

# Green Energy and Good Government

## Why rural Ontario should take note of what's going on

By: Jennifer Layman  
Jenn@ovbusiness.com

This started as a story about a company who wanted to build a hydroelectric power plant on the Petawawa River and how some residents and water enthusiasts didn't like that idea much. Now, this story has just started.

There is a company, Xeneca, that is eager to build a hydroelectric plant along the Petawawa River. They chose that site from a list managed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Xeneca found the place, put forth a proposal to the Ontario government under the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) program.

Phil Kompass is a water enthusiast. He believes there are unanswered questions about this plant, and he can't seem to get any answers. In response to his digging and asking, he decided to launch [www.savethepetawawa.ca](http://www.savethepetawawa.ca) in

hopes of bringing awareness to the issue.

The proposed plant is located in the Town of

**"...we live with the people we represent..."**

*Bob Peltzer, Councillor for Bonnechere Valley, commenting on the lack of local involvement in the Green Energy Act*

Petawawa. Mayor Bob Sweet has spoken out many times indicating that he and council would not support any development that would negatively impact the integrity of the river. That's about all they have done.

These are the players in the game. The game is called The Green Energy Act, or GEA for short.

### Xeneca

Xeneca applied for a FIT contract with the province of Ontario. This is the program where you can produce power and sell it back to the government. They were awarded a 40-year contract to

produce power. All they had to do was submit proof that their site, Big Eddy in Petawawa, was feasible, and complete a

Class Environmental Assessment (EA). They are in the midst of that EA now.

Xeneca also has to collect public comments. If someone asks to be put on an update list, Xeneca is in charge of that. In a sense they are their own policeman, and it is all legal, according to the rules of the Green Energy Act game.

### Water Enthusiasts

Phil Kompass believes this project is one that many people should be concerned about. Over 2,600 people agree, and are following him on Facebook.

Kompass wants to know how Xeneca plans to operate

the plant. He explains that Xeneca makes more money when they generate electricity in peak times, and this, he says, will require them to hold water back from the River in the summer, when water flow is at its lowest. That would change the river for everyone.

He also wonders how Xeneca plans to protect the safety of people downstream when the water is released to generate the more profitable power. Will they run a siren as they do in some municipalities or just fence off areas that will no longer be available? Kompass believes that the plant will automatically cause the loss of 25% of the rapids, and says that nothing the company could do would ever replace that loss. Kompass joins residents of the Black Bay Ratepayers Association as being not supportive of the project.

*Continued on Page 2*

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Ottawa Valley Business (OVB) is a monthly publication covering business news and events throughout Renfrew, Lanark and Pontiac counties, as well as within the surrounding areas. OVB is published by Forward Thinking.

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OVB is delivered twice a month via email to more than 3,000 businesses, government and organizations.

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# Rural-Urban Divide Is Evident

## Municipalities shut out of local decision-making

### The Town

Phil Kompass believes the Town of Petawawa can help prevent this development and that they have a "weighty voice" when asked to provide comments through the EA process. That may not be so.

In April 2009, Bob Peltzer a councilor in Bonnechere Valley, made a presentation to the Standing Committee on General Government Re: Bill 150, The Green Energy Act, which was being proposed at the time. Peltzer noticed that the Act removed all decision-making opportunity from local government and he felt that was a mistake. In his submission he said: "...we live with the people we represent. They are our friends and neighbours, who share a common interest in our community. This is the great strength of decisions being made by those who will live with the results. It is the greatest strength of the municipal level of government..."

The Act passed a month later, with no changes. In fact, under the Act, most renewable

energy developments do not have to deal with policy statements and provincial plans, or public works and by-laws conforming with municipal official plans. They are exempt from zoning by-laws and development permit applications. In other words, anything that requires the municipality to be involved, well, these companies don't have to deal with it.

"The Green Energy Act takes the municipality completely out of it except as being in a consulting role, and consulting is whatever the government [of Ontario] says it is," says Peltzer.

