Lakeview GS
43 years of service to the Province of Ontario

A pictorial retrospective of Lakeview Generating Station
Time to Turn the Page…
and Thanks

The Lakeview Generating Station is ceasing operations on April 30, 2005 after 43 years.

I would like to commend the 275 people here at Lakeview and the hundreds of employees over the years who have worked so diligently to carry out their duties in both operating and preparing to shut down a plant that has served Ontario well for so many years. A great deal of history was made right here for our corporation and for the thousands of dedicated employees who came to work every day at Lakeview.

I am proud to say that much preparation has gone into assisting our employees in making their own transitions – whether to a new position within Ontario Power Generation (OPG), planning an early retirement, or perhaps even looking forward to starting a new career elsewhere. I want to thank the Power Workers’ Union and the Society of Energy Professionals for their cooperation and help in this process.

Lakeview’s staff, supervisors and managers have proven their professionalism by continuing to operate the plant safely and reliably right to the last day.

We’ve been proud to be a part of the Lakeview community for more than 43 years. Thanks to all our employees for their valuable contribution to Lakeview Generating Station and to helping meet the electricity needs of the people of Ontario for so many years.

Finally, I want to say thank you to all those companies that provided services, fuel and supplies and to the many stakeholders who involved themselves in the life of the plant, and especially to our neighbours. We valued your input to our operations at Lakeview and we look forward to your continued interest in our company, Ontario Power Generation.

A sincere thank you to all,

Mike Gilbert
Station Manager – Lakeview Generating Station
Ontario Power Generation
Looking Back at Lakeview

*After 43 years of operation, one of the world’s largest fossil generating stations prepares for decommissioning.*

Following provincial government policy to phase out Ontario Power Generation’s six coal-fired generating stations by the end of 2007, Lakeview Generating Station is closing its doors on Saturday, April 30, 2005.

The first 300,000 kilowatt thermal-electric plant in Canada, Lakeview was also the first of its kind in the world, surpassed only by the Nanticoke Generating Station near Port Dover, in 1975.

Since the first spadeful of earth was turned in June, 1958, Lakeview and its employees have made a highly significant contribution to the energy needs of the province, and particularly to the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

During the late 1960s and 1970s, the station operated to full capacity as an eight-unit baseload plant, meeting about 17 per cent of Ontario’s electricity needs. In the early 1980s, Lakeview continued to play an important role as a four-unit peaking plant, providing an adequate and reliable electricity supply when consumer demands were highest in the morning and around the dinner hour – and in the summer and winter. This role was especially critical on hot days when air conditioning use drove up electricity demand.

Still the *grande dame* of OPG’s fossil-fuelled generating stations, Lakeview’s final chapter reflects many successes: its tremendous contribution to the province as a safe, reliable electricity generator; the dedication of the thousands of employees who worked there over the years; and an enduring commitment to the communities it has served.
“The Lakeview Project”

“The clamour of heavy construction has replaced the noise of gunfire at the former site of the Long Branch Rifle Range, where steelwork is rising for the world’s largest thermal-electric power project.”

– Ontario Hydro News Release, February 25, 1960

During the first half of the 20th century, most electricity produced in Ontario came from hydroelectric stations. But by the early 1950s, most large hydroelectric sites were already under development and new power sources were required to meet the province’s growing appetite for electricity.

On the north shore of Lake Ontario, in what is now the City of Mississauga, 52 hectares of land were earmarked for a new thermal-electric plant that would help meet Ontario’s power demands and even provide system reserves.

“The Lakeview Project” was underway by June, 1958, and quickly became a station of superlatives: its eight boilers were the largest ever installed in Canada; the 300,000 kilowatt generators the largest ever purchased by a Canadian utility; and its power transformers were the largest ever built in Canada.

On June 20, 1962, Ontario Premier John Robarts and Ontario Hydro chairman W. Ross Strike pushed the button to start up the first 300,000 kilowatt unit. At a cost of $274 million, Lakeview Generating Station had become the largest thermal-electric plant in the world.

Here’s how it happened…
“A New Niagara”

“The Lakeview Generating Station…is bringing a ‘New Niagara’ to Metro Toronto’s doorstep. It marks an important step in Ontario Hydro’s long-term planning to meet future power demands.”

– Ontario Hydro News Release, June 20, 1962

Timeline:

**June 1, 1958:** Construction begins on 52 hectares of land purchased from the City of Toronto

**July 24, 1959:** Ontario Hydro announces the addition of a third and fourth 300,000 kilowatt generating unit to Lakeview by 1964

**1961:** Unit 1 produces first electricity on October 30

**1962 – 1965:** Units 2 – 4 in service

**1967 – 1969:** Units 5 – 8 in service

Aptly nicknamed “the soaring sixties,” this decade reflected the unprecedented post-war economic growth in the province and an accelerated demand for power. For Ontario Hydro’s Construction Division, these were busy days indeed. New transmission lines were planned and built; construction of Douglas Point Nuclear Power Station was on schedule; and Chalk River’s Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) reached full power output a week after Lakeview’s official opening ceremonies.

