

Neighbours

A part of the community since 1978 • Volume 9 • Number 1 • January 2005

The power of people



Durham Regional Police loaded up seven vans of toys and food from Darlington Nuclear that were distributed by Durham Regional Police Services to families across Durham. Above, DRP officer Stephanie MacDonald, OPG employee Kim Doyle and DRP officer Kevin Dunlop sit in a mountain of toys ready to be shipped.

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OPG's commitment to wildlife habitat programs earns recognition

OPG employees make life better for Durham families

Employees of Ontario Power Generation's Darlington and Pickering nuclear stations have a strong tradition of contributing to Durham communities and families in need of a little extra help, both during the holiday season and throughout the year.

In 2004, OPG employees across Ontario gave \$1.8 million to charities of their choice through the OPG Charity Trust, which allows employees to contribute to their favourite charity organizations through automatic pay withdrawals.

In addition to the pay deductions, employees at Darlington and Pickering Nuclear went all out to ensure families in need throughout Durham Region were provided some assistance this past holiday season.

Both sites contributed significantly to two local fundraisers – the Durham Regional Police Food and Toy Drive and the Million Penny Toy Drive. In total more than \$25,000 was contributed between the two sites toward helping families-in-need across Durham.

At Darlington it took seven police vans to collect all the toys and food donated by employees while at Pickering volunteer employees were out working the parking lots to collect change for the Million Penny Food and Toy Drive.

"We got out there at 5:30 in the morning and started shaking pockets loose," says Scott Berry, an organizer of the Pickering Nuclear event. "There are about 40-plus people who volunteer."

In addition to the money collected in the parking lot, Scott says many employees across the plants have given up the traditional seasonal cookie and coffee hand-out from managers and instead that money goes to help the less-fortunate families. One cookie and coffee at a time, this effort raises about \$3,500 of the funding that goes to the Million Penny Toy Drive. All proceeds from Million Penny go to the Salvation Army and the Simcoe Hall

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Year in review

Pushing for excellence in 2004

It's the time of year when we look back to see where we have been and where we want to go.

At Darlington Nuclear, we can reflect with pride on the accomplishments of this past year and as equally, on our commitment to the values we hold in high esteem:

performance reliability, safe and cost-efficient operation of our plant, leadership in environmental stewardship and commitment to the communities we operate in.

Darlington Nuclear, which provides more than 15 per cent of the electricity used in Ontario annually, operated at almost 90 per cent capacity in 2004, a significant achievement, which meant a dependable source of electricity for the province. This was achieved at the same time we continued an aggressive maintenance plan at the plant for efficient operations today and continued reliability for future years.

One of Darlington's key focus areas in 2004 was human performance and all our employees have made a commitment to error-free performance, significantly contributing to efficient and safe production of electricity. Each year we set more ambitious targets to continually reduce the number of human-related errors occurring at the station and to the credit of our employees, each year we meet the targets we set for ourselves and raise the bar of excellence higher.

Safety is always our first priority. On November 24, Ontario Power Generation was presented with the President's Bronze Award of Excellence for Employee Safety from the Canadian Electricity Association. OPG was among only eight recipients of the CEA's President's Award, which is given to companies that demonstrate superior safety performance for the past year. The award was given to OPG in recognition of our ranking "in the top quartile for both All Injury Frequency and Severity Rates" for 2003.

At Darlington, we have just celebrated a milestone of two-million hours without a lost-time accident, a significant achievement in any industrial setting. This milestone is reflective of the training and dedication of our employees, making our plants safer for the people who work here and for our community, as well as improving efficiency through strong practices.

But none of the good work we do here could be possible without the on-going support of the community where we operate. Our employees and the company strive to be good partners through strong volunteerism and financial support. As this is written employees at Darlington and Pickering Nuclear are raising funds for the Tsunami victims in Southeast Asia. Across OPG employees contributed \$1.8 million to charities through payroll deductions in 2004. At Darlington, folks raised significant funding for the Durham Regional Police Services Toy and Food Drive this past holiday season. Many of our employees provide leadership in the community through business and non-profit groups like the Clarington Board of Trade, Scouts Canada, Girl Guides, minor sports and Big Brothers and Sisters. As well, in 2004, we continued our environment stewardship of natural habitats on site and in Durham.

We are committed to excellence and most importantly, we are committed to providing clean, safe, reliable and cost-efficient electricity while we enhance the environment and our community.