The required consulting form that the municipality fills out under GEA require less input than a resident's application to put an addition on their home.

### GEA and GTA

In February 2009, Premier Dalton McGuinty addressed the London Chamber of Commerce and said, "Municipalities will no longer be able to reject wind turbines, solar panels, or bio-fuel plants because they don't like them.

We can't allow interests to oppose these simply because they don't like them."

Where in the GTA could you put a wind turbine or bio-fuel plant? What municipalities do you think he was talking about? Keep in mind that there are more seats in the legislature held by the Greater Toronto Area than are held in all of Eastern Ontario, excluding Ottawa.

Did rural Ontario just get labeled as an "interest group?"

### The Start

There is more to come in this story. Xeneca plans to have a public meeting in the next few months and a comment period will be open on their Class EA report. Phil Kompass plans to keep everyone in the loop on Facebook and his website: [savethepetawawa.ca](http://savethepetawawa.ca). The Town plans to wait and see what happens next, because, well, that's all they are allowed to do.

The more important question is, "what are the rest of us in rural Ontario going to do?" Are we ok with being a special interest group?

What does Renfrew County have to with Winnie The Pooh, the Mayor of Ottawa or buckets of cow feed?  
Find out by visiting:  [facebook.com/expo150](https://www.facebook.com/expo150)



There are some pretty neat things going on in Renfrew County and you can find out what they are every weekday from now until Expo 150 begins on June 9, 2011.

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**January 26**

Renfrew County Private  
Landowners Association 1st  
Quarterly meeting. Horton  
Community Centre. 7:30pm.  
Topic is Land Grant Patents.  
Guest speaker is Liz Marshall.  
All are welcome For info:  
Stan Pekoskie (613-757-2591)  
or Jack Kelly (613-432-8791).

**January 27**

The Greater Arnprior  
Chamber of Commerce break-  
fast with Virtual Business 911  
owner, Barb Asselin.  
Kenwood Corporate Centre  
Boardroom. \$12. Doors open  
at 7am, breakfast at 7:30am.  
Call: 613-623-6817.

**January 27**

Free Internet Workshop Part 2.  
Hosted by Laurentian Valley  
Broadband Initiative. Info on  
Facebook, Linked In, Twitter,  
MySpace, and more. Bernie  
Charlobois, CEO of Virtuo.ca.  
9:30am-4:00pm. Shady Nook  
Rec Centre. For info/register:  
613-735-6291 ext.207.

**January 29**

Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber  
of Commerce Gala. THIS  
EVENT IS SOLD OUT!

**January 30**

Pinto Valley Ranch's Annual  
Family Fun Day! 11am-4pm.  
Free. Sleigh rides, skating and  
tobogganing. Bring your own  
equipment. Helmets required.  
Bonfire, marshmallows and  
live entertainment. Food  
available on site or bring your  
own. [www.pintovalley.com](http://www.pintovalley.com)

**February 1**

Economic Developers Council  
of Ontario (EDCO) 54th  
Annual Conference. Crafting a  
Toolkit for Innovation. The  
program is packed with  
inspiration-to-action  
workshops. Toronto Marriott  
Downtown Eaton Centre.  
[www.edco.on.ca](http://www.edco.on.ca).

**February 3**

How to do business with the  
Government of Canada.  
9:30am-12pm: Introductory  
Supplier Seminar. How and  
what the Government buys  
and more. 1pm-3pm: Bidding  
on Opportunities. Advice on  
preparing a bid. English  
seminars. Held in Gatineau,  
Quebec. Call 819-953-7878 or  
[renbpme.ncrosme@tpsgc-pwpsc.gc.ca](mailto:renbpme.ncrosme@tpsgc-pwpsc.gc.ca)

**February 3**

Soup Sensations Charity Cook  
Off Competition. Sponsored  
and hosted by Pembroke  
Heritage Manor, 1111  
Pembroke Street West in  
Pembroke. 7:00-10:00pm. \$10  
per person. Tickets at  
Pembroke Heritage Manor,  
The Nook Creperie, Thai  
Gardens, Saffron Bistro, East  
Side Mario's, Victorian Rose  
Tea Room and Café Ole.  
Prizes, gift certificates and  
giveaways to be won! For  
info: 613-635-7926.

