

Neighbours

A part of the Pickering community since 1965 • Volume 6 • Number 1 • Winter 2000



Visiting students enjoy one of a number of environmental displays in our Information Centre located at the foot of Brock Road South.

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Community News

Communities around our station have been selected by the Atomic Energy Control Board to be the focus of a pilot cancer surveillance program.

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Getting to know Operating Engineer Ray Brace.

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An independent aerial survey should alleviate any concerns about gamma ray contamination in our communities.

environmental management system and satisfies the requirements of the ISO 14001 standard.

It involved many months of work. We built staff awareness through presentations, educational materials, and computer-based training.

We also improved the system we use to manage those aspects of our business that have a significant impact on the environment. QMI, an ISO 14001 Registrar, made the decision to award the certificate following a week-long audit of environmental systems and practices in October 1999.

"The ISO standard is now reflected in the environmental policy for the station, ensuring that employees are aware of their environmental responsibilities to their community," says Bob Strickert, Site Vice-President.

Bob adds that it was employees who made the commitment to protect and enhance those elements of our ecosystem that are valued within the plant and in the local community.

Recertification is not automatic. Every year, the plant and staff will undergo a follow-up audit to ensure continual improvement in environmental performance.

Another Environmental Achievement

Pickering Nuclear has achieved another major milestone with the receipt of an ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems certificate. Qualifying for this internationally recognized standard represents a commitment to continual environmental improvement in the plant's environmental performance. The accreditation provides objective evidence that the station has an effective



Welcome to the Year 2000!

At Pickering Nuclear, we began the year with a sense of pride for what we had accomplished in 1999 and excitement about the challenges ahead.

We are proud of the success of our Y2K initiatives; to have received certification under ISO – 14001 Environment ---the international standard of excellence in environmental management; and to have been presented the prestigious Wildlife Habitat Council Award for our biodiversity programs.

We are proud of the community support we provided through the Ajax/Pickering United Way, and the many community event sponsorships. We are committed to becoming a better corporate citizen through improved plant operations and community support.

We will continue to demonstrate improvement on our station's performance report card. In the area of Nuclear Performance Index (a set of international standards) we continuously bettered our target in six successive quarters. At the same time, we have a long way to go to reach the level of international excellence we are seeking.

Returning Pickering A to service is an important component in our plans to return our nuclear operations to world-class performance by 2003 and in meeting Canada's greenhouse gas emission targets.

Thanks to nuclear energy, our air is considerably cleaner than it otherwise would have been. Between 1971 and 1999, use of nuclear power in Ontario has avoided 11 million tonnes of sulphur dioxide; 2.5 million tons of nitrogen oxide; and 1.2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.

We are presently undertaking a thorough environmental review of Pickering A. There are many opportunities for public comment. Please call if you require additional information.

Bob Strickert
Site Vice-President

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pilot cancer study

Communities around our station have been selected by the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) to be the focus of a pilot cancer surveillance program. Both Ontario Power Generation and our communities welcome this decision.

There have been four related health studies completed in the past that looked at possible impacts of exposure to radiation from our station.

In 1991, the AECB commissioned the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control to study the rates of infant deaths and 22 birth defect categories in Pickering and Ajax. The study found the rates of stillbirth and infant death were not higher than rates for the entire province. In fact, the rates were generally lower than the provincial averages. Also the rates of death attributed to birth defects were all similar to Ontario as a whole.

The study found no association between airborne and waterborne tritium releases and the occurrence of birth defects. The study looked at 22 birth defect categories, and only one, Down syndrome, was found to occur more often than the provincial average in Pickering and Ajax. However, the report indicated that any possible relationship with tritium releases was "weak and contradictory". Leeds-Grenville County, which is far from any nuclear power plant, also had an elevated number of Down syndrome cases. The AECB reported that "Further research was recommended to verify mother's residence at the time of birth of the Down syndrome cases, and to examine other possible contributing factors..."

A study of childhood leukemia around five nuclear facilities in Ontario, including Pickering, was also reported by the AECB in 1991. This study found the childhood leukemia rate in Pickering and Ajax was slightly higher than the Ontario average both before and after our station began operating. The AECB reported that there was "...no statistical evidence that the difference is due to anything but the natural variation in the occurrence of the disease."

The AECB then commissioned another study to investigate any association between paternal exposure to radiation on the job and children developing leukemia. Cases of childhood leukemia, from 1950 to 1988, near five nuclear facilities, including Pickering, were compared to control children who lived in the same area and were the same age but did not have leukemia. The father's histories of radiation exposure were determined from the National Dose Registry and employer records. There was no association between childhood leukemia and occupational exposure of fathers to ionizing radiation, whether external whole body dose, tritium dose or radon exposure. It also did not matter whether the exposures considered were cumulative during the father's lifetime or six months or three months before the child was conceived.

In November of 1996, Durham Regional Health Department completed a study entitled, Radiation And Health In Durham *Cont. on pg. 4*



Getting to know us...**Ray Brace**...Never too busy

engineers and mechanics for transport and work equipment at Pickering Nuclear, but he's also a key volunteer in many of our employee and community events.

Ray joined Ontario Power Generation at Pickering as an operating engineer about 19 years ago and has been supervising for the last 12 years. "I was considered a temporary tradesman when I started," he says, laughing. "I was told that I might be working here for six months to a year."

The long-term employment allowed Ray and his family to lay down some roots, something that isn't always a possibility for tradesmen. "I had travelled a lot and often had to leave my family to find work," Ray says.

Ray and his family –wife, Ethel and their two sons, Ken and Keith– have lived in Pickering for more than 20 years. "We've enjoyed living here and getting involved in community activities," says Ray. "And we try to get down to our cottage on the Bay of Quinte whenever we can."

