

Neighbours

A part of the community since 1965 • Volume 10 • Number 2 • Summer 2004

The healing power of nuclear



Nuclear medicine technician Brian Pavlich oversees CT Scan tests on patient Ken Raniage at Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital recently. Nuclear technologies are put to many uses for the benefit of mankind.

When most people think nuclear they think energy.

But there are many other uses for nuclear technology and products that help save lives and improve our quality of life.

At Rouge Valley Ajax and Pickering hospital, the Ontario Power Generation Nuclear Medicine Clinic provides diagnostic treatment. The clinic, opened in 2000 with a \$1-million donation from OPG, uses a CT Scan in combination with radioactive isotopes, injected into patients, to provide doctors a picture to pinpoint the location and stage of the disease in the body, making effective treatment easier.

“Nuclear medicine went a long way to help me be where I am today,” says Rouge Valley patient Ken Raniage, coincidentally a former Pickering Nuclear worker. “Without it, I wouldn’t be here talking to you,” he says noting the diagnostics were key to the success of his treatment.

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Meanwhile, over at Pickering Nuclear, employees extract Cobalt-60 from the CANDU reactors for use in sterilization processes that ensure sanitary healthcare, food and consumer products. Cobalt-60 is produced when Cobalt 59, a naturally-occurring element, becomes charged during the CANDU energy generation process.

This year, as part of planned maintenance outage on one of the reactors, staff at Pickering Nuclear harvested a number of Cobalt 60 rods which provide the raw materials for use in sterilization of products like syringes, medical supplies, bone joint implants and even cosmetics. In some countries Cobalt 60 is used as part of a food irradiation process to enhance the safety of perishable food, killing harmful bacteria without altering the nutritional value of the food.

“This is very much a Canadian innovation,” says Alfred Mo, OPG Product Manager, noting about 80 per cent of the Cobalt 60 used in these processes around the world is harvested from Ontario nuclear reactors.

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A Word from our Senior Vice President

Welcome to the summer issue of Pickering Neighbours. I welcome this opportunity to update you on issues previously mentioned, and to provide new

information on several current initiatives underway on site. I'd like to start off with safety and tell you some good news about our first quarter 2004 report cards, released by OPG on May 4.

Our quarterly report cards benchmark the performance of our nuclear operations against world-wide nuclear industry standards. In the first quarter of the year, all employee and public safety targets for Pickering were better than target, with the "A" side of our station achieving more than three million hours worked without a lost time accident — a significant accomplishment. Our station also excelled in our environmental performance.

Our cover story this month focuses on the benefits of nuclear technology and the impact it can have on the lives of people around the world. For example, an unusual harvest, from Pickering Nuclear's Unit 8 is making a positive contribution in medical sterilization techniques and a newly emerging application of food irradiation. The harvest of Cobalt 60 for use in sterilization is an excellent example of how Canadian CANDU technology continues to make a positive impact well beyond our own borders.

Pickering employees are well known for generosity of their personal time in support of countless valuable community programs, and we continue this proud tradition with recognition of supervising nuclear operator Brian Butt who was recently named "Big Brother of the Year" by the Ajax Pickering Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association. Congratulations, Brian, for setting another fine example of community involvement. As a supporter of the advancement of science and technology in education, Pickering Nuclear provided 12 staff mentors who assisted students in designing and constructing robots for the Canadian Regional robotics competition.

The Community Advisory Council, which provides invaluable advice to Pickering Nuclear in regard to site and community issues, has just wrapped up its final meeting before the summer break. I have participated with this committee for a couple of years now and I can attest to the hard work and long hours the community representatives put in to provide feedback on our operations. Our staff is challenged to explain the rationale behind our decisions and to address concerns that are raised about our operations and programs.

I believe this dialogue has proven very successful for both the community and the station. The CAC has produced a report on its history, purpose and accomplishments since its inception. Copies are available on the OPG.com Web site and at our Information Centre, or from members of the CAC themselves.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy summer.