**February 4-5**

Intro to Ecological Agriculture  
Workshop. Presented by  
OVFC. 9am-4pm. \$80 for  
both days includes local food  
lunches. \$60 for additional  
person from same home. Barr  
Line Community Centre in  
Douglas. Speakers are two  
farmers from the Ecological  
Farmers Association of  
Ontario. Pre-register with \$40  
deposit. Call Cheryl at 613-  
756-3884 or [ckeetch@webhart.net](mailto:ckeetch@webhart.net).

**February 17**

Funder's Forum. For  
businesses, municipalities,  
charities and non-profit  
organizations to learn about  
funding opportunities in  
Renfrew County. 8:30am to  
4:00pm. Marguerite Centre,  
700 Mackay Street in  
Pembroke. \$20 per person  
includes lunch and breaks.  
Pre-registration is required by  
Thursday, February 3, 2011.  
Cash only payments may  
received at the door. Call Kim  
at 613-735-8224 (phone), 613-  
735-2492 (fax) or email her at  
[kfraser@countyofrenfrew.on.ca](mailto:kfraser@countyofrenfrew.on.ca).

Send details of your event to:  
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# Business News Around The Valley

## Taste of the Valley Moves to Renfrew

Taste of the Valley has decided to visit Renfrew instead of Arnprior in 2011 in a slight schedule change. Vendors across the Valley are welcome to show their products at four venues this year: Petawawa and Barry's Bay in August, Renfrew in September and Cobden in October. Those interested in being involved with Taste of the Valley should visit [www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca](http://www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca) and download an application or call 613-735-0091.

## Calmer Winter Is Easy on the Budget

Based on the winter control operations in November and December 2010, County of Renfrew Operations staff project that there will be an approximate savings in this budget of \$250,000 to \$300,000.

## Paul Moreau Joins County

After seven months, the County of Renfrew has filled the vacancy of Property and Development Director. Paul Moreau will assume the role vacated by Jim Hutton, who replaced Norm Lemke as

CAO for the County. Moreau has worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources since 1998.

## Derue Joins Eady

Morris Eady, Broker of Record for Century 21 Eady Realty Inc. wishes to announce Kelly Derue has joined the Renfrew office. Kelly Derue, Real Estate Broker, has been practising real estate in Renfrew and the surrounding areas for the past ten years. Kelly has spent three years as a director on the Renfrew Country Real Estate Board. Kelly can be contacted at 613-432-2100 or [kelly.derue@century21.ca](mailto:kelly.derue@century21.ca)

## Operations Committee Moves Around County

For the past few years, the Operations Committee of the County of Renfrew has moved its meetings around the County, and that practice will continue in 2011. In May, the Committee will meet in Arnprior, and in June, they will meet in Renfrew. Admaston-Bromley will host the meeting in August and North Algona Wilberforce will host in September.

## Jp2g To Monitor Groundwater

The City of Pembroke will

have Jp2g Consultants Inc. monitor the groundwater program for the City's new snow dump location on Quarry Road. The location was changed after the land transfer was made to Algonquin College for the new campus. The approved cost for monitoring wells is \$15,700 plus an administrative allowance of \$2,000.

## Wilkie Moves On

Mitch Wilkie, the County of Renfrew's manager of economic development has accepted a position with the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade's small and medium enterprise division. Alastair Baird will assume the duties of manager of economic development for the time being.

## Walmart Opens January 28

One year after deciding to come to Kemptville, Walmart plans to open its doors. The 93,000 square-foot store will open for business at 8:00am on January 28th.

## Zellers To Become Target

U.S. retailer Target has purchased the Canadian discount retail chain Zellers for \$1.8 billion. The 220

Zellers locations are part of the assets of the Hudson's Bay Company which is owned by a U.S. investor. While the Zellers locations will continue to exist as they are for a current period of time, Target will eventually convert 100 to 150 of the Zellers stores to Target stores. The others will likely be sold off to other retailers. There is no word on which locations will become Target stores.

