

Neighbours

A part of the Pickering community since 1965 • Volume 6 • Number 4 • December 2000



Generating more than electricity **Charity Campaign nets \$300,000**

Pickering Nuclear employees have once again shown that they generate more than just electricity by raising \$300,000 during our annual Charity Campaign. This represents a \$24,000 increase over last year's total of \$276,000.

In addition, the total contribution to our local Ajax/Pickering United Way increased to slightly more than \$105,570.

Pickering Nuclear's donations contributed to the overall Ontario Power Generation campaign total of almost \$2,114,000. That total is well beyond our \$2 million target and exceeds the \$1.97 million raised last year.

Although some of the money was raised through special events, most of it comes through voluntary payroll deduction. Thanks to all the employees that supported the campaign and especially our campaign leader, Sue Milley for demonstrating that Pickering Nuclear also generates warmth and hope.

in this issue

What a privilege

Site Vice-President Brian MacTavish writes of what a privilege it is to live and operate our business in this community.

Employee profile

He is the manager for the environmental assessment of Ontario Power Generation's proposal to return Pickering-A to service, but Kurt Johansen's interest in the project isn't just professional.

Energizing Classrooms

Ontario Power Generation is offering three exciting new programs for elementary classes. Join us as we explore and appreciate the magical world of energy and electricity.

Community Tour World-Class Waste Management

Staff of the Pickering Waste Management Facility are celebrating five years of safe operations by inviting you to come visit and learn more about their world-class facility. They are hosting a Community Tour on Saturday, January 27 and you can book your spot by phoning 905-837-7272.

Greg Halpenny is a First Line Manager at the facility. "I've worked at the Pickering Nuclear generating station for almost 28 years and I've been involved in the handling, transporting, and storing used fuel for 25 years," he says. "Our facility is among the best in the world."

Since the facility began operations in late 1995, there has never been a lost-time injury, security incident or release of radioactivity. "All of our staff are well trained and have a great deal of nuclear industry experience, ranging from 10 to 28 years," says Greg. "Safety is our top priority, and it shows in our record."

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A word from our Site Vice-President

As I drive through my neighbourhood, observing the lights and other festive adornments, I am reminded of what a privilege it is to live and operate our business in this community.

Each changing season brings a wonderful array of new and familiar community events. My family and I have enjoyed these events in Pickering over the past 22 years. As a business leader, I am pleased that Ontario Power Generation is a contributing partner in many events, such as the Ontario Summer Games, TransCanada Trail Relay, United Way Kick-Off, Pumpkinville, Santa Claus parades, and Winterfest. I'm also pleased that our business can help enrich our community through financial support for the Millennium Trail, the new Ajax Library, arts and cultural groups, and children's sports teams.

I also understand and accept the responsibilities that come along with the privilege of operating our business in this community. We are open and honest about our activities, operate our power plant safely, demonstrate environmental stewardship, and involve you in what we do.

We certainly benefit from consulting and communicating about our business with local government officials, community organizations, and local residents. We make regular appearances at council meetings, participate in the Community Advisory Council, the Durham Nuclear Health Committee, Board of Trade, host Open Houses, and operate an Information Centre with tours of our station.

This quarterly newsletter is one aspect of our effort to talk with our neighbours. I hope that you find it interesting and useful. I hope that it spurs you to phone our Community Information Line with questions, suggestions, and even congratulations.

Our station has been a contributing part of the community for more than 30 years. We're your neighbours and we want to talk.

On behalf of the employees of Pickering Nuclear, I wish you a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year!

Brian MacTavish
Site Vice-President

Latest Report Card

Our station performance report card for the third quarter, shows a slight dip in the overall measure of Nuclear Performance Index and a significant drop in Radiation Exposure to the Public.

Nuclear Performance Index provides an overview of 11 key areas covering safety and production. The index is used by the World Association of Nuclear Operators to measure performance of nuclear power plants worldwide. After more than two years of steady improvement, our station performance for Nuclear Performance Index to the end of the third quarter was 73.6. That's lower than our target of 78.8 and represents a 2.9 point decrease from our second quarter performance. The dip in this measure is due to underperformance in the area of fuel reliability and extended outages to ensure system health on Unit 7 and the Vacuum Building.

Radiation Dose to the Public is an estimate of the radiation dose people would receive if they lived just outside the station boundary at their residences 24 hours a day, drank local water and milk, and ate local fish and produce. The third quarter number was 3.9 microsieverts (an international unit of dose) which was 68% better than the target of 12.0 and significantly better than the regulatory limit of 1,000.

You can receive your own copy of our latest report card by phoning our Community Information Line at 905-837-7272 or visiting our website at www.ontariopowergeneration.com.

Waste Management story continued from page 1

The Pickering Waste Management Facility uses dry storage containers to safely store used nuclear fuel. These containers, made of steel and concrete, stand 12-feet high and weigh 75 tons. The Bruce Nuclear power plant on Lake Huron has a similar facility under construction and the Darlington Nuclear generating station in Clarington has one planned for the future. The Gentilly plant in Quebec and the Point Lepreau plant in New Brunswick use somewhat similar systems, while other nuclear utilities around the world have adopted their own variations of the dry storage concept for used nuclear fuel.

