

Keeping you connected to the DGR



Marie Wilson

For the fourth year in a row, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) sponsored the Canadian Raptor Conservancy's Birds of Prey free-flying presentation at Pumpkinfest where birds such as the Golden Eagle, Red-Tailed Hawk and Peregrine Falcon performed three shows daily for the two-day event held on Oct. 3 and 4. In keeping with both tradition and the overall bird theme of the Pumpkinfest sponsorship, OPG provided shelter in their tent for interest groups that work with wildlife and habitats such as Friends of McGregor, Saugeen Conservation Authority and Marine Heritage. "OPG's Feathered Friends" definitely provided an informative, educational experience on several levels for the throngs of enthusiastic Pumpkinfest crowds who always attend this well known event, which was voted one of Ontario's top events, and winner of Festival and Events Ontario's Community Involvement Award.

Many of those who came to see OPG's Feathered Friends this year watched from beneath the cover of their umbrellas because of the aggressive rain which came in intervals; however, every cloud really does have a silver lining though, and most of those who came to watch the birds ended up in the OPG tent for some respite from the elements. So, although the attendance in the tent is always excellent, the inclement weather definitely caused a groundswell in the number of visitors going through to check out the wildlife displays as well as the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) exhibit on OPG's proposed low and intermediate level waste deep geologic repository (L&ILW DGR). And new to OPG's tent this year, was the addition of a new hands-on (literally) activity where participants were invited to make a bird feeder, again in keeping with the bird theme.

Most of you will be aware by now of the drama that unfolded at the big tent where a 1,678 - pound pumpkin tipped the scales to break the Canadian record by 141.5 lbs., and was just 11 pounds shy of the world record, but for those of us who were helping with the bird feeder line in the OPG tent, it felt like we were on the verge of setting our own record. About 504 participants - mostly wee ones - made their way through the line in front of the OPG

display to: pick a cone (filled with lard), dip it in bird seed, wrap it in burlap and have it tied with a string long enough for hanging purposes to produce an epicurean feast fit for our avian feathered friends. As you might imagine, there was a lot of scooping of lard and tying of string by OPG and NWMO volunteers alike, who thoroughly enjoyed this interaction with the public - world record or not.

As a side note, it isn't by coincidence that OPG and NWMO employees were working side by side at Pumpkinfest. Given that NWMO is managing OPG's L&ILW DGR through the regulatory approvals process on OPG's behalf, there is a lot of interaction between employees from both companies. And just to be really clear, OPG is owner, future licensee and operator of the L&ILW DGR.

And speaking of the L&ILW DGR, NWMO, on behalf

of OPG, will be hosting a series of seven open houses at the beginning of November and you are invited to attend. Helpful staff will be available to hear your views, answer any questions and provide you with an update on the project. Open houses will be held from 4 - 8 p.m. at the following dates and locations: Kincardine - Kincardine Davidson Centre on Nov. 2, Ripley Huron Community Centre on Nov. 3, Walkerton -



OPG volunteers from left, Lynda Cain, Dave Bell and Nancy Dillon prepare the "Make a Bird Feeder Station" in the OPG tent during Pumpkinfest.

Victoria Jubilee Hall on Nov. 4, Port Elgin - Colonial Motel on Nov.5, Chesley - Chesley Fire Hall on Nov. 9, Owen Sound - Bayshore Community Centre on Nov. 10, Wiarton - Wiarton & District Community Centre on Nov. 12. Hope to see you there and for more information give me a call at 519 368-1639 or visit our project website at: www.nwmo.ca/dgr. Opportunities for Aboriginal Communities will be welcomed at their request.

Before closing off, I want to mention that Bruce County Warden Bill Goetz was honoured at the annual Warden's Banquet on Oct. 24 at the Knight's of Columbus Hall between Mildmay and Walkerton. Known for his dry sense of humour, I'm sure Bill enjoyed the event where toasts, speeches and humour are never in short supply nor more appreciated. Congratulations to Warden Goetz!