

POWERWORKS

PWU Newsletter
December 2016



Year-End Message From President Don MacKinnon

2016 was another very successful and tremendously busy year at the PWU and in our industry generally.

The Holiday Season is a time of year to reflect on accomplishments of the past year and to recharge our energy levels, a time to reach out to friends, family and loved ones and a time to give thanks for all we have.

No doubt, 2017 will bring many challenges and opportunities for PWU members and their families. We will face those as we always do – together – and with renewed strength, determination and creativity.

On behalf of the Power Workers' Union Executive and Staff, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy Holiday Season.



Don MacKinnon
PWU President

Inside this issue

- Year-End Message From President Don MacKinnon
- PWU Welcomes New Members at EthosEnergy
- Workers Training Workers in Health and Safety
- Apprenticeship Graduates Have a Bright Future
- OPG Announces Plan to Decommission Lambton G.S.
- Win a Pair of PWU Travel Bags!
- Remembrance Day
- Ned Wardrop Receives Health and Safety Award

PWU Welcomes New Members at EthosEnergy

In November, 2016, the Power Workers' Union (PWU) was certified by the Ontario Labour Relations Board as the bargaining agent for the employees of EthosEnergy (Canada) Ltd., working at the Greenfield Energy Centre in the Town of Courtright, near Sarnia, Ontario.



Greenfield Energy Centre

The Greenfield Energy Centre achieved commercial operation on October 16, 2008. This 1,005 MW generating station is one of the largest combined-cycle natural gas facilities in Canada, providing a reliable and readily dispatchable source of electricity for Ontario consumers.

The Power Workers' Union is very pleased to welcome the highly skilled workers at EthosEnergy into membership.

Workers Training Workers in Health and Safety

The PWU considers health and safety to be paramount and that its' principal function is to ensure that the membership's workplaces are safe. It is with this guiding principle that the PWU committed both resources and expertise towards the development of an accredited health and safety training program and has been providing this extensive training to PWU member representatives since the spring of 2004. At that time, the PWU teamed up with the Ontario Federation of Labour's Workers' Health and Safety Centre, (WHSC) to develop an accreditation training program for PWU health and safety advocates. The course materials were developed with focused connections to various PWU workplace environments.

Congratulations to the latest group of 25 dedicated PWU members who have now completed all three levels of the PWU Health and Safety Accreditation Training.

The PWU offers three full levels of accredited health and safety training. Each level contains four different modules and each module is packed full of important information relevant to the course participants' workplaces. Once a participant completes all three levels of training they will receive a Certificate of Training, from the WHSC and the PWU, acknowledging their accomplishments and their newly acquired working knowledge in health and safety.

Congratulations to the latest group of 25 dedicated PWU members who have now completed all three levels of the PWU Health and Safety Accreditation Training. They include PWU Health and Safety Committee Members, Health and Safety Representatives, Chief Stewards and Principal Stewards.



Graduates listed alphabetically: Robin Bice, Edward Boucher, Andreea Cote, Adam Cox, Donald Doucet, James Falconer, Keith Falconer, Emily Farrell, Brett Finlayson, Mike Good, Holly Gushue-Tulk, Kevin Hervieux, Mark Kench, Scott Leadston, Jesse MacHale, Ian Mackenzie, Darrell Meeks, Lisa Munday, Joshua Pitt, Giulio Robles, Paul G. Robichaud, Stephen Smale, Jamie Smith, David Stabile, and Dan Wannamaker.

PWU Instructors listed alphabetically: Blair Bradshaw, Todd Field, Sheldon Speedie, Dave Trumble, and Hans Van Beek. Photo: Friday September 23, 2016, PWU Training Facility - Toronto

These three day courses are facilitated by trained PWU instructors. In addition to the information contained in the course materials, there is a good amount of information and experience sharing during classroom discussion. Maximizing the time spent together and getting to know health and safety advocates from a broad range PWU bargaining units is a big part of the course design.

By completing this training, the participants gain a better understanding of their roles in the workplace and they will be better equipped with the tools necessary to help eliminate or manage hazards. This training is above and beyond any training required by any level of government and it is provided by the PWU as a means of ensuring that its health and safety representatives are among the most highly trained anywhere.

In October, six more PWU representatives completed an additional two weeks of extensive training to qualify them as instructors who can facilitate the three levels of accreditation training for PWU health and safety advocates. Congratulations to the newest group of PWU Health and Safety Instructors.



Pictured from left: Andrea Velanoff (WHSC), Steve Truant (PWU H&S Staff Officer), Jackie Lariviere (JHSC–OPG–Lennox GS), Jamie Smith (JHSC-OPG-Eastern Ops), Wayne Galandy (WHSC Instructor), Marc Levesque (Chief Steward-Hydro One-Burlington), Jesse MacHale (JHSC-Hydro One-Kingston). Absent from the photo, Denise Carr (Lead Steward/JHSC-PowerStream).