"Dry storage is now recognized around the world as a safe and efficient way to store used fuel," notes Greg. "That being said, the system developed by Ontario Power Generation is among the very best."

Here's how it works. One of the large containers is submerged in the station's fuel bay where 384 used fuel bundles are loaded into it. These bundles have been under water for at least 10 years, during which time they've cooled and become substantially less radioactive. The container is then removed from the bay, decontaminated, and drained. The container is moved under vacuum to the storage facility with a specially designed, huge transporter. Once there, the lid is welded to the container base, which is then filled with helium and the remaining connections are sealed by welding. Various tests ensure the containers are absolutely leak tight.

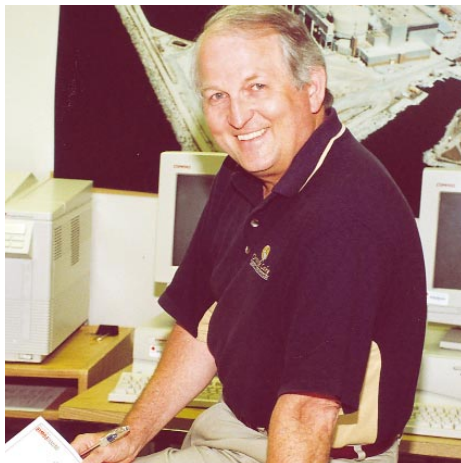
All this is done under the watchful eyes of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), under the nuclear nonproliferation program. They monitor the transport and storage of used fuel at nuclear facilities around the world. The IAEA has cameras set up to monitor all operations within the Pickering Waste Management Facility. The IAEA inspectors observe the loading and movement of the fuel from the fuel bay to the dry storage facility.

The Pickering Waste Management Facility operates under a license granted by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (formerly known as the Atomic Energy Control Board) which regularly tours the facility and monitors its operation.

"We're committed to safe storage of our used nuclear fuel and we demonstrate that commitment in our daily operations," says Greg. "We're proud of our world-class performance and hope that our neighbours will take this opportunity to see it for themselves by pre-registering for the tour on January 27."

Getting to Know...Kurt Johansen

Kurt Johansen is the project manager for the environmental assessment of Ontario Power Generation's proposal to return Pickering-A to service. It's Kurt's job to ensure that a thorough assessment is carried out -one that meets the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) and addresses community concerns.



"My interest in the project, isn't simply professional," says Kurt, a civil engineer with almost three decades of experience in his field. "My family and I have lived in the area for 25 years. I want it to continue to be a safe and clean place to live."

Although Ontario Power Generation is the proponent, it is the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) which determines and controls the process under federal environmental assessment rules. The CNSC formally delegated Ontario Power Generation to conduct the studies and related consultation, draft the environmental assessment report, and provide input as required for the final environmental assessment report. The CNSC then determined the scope of the assessment through a process that included public review and comment.

There are many nuclear-related and common industrial issues addressed in the environmental assessment, including 160 issues identified during an environmental review in 1998. "Some of these issues have been raised by Ontario Power Generation itself," says Kurt, "while others have been raised by the CNSC, local politicians or community groups, such as the Community Advisory Council."

The final environmental assessment report is contained in three binders almost a foot in total thickness, not including nine technical support documents. Obviously, Kurt hasn't worked alone. He's received excellent support from a lot of Ontario Power Generation colleagues, as well as six consulting firms, including Golder Associates, Atomic Energy Control Limited, Gartner Lee, IER, Marshall Macklin Monaghan, and SENES. "Six of the best firms in the business," says Kurt.

What are the results? "Our conclusion is that with all of the planned safety and environmental upgrades and improvements committed before the environmental assessment process began, plus additional mitigation measures proposed during the environmental assessment, there's not likely to be any significant adverse effect on the public or their environment," says Kurt. These findings have been reviewed and supported by CNSC staff, Environment Canada, Health Canada, Fisheries & Oceans Canada, and Natural Resources Canada – including the Geological Survey of Canada.

The CNSC hosted a public hearing in Pickering beginning on December 14 and may release their final decision sometime before year end. "If the regulator approves the environmental assessment," says Kurt, "it's important to remember that Ontario Power Generation would still need to go through a CNSC licensing process. If, in turn, license approval to return Pickering-A to service is obtained, the CNSC will then ensure all necessary mitigation and follow-up programs are implemented and proven effective. With all of the improvements to be implemented before the plant returns to service, it will be as good as new and in many cases, better than ever."

Increasing presence in Pickering

Ontario Power Generation is increasing its presence in the Pickering community with the announcement that over 250 staff will be moving into the recently constructed second tower of the Picore Centre office complex at 1315 Pickering Parkway. The Picore Centre, located close to our facilities at Pickering and Darlington, provides a unique opportunity to consolidate many of our information technology (IT) staff. The five-year lease gives OPG six floors of the Centre with an option to extend the lease agreement.

