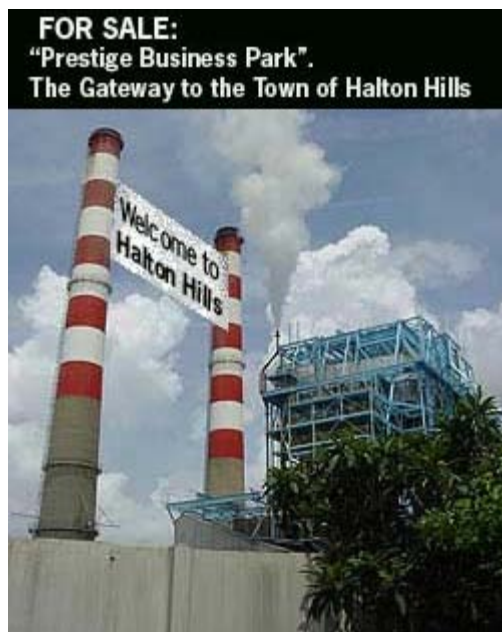


Sold out, again.

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October 4, 2006

Halton Hills - Hornby: Welcome to Mayor Bonnette's and council's twisted vision of "prestige". You may recall the various sales pitches Bonnette used when he sold council and the citizens of Halton Hills on his plans to develop a Town of Halton Hills Prestige Business Park, referring to it as; "The Gateway to Halton Hills". At the September 25, 2006 - [Special Council Meeting](#), all but one Councillor showed just how cheap their visions of "prestige" could easily be distorted.

Unfortunately for taxpayers of Halton, Bonnette's plan also included using 7.5 million taxpayers dollars to further develop investors private property in Hornby, some of whom have been financial campaign supporters of more than a few of our politicians who've sat on council. The controversial plan was suppose to be used to develop a "Prestigious Halton Hills Business Gateway Park" which we were lead to believe would be a valuable asset to our community. The 401 Gateway Business Corridor is set to take on its first make-over.

Transcanada hung out the \$1.5 million dollar carrot that the Town of Halton Hills put up as our share to the Region to develop the privately owned commercial zoned property and council, with the exception of Councillor Lewis, lunged for it, without even knowing exactly what was coming out of the power generating facility's smoke stacks, the height of the smoke stacks, the noise level, the exact development charges nor the assessment that they would be collecting.

The Transcanada Energy Ltd. V.P admitted at the special September Council Meeting; that the properties south of the 401 were closer to Hydro's power grid and better suited for the proposed power stations needs. However, the Corporation felt it would be easier to get the zoning requirements the developer needed to develop a power generating station in Halton Hills, assuming building variances would be granted.

Leslie Adams from P.O.W.E.R. was overwhelmed and obviously struggling to understand the technical engineering jargon that she was being supplied with, but managed to note; there are adverse health and ecological implications associated with the byproduct of this type of power generating facility which will affect, both the local and the outlying communities surrounding the proposed facility.

A representative from Hornby's Association of Ratepayers - H.A.R.P. gave mixed signals to council which later became another matter of council debate. At one point the association who purports to represent Hornby community members seemed to hold reservations over the plan and then in an amazing turn around, appeared to endorse the proposal in their closing statements. The ratepayer association, we can only assume, must have been preoccupied focusing on the depreciation value of their real estate, which in turn, one might expect, might lower their property assessments.

Dr. Richard Kunica of Hornby told members of council; "we've been sold down the river by these smooth talking developers of Transcanada", and went on to raise all of the important issues that no one at the council meeting, including P.O.W.E.R., were prepared to raise. The doctor started by making reference to the estimated two thousand tonnes of gas that the facility would burn a day and the subsequent radiant heat that would dissipate into the community. The Doctor went into specific details with the toxins and the health related hazards that are associated with the emissions of this type of power plant, stating; the exhaust is definitely acidic and went on to individually itemized some of the pollutants as; Nitrous Oxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrocarbons and last but not least, Benzene which is a known toxic carcinogen. He talked about mercaptan which adds more sulfur dioxide to the

carbons. He raised the issues concerning the present noise pollution levels currently generated by the traffic from the 401, which he claimed is somewhere around 40 decibels. The Doctor then added; the plant could likely add another 60 decibels to the existing noise pollution levels, which would make the plant the single largest contributor of noise pollution in that area.

Councillor Moya Johnson and Joan Robson, who don't live in the area, immediately went into damage control, opening the door, through C.A.O. Dennis Perling, giving TransCanada an opportunity to refute the Doctor's concerns. Instead, the door flew open to new concerns that had not yet been raised, regarding safety. When Bonnette asked about safety hazards or any catastrophic incidents associated with this type of operation, TransCanada's V.P. made a casual reference to a event involving a similar power plant operating in The United States, but ended the conversation promptly by adding he wasn't prepared to talk about it.