Fifty per cent of Lakeview’s total generation was produced between 1962 and 1976.

Lakeview ran at its highest capacity as a baseload plant from the late 1960s to the early 1980s and met about 17 per cent of the province’s energy needs. During this time, Lakeview played an important role in providing an around-the-clock, reliable supply of electricity to Ontario’s energy customers.

1980s: In 1980, as fuel alternatives such as nuclear units came on line at Pickering and Bruce, Lakeview’s role in the electricity marketplace changed. It transitioned to a four-unit peaking plant, due to its higher costs operating only when electricity demands were highest, or other generating units were not available. In 1986, the station began to use lower-sulphur coal to reduce emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

1990 – 1993: $1.1 billion was invested in rehabilitation to increase efficiency and reliability, and the addition of acid gas control equipment to all eight units.

By 1992, only four units had been overhauled when repairs were halted due to the changing future outlook and to a decline in the consumer use of energy, due to economic recession.

1993 – 2000: In January, 1993, reduced load forecasts resulted in the decommissioning of Units 3, 4, 7 and 8. In 1994, the plant returned to service as a four-unit peak-demand generating station, but with a much improved environmental performance.

Lakeview continued to provide customers with a safe, reliable source of power when demand was highest, and became a key asset in times of uncertainty in the electricity marketplace. The station’s location in the GTA made its output invaluable to some of Ontario’s largest municipal utilities and industries – especially when nuclear and other generation was not available.


In March, 2001, the provincial government announced that Lakeview would be required to stop burning coal by April, 2005.

2003 – 2005: In October, 2003, the provincial government confirmed that Lakeview would close on April 30, 2005, with the remainder of OPG’s fossil-fuelled plants removed from service by the end of 2007.
Building on a Foundation of Social Responsibility

“Drawn by a 15 ton three-wheeled steam roller, the 16 foot long float also featured displays of the oldest and the most modern electrical appliances...”

– Ontario Hydro Staff News, May, 1967

Well before Lakeview’s eighth and final unit was producing electricity, the fledgling station was busy building ties with the community. On May 26, 1967, Ontario Hydro’s staff newspaper Hydroscope reported that staff had entered a float – a replica of the station – into Toronto Township’s Centennial Parade on Victoria Day!

The haircuts and horn-rimmed glasses of 1967 have vanished, but Lakeview employees’ deeply-rooted sense of community citizenship has easily survived the test of time. As the station’s host for 40 years, the City of Mississauga is home to many Lakeview employees who proudly donated generous amounts of time, expertise and energy to enhance the quality of life there.

Below: Larry Onisto of Lakeview GS helped Mississauga’s Applewood Acres School for the developmentally challenged with environmental programs and fundraising. For his work with the school, he was honoured with the Peel Board of Education Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contributions to Public Education.

Right: Since 2000, Lakeview GS has proudly sponsored Mississauga Girls Hockey League.
Putting our Energy to Good Use

Lakeview’s commitment to the community was also demonstrated through support to OPG’s Corporate Citizenship Program (CCP). The station has had grassroots initiatives in surrounding neighbourhoods. Some of its initiatives include support for youth amateur sports teams and events; hospitals and health organizations; and arts and cultural organizations.

In the early 1990s, the station was also one of the first industrial facilities to provide a route through its property for the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail, which stretches for almost a kilometre across the site. Lakeview achieved international recognition for this effort with the “Excellence on the Waterfront” award.

Lakeview’s commitment to improving lands around the station also resulted in a partnership with the City of Mississauga to create Lakeview Park.

As a responsible member of the community, Lakeview staff hosted periodic meetings and open houses, spoke to community groups and gave tours to local secondary and post-secondary schools, community colleges and universities in support of curriculum energy and environment studies.

Effective partnerships were established with community schools on projects ranging from the building of peregrine falcon nest boxes, to participation in business programs and advisory councils.

In 1997, Lakeview received an Excellence in Business Education Partnerships award from the Conference Board of Canada. The station was also active in the Lakeview Business Association, a network of businesses working together to improve the Lakeview community and promote sustainable local business development.

Other major initiatives included support to the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club to enhance the Club’s emergency preparedness capability. Lakeview also sponsored Opera Mississauga’s production of La Bohème, which was performed at the Mississauga Living Arts Centre in 2003.

Lakeview’s support of the arts in Mississauga continued with the Lakeview Business Association’s Sunset Concert Series at Lakefront Promenade Park. The concerts received rave reviews from participants and spectators alike.
“To Be A Good Neighbour”

“To Be A Good Neighbour”

“Lakeview’s huge chimney and elaborate smoke purifying equipment, its pleasing architecture and landscaping, and the well-kept condition of its coal piles are tangible evidence of Hydro’s determination to be a good neighbour in the communities in which power developments are established.”

