

Neighbours

A part of the community since 1978 • Volume 10 • Number 2 • Spring 2005

An investment in youth



Sixty-five engineering graduates were recently hired for Ontario Power Generation's nuclear division in Durham as part of an on-going initiative to fill a growing need for new recruits to skilled positions at Darlington and Pickering Nuclear. Back row, left to right: Joe Wolshe, Marcus Kernius, Keith St. Jean, Stephen Harrington, Doug Evinou, Front row, left to right: Madiba Chishty, Luisa Celis, Bahareh Hosseini, Nancy Jacobi, Alyssa Hall, Steve Fice and Aaron Bodor.

Fresh minds needed to replace retiring workforce

They're enthusiastic, they're bright and they are our future.

As Ontario Power Generation (OPG) prepares for a retirement boom amongst its workforce over the coming decade, the company is finding new and innovative ways to encourage today's youth to consider a career in the nuclear industry in highly skilled, in-demand positions here in Durham Region.

Among the many activities OPG has initiated to this end include: a partnership with Skills Canada delivering technology career information in classrooms; job fairs; sponsorship and mentoring of robotics teams in high schools; programming partnerships and internships with local school boards and the Ontario universities and colleges including Durham College and the nuclear engineering program at University of Ontario Institute of Technology

(UOIT). These are just a few of the many ways OPG is reaching out to youth to encourage a new generation of skilled, talented employees.

"We recently hired about 65 new engineering graduates," says OPG's Nienke Smith. Many of the new recruits came to an innovative job fair held last fall in Pickering. "There were 97 graduates at the fair and they were all fantastic, they were all good candidates," she says. The grads had an opportunity, during the two-day fair, to talk one-on-one with staff from various departments within Pickering and Darlington Nuclear to get a sense of the work they would be involved in, says Nienke. "Many of the students commented how amicable people here are and how comfortable they felt," she relates. That feeling showed through in the high number of students who accepted positions, she adds, noting most of this year's openings were filled through that one job fair.

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Environment and fun came together this past March Break

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Durham power plants provided almost 30 per cent of the province's electricity this winter

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Spring water awareness saves lives

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Happy Trails

Darlington's wild side came out during OPG Nuclear's annual 'March Break Madness.' The week was a great success with lots of fun at both the Darlington and Pickering Nuclear Information Centres and out and about in the Durham community. Hundreds of visitors of all ages came out to programs like 'Day on the Farm' at Windreach Farm, pioneer activities at the Purple Woods Conservation Area, a free swim at the Pickering Recreation Centre, a Peregrine Falcon presentation at Darlington, a chance to build your own fairground at Pickering and a day with nature at the Darlington portion of the waterfront trail. As the photos show, there was lots to do and eat at Darlington's day on the trail from cooking hotdogs and marshmallows over the open fire to sketching nature or taking a horsedrawn wagon ride. From left to right: Claire Robichaud practices her sketching on the trail while centre, everyone gathers for an old-fashioned cook-out. Below, OPG co-op student Jonathon Walsh gets friendly with the transportation.



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The invitees for the job fair were selected from applicants who had applied through www.mypowercareer.com. "We looked for young people who are future leaders, those with good marks, kids who take initiative. We really see a correlation between success in school and the community and future work success. It isn't just about the marks. We are looking for the whole person."

The job fair was the first of its size for OPG but Nienke believes there are more to come. With a large number of skilled workers to replace in the next decade due to retirements, our brightest young minds will be very much in demand at OPG.

Protecting our youth

Summer is coming and with it, summer jobs for students. As young adults in our community get their first exposure to the workplace, Ontario Power Generation has joined the Safe Communities of Pickering/Ajax (SCOPA) and the Durham District School Board to promote the Passport to Safety program.

Passport to Safety is a unique, not-for-profit, cross-Canada catalyst for change intended to help eliminate needless injuries and preventable deaths of young Canadians aged 24 and under. This program supports the vision that our children enter and then return home from safe workplaces every day.

