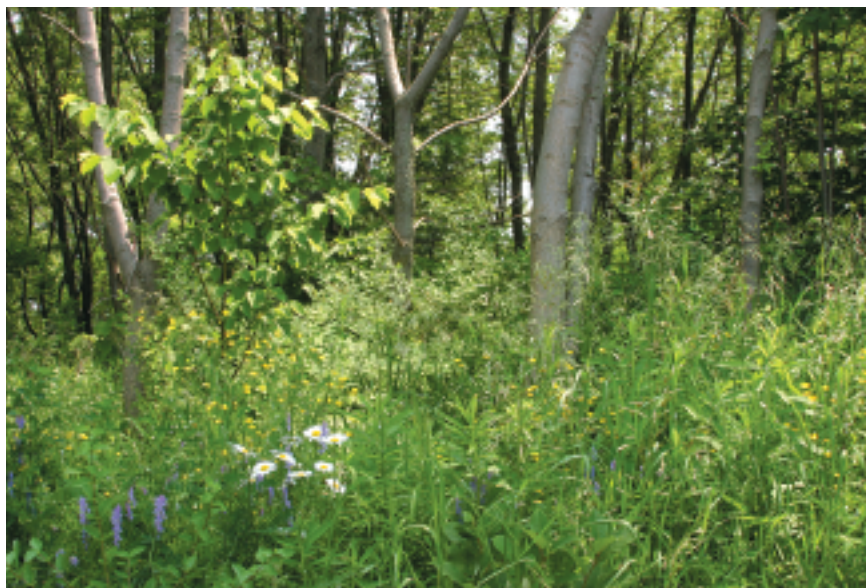


Neighbours

A part of the community since 1965 • Volume 9 • Number 2 • Summer 2003

Spinning the “Web of Life” at Pickering Nuclear



This Brock Road woodlot at Pickering Nuclear is a popular destination for many species of spring migrant birds before completing their northward journey.

In the Spring, students from Holy Redeemer Catholic School planted trees in this six hectare woodlot, located at the corner of Brock and Montgomery Park roads. Developing and implementing a management plan for this woodlot is part of Pickering Nuclear's biodiversity and natural areas management plan.

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to the variety in the “web of life” on our planet. In Canada, there are 71,000 recorded species and it is estimated that there are as many yet again to be discovered. The best way to protect species or the genetic diversity within species is to protect their ecosystems. Biodiversity and natural areas management is an important component of Pickering Nuclear's Environmental Management System

plan, which describes our ongoing responsibility for leading natural environmental stewardship on and adjacent to our site.

Through actions that are locally relevant and fit into the regional ecological landscape, Pickering Nuclear can promote and safeguard the long-term ecological sustainability, natural diversity, and productivity of nearshore lands and waters. Our plan is to actively support the reintegration of these properties into the waterfront natural landscape, and increase the variety and health of native species and their habitats now and for future generations.

Pickering Nuclear's biodiversity program includes initiatives on lands we own, which are adjacent to the power plant. For example, with the strong support of the Pickering Naturalists and the Pickering Horticultural Society as well as OPG staff, we expanded and enhanced a wildflower garden on Montgomery Park Road that will provide a natural habitat for butterflies.

Another important aspect of biodiversity is the establishment of natural corridors to facilitate movement of wildlife, especially in urbanized areas. One of the major goals of Pickering Nuclear's biodiversity management plan is to link the environmentally significant natural areas of Frenchman's Bay and Duffins Creek Marsh. OPG also provides support to

in this issue

Pickering Nuclear's pg. 2
biodiversity goals

Mr. Biodiversity pg. 3
Meet Pickering Nuclear
employee Bob Hester

Heart and Stroke pg. 4
OPG is top corporate
fundraiser in Durham

continued on page 2





A Word from our Senior Vice President

Greetings and welcome to the Summer issue of Pickering Neighbours. In this issue, our focus is on some of the people and the programs that highlight Pickering Nuclear's

environmental stewardship. Indeed, both on site and in the community OPG is committed, where feasible, to preserving and enhancing the environment.

Last month, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) approved the renewal of the operating licences for Pickering Nuclear. The Pickering A licence is valid until June 30, 2005 and the Pickering B licence is valid until June 30, 2008. These two-year and five-year licences are good news for Pickering Nuclear, as we work to safely place Unit 4 back on line this summer. OPG licence renewals represent a major achievement for staff at Pickering Nuclear. We would like to acknowledge the support for our licence applications by the City of Pickering, the Town of Ajax, the Regional Municipality of Durham, and other members of our local community who supported us during the public hearings in May. This is only the second time that a five-year licence has been granted to an OPG nuclear station. The first time was when the CNSC granted Darlington a five-year licence this past February. Thank you for your continued support. You can be assured that we will work safely and maintain our programs of continuous improvement.