– Ontario Hydro Staff News, July, 1962

The writer’s choice of words may sound antiquated today, but the message never went out of fashion: Lakeview must fit into the landscape, and not vice versa. Throughout Lakeview’s operating life, research into the environmental impacts of burning fossil fuels to make electricity, and efforts to mitigate these impacts, would remain front and centre.

In the 1980s, Lakeview focused particular attention on reducing air emissions. OPG’s investment of well over a billion dollars to reduce sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions resulted in an emissions reduction of over 60 per cent at Lakeview.

About 60 per cent of the sulphur dioxide affecting Ontario comes from the United States. Ontario’s resource industries, manufacturing and refineries produce another 26 per cent. Ontario Power Generation produces about 10 per cent. Lakeview Generating Station contributed less than one per cent (Source: Coal-fired Electricity Generation in Ontario, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, March 2001).
Emissions Control

1972: Research to remove SO₂ from flue gases continues.

1981: Coal-cleaning project completes first of four years of testing.

1984: Launch of acid gas control program and commitment to cutting emissions in half by 1990.

1986: “War on acid gas emissions” continues as Lakeview tests limestone-injection scrubbing technology to further reduce emissions, and uses more low-sulphur coal.

1987: The prospect of a major equipment overhaul looms, along with new environmental restrictions. Ontario Hydro begins three-year study aimed at obtaining approval for acid gas control equipment at coal-fired generating stations.

1989: Hydro announces a major Lakeview rehabilitation between 1990 and 1994, including the addition of acid gas control equipment on all eight units.

1991: Revised plan for Lakeview includes complete rehabilitation for Units 5 and 6, and a reduced rehabilitation for Units 1 and 2; decision on remaining four units deferred.

1992: High-efficiency precipitators are installed on all four operating units which combine with flue gas conditioning technology to capture more than 99 per cent of flue gases.

1999: Lakeview receives ISO 14001 accreditation and announces new initiative to further reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions.

2001: Lakeview completes installation of new, low nitrogen oxide burners on all operating units, cutting nitrogen oxides emissions by 50 per cent from the 1999 level.

Other environmental improvements at Lakeview in recent years included recycling fly ash and safeguarding water quality. The station’s achievement of International Standards Organization (ISO) 14001 certification continued to demonstrate Lakeview’s commitment to environmental management through responsible operation at the highest standards.
Promoting Biodiversity at Lakeview

An excellent example of Lakeview’s commitment to planning and managing operations to protect native species and habitats was the installation of peregrine falcon nestboxes on powerhouse structures. An endangered species since the 1980s, the peregrines were monitored on site by Lakeview staff, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Canadian Peregrine Foundation.

The station also helped sponsor the Foundation’s education program, which included visits to several Mississauga schools to raise awareness about endangered species.

Since its construction, Lakeview has played host to a tremendous variety of wildlife, from coyotes to red-tailed hawks, and assisted employees in understanding and learning to co-exist with the many species that have made their home in and around the station for decades.
Lakeview Employees: Generating More Than Electricity

Lakeview employees have been an integral part of the Mississauga community since 1962.

Over its 43 years of operation, the station’s newsletters are filled with photos of staff supporting a myriad of community events, large and small. Countless local charities, sports groups and other not-for-profit organizations fill the lengthy list of those who have benefited from Lakeview employees’ generous donations of personal time and support. In 2000, staff broke all previous records for participation in OPG’s annual Employee Charity Trust Campaign, raising $47,000 – a 43 per cent increase from the 1999 campaign.

Today, more than 600 OPG employees and their families live in Mississauga, where many are active as minor sport coaches, mentors or volunteers in community organizations.
Lakeview Generating Station was also a tightly-knit community in itself, a place where 25 years of service or more was not at all uncommon. For example, in December, 2002, Jim Pennett celebrated 40 years with Lakeview, making him the longest-serving power plant operator in the province. In 2003, Bob Whyte, John Kempffer and John Zacny also celebrated the same milestone.

This was a station where 275 people looked out for each other, and worked as engineers, technicians, maintenance specialists, electricians, high-pressure boiler and coal plant operators, environmental specialists, managers and administrators. OPG has spent considerable time resettling employees, and many will move on to new opportunities within the company. Others will take advantage of early retirement and explore new horizons. Collectively, they leave behind an enduring legacy of teamwork and community spirit.

Over Lakeview’s lifetime as a coal-fired facility, its employees generated more than 215 terrawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity for the people of Ontario. By comparison the output would have been sufficient to provide all of Ontario’s electricity needs for approximately 1.4 years (based on 2004 153.4 TWh for Ontario).
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