

Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station New Post Creek Project



Newsletter #17

Spring 2017

Project Completed!



This is the completed and fully operational Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station, which was the result of a partnership between Coral Rapids Power and Ontario Power Generation. Coral Rapids Power is wholly owned by the Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN). It may not look very exciting, or even like what we may expect a hydroelectric generating station to look like, but it will have a positive impact on TTN members for decades. It is the result of years of work by successive Chiefs and Councils and dozens of members of TTN, as well as the efforts of many consultants, contractors, partners and government entities. Hidden below the

surface and in the powerhouse is one part of a better future for TTN. This project will generate revenue for decades, benefitting current and future generations. The project has already employed dozens of TTN members during the construction phase, and provided contracts to many partnerships that included TTN members and TTN businesses, and provided training to many TTN members. The experience gained on this project will be invaluable for the next project within TTN's territory. This is an important milestone, and an important project for the community, but it is also only one part of the growing success for TTN. The future looks brighter.

TTN Members who worked on the PSSGS Project

“This important partnership between CRP & OPG will provide TTN with a long-term investment opportunity. We need to do whatever it takes to succeed as a team.”

Alex Archibald, Environmental Coordinator

Amber Archibald, Kitchen Staff

Centennial Archibald, Operator

Charles Archibald, Carpenter Apprentice

Devon Archibald, Labourer

Francis Archibald, Operator

James Archibald, Heavy Duty Mechanic Apprentice

Jesse Archibald, Operator

Joseph Lawrence Archibald, Operator

Kelly Archibald, Operator

Michael Archibald, Labourer

Paul Archibald, Operator

Paul Archibald Sr, Labourer

William Archibald, Labourer

Zachary Archibald, Carpenter Apprentice

Blane Chakasim, Operator

Ryan Cheezo, Labourer

Clinton Crawford, Operator

Raun Crawford, Operator

Jeffrey Docherty, Labourer

Charlene Echum, TTN Liaison

Cheryl Etherington, Housekeeper Staff

Keith Etherington, Operator

Nancy Gagnon, Quality Technician/Labourer

Pauline Gagnon, Kitchen Staff



“To all the young people I want to say take advantage of the training available, it’s there, just grab it.”

“Working here has been a great experience. I am looking forward to seeing my community benefit from the project.”

“Don’t give up, the hard work pays off.”

Tina Gagnon, Aramark Management

Jeffrey Hardistry, Surveyor/Environmental Coordinator

John Hunter, Operator

“I came hunting in this area, now I’m working here.”

Brady Iserhoff, Operator

Jennifer Kioke, Kitchen Staff

Thomas Kioke, Operator

Ralph Linklater, Bus Driver

Justine Linklater, Kitchen Staff

Kyle Matthews, Operator

“At the Lower Matta-gami River Project I completed my hoisting apprenticeship, made possible by Sibi training and Kiewit.”

Irene Moore, Housekeeper Staff

Kevin Prevost, Operator

Ryan Prevost, Labourer

Donald Ross, Labourer

“Knowing we are finally benefiting from our traditional land after Treaty #9 was signed August 21st, 1905, by building this hydroelectric project, and I’m taking part in it.”

“I like knowing I am doing something for my community, we own this – and it is named after my Father-in-Law.”

