

# Countryside Energy News



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[www.countrysideenergyco-op.ca](http://www.countrysideenergyco-op.ca)

Welcome to the fourth edition of **Countryside Energy News**, the newsletter for members, potential members and friends of Countryside Energy Co-operative Inc.

We want to bring you up to date on what is happening at our Co-operative as several recent significant events have occurred.

## RED Grant

The Co-op, along with our partner WindShare Co-op, received a \$370,000 Rural Economic Development grant from the provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs [OMAFRA].

The public announcement was made by MPPs John Wilkinson (Perth-Middlesex) and Carol Mitchell (Huron-Bruce) at Countryside Energy's office at the Township of Perth East municipal building on January 15. The Grant is 100% of what we applied for.

This grant allows Countryside Energy and WindShare to reclaim \$370,000 of agreed expenses to help develop our Co-ops, to contribute towards the development of the Lakewind-Bervie Community Windfarm and to further develop capacity building in the area.

We sincerely thank OMAFRA and MPPs John Wilkinson and Carol Mitchell who have strongly supported us in our application to the RED program. We are now on a much stronger financial footing with this commitment to our rural, community-owned windfarm from the provincial government.

## Annual Meeting

Our first Annual meeting was held on Jan 16 at the Perth East Recreation Complex, Milverton, a day after the above RED Grant announcement.

Thirty-two members participated, out of a membership of ninety-four. An excellent turnout considering how far-flung our members are, and the return of Ontario winter weather. Quorum requires at least twenty members.

President Bruce Schmidt, a farmer near Walton and Blyth in Huron County, presented the history of Countryside Energy Co-op and its predecessor, the Huron-Perth Community Power Project. Countryside Energy Co-op's geographic area includes all of mid and south-west Ontario. Bruce also apprised members of the governance of the Co-op, following the well-established principles that many rural residents are familiar with, and our partnership with WindShare Co-op, to develop Ontario's and North America's first community-owned windfarm : Lakewind-Bervie Community Windfarm, near Bervie in the Municipality of Kincardine.

The General Manager, Doug Fyfe, presented an operational synopsis, from the beginnings when the two wind test towers were set up, to the present day. With our partner co-op, WindShare, we have started the site engineering design work with Hydro One at the Lakewind-Bervie site, and the windfarm layout with Zephyr North, our wind data consultant.

Two outstanding issues were described, which are covered later in the Newsletter.

At this first Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors has to step down and a new Board elected. Four of the existing Board of six stood for re-election, and two other members put their names forward. As we required six directors at this time, all six were acclaimed as no election was required.

The retiring Board Members, Jaret Henhoeffler and Carol Leeming, were thanked by President Bruce Schmidt for their contributions and commitment to the Co-op and the project. Their involvement will be missed, and we all thank them and wish them well.

The remaining Board Members are Dave Barrett, Doug Biesinger, Bruce Schmidt, and Henry Wydeven - all farmers or from a farming background. The new Board Members are Ed Hasenpflug and Katherine Luckhardt. Ed is an accountant/bookkeeper, and Katherine helps her husband run a village bakery. The new Board is committed to renewable energy as a way to maintain our standard of living without polluting the air, land and water.

A motion was brought forward at the Annual Meeting to change the Co-op's financial year end to December 31, from the present July 31. This aligns us with our partner WindShare Co-op. The motion was proposed, seconded, discussed and unanimously approved. The present financial year will still end on July 31 this year, and we will have a 5-month "financial year" to December 31 this year, thereafter December 31 every year.

A motion was also put forward for the Board of Directors to appoint the Auditor for the July 31 and December 31 year ends, which was also approved. BDO Dunwoody was appointed, based on the quotes requested and received.

## New Board of Directors

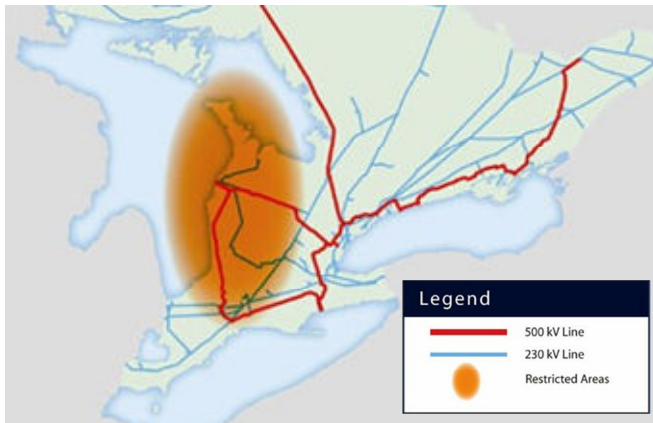
President	Bruce Schmidt	1-Year Term
Vice-President	Dave Barrett	2-Year Term
Secretary-Treasurer	Henry Wydeven	2-Year Term
Director	Doug Biesinger	1-Year Term
Director	Ed Hasenpflug	3-Year Term
Director	Katherine Luckhardt	3-Year Term