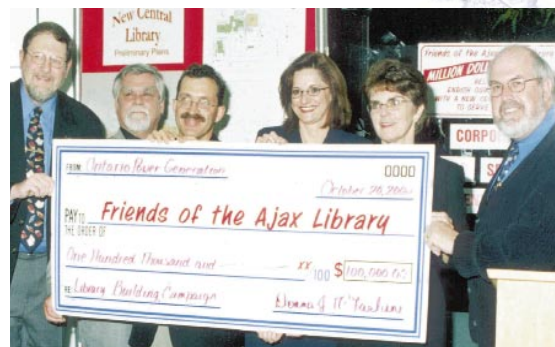
First of 200,000 trees planted in Oak Ridges Moraine

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is continuing its targeted reforestation program that will have the company planting 1.6 million trees and shrubs in southern Ontario over the next five years. In partnership with The Toronto Region Conservation

Authority (TRCA) and the Conservation Foundation's Living City Campaign, OPG employees and 30 grade five Gateway Elementary School students from North York, took part in the planting of the first stage of trees along the Oak Ridges Moraine last month. Overall, the area will see the company plant 200,000 trees along the Moraine between the Glen Haffey Conservation Area in Orangeville, Lake St. George near Richmond Hill and the Glen Major Complex at the headwaters of Duffins Creek in Pickering.

In-House Artist

We are pleased to feature the art of a Pine Ridge Arts Council member in our Information Centre each month. The mixed media paintings of Lynn Bishop, who grew up in neighbouring Bay Ridges, are currently being displayed. You're invited to view Lynn's work in our Centre which is located at the foot of Brock Road South.



\$100,000 for new library in Ajax

Representatives of Ontario Power Generation recently delivered a cheque for \$100,000 in support of the new Central Library in Ajax. "We are pleased to contribute to this im-

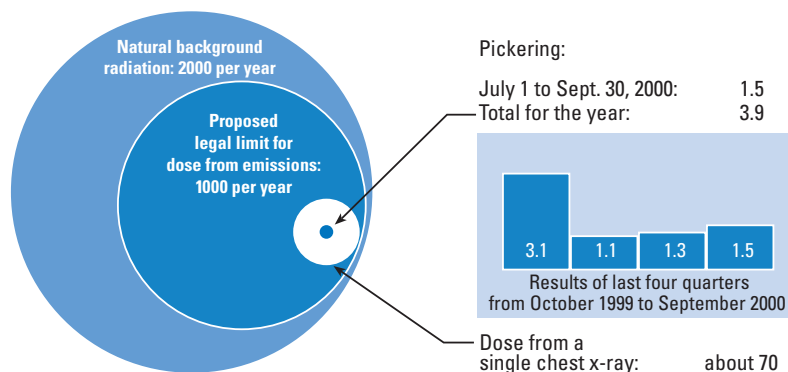
portant community project," says Director of Public Affairs, Donna McFarlane. "The lives of our employees, their families and neighbours will be enriched when the new library opens."

Opee Gee a hit at parades

Our inflatable mascot, Opee Gee, was a big hit at local Santa Claus parades over the last month. Our staff volunteers all enjoyed the smiles and laughter of the children lining the parade routes when they saw the character coming. Pictured here are Lisa Plue, Cheryl Johnston, Eli Harnum, and Dave Reid.



Radiation Dose Due to Emissions from Pickering Nuclear Facilities (Third Quarter 2000 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.

Information is prepared by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. (This material may be reproduced provided credit is given to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.)

New Outreach Program Energizing Classrooms

Ontario Power Generation has always made the world a little brighter, warmer, cooler and now the entire classroom can experience, firsthand, the marvels and magic of energy and electricity!

"Once the new elementary school curriculum was introduced, we received a lot of requests from teachers asking for our assistance in teaching this complex subject", says Communication Specialist, Scott Berry. Recognizing this need existed, our Public Affairs Department developed three new educational outreach programs aimed at elementary students. "It is a perfect fit", says Scott. "Our Public Affairs staff has the expertise and the enthusiasm to deliver this subject matter in a fun and educational way."

Since September, Pickering Nuclear's Public Affairs staff have been busy delivering these programs, both in the schools and at the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre. Grade Three students have been taking part in an interactive program entitled, "Marvelous Magnets", while Grade Five students are "Experiencing Energy" and Grade Six students are, "Charging Up for Electricity".

Based on availability, these no cost programs are available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings and all day Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information or to request a booking, please phone the Information Centre hotline at 905-839-1151, extension 3917.

Neighbours

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

Mailing Address:

Ontario Power Generation
Pickering Nuclear
1675 Montgomery Park Rd.
P.O. Box 160
Pickering, Ontario
L1V 2R5

Editor:

Don Terry
Phone: (905) 839-1151
ext. 4074
Fax: (905) 837-7305

Internet E-mail:

don.terry
@ontariopowergeneration.com

ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION