Neighbours

Pickering | Darlington
Nuclear Generating Stations

Winter 2020

The Pickering and Darlington information centres have some new residents: each is now home to 100 salmon eggs.

Pickering Nuclear has hosted an educational salmon hatchery since 2011 and Darlington Nuclear received their hatchery in 2019. This is part of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Bring Back the Salmon initiative. The program is designed to re-establish a self-sustaining population of Atlantic Salmon in Lake Ontario. OPG is lead sponsor for this program.

Over the next three months, Grade 5 and 6 students from Sir John A. MacDonald in Pickering and St. Joseph’s in Coburg will track the progress of the eggs as part of OPG’s outreach and educational component of the Bring Back the Salmon program.

In late spring, they will release the fry (young salmon) into Duffins Creek and Cobourg Creek respectively.

Mix inquiring minds; water, salmon, with an opportunity for an up close and personal experience with a dash of hands-on learning, and you get engaged, environmentally-minded ambassadors for our future.

OPG is proud to be able to provide this opportunity to our student communities and to have contributed over 1,000 salmon through our hatcheries to the restoration initiative.

Visit bringbackthesalmon.ca for more information.

In this issue:

Two major milestones ahead
Life saving Cobalt-60
Record-setting year for Nuclear fleet
March Break Blitz

Salmon hatchery in full swing!

Name change alert!
Still the same line-up of engaging and fun programs, but will now be known as March Break Blitz.

Be sure to check out the back page for this year’s line-up.

Our staff hope to see you there!
For almost 50 years, Pickering Nuclear Generating Station has been a source of one of the world’s most valuable isotopes, Cobalt-60.

Production of Cobalt-60 will be continued at Darlington in the years ahead thanks to an agreement between OPG and Nordion, an Ottawa-based health sciences company. This agreement will allow OPG to continue to supply Cobalt-60 across Canada and around the world. The isotope Cobalt-60 is used to irradiate and sterilize single use medical devices as well as various foods and spices.

“With Darlington’s ongoing mid-life refurbishment, the station will be a steady and reliable source of medical isotopes for the next 30-plus years,” said Ken Hartwick, President and CEO of OPG. “We’re very proud of our legacy of Cobalt-60 production at Pickering and look forward to continuing this at Darlington.”

Currently, Ontario’s nuclear reactors produce 50 per cent of the world’s supply of Cobalt-60.
Nuclear fleet celebrates record-setting year

It was a record-setting year for our nuclear fleet.

In 2019, Pickering and Darlington Nuclear achieved their best performance ever. Both stations were recognized by the World Association of Nuclear Operators for being among the top performing nuclear stations in the world.

In 2019, Pickering Nuclear produced 23.6 TWh of clean electricity for the province, the highest ever yearly output for the six-unit, 3,100-megawatt station.

Since 2017, three of Pickering’s six units have recorded their longest continuous operating runs in history, including Unit 4, which has now been reliably producing baseload electricity for more than 500 consecutive days.

Darlington Nuclear has also achieved remarkable results, including its best-ever conventional safety performance, lowest station backlogs in history and $280 million of new equipment put into service.

Darlington saw a record run on Unit 1, with the longest run of any unit in station history.

The dedication of staff, many whom reside in the region, along with the commitment to safety, continuous improvement and a drive to excellence, both stations are working toward a repeat performance in 2020.

A note from Scott on the false alert received from the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre

On January 12, people across the province – including OPG employees – were awakened by an Alert Ready warning that was issued in error by the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) during routine training. At the time, our Pickering units were operating as designed, and no notifications indicating otherwise had been issued to PEOC. OPG urged the Province’s Emergency Operations Centre to issue a retraction.

Ensuring our residents are well informed and know what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency is a priority for me and for OPG. We believe an informed community is a prepared community.

I invite you to stop by our Information Centres or call our community information lines at 905-837-7272 or 905-623-7122 to speak with staff about the steps OPG has in place to protect the public. Additionally to familiarize and better prepare yourself and your family I encourage you to visit durham.ca/nuclear preparedness.

OPG’s number one priority is, and will continue to be the safety of our employees, the station, the environment and our host communities.

Scott Burns
VP Security & Emergency Services, OPG
Brought to you by OPG’s Pickering and Darlington Nuclear Stations

**Turtle Tales**
When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Darlington Nuclear Information Centre, 1855 Energy Drive, Courtice
Meet turtle ambassadors up close and personal and learn how you can become a champion of the environment with our friends from Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre and Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority.

**Community Swim**
When: 1 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: Pickering Recreation Complex, 1887 Valley Farm Rd., Pickering
Lots of splashing, lots of laughing – and great exercise for all! Admission is free during program hours.
Pool has maximum occupancy, so it's first-come first-serve.

**Kids' Safety Village Durham**
When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: 1129 Athol St., Whitby
Explore safety in a kid-sized village!
All activities are outdoors. Please dress for the weather.

**Community Skate**
When: 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Where: South Courtice Arena, 1595 Prestonvale Rd., Courtice
Gather your skates, helmet, family and friends. Beginner or expert, young or old, skating is fun for everyone!

**Family Fun at the Farm**
When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: WindReach Farm (see www.windreachfarm.org)
Enjoy snowshoeing, wagon rides and a campfire; make crafts and meet the farm animals.
* A $20 charitable donation to the farm is appreciated. Please dress for the weather. Food and refreshments are available for purchase.

**Turtle Tales**
When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Pickering Nuclear Information Centre, 1675 Montgomery Park Rd., Pickering
Meet turtle ambassadors up close and personal and learn how you can become a champion of the environment with our friends from Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre and Toronto & Region Conservation Authority.

Programs are all free and suitable for children age 6 to 12. All children must be accompanied by an adult.
For more information, please visit www.opg.com