

FALL 2009

A proud part of the community since 1978

# DARLINGTON NUCLEAR

*Neighbours Newsletter*

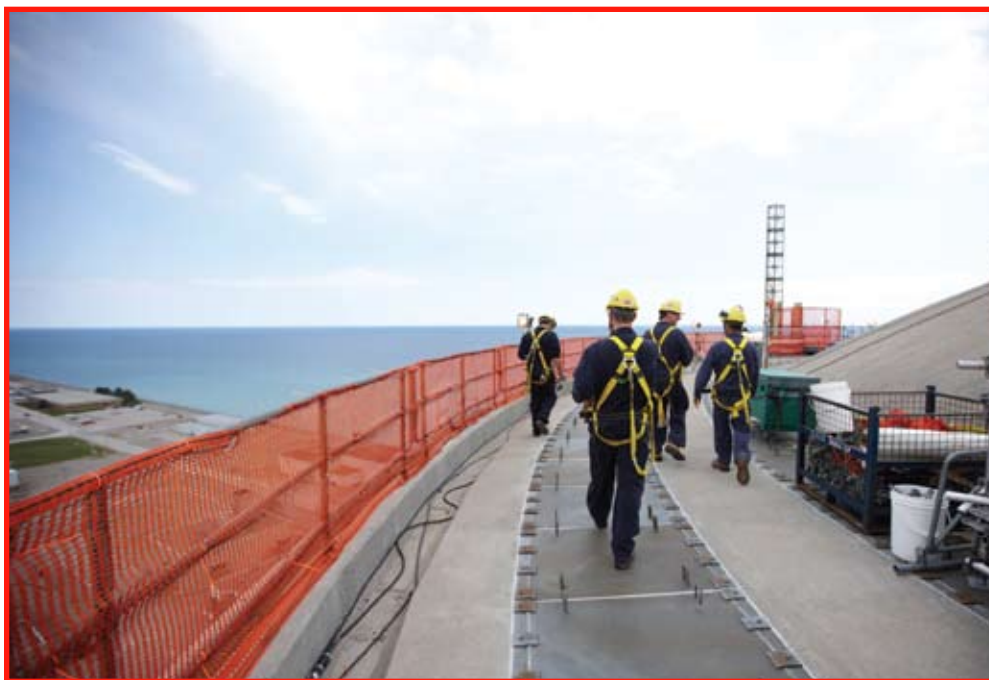
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OUR COMMUNITY

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WORK AND HOME

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NEW NUCLEAR

VACUUM BUILDING  
OUTAGE SUCCESS



## OPG's Biggest Nuclear Project in 2009

Employees at Darlington Nuclear safely completed the largest and most complex project for the year - the Darlington Vacuum Building Outage. Pictured left, outage employees accessed the top of the 75 metre-tall vacuum building thanks to a temporary elevator that was erected specifically for this project. Read more about the successful outage on page 4.

## Robbins Named Ontario Energy Association's Leader of The Year

Chief Nuclear Officer, Wayne Robbins, has been named 2009 "Leader of the Year" by the Ontario Energy Association (OEA). The award was presented at the OEA's annual conference in Niagara Falls.

In announcing the award, Paul McMillan, OEA Interim President and CEO, praised Robbins as, "a true leader whose integrity is renowned among his peers and staff, and whose dedication to his work and employees is exemplary."

OPG has been honoured by the OEA with a major award for each of the past three years. In 2008, the Portlands Energy Centre, the partnership between OPG and TransCanada Energy, received the OEA's "Company of the Year" award and in 2007, former President and CEO, Jim Hankinson, received the OEA "Leader of the Year" award.



*Paul McMillan, OEA Interim President and CEO (left) and Scott Balfour, OEA Incoming Chair (right) present the award to OPG's Wayne Robbins, OEA Leader of the Year.*



ISO 14001 Certification - Darlington Nuclear  
Environmental Management System

**ONTARIOPOWER**  
GENERATION



*Students get immersed in learning at this year's Durham Children's Groundwater Festival.*

## A Hands-On Learning Experience

Protecting our natural environment was the key message given to more than 4,000 Durham Region Grade 4 students who took part in the recent five-day Children's Groundwater Festival.

The Festival, held at Camp Samac in Oshawa, brought together educators, government, industry, and community members to teach the students about groundwater and the environment. Local high school students conduct the activities – many of whom recall

attending the festival when they were younger.

"The primary goal was to increase the students' awareness of water issues and motivate them to become water stewards in their homes, classrooms, and communities," said Beverly Forget, of Darlington Public Affairs, and Groundwater Festival committee member. OPG is a proud community partner of the annual festival.



