

Bob Burnside - Seeing realities in the theories

By CONSTANCE SCRAFIELD-DANBY

Columnist

Robert J. (Bob) Burnside was raised on a farm in northwestern Amaranth and went to school in a one-room school house.

He little knew, as a boy, that living such a life would provide him with the emotional and intellectual foundation to create the company that today bears his name. He came away from his basic beginnings as quite an unpretentious soul and not at all concerned or judgmental about the basic lives of others.

As he tells the story, when he was a young engineer, deciding to take the plunge and go to work for himself, he felt there was really nothing to lose.

"In 1970, I was young, recently married — we were expecting our first

child, John, [now president of the company] — it would only have meant a financial setback if I hadn't succeeded, but there was lots of time to make up the money," he philosophised.

As it was, his grandfather and uncle had been involved in local politics and so his name was known in the surrounding municipalities where he began to offer his services. They gave him opportunities, which he attributes to the honesty and integrity of his forebears, and he did not disappoint them.

Within a year, he told me, "I had an office and three employees."

He went on to say, "My wife and I were really happy to be living in Orangeville. I was getting work and our company has grown with the community over the years."

Ross Holden, who gave Bob his first job on Christian Island, was an engineer about Bob's age, and a civil servant. He and Hugh Potts soon gave Bob referrals for other jobs as a person who could go to the aboriginal communities in the north and "not get into trouble."

"I wasn't there to judge — it [the life and culture of the First Nations] was so complicated," he said.

Mr. Burnside explained that, after a

time, the federal government began to turn money over to the First Nations people, and they hired the engineers. Many engineering companies were not hired after that, but Burnside always was. They always had the attitude that the First Nation communities were their clients first and the paymasters in Ottawa came second.

By the early 1980s, it was clear that a new generation of youth was coming up within the communities and that Burnside needed someone from within them.

That someone turned out to be Merv Dewasha, an engineer who was also a member of the Wahta Mohawk First Nation.

"He was at a critical time in his life. We needed him and, in many ways, he needed us. There were lots of things that needed to be said and he could say them. We had people working for us who spent a lot of time with those communities."

About the same time, the firm started going overseas, to Mozambique (not Madagascar, as I mistakenly said in an earlier article) and Barbados.

"We were used to dealing with people without judgment and that helped us in Mozambique."

Reflecting a moment, he added: "Designing roads and pipes — we went to school to learn that

but it's more interesting to see how to apply that knowledge in these communities — it's really interesting to see where things are going to go. Right now, the First Nations are trying to hang on to what's gone before and take advantage of the 21st Century.

"One of the great things about being in this business, there are rocks and concrete — things you can kick — but there's the other side, the people. You can see where it's all going."

The subject turned to his staff: "We have been blessed with hiring good people who can relate. We've had a lot of inspectors who were culturally 'appropriate' to go north and we never had a problem."

They all understood that they were there for the greater good.

"You become very close in this business," he continued. "One of our staff, a young guy who's a terrific worker, had a stroke of some sort. We were all very upset because it's like a member of the family being stricken."

Burnside, Burnside International and Neegan Burnside are all employee-owned, not publically traded companies, with a limited number of shareholders.

Although Mr. Burnside remains the firm's board

chairman and has an office in the company's building on Orangeville's Townline, to which he comes most days, he is otherwise retired. Besides attending the board meetings he still offers advice on special cases: "You don't just unplug yourself."

He told me he has not been on the reserves for 10 years. Nowadays, he volunteers for Rotary, Gideon's, the Friends of Island Lake and the Salvation Army. He has worked on fundraising for

Headwater Health Care Centre on its "senate" and is Mono's representative on the CTC Source Protection Committee, which monitors groundwater protection in the Credit and Humber river watersheds.

"There are things that I think you should do (to give back) — we have done well in this community."

He and his wife Nancy recently took a cruise on a Russian ship to the Yukon with Adventure Canada. Along the way, the ship

stopped at Resolute Bay where Burnside is engaged. The couple had an opportunity to meet with the local Council there and deliver a gift from the company in gratitude for the co-operation they had had from the community. He says young people from Resolute are being sent to work at Alert, the northernmost settlement in the world.

The exchange of politeness and tokens between the Burnside and the Council at Resolute was

really a formality but had great meaning. Clearly, Mr. Burnside was quite moved to have had the chance of the moment.