## The Grind Moves To Pembroke

The Salvation Army's church on Pembroke Street West is now the official home of The Grind Youth Centre, and will host activities for the the Pembroke Boys and Girls Club and Renfrew County Child Poverty Action Network. The three organizations will operate separate programs out of the same location on Monday nights from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The Grind Cafe will operate on Friday nights from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Activities are suitable for teens aged 12 to 17. For more information, call 613-735-5601.

*Continued on Page 6*

## The Web Conversation: A Free Internet Workshop

Presented By: **Bernie Charlebois, CEO Virtuo.ca**



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# Horton Votes 4-0 Against Investigation

## Former councillor continues to seek opportunity to clear his name

Former Horton Township Councillor, Dave Bennett, has had his request for an investigation to clear his name denied by the Township.

Bennett had brought the request forward after he felt that statements made during the recent election suggested that his business, Marshalls, had gained work from the municipality because of Bennett's position on council. Bennett had asked the municipality to conduct an investigation, confident it would clear his name. But in a 4-0 vote, council decided not to pursue an investigation. (Councillor Bob Kingsbury did not vote as he is Bennett's uncle.)

Mayor Don Eady indicated that the reason for council's

decision was based on the advice of the Township's legal firm. The situation, however, may not be over. Bennett has indicated he will pursue the matter with the Superior Court of Justice to see if newly elected Mayor Eady made an error by directing the Township CAO to obtain legal advice before he was officially sworn into office. Bennett also alleges that Eady participated in a closed-door council meeting on December 21, 2010.

Further Bennett has indicated that Eady is the person whom he believes made the suggestions of impropriety, and because of that Bennett believes that Eady's involvement is a conflict of interest.

### 101 Things to do in the Valley

Thank you to those of you who have posted our latest issue online. We have an error in the headline of the publication and have uploaded the corrected version to our website at: [www.ovbusiness.com](http://www.ovbusiness.com). If you would like to exchange the copy, you are welcome to do so.



## Farming in Canada

**8%**

How much the average Canadian farm grew from 2001 to 2006

**52**

Average age of a Canadian farmer

**38%**

Percentage of male farmers with post-secondary education

**48%**

Percentage of female farmers with post-secondary education

**728,623**

Number of farms in Canada in 1931

**229,373**

Number of farms in Canada in 2006

**39%**

Percentage of Canadian farms with gross sales of \$25,000 or less

**27%**

Percentage of Canadian farms with gross sales of \$25,000 - \$100,000

**9%**

Percentage of farmers under the age of 35

**1 in 3**

Number of Canadians living on a farm in 1931

**1 in 46**

Number of Canadians living on a farm in 2006

**98%**

Percentage of Canadian farms that are family owned and operated

**92**

The number of cents paid out by a farmer for expenses with every dollar of gross sales

Source:

Ontario Farm Animal Council

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# Business News Around The Valley

## Moose FM Coming to Barry's Bay

Barry's Bay will be getting a new radio station in the future, thanks to a recent decision from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). The Haliburton Broadcasting Group, Inc. (HBG), has gained permission to operate English-language FM commercial radio programming in Barry's Bay. The new station will broadcast on 106.5 FM, and will operate on an adult contemporary music format. HBG has made a commitment to air 120 hours of local programming each week. The company currently owns 13 English stations, mostly branded Moose FM.

## New Business Opens

Jeff's Art and Designs Studio and Tattoo Shop has opened in Petawawa. Jeff Jones was raised in Petawawa and does a wide range of pencil sketches,

and expanded his talent to ink and began tattooing five years ago. The studio presents a warm, welcoming atmosphere not typical of the common tattoo shop. He also offers custom painted glasswork. The business is located at 3495 Petawawa Boulevard. You can contact them at 613-506-8282 or via email at [jeffsartanddesigns@live.com](mailto:jeffsartanddesigns@live.com). They are also on Facebook.

