

President's Day of Mourning Message

For more than 30 years, on April 28, Canadian flags have flown at half-mast, and workers have gathered together, across the country, to bear witness to those who have been needlessly killed at work, and to participate in Day of Mourning ceremonies. These ceremonies help us re-energize our efforts, in conjunction with our employers and governments, to achieve our common goal of eliminating all of these unacceptable accidents, injuries and deaths.

We all know that all workplace injuries and fatalities are preventable and avoidable, and we all know too well the terrible suffering of workers, family members, friends and co-workers that follows workplace tragedies.

Every year in Canada approximately 1000 working people die from workplace accidents and illnesses and hundreds of thousands more are injured and exposed to hazardous substances,



Don MacKinnon, PWU President

leaving many of them disabled or suffering from chronic health problems. Approximately 229,000 accident claims were filed with the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board in 2015 that is up almost 15 percent from the year before.

Regrettably, we still have a long way to go to eliminate workplace deaths and injuries but we know we can get there. At Day of Mourning ceremonies, we renew our commitments to achieve our common goal – the elimination of all workplace accidents, injuries and deaths.

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W5 Explores Deep Geological Repository - Kincardine

The forceful snow-filled wind that blew into Kincardine from across Lake Huron on the evening of Friday, March 10, 2017 wasn't enough to keep nearly 80 people from missing a chance to express their opinions on OPG's long-term subterranean low and intermediate-level nuclear waste storage solution in front of W5's national audience. Famed CTV News special correspondent Lloyd Robertson had brought the show's production crew to town having arranged the local Town Hall Meeting in the hopes of capturing some raw footage of a heated local debate. Individuals were asked to address the microphone and express their point of view. It didn't take long however, before the true motivation behind this particular visit to Kincardine revealed itself.



The moderator, who at first sat stoically on his stool at the front of the room encouraging participation, began to ask challenging questions to anyone who spoke to the science behind OPG's proposed Deep Geological Repository (DGR) not only testing their knowledge but prodding for a reaction. Those negative reactions never came and the discussion never did reach that anticipated heated level, no matter how hard the moderator tried. Conversely those testing, prodding questions were never asked of anyone who spoke in opposition of OPG's planned development.

As a result, the edited footage used to create the episode of W5 that aired Saturday, April 1, 2017 does not accurately reflect the broad community support for the DGR project that was demonstrated at the Town Hall Meeting.

The facts are that even though the repository would be geographically close to the lake, it would be geologically remote. It would be located 680 metres deep under horizontal layers of ancient rock formations that have been stable and unchanged for 450 million years. The storage rooms would be located in impermeable rock formations far below moving groundwater systems.

Despite the television program's clear intent of giving a supersized voice to the small but vocal group of area residents opposed to the project, the science came through as rock solid and unchallenged by any technical or scientific standard. The project is clearly supported by a great majority of the people in attendance.

Selfless Act of Extreme Bravery



Barry Gateman (left) pictured here with His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, at the London Convention Centre receiving the Medal of Bravery. Photo courtesy of MCpl Vincent Carbonneau, Rideau Hall, OSGG.

On Thursday, March 9, 2017 PWU Member Barry Gateman received the Medal of Bravery from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, during the Presentation of Canadian Honours at the London Convention Centre.

Barry received this most prestigious award from the Governor General for a daring rescue performed on October 1, 2015. While driving home with his girlfriend, he couldn't help but notice a cloud of thick smoke billowing from a minivan that was upside down in the ditch. With the help of another motorist, James Sylvest, Barry saved the driver from the minivan moments before the interior of the vehicle was engulfed in flames.

Barry Gateman is a Supervising Nuclear Operator at Bruce Power.

The PWU congratulates Barry on this well-deserved honour and commends him for his selfless act of extreme bravery.

PWU Members at EthosEnergy Ratify First Collective Agreement



(Left to Right): Brad Fisher, Danny Barkhouse, Mike Green, Diptesh Patel, Dan Greenwood.

On Thursday, March 2, 2017 some of our newest Power Workers' Union (PWU) Members who work at EthosEnergy voted 93.3% in favour of the ratification of their first collective agreement.

Brad Fisher is the elected PWU Principal Steward for the membership at EthosEnergy Canada Ltd.

In a phone conversation, Brad commented that the members were, "happy with the new collective agreement as indicated by the high percentage of approval." He added that the membership has valued the support they have received from the PWU since being welcomed into membership in November, 2016.

EthosEnergy Canada Ltd. operates the 1005 Megawatt, Greenfield Energy Centre; a combined-cycle natural gas generating station in the Town of Courtright near Sarnia, Ontario. The generating station, which achieved commercial operation in October of 2016, is one of the largest combined-cycle natural gas facilities in Canada.

The first collective agreement with EthosEnergy Canada Ltd. is a three-year contract set to expire on February 24, 2020.

Haldimand Hydro and Woodstock Hydro Employees Become PWU Members

The Power Workers' Union (PWU) is welcoming approximately fifty new members after the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB) made a series of declarations on March 3, 2017, regarding two former municipally-owned local distribution companies that were purchased by Hydro One Inc. These decisions effectively resolve the two sale of business applications that had been submitted to the OLRB under Section 69 of the *Labour Relations Act*.

In the cases of Hydro One's purchase of Haldimand County Hydro Inc. in March of 2015, and their subsequent purchases of Woodstock Hydro Holdings Inc. and

Woodstock Hydro Services Inc. in September of 2015, the OLRB declared in each case, that a sale of business had taken place and that there had been an intermingling of both Haldimand and Woodstock employees with Hydro One employees. The OLRB's decision included a declaration that, effective September 1, 2016, the PWU is the sole bargaining agent for the former employees at Haldimand and Woodstock who are now employees of Hydro One.