*Participants join together to celebrate inclusion for people of all abilities.*

## Darlington Hosts Community Living Walk-A-Thon

**Annual walk raises funds in support of inclusion for all people**

OPG Darlington Nuclear hosted Community Living Oshawa/Clarington's annual Steps to Inclusion Walk-A-Thon in September.

Close to one hundred participants gathered on the Darlington Waterfront Trail to raise funds in support of inclusion for all people. Darlington Nuclear's Employee Green Team provided 'interpreters' along the trail to share information about the history and biodiversity of the trail and OPG's ongoing environmental stewardship initiatives.

Cheri Smith, Manager of Resource Development with Community Living Oshawa/Clarington, said, "OPG's continued partnership and support enables us to continue with our goal of increasing awareness in our community about the importance of inclusion for all people, including those with intellectual disabilities."



### A message from Stu Seedhouse, Senior VP

In my family, for as long as I can remember, hockey has been our main focus starting every fall. When you're a hockey family, it's exciting to know it's time to lace up the skates and work together with your teammates to "put the

puck in the net." There is something special about being part of a team with a common goal. As my wife Ann, who has been involved in hockey as long as I have, says "teamwork makes the dream work." And I've found the same applies to the goals we've been working towards at Darlington Nuclear.

As former Director of Operations and Maintenance at Darlington Nuclear, I've always been proud of our team of employees, their positive attitude, professionalism and their strong desire to help bring our station from good to great. We work well as a team, and together we've been reaching our goals. Over the past year, Darlington has been recognized as having the top three operating CANDU reactors worldwide.

Over the past few months, since becoming Darlington's Senior Vice President, I've had the opportunity to speak to Mayor Jim Abernethy, council members, and senior staff of the municipality. I've also met with local business and community leaders. I assured them of my personal commitment to the community to operate Darlington safely and in an environmentally sound manner. But it's not just my commitment; the whole Darlington team joins me in making that commitment to our community.

Recently, we hosted the Nuclear Safety Review Board (NSRB) at Darlington. Like other nuclear stations in our county, we operate under the guidelines of Canada's nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. However, each year our operations are also reviewed by an independent team of external senior industry peers. This review is a key element in our Nuclear Safety Policy and focuses on nuclear safety in three main areas: organizational effectiveness, operational safety, and plant oversight. I'm pleased to say that the NSRB recognized our continued improvement and highlighted some areas we can focus on to continue our journey from good to great.

On a personal note, I would like to extend my congratulations to Wayne Robbins on his recent appointment to the position of OPG's Chief Nuclear Officer. Wayne and I have been working together in the nuclear industry for almost thirty years, and I will continue to rely on his advice and expertise. He's played a significant role in making Darlington the world-class generating station it is today, and will continue to support our team as we work towards even greater goals. We all wish Wayne the best and thank him for his many contributions to Darlington Nuclear.

Enjoy the season,

**Stu Seedhouse**

# OPG Support Recognized by Big Brothers & Sisters



OPG's strong partnership with Big Brothers and Sisters of Clarington (BBSC) was recently recognized. OPG has been supporting the group for many years through the Corporate Citizenship Program.

"OPG's support over the last several years has played a vital role in the success of our agency, on many levels. The sponsorship dollars help to provide us with the funds necessary to provide our mentoring programs to the children of Clarington. The ongoing support of the OPG staff team has led to many new opportunities and experiences for individual children as well as our various group programs. We are blessed to have this wonderful partnership within our community and we look forward to new opportunities as we continue to meet the needs of our changing community," said BBSC Executive Director Darlene Brown.

Many OPG employees living in the community, such as employee Cate Martin, support the organization through monetary donations or by donating their time as volunteers.

"Being an In-School Mentor volunteer through the BBSC organization has really opened my eyes to the tremendous contribution this group makes to the well-being of children across Clarington," said Cate Martin, from Darlington Public Affairs.

Earlier this year, Cate led the Darlington Nuclear team in the 80's themed BBSC 'Bowl for Kids Sake,' where the group took home the prize for best team costumes. To find out more about Big Brothers and Sisters of Clarington, call (905) 623-6646 or visit their website, [bigbrothersandsisters.ca](http://bigbrothersandsisters.ca).



*Jennifer Knox, Darlington Nuclear Public Affairs Manager, pictured receiving plaque from Mayor Jim Abernethy.*

## 9th Annual Family Safety Day

Helping to make your family safe

Once again, Clarington Family Safety Day was a huge success as thousands of community residents participated in this annual event. Groups eagerly gathered to learn about safety and to participate in the demonstrations. Members of the Darlington Nuclear emergency response team provided fire safety tips at the one-day event, sponsored in part by OPG.