Pat McNeil
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Strategy and Support

continued from cover

Tritium is another by-product of the CANDU nuclear process used to the benefit of society. Tritium is recovered from Ontario's CANDU operations at Darlington Nuclear's tritium removal facility. Small amounts of tritium, another form of hydrogen, are added to diagnostic pharmaceuticals as medical tracer to allow researchers to follow their movement through a human body. Tritium is also used as a light source and provides essential lighting particularly for areas where electrical sparks can be dangerous and where minimal or no electrical wiring exists, such as exit signs and airport runways.

Nuclear products like Cobalt 60 and tritium are providing a significant contribution to our society, notes Alfred. "It's a whole new way to look at the power of nuclear."

Pickering Nuclear Report

On May 4, OPG released its first quarter 2004 report cards, benchmarking the performance of its nuclear operations against world-wide nuclear industry standards. All employee and public safety targets for the station are better than target, with Pickering A staff achieving more than three million hours worked without a lost time accident - a significant accomplishment. The station also excelled in its environmental performance with no major or moderate spills to report.

Pickering continues to maintain a low emission of radiation from the station to the environment, bettering our target this year by almost 75 per cent. Someone living at the fence line of the station would only have received 0.7 microsieverts of radiation. The yearly regulatory limit is 1,000 microsieverts. By way of comparison, the average Canadian receives more than 1,700 microsieverts each year from natural sources, such as cosmic rays and radon in the soil or 100 microsieverts from a dental x-ray.

While our reactor trip rate ^ the number of unplanned outages - is improving, our capability factor is below target as result of a turbine generator issue on Unit 6, which has been out of service since March for maintenance.

For more information on our quarterly reports, you can call **905-837-7272** or go to our Web site at **www.opg.com**.

News in brief

Need a speaker? Give us a call.

Looking for a speaker for your group, professional association, service club or industry seminar?

Pickering Nuclear has a speaker's bureau that would be pleased to come and visit your group. Whether it's a specialized area, technical subject or a general interest topic, there's a speaker for your group.

We're looking for opportunities to share the Pickering Nuclear story with our community. If you are interested, please contact Scott Berry at 905-839-1151 ext. 3182 or send an email to s.berry@opg.com.

Woman of Distinction

YWCA recognizes Donna McFarlane for leadership and community contributions



It may have been a surprise to the recipient but it came as no surprise to the many people who know Donna McFarlane when she was honoured as a member of the Durham YWCA's Women of Distinction for her contribution to her community and her inspiration as a role model to other women.

Donna, OPG's Site Director for Public Affairs and a Whitby resident, joined other female leaders in the Durham community in an elite sorority of outstanding

women who have distinguished themselves for their contribution to their community, their achievements and their leadership.

With colleagues from OPG, the community, friends and family at her side, Donna accepted her award, May 13 during a gala dinner at the Holiday Inn, Oshawa. The award, she said, is an incredible honour. "To think about the company of women you are in, it's pretty remarkable. It was an amazingly positive and energizing experience. It doesn't happen very often when you can celebrate all the parts of your life as a whole. The most significant part of it is the coming together of all the different parts of my life and how they all fit together."

Donna's history of serving in her community goes back many years as does her service at OPG. Her accomplishments and contributions are many including her current role as a board member for the Oshawa-Whitby-Clarington United Way, a member of Sunrise Rotary Club, Whitby, and a former president of Canadian Parents for French where she helped lead the establishment of French Immersion in the Durham District Board of Education. As well, Donna was a founding board member of the Canadian Association for Student Robotics. She currently chairs an international nuclear communicator's group in Paris.

But perhaps what distinguishes Donna most in the mind and hearts of her colleagues is her desire to help others achieve their own goals. "She sets such a good example of what a woman can do when she puts her mind to it. She's got a lot of fans at a lot of locations," says Vanessa Hughes, a communications specialist at Darlington Nuclear.

After 25 years of service, Donna is retiring from Ontario Power Generation, effective July 1, to take on a new role with one of the company's close community partners, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Durham College. She will be greatly missed by her colleagues but her inspiration will remain with us.

OPG in the Community

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The Info Centre

From July 13 through to September 13, Ajax Creative Arts will exhibit the many different styles of their members at the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre. Paintings can be purchased to look after the "Support Starving Artists," program.

The Pickering Nuclear Information Centre is located at 1675 Montgomery Park Road, at the foot of Brock Road. The Centre is open weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Admission is free and everyone is welcome!

