

## Municipalities approve merger from front page

ties between Vaughan and St. Catharines); Toronto Hydro-Electric; Hydro Ottawa; Elexicon Energy (municipalities between Belleville and Uxbridge; and London Hydro.

When approved, the merged companies will provide hydro to over 109,000 customers in Cambridge, Brantford, Brant County, and North Dumfries. Approximately 200 people will be employed by the new company.

In 2014, Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro acquired Brant County Power, and became Energy+, providing hydro to customers in Cambridge, North Dumfries, Burford, Cainsville, Mt. Pleasant, Paris and St. George.

“Brantford Power and Energy+ have a strong long-standing relationship and often share equipment and

personnel in times of emergency,” according to the North Dumfries press release. “Together, they co-own and maintain a transformer station on Powerline Road in Brantford and share space in Brantford Power’s Operations Centre in Brantford.”

Brantford Power Inc., is the local distribution company that distributes electricity and value-added services to over 41,000 customers. Its unregulated affiliates are Brantford Hydro Inc., NetOptiks and Ensure Home Comfort.

Energy+ Inc., is the local distribution company that distributes electricity and value-added services to more than 68,000 customers. Its unregulated affiliates are Cambridge and North Dumfries Energy Solutions Inc. and a minority interest in Grand River Ener-

## North Dumfries profits expected to increase with utility company merger

By Irene Schmidt-Adeney

In 2020, North Dumfries Township earned a total of \$587,051 as a shareholder of Energy+, the utility that provides electricity for Cambridge, North Dumfries, and parts of Brant County. The other shareholder is the City of Cambridge.

Last week, a merger with Brantford Power Inc. was approved by Cambridge, North Dumfries, and Brantford Councils, and North Dumfries staff is predicting that earnings will increase.

Before the merger, North Dumfries owned 7.9% of the shares in Energy+. The value of the shares owned by North Dumfries is approximately \$3.2-million with an annual dividend of approximately \$270,500.

Under the terms of the merger, North Dumfries will own 4.7% of the shares in the new company, which has not yet been named.

“In terms of the dividend, dividends are tied to the net income of the company,” said North Dumfries Treasurer

Christina Brox. “While under the proposed merger we will receive a smaller percentage of the total dividends declared [4.7%], the forecast models have projected that the merged entity will generate a larger net income, which would result in larger dividends to be paid out. Therefore, based on the forecasts, which also project synergies (savings) in the merged company; we anticipate a similar (or potentially a slightly higher) annual dividend will be received by the Township under this proposed merger.”

North Dumfries also receives an annual income of \$150,774 from a Note Receivable (loan) that has an interest rate of 4.993%.

“Nothing will change with regards to the Note Receivable that is held by the energy company. We are not redeeming it and the interest rate stays the same,” said Brox.

The merger will remain tentative until the agreement is approved by the Ontario Energy Board.

## American Goldfinch

This handsome little finch, the state bird of New Jersey, Iowa, and Washington, is welcome and common at feeders, where it takes primarily sunflower and nyjer seeds. Goldfinches often flock with Pine Siskins and Common Redpolls. Spring males are brilliant yellow and shiny black with a bit of white. Females and all winter birds are more dull but identifiable by their conical bill; pointed, notched tail; wingbars; and lack of streaking. During molts they look bizarrely patchy.

### Backyard Tips

Almost any kind of bird feeder may attract American Goldfinches, including hopper, platform, and hanging feeders, and these birds don't mind feeders that sway in the wind.

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## Annual Ayr Cemetery Decoration Day is well attended

The rain held off on Sunday, September 12 for the annual Ayr Cemetery Decoration Day. This is the fourth year for the event and it was hosted by the

Ayr Cemetery Company with President Pat Radke leading the program.

"Decoration Day is a time-honoured tradition held by

many cemeteries where families visit the Cemetery to pay respect to their loved ones by tidying up gravesites, cleaning cemetery monuments and placing floral tributes," said Radke. "It is also our hope that we will use this experience to reflect, share memories and enjoy the peacefulness of this special place, chosen 144 years ago."