Kevin Ross, Labourer

Lindsey Ross, Housekeeper Staff

Christopher Skead, Carpenter Apprentice

Ethel Sutherland, Kitchen Staff

Kevin Sutherland, Operator

Nathaniel Sutherland, Intern

Peter Sutherland, Travel/HR Coordinator

Theodore Sutherland, Labourer

Theron Sutherland, Intern

Dorothy Whiskeychan, Housekeeper Staff

Jason Whiskeychan, Labourer Sub-Foreman



Contracts awarded to TTN Businesses

Contract	Successful Contractor
Kitchen Supply	Tina Gagnon/Aramark
Catering and Housekeeping	Tina Gagnon/Aramark
Aggregate - Rock from Lower Mattagami	Linda Job/Lachance
Aggregate Supply - Shot Rock	Island Falls/Villeneuve
Aggregate Supply - Crushed Material	Island Falls/Villeneuve
Aggregate Supply - Sand	Alex Archibald/Miller Group
Concrete Supply	Alex Archibald/Miller Group
Freight	Alex Archibald/ OK Tire
Trash Hauling/Disposal	Island Falls/Sinai Suckers
Port-a-Potty/Sucker Truck	Island Falls/Sinai Suckers
Clearing - Site	Linda Job/First Nation Timber
Road Construction	Linda Job/First Nation Timber
Fencing	First Nation Timber/M&G Fencing
Fuel Supply	Walter Gagnon/Pepco
Powerhouse Building	Nisto Migiziwuk/CGV Builders
Transmission Line	New Post Constructors/PowerTel
Miscellaneous Metals	Linda Job/Acier JP

These contracts had a total value of more than \$53,000,000!



The watered up intake canal.

New Post Creek History

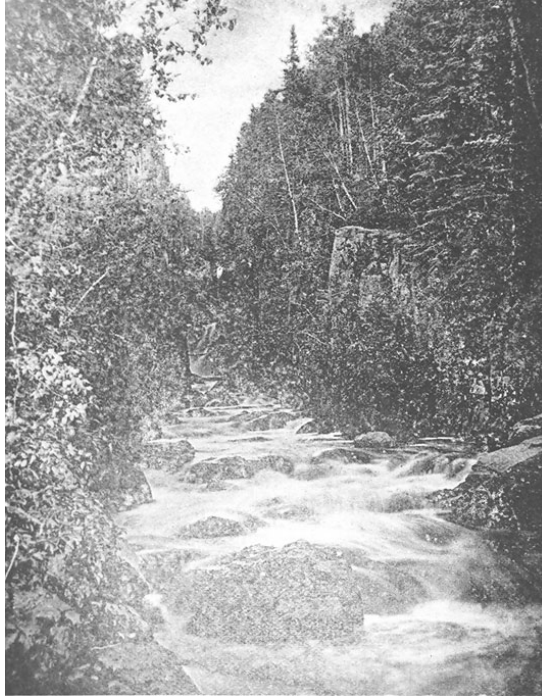
Cheepilloya Sebee (English translation: Great Partridge River), the Cree name for New Post Creek, played an important role in the lives of the people of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN), as well as people from other First Nations, since time immemorial. The New Post Creek, and the area accessible by the creek, was more than an area for fishing, hunting, trapping, transportation, and trading; it was a key source of drinking water in the region, and was the site of important spiritual practices and rituals. The region around the creek was a source of partridge, rabbit, and moose.

The confluence of the New Post Creek and the Abitibi River was a natural location to conduct trade. The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) took advantage of its location and established a trading post at this spot 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. There are records of more than 75 teepees at the site

in the summer. The HBC closed the post in 1925 due to the construction of a railway nearby, and partly as a result of this most of the resident families moved from the site. Some TTN families continued to use the site seasonally after 1925, and still today some community members

hunt and trap in this area and have cabins near the New Post Creek. 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. These artifacts and the burial area will not be impacted by the project.

The demand for electricity grew rapidly in Ontario and the large northern rivers were early candidates for development of hydroelectricity. The first facilities in the Abitibi region started in the 1930s with the construction of Abitibi Canyon. However, it was the development in 1961 of Otter



Above: New Post Brook in 1899.
Right: Thomas and Annie Sutherland and children near New Post #69.
Below: New Post Creek and the PSSGS project team.



Rapids Generating Station that led to a permanent change to New Post Creek. In order to provide additional water to the generating station at Otter Rapids and increase its output, the flow of the Little Abitibi River was diverted through New Post Creek into the Abitibi River. 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 change to the creek was immediate, with community members recalling the creek as only a trickle at times that could be crossed on foot, and only canoed during the spring or after significant rainfall in the fall. The new flows of water immediately began to cause erosion of the

banks and created rapids where none had existed before. Trails used for crossing the creek were destroyed and the banks of the creek were now too steep to land a boat.

