

## POINTS OF VIEW



## es: the new meetings

Mike Wilson  
From the Editor's Desk



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Continued on page 7

## urning isn't over

iggs-McGowan  
Legion News



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### South Bruce addresses concerns over Adaptive Phase Management project

Dear editor,

The municipality has recently received a number of inquiries about the municipality's participation in the Adaptive Phased Management project being undertaken by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). I want to take this opportunity to provide residents of South Bruce with an update on South Bruce's involvement in the project.

As many residents are aware, NWMO narrowed its site selection process to two communities in Ontario – South Bruce and Ignace – in January 2020. NWMO concurrently announced it had signed agreements with landowners in South Bruce that will allow it to access land for studies at a potential deep geological repository (DGR) location in the community. NWMO is aiming to make a determination on site selection by 2023. NWMO has stated that it will only locate the DGR in a community that is an informed and willing host.

While the municipality is continuing to participate in NWMO's site selection process, I want to emphasize that the process is at an early stage and no determination has been made as to whether the community is a willing host for the DGR. The municipality has not yet engaged in substantive discussions with the NWMO as to the potential impacts from and benefits associated with locating the DGR and the Centre of Expertise in South Bruce. The municipality's assessment of willingness will unfold over a number of years between now and 2023.

There are several steps the municipality has undertaken over the past year to further its participation in the site selection process:

o NWMO and the municipality created a Partnership Working Group in May 2019 that meets periodically to discuss issues related to the NWMO's site selection process. The municipality's representatives are Mayor Robert Buckle, Deputy Mayor Mark Goetz, Chief Administrative Officer Leanne Martin and external advisor and legal counsel Patrick Duffy. The Partnership Working Group is a forum for discussion and is not a decision-making body. All decisions related to the site selection process will be made by municipal council with input from the Community Liaison Committee.

- The NWMO and the municipality undertook a project visioning exercise in January 2020 that included public participation from residents of South Bruce. The exercise gathered community input on the key priorities and objectives for the project as well as the key concerns and question that need to be addressed. The municipality anticipates that a report with the results of the project visioning exercise will be published and made available to the public in May 2020.

- The municipality is beginning a process of retaining a team of consultants to assist it with fully understanding and evaluat-

ing the potential impacts and benefits of the DGR. These consultants will be undertaking studies for the municipality in areas of community interest identified in the project visioning exercise, such as public safety, environmental protection, socio-economic impacts, transportation and infrastructure requirements. The municipality welcomes further input from all residents of South Bruce on areas of concern that they would like evaluated as part of the site selection process.

- The Municipality is establishing its own process to evaluate the DGR and assess the community's willingness to host the DGR. This process will be co-ordinated with the NWMO's site selection plan but will be independent of the NWMO's process and will be under the control of the municipality.

Over the coming months the municipality will be building a team to undertake the work needed to create a comprehensive and thorough assessment of the DGR. The municipality's work will be undertaken in an open and transparent manner. We welcome and encourage public participation in the assessment process.

The municipality has also received a number of questions about the funding from NWMO to assist in our participation to explore the project. I have provided an overview of those funding streams for information of South Bruce residents.

**Resource Funding** - The NWMO provides resources to assist communities that are participating in preliminary assessment studies to support their efforts to explore interest in hosting the DGR and the Centre of Expertise.

As communities advance through the multi-year assessment process, technical studies become more detailed. Greater involvement by communities is required, as well as additional resources to support these activities. These additional resources are intended to ensure that community costs associated with participating in advanced phases of work are fully covered.

**Community Well-Being Funding** - The NWMO has developed a community well-being program to fund investments by the municipality in community capacity and community well-being. Under the program, the municipality receives funding based on the terms and conditions set out in a letter of agreement which can be found on the Municipality of South Bruce website under Council Meeting Agendas (Report of the CAO in the March 26, 2019 meeting).

**Early Investment in Skills and Education** - The NWMO provides investments in training and education to equip community members, including youth, to work at the Centre of Expertise, and in subsequent site preparation, construction and operation activities. The investments are intended to include transferable skills that could be applied to other projects or workplaces. The CLC reports found on the CLC webpage address the various investments made. The investment for 2020 is \$30,000.

I hope all the above information is helpful and I encourage residents to become informed with this project.