The Passport to Safety program consists of young people taking a 'test' on

the passporttosafety.com Web site. The challenge is based on learning outcomes developed by health and safety curriculum experts across Canada. Successful participants are awarded a 'transcript' that can be attached to resumes demonstrating their basic awareness of health and safety.

Young people can take the safety challenge and receive a certificate of completion for \$9 by logging on to www.passporttosafety.com. Employers can sponsor the cost of the program for their young employees as part of a safe work environment program.

Business owners, parents or young adults can get more information on the program or SCOPA by calling Leanne Stamper, SCOPA co-coordinator at (905)-666-6918.

A life-saving play

Emergency responder uses skills at hockey game

Brad Irving, an OPG emergency responder didn't have any plans to be working overtime last month during a midget hockey game at the Ajax Community Centre but when emergency struck, he did just that, not once but twice in the same night.

Brad, 19, is a member of the OPG Emergency Response Team, working with the company as part of a job co-op program. There was no way he could have known he was going to have a chance to use his skills so early in his career. But at a house league game at the ACC in February, Brad was called upon first to do a medical assessment of a player who had been left lying on the ice following a hit that caught him the wrong way.

Once the player was cared for, Brad was back on the ice but less than 10 minutes later, he was called over to the opposing team's bench. "The team's head coach had collapsed," recalls Brad. "He was already going blue in the face."

"I just started CPR right there and did that until we had a defibrillator unit, which they have in the centre," he says.

ACC staff brought out a defibrillator unit, Brad revived the coach, who was later transported to hospital and on his way to recovery.

"We are really very proud of Brad," says Scott Cameron, manager of fire protection for OPG Nuclear. "As profes-



Photo courtesy of Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser

Brad Irving, a temporary Emergency Responder working with Ontario Power Generation's nuclear division recently put his skills into action during his off-time at the Ajax Community Centre where public defibrillator systems are installed for use in case of heart failure emergencies.

sionals we are continuously practicing and improving upon our skills and knowledge but no one knows when we will be called to action, either on the job or in the community. Brad's quick action saved a life and that is what it is all about in our line of work."

The Durham Base Hospital has awarded Brad a 'lightning bolt' to wear on his uniform in recognition of being part of the 'chain of survival' that saved a life and OPG also recognized his efforts. "Part of our company philosophy is very much about the strong ties with our communities. Brad's efforts that day exemplify that commitment," says Scott.

Pickering A Unit 1

Hitting the home stretch

There's only about 10 per cent of the work left before Unit 1 should be ready for commissioning. The unit will eventually add 515 MW of virtually emission free electrical capacity to the Ontario grid. But like the renovation in your own home, the last leg can be the most challenging of all.

Work on Unit 1 is at the point now where we're beginning to put the plant back together again so we can test systems on their own, then power up the plant to test how the systems work together. Of course, this will be done after the nuclear industry regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), grants approval to lift the guaranteed shutdown state. As project completion gets closer, the integration of work becomes more difficult, even as it becomes more important.

But you can see the progress every day as you walk through the plant. Key pieces of equipment are being returned refurbished and ready to go. Overall electrical work is almost complete, including the installation of the environmentally qualified cable throughout the plant. Commissioning is complete for two sprinkler systems for the transformers, a CNSC commitment, and also a prerequisite for powering these transformers, which in turn are needed to start up and operate Unit 1. Two of three standby generators have been rebuilt, re-installed and are in service, with the third standby generator almost fully commissioned.

This fall, when we anticipate Unit 1 will be fully operational, we expect OPG will be generating enough additional energy to power a small city. This construction project is one part of our commitment to provide this province with a reliable source of energy.

Nuclear stations off to a great start

Electricity generation maximized this winter

OPG's Darlington Nuclear and Pickering Nuclear helped keep the province hot and bright during the winter months of January and February with strong performances.

In the first two months of the year, eight of the nine Durham generating units currently in commercial operation were operating close to or above 90 per cent capability. Pickering Unit 5, after operating for 96 days was taken off line on Feb. 9

for planned maintenance as part of OPG's plan to ensure the efficiency and longevity of the plants.

