



# New Post Creek Project News

Newsletter #13

Spring 2015



Equipment removing brush on the access road.



Trucks hauling aggregate from Lower Mattagami sites.

## President's Message

*Wayne Ross, President*

Good Day TTN Membership

Spring is in the air, meaning time for another Newsletter.

I think this is my favourite President's Message to date because I have a lot of good news to share with the TTN membership about the project.

We received a Limited Notice to Proceed for the project in late February to begin clearing the access road and project areas. An aggregate haul from the Lower Mattagami site has also begun. These were initiated earlier than other project work so as not to lose the opportune time to do these during the winter. The two contracts for this work were TTN set-asides and TTN joint ventures were awarded both contracts. We anticipate more contracts will be awarded once the Construction Contract is signed and work begins in earnest.

I am very pleased by the work that our employment and training coordinator, Freda Ouellette, has been doing. She has been diligently managing questions and taking comments from members regarding employment, training, and contracting. Thanks to her work and their own, five TTN individuals have completed the Heavy Equipment Operator training course this past winter. This will enable them to gain employment on the many projects occurring within our Traditional Territory and beyond.

The negotiations for the New Post Creek Project Revenue Mechanism are still being finalized. The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), CRP, and OPG negotiating

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## Chief and Council Message

The decision to move forward with the construction of the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station is an important and historic milestone, not just for the Coral Rapids Power, but for the whole Taykwa Tagamou Nation. This project is the result of years of work, some of which was done by members and leaders who are no longer with us, but we have benefited from the foundation they laid for TTN to pursue self-sufficiency. The return to self-sufficiency for TTN will not happen overnight, although our members and their companies have and will continue to work on the construction of the project. The benefits of this project will last for decades, and this project will be a legacy to our children, our grandchildren, and our descendants to come.

Taking control of our future is about more than economic benefits; it is about proving that we can manage resources responsibly as our ancestors did and work together to support the whole community, using those resources in our territory. Over time our territory has changed, and we have changed, but with projects like this, we can find a new way forward that helps us to remember who we are. We are proud that the name of one of our late elders, Peter Sutherland Sr., will grace the generating station, and remind everyone of the past and continued presence of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation in this region.

The Chief and Council would like to thank the many people  
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# New Post Creek Project History

*At this milestone in the New Post Creek Project, it is important to remember the years of work and the reasons this project is important to the Taykwa Tagamou Nation.*

The New Post Creek Project is the result of years of work by many people, supported by the Chiefs and Councils of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation over many terms. Most importantly, community members have provided support, knowledge, and their voice throughout the project development.

The story that has led to today has not always been positive, but it demonstrates the resilience and creativity of the people of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation, and their commitment to create a better future for themselves and their children.

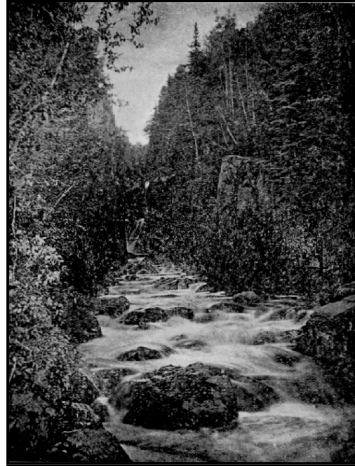
New Post Creek, or Cheepilloya Sebee as it is known in Cree (English translation: Great Partridge River) played an important role in the lives of the people of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN), as well as people from other First Nations, since time immemorial. It was an important source of water, and was an important fishing, hunting, and trapping area while providing a key transportation route. The region around the creek was a source of partridge, rabbit, and moose.

The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) established a trading post on the banks of the Abitibi River near the mouth of New Post Creek in 1867. This trading post was busy during the summer months as people brought items for trade, and several TTN families lived at the site seasonally throughout the operation of the trading post. After the HBC post closed in 1925 and the construction of the railway nearby, most families moved from the site although some TTN families continued to use the site seasonally. There were burials at this site and archaeological investigations conducted in the area have found a variety of artifacts related to the occupation and use of the site by First Nations and the HBC post.

The development of hydroelectric facilities in the Abitibi region started in the 1930s with the first station of Abitibi Canyon, however, it was the development in 1961 of Otter Rapids Generating Station that forever changed New Post Creek. In order to provide additional water to the generating station at Otter Rapids, the flow of the Little Abitibi River was diverted through New Post Creek into the Abitibi River to increase the electricity generated at the new Otter Rapids site. The diversion dam was built in 1963 and dramatically increased the volume of water passing through the creek. The creek as it appears today is the result of the diversion in 1963.