Pickering A Review

On June 3, the Ontario Government announced the members of the review panel looking into the delays and cost overruns on the return to service of Pickering A. The review is being led by a highly qualified team, with extensive knowledge and experience in energy policy, public administration and nuclear power. We are cooperating fully with the team and will await the results of their review.

Safety is Priority One

Safety continues to be our number one priority. Our performance for 2003 has been excellent. In June, staff on the Pickering A side of the station celebrated one million hours without a lost time accident. And in July, staff on the Pickering B side matched Pickering A's one million hour record. These milestones are proof positive of the commitment each employee has to pay attention to detail and work safely.

OPG Nuclear's Move to the Energy Capital - Update

Since OPG's announcement in the Spring to build a new centralized nuclear administration facility in Pickering, we have issued a Request for Proposal for a six-storey building with a capacity for 750 staff. We expect to break ground on the new 174,000 square foot building at the southeast corner of Clements and Brock roads in Pickering by December of this year. Our date for occupancy is scheduled for December 2004.

Please have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Pat McNeil
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Strategy and Support

continued from cover

Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehabilitation Project and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to enhance Frenchman's Bay and Duffins Creek Marsh.

Plans for further on-site enhancements in 2003 include naturalizing our lands through tree and shrub plantings, and development of a natural area in Kinsmen Park.

A recently-released three-year plan for increasing biodiversity and managing natural areas at Pickering Nuclear identifies community involvement as a primary prerequisite for success, and our relationships with the community are already well-established.

"There are two aspects to our biodiversity management plan," says Bob Hester, a senior scientist at Pickering Nuclear. "The first is environmental enhancement, and the second is education and community involvement. We could not achieve our goals without strong community relationships and support."

Angela Porteous of the Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehabilitation Project, agrees. "As one of the larger coastal wetlands on the north shore of Lake Ontario, Frenchman's Bay is a huge stopover route for migrating wildlife. OPG's support through in-kind donations and other assistance has been a tremendous boost to our efforts to enhance this environmentally significant area."

If you would like to participate in helping to build biodiversity around Pickering Nuclear, call Bob Hester at 905-839-1151, ext. 3594.

Pickering Nuclear's Biodiversity Goals

- Establish and maintain a wildlife corridor linking Frenchman's Bay to Duffins Creek Marsh.
- Expand and maintain woodlots to maximize their attractiveness to spring migrant birds.
- Enhance and protect the ecological value of Duffins Creek Marsh.
- Enhance and protect the ecological value of Frenchman's Bay.
- Enhance the aquatic environment to support native fish species.
- Provide environmental education, information, communications and community involvement.
- Maintain Wildlife Habitat Council Certification. 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 in Pickering, weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Or visit our web site at www.opg.com.

Employee profile

Bob Hester, Pickering Nuclear's "Mr. Biodiversity"



As you discover when you walk beside him in the Brock woodlot, located at the south end of 777 Brock Road, Bob Hester has a somewhat different view of things. "*Danaus plexippus*," he says casually as he pauses to watch a butterfly's capricious flight path. Pardon? No matter. In English or by its species name, a monarch butterfly is a thing of beauty by any name, and nobody knows this better than Bob.

A University of Toronto-trained biologist, whose lifelong inter-

est in nature metamorphosized into a job as a senior scientist at OPG 25 years ago, Bob's job is to do what he loves. As the author of a three-year plan to promote biodiversity and natural areas management at Pickering Nuclear, Bob spends much of his time planning the work that will support biodiversity in the settled areas around the City of Pickering's waterfront.

"The environment is something that has always interested me," Bob explains. "As a kid, I always wanted to be outdoors and later on, I realized that I wanted to do something in the environmental field."

"I believe very strongly that we need to integrate and support more natural areas in urbanized places," he says. "Not only is this an objective of biodiversity, it also lends itself so well to enhancing community life. Having natural areas close to home provide wonderful places for children to walk and play, and get their first taste of nature without having to wait for a week's holiday up north in the summer. They can go for walks, throw a frisbee and find things to take home to examine more closely."

Bob is a member of naturalist clubs and other conservation organizations, most notably the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada, which raises funds for endangered species projects. Bob has been the secretary treasurer of this national charitable organization since the mid-70s.

A cottage in Wasaga Beach and spending time in Nova Scotia every summer helps to keep Bob in the great outdoors, along with his wife, Lynne, and two children. Joanna, 17, is off to Wilfred Laurier University in the fall while son Cameron, 14, will enter Sir Oliver Mowat Collegiate. Their children's involvement in many sports, including soccer, volleyball and field hockey for Joanna, and hockey for Cameron, keeps Bob and Lynne busy.

During hockey season, Bob is a big fan of the Ontario Hockey League and travels to games all over the GTA. "It's good-quality, competitive hockey and you can get great seats at a reasonable price," he says.

Bob also finds time for walking, reading, and escorting various children's community groups on nature hikes through Pickering Nuclear in the evenings and on weekends, pointing out with pride the various features of the habitats and natural areas he has taken under his wing. In Bob's eyes, even the lowly *Taraxacum officinale* (dandelion) has its place in the sun.

