

Neighbours

A part of the community since 1978

Summer 2006



Darlington Nuclear Celebrates Earth Week

Darlington's Environment Manager Don Muir and his children Charlie and Katie "dig in" for Earth Day. Darlington employees joined local Scouts, Cubs and Beavers to plant 2,000 trees on the Darlington site, as part of our annual Earth Week activities.

Read more about this year's activities on page 3.

Nuclear and the Energy Mix

Ontario Power Generation's nuclear plants in Durham Region are part of the Province's future energy plan, Minister of Energy Dwight Duncan revealed, June 13.

In the Government's response to the Ontario Power Authority's December, 2005 supply mix report, Minister Duncan directed OPG to move forward with business case studies, including environmental assessments on the feasibility of refurbishment and life extension of both Pickering B and Darlington generating stations. As well, OPG was directed to begin work needed for an environmental assessment for construction of new units at an existing nuclear facility.

Two days after the Minister's announcement, OPG President Jim Hankinson told a supportive crowd at the Toronto Board of Trade, "We are well prepared to examine the business cases for the refurbishment and life extension of the Pickering B and Darlington nuclear stations." The President noted a team, led by Senior Vice-President Patrick McNeil has already been formed to take on the work required to come to a sound business decision.

As part of that process, on June 15, OPG submitted a letter to the federal nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on the Pickering B refurbishment project. The letter is the first step to request an environmental assessment for this potential project. An EA would include significant public input and examination of any potential impacts to the local environment and community from this project.

Mr. McNeil says his team will spend the next 18 months, working on an objective and fact-based business case on whether Pickering B should be refurbished. "We will only proceed if there is a solid business case, approved by our Board of Directors," notes Mr.

McNeil. The same will be true for Darlington when that process begins, he adds.

Overall, Mr. Hankinson stated, OPG views the Government's announcement, as it pertains to OPG, as a vote of confidence in our ability to operate our facilities efficiently and responsibly.

Durham Strategic Energy Alliance Chairman Michael Angemeer says, "The Government's decision is an extremely positive step in securing a reliable electricity base for future generations. Durham is already a leader in the energy sector in all facets from generation and transmission to innovative research and training through the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. This decision only serves to strengthen that." We will keep you updated in future editions of Neighbours.

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Promoting a Conservation Ethic in our Youth

Local Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides were treated to a visit from a feathered friend, and the Canadian Peregrine Foundation this Spring at Darlington.

Falon, a peregrine falcon, along with his handler Maya Basdeo, visited the Darlington Nuclear Information Centre for an educational presentation on the endangered raptor birds of Canada.

Ontario Power Generation is a sponsor of the Foundation's 'project school visit' program, which allows Foundation



Katelyn Robinson with mom Kim Robinson and Jeremy Hutchison with his dad Dave Hutchison stand with their new feathered friend, Falon and Maya Basdeo from the Peregrine Foundation. When they aren't busy with Scout and Guide duties, both Kim and Dave are Darlington Nuclear employees.

members to go into classrooms and teach students about the endangered birds. The program ties in with the new Ontario science curriculum for Grade 4 and 6 students throughout Ontario.

The Canadian Peregrine Foundation is a registered charity dedicated to assisting the recovery of the Peregrine Falcon and other raptors at risk. The foundation aims to instill a conservation ethic in children at a young age.

Keeping Kids Water Savvy



Darlington Nuclear's Beverly Forget learns the hazards of icy water from Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority's Ryan Goodall. Throughout their Spring Water Awareness Program, GRCA uses water demonstrations to educate children on the dangers of playing near water during the spring thaw.

Darlington Nuclear, in partnership with the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority (GRCA), teaches Grade 4 students the importance of water safety through GRCA's Spring Water Awareness Program (SWAP).

The program, made possible in part by a contribution from Darlington Nuclear, teaches children in the watershed area the dangers of playing around creeks and riverbeds during the spring thaw. The program is brought to students in their classrooms, with GRCA educators teaching students through hands-on experiments and discussions. As well, GRCA and OPG staff delivered the program during this year's Winter WonderLearn in Clarington.

"OPG is proud to sponsor this important initiative. This program involves two values held highly in our own operations," says Darlington Nuclear Public Affairs Manager Vanessa Hughes. "The first is

safety. Learning to respect a potentially dangerous situation is a value we hope children will carry with them their entire life. SWAP also teaches them the importance of environmental stewardship for our watershed. Taking care of our watershed today ensures it will be healthy for future generations."

