer money, are wasting their time poring through Mr. Ignatieff's vast history of writing and commentary looking for six to 10 words they can string together and endlessly repeat to try and smear his reputation in anticipation of yet another engineered election and one more attempt to get Stephen Harper a majority government," Ms. Finch said in a press release.

In response to suggestions the Conservatives are paying for such attack ads out of their own pocket, she said, "Their money - all parties' money - is our money. Parties get their money from the generous donations of supporters, and moreover, from the very funding the Tories threatened to cut off in last fall's contentious economic statement. On top of it, the money they spend is partially credited back to them, the tax receipts

donors get is refunded with all Canadians' tax dollars, not just supporters, and it should be the object of every politician to spend that money wisely and with the people's best interests in mind."

She suggested residents also write to the local papers "from a non-partisan perspective, to let them know how the people of Dufferin-Caledon feel, not how members of various parties feel about this.

"Perhaps we will discover through such a letter-writing campaign that people actually do condone this sort of action on the part of the Tories. However, what I have gathered in talking to citizens in Dufferin-Caledon is that people are more concerned about their livelihoods, their jobs, and their families' welfare, than they are about endlessly acting out upon petty partisan grudges."

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*Only persons receiving interviews will be contacted*

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### COMMUNITY LIVING Dufferin

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Hi, I'm Bill Timmins

I have two girls, Cheyenne and Vicky. I have two grandchildren, Maija and Alexis and Cheyenne is pregnant again! Cheyenne phones me all the time. My Mom had three children and I am the baby. My older brother, Jim, is 78. My other brother is Ted and his hair was like my cat, gray and white. I live with my cat, Teddy, in Orangeville. I like animals. My home has real fish. I have two. I had a stroke in 1992. I lived in Toronto then. I was in a coma for three weeks. I came to Community Living Dufferin in 1993. I worked with Richard (support worker) cutting grass. We did everything. I liked that job, but it was hot! I now work at the Bulk Barn. Liz (support worker) helped me find my job. I carry the heavy stuff and put some of it on the shelves. Whatever comes into the store, I move it. That is my job. I like the job. I can walk to work. I work Wednesdays and Saturdays. At home I have two televisions. I have a lot of DVDs. I have all five Harry Potter movies. I like Harry Potter. I go to the library to get my DVDs because I have no money. I get money from the government. Liz helps me with my taxes every year. Liz is good. I like her helping me. Ardele, who sits at the front desk, (CLD) helps me too. She helps me figure out how much money I get from the government. She is good too. She photocopies and faxes things for me. Lorraine (support worker) is also good. When Liz isn't at CLD, Lorraine helps me. I feel good. The only thing I don't like about myself is that I don't have much hair. I wear a hat all the time. I wear a hat even in the summer. I think the people at CLD are good. They help me. It makes me feel good.

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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (14A) FRI 7:00, 9:50 SAT-SUN 12:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50 MON-THURS 5:30, 8:40	PAUL BLART: MALL COP (PG) FRI 7:10, 9:30 SAT-SUN 12:50, 3:30, 7:10, 9:30 MON-THURS 5:40, 8:50	
HOTEL FOR DOGS (G) SAT-SUN 12:30	TAKEN (14A) FRI 7:20, 10:00 SAT 12:10, 7:20, 10:00 SUN 12:10, 3:50, 7:20, 10:00 MON-THURS 5:50, 8:20	
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