Gregory Smith
Senior Vice-President
Darlington Nuclear

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Settlement House in Oshawa.

The Durham Regional Police Toy and Food Drive feeds into a number of agencies, says DRPS representative Stephanie Powers. Civilian and police volunteers drive the seven vans that go around collecting the toys and food. The vans are donated by local dealerships and decorated for the occasion.

"We are a significant contributor to the Durham Regional Police Toy and Food Drive," says Kim Doyle, who heads up the Darlington campaign. This year almost \$4,000 in cash donations were made by employees in addition to the numerous unwrapped toys and food items dropped off in bins in the OSB and ESSB lobbies. As well, unclaimed toys from the OPG Children's Christmas Party were donated.

"We have seven vans and we always send all of them to Darlington," Stephanie relates.

"Darlington has been taking part as long as I can remember," adds Kim. The Friday after pay day, volunteers get out stockings and stand at the gates asking for donations. "People empty out their change and bills too. We even had a few \$40 donations," she says.

Then, Kim and her two boys, Brad, 11 and Kyle, 8, headed to Zellers in Bowmanville, for a carefully calculated shopping spree. The store gives Kim a significant discount in the cost of the toys so she can get the most with the money donated. "We focus on younger children and teenagers," says Kim. "The middle-aged children are well-contributed through the bins in the lobbies."

Not all of the donations are financial though. John Kock, a Darlington employee volunteers with the Salvation Army Christmas hamper preparations each year and he saw a different way the plant could help. "So often we have to send the toys out without batteries because there are never enough," he relates. This year, John made sure children could use the toys they opened Christmas morning. He arranged to have Darlington Nuclear donate several boxes of batteries.

In addition to the Charity Trust and the Christmas season campaigns, year-round, employees look for opportunities to help those in need. Just recently Pickering employees raised \$7,000 for Herizon House, women and children's shelter during White Ribbon Week in support of putting an end to violence against women while at Darlington, collections were made for Denise House in Oshawa and Bethesda Woman and Children's Shelter in Bowmanville. "People here are always finding creative ways to help out," says Scott.



Darlington Report Card: Third Quarter

Reliable and safe electricity production

Darlington Nuclear continued to be a leader in the Canadian Nuclear Industry with its third quarter performance in 2004. The station's nuclear performance index (NPI) rating was 90.6. NPI is a rating of a nuclear plant's success in meeting a number of objectives in performance including reliability and production. It is measured against a possible score of 100 points. Darlington has the highest nuclear performance index rating of any Canadian nuclear facility.

Radiation release from the station into the environment continues to be very low. The 2004 cumulative radiation exposure for someone who lived, worked at and ate food grown on Darlington's property is calculated at 0.9 microsieverts. This compares with 70 microsieverts of radiation from a single chest x-ray or almost 2,000 microsieverts the average Canadian receives every year from natural sources of radiation in the environment such as sunshine and food produce.

Darlington's capability factor was 89.12, just slightly lower than the station's goal of 90.64. This was due to preventative maintenance and repairs during the third quarter. Although maintenance can reduce the station's capability factor marginally, undertaking necessary maintenance and repairs now ensures reliability for years to come.

To see Darlington Nuclear's full third term report card, visit www.opg.com.

Darlington Nuclear lends expertise

When a propane explosion and fire rocked Bowmanville, Nov. 9, emergency personnel from both Darlington and Pickering Nuclear were there.

At around 8 p.m. that evening, Jim Coles, Darlington's section manager of fire protection got a call at home from his mother: Her Bowmanville house was shaking from an explosion and fire was lighting up the night sky.

Jim's first call was to Roger Landry, the duty Shift Emergency Response Manager to put him on alert to be prepared to assist the municipal fire department as required. The next call was to Clarington's Fire Chief Gord Weir and to Cole's own boss, Darlington's Fire Protection Manager Scott Cameron, who also serves on the volunteer force with the Clarington Fire Department on a part-time basis.

Meanwhile, at Pickering Nuclear, the Emergency team had heard about the explosion and was already prepared to come and assist. That night OPG sent out a pumper truck, foam supplies and person-

nel to provide firefighting, emergency response and first aid as necessary.

"This was an amazing display of teamwork and mutual aid," says Jim. "Our folks

are well-trained professionals and always step up to the plate."

Darlington Nuclear is proud to share our expertise with the community in times of need.