Photo: Oct 28, 2016, PWU Training Facility, Toronto



(Far Left) Greg Towns, (Hydro One) and **(Far Right)** John Ives, (PWU) pose with a recent group of 120 Powerline Technician Apprenticeship graduates who are proudly wearing their commemorative apprenticeship jackets, following the graduation ceremony in Barrie, Ontario.

Apprenticeship Graduates Have a Bright Future

During the week of October 3rd to the 7th, the Power Workers' Union/Hydro One Joint Apprenticeship Council (JAC) took pride in recognizing the achievements of many new apprenticeship graduates. In all, the JAC presented 228 new Lines and Forestry (Utility Arborist) graduates with certification plaques and commemorative apprenticeship jackets. Graduation ceremonies were held throughout the province in the city centers of; Thunder Bay, Barrie, Orillia, London and Bancroft.

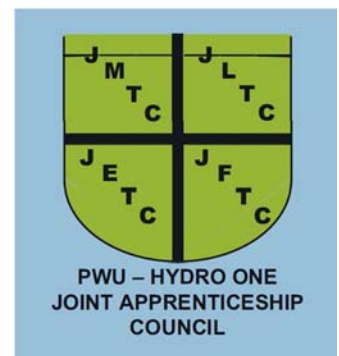
The PWU/Hydro One JAC has been responsible for the apprenticeship programs at Hydro One since 1998. A class consisting of eight Line Apprentices was the first to be selected into the program in 1999. Since then, nearly 2,000 apprentices have been selected and trained through the JAC and over 1,300 of those have secured full-time regular employment with Hydro One. There are currently 549 apprentices enrolled in apprenticeship training programs throughout the province.

All apprentices are jointly selected through the JAC and may be assigned to work alongside qualified Regular or Hiring Hall employees, as required for training and practical experience. As part of their apprenticeship curriculum, all apprentices are required to complete the Certificate of Qualification, which means that they are required to successfully complete government recognized apprenticeship training and examinations in order to graduate and become journeymen in their trade.

Tradespersons are now trained and required to obtain a trade licence as follows:

- Linepersons - Certified Powerline Technician.
- Electricians - Certified Construction and Maintenance Electrician.
- Mechanical Maintainers - Certified Industrial Millwright.
- Truck Mechanics - Certified as Truck and Coach Technicians.
- Foresters - Certified Utility Arborist.

Prior to the establishment of the JAC, the employer had followed a company specific training model that did not provide the workers with widely recognized "Red Seal" federal and provincial apprenticeship certifications.



All aspects of apprenticeship program governance including; hiring, training, administration, discipline, recognition and certification; fall under the jurisdiction of the PWU/Hydro One JAC.

The PWU/Hydro One JAC is going strong with a successful completion rate of 95% which is significantly higher than industry standards. Nearly 200 new apprentices are expected to enroll in the program in 2017.

OPG Announces Plan to Decommission Lambton G.S.

November 22, 2016. Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has announced a plan to decommission the Lambton Generating Station near Sarnia, Ontario. The Power Workers' Union disagrees with this plan and has submitted to the Minister of Energy that the existing Lambton and Nanticoke Generating Stations are of much greater value to the province as a repurposed, low-cost, dispatchable source of the province's peak electricity supply. Converting the retired coal generating stations to utilize carbon-neutral biomass in conjunction with natural gas, is a low-cost option that would deliver significant environmental and economic benefits to the province.



Photo: Lambton Generating Station

Converting the Lambton and the Nanticoke Generating Stations would:

- Recycle and reuse valuable, provincially-owned, generating stations and transmission lines that are already sited, built and paid for;
- Cost far less than building new natural gas plants;
- Reduce the need to site and build new natural gas plants and transmission lines;
- Secure a continuing revenue stream for the people of Ontario;
- Make renewable, low-carbon electricity available when consumers need it;
- Displace carbon-emitting natural gas;
- Lessen Ontario's dependence on imported natural gas and help improve Ontario's energy security;
- Provide continuing social and economic benefits for the supportive local communities that want to keep these generating stations operating;
- Support existing Ontario jobs and stimulate growth in the forestry, agricultural and transportation sectors;
- Create thousands more full-time jobs. Investments in biomass fuel supply chain and infrastructure are estimated to create about 3,500 jobs and contribute about \$600 million annually to Ontario's GDP;
- Keep more of the economic and innovation benefits of the biomass supply chain industry in Ontario instead of letting them go offshore to big multi-national developers.

Win a Pair of PWU Travel Bags!

