



Praise the Pollinators

by Lorraine Roulston

'Protecting Our Ecosystem'

"Spring is here, and with it, a renewed opportunity to take action for nature." —The Sierra Club Canada.

This year, National Pollinator Week is celebrated on June 22-26. Pollination occurs when butterflies, moths, wasps, bats, hummingbirds, and bees seek food and shelter on plants. Pollination also happens through the activities of some snails, beetles, flies, snails, mosquitoes, slugs, birds, and ants.

Life in a beehive is one of the marvels of nature. These insects work as a team and always put the well-being of the hive before themselves. Of the thousands of bees in a honey bee colony, only the queen lays eggs. In the summer she can lay 2000 eggs a day. Those eggs hatch into white, legless young. Caring for them is the job of young adult bees. These young bees also build comb from the wax that they secrete from special glands in their bodies, clean the hive, make honey, feed and clean the queen, guard the hive, and help ventilate it by beating their wings. As they age, they leave the hive to collect nectar and pollen from flowers. The nectar is turned into honey which, together with pollen, feeds the colony. Bees breathe through 10 pairs of spiracles on the sides of their body. Their five eyes detect light, sense the presence of a predator, and make bees brilliant navigators. Allow some dandelions, daisies, and clover to flourish on your lawn. These are especially great for the bees in early spring.

Avoid bee-killing pesticides. Use only natural pesticides and fertilizers. Ladybugs, spiders and praying mantises will naturally keep all of nature's populations in check.

When a monarch caterpillar is ready to become a butterfly, it climbs onto a safe place. The skin begins to split along the back forming a green chrysalis that pushes the old skin away. The chrysalis twirls and whirls, attaching itself to the sticky pad that the caterpillar had previously spun. Finally, it stops moving and anchors itself in place. Hanging upside down, the caterpillar pulls itself up into the shape of a 'J'. The chrysalis then hardens into a jewel-like jade with gold trim and spots. For 10-14 days the transformation takes place and a beautiful butterfly can be seen through the chrysalis shell before it emerges.

Eventually, the chrysalis begins to split down the front, and a monarch butterfly with small wings and a big abdomen swings out. Within minutes the new butterfly pumps liquid from its abdomen into the veins of its wings. The butterfly also uncoils and coils its proboscis repeatedly, in order to knit the two pieces into a solid straw-like tongue used to sip flower nectar. It is now ready to soar and begin its life as a monarch butterfly. Truly, this is one of the great natural phenomena of the insect world.

On Insects: "The little things that run the world."

—E.O. Wilson 1987: American biologist, naturalist, and author.



THE Mr. X Files

By John Mutton
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

Karmageddon

By Mr. 'X' ~ John Mutton
CENTRAL EXCLUSIVE

Wesleyville: Ontario's Nuclear False Prophet?

A Mr. X-Files column on nuclear economics, procurement reality, and political signalling
By John Mutton | Chairman, Ontario Nuclear New Build Council Ontario is absolutely serious about nuclear expansion.

That is undeniable.

The province has approved four small modular reactors at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station. It has moved ahead with major refurbishment and expansion at the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station. And it has publicly directed Ontario Power Generation to explore new nuclear generation at Wesleyville in Port Hope.

But the key question is this: Is Wesleyville a real project - or simply political signalling? That is where the argument becomes powerful, because this is not an anti-nuclear argument. It is a pro-reality argument. It is about economics, procurement reality, financing structure, and whether a government announcement is the same thing as a bankable project.

The Core Thesis -

There are three entirely different economic models at play in Ontario's current nuclear conversation. Project Why It Works - or Does Not Yet Work. Darlington SMRs Smaller modular design lowers capital exposure and construction risk. Bruce Expansion Massive existing infrastructure plus a private partnership structure. Wesleyville No proven economic model yet.

1. Darlington SMRs Are Not Traditional Nuclear

This is the critical distinction. The province learned painful lessons from the original large-scale reactor procurement discussions at Darlington years ago. I remember when Ontario was procuring for the possibility of a new 1,000 megawatt reactor at Darlington. The cost came in way too high.

Traditional gigawatt-scale nuclear requires massive up-front capital. It carries huge financing exposure. It involves decade-plus timelines. And it creates catastrophic political risk if budgets explode. That is precisely why small modular reactors became attractive. The BWRX-300 model at Darlington is being sold politically and financially as modular, repeatable, factory-based, faster to deploy, and cheaper per unit of construction risk.

The province can justify the first units because the site already exists. The transmission exists. The workforce exists. The regulatory framework exists. And Ontario is trying to establish itself as the North American SMR leader. Darlington is not just a power project. It is an industrial policy strategy.