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 2007 that OPG and the Taykwa Tagamou Nation were able to reach an agreement and start working together to jointly explore new hydroelectric development opportunities in the Abitibi River north of Highway 11.

Project History

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the TTN-owned Coral Rapids Power (CRP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006. Following this, they retained the engineering firm, KGS Group, to prepare a Concept Phase study, examining the potential to develop a project near the New Post Creek falls. The results of this study indicated that the site was feasible from technical, economic, and environmental perspectives. The engineering study supported the proposed grievance settlement's provision that OPG and TTN should work together to develop the New Post Creek project. The TTN community voted November 2007 to accept the proposed settlement and start work on the New Post Creek project.

The geographical features of the site made it a prom-



President Wayne Ross and First Nations Project Manager Sue Hartwig at the powerhouse construction site.

ising one from an energy-generating perspective. This is because of the significant elevation change between the New Post Creek above the falls and the intersection of the Creek and the Abitibi River. It also presented several unique challenges, including its location in the Little Abitibi Provincial Park (LAPP).

The development required the removal of the project area from the LAPP. Although it significantly altered the natural ecosystem that resulted from the diversion in 1963, the LAPP was created in 1985 with no consultation with TTN. The TTN community agreed in 2009



The powerhouse under construction.

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 boundaries not only have resulted in the protection of a larger physical area and enhanced ecological integrity, they were completed with input and approval from the TTN community. The deregulation of the lands required for the project and the addition of lands to the LAPP were completed as part of the Environmental Assessment process for the overall project.

In 2009, the project team, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), and Ontario Parks agreed on a coordinated regulatory approval process that would include a Waterpower Class Environmental Assessment,



to guarantee that no new hydro-electric developments would take place until the three First Nations in the region were ready to accept hydro development in their respective territories. This process involved MNR and the three First Nations of the region, MoCreebec, Moose Cree First Nation, and the Taykwa Tagamou Nation. This required the signing of a Reciprocal Agreement with Moose Cree First Nation and a Letter of Support from MoCreebec 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 the Lower Mattagami and New Post Creek projects. These agreements also led to the creation of the New Post Creek Joint Working Group which included participation by Moose Cree First

TTN Elders and the CRP Project team tour the project, shown here in front of the powerhouse.

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. This was a key step as the years of data from this gauge have helped to determine the project design and its economics.

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

The project site is also part of a special planning area of Northern Ontario called the Moose River Basin Co-Planning Commitment for Waterpower Development. The “co-planning” requirement was created in 1993 by the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources. It prohibits hydro-electric developments in the Moose River Basin north of Highway 11 unless there is a co-planning process in place. The co-planning requirement ensures that proposals for new hydroelectric developments could only be advanced when proposed by a local First Nation or a partnership including a local First Nation. The purpose of this co-planning requirement was

Nation and provides a forum for open dialogue on all environmental issues related to the project. TTN Chief and Council were instrumental in obtaining the support of the MoCreebec and Moose Cree communities to satisfy the MNR requirement.

The Joint Working Group consisted of a MCFN



Cranes lower a section of the penstock into position.

member Lillian Trapper, TTN members Wayne Ross and Peter Archibald, OPG liaison Sue Prince and OPG Environmental Advisor Ed Naval, were also members of

the Group. Kiewit, the builder, had Environmental Manager Kerry Pike lead the weekly updates and the Joint Working Group met several times over the year for face to face meetings. The group reviewed permit applications, discussed minimum flow, methyl mercury, environmental monitoring plans, spills, and any other issues related to environment. The Joint Working Group also attended open houses during the environmental assessment process.



A photo inside the powerhouse showing the two horizontal axis Francis turbines in place.

Engineering and Design

The original Concept Phase study considered a number of different options for the project. The detailed engineering work for the Definition Phase was started in 2011 by the project engineering consultant, KGS Group. It included an assessment of the geology below the surface throughout the project area, including the intake structure on New Post Creek above the falls, the penstock, and the generating station at the base of the falls. This was a key study to ensure that the appropriate foundation and support existed to build the facility. 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. While portions of the Little Abitibi Provincial Park would be deregulated to enable the project to proceed, it was important that a certain amount of water continue to flow through the New Post Creek beyond the intake structure and at the falls. This would ensure that the environment was not significantly altered in this area, and that the New Post Creek falls would continue to be an attraction for visitors to the Park. 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. A series of 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 was completed which now incorporates the operating plans for the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station. This new water management plan ensures a certain volume of water flows over the falls throughout the months when park visitation is likely to occur, maintains appropriate water levels to minimize environmental impact, and provides flexibility for project operations.



