

# ATIKOKAN GS

## Neighbours Newsletter

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# Biomass Milestone

On August 26, 2010, Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP, Bill Mauro, announced that the Minister of Energy, Brad Duguid, directed the Ontario Power Authority to negotiate a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) for biomass-generated electricity from Atikokan Generating Station (GS).

This is a key milestone for the Atikokan GS biomass repowering project. In addition to negotiating the PPA with the Ontario Power Authority, OPG will contract for detailed engineering and cost estimates for plant modifications and biomass fuel supply. We will use this information to develop our project business case for submission.

Repowering Atikokan GS from coal to biomass makes sense because it makes use of an existing generating station owned by the people of Ontario. While much of the repowering project background work is underway, we have to prove to OPG's Board of Directors, the Ontario Power Authority and the provincial government that we have a solid business case that makes good sense for Northwestern Ontario.

Once we have secured all necessary approvals, conversion of Atikokan GS from coal to biomass will provide Ontario with renewable energy when we need it to meet peak demands or back up OPG's Hydro plants during low water years. It will play an important role in an exciting new age for the bioeconomy in Northwestern Ontario, by providing new business and employment opportunities for communities, First Nations and forestry, forest products and transportation sectors.

We will keep you up to date on our progress and welcome any questions you may have.



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### Major Project Milestone

Atikokan Mayor Dennis Brown; Bill Mauro, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan; OPG's Ed Enge, Station Manager, Atikokan GS, Jane Todd, Program Manager, Northwest Thermal and Al Arnott, Atikokan Biomass Repowering Project Director at the announcement event. (Photo Courtesy of Atikokan Progress)

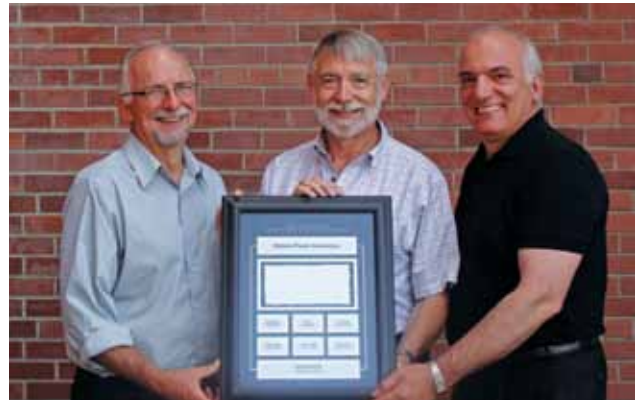


# Ontario's Power Company

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proud to be Ontario's electricity generation company. Owned by the people of Ontario, we operate a diverse fleet of hydro, nuclear and thermal generating facilities with a strong record of safety, reliability and flexibility. These vital public assets are the backbone of the electricity system. OPG's generation contributes to the well-being of many communities and regional economies and enables wind and other forms of generation. We contribute to the electricity needs of the people of Ontario and in doing so, help advance the province's broader economic objectives. Our success is based on performance excellence in all areas of our operations, prudent financial management, maximizing the value of our diverse assets, expanding our supply of clean and low emission generation and community commitment.

## Safety Award for OPG

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is the first employer in Ontario to be awarded the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association's ZeroQuest® Platinum Safety Award. The ZeroQuest® program recognizes member firms for their Health and Safety Management System design, implementation and sustainability including safety performance, safety management systems and safety culture. The Platinum level can only be reached after five years of Gold Award level performance. In May 2005, OPG was the first organization to achieve the Gold Award and has sustained that level since then. Our progress through the ZeroQuest® program is a good example of the safety partnership between OPG and its unions. "This award is testimony to OPG's leadership in promoting safety in the workplace and sharing our best practices throughout the industry. I applaud the members of our staff for their dedication to workplace safety. Winning this award is not an end point for OPG. Zero injuries is our final destination," said Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal.



*(Left to right) OPG's Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal, Ed Enge, Atikokan Generating Station Manager, and Frank Chiarotto, Senior Vice President, Thermal.*

## Atikokan High School Students Tour AGS

Natasha Beyak was just one of the grade 9 students from Atikokan High School who recently toured Atikokan Generating Station (AGS). OPG provides teachers with resources to help them teach electricity generation as part of the science curriculum for grades 1, 6 and 9. The Atikokan High School students took advantage of their proximity to AGS and coupled the tour of the station with OPG's classroom learning resources.



## Atikokan GS Celebrates 5-Year Safety Milestone

Atikokan Generating Station's Joint Health and Safety Committee Co-Chairs, Jeff Palmi, Lindsey Rogoza and Corey Squires get ready to cut the ceremonial cake with Atikokan Generating Station Manager, Ed Enge (centre left), and Northwest Thermal Plant Manager, Derrick Brooks (centre right). The occasion recognized employees for their safety milestone achievement of five years with no lost time due to workplace injury. Congratulations to all!

# New Technical Equipment for Northwestern Ontario's Confederation College



Ontario Power Generation (OPG) was recently recognized by the Confederation College Foundation for its contribution to the TnT (Trades and Technology) Campaign. OPG's support enabled the college to acquire a Mobile Level Control Trainer for the School of Engineering Technology and Trades. The unit simulates real-life equipment installations in an industrial site with a need for controlling a complete process such as pressure, flow, temperature or optimizing the combined processes. Its portability is extremely important to the college's ability to provide trades training throughout Northwestern Ontario. As an engineering, technology and trades-based company, OPG considers this support to be a natural fit and is pleased to be able to help the college students in their quest for higher learning.