The Power Workers' Union is giving away two stylish carry-on travel bags to one lucky PWU member. Here's how to enter your name into this random draw:

- Login to the PWU secure members' area at members.pwu.ca and update your email contact details to a personal email address. (Employer issued email addresses do not qualify for this random draw)
- If this is your first time logging in, you will need your PWU Membership Identification Number to login.
- Your PWU Membership Identification Number is located on your PWU Member Identification Card which you should have received in the mail.
- If you have not yet received your PWU Member Identification Card in the mail, please contact either your Chief Steward, or the PWU office to obtain your PWU Membership Identification Number.
- If you have already registered with a personal email address, your name will automatically be included in the draw.

This draw is open to all PWU Members but only those who have updated to a personal email contact address by midnight of March 9, 2017, will qualify to win. The winner will be randomly selected from all eligible entrants at 10 am on March 10, 2017. The winner of the draw will be contacted immediately and the results will be published in the ensuing edition of, *POWERWORKS PWU Newsletter*.

Good Luck to Everyone!!



Remembrance Day

This year, the Power Workers' Union participated in the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Old City Hall in Toronto. While the 7th Toronto Regiment Band, RCA, played, *O Valiant Hearts*, John Camilleri, (below) PWU Executive Board/Sector Representative for Toronto Hydro, laid a wreath in honour of the brave men and women who have served and who continue to serve in Canada's military and peace-keeping missions around the world.

The ultimate sacrifices that these Canadians and their families have made, make it possible for the rest of us to live, work and prosper in a peaceful society.



Many PWU members and leaders over the decades, first served in Canada's military and then went on to make great contributions to their Union.

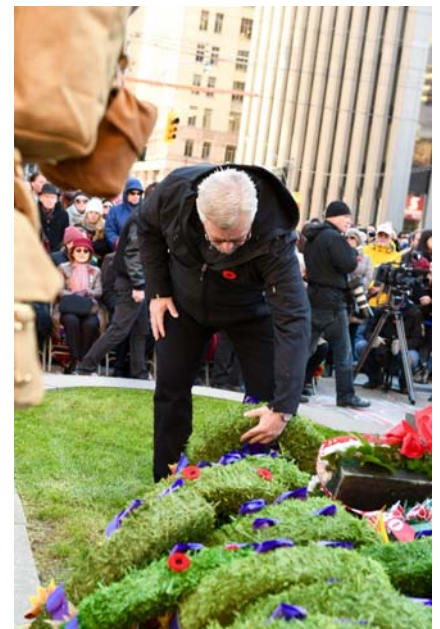


Photo By: Michael Tenaglia



Cenotaph at Old City Hall, Toronto, Ontario



The Veterans

a Documentary Series

The Veterans: A Documentary Series, is an extensive series of videos produced by the PWU. Several new, high definition episodes have been produced over the past year. The videos articulate the real life military and civilian experience of many military veterans from all branches of service. In each of the episodes, a different military veteran from World War II to the present gives their unique and direct recount of their military service life experience.

The veterans, who participated in these interviews, have given generously of their time and have told their stories to help raise awareness to the many difficulties involved with military service and the personal impact that this service has had on both themselves and their families.

Visit www.pwu.ca if you would like to watch and learn more.

Ned Wardrop Receives Health and Safety Award

November 27, 2016 - Several representatives from the Power Workers' Union (PWU) attended a Christmas dinner hosted by the Grey-Bruce Labour Council (G-BLC) at the Legion Hall in Tara, Ontario, to show support for PWU member Ned Wardrop as he received the 2016 Workers' Health and Safety Center / Grey-Bruce Labour Council, Health and Safety Activist Award. Ned began working at the Bruce site in 1982 when he moved into the area from Deep River. He became a Union Steward in 1984, and continued in that role until 1998 when he joined the Bruce B Joint Health & Safety Committee. Today, Ned serves as the PWU Co-Chairperson for that committee and has since the year 2000. In addition to his Health and Safety role at the Bruce Site, he has provided his energy and knowledge to help facilitate PWU Health and Safety Accreditation training courses at the PWU training facility in Toronto. Ned's passion for the health and well-being of others is well known throughout the Bruce Site and the PWU Health and Safety activist network.



Left: Kim Marshall (WHSC), Steve Truant (PWU), Ned Wardrop (PWU), Dave Trumble (G-BLC), Kevin Smith (G-BLC),
Back Left: Ryan Brown (PWU), Doug Bohnert (PWU)

When Ned accepted the prestigious award he told a story of a worker who, in the course of their workday, had become the victim of a workplace fatality in an unfortunate forklift accident. "That worker," Ned said, "didn't think for one second, while getting ready to go to work that morning that they wouldn't be returning home to their family."

"Our job as health and safety activists," he said, "is to make sure that everybody goes home with ten fingers and ten toes. Every worker has the right to work safely and they have the right to make it home."

Congratulations to Ned from all PWU members.