To the end of February, the four units at Darlington supplied over 4.78 TWh to the grid – about 17.5 per cent of the electricity used by the province during that period. The five units at Pickering supplied more than 3.32 TWh to the grid or about 12.2 per cent of the electricity used by the province in that period.

"Winter's cold creates high demand for electricity and that means our nuclear generating units are most needed to help

heat and light our buildings and residences and to power Ontario's growing economy," said Pierre Charlebois, Acting Chief Nuclear Officer. "Over the past several months our nuclear units have been operating very well, particularly during the first two months of 2005, when our nine nuclear units supplied 29.7 per cent of all the electricity consumed in Ontario."

Nuclear units are like any other industrial process or equipment, Pierre points out. "A properly timed, executed and managed program helps OPG maximize the amount of electricity we can generate to match the growing needs of the Ontario economy."

Celebrating Safety

OPG Nuclear hits milestones in safe operation

Safe operation of Ontario Power Generation's nuclear plants is our primary mandate and in 2004, this was demonstrated when employees reached a number of safety milestones at both Darlington Nuclear and Pickering Nuclear generating stations.

For the strong performance of the corporation as a whole, OPG was recognized with the Canadian Electrical Association President's bronze award of excellence for employee safety. The award was given to OPG in recognition of our ranking in the top quartile for low all-injury frequency and severity rates for 2003. OPG was one of just eight companies to receive the award, given to companies that demonstrate superior safety performance.

The recent safety achievements of OPG's nuclear plants in Clarington and Pickering include:

- The Pickering A Return-to-Service team, consisting of both OPG regular employees and contractors primarily working on Unit One, logged five million hours without a lost-time accident as of December, 2003;
- Darlington fuel handling department achieved 10 years without a lost-time accident, a significant achievement given the difficult working conditions in this area;
- Pickering B plant achieved more than 3.8 million hours without a lost-time accident;
- In March, Darlington workers surpassed 2,700,000 hours worked without a lost time accident.

Procedures and processes OPG is proud of:

- OPG provides extensive safety training for new employees and on-going refresher courses for staff. These procedures were recognized as 'superior' to industry standard by an international peer review inspection team;

- Partnerships with our unions, joint health and safety committees, labour and management;
- Regular meetings with our regulator to continually raise the bar and improve our systems;
- Staff of the national nuclear regulator

(Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission) are located at both Darlington Nuclear and Pickering Nuclear to ensure oversight on all our initiatives and safety processes.

"We are proud of our record of keeping our employees safe at work," said OPG Chairman Jake Epp. Employee safety also translates into a more efficiently-operated nuclear plant and one that the community can feel confident to have as a neighbour. As well, it demonstrates the commitment of OPG employees to do the job right, putting safe operation first and foremost.

Kids get water savvy

Spring Water Awareness Program teaches lifesaving messages

This is the time of the year when kids get spring fever for outdoor play.

Ontario Power Generation and the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA) want to remind parents and kids about the dangers of playing too close to river and stream banks during the spring season.

"Kids need to learn why water and ice are dangerous in the spring, what areas in their neighbourhood to avoid and what to do if an accident occurs," says Rebecca Whitman, GRCA Outdoor Educator. "They should be made to feel empowered to watch and warn others who may be in danger," she adds.

During the month of March, the GRCA delivered the Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP) to students throughout the GRCA watershed, thanks in part to a \$2,500 contribution to the awareness campaign from OPG.

The program is brought into Grade 4 classrooms of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board by GRCA educators, who teach the children through hands-on experiments and discussion about the perils of playing around creeks and riverbeds during the spring thaw. As well, OPG and GRCA staff delivered the program recently



Darlington Nuclear's Beverley Forget shares water safety messages with kids at Clarington WinterLearn recently. Beverley had the children put their hand in icy water to demonstrate just how cold and debilitating it can be.

during Winter WonderLearn in Clarington.

"Safety is a very important part of our work culture," says Vanessa Hughes, public affairs manager for Darlington Nuclear. "Bringing this important water safety message to children allows us to pass on very immediate and important knowledge on the importance of staying away from creeks and rivers. At the same time, it instills the value of respect for dangerous situations that the children can hopefully carry with them all their lives."

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