

Neighbours

A part of the community since 1965 Volume 9 • Number 1 • Spring 2003

Durham Region – Ontario's "Energy Capital" of the Future



With the imminent return to service of Pickering A, Darlington and Pickering Nuclear will soon be producing approximately 40 per cent of the province's electricity, making Durham Region the "Energy Capital of Ontario."

In an effort to centralize its nuclear operations and better align the company's resources, OPG will be moving all nuclear support staff to Durham. The shift is expected to provide a real "energy boost" to both the local economy and employment in the region.

Approximately 450 employees are expected to move from various locations around Toronto and Durham Region to a new facility in the City of

Pickering. With groundbreaking set for later this year, the move is expected to take place within the next two years. Moving nuclear support staff to Durham strengthens OPG's commitment to its surrounding communities and sends a strong message to residents that "OPG is here to stay."

"The City of Pickering is proud and delighted to have OPG expand its business presence in our community," said Pickering Mayor, Wayne Arthurs. "This new facility will accommodate about 450 high-end jobs, more than 200 of which are new to the region. The proximity of the new office building to Pickering Nuclear, coupled with the City's modern transportation and communication services, excellent shopping, dining and quality of life, make Pickering an ideal location for the new office building and home for its many staff families. We welcome and appreciate OPG's continued growth and commitment to our community".

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OPG has a very strong presence in Durham Region. In addition to our generating stations at Pickering and Darlington, the Annandale building in Ajax, 777 Brock Road, the Pickering Learning Centre (a recently renovated 160,000 square foot continuous learning centre on Montgomery Park Road) and the new Whitby warehouse, still under construction, are all homes to OPG employees.

The move of OPG's nuclear operations to Durham Region will improve efficiency and effectiveness, and put OPG in a more advantageous position in the competitive electricity market.

Nuclear power contributes to almost half of the province's electricity needs today. It has two major benefits: none of the emissions that lead to smog, acid rain or global warming, and low operating costs.

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A Word from our Senior Vice President

Greetings and welcome to the Winter edition of Pickering Neighbours. Here on site we have entered a transition phase as we move from construction to commissioning on Pickering A.

While we are still very busy completing final construction activities, we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. The year ahead promises to be a busy one as we work towards renewing our operating licences on Pickering A and B, returning Unit 4 to service and continuing to build and foster relationships with our surrounding communities.

Pickering A and B Prepare for Licence Renewals

With the first of two licencing hearings now behind us, Pickering Nuclear and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) are busy preparing for the final hearing set for May 21, 2003. Prior to the first hearing, we received positive feedback from the CNSC on our licence application for Pickering A. In all nine major safety areas we received 'A' and 'B' ratings. Pickering A has applied for a two-year renewal and Pickering B has applied for a five-year renewal. The extended renewal for Pickering B comes on the heels of enhancements in the areas of work management, material condition, human performance and safety. The five-year renewal is a first for Pickering B, under the new CNSC guidelines. Both licences for Pickering A and Pickering B will expire on June 30, 2003.

Pickering Nuclear Makes the Grade

OPG released its report card in February for the quarter ending December 31, 2002, and I am pleased to report that the results were very good. The report card benchmarks the performance of Pickering Nuclear's operations against industry standards and most recently reported that seven out of eight performance indicators set for our station by OPG had been met or bettered in the fourth quarter of 2002. The results reported that both Pickering A's and B's Industrial Safety Accident Rates measured zero, bettering the target of 0.25 employee accidents per 200,000 hours worked. Safety is OPG's number one priority.

OPG Nuclear Prepares to Make its Move East

This is an exciting time for OPG and the Durham region. As mentioned in our cover story, together we are growing and turning Durham into the "Energy Capital of Ontario."

In order to achieve this goal, nuclear support activities currently residing at 700 University Avenue in Toronto and other locations, will be relocated to a new facility located in the Pickering area towards the end of 2004.

OPG is proud to be a part of the Durham community. We want the community to continue to thrive and have a strong economy and social and environmental fabric. This move will add to OPG's employment in Durham Region and benefit the local economy.