The event, held to increase safety awareness in our community, is hosted by the Municipality of Clarington in partnership with Clarington Emergency and Fire Services, Durham Regional Police Services, and OPG.



# OPG Submits Federal Approvals Documents in Support of New Nuclear at Darlington Site

After three years of detailed studies, including extensive public consultation to ensure an open and transparent process, OPG has submitted the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and updated application for the "Licence to Prepare Site" for the OPG New Nuclear at Darlington project. The submission includes more than 40 documents, with more than 14,000 pages of material, and was submitted on Sept. 30, to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

OPG's conclusions, based on the results of this assessment and taking into account mitigation measures, are that the project will not result in any significant adverse environmental effects. Most importantly, no significant adverse effects on the health and safety of workers, the public, or the natural environment are anticipated. Furthermore, the project is expected to result in a number of socio-economic benefits. In June 2009, the Province of Ontario announced the suspension of Infrastructure Ontario's nuclear procurement process to select a vendor to construct the plant. In order to support future decisions, the federal approvals process continues.

For more information on the assessment, EIS documents and next steps, please visit <http://www.opg.com/newbuild>.

## Vacuum Building Outage a Major Success

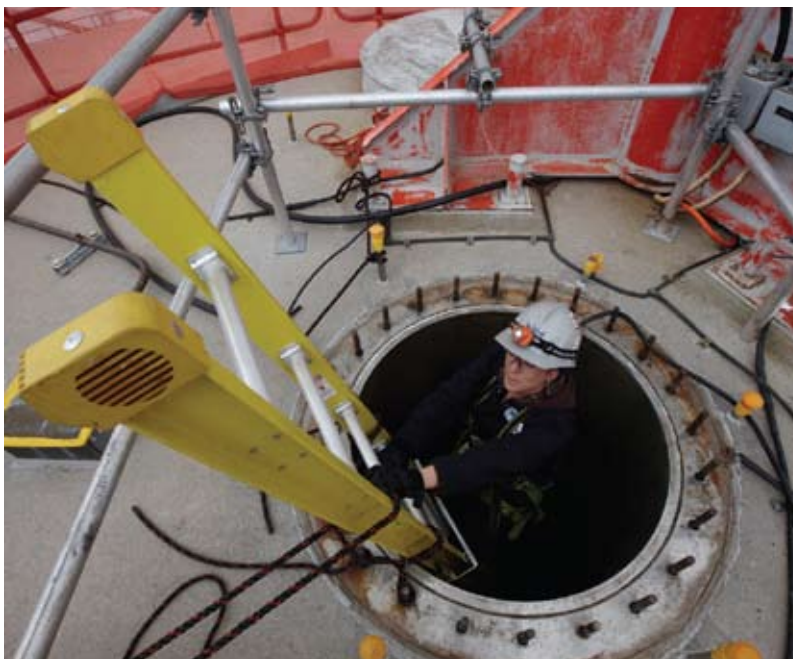
On May 25, employees at Darlington successfully completed the largest and most complex project for the year – the Darlington Vacuum Building Outage (VBO). Occurring every 12 years, the Darlington VBO was launched on April 15 following more than two years of preparation. The outage lasted 40 days and involved over 4,000 OPG staff and contractors.

A critical part of Darlington's safety system, the vacuum building is a 75 metre tall structure made from reinforced concrete. The interior is kept at a near perfect vacuum. In the unlikely event of a rupture in the piping in any of Darlington's four reactors, steam from the break would be automatically sucked into the vacuum building and condensed into water – preventing any

damage due to steam pressure build-up. The structure has never had to be used.

The VBO required OPG to shut down all four of Darlington's nuclear reactors to allow for the inspection and maintenance of the station's vacuum building structure to ensure its continued availability.

The 3,600 MW that Darlington generates is more than 17 per cent of the electricity consumed in Ontario. The safe and timely completion of the 25,000 tasks included in the outage scope ensured the station continued its significant contribution to the Province's energy needs.



*Meticulous planning, precise co-ordination, and strong teamwork by more than 4,000 employees ensured the safe and timely completion of the outage.*

## YOU ASKED US

**How much radiation are local residents exposed to because of Darlington station operations?**

Very little is the short answer. In 2008, at most a nearby resident could have received 1.3 microsieverts of additional radiation dose which is 0.1% of the 1,000 microsievert regulatory limit set by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. By way of comparison, a dental x-ray exposes you to 100 microsieverts and a flight to Vancouver would add 40 microsieverts of exposure. You can view the entire report of OPG's 2008 Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program at [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com).

**Neighbours**



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