Big Brother of the Year

Pickering Nuclear's own Brian Butt, a supervising nuclear operator, was awarded the honour of Big Brother of the Year by the Ajax Pickering Big Brothers/Big Sisters Association. Since volunteering to become a Big Brother, the bond between Brian and his little brother, Nick has developed into a friendship that has inspired Nick to develop a wide area of interests and become a confident young man. Moreover, Brian has encouraged Nick to continue his education. The impact Brian has made is summarized by Nick's mother as, "My family won the lottery that day eight years ago when [we were] introduced to Brian."

Leading Environmental Stewardship at Pickering Nuclear

On Earth Day, April 22, Pickering Nuclear sponsored students from Holy Redeemer Catholic and Frenchman's Bay Public schools in planting 1,200 native trees and shrubs in Frenchman's Bay West Park. Two days later, OPG helped Pickering and Scarborough district Boy Scouts plant more than 500 trees and shrubs at Alex Robertson Park, located next to the station, in support of our efforts to naturalize the southern portion of the park.

'Small town' training

Emergency personnel get real-life experience in doll-size community

Imagine a town where emergency personnel are constantly put to the test responding to severe weather incidents, fires and even large-scale catastrophes.

That's the scenario trainers at Ontario Power Generation have created in a scale-model town, that has drawn high praise from international safety experts. After more than two years of planning and construction, Ontario Power Generation is using this new tool for use in its fire and rescue training program.

It's a mini-town that has been built on a 2,600-square-foot table top at OPG's Wesleyville training facility. The town is representative of most communities with industrial facilities, commercial buildings, detached and row homes, apartment buildings, churches, schools, an airport, railways, freeways, and more — 116 miniature buildings in all. As well, there are three nuclear plants — one a miniature replica of the Darlington station, and the other two mini-Pickering A and B units.

This mini-town has provided a new dimension in training for incident command and control. Using special effects (smoke, lighting, sound), an emergency situation, such as a fire, can be simulated. Small cameras are positioned at the emergency, and the pictures are seen on a monitor. An incident commander can then make decisions on how best to handle the situation. Special effects allow the situation to change quickly, providing an even more life-like experience.

This new training tool drew high praise from a 12-member international nuclear review team that visited the Wesleyville facility earlier this year. "The organization of training for fire and rescue incident command and control is above current standards in the industry," the team said in a report.



Don Trylinski, Training Technician at the Wesleyville Fire and Rescue Training Facility looks over the scale model of the town where OPG emergency personnel prepare for real-life emergencies.

Incident command and control is vital to the successful resolution of any kind of emergency — fire, rescue, nuclear, severe weather, hazardous materials, spills and others. The training helps the commanders develop problem-solving skills and learn how to adapt and overcome problems.

OPG is sharing its training with both the Clarington and Pickering fire services. In addition to incident command training, the municipal forces also benefit from live fire practice at the Wesleyville facility, working shoulder-to-shoulder with OPG Emergency Response Team members so that each group becomes familiar with the other's protocol.

OPG believes this type of training will develop a stronger link in the working relationship between the municipal and company emergency personnel and create an even safer environment in the real towns where our company operates.

Emergency brochures in homes now

In June, Nuclear Emergency Information Brochures were mailed to Durham Region residents who currently reside near the Pickering and Darlington Nuclear Generating Stations.

The mail-out is a redistribution of a 1999 information pamphlet. This brochure will ensure every home and business located within 10 km of either Durham nuclear station has evacuation information and will be informed on what to do in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency.

However, the map in the brochure, originally created in 1999, does not reflect all changes made to the region's roads since that time. One change west Durham residents should note is the opening of the Salem Road / 401 interchange, replacing the Harwood Avenue / 401 interchange, which has since been closed.

In 2005, Emergency Management Ontario will be distributing new, updated information to capture all changes made in the past five years. In the meantime, the current brochure tells residents what to do in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency. Anyone who would like to receive a copy of the current brochure or further information can call the Region of Durham Emergency Management Office at **905-430-2792** for a free copy or visit the Region's Web site at: www.region.durham.on.ca/demo.

Neighbours

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

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