## Supplier Changes For Quality

The AJ Stone Company Limited has won a contract worth over \$28,000 to upgrade equipment used by the Pembroke Fire department. This is a significant supplier change as Code 4 Fire and Rescue has supplied the Department for 24 years. Although more expensive, the decision was made to go with the new company due to their ability to provide high-end equipment. The Fire

Department will continue to use the older materials to train new firefighters.

**Rail Deadline: February 4** Municipal governments will have until February 4, 2011 to put forth an offer to keep the rail line from Smiths Falls to Petawawa. The next deadline, for the stretch of tracks from Petawawa to Madawaska, is February 14, 2011.

## Bidders Drop Out of AECL Bid

Bruce Power and SNC Lavalin have both reportedly dropped out of the bidding process for AECL's CANDU reactor business. No further comment has happened from either company.

## Algonquin Community Expresses Concerns

Chief Grant Tysick of the Kinouchepirini Algonquin First Nation says they were not consulted before the transfer of waterfront land to Algonquin College. The 14-acre property is due to undergo development starting in the Spring of 2011 for the new campus. The City and the College both believe they have done their due diligence in the matter with respect to land claims. Chief Tysick, who has the support of Chief Paul Lamothe of the Ottawa Algonquin First Nation, believes that consultation should happen with all Algonquin people, regardless of whether they are part of the land claim process.

## Hayat Joins Deep River

The Town of Deep River has a new director of public works: Khizar Hayat. Hayat will be coming to Deep River from Alberta where he was also a director of public works. The position in Deep River was open after the death of Belo Csomor last year. Staff have been managing the duties of the position since Csomor's passing. Hayat will begin his position on February 14, 2011.

## Storyland Up For Sale

After two years, Todd Mattila-Hartman is putting Storyland back up for sale. The property is listed with Ottawa realtor, Hamid Riahi for \$1.25 million. Matilla-Hartman has a company called Great North Parks, with a website that re-directs to Storyland. He was also involved with the Ottawa Valley Tourism Association.

## Mayor's Breakfast

### Scheduled for February 17

The Greater Arnprior Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual breakfast with the mayors February 17. Arnprior Mayor David Reid and McNab-Braeside Mayor Mary Campbell have been invited to speak to Chamber members, as has Arnprior District Memorial Hospital CEO Eric Hanna. The breakfast will be held at the Arnprior Legion.

## New Owners for Peter's

Terri Witlox and Ellen Bell started their 2011 New Year by becoming the new owners of Peter's Family Fare Restaurant on Gore Street in Perth. The duo does not plan to make any drastic changes to the menu.

## Teen Saloon Opens in Renfrew

Aiming to fill a void in her community, Pam Gillis plans to provide a number of social services at Teen Saloon, a facility for local teens. The facility also plans to offer after school care for children ages 10 to 12, and eventually a morning drop in centre service for stay at home parents and their children or others in a continuing education program. The Teen Saloon offers a café, club, youth centre and camp. The facility located at 359 Plaunt Street South in Renfrew. The project has been a do-it-yourself ambition of Pam Gillis. For information visit [www.teensaloon.ca](http://www.teensaloon.ca) or call 613-433-8991.

*Continued on Page 8*

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### Dear Delfi,

My company is working with a partner on a shared project. Our CEOs agreed to share the workload 50/50, but the fellow they delegated to liaise with me doesn't seem to understand what 50/50 really means. There are only two of us on this project, and I am doing 80% of the work. Any suggestions for me?

~ Half 'n Half

### Dear Half 'n Half:

This sounds like a matter of undefined expectations. It could be that your CEOs need to meet and create a clear description of what 50/50 means, but you could be a long while making that happen. Your first step is to make every reasonable effort to work this out with your liaison contact.