The completed intake channel on the upper portion of the New Post Creek.

Economic Benefits

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 reduces the risks to the owners, but still ensures that TTN will benefit from the project throughout the long-term contract with the buyers of the electricity. However, obtaining a HESA required a directive from the Ontario Minister of Energy to the Ontario Power Au-



thority in order to start the negotiations. The TTN Chief and Council and their advisors persuaded Minister Bob Chiarelli that the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station project would support the development of the clean energy economy and the Taykwa Tagamou Nation. As a result of the Directive, CRP and OPG entered negotiations with the Ontario Power Authority to finalize the details of the HESA, a process that took several months to complete. Though time-consuming, it helped to secure decades of revenue for TTN from the project, particularly once the debt incurred to purchase its ownership has been paid off.

Above: The spillway gate structure.
Below: The CRP team, with financial advisor George Cholakis, and legal advisor Liora Zimmerman, in front of the intake canal.



Employment, Training, and Contracting

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 make sure TTN members had the right skills for the employment opportunities that resulted 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. More than \$150,000 was spent on training and associated expense for TTN members, and 30 customized training plans for TTN members were completed. The training supported by the project included carpentry, gas technician, CPR and First Aid, environmental technician and monitoring, and others. These companies and individuals are now better positioned to take on new work.

The project team required the Design Build contractor to maximize 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 Environmental Assessment process was also completed in 2014. Full construction process started in Spring 2015, and project operations got underway in April of this year.

Message from Chief and Council

The completion of the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station is much more than the result of the two years of construction, or the decade of planning, permitting, and design. It is also more than the result of the lengthy grievance and settlement process. This project is a part of the reconciliation needed between the Taykwa Tagamou people and Canada. It is a tangible aspect of this reconciliation, and it improves the lives of our people and our community. This project, along with others our community is involved in, will be part of changing our story and creating a better future for future generations.

Successive Chiefs and Councils have dedicated themselves and community resources to the development of this project, and the foresight and perseverance of our predecessors should not be forgotten. They saw the potential that this project could have for the community, even when it seemed like it may never happen. The community must also be recognized for the continued support for this project over its long development, and their participation in the many meetings and discussions over the years. We know that the community has made sacrifices today to guarantee our children and grandchildren a better tomorrow. We are especially proud of the many individuals who contributed to the project as part of the construction and contracting process. You have demonstrated ingenuity and spirit, qualities that will help us to benefit from future developments.

Our relationship as a community with Ontario Hydro and its successors, and the Ontario and Canadian governments is complicated, but we have helped to create a new relationship based on the recognition of our ownership of developments within our territory. Our future is tied to the future of Ontario and Canada, and all parties can work together for mutual benefit, whether it is more hydro development, new forestry initiatives, new mines, or other future investments. This is the beginning of reconciliation, and it reflects a process that recognized our right to make decisions about the resources within our territory.

This project has also created a new relationship with our neighbours, the Moose Cree, and this project and others in the region benefits both communities.

Chief and Council recognize the contributions and efforts made by the project teams from Ontario Power Generation who supported this project and supported



Chief Dwight Sutherland and CRP at the completed powerhouse.

our participation in it. We also recognize the efforts of our consultants who helped to develop this project on behalf of Coral Rapids Power, and the consultants and contractors who worked on the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station.

Finally, the Chief and Council would like to extend our gratitude to the project team who have diligently guided this project. Wayne Ross propelled this project forward for the last six years as the President of Coral Rapids Power, but he was an important figure for the project long before that. Peter Archibald, Linda Job, Freda Ouellette, and Sue Hartwig were key to the success of this project as part of Coral Rapids Power. We also wish to acknowledge the guidance and support for this project from the Board of Directors for Coral Rapids Power.