As is often the way, Ray got involved with the Pickering Minor Hockey Association when his sons began playing. He wound up helping out for about 18 seasons –a few years longer than his sons played. "I was equipment manager for three years," says Ray. "I helped manage teams and fundraise to send teams to Scandinavia and Europe." Ray's volunteer work was twice recognized by minor hockey with their President's Award for extraordinary effort.

At work, Ray is a fixture on committees for our Annual Community Open House, Power of Giving Campaign, Santa Claus Parade Float, and Christmas Food & Toy Drive. This year, our Power of Giving Campaign raised more than \$180,000 for the United Way and other community organizations. Our float in the Ajax Santa Claus Parade won prize for Best Corporate Entry. "We won that same award from the Pickering parade last year," says Ray. "It feels good to be involved and to have our community recognize our efforts."

Ray wishes more people in the community would visit the station for a tour or attend the annual open house. "Sometimes, my neighbours give me a hard time about working here," he says, "I know that they're just kidding me, but there's a lot of wrong information out there. I wish they would come see the station for themselves."

So, if you're one of Ray's neighbours, why not take him up on the offer of a tour. He's a busy guy, but I'm sure Ray's never too busy for a neighbour.

"When you need something done, find a busy person."

Whoever coined that phrase must have had somebody just like Ray Brace in mind. Not only does he supervise the operating

Give the gift of life

We're pleased to be hosting blood donor clinics in our Information Centre on March 29. We're located at 1675 Montgomery Park Road (at the foot of Brock Road South). Please phone our Community Information Line at 905-837-7272 for more details.

Certification Celebration

We enjoyed celebrating our success in obtaining certification as a Wildlife

Wednesday, February 3. Thanks again, everyone. And let's keep up the good work!

Come visit

If you've never paid us a visit, give us a shout at 905-837-7272 and book a tour of our station. Our station tours include visits to our turbine hall and control room. Plus our Information Centre is full of interactive, informative displays, and our Public Affairs staff are only too pleased to answer your questions.

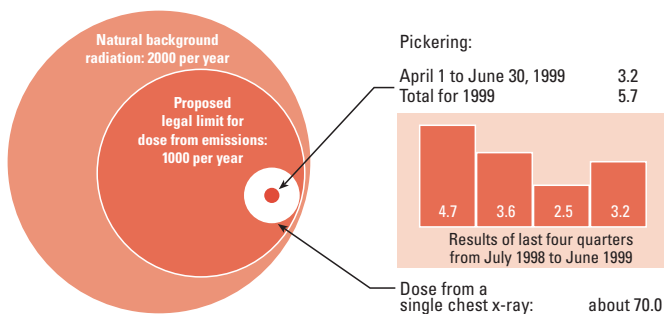
Featured Artist

We're pleased, in partnership with the Pineridge Arts Council, to regularly feature the works of local artists on the walls of our Information Centre. Our current in-house artist is Yvonne Meissner. You're welcome to drop by and view her works.



Habitat with our many community partners on

Radiation Dose Due to Emissions from Pickering Nuclear Facilities (Second Quarter 1999 Results)



Note: Dose is reported in microsieverts, an international unit used to measure radiation dose.

The radiation doses due to emissions are for the most exposed persons living near the Pickering site. They would typically apply to persons living just outside the site boundary who are at their residence 24 hours a day, drink local water and milk, and eat local fish and produce. The doses were calculated using actual data from routine analysis of air, water, milk, fish and vegetation samples, as well as site emission data.

Most persons would actually receive less than the doses indicated because they have different eating habits or live further from the station. Radiation doses decrease significantly as the distance from the station increases.

Less than 10% of the radiation dose received from the stations was due to liquid emissions, while the remainder was a result of airborne emissions. Dose is reported in microsieverts, an international unit used to measure dose.

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Cancer Study.....Cont. from pg. 2

Region. They developed a framework to categorize health indicators according to their level of association with radiation and compared health indicators that are associated with radiation for Durham Region and Ontario. The study concluded, "There is no consistent pattern among significant radiological health indicators to suggest that ionizing radiation is affecting the health of Durham Region residents."

The study also cautioned that: "Radiation would be a small attributable risk compared to other risk factors prevalent in the population, many of which are modifiable, including smoking and alcohol use. As well, radiation from an NGS (nuclear generating station) contributes less than 1% to a person's total radiation dose, even if a person theoretically lives at the boundary of the NGS 24 hours a day and consumes local produce and water."

We will pass along any further details of this program as they become available. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about radiation and your health, please phone our Community Information Line at 905-837-7272.

And the survey said.....

Last fall, we told you about an aerial survey that was taking place in the east end of Toronto and southern portions of Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, and Clarington. Using a specially-equipped helicopter, we checked for gamma radiation in a ten-kilometre radius beyond the boundaries of Darlington and Pickering Nuclear.

The survey was commissioned at the request of the Pickering Community Working Group and a community-based Environment Advisory Group. The survey was intended to confirm that no gamma radiation has been introduced into the surrounding areas by operations from our plants.

Survey results showed no unexpected sources of man-made gamma radiation beyond the station's boundaries. As expected, potassium, uranium, and thorium, which are natural emitters of gamma rays, were found throughout the surveyed area. They are within the normal values for Ontario, as reported by the Geological Survey of Canada.

In short, we believe that there is no reason to be concerned about gamma ray contamination due to the operation of either the Pickering or Darlington nuclear stations.

If you have any questions, please phone our Community Information Line at 905-837-7272.

Neighbours

Pickering Neighbours is published four times a year for the neighbours of Ontario Power Generation Pickering Nuclear.

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