Pat McNeil
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Strategy and Support

continued from cover

At OPG, we are proud of the partnerships we have made in our surrounding communities. To learn how our stations produce electricity and about other issues related to nuclear power, drop by the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre, located at 1675 Montgomery Park Road, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

OPG Maintains Enhanced Security

Last year, Pickering Nuclear enhanced its security procedures with the installation of X-ray machines, metal detectors and explosives monitors. Today, we also have fully trained tactical officers from Durham Regional Police on site to further enhance security at all of our nuclear facilities.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and OPG closely monitor world events. In the event that the status of security level changes, Canada and OPG have the proper plans in place to implement any changes with speed and safety.

The CNSC and OPG's Nuclear Security team will continue to provide leadership to ensure that its facilities remain safe and secure for staff and the community.

Safety is OPG's Top Priority

On February 7, 2003, the Toronto Star published an article that stated staff at Pickering A were "cutting corners" and compromising safety in an effort to return Unit 4 to service. It implied that the behaviour was caused by pressure to return Unit 4 to service as soon as possible.

The article, which referred to a presentation made by Pickering A's Senior Vice President Bill Robinson to all Pickering A employees, misrepresented the facts and we would like to set the record straight.

The presentation reviewed the status of the project, discussed the achievement of key milestones and emphasized the importance of safety and adherence to procedures. To highlight this, Robinson discussed three incidents that had occurred over the previous six months where correct processes were not followed. In each instance, the technical work had been performed according to safety procedures. However, the paperwork documenting the work had not been completed correctly. In all cases, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission was notified immediately.

Of the tens of thousands of tasks being performed by up to 1,500 people working on returning Unit 4 to service, these three examples of poor paperwork procedures were isolated examples. They were used, however, to reiterate to employees the importance of safety.

"Keeping employees safe at work, and ensuring the unit will return to service with very high safety margins, have consistently been our top priorities," said Graham Brown, OPG's Chief Operating Officer.

"The fact that we discussed these procedural shortcomings openly and candidly shows that OPG is committed to doing the job safely and according to procedures."

The process of returning Pickering A's Unit 4 to service has been a complex and time-consuming job. However, while Pickering Nuclear's qualified and dedicated staff have faced a number of unexpected challenges in the work and delays to the schedule, safety has never been, and will never be, compromised in order to return Unit 4 to service.

Employee profile

Michael Rizzo, champion with a heart of gold



As the OPG-sponsored “Breath of Hope” campaign starts its recruitment drive, it already has a head start at Pickering Nuclear with the nomination of Mike Rizzo as the Site Champion. This campaign, organized by the Ontario Lung Association (OLA), seeks to educate participants about strategies to avoid and help cope with lung disease and to raise much-needed

funds for medical research, education initiatives and lung health programs. The campaign will culminate in the “OPG Breath of Hope” relay to be held at the SkyDome on April 4, 2003.

If there's a job to be done, then Mike's the man. This engineering management graduate is an enthusiastic self-starter who never says quit. Mike is a multi-talented athlete who is active both as a player and a coach. Last summer, he coached “Source for Sports,” a Pickering-Ajax children's soccer team. He currently coaches the men's soccer team at Pickering Nuclear and is one of the two baseball coaches as well.

An engineering work co-ordinator at Pickering Nuclear, Mike's been with OPG for a little over three years. His role in returning Unit 4 to service involves work interfacing with the various teams and workgroups to ensure smooth workflow.

Mike is truly a champion in more ways than one. Despite his hectic schedule at work and play, he makes time for several good causes. Says Mike, “OPG is a great organization to work for. A look at the programs that they sponsor shows they really do care about the community and the environment.” Mike was an active participant at the OPG-sponsored “Big Bike Ride,” organized by the Heart & Stroke Foundation last year, where they raised a record \$15,641.61 – the largest sum raised in the Durham region. As a resident of Pickering, he has also been involved in “Pickering Neighbourhood Walk,” which involves meeting fellow residents and sharing information about activities at Pickering Nuclear.