## Issue 1 : Ontario Power Authority

We have a critical issue with the OPA : they will only allow us to connect a maximum of 10kW to the grid, one one-thousandth of what we intend to build (10MW). The OPA constraint is contrary to the Ministry of Energy's legislation announced on March 21 last year.

On November 09, the OPA released this detail about its Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program [RESOP] in an area called the "Orange Zone". This area is identified

in their website [www.powerauthority.on.ca/sop](http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/sop) from where this image is taken :



The Bervie site is well within the Orange Zone, as is our proposed Milverton site, as is most of mid and south-west Ontario, and coincidentally corresponds to one of the most windy areas of Ontario.

It is somewhat bewildering that Hydro One advised us early in 2006 that there was sufficient capacity at Bervie to connect our 10MW windfarm, but then to be told by the Ontario Power Authority that we are constrained to 10kW.

Our MPPs, the Ministry of Energy and the Premier's Office are discussing the issue with the OPA, as are several industry groups with which we are affiliated.

The provincial government has shown us support by awarding us our RED grant, it is now up to the OPA to recognize that Hydro One, the Government, Co-op members such as yourselves and private individuals want to participate in renewable energy in the Orange Zone.

We hope this issue will be satisfactorily resolved before long. Members were contacted in November about the OPA issue and asked to write to their MPPs and local media for support.

### Issue 2 : Offering Statement

One of the conditions required by the Financial Services Commission of Ontario [FSCO] to approve our Offering Statement is the ability to connect to the grid, ie successful resolution of the OPA "Orange Zone" issue.

We are in discussion with FSCO to complete the other requirements which will enable approval of our Offering Statement and allow us to start our Membership & Equity drive to raise the capital to build the windfarm.

A Marketing Plan has been prepared, identifying towns and villages throughout mid and southwest Ontario where we will hold public meetings to apprise existing members and to encourage new members to join us. Members will be able to buy Preference Shares to become owners of Canada's first Community-owned Windfarm, and to receive dividends over a 20-year period from the profits of selling renewable energy into the Ontario grid.

Details will be available upon approval of the Offering Statement.

### Proposed Milverton Community Windfarm

In our last Newsletter we mentioned that we had signed land lease options with local landowners, just north and west of the village in the Township of Perth East.

We have also contacted the neighbouring landowners to advise them of our proposed development and we'll keep them up to date with progress.

When operating and the wind is generating maximum power from the wind turbines, the windfarm has the potential to power about 80% of the homes in the Township of Perth East. The power goes into the local distribution grid, but the statistic is an indication of how important a generator the windfarm can be in a rural area.

### Nuggets and Tips

Monitor the energy consumption of your domestic and farm equipment using the power or wattage monitoring meters now sold by many hardware stores.

This will give you hard figures to assess if you need to change equipment, or the way in which you use it. For example, how much energy will I save if I change to low-energy compact fluorescent lights, or not only power-down my computer but also unplug it (a computer you think is "off" but still plugged into the outlet uses a significant amount of power, and your \$).

You will be surprised at how much you can save, not only from your wallet but by reducing demand for power and being kinder to the environment through less pollution from non-renewable energy generation which still supplies over 78% of our power.

### Where we are

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We value your ideas or suggestions, so please contact us with any ideas or suggestions.

Yours Co-operatively,  
Doug Fyfe  
General Manager

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### Who have helped us to date ?

Countryside Energy Co-operative Energy Inc sincerely thanks the following for their financial support : CanAdvance, The Co-operators, County of Perth, Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Ltd, Growmark Inc, Huron Business Development Corporation\*, Industry Canada, Mornington Communications Co-operative Ltd, OACFDC West Region Network, Ontario Co-operative Association, Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, Perth Community Futures Development Corporation\*, Perth County Federation of Agriculture, Jim & Rita Schneuker, and Shirley Schneuker.

\* also providing us with loans.