The TTN community did not forget the impact of this change to the landscape of their traditional territory and

pushed to reach an agreement with Ontario Power Generation (OPG, formerly Ontario Hydro) in the following decades. However, it was not until 2006 that OPG and the Taykwa Tagamou Nation were able to start working together and signed an agreement to jointly explore new hydroelectric development opportunities in the Abitibi River north of Highway 11. The settlement of TTN's grievance came in November 2007 after a historic community vote to accept a settlement and work together on the development of the New Post Creek Project.



New Post Creek in 1899.

In order to ensure that the history of this area was never forgotten for this project, the generating station developed on the New Post Creek will be named the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station, in honour of the late elder from TTN who had hunted, trapped, and traveled along New Post Creek throughout his life. This name was suggested by Peter Archibald Sr., a former Chief and a key supporter and advisor on the New Post Creek Project for many years.

The development of the project was not an easy process as the site was in a unique position, and required diligent work by the partnership between OPG and TTN, represented by Coral Rapids Power (CRP), to achieve its current status. The site was partially located inside the Little Abitibi Provincial Park and required the coordination of two environmental assessment processes and a variety of stakeholders, government ministries, and consultants.



The community vote in 2007.

In order to proceed, the TTN community agreed in 2009 to identify other ecologically significant lands in the area that could be added to the park in exchange for the removal of some land to enable the project. The changes to the park will actually result in the protection of a larger area and enhanced ecological integrity.

The site was also part of a special planning area of Northern Ontario, the Moose River Basin Co-Planning Commitment, for waterpower development, which required the signing of reciprocal agreements with Moose Cree First Nation prior to developing the New Post Creek site. The 2010 agreements enabled the redevelopment of the Lower Mattagami hydroelectric projects and improved First Nation participation in the benefits of both developments. These agreements also led to the creation of the New Post Creek Joint Working Group which included participation by Moose Cree First Nation and provides a forum for open dialogue on all environmental issues related to the project.

In 2009, the project team and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Ontario Parks agreed on a coordinated regulatory approval process that would include a Waterpower Class environmental assessment, a park boundary amendment, and an accompanying Provincial Park environmental assessment. The environmental assessment process did not officially start until 2011, but baseline research and data collection was started in 2009. Also in 2009, MNR and Ontario Parks authorized the installation of a water gauge in the New Post Creek in 2009. This was a key step as the years of data from this gauge have helped to determine the project design and economics.

The Project Team, which includes a variety of experts from a number of consulting firms, as well as TTN members, worked diligently on the permitting and design of the project to ensure that the project would provide the right balance of environmental impact and economic benefit.

Detailed engineering work was started in 2011 by the project engineering consultant, KGS Group. This research was used to assess the geology below the surface throughout the project area, which includes the intake structure on New Post Creek above the falls, the penstock, and the generating station at the base of the falls. In 2012 winter ice conditions were assessed to determine how the presence of ice would impact on the project during the low water months in the winter.

The project team examined and considered a variety of options about the amount of water that would continue to flow over the falls throughout the various seasons. These important discussions started in 2011 and considered a variety of environmental, aesthetic, engineering, operational, and economic factors. 2D and 3D models for the water flow in the creek above the intake structure, over the falls, and in the creek below the falls were developed and used to help guide discussions with stakeholders, the project team, and the Ministry of Natural Resources. A final agreement on flows was reached in 2012 and an amendment to the Abitibi Water Management plan will be completed to determine the operating plans for the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station.

Consultation and engagement with other First Nations, trappers, stakeholders, and Metis in the area started before the environmental assessment (EA) formally started. During the formal EA process, project information sessions were held on reserve at TTN, in Moosonee, Timmins, Moose Factory, Smooth Rock Falls, and Cochrane in 2011 and 2012.

Waterpower projects are large and expensive and ensuring

that the economic benefits of the project are maximized for TTN while the risks are minimized has been a focus for the partnership throughout the project process. The project team and TTN Chief and Council agreed to pursue a Hydroelectric Energy Supply Agreement (HESA) in 2010. A HESA agreement reduces the risks to the owners, but still ensures that TTN

will benefit from the project throughout long term contract with the Independent Electricity System Operator. Maximizing the revenue from the project operations is only one part of the work that the project team has focused on in terms of benefits to TTN.

