



# New Post Creek Project News

Newsletter #3

May, 2009

## Employment and Training Coordinator Hired

As the New Post Creek Project approaches the end of Concept Phase and enters Definition Phase, there is a more pressing need to identify the skills and employment demands of the project in the future, and a need to identify the Taykwa Tagamou Nation members who might be able to fill those employment needs. Coral Rapids Power, with its partner Ontario Power Generation, has hired an Employment and Training Coordinator. Linda Archibald-Job has been hired to fill this role starting May 19, 2009.



Linda Archibald-Job

The key work that Linda will be doing is to complete a database of all TTN members that will include information about their skills and contact information. This will help to create a potential employee list for the New Post Creek Project, or other projects, including the Lower Mattagami redevelopment. The Employment and Training Coordinator will also assist TTN members in finding the necessary skills training to fit the upcoming and current employment opportunities, and try to identify funding programs to assist in this training. Linda will assist TTN members to gain and develop transferable skills for other projects in the long term.

Linda will also be responsible for identifying any requirements of the New Post Creek or Lower Mattagami projects that can be filled by local suppliers of goods and services. This could include supplying the work camp as well as the eventual generating facility with goods or services. Linda will work with the TTN Economic Development Officer, Derek Archibald, and Education Director, Neil Iserhoff, to identify and support those businesses that may be able to supply some good or service.

Linda is a member of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation who currently resides on reserve. She has been involved with education and economic development with TTN since 1992 when she was employed as the Autoskill Computer Reading Program within the elementary schools in Cochrane. She has also held volunteer positions in D.S.B.O.N.E. First Nations Advisory, TTN First Response Crisis Member and T.T.E.D.C. Secretary / Treasurer.

Linda said "I am looking forward to building cooperative, mutually-respectful and trusting working relationships with members of the TTN community and build relationships with

Wachay! Much progress has been made over the winter months and there is significant work to be done over the summer.

This newsletter will let you know what we have been working on, and some things to expect in the future.

*Linda Archibald-Job*

*Employment and Training Coordinator*

*Peter Archibald,*

*Community Advisor & Government Liaison*

*Sue Hartwig,*

*Interim CEO*

## Project Status

Coral Rapids Power continues to work with Ontario Power Generation on the work required to start the New Post Creek Project.

We are continuing to work on agreements with the Moose Cree First Nation, and begin the necessary studies to complete the Environmental Assessment processes.

We are excited to introduce the newest member of the Coral Rapids Power team, Linda Archibald-Job, who will be the Employment and Training Coordinator. She will be helping TTN members find the necessary skills and training to match them with job opportunities in the area.

## Key Project Updates

### Water Gauge

As we noted in both previous newsletters, a water gauge will be installed on the New Post Creek in order to determine the flows, elevation, and temperature of the water in New Post Creek.

This has been a long process due to the location within a provincial water park, but the process is now complete. Coral Rapids Power and Ontario Power Generation successfully submitted the application and obtained approval to install a water gauge.

A water gauge house, to store the equipment, has already been put in place near New Post Creek. The installation team was able to find a small clearing and only had to remove a single small tree in order to put up the gauge house. Some low hanging branches on the trail were also removed in order to bring the equipment in.

The work has been completed by Water Survey of Canada, a national agency that is responsible for collecting and sharing

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water resource data. They have more than 100 years of expertise and have installed gauges all over Canada.

Water Survey of Canada will return to the site once the snow has completely melted to install the instrumentation required to measure the water data. At that point they will assess ground conditions and determine the best location to locate a helicopter pad located outside the Park boundary, and to also assess if it will be possible to create a walking path nearby.

The information provided by the gauge is essential for the project. The water flow data will help the engineer assess the project and this work must be completed before starting further engineering and before starting any environmental assessment of the site.

The proposed location for the gauge is in the stretch of New Post Creek that starts approximately 100 meters downstream of the proposed weir for the hydroelectric development to the top of New Post Creek falls.

## Fisheries Baseline Studies

Cam Portt, a well respected fisheries consultant has been hired to undertake a 2 year fisheries baseline assessment for the New Post Creek Project. This work is in support of the anticipated Environmental Assessment that will be required. Government Regulators expect 2 years of fisheries baseline work to be undertaken. The first of such studies is the spring spawning work. This typically assesses walleye spawning. Walleye spawn most when water temperatures reach between 7 and 10 degrees Celsius.

Later in the summer, typically in August, the fisheries biologist will undertake the habitat studies, and then in the fall will return to assess fall spawning fish (typically whitefish). Cam Portt plans on hiring a TTN member, through Coral Rapids Power to assist by providing a boat and acting as a guide for the biologists who will be assessing spawning at New Post Creek as well as the Abitibi River.