Councillors Johnson and Robson both concluded their council inquisition, instead of focusing on the potential health hazards and the noise pollution that the facility was going to be generating in the community, they focused instead on the landscape design and issues pertaining to how old the trees we're going to be that the developer is going to plant to hide the facility and its exhaust stacks which, the Dr. claimed; would need to be 200' feet high to safely transport any potential heat, emissions and noise pollutants from the immediate area.

Councillor Davis who offers his services as an Environmental Engineer in The Town of Halton Hills thought the plant was a great idea, leaving many to speculate if perhaps he'll be one of the proposed power plant's 25 employees whose services might be employed doing community environmental studies for the corporation. Councillor Davis moved the motion which was then second by Councillor Hurst. With the exception of Councillor Lewis, all members of council raised their hands in favour of adopting a motion to endorse the TransCanada proposal to add an industrial power plant to the "Prestigious Gateway of Halton Hills", which then became a signed deal.

Listen to the Halton Herald audio news report of the event's highlights: (9 MG - highband) -- (4.71 MG - lowband)

UPDATE

"If they took the money to allow these people to pollute, then shame on them"



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December 4, 2006

Halton – Hornby - Milton: Despite the overwhelming opposition from Milton politicians and its community groups, on November 16, 2006 - TransCanada Corporation announced that it was awarded a 20-year energy from energy generating contract by the Ontario Power Authority to build, own and operate a 683 megawatt natural gas-fired power generating plant in Milton's hamlet community of Hornby, situated in the municipality of Halton Hills.

In terms of design, the local paper published a wonderful modest artist depiction (pictured above) of what the town's folk should expect. The Halton Herald has taken that depiction and our report to a realistic level by doing some comparison research and illustrations for our report. By doing so, we now provide Hornby, Milton and Halton Hills residents with a not-so-rosy picture of what to actually expect. The above edited "artist rendered" depiction of the proposed generating facility includes a stack of 40 cars to properly put the required stacks in proper perspective.

In the Nov. 17. 2006 report of The Independent and Free Press, Mayor Bonnette reassured concerned community members by stating; " the company (TransCanada) has agreed to participate in the Town's planning approval and construction regulating process",

suggesting perhaps that others have not. He dangled another carrot adding "*the generating plant also means cost savings for Halton Hills Hydro*", sending a message that perhaps our hydro bureaucracy might pass any such savings on to consumers.

Bonnette also "*stressed*" in Lisa Tallyn's report that the government grant - financially-aided P.O.W.E.R. organization is a "*local environmental watchdog group*" claiming the group "*supported the proposal*". Although we've never found any such endorsements, the existence of one would only confirm our community's concerns and suspicions that P.O.W.E.R. already sold-out, leaving many to question the management, funding and political motivations behind its own operation.

Opposition was fierce from Milton, which is perhaps indicative to why TransCanada dangled their \$1.5 million dollar debt relief carrot in front of Halton Hills council rather than in Milton, where TransCanada CEO Hal Kvisle openly admitted, "*was more convenient for a plant to be situated*". The \$1.5 million political pay-off is to relieve council from its debt obligations with regards to the controversial - private land development deals made with property investors, developers and financial political campaign supporters of members of council who voted in favour of using taxpayers money to further develop private property in the 401 area.

Milton councillor Rick Day, who represents Milton constituents within the ten kilometer atmospheric toxic dump zone, was not so impressed with the political bribery taking place in Halton Hills, stating; "*if they took money to allow these people to pollute, then shame on them,*".

Staff reporter Lisa Tallyn reported in The Independent and Free Press in her Nov. 17, 2006, front page report; "*Day intends, however, to ask for a "bump up" of the environmental assessment process TransCanada must go through for the Halton Hills plant so it's site specific and much more thorough.*", adding; "*Halton Hills has skipped all those safe guards,*" said Day.



[click to enlarge](#)

Day's concerns are well formed. Pictured above is the 875 megawatt Goreway Generating Station that's currently under construction in Brampton. The Goreway Generating Plant, located in one of Brampton's industrial zones is a good measure of what to expect in Halton Hills.

The Goreway plant is designed with something just less in the neighbourhood of a 25% (192 megawatt) greater output capacity than the proposed 683 megawatt Halton Hills plant. If there's going to be 25% less output, can we expect a 25% reduction in emission equipment than that pictured above at the Goreway Station? By comparison, we can expect the smoke stack towers to be similar or at the very least 200 feet tall or possibly even higher considering only two stacks will be stressing the dispersment of noise and emissions over our rural agricultural areas, rather than the three being implemented in Brampton. But even when queried, TransCanada was very illusive in pinpointing or providing any details at their September 25, 2006 - "Special Council Meeting" to the size of the stacks. The only stack design indicator provided at that meeting was a vague design aspiration based on a compromising desire to dispense plant emissions over a two to ten kilometer area while minimizing the noise pollution.

[More on the original story...](#)