2. Bruce Is a Completely Different Animal -

Bruce is economically unique. Why?

Because it is already one of the largest nuclear sites in the world. It already has massive transmission infrastructure. It has an established skilled labour ecosystem. And, importantly, it operates under a partnership and private capital structure that spreads risk differently than a pure OPG government megaproject. That is the point many people miss. Bruce is not a clean-sheet-greenfield nuclear build. It is expansion of an already mature nuclear ecosystem. That dramatically changes the economics.

3. Wesleyville Has None of Those Advantages -

This is where the 'false prophet' line lands hard. Because Wesleyville currently appears to have no approved reactor technology, no defined financing structure, no committed industrial partner, no finalized transmission plan, no announced procurement model, and no public capital estimate that survives scrutiny.

What exists right now is exploratory consultation, impact assessment work, municipal engagement, and political messaging.

That is not the same thing as a financeable nuclear project.

Wesleyville may sound impressive. It may sound strategic. It may sound like the next great chapter in Ontario's nuclear story. But without the economics, the procurement structure, the risk allocation, and the capital partner, it remains a concept wrapped in a press release.

The Killer Point - If Ontario could not economically justify another traditional 1,000 MW reactor at Darlington years ago - at an existing nuclear site - why would a far riskier greenfield project suddenly work at Wesleyville?

That is a devastating economic question. Because Darlington already had nuclear zoning, nuclear workforce, supply chain, grid integration, public acceptance history, and operational expertise. If that struggled economically, then Wesleyville becomes difficult to explain unless the province eventually deploys SMRs there too, Ottawa absorbs major capital risk, or taxpayers subsidize the project heavily. And that is the part that has to be said out loud.

Nobody should confuse a possible future site with a real nuclear project. Nobody should confuse long-term energy optionality with a funded, risk-allocated, procurement-ready build. And nobody should pretend that Wesleyville is in the same category as Darlington or Bruce unless the underlying economics are explained.

The Political Reality -

Wesleyville may also serve another purpose: strategic optionality. Governments often announce potential projects, future sites, exploration frameworks, and long-term nuclear corridors because electricity demand forecasts are rising. Electrification is accelerating. AI and data centres are exploding. EV manufacturing is growing. And Ontario wants to signal long-term supply confidence. That does not necessarily mean shovels are coming soon.

In fairness, there is nothing wrong with long-term planning. Ontario should plan. Ontario should secure future energy options. Ontario should protect potential generation sites. Ontario should examine whether future nuclear could fit into the grid. But planning is not procurement. Exploration is not financing.

A press release is not a project. And a political signal is not a business case. Mr. X Closing Darlington is real. Bruce is real. Wesleyville today looks more like a concept wrapped in a press release. Until somebody explains the economics, the financing, the procurement structure, and who carries the risk, Wesleyville may be Ontario's nuclear false prophet. That does not mean Wesleyville can never become real. It means the burden of proof is on the people promoting it. Show the technology. Show the financing. Show the partner. Show the transmission solution. Show the procurement model. Show who carries the risk. Show why this site works when even a 1,000 megawatt reactor conversation at Darlington could not survive the cost reality.

Until then, Wesleyville is not Darlington.

It is not Bruce.

It is not yet a project.

It is a promise.

And in politics, promises are cheap. Nuclear is not.

DON'T GET SCAMMED BY A FAKE PARKING TICKET

Scammers may have found a new way to make money as a City of Oshawa announcement seems to imply residents have been receiving suspicious parking tickets.

The city is encouraging residents to review penalty notices carefully and contact Service Oshawa if they have questions or concerns.

After reports of confusion related to parking tickets, Oshawa is reminding residents how to identify an official City of Oshawa parking ticket known as an Administrative Monetary Penalty (AMP).

The city explained that a legitimate City of Oshawa AMP issued by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, Durham Regional Police, or certified Private Parking Enforcement Officers will always include:

City of Oshawa logo

Option to dispute the penalty at the City of Oshawa website, and a

7-digit penalty number

The city said parking-related penalty notices are typically placed directly on the vehicle or handed to the operator, but may also be issued using any of the following methods:

In person

By registered or regular mail to the individual's last known address

By fax to the individual's last known fax number

By email to the individual's last known email address

On a vehicle

It is sad that the City of Oshawa does not support it's only in print newspaper. Otherwise all important City related matters could be found on one place. People are not going to web pages. People are demanding that they accept this newspaper as a uniting source for news. Luckily there is an election and who ever becomes mayor will put down petty politics and support a local downtown business that has earned it's place in a very competitive industry.

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