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other stakeholders to ensure every opportunity is available for economic employment and training.”

Linda has worked in a variety of positions in and around Cochrane, including as Administrator, Social Counsellor, Post-secondary Student Advisor, Teacher/Instructor in elementary/secondary and post-secondary levels. She has liaised with parents, students, youth at risk and community social and employment resources as an advocate on the behalf of families and youth. Linda has also volunteered with the Nishnawbe Aski Police Service, the Taykwa Tagamou Nation Crisis Team, and the Race Awareness Culture Education Committee.

Linda has extensive experience in proposal writing, research, and budgeting, and a degree from Trent University.

## Geotechnical and Geophysical Field Investigation

The Coral Rapids Power and Ontario Power Generation team has successfully obtained the required permits to undertake the geotechnical and geophysical field investigation programs inside the Little Abitibi Provincial Park, and on the Crown Land outside the Park.

The geotechnical and geophysical work is an essential step in the project development. This work determines whether or not the bedrock in the area is able to support the power house and penstock of the proposed generating facility. Even on a small run-of-the-river hydroelectric generating station the force of the water being held back is strong and it is important to know the quality of the bedrock that will help to support the generating station

KGS Group, an engineering firm based in Winnipeg, has been hired to undertake this work. KGS Group has worked on geotechnical work for the Manitoba Floodway and on a hydroelectric station in Saskatchewan. KGS Group has hired Coral Rapids Power as a subcontractor to assist with certain aspects of this work.

The work is anticipated to be carried out in two phases. The first phase will be the geophysical site investigation that is anticipated to start in June. This will include access trail clearing, removal of brush on site access roads, clearing to allow seismic lines, and general seismic testing work. The second phase is planned to start in September and will be the geotechnical investigation. This work involves topographic and site surveys, digging test pits, refinement of access trails to borehole locations if necessary, borehole drilling, bedrock coring, and finally site restoration activities.

## Surveying

Survey work started on schedule in October 2008 and has been completed. Thomas and Alex Archibald assisted the Survey Team in their work identifying the southern boundary of the Little Abitibi Provincial Park. This work was undertaken on both sides of the Abitibi River and along both sides of New Post Creek.

Survey stakes have been placed every 120 meters (approximately 400 feet) from the high water mark on both sides of New Post Creek from the proposed project site to 1 kilometre upstream. Accurately determining the boundary of the park is essential for much of the upcoming work. The geotechnical and geophysical investigation requires accurate surveys of the area.

The results of the survey were submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and to the Surveyor General's Office. The results of the survey show that the park boundary is 200 meters (660 feet) north of the boundary show on existing Ministry of Natural Resources maps. This means that less land will need to be taken out of the Park to accommodate the generating station.

# MNR Agreement on Coordinated Regulatory Process

The proposed New Post Creek project will require the use of some lands from within the Little Abitibi Provincial Park, however development within a provincial park is not allowed, so some lands will have to be removed from the park, and other lands added to compensate for the removal. This is a complex process that requires coordination between Coral Rapids Power, Ontario Power Generation, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and Ontario Parks. The process for changing the boundaries of the park normally requires an environmental assessment (EA) that is distinct and separate from any other assessments, however the Coral Rapids Power and Ontario Power Generation team, working with MNR and Parks, have come to an agreement on a coordinated process.

This Coordinated Regulatory Approval Process will coordinate several processes:

- New Post Hydroelectric Project (harmonized Federal EA Process if needed with a Provincial Waterpower Class EA process)
- Moose River Basin Co-Planning Commitment
- Little Abitibi Provincial Park Boundary Amendment Project that includes the deregulation and re-regulation of the Little Abitibi Provincial Park Boundary.

Coordinating these items will allow the project to move forward quickly. Without coordination, the combined time to complete each process on its own could potentially have been more than four years. This new agreement should allow the entire process to be completed in approximately two years.

The proponent for the hydroelectric undertaking will be Coral Rapids Power and Ontario Power Generation. An EA is required under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act. This

EA will be conducted according to the Ontario Waterpower Association Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects. All environmental assessment processes study the potential impacts of the proposed project on the environment. Class EA processes are developed where there are a number of projects that have similar impacts and known impacts. Ontario has several Class EA processes, including one for Waterpower projects, such as the New Post Creek Project.

It is possible that a Federal Environmental Assessment may also be required, in which case there will be harmonization between the Ontario Class EA for Waterpower Projects, the Federal EA, and the EA to deregulate and re-regulate a section of the Park.

