

2003 Annual General Meeting Report

On Saturday, November 29th, the doors opened at 9:00 a.m. at the Hamilton Incubator of Technology for Positive Power Co-Operative's (PPC) 2003 Annual General Meeting. Copies of the by-laws, the 6-month report on PPC's Flamborough-based Wind Resource Assessment, and audited financial statements were available for review before the meeting start time of 10:00.

The event was an excellent opportunity for current members to renew annual memberships, and, with past and new Board Members, Committee Chairs and the Project Coordinator available to answer questions, to introduce new members to Positive Power.

Ted McMeekin, MPP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Aldershot and a long-time supporter of Positive Power, provided welcoming comments to the membership and some information on the new Liberal government's plans with regard to electricity generation policies. He was followed by Positive Power's treasurer, Don Brown, who gave the financial report, with Adam Bolzan from BDO Dunwoody on hand to assist with questions. The financial audit showed that PPC is in a very good position to undertake all of its planned programs and BDO Dunwoody was reelected to audit the records for the coming year.

The meeting offered a time for reflection and recognition of progress made to date, as Positive Power thanked the Hamilton Grant Review Team of the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their funding grant. The [\\$150,000 two year grant](#) will allow PPC to educate the community, explore options for using wind power as a renewable energy source, and initiate the community co-operative model for renewable energy projects. Both Ken Hall and Susan West were on hand as Trillium Foundation representatives. Ms. West noted that the grant to Positive Power was their largest grant awarded in this area, and she commended the group for their accomplishments to date. Martin Ince of MK Ince and Associates provided a detailed report on the [Wind Resource Assessment Report](#) based on the first six months of testing at the Hamilton's Drumlin. Wind speeds look encouraging, and the assessment is moving forward as expected.

Melinda Zytaruk, Community Services Manager, brought greetings from the Ontario Sustainable Energy Association, and provided an overview of current issues and future directions for the community power movement in Ontario. She indicated that Positive Power is a leader in the community renewable energy co-operative sector that other emerging groups look to for process and guidance as they build organizations in their own communities.

Business was underway by 11:00, with presentations from Positive Power Corporation officers on activities from the past year and upcoming initiatives. Jon Norman, the current chair of the Board, also took the time to thank past members of the Board who have moved on to other commitments: Martin Ince, Pam Wilkie, James Murphy, and Brent McKnight.

The feasibility study for the co-operative revealed several options for the co-op to become sustainable without core funding from the government or foundations. These options include increasing the membership base, project-based revenue, and participating in a ["green tags" program](#).

Members voted to amend the by-laws, bringing all of the suggested changes into effect.

1. The membership can now vote to remove a member from the co-operative through a simple majority vote instead of the 75% required previously.
2. Bylaw 9, regarding membership meeting location specifications, was removed in accordance with the Ontario Co-operatives Act.
3. By-law 12 was amended to eliminate voting by proxy at Co-op general meetings.



4. The number of Directors required to be at membership meetings has been increased to 40% instead of 25% with an amendment to by-law 14.
5. A change to by-law 17 specifies how many Directors must be present at Board meeting to carry out business (3/5 or 7/12).
6. The creation of an executive committee has been limited to cases where there are more than six directors through a change to by-law 34.
7. By-law 50 now indicates that the membership's ability to appoint an auditor for the coming year requires a meeting with more than 59 co-op members in attendance.

Part of the business of the meeting was to elect additional Directors to the Board. Six of the Directors from the 2002-2003 year have agreed to stay on for another term: Don Brown, Sam DeAth, Dan Hall, Jon Norman, Victoria Roberts, and Elizabeth Simmons. The following Directors were elected to serve on the Board for the next year:

Curt Hammond

Curt Hammond has worked in the not-for-profit sector for over 10 years in a variety of leadership positions, most recently as Executive Director for the Partnership for Consumer Food Safety. Interested in working with team-based and community-focused organizations, Curt is a accomplished leader passionate about giving back. In addition to 'front line' volunteering with numerous children and family groups, Curt has served and advised local and national boards around communication and governance issues. With professional training and experience in board development, Curt is dedicated to helping organizations focus on long term relationships and mission focused decision-making.

Todd Mooney

Todd is a Chartered Accountant working in the technology industry who brings over 8 years of experience as board member of not-for-profit organizations to Positive Power. For the past 3 years, Todd has been Treasurer of Big Brothers of Ontario, managing an investment portfolio of over \$2.5 million in order to fund local Big Brothers/Big Sisters agencies. From 1996 to 2002, Todd also served as Treasurer for the KEY Foundation, a charitable organization that focused on environmental education for youth. Todd has been a member of Positive Power since its inaugural Annual General Meeting and has been an active participant on the Advocacy, Project Development and Governance Committees. Todd looks forward to using his financial and management skills and his business contacts to help Positive Power raise capital and secure funding to build its first (of hopefully many) wind turbines.

Jim Salmon

An Accredited Consultant Meteorologist, Jim is the principal of Zephyr North located in Burlington, Ontario. He is a graduate of Trent, York and Southampton Universities in physics, mathematics, meteorology and oceanography. His main consulting interests include siting studies for wind energy, numerical modeling of wind flow in complex terrain, remote collection and analysis of meteorological and wind energy data, and wind farm design. He has received the Andrew Thomson Prize in Applied Meteorology from the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society and the R.J. Templin Award "For outstanding contributions to the development of Canadian Wind Energy Technology" from the Canadian Wind Energy Association. He is a Past-President of the Canadian Wind Energy Association and presently sits on the board of the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-op.

The meeting was adjourned by noon. However, many stayed to meet and discuss issues concerning co-operative power generation with the new board members.