Radke thanked Bill Little and his family for the many years of service to maintain the grounds, and administrative duties.

Upcoming special projects include the repair of the front gates and pillars that were donated, designed and built at the Watson Foundry in 1932 in memory of John Watson,

the company's founder and a member of the first Ayr Cemetery Company board.

Some funding for the ongoing restoration of foundations and monuments is provided by the Township of North Dumfries.

Rev. Lillian Patey of Knox United Church, Ayr provided a blessing. Music was provided by the Hot Ayr band.

Robert Edgar and his daughter Bronwen were guest speakers. The Edgars have one of the longest histories in the township, farming continuously at their property on Trussler Road for 184 years. They presented an informative and entertaining history of the early Scottish settlers and more recent memories of growing up

in Ayr and North Dumfries.

The Ayr Cemetery Company was formed in 1877 with the purchase of five acres of land on Stanley Street. The cemetery continues to be operated by a board of volunteers and the current slate of directors includes: Patricia Radke, President; Robert Edgar, Vice-President; Theresa St Peter; Dennis Charrette; George Kyle; Reg Cressman; Jean Fraser; Catherine Moore and Derrick Ostner. The officers are Reg Cressman, Secretary and Don Davidson, Treasurer. Records and Arrangements are handled by Alison and Bill Little. Online donations may be made by e-transferred to donations.ayrcemetery@gmail.com h CanadaHelps.org.



Bob Edgar and his daughter Bronwen were guest speakers at the Decoration Day. They spoke about early Scottish settlers in Ayr and reminisced about growing up in Ayr and North Dumfries.

## Thibeau recognized with honorary lifetime membership in the AMHA

...from front page

becoming the 'Banner Guy'.

"No one wanted the job of hanging the banners at the old Ayr Community Centre," said Lisa. "Mike rented the equipment and got it done."

You name it, and he has probably filled that spot on the board at some point – president, rep convenor, local league convenor, registrar, tournament convenor, treasurer, head coach, assistant coach, team manager, and even trainer. For four years he was the Grand River Local League Convenor for Atom and PeeWee.

"With my wife helping me," said Thibeau.

Along with the late Dave Weaver, Thibeau was responsible for bringing the AE Silver Stick to Ayr.

"They brought this prestigious tournament to our Association and our community, which has been a huge contributor to the funds in our [AMHA] bank account, as well as to our local businesses," said Lisa.

"I'm really lucky to have a wife who puts up with me," said Thibeau.

He says that it's not all about playing the game.

"It's like having an extended family," said Thibeau. "Guys stop by [the house] to say hello that I coached 10 or

15 years ago".

Thibeau says these relationships add to what keeps him coming back.

"It's seeing someone's joy just by being on the ice, getting exercise, making friends, and seeing them [the kids] smile," he said.

Ayr Minor Hockey Vice-President Jason Bracey said that Thibeau's 'tireless energy and commitment to help provide the best opportunity and experience for kids' is what really stands out.

"When decisions need to be made, Mike always looks at things from the standpoint of 'Is this good for kids and will this help the most kids possible play hockey? Behind the scenes it takes an incredible amount of work to prepare for a season and this work starts when the previous season ends. Mike is always ready to get to work," said Bracey.

"With an almost entirely new executive this year, Mike has been an incredible wealth of experience and help as AMHA navigates through this season with the increased challenges of COVID and restarting a regular program. I can speak for the Executive when I say he has been invaluable in helping us settle into our new roles and to plan for this season," he said.

# Rose-Breasted Grosbeak

Male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are like an exclamation mark at your bird feeder or in your binoculars. Females and immatures are streaked brown and white. Look for these birds in forest edges and woodlands. They sound like American Robins, but listen for an extra sweetness, as if the bird had operatic training.

### Backyard Tips

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks often visit bird feeders, where they eat sunflower seeds as well as safflower seeds and raw peanuts. Even if you live outside their summer range you may still catch one visiting during spring or fall migration if you keep your feeders stocked.

From *All About Birds*, The Cornell Lab



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Concept warehouse design. Image from cambridge.ca.

