

Pickering Rotarians Hear Long-Range Plans To Meet Future Power Needs in Ontario

Ontario now is receiving its first electrical energy from the splitting of the atom. Ontario Hydro has introduced the atomic age in power production. This is the latest step in the story of the "Resources Behind the Electric Switch."

Most of us take the electric switch for granted and expect that when we push a button or flick a switch, we will receive power instantly to light buildings or to turn on electric motors and perform numerous functions that are merely routine in our daily use of electrical energy. Electricity has grown

so commonplace that one hardly ever wonders what is really behind the electric switch enabling us to command this great force to perform countless tasks.

Ontario has forged ahead to become the leading province in Canada and much of this progress is due to the abundance of low cost electric power. The history of electric power generation in this province is interesting. Its availability and widespread use in Ontario started from humble beginnings back in 1906 when the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario

came into being. As the name implies, Ontario Hydro has relied mainly on hydraulic power sources, using the mechanical energy from the fall in the rivers of this province and harnessing it to make electric power throughout most of its 58 year history. C. G. W. MacIntosh Public Relations Officer for Ontario Hydro's Central Region stated in an address to Pickering Rotary Club at the dinner meeting held Monday night at Annandale Curling Club.

In his talk "Resources Behind the Electric Switch" the speaker described various sources of electric power in Ontario and illustrated the highlights with color slides. He pointed out that Ontario Hydro will be obtaining most of its power from large coal-fired thermal electric plants and big nuclear power stations which will be supplying this growing province in the next decade. Ontario Hydro is planning ahead constantly and making progressive moves to provide adequate power resources. All the major sources of hydraulic, electric power in Ontario's larger rivers now have been harnessed. But there still remain several smaller power sites on rivers in Northern Ontario which will provide a total of approximately 2,000,000 kw. Some of these sites are now being developed and power from these distant sources will be available when needed in various parts of Ontario because the Commission is introducing extra high voltage (460,000 volts and up) for long distance transmission of power with less line loss.

However, even these hydraulic power sources in the north will not be able to take care of the requirements for power in Ontario beyond the next couple of years. The Commission's engineers who study the power load growth trend have forecast that Ontario will require about 21,000,000 kw of electrical energy to fill the power needs by 1980. This is almost three times the amount of power that is

now being produced and consumed in this province. That is why the Commission is closely studying the future, watching and analyzing the growth trend of the province and planning to provide adequate supplies of electric power that will have to come from larger more efficient coal-fired thermal electric generating stations also from nuclear fission power plants as Ontario enters this new atomic age Mr. MacIntosh said.

Describes Developments
The speaker described several of the big hydro developments, such as the Des Joachims power plant on the Ottawa River, that produces some 380,000 kw; also the Niagara hydro electric generating stations, including the Sir Adam Beck No. 1 generating station and the new Sir Adam Beck-Niagara generating station No. 2 with its pump storage plant, which together produce almost 2,000,000 kw at full capacity. He also described briefly the huge new Robert H. Saunders St. Lawrence generating station, which provides another 940,000 kw.

Turning to thermal electric stations, Mr. MacIntosh mentioned the R. L. Hearn generating station on the eastern waterfront of Metropolitan Toronto that has a total capacity of 1,200,000 kw. This coal-fired electric plant has been extended with four big 200,000 kw generating units added to the original station which contained 4,100,000 kw units, to make it Canada's largest thermal electric plant at present. The Hearn G. S. at full capacity will use 10,000 tons of coal per day and 36 million gallons of water each hour for cooling purposes.

However, as the demand for power continues to grow, the Commission is presently building the world's largest thermal electric station in the Port Credit area, known as Lakeview generating station. The speaker described the many interesting features of this station, which when completed will have a total capacity of 2,400,000 kw. At full load this station will use about 20,000 tons of coal daily and some 60,000,000 gallons of water per hour for cooling purposes. First power from this giant station, amounting to 300,000 kw was produced in late summer of 1961. The plant will cost about \$270,000,000, to complete. The generating station is almost as high as a twenty-story building and the three high stacks, nearly 500-feet high. Most modern and efficient electrostatic precipitators remove fly ash and release only a clear gas. The power station area and grounds have been completely landscaped and beautified.

A cost sharing agreement has been reached by Ontario Hydro the Ontario Government and the Federal Government for construction for a 1,000,000 kilowatt nuclear electric power station. The power house site is planned for Frenchman's Bay on Lake Ontario in Pickering Township between Ajax and Scarborough. The site must be approved by the Atomic Energy Control Board also the design of the station. It will be one of the safest power stations in the world. The plant is expected to produce electricity at below 4 mills a kw. It will cost about \$266 million to build. Ontario Hydro also has a site for another large thermal power station in the Clarkson area on the shore of Lake Ontario just east of Oakville.

The progressive plans of Ontario Hydro have included the construction of the first nuclear power plants in Canada, the speaker said. One of these, the Nuclear Power Demonstration plant with a capacity of 20,000 kw, went into operation two Ottawa River near Rolphon, years ago. It is situated on the Ontario, about 150 miles north



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of the city of Ottawa. This atomic fuelled electric power generating station was built jointly by the Atomic Energy Commission of Canada Limited, the Canadian General Electric Company and Ontario Hydro. It will provide Ontario Hydro engineers with much valuable information and experience in producing electricity from the energy released by splitting uranium atoms in this great nuclear age.

Another nuclear electric power station is being constructed on the shores of Lake Huron at Douglas Point between Southampton and Kincardine. Mr. MacIntosh described this station briefly and stated that when in operation about 1965, it is scheduled to produce some 200,000 kw.

Much of the electric power produced in the future will come from giant steam electrical coal fired plants, also from the new sources being developed in this atomic age, enabling electric power to be produced from ultra-modern, nuclear energy power stations. That is the story in Ontario, the speaker said, in brief concerning the "Resources Behind the Electric Switch."

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