Keeping our children safe

Darlington Nuclear recently donated \$5,000 to the Clarington Risk Watch Coalition, an organization created to educate and provide an awareness to children on the dangers and necessary precautions related to fire, water and other hazards and behaviours that could lead to injury.

The goal of the program is to keep all children in our communities safe from preventable injuries, which is the number one risk to children under the age of 14 and the leading cause of death to children over the age of one.

Ontario Power Generation – Darlington Nuclear has been a corporate sponsor since the program's inception in 1999.

"This has enabled our coalition to donate a set of the Risk Watch Program materials to each of the 28 elementary schools in Clarington," says Randy Reinert, chairperson of the Clarington Risk Watch Coalition.

To date, the program has been fully implemented in four schools, with all other schools using the materials as a resource to support the Ontario Curriculum, Randy says.

"Our goal is to have full implementation throughout all elementary schools. We would like to be able to provide each educator with their own Risk Watch binder in the classroom, to be used at their convenience."

The ultimate goal of the Risk Watch program is to modify behaviour in our children. Risk Watch gives children the tools they require to assess the possible consequences of an action and then make an appropriate choice to prevent the accident, says Randy.

Darlington Nuclear is pleased to support such a worthwhile program in our community.

Wildlife sanctuary in the city

International recognition for OPG's environment preservation

There is a place where eagles soar and dragonflies buzz, where bulrushes blow in the wind and woodland thickets stand protective of the small animals that live within their borders.

In fact, in Durham Region there are two such places where the living space of literally hundreds of animals and plants has been enhanced and preserved for future generations: They are the sites of Darlington Nuclear and Pickering Nuclear Generating Stations.

This past Fall, 2004 Pickering Nuclear was recertified through the international Wildlife Habitat Council in recognition of Ontario Power Generation's commitment to environmental stewardship and increases to native biodiversity.

"The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites and offers third-party validation of the programs companies like OPG put in place," explains Bob Hester, senior environmental technical engineer with OPG.

Darlington Nuclear was also certified two years ago under the same extensive process and expects to re-qualify again in 2005 with the Wildlife Habitat Council, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands.



OPG Senior Environmental Technical Engineer Bob Hester (middle) stands in one of many wildlife habitats managed and enhanced at Pickering and Darlington Nuclear through the efforts of countless OPG and community volunteers. With him are employees Sylvie Dion, and Greg Mills who volunteer their time and expertise to help with naturalization efforts in the area.

During its certification process this fall, Pickering Nuclear was one of just three businesses nominated for the prestigious Corporate Habitat of the Year award. To be recognized as one of the top three sites from 109 organizations that received their certification this year was "a tremendous honour and a testament to the work of our employee and community volunteers," says Bob, who notes many local organizations dedicate many man-hours to helping with the preservation efforts.

At Pickering Nuclear, projects have included the naturalization of portions of Alex Robertson Park and Kinsmen Park; significant tree plantings and the establishment of wildflower gardens along the Waterfront Trail and in Alex Robertson Park. A network of 46 bird nesting boxes has been established in the park and at the Brock Woodlot. As well, controls have been put in place to protect local habitats against invasive species of bugs and plants that would eradicate other essential forms of wildlife.

At Darlington, a 7.5 km trail meanders through the site's more than 1,000 acre property filled with almost 900 different species of animals and plants. One study of the Darlington habitat showed a jump in the number of bird species breeding on the site from 41 species in 1978, prior to the existence of the generating station, to 63 breeding species in 1997. This is just one example of improvements attributable to site enhancements and modifications made by Ontario Power Generation in cooperation with community volunteer groups on the site.

"At Darlington Nuclear we strongly believe in OPG's commitment to sustainable development," explains Don Terry, public affairs manager for Darlington. "Simply put, we make sure the right choices are made for our environment and community today to ensure the best future for all. Nuclear energy is clean energy and when we're finished operating our station, we intend to leave our site and our community in a better state than when we arrived."

The impact of having two wildlife habitats like these within the GTA is more far-reaching than one might think, adds Bob. "Robert Bateman is an environmentalist and well-known naturalist who grew up in downtown Toronto. His first experience with nature was in a ravine near his house. That's where his environmental light was turned on – in a little woodlot close to home.

"One lady told me she has cancer and walking through the woodlot is the best therapy for her," he adds.

OPG is proud to be creating better habitats for our wildlife today while inspiring people to preserve the environment for our future.

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