Employment and contracting for TTN members has been another key area of interest throughout the project and an Employment and Training Coordinator (ETC) has been in place since 2009. The ETC collected information about the skills of TTN members and identified training opportunities that would help ensure TTN members had the right skills for the employment opportunities that would result from the large projects in the region. The ETC also organized

union information sessions and provided members with information about a variety of training and job opportunities throughout the project process.

As a result of the ETC's work, many TTN members have been trained in a variety of skills and trades, and new companies have been formed to take advantage of the regional opportunities. These companies and individuals are better positioned now to take on the work from the New Post Creek Project.

The project team also ensured that the selection of a Design

Build contractor for the project included the contractor's proposed plan for engaging and maximizing TTN participation in the construction. Kiewit was selected as the Design Build contractor for the Front End Engineering and Design and the Execution Phase of the project in 2014. The EA process was also completed in 2014.

Full construction process will get started in Spring 2015, with project operations scheduled to start in late 2017.

After years of work, the project has reached an important and significant milestone. The opportunities for employment and contracting are beginning to appear now, and the benefits of ownership will start to flow once the project is commissioned. This will be the start of a new era of self-sufficiency for TTN.



A site visit of the intake location.



One of the community meetings for the environmental assessment.

## Employment and Training Update

*Freda Ouellette, Employment and Training Coordinator*

I am currently focusing on individual training plans for interested TTN members. If you are interested in gaining employment on the project please stop by my office to identify your skills and any potential requirements and training needs.

This is a unionized project and if you are already in a union please keep up with your union dues and keep your name in good standing. If you have gained employment and training certificates please let us know so we can update your file on the ARMS database.

We have assisted five TTN members in successfully completing the Heavy Equipment Operator training at Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario. This is an important milestone for these individuals, and will provide them with opportunities on the NPC project and other projects as these skills are in demand.

CRP has been mandated by Chief and Council to maintain the TTN Business Registry and to date we have registered 18 TTN Business. If you have updated information about your business, or have a business to register, please contact me.

If you have questions about employment, contracting, or training for this project, or want to learn more about the opportunities on the project, please call, email, or stop by the office at Apitisawin.

I have also been working closely with Apitisawin Employment and Training Center to identify how they can assist with any training and skills development that TTN members may require for employment on the project.

## Environmental Assessment Update

There has been additional environmental work completed since filing the Statement of Completion with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) in May 2014. As a result of minor design changes proposed by Kiewit to reduce costs the environmental team re-assessed the potential impacts and concluded that the new design did not have adverse impacts that could not be mitigated. The Supplementary Report that documented the re-assessment was submitted to MOECC in December 2014 and on January 26th 2015 MOECC accepted the Report's conclusions and no further work is required. This means that the Environmental Assessment for the NPC project is complete. In February 2015 the environmental team was also able to successfully obtain Location Approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). The assessment on mercury submitted in December 2015 is still being assessed by MOECC. Kiewit has also been working with the Joint Working Group and MNRF to obtain various tree clearing and access road permits.

## Construction Update

The initial phase of the construction of the New Post Creek project is underway, with some early stage clearing and road construction. Access roads are clearing a 30m width for roads, and preparing access and turn-out points to allow trucks hauling aggregate to pass on the road to the site. The project site area has been cleared of timber materials that are non-merchantable, and the higher quality merchantable timber will be removed later. Aggregate materials from the Lower Mattagami project are being hauled and stockpiled at the New Post Creek site for later use in this project.

### President's Message continued

teams finalized a Term Sheet in March 2015. The negotiating teams are now working well together to finalize the full agreement. The agreed on target completion date is June 1, 2015.

CRP held a meeting with its Board of Directors on March 10th, at which time the Board agreed to advance the NPC Project to the Construction Phase based on the current construction cost estimates and the negotiated Term Sheet with the IESO. I wish to thank the Board for their continued support, expertise, and direction in achieving this important milestone.

Chief and Council were also briefed on the project progress and the need to have the project move into the Construction Phase. A BCR was signed by Chief & Council stating their agreement to move into the Construction Phase and support the Board's decision. Again I must thank them for their support these last months and through the history of this project.

I am looking forward to working alongside our partner OPG, and the Contractor, Kiewit/Aecon, in the construction of the New Post Creek Project.

Thank You.

### Chief and Council Message continued

ple who have worked on this project throughout the years, and have overcome many obstacles to reach today's milestone. We also wish to thank our partner, Ontario Power Generation and the numerous staff who have supported and helped to push this project forward. This project is the proof that we can work together, with government, with industry, and with each other to right some of the past wrongs, and build a better relationship.

We can not change the past, but we are changing the future of our community. This is not the end of the work, but is another step forward that we are taking together.

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