"Over the years," he noted, "there have been some communities I really cared for, felt very strongly about."

Mr. Burnside took a pause as if to briefly review our conversation on his life and that of his life's work — his company/companies.

There was a smile as he remarked: "It's been kind of fun."



Robert J. (Bob) Burnside



NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE
Easterly Extension of the South Arterial Road
County Road #109 from Highway 10 to Highway 9

The Study
 The County of Dufferin is carrying out a Class Environmental Assessment for the proposed easterly extension of the South Arterial Road (SAR), being Dufferin County Road #109, from Highway 10, east to connect with Highway 9 (see key plan). The study has been initiated due to an expected increase in travel demand/traffic volumes along the south Arterial Road / Highway 9 & 10 corridor, in the Towns of Caledon, Mono and Orangeville.

The Process
 The study is being carried out in accordance with the planning and design process for Phase 1 and 2 of a Schedule 'C' project as outlined in the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment document (October 2000, as amended in 2007), which is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. A key component of the study is consultation with interested stakeholders (public and regulatory agencies). A Public Information Centre (PIC) has been arranged to present the project, review the study scope and discuss issues related to the project including alternatives, environmental considerations and evaluation criteria.

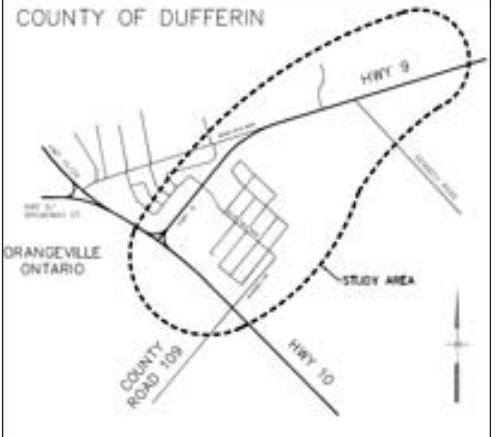
Date: September 9, 2009
Time: 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Place: Monora Park, Town of Mono
633220 Hwy #10

Drop-in Centre

If you cannot attend and would like to provide comments, please forward them by September 25, 2009 to either of the listed Project Team members.

Mr. Trevor Lewis, Director of Public Works
 County of Dufferin
 53 Zina Street
 Orangeville, ON, L9W 1E5
 (Tel) 519-941-2816 ext 2601
 (Fax) 519-941-0852
 E-mail: tlewis@dufferincounty.on.ca

Ted Prokopec, P.Eng.
 R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited
 15 Townline, Orangeville, Ontario, L9W 3R4
 Telephone: (519) 941 5331 ext 432
 Facsimile: (519) 941 8120
 E-mail: tprokopec@rjburnside.com



The map above shows the approximate limits of the study area.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. This Notice first issued on August 19, 2009.



TENDER

Tenders for the "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) NEW PARATRANSIT VEHICLE" will be received at the Town of Orangeville Municipal Offices, 87 Broadway, Orangeville, Ontario, L9W 1K1, until:


2:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

Tender forms are available from the Public Works offices at 87 Broadway. Tenders must be submitted in the envelope provided, clearly marked as to its contents.

Questions regarding this tender may be directed to Ed Gill, M.Eng., P.Eng. Managing Director of Operations and Transportation at 519-941-0440, ext. 222.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

J. Tupling, P.Eng.
 Director of Public Works



QUOTATION

Quotations for the "HIRE OF SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT WITH OPERATOR" will be received at the Town of Orangeville Municipal Offices, 87 Broadway, Orangeville, Ontario, L9W 1K1, until:

2:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009


Quotation forms are available from the Public Works offices at 87 Broadway. Quotations must be submitted in the envelope provided, clearly marked as to its contents.

Questions regarding this Quotation may be directed to Ed Gill, M.Eng., P.Eng. Managing Director of Operations and Transportation at 519-941-0440, ext. 222 or J.P. Marchildon, Operations Manager at 519-941-9124, ext. 4501.

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

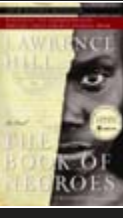
J. Tupling, P.Eng.
 Director of Public Works

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LOOK WHO'S READING!