**Blair Engaged demands City of Cambridge consult with them on warehouse site plan**

The Blair Engaged Residents Association, a group opposed to a one-million square

foot warehouse at 128, 134, 140, and 228 Old Mill Road in Cambridge, is taking legal measures that they say will ensure that the impact on local residents and the environment is mitigated. The location for the warehouse is bordered by Fountain Street South, Highway 401, and Dickie Settlement Road.

In August, the province approved a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) for the project. An MZO is a government order which allows the province to override municipal council decisions on development. The MZO was supported by Cambridge Council. The next step in the planning process is approval of a Site Plan.

"Blair Engaged will not accept council imposing a site plan without consultation with the community," said Alan Van Norman on behalf of Blair Engaged.

Blair Engaged has hired environmental lawyer David Donnelly who sent a letter to Cambridge Mayor Kathryn McGarry on their behalf stating, "While it is highly unlikely the residents of Blair and Cambridge will ever know exactly how or why Council gifted one out-of-town developer an MZO, Cambridge council has a continuing obligation to consult residents prior to approving a site plan."

The letter describes five measures that must be implemented to mitigate the impact of the warehouse distribution centre on the community. Changes required to the site plan must include: relocate the main truck access to Fountain St; create a landscape feature

along Dickie Settlement Road that will soften the transition from residential to commercial land use; create an enforceable protocol for maintenance of the stormwater management devices that are intended to replace natural infiltration; implement and enforce traffic control measures for all traffic in Blair; and install noise and light mitigation measures.

"Cambridge Council also failed to ensure notice was provided to First Nations prior to the City issuing its request for a Minister's Zoning Order," said resident Tim Armstrong. "This is a significant oversight when proposing a 2.2-million square foot facility in the middle of the Haldimand Tract, the source of on-going litigation."

Land is currently being cleared for the warehouse that is estimated to cost \$150-million, and could provide 1,500 construction jobs. When complete, the warehouse could employ 700 people during peak times of the retail season (November to February). It is also expected that up to 100 trucks a day will access the property.

In 2002, the City of Cambridge designated the Village of Blair as a Heritage Conservation District (HCD). As a HCD, the municipality is obligated to provide protection: from suburban development and ensure new development fit the protected design, to enhance the natural environment, and to enhance the area's heritage features.

For more information visit the website [saveblair.nation-builder.com](http://saveblair.nation-builder.com).

**Blue Jay**

This common, large songbird is familiar to many people, with its perky crest; blue, white, and black plumage; and noisy calls. Blue Jays are known for their intelligence and complex social systems with tight family bonds. Their fondness for acorns is credited with helping spread oak trees after the last glacial period.

**Backyard Tips**

Blue Jays prefer tray feeders or hopper feeders on a post rather than hanging feeders, and they prefer peanuts, sunflower seeds, and suet. Planting oak trees will make acorns available for jays of the future. Blue Jays often take drinks from birdbaths.

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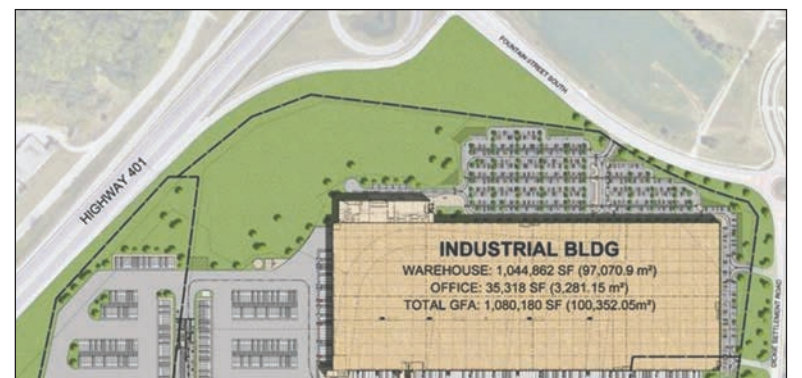
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Warehouse site is adjacent to North Dumfries Township.