OPG's support of the OLA and the “OPG Breath of Hope” campaign is also part of the company's objective of working towards a cleaner environment. “Fresh air for us and our children to breathe is a great aspiration,” Mike enthuses.

“For this year's ‘Breath of Hope’ campaign, we have great goals and I encourage everyone to participate,” Mike says. “It's great to have fun and do something meaningful at the same time.”

For more information on how you can be a part of the “OPG Breath of Hope” relay, contact Mike at 905-839-1151 ext. 2822, or call Elissa Schmidt at 416-592-6903.

In Brief

Featured Artist

Pickering Nuclear, in partnership with the PineRidge Arts Council (PRAC), is proud to feature Phyllis DeJardins's “Views of Ontario” from March 17 to May 9, 2003. A founding member of the PRAC, Phyllis started out painting with oils and recently began working with watercolours. Her work has appeared in such venues as Art in the Park – North York Group of Artists, Pickering's Artfest and the Camp Samac Art Festival. The public is invited to view Phyllis's work at the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre, located at 1675 Montgomery Park Road, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Charity Trust

Two Durham charities were given a big financial boost earlier this year thanks to the generosity of Pickering Nuclear employees. Their 2002 Charity Trust Campaign raised more than \$272,000 on site, with \$6,853 (including money raised by the White Ribbon Campaign and the OPG Bonspiel) going to the Ajax-Pickering's Women's Centre “Horizon House” and \$137,000 to the United Way of Ajax-Pickering. The United Way donation included both employee contributions and a corporate gift from OPG. Charity Trust is OPG's annual drive to direct employee payroll deductions for the employees' charities of choice. The trust has no administration costs, so every cent goes to charity.

OPG - Keeping Ontario Warm this Winter

Durham and the rest of Ontario have been cranking up the heat and turning on the lights this winter due to dark days and extremely cold temperatures over the last few months. The Independent Market Electricity Operator (IMO) is pleased to report that we are meeting the demand in spite of record-breaking loads to the grid. On January 22, 2003, Ontario set a winter peak record of 24,158 megawatts. The previous winter peak record was 24,007 megawatts set in 1994. The IMO operates and regulates the new wholesale electricity market to ensure it is fair and effective. For more statistics or information about the IMO, visit their website at www.theimo.com.



reActivity WEEK

Join Pickering Nuclear during March Break for great family fun! All the events are **FREE** and there's something exciting for every kid, aged 12 and under. Please note: all children must be accompanied by an adult.

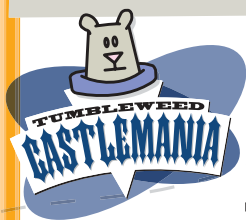
Tues., Mar. 11th, 10:00am to 2:30pm
Pickering Museum Village

Be a settler survivor during March Break! Take a self-guided nature hike through the woods. Stops along the winter trail will include nature activities, beautiful vistas, and even a few of Pickering's early settlers struggling to survive their first winter. Please dress for the weather. For directions please call (905) 683-8401. **Admission is free.**



Wed., Mar. 12th, 11am to 2pm
Pickering Nuclear Information Centre

It's Tumbleweed Castlemania at the Information Centre! Build an environmentally friendly home for Tumbleweed the TVO hamster. Please bring your recyclable materials and your engineering minds! Event is held indoors. **Admission is free.**



Thurs., Mar. 13th, 11am to 2pm
Alex Robertson Park

Explore your artistic skills in this fun outdoor event. Artists will demonstrate techniques for sketching in the great outdoors! Supplies will be provided. Please dress for the weather. **Admission is free.**



Friday, March 14th, 11am to 2pm
WindReach Farm

Join Patsy the donkey and all her animal friends for lots of fun at **WindReach Farm**. Enjoy a few hours in the country. Visit the petting zoo, nature trail, farm museum and take a wagon ride! Fun for the whole family, with lots of activities to keep you warm! Please dress for the weather. This is a wheelchair accessible facility. For directions please call (905) 655-5827 or visit www.windreach.org. **Admission is free.**



For more information on our March Break programs as well as other Pickering Nuclear Information Centre events, please call **905-837-7272**

Neighbours

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