

## **MIRANET Annual General Meeting: March 2, 2011**

### **Clean Air Subcommittee Report**

*Delivered by Brian Holtham: Director, CRA*

I'm pleased to present on behalf of the Clean Air Subcommittee and pick up where Mike Douglas left off in his report to you last year.

Let me start with the GREAT news. On Oct. 7, 2010, the Provincial government indicated it would not proceed with the Oakville Power Plant and that no new natural gas fired power plant would be built anywhere in the GTA.

I want to say a little bit about the scale of the fight we have just come through. We fought the plant on every front, while documenting it on our website and attending every possible meeting.

We had to up our game on the technical front. I have a background in power generation, which proved useful when TransCanada held meetings and Open Houses to support the development of the Power Plant and even gave a tour of their Portland Energy Centre in Toronto.

TransCanada produced a draft Environment Review Report that filled six binders and contained over 1700 pages. Based on weeks of review, much of **their own** documentation could be used as justification not to build a 950 MW gas turbine in a highly populated area that has existing air pollution problems. Our Clean Air Subcommittee produced a ten page critique of the Report's major short comings based on my review of the Draft. Let me take this occasion to thank Subcommittee member Ivan Sack for hosting our marathon meetings while we went through this.

We believe a key contribution MIRANET made last year was our YouTube video **Why Not Nanticoke?** which was produced with the volunteer assistance of UTM/TV including Andrew Hamilton-Smith and Claire Morcos. Subcommittee members Sue Shanly and Dorothy Tomiuk produced it, which entailed taking a field trip to Nanticoke. Dramatic images of the province's under-utilized billion-dollar transmission corridor and the Nanticoke plant in the process of shutting down told the story of a better alternative to the Oakville plant. A pilot from Oakville (Richard Umpherson) provided us with aerial footage of the proposed Oakville site for contrast. The Mayor of Haldimand/Nanticoke Marie Trainer was of great support to our efforts. And a local resident engineer John Pegram added significant technical commentary regarding the transmission solution which the Province will now be continuing.

Throughout 2010, MIRANET continued to make Deputations to Council in support of Resolutions to maintain pressure on the provincial government to abide by its own Environmental Statement of Values. Pat Mullin, the Ward 2 Councillor, took a leading roll in supporting her constituents. Mayor Hazel McCallion and Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa were extremely active in supporting the residents and MIRANET's efforts.

Meanwhile, the Air Quality Task Force had begun meeting in January 2010. Task Force Chair Dr. David Balsillie asked Dorothy Tomiuk to sit on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) as MIRANET's representative with the unique responsibility of both keeping the community

informed about the task force progress along with contributing the input of our Subcommittee to the discussions. Our Clean Air Subcommittee reviewed and revised the draft Task Force Report last May and compiled a 61-page set of very significant and detailed edits, including assignment of **Low, Med and Long term values for the Task Force action items.**

Our recommendations were supported by the other Task Force members and in many respects were adopted in the final Task Force report.

### **Where does MIRANET go from here?**

Since the AQTF report was released last June, MIRANET has advocated for aggressive implementation of the key action items ever since, including a local Airshed Management System pilot project that will inform policy across the Province.

The 280MW Greenfield South plant on Loreland Ave. in the Sherway area is still not resolved. The site is even closer to sensitive uses, including a hospital and homes, than the Oakville plant was. This contract should be cancelled in the spirit of the Energy Minister's statement last October that there would be no new GTA gas-fired plants.

### **Documenting our Struggle against the Power Plant**

These are horrible fights when you are in them and consume tremendous amounts of volunteer time, but the format seems to follow the same trajectory. Our Subcommittee believes we have created a resource for others fighting such battles. Our website continues to be a resource for others to follow, after being the daily go-to site for all parties during the power plant battle. The cancellation of the Pickering Airport, and the fight for the Toronto Islands are other examples of huge citizen-mounted battles that have resulted in a win for the people.

Thanks to all the MIRANET reps for their support for what would seem to be a localized battle. But a principle applied – it was imperative that we fight against this harm to our fellow residents. And far from being localized, the power plant fight spread around the province, with Nanticoke and King Township in York Region finding alliance with Mississauga and Oakville in a common cause.

### **New Environmental Subcommittee**

We have decided to expand our Clean Air Subcommittee and take on other environmental issues more comprehensively as MIRANET's new Environment Subcommittee. We are participating with the City's Living Green Master Plan and are uniquely positioned to monitor the Green pillar of the City's Strategic Plan. One of our first actions will be an in-depth meeting with the Sierra Club of Peel representatives later this month, who are in the audience tonight. And we will continue to advocate for cleaning up the Clarkson-Oakville Airshed.

Brian Holtham  
Ivan Sack  
Sue Shanly  
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