One good approach is to arrange to meet with your cohort to discuss "project delivery." Begin the chat about what you agree on and what is going well. Next, move to what is off track. If he doesn't bring it up, you should. Take the attitude that this is a shared problem, not a conflict, so make sure you set aside any feelings of resentment. You can start this discussion by saying: "Bob, with regard to how we share the workload, this is what I expected [and describe it]. They explain what you see happening, and finally ask Bob to tell you how he sees the problem, and then listen with all the empathy you can muster up.

If this approach does not lead to a better understanding, then it's time to ask your boss for help.

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*Have a question for the professionals at The Delfi Group? Send it to: questions@thedelfigroup.com*

## PSP Merges with Zuni Deal announced December 31

Pacific Safety Products Inc. and Zuni Holdings Ltd. are pleased to announce that they have completed the previously announced acquisition of Zuni's outstanding common shares in exchange for PSP common shares at an agreed exchange ratio of one PSP common share for each Zuni common share, which was carried out by way of a statutory plan of arrangement under section 182 of the Business Corporations Act (Ontario).

The articles of arrangement giving effect to the Arrangement under the Business Corporations Act

(Ontario) are effective as at December 31, 2010.

PSP is an established industry leader in the production, distribution and sale of high-performance and high-quality safety products for the defence and security market. These products include body armour to protect against ballistic, stab and fragmentation threats, ballistic blankets to reduce blast effects, and protective products against chemical and biological hazards. PSP is the largest body armour manufacturer in Canada. They have an operation in Renfrew.

## 100% Write-Off For New Computers Til Jan.31

Now is a good time to buy new computers for your business thanks to a 100% capital cost allowance (CCA) write-off available on computers bought after January 27, 2009 and before midnight, January 31, 2011. Announced in the 2009 federal budget, businesses can fully deduct the cost of eligible computers (including systems software) in one year. Learn more about this at [cra.gc.ca/taxrelief](http://cra.gc.ca/taxrelief) or call 1-800-959-5525.

### Back To Blogging!



The OVB Blog is back online. Each issue we will open discussion for a topic within the issue. Comments are encouraged. This is your forum to share. **This issue's topic: Development and the Environment.** Go to [www.ovbusiness.com](http://www.ovbusiness.com) and click on "Out Loud."

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# Business News Around The Valley

## County Hopes to Get Highway 17 Back in Plans

At the upcoming Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)/Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference, the County of Renfrew hope to get the extension of Highway 17 from Pembroke to Renfrew, back on the mind of the Ontario Minister of Transportation. Despite two previous meetings with Minister Kathleen Wynne who indicated the Highway 17 extension was not in the five-year plan for the Ministry, the County will take another run at the topic in February.

## Septage Project Over Budget

Horton Township Mayor Don Eady is hoping to attend the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA)/Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference to secure additional funding for the Township of Horton septage pilot project. The project is over budget by \$80,000.

## Deadline Nears for Small Business Plan Competition

The fourth annual Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Small Business Plan competition will take place at the Lanark North Leeds Enterprise Centre, 91 Cornelia Street West in Smiths Falls. The deadline for

the event is January 28, 2011 at 4:00pm. For information, visit: [www.lnenterprisecentre.ca](http://www.lnenterprisecentre.ca)

## Tenders Awarded

The County of Renfrew Public Works & Engineering Department has awarded PW-2010-53 Close Cut Clearing County Road 34 to Tormac Tree Services of Toledo, Ontario in the amount of \$24,395. Elm Enterprises of Arnprior bid \$32,000 while BR Fulton Construction of Renfrew bid \$45,360. The three companies also bid on PW-2010-52 Close Cut Clearing County Road 63, with Elm Enterprises having the winning bid of \$39,944.15.

Tormac was second at \$40,821.10 and BR Fulton was third at \$59,024.06.

## Warren New ED for PRH

Nancy Warren, a former nurse and key individual with Red Cross is now the new Executive Director of the Pembroke Regional Hospital Foundation.

## Hermitte Joins Tannis

Phil Hermitte has joined the team at Tannis Food Distributors. Hermitte will take over the territory of Lillian Cody who is moving to Kingston. Hermitte has been in the restaurant business, primarily in management, for more than 25 years.