In Brief

Artist Info Centre

Pickering Nuclear, in partnership with the PineRidge Arts Council (PRAC), is pleased to feature the works of Don Hewitt from July 14 to September 15, 2003. Born in Toronto, Don currently resides in Ajax. Having lived in Alberta and B.C., and travelled extensively, Don has always had an interest in art, provoked largely by the magic and beauty of nature. Don's paintings may be found in many private collections in Canada, England and the United States. The public is invited to view Don's work at the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre, located at 1675 Montgomery Park Road in Pickering, weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Pickering Nuclear Q1 Report Card

The first quarter 2003 Nuclear Report Card for Pickering shows that our Environmental Performance, Public Safety, and Radiation Exposure (60 per cent better than target and significantly better than the regulatory limit) are all better than target. What is discouraging is that our overall electricity production is well below target for the first quarter. The loss in electricity production is a result of a number of unplanned outages – some of which were human performance problems, but many of which were driven by our own safe conservative decision making processes. This resulted in a poor showing for our Capability Factor of 63.8 per cent, which is worse than the target of 82.3 per cent to the end of March.

Pickering Waste Management Facility

OPG submitted the draft Environmental Assessment Study Report on June 17 to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, regarding the expansion of the Pickering Waste Management Facility. Copies of the draft report have been placed in repositories in local community libraries and at the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre for public review. The next steps in the EA process includes government review, public review and a decision on approval of the proposed expansion, anticipated in 2004. For more information please visit our website at www.opg.com/PickEA or call 1-888-267-6140.

OPG in your community



Pickering Nuclear Employees Are All Heart!

It's easy to find ways to make exercise a part of your daily routine. Take a walk through the park. Climb the stairs instead of using the escalator. Even better, hop on a bike and go for a ride. That's what 110 community-minded Pickering Nuclear employees did on May 20, when they joined the annual Big Bike Ride for Durham Heart and Stroke and raised a record-breaking \$20,799 for heart and stroke research.

For the fourth year in a row, Pickering Nuclear's "Big Bike" teams, co-chaired by employees Shari Gobin of Whitby and Dale Goddard of Ajax, topped the charts as Durham Heart and Stroke's top corporate fundraiser. OPG's participation has grown from just one team in 2000, to four enthusiastic groups this year whose collective enthusiasm knew no bounds even as they pedaled off in heavy winds and rain.

"Pickering Nuclear's participation rate has been incredible for us to watch," says Durham Heart and Stroke area manager Dianne DiMichele. "Their first year, employees raised about \$5,000 in pledges. Just a few short years later, they came up with \$21,000. Their ongoing fundraising efforts are very much appreciated and our success as an organization is directly tied to the kind of support that we receive from companies like OPG."

All monies raised for Durham Heart and Stroke directly benefit the communities of Durham Region.

Environmental Earth Angels Spread Their Wings

Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest and most widely recognized world-wide environmental event. Each year, more than six million Canadians join half a billion people in over 164 countries to

take positive environmental action through various community events and projects.

Once again, Pickering Nuclear was part of this global initiative to "green up" the communities around us. This year, one of the many activities we undertook at our site was our corporate sponsorship of "Environmental Earth Angels," a program that puts students at the forefront of environmental stewardship right in their own schoolyards.



Students from Vaughan Willard Public School are joined in their tree-planting by Pickering Mayor Wayne Arthurs and Councillor Bill McLean.

Through hands-on participation, "Earth Angels" teaches children about the important role they can play in improving the environment now and throughout their lives. This year, students, community volunteers and staff planted a number of 12-foot-tall trees of an indigenous species at St.

Jude Catholic School in Ajax and Vaughan Willard Public School in Pickering.

To date, the Environmental Earth Angels program has planted 3,200 trees and involved over 350,000 students in 360 schools. In all, trees have been planted in 26 communities throughout the GTA. A small step for the greening of communities around Pickering Nuclear, but one that will join others around the world to help make the world a better place to live for generations to come.

Other green-up initiatives supported by Pickering Nuclear

- Tree planting at our 777 Brock Road woodlot with the help of Holy Redeemer Catholic School and local Cubs and Scouts
- Tree planting at Whitby's Cranberry Marsh with over 1,000 Scouts
- Support for the Town of Ajax's "Environmental Affairs Week"
- Pickering Community Pride Day to clean up the environment.

Neighbours

Pickering Neighbours is published quarterly for the neighbours of Ontario Power Generation at Pickering Nuclear.

Mailing Address:
Ontario Power Generation
Pickering Nuclear
1675 Montgomery Park Rd.
P.O. Box 160
Pickering, Ontario L1V 2R5
www.opg.com

Editor:
Kathryn Peck
(905) 839-1151 ext. 4074
Fax: (905) 837-7305

Internet E-mail:
kathryn.peck@opg.com

ONTARIO POWER
GENERATION