Sincerely,  
Mayor Robert Buckle

## It can't be negative, ca

Dear editor,

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# Wilson: The new normal for meetings

## It can't be all negative, can it?

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns and dismay over the numerous letters of opposition and protest you have been publishing. Specifically, those regarding South Bruce possibly becoming "a willing host" to the nuclear industries' proposed deep geological repository (DGR).

This is a project that, as one candidate running locally for mayor once said, "Could finally put us on the map." A destination of historic proportions, renowned worldwide as the home to all of Canada's nuclear waste... OK, to be precise, just the most toxic level of nuclear waste!

My observation so far is that all the letters I have read point towards the negative aspects of this project: the risks it could bring to the waters of the Great Lakes; the scale of this massive \$24 billion project and its impact on the quality of life of a small rural community such as ours; and just what will we do with some 3,000 transient construction workers coming to town to construct the site.

It can't all be negative, can it?

But no sir, as an avid reader, I have yet to find in any local papers – the *Mildmay Crier*, the *Walkerton Herald-Times*, the *Hanover Post* or the *Waterloo Region Record* – any positive voice in favour of this project.

Where are these folks hiding? Is the NWMO not paying them enough?

Oh, there was this one exception when the *Toronto Star* came down and did a feature story, three pages mind you, with photos and maps: *Bruce County may house Canada's largest-ever nuclear waste dump – Surprisingly, not everyone minds* by Jennifer Wells, June 22, 2019.

Funny though, this story as long as it was, is derived from mostly speaking to only one local resident who just happens to be chairman of our local Community Liaison Committee (CLC). Not that there's anything wrong with that. It is good for a democratic debate to occasionally hear at least one positive voice on this issue.

But just this one lone voice crying in the positive nuclear wilderness?

On the other hand, there have been all these wonderful full-page ads in local papers neatly crafted by the NWMO exalting the ever-positive "learn more" opportunities they offer us. And if you do as they say – "dig deeper to learn more" – you'll discover that they have given this municipality over \$1 million in cooperating and remaining complacent in this learning adventure. Now for what specifically we are being compensated for, I have yet to determine, but whatever you do, don't call it a bribe. Wisdom dictates that when you're a poor municipality with roads and bridges to finance you don't look a gift horse in the mouth.

Perhaps that is the entire problem. Maybe the majority of people in South Bruce are indeed looking too closely at this horse in the mouth. And maybe on close inspection, all they are seeing are cavities and broken teeth. Maybe we all should take

our cue from South Bruce council, the CLC or the NWMO and always look on the bright (or is it glowing?) side of life.

David Wood  
Mildmay

## A brilliant opportunity

Dear editor,

I am very encouraged to see the increased level of interest in the prospect of having a permanent nuclear waste site in South Bruce.

On March 12, the *Herald-Times* reported that about 200 people showed up for the March 5 meeting of the Community Liaison Committee meeting in Mildmay. Just a few short months ago in November, I was one of only about six South Bruce residents who showed up at a similar meeting in Teeswater. Since there are now only two Ontario communities in the running to host the deep geological repository (DGR) for spent nuclear fuel, it seems more likely and more feasible that South Bruce could be the eventual site chosen for this project, and I think it's great that South Bruce residents have started to take an interest.

For many years now, the people of Ontario have benefited from the production of nearly a third of our electricity from the Bruce Nuclear site. Meanwhile, we residents of Bruce County have benefited from a strong economy and the presence of many good, high-tech jobs brought about by the nuclear power industry. This massive, local source of power has helped to heat our homes, light our cities, and power our schools and hospitals, while keeping our air clean to breathe. Do you recall the days of the Bruce A shutdown, when the province turned to coal fire to generate electricity? During the summer of 2007, we endured no less than 22 smog days, due in large part to pollution from coal-fired generating stations. Thankfully, Bruce A is now back at full capacity, and with the addition of wind power, we no longer need to burn coal to power our province.

Through all the history of nuclear power in Ontario, the permanent, safe storage of our nuclear waste has been an issue, but now, the residents of Bruce County have a brilliant opportunity to solve the problem. Nuclear waste is a serious issue, and it's great to see people taking an interest and becoming more informed. Of course, we need to protect our land, and the safety of our water supply for future generations, and we will. By using the best modern science and technology, we, the people of Bruce County can safeguard our land and our community. We can also safely, responsibly permanently store our nuclear waste, so it is not a threat to future generations.

I'd like to encourage my fellow residents and landowners of South Bruce to be part of the solution, and support the DGR in South Bruce.

Tony Zettel  
Mildmay

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Sincerely,  
r Robert Buckle