## OMB Decides To Maintain EP Zoning

### Gillies House owners keep status quo on property

Gillies House owner Dr. Alex Winter has lost his appeal to have the Environmental Protection (EP) designation removed from his property.

The Town of Arnprior has support from County of Renfrew senior planner, Bruce Howarth that a portion of the Gillies House property should remain designated for environmental protection.

Winter and partner Ron MacIntyre say they purchased the property in 2005 and it was zoned residential 1. They believed they had the right to build or sell part of the land. Howarth indicated that the EP designation, which was on the property due to floodplain and steep slope issues with the waterfront, was attached to the property at the time of purchase.

Winter's concern is that the EP designation, and accompanying policies, may result in the lands between his home and the waterfront being 'taken' without compensation, and against his wishes.

On January 20, 2011, the Ontario Municipal Board agreed with Howarth and the Town of Arnprior and upheld Official Plan Amendment 15 which continues the EP

designation of the Gillies House property. The OMB suggested that "while the concerns of Dr. Winter are reasonable, they are management and subject to future detailed rigour and rights inherent in any future development application pursuant to the Planning Act."

The OMB stated that Winter will be able "to continue to use his entire property as he has subject to the normal, and in this case existing, restrictions that apply to a residential and waterfront property in the Town. It is only when and if Dr. Winter chooses to develop his property further that more detailed studies, possible further use restriction and possible public land acquisition of protected areas will occur. Even then, Dr. Winter will be afforded the right to disagree and appeal any decision or lack of decision on any application made pursuant to the Planning Act."

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# What The Non-Recession Left Behind

## Are you aware of what might be happening?



Many people believe that we, rural Canada, managed to evade the recession that hit hard in other areas. That may be true, but the threat of a recession has left its mark, and it may be preventing some businesses from moving forward.

The threat of a recession has prompted consumers to be cautious about how they spent their money, and most headlines have done little to alleviate that nervousness. One day it is reported that interest rates are going to cause people to lose their homes, and the next day the news is that interest rates will remain low. No wonder consumers are nervous - nobody seems to know what

will happen next.

You are a consumer. But, you are also an organizational leader or business owner. When you are in this role, you cannot think like a consumer. If you do, you will spend hours and hours being nervous about making a decision. You will procrastinate, you will change something three or four times and no matter what you do, nothing will make you feel comfortable. With all this indecisiveness, you will be more frustrated, because nothing is getting done.

You will find yourself running in circles instead of running your business or organization. Take a moment and think about it for a minute. How many projects have been put "on hold" because you haven't decided something? How many changes did you make to the last advertisement you ran? How many times did you say "I'll think about it"

when you were approached to enter a tradeshow or join an organization or be a sponsor?

If you find you are being indecisive, congratulate yourself for becoming aware of it. You cannot fix what you do not know to be a problem. Next, you need a strategy to get comfortable making decisions again.

The first thing you need to do is to find the right person to help. If you need help with a staffing issue, talk to an HR professional. If you need help with marketing, talk to a marketing professional. If you need help with accounting, talk to an accounting professional.

Next, remember why you hired the professional. That person is going to bring you a recommendation. They are doing this because you paid them to do it and that needs to weigh heavily in your decision making. If you need help

getting going, start small.

Have the HR pro address one key issue, or have the marketing pro help on one key project. Choose something and accomplish it. Your goal is to feel good about making a decision and moving forward.

Consumers can wait for things to move forward. Since they cannot affect the outcome, they just go with the flow. But as business owners and organizational leaders, you can make the outcome work for you by getting the right people in place and trusting them. As you know, time is irreplaceable and you need to use it the best way possible. Focus on what you do best and spend the majority of your time in that role. Not only will you move forward in business, you will also feel less stress as more and more things are accomplished.

You can do it.

## Where do you want your business to be by Spring?

Whether you are looking to make some changes to your current marketing, or plan for something new, now is the time to start.

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