The Book of Negroes

By Lawrence Hill



Zig Elles

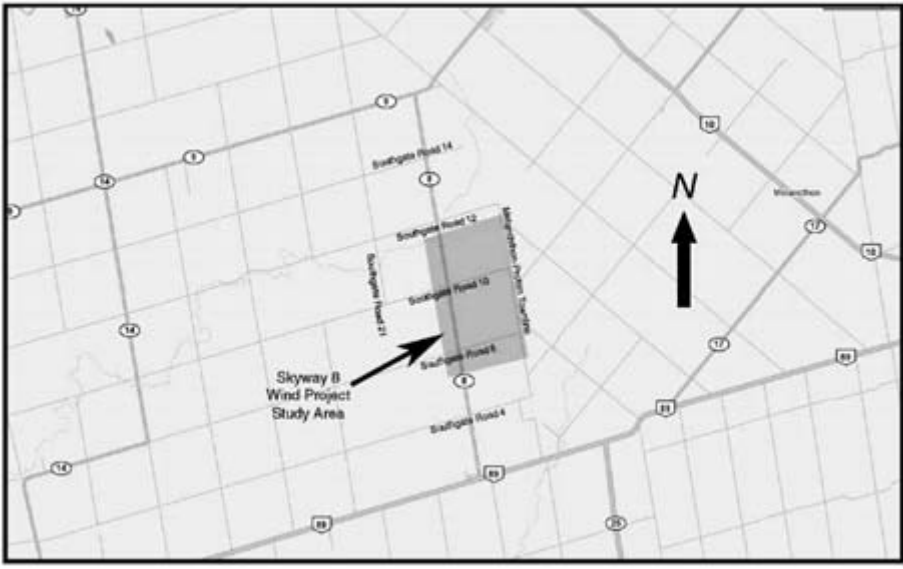
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Notice of Completion – Environmental Screening Review

Skyway 8 Wind Farm Project, Southgate Township

Skyway 8 Wind Energy Inc. is proposing to construct five wind power turbines that will generate up to 10 MW of electrical power. The Project is to be located on agricultural land leased in Township of Southgate (see map below).



An Environmental Screening Review ("ESR") report was prepared as required under Ontario Regulation 116/01 of the Environmental Assessment Act. The ESR report conforms to the requirements for a Category B project under the "Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects, March 2001" ("EA Guide"), as released by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's ("MOE") Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch.

The Project has been reviewed in a process consistent with the MOE's Environmental Screening Process for electricity projects, the results of which are described in the Skyway 8 Wind Farm ESR (August 2009). The results of the ESR indicate that there are no significant negative effects and Skyway 8 Wind Energy Inc. intends to proceed with the project.

In compliance with Ontario Regulation 116/01 the ESR must be made available for a minimum 30-calendar day stakeholder review period. Thus, this ESR is being made available for review and comment from August 19th, 2009 through to September 18th, 2009. Hard copies of the ESR may be found during this review period at the following public location: Southgate Public Library, 90 Main Street East, Box 190, Dundalk, Ontario. The ESR may also be viewed electronically at the following website: www.Windrush-Energy.com.

As per the process outlined in the EA Guide, stakeholders must first attempt to resolve any outstanding issues with Skyway 8 Wind Energy Inc. during the 30-calendar day period. All comments and correspondence should be sent to one of the following:

John Nicholson	J.C. Pennie
Environmental Business Consultants	Skyway 8 Wind Energy Inc.
33 Wanita Road, Mississauga, Ontario L5G 1L3	3042 Concession Road 3 Adjala, RR1, Palgrave, Ontario L0N 1P0
e-mail: john.nicholson@ebccanada.com	

In the event that issues cannot be resolved with Skyway 8 Wind Farms Inc. during the review period, the concerned party may make a written request, to the Director of the MOE's Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch at the address noted below, to elevate the project to either an Environmental Review or Individual Environmental Assessment. A copy of the elevation request must also be sent to Skyway 8 Wind Energy Inc. and the consultants at the two addresses noted above.

Director of Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
 Ministry of the Environment
 2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor12A
 Toronto, Ontario
 M4V 1L5

Elevation requests must be made in accordance with the provisions set out in the MOE's EA Guide and be received by the MOE's Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, Skyway 8 Wind Farms Inc., and the consultant no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 18th, 2009. A copy of the MOE's EA Guide is available on their website (www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4021e.pdf).

Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, and used solely for the purpose of assisting Skyway 8 Wind Farms Inc. in meeting the environmental assessment and local planning requirements. With the exception of personal information all comments will become part of the public record.