MNR has committed to ensuring that their environmental assessment requirements under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Class EA (PPCR), and amendments required under the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA) and other MNR assessments are coordinated with the Waterpower EA. All of these assessments have mandatory consultation requirements, which will include a variety of stakeholders, both within TTN and the larger region. Agreement has been reached that the various processes will commence at the same time and that key activities such as First Nations Consultation, Community Meetings, Public Open Houses, etc will be coordinated. A New Post Creek Task Team comprising of a TTN member, an OPG representative, an MNR representative and an Ontario Parks representative has been established. The Task Team is starting its work to determine the finer details based on the master agreement.

## Green Energy and Green Economy Act

The Government of Ontario tabled legislation titled "Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009" on February 23, 2009 and it was given royal assent on May 14th, 2009. This legislation is designed to encourage the development of a variety of sources of renewable power throughout Ontario. The bill has a vision of Ontario as a global leader in the development of renewable energy, while creating a new industry with thousands of jobs supporting this growth in renewable generation, transmission infrastructure, and a variety of spin-off industries. The legislation also seeks to make Ontario a leader in conserving energy. It is cheaper to decrease our demand than it is to increase our supply of energy, however there is a need to do both.

Some of the drive to create this legislation comes from the commitment to stop burning coal in Ontario to generate electricity. Coal is a relatively dirty fuel, producing a variety of pollutants and significant amounts of carbon dioxide gas, which

has been linked to climate change. To meet the growing demand, and the loss of coal fired generation, Ontario is seeking to construct 10 000 MW of new renewable energy by 2015, and 25 000 MW by 2025.

In order to encourage this rapid development in generating capacity, the Green Energy Act will also create a Feed-in-Tariff. A Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) creates a series of guaranteed prices for energy generation, and obligates the government to purchase the power generated by any facility that has a contract. In Ontario, the proposed Feed-in-Tariff will apply to all types of renewable generation, from a waterpower project like New Post Creek, to a solar panel on a private home. The prices currently discussed by the Ontario Power Authority are considered attractive by investors, and will likely encourage significant developments. There is a special incentive for Aboriginal participation in projects that will pay a slightly higher price.



# Detour Gold Mine

Over the last several months, Detour Gold Corporation has been in discussions with Coral Rapids Power and Taykwa Tagamou Nation about potential plans to redevelop the Detour Lake mine site. This mine site was previously owned by Placer Dome and Goldcorp and was mined up until 1999. Detour Gold has proposed to redevelop the site by expanding the original open pit, and construct new facilities to mill and process the gold ore. The new interest in this site stems from the recent increases in the price of gold, and positive results from new drilling tests. A Memorandum of Understanding is being finalized and will help to guide future negotiations.

While the mine site is not in the traditional territory of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation, the transmission line required to service the site will pass through TTN territory. There may be other impacts as a result of this redevelopment, and Detour Gold is working with Coral Rapids Power and TTN to find ways of mitigating these impacts, and providing benefits to TTN. There have been preliminary discussions about proposed training programs to ensure that TTN members will be able to build the skills to work on this project.

The mine will employ up to 800 employees throughout the construction phase. During operations there will be approximately 400 employees. There will be a variety of skills required, including heavy equipment operation, welders, concrete workers, and other skilled labour. Detour Gold is committed to hiring First Nations employees on this project to fill as many of these positions as possible. At the community meeting in Cochrane a number of TTN members expressed strong feelings about getting jobs, and about training the youth for jobs. Detour Gold has committed to having a priority hiring process for local communities, and there will be a liaison person hired in the near future to ensure that all community members are aware of any opportunities and to ensure communication continues to occur.

Detour Gold has already hosted one community meeting in Cochrane in March, and has been preparing to complete Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) studies as well. These studies will be undertaken to provide information for the Environmental Assessment, and to provide an understanding of any

potential project-related impacts. The information gathered will be used to benefit the overall project planning and design. The Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre (MERC) will be carrying out the TEK study in the TTN traditional territory, through formal and informal methods. During a TEK study, community members are interviewed, and through the interview process share their understanding of environmental systems as a whole and their knowledge of harvesting, including information on animals, plants and other natural phenomena. MERC will be training two community members to conduct interviews with knowledge-keepers. To avoid misinterpretation, the interview questions will be straightforward, and may be assisted with the use of maps or photographs.

These kinds of interviews can give valuable information on historic and present patterns in land use, wildlife and other aspects of local ecosystems. Maps can be created from archival records and interviews with long-term residents for the future use of the community.

Detour is planning to come back to TTN members on the reserve, in Cochrane and in Moose Factory to provide a project update in the early summer. For further information

visit [www.detourgold.com](http://www.detourgold.com)



Above: One of the core samples from the Detour site.  
Below: A view of the reclaimed Detour Mine site.



**The proposed Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station needs a logo!**

**Send your designs to [info@coralrapidspower.com](mailto:info@coralrapidspower.com) for a chance to win \$250!**

**Submit your drawing by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009!**