Vanessa notes OPG is very familiar with water safety messages in communities around our hydro-electric facilities. 'Stay clear, stay safe' is a message cottagers and campers should take with them when they travel across the province this summer.

Rebecca Whitman, GRCA outdoor educator adds, "Because the program is taught at the Grade 4 level each year, eventually many children attending school in the watershed will get the program delivered in their classroom. However, it is good for parents to reinforce the message to their own children at home."

During the program, students learn why water and ice is dangerous during the spring as well as what areas to avoid and what to do in the event of an emergency.

A message from Gregory Smith



Welcome summer! In the power industry we face a bit of a dilemma when it comes to summer. It is a time when most employees want to take vacation, but it is also a

time of highest demand for our product.

To accommodate our employees and the Province's power demands, we schedule major maintenance shutdowns in the Spring and Fall, so the units are in top condition to run uninterrupted during the periods of heavy demand. This Spring it was Unit 3's turn for maintenance work before the summer peak, and our staff are gearing up in preparation for inspections and maintenance for Unit 1 this Fall.

Ensuring that Darlington's four reactors are in top shape has enabled Darlington to continue improving its capability factor which rates the amount of time a unit is available to produce power. In the first quarter of this year we attained a 94.6 percent factor, compared to an already high 93.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2005.

* * *

The end of June means report card time, not only for students but also in the nuclear industry. Each year, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission issues a report, grading how well each of the Canadian power reactors have performed over the last year.

I am pleased to report Darlington received our best report card yet, and I'm particularly proud that we continue to deliver increased ratings in our safety performance. As well, all three OPG nuclear stations continue to earn an 'A' rating in Emergency Preparedness.

* * *

I was pleased to speak recently at our fifth annual Environmental Convergence conference held at our Info Centre. I'm pleased to report it was another success, in large part due to the outstanding speakers and presentations by committed and enthusiastic people from across Durham Region.

On behalf of Darlington's employees, I conveyed our deep commitment to the principles and practices of good environmental stewardship, and our promise to continue to provide leadership in the community.

Have a safe and pleasant summer.

Gregory Smith
Senior Vice President
Darlington Nuclear

OPG Employees Inducted Into Whitby Sports Hall of Fame

Two OPG employees shared a proud moment with their team mates from the 1980 CBC Builders Junior A Lacrosse team, when the Whitby community honoured their accomplishments.

Bill Eyre from Pickering Nuclear and John Fusco from Darlington Nuclear, were inducted into the Whitby Sports Hall of Fame, along with 30 team mates, coaches and managers from the championship team.

Bill and John played on the 1980 Whitby CBC Builders Junior A Lacrosse team. In their first six seasons as a team they had many accomplishments. Amongst these, include winning the Minto Cup and three All Ontario and Eastern Canadian Championships.

Bill and John both grew up in Whitby.

Bill has remained very active in community sports. He has coached lacrosse for 13 years. In total, he has led teams to seven Provincial Championships.

"To be inducted into the Whitby Sports Hall of Fame is definitely the highlight of my career. I learned what it takes to be successful and being part of this team allowed me to create lasting friendships that I will cherish forever," says Bill. "It is a great honour to be recognized and rewarded 26 years after winning the Canadian Championship."



John played lacrosse from 1980 through 2001, an amazing twenty-one years, including one year with the National Lacrosse League.

"It is certainly an honor to be recognized in my hometown,"

says John. "I was fortunate to play with a number of great players on that team, many of whom I grew up with, and to be able to win a national championship at that level is something I'll never forget."

OPG is a proud sponsor of the Whitby Sports Hall of Fame annual Hall of Fame Induction through our Corporate Citizenship Program, and also supports minor lacrosse locally as part of our commitment to youth activities in our host communities.

Darlington Delivers on Safety and Production

Darlington began 2006 with a strong performance in many of our key metrics. Our employee safety performance continues to measure up well against other electricity companies, including an accident severity rate of 0.00 (number of days lost due to injuries per 200,000 hours worked). As well, the All Injury Rate (number of workplace injuries per 200,000 hours worked) remained well within the top quartile industry performance category, set by the Canadian Electricity Association.

Building on our strong production performance of 2005, Darlington increased its generation output in the first quarter of 2006, relative to the same period in 2005.

During the first quarter, Darlington Unit 3 began a planned maintenance outage after operating for 492 consecutive days,

during which time is produced over 10TWh of electricity; more than enough to supply a city the size of Oshawa for eight years.

