

Keeping you connected to the DGR



Marie Wilson

After a very busy summer of engagement activities, the mobile exhibit for Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for low and intermediate level nuclear waste (L&ILW) will be making its final appearance of the season, before it goes into hibernation for the winter months, at Pumpkinfest on October 2 and 3 in Saugeen Shores.

The exhibit has certainly made the rounds this season beginning with dates at five home shows in Chesley, Walkerton, Hanover, Kincardine and Port Elgin – a lot of talk about a lot of rock because as you know the proposed DGR will be located about 680 metres beneath the Bruce nuclear site in low permeability limestone capped by a 200-metre-thick cap of low permeability shale – like I said, a lot of rock. Following the home shows, the schedule for the DGR exhibit included venues at the Kincardine Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Keady Market, Kincardine Farmers' Market, Port Elgin Flea Market, Inverhuron Safety Day and Sandfest at Sauble Beach.

Sandfest was a new venue for the exhibit this year and literally hundreds and hundreds of visitors stopped by to talk to us on the Saturday (Aug. 7). It should be noted that the main stage, situated not that far from the mobile exhibit, provided extremely good entertainment throughout the afternoon first with an Elvis impersonator who did the King proud, while the next group up – The Caverns – had the crowd rocking to popular Beatle tunes. So despite having to compete with such stellar entertainment, the mobile exhibit still held its own and, in fact, the numbers through the exhibit at Sandfest compared quite favourably with those from the International Plowing Match held about two years ago near Teeswater, which was our best event to date in terms of numbers when it comes to connecting with the public.



The DGR mobile exhibit enjoyed a day in the sun at Sandfest this year where NWMO staff had discussions with hundreds of visitors about the DGR.



Pumpkinfest is fast approaching and the DGR mobile exhibit will be on display underneath the big top with OPG's Feathered Friends on October 2 and 3. Check out the bird feeder craft!

However, with the sun, sand and summer now behind us, we are looking forward to taking the exhibit to Pumpkinfest which certainly, in Bruce County, epitomizes everything that is fall. As always, the exhibit will be found under OPG's Feathered Friends tent, and once again OPG will be sponsoring a free-flying presentation from the Canadian Raptor Conservancy, which features such Birds of Prey as the Golden Eagle, Red-Tailed Hawk and Peregrine Falcon. Shows on Saturday are at: 11 am, 2pm and 4pm and on Sunday the birds will be performing at: 11am, 1pm and 3pm. And remember those wonderful bird feeders the kiddies, with a lot of help from their friends - feathered or not - got to make last year – well, they are back and there will be lots of OPG staff volunteers on hand to help make these treats, which have proven to be very popular with our avian friends.

And after you have been through the bird feeder line, make sure you check out the DGR mobile exhibit. Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) staff will be on hand to discuss the DGR Project. See you there – bring on the pumpkins where bigger is definitely better!!