Employees at Haldimand and Woodstock had previously been represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 636.

PWU Communications and Training Officer Selected



The Power Workers' Union has selected Bailey Farrell as the new PWU Communications and Training Staff Officer. After serving in the role as a Temporary Staff Officer for the past seven months, Bailey was offered and has accepted the permanent position. He will bring his energy and enthusiasm as well as 15 years of experience in the field as a Regional Maintainer – Forestry to the position.

He has worked as a PWU Health and Safety Accreditation Instructor and was also a member of the PWU Accident Investigator pool.

Lyme Disease: What Our Members Need To Know

Dr. Bindu Kumar is a valuable resource to PWU staff for their members' health needs and provides guidance and management regarding complex cases. At last year's Council of Chief Stewards, Dr. Kumar offered an informative presentation on the subject of Lyme disease.

Dr. Kumar began the presentation by providing the attentive audience with some of the basics of Lyme disease. Lyme disease is a vector-borne illness meaning that the pathogen (infection) is carried from one host to another through an agent. In the case of Lyme disease the carrier agent is the black legged tick. These ticks range in size as they develop through their life cycle from larva, to nymph, to adult. Ticks become infected with Lyme disease bacteria (*Borrelia Burgdorferi*) by feeding on infected wild animals, such as deer, birds or rodents. Once infected, ticks carry the bacteria in their gut and can then spread the bacteria to humans. They are very small and their bites are usually painless. Often the victims of tick bites are unaware that they have been bitten.

- Despite some debate surrounding medical testing and diagnosis Dr. Kumar's message was quite clear. She urges everyone to:
- Increase their index of suspicion.
- Prevent tick bites by using insect repellent that contains 20-30% DEET.
- Wear clothing that has been treated with permethrin.
- Seek early treatment and do not ignore symptoms especially a rash (commonly referred to as a "Bull's-eye").
- Remove the tick appropriately and save it

for public health notification. Improper removal of the tick can increase the chances of the bacteria being transmitted.

- Take a picture of any rash and do not delay treatment or a WSIB claim.
- Look for ticks on your body. Take a shower as soon as you can after working outdoors.

WSIB Staff Officer Andrew Kolar, provided a non-specific overview report on some of the cases already before the board. Health and Safety Staff Officers, Tom Nicholls and Steve Truant were also on hand to report on what PWU members are dealing with out in the field. They circulated a Tick Kit that is much better than what employees currently have access to, and they are working to get the employers to provide the superior Tick Kit. As a preventative measure, members are encouraged to stay educated on this rapidly developing issue. Dr. Kumar's full PowerPoint presentation is now available at your members' portal website. www.members.pwu.ca



Dr. Bindu Kumar (front left), Andrew Kolar, Tom Nicholls and Steve Truant at the 70th Annual Council of Chief Stewards

Friendly Advice Leads to Prize



Donna DiBiase pictured here at her workplace (Inergi-CSO) with her new PWU travel bag.

The winner of the PWU Travel Bag Draw is Donna DiBiase.

This prize draw was held to bring awareness to the importance of confidential communication between a Union and its Membership. The PWU requests that all members login to the secure PWU Members' website (members.pwu.ca) and update their contact information to include a personal email address. By doing so, Members can become eligible for various prize draws. Donna's name was randomly selected Friday, March 10 from just over five thousand eligible Members' entries.

Donna first heard of the PWU travel bag draw from her friend and co-worker Jannie Benico. Jannie was reading the December 2016, issue of *PowerWorks*, the PWU Newsletter, and mentioned to Donna that she too should enter the prize

draw. Donna decided to give it a try. She logged into the secure PWU members' website, and entered her name and personal email address.

"When I listened to the voicemail message telling me that I had won, I laughed out loud and almost fell out of my chair!" quipped Donna.

For her efforts, Donna received two stylish PWU carry-on travel bags. And in case you are wondering, she did indeed give one of the two travel bags to her good luck charm Jannie, who just happened to have a trip away planned for the following weekend. Congratulations Donna, from all of the PWU.



Canada's Wonderland

PWU Day at Canada's Wonderland



Saturday, June 10th 2017

Tickets include admission to Canada's Wonderland on June 10th, an All You Can Eat BBQ Buffet & Early Admission to KidZville and the NEW Soaring Timbers Area exclusive for PWU Members and their families from 9am – 10am.

Read your ticket for more details!

Save up to \$50 per person with your PWU Day Ticket!

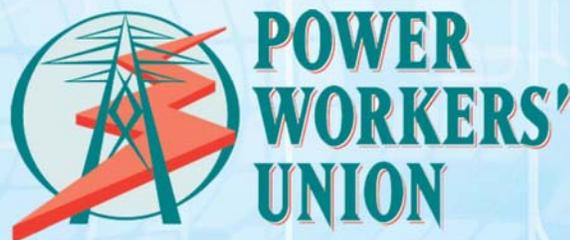
\$20 + HST for Adults (Ages 3+ and equal to or over 48" tall)

\$15 + HST for Children (Ages 3+ and under 48" tall)

\$15 + HST for Seniors (Ages 60+)

2017 Season Pass Holders need to Click the Link to obtain their Free Lunch Tickets.

Tickets are available on a first come first serve basis until May 31st, 2017 or while supplies last.



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