At Darlington Nuclear Generating Station, a new First Nations display along with three Ojibway totems proudly celebrate local Indigenous culture and the environment.

OPG collaborated with members of the four Mississauga communities of the Williams Treaties First Nations – Scugog Island, Alderville, Hiawatha and Curve Lake – to produce the unique display and sculptures.

Unveiled in June, the new exhibit at the Darlington Nuclear Information Centre celebrates the history, culture and traditions of the Mississauga people. Darlington Nuclear is located in the traditional territory of what is known collectively as the Mississauga Anishnawbeg.

“When we first built the visitor centre, I had always envisioned that we would have something like this that honours the traditional Indigenous communities in this area,” said Brian Duncan, Senior Vice-President of Darlington Nuclear. “This display is all about informing the community and our employees and tying this area to the rich history that has come before us.”

Several traditional artifacts were donated by members of the First Nations for the display, including an example of porcupine quillwork, a pair of ricing sticks, and a black ash basket.

“Porcupine quillwork is a lost art,” said Kim Muskrat, a member of the Hiawatha First Nation who donated the piece. “We used this before beads were introduced to us to decorate our regalia and outfits.”

Meanwhile, at the nearby Coot’s Pond, three wood sculptures crafted by local Hiawatha artist Jody Paudash are now up for public viewing.

Paudash spent nearly four months carving and painting the nearly eight-feet-tall sculptures out of western red cedar. Each sculpture features two local animals – heron and beaver, osprey and fish, and owl and turtle.

“Each of these animal totems tells its own story of the sacredness of our traditional lands,” said Paudash, who produced the sculptures from an Ojibway worldview. “These totems are a unique vision and interpretation of my culture.”