The future of TTN is stronger and brighter thanks to this project. We have already received significant benefits from the project development and construction. We have ownership of an important hydroelectric asset which will be generating clean, reliable electricity and generating revenues for our community for many decades into the future. This project is ours, and with it we will strengthen our community for today and for future generations.

Naming the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station

This story was originally printed in October 2008 in the second New Post Creek Project News.

Hydroelectric generating stations like the one proposed for New Post Creek are often named for



Peter Sutherland Sr. 1915-1998.

a place nearby, like the Abitibi Canyon Generating Station, or for someone involved in the development of the energy system in Ontario, like the Sir Adam Beck Generating Stations at Niagara Falls. Peter Archibald, a former chief and the Government Liaison and Community Advisor for Coral Rapids Power, has suggested a name for the proposed New Post Creek project that will resonate more with the people of Taykwa Tagamou Nation. He has proposed the name, the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station to honour and remember the late elder of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation.

Peter Sutherland Sr. grew up around New Post Creek and trapped, hunted, and fished in the area where the proposed dam is to be constructed. He spoke often of the abundance of animals and fish around New Post, which were important to him and his family's survival. He spoke about his old trapline, and how he would travel up New Post Creek, near where the old Hudson's Bay Company site is, and

make portages in the area. He was raised in the bush and knew the traditional teachings and ways of his ancestors. Peter Sutherland Sr. raised his family in the area, and his children and grandchildren continue to come back to this place to hunt, fish, and trap. Peter Sutherland Sr. passed away in 1998 and was the eldest member of the community at the time, and is remembered by his family, friends, and the whole of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation.

There are a great number of roads, towns, and regions in Ontario that are named for people who made impacts on the history of the province or the area, but rarely are these names those of the First Nations people who lived there. This is an opportunity to honour an elder and ensure that his name will remain in the minds of people for many decades. It will stand not only as a reminder not just of Peter Sutherland Sr., but of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation and its people, who traditionally used these lands and waters to sustain their life, and who still do.

Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station
A partnership between Coral Rapids Power and Ontario Power Generation

Peter Sutherland Sr. was a respected elder of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation who trapped, hunted, and fished in this area, continuing the way of life of his ancestors, and preserving the knowledge for the next generations.

Peter lived in this area, raising his children here, and his children and grandchildren continue to hunt and fish here. His passing in 1998 was felt throughout the Taykwa Tagamou Nation.

The Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station, located here, is named to honour the people of the Taykwa Tagamou Nation, and in particular Peter Sutherland Sr. and his family.

This project will provide long lasting economic benefits to the community, and the New Post Creek will continue to support the Taykwa Tagamou people.

Peter Sutherland Sr.
1915-1998

This plaque will be placed at the PSSGS Powerhouse and at the entrance gate to the project site.

President's Message

Watchay TTN Membership,

The Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station (PSSGS) is now operational. April 1st was the first day of generating electricity and supplying it to the grid. The construction of the project was completed five months ahead of schedule and within budget. Final open houses for MCFN and TTN will be held in the Month of May. Plans are underway for the Grand Opening Ceremony for the PSSGS which is to be held on August 24th. It has been my pleasure to have worked with so many dedicated people on this project. The support and encouragement you have bestowed on me is much appreciated. Many news agencies have been contacting me recently for interviews. They all love a good story...which this is! Although we have secured a revenue stream contract for a 50 year term, the facility will generate power for 100+ years. This is such a huge success; TTN will receive financial benefits for generations! Coral Rapids Power will continue to look for other opportunities for TTN. Hope to see you at the Grand Opening Ceremonies in August.



From left to right, CRP President Wayne Ross, TTN Chief Dwight Sutherland, Ontario Minister of Energy Glenn Thibeault, and OPG President, Renewable Generation and Power Marketing Mike Martelli.

Meegwetch



A photo from the TTN Elders' tour of the project site in June 2016.



The concept for the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station was proposed by Caleb Nelson of the Tayk-wa Tagamou Nation.

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