A terawatt hour is the equivalent of one billion kilowatt hours. The average home uses between 800 and 1,000 kilowatt hours a month.

Another measure of our station's performance is the unit capability factor, a percentage of perfect generation a unit is capable of producing during a specified period. Darlington's unit capability factor for the first quarter of 2006 was 94.63 per cent, better than our performance in the same period in 2005.

Over the past three years, Darlington Nuclear has had the best average unit capability factor of any nuclear station in Ontario.

Darlington Nuclear Celebrates Earth Week

Darlington Nuclear joined an excess of five million people in more than 180 countries to celebrate International Earth Week.

Throughout the Spring, Darlington employees participated and sponsored many environmental activities throughout the community. "Wildlife Wednesday" kicked off our celebrations on April 19, when the Canadian Peregrine Foundation visited the Darlington Information Centre for an educational presentation to local Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides. On that same day, Darlington Nuclear sponsored a tree planting at Waverly Road Public School, by the Earth Angels environmental organization, and provided funding for a community clean-up and barbeque at G.L. Roberts High School in Oshawa, as part of their many environmental activities.

Darlington Nuclear staff partnered with students and teachers from Courtice Secondary School to 'pitch it in' on April 26, by collecting thirty bags of garbage from the Courtice Millennium Trail and school yard.

Held in Durham Region this year, April 27 marked the 12th annual Envirothon, an interactive environmental education program that provides students from Grades 9 to 12 the opportunity to compete against schools from across the GTA in an environmental-themed Olympics.

And on May 6, local Scouts, Cubs and Guides joined Darlington employees to plant 5,000 trees on site property near Holt Road and the 401. Darlington Public Affairs Manager Vanessa Hughes is proud of Darlington's environmental contributions. "OPG works hard to promote environmental awareness and foster a commitment to sustainable development across our workforce."

"We are proud of the initiatives we undertake with our community partners throughout the year. And Earth Week is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to consider our impact on the earth, and especially to help educate youth about the importance of being an environmental steward."

OPG and Partners Honoured by Durham Environmental Committee



Durham Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Susanne Elston (third from left) presents the Durham Children's Groundwater Festival organizing committee with the Irene Kock Education and Communication award.

Ontario Power Generation was honoured to be nominated in two categories of this year's Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) awards.

Comprised of volunteers, DEAC provides advice to Regional Planning Committees and staff on environmental issues affecting

Durham Region. Their annual awards program recognizes significant contributions in creating, maintaining or promoting a healthy environment in Durham Region. The awards are named in honour of Durham's past environmental heroes.

Darlington Nuclear was nominated for the Jessica Markland Partnership Award, for our co-operative efforts to enhance the environment by building partnerships with public, community and private groups. The nomination was in recognition of the celebrated initiatives between Darlington employees and local schools and environmental agencies, both on our land and in the community.

In addition, the annual Durham Children's Groundwater Festival organizing committee was nominated for the Irene Kock Education/Communication award. Lead by the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, OPG is a key supporter of the festival - both financially but most importantly, through the very active role our staff take in the annual event. Public Affairs and Environment department staff from the Pickering and Darlington nuclear stations help to prepare and deliver the week-long hands-on education program that teaches 5,000 Durham Grade 3 students the importance of watershed.

We were elated when the Durham Children's Groundwater Festival was this year's winner! For more information about this tremendous educational and environmental program, please contact Central Lake Ontario Conservation, at 905-579-0411.

Our New Neighbours

Construction Underway on Courtice Water Pollution Control Plant



Local residents may have noticed the large cranes and other evidence of construction immediately west of the Darlington Nuclear station. What you can see is the new Courtice Water Pollution Control Plant beginning to take shape.

With a population now approaching 600,000 and growing, Durham Region is one of Canada's fastest growing areas. The Harmony Creek Water Pollution Control Plant, currently servicing Oshawa and Courtice, is nearing its rated capacity and will not be able to accommodate the planned growth in the area.

An awesome project of \$164 million wastewater system upgrade, the new Courtice plant is being constructed in stages, with the first stage scheduled for completion in the fall of 2007. The site is located at the south end of Courtice Road, just west of the Darlington Nuclear station.

The project abuts Lake Ontario and crosses local creeks and environmentally sensitive areas. Proactive measures are being implemented to mitigate effects on the land, in consultation with the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, as well as the municipalities of Oshawa and Clarington, and the Friends of the Second Marsh.

For more information, call the Region of Durham at 905-668-7711, x3480.

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