*(L-R): Ontario Power Generation representatives Mike Martelli, Manager, Northwest Plant Group and Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager, Northwest Thermal join Confederation College representatives Brian Campbell, Executive Director, Government Relations and John Kantola, Associate Dean and Joe Vieira, Dean of the School of Engineering Technology and Trades.*

## With the help of Atikokan Generating Station – the Walleye are back!

The Atikokan Progress article of January 18, 1999, read, "Cooperation made the new Abie/Marmion Lake Spawning Bed a reality for the community – the rest is up to the walleye!" Flash forward 10 years to January 5, 2009, and the Progress article reads, "OPG, MNR Efforts Pay Off – Marmion walleye fishery recovered – angling closure lifted after 11 years."

A 1996 study indicated that the walleye population in Lower Marmion Lake was in serious decline. The lake was created by impoundments and flooding of surface lands during the active mining years of the Steep Rock Lake iron ore mines. It is now one of several lakes that form a chain of cooling water lakes for Atikokan GS. While the decline of walleye in the lakes was not attributed to a single cause, there was evidence that the station's fluctuating water flows and temperatures were causing early spawning and "hatch advance" of walleye before their natural food supply had emerged. The lakes were closed to walleye fishing until further notice.



*Abie Weir*

Gerry McKenna, OPG's Senior Environmental Scientist, Thermal, said, "A creative solution was to design a weir that doesn't hold water and prevents fish from going upstream, the opposite of what most weirs and dams are required to do." The weir was installed at the outlet of Abie Lake to Marmion Lake in 1998. To help move the program forward, Atikokan GS partnered with the Atikokan Sportsman's Conservation Club and the Ministry of Natural Resources in a fish-stocking program, which introduced 12 million regionally-sourced fish-fry into Marmion Lake over a three-year period commencing in 1998. A succession of netting surveys funded by OPG monitored the walleye population recovery. Atikokan GS staff worked with the MNR to review the results and ensure the new weir was properly maintained and inspected. Brian Jackson, a biologist in the MNR's Atikokan area office, was involved throughout the program. "It's definitely a success story," he said, adding that the public support for the closure was strong and OPG's support for the overall effort was crucial. OPG contributed over half a million dollars to build the weir and support the stocking and netting surveys. "While it took 11 years, the re-opening of the walleye fishery at Atikokan demonstrates that, if we do our part, nature will do the rest," said Ed Enge, Atikokan Generating Station Manager.

## Quetico Park Superintendent Recognized with Business Award



At the Atikokan Chamber of Commerce Business Awards event, Robin Reilly, Quetico Park Superintendent, was recognized as the winner of this year's Ambassador Award, sponsored by Ontario Power Generation. He was cited for his leadership in the development of the Beaten Path Nordic Trails Club and working to better link Atikokan and Quetico. Robin was at a Minneapolis sport show at the time, so Quetico Park's Naturalist, Susan Bourne and Beaten Path executive member, Arlene Robinson, accepted the award on his behalf.

*In the photo (left to right) are Ed Enge, OPG Atikokan GS Station Manager; Val Fraser, Vice-Chair, Atikokan Chamber of Commerce; Derrick Brooks, OPG's Northwest Thermal Plant Manager; Susan Bourne, Quetico Park Naturalist; Mike McKinnon, Chamber of Commerce Chair and Editor of the Atikokan Progress; and Arlene Robinson, Beaten Path Executive.*

# OPG Celebrates the International Year of Biodiversity

Since 2000, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and its conservation partners and site communities have planted close to four million trees and shrubs on more than 1,850 hectares of land. It is one of the largest biodiversity efforts in Ontario to protect existing habitats and provide new habitats for wildlife.

As part of this year's biodiversity initiatives, and in celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, volunteers from OPG's Atikokan Generating Station (AGS), along with members of the 4th Atikokan Scouts Canada Group and their respective families, planted over 2000 trees on the AGS site. Through the Scoutrees Canada program, the participants in this remarkable partnership have planted more than 14,000 trees on the AGS site in the past seven years. John Munro, a retired Ministry of Natural Resources forester and local "trees guy", organized the seedlings while Scout Leaders Brian Burkhart, Lisa Danard, Andrew Elder and Rick Geurts organized the planters. Rick is the 4th Atikokan Scout Group Commissioner and the Rainy River Area Commissioner and he is an employee at AGS. AGS staff members Jason Spencer and Nelson Boutilier volunteered as the barbecue chefs for the day.

AGS also maintains ISO 14001 environmental certification, and was certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) in 2005. WHC certification recognizes excellence in environmental stewardship, including a comprehensive wildlife management program for the AGS property and a demonstrated long-term commitment to wildlife enhancement efforts.

OPG's biodiversity initiatives are designed to RETAIN what is significant, RESTORE habitats that have been degraded, REPLACE habitats that have been lost, and RECOVER species at risk. The program is part of OPG's biodiversity policy which has been in place since the inception of the company.



*Evan Marusyk and his dad, Tyler, an AGS employee.*



*Painted turtles basking at Atikokan GS.*

## *Neighbours* Newsletter

**Atikokan GS** Neighbours is published for the community by Ontario Power Generation's Atikokan Generating Station.

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