



New Post Creek Project News

Newsletter #4

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Preparing for borehole soil samples near the proposed project site for the geotechnical work.

Employment and Work

Although the project is still in the early stages of development, there is work to prepare for the next phase of development. We have been giving you updates about this work as it happens in this newsletter, such as the water gauge, the fisheries studies, and the geo-technical investigations. This work is often undertaken by consultants, but we have been able to identify some opportunities for Taykwa Tagamou community members and businesses to work with the consultants on these projects.

For example, Francis Archibald assisted Cam Portt and Associates with the fisheries field studies. He assisted with the electrofishing and netting of fish in order to determine the fish species and number of fish in two specific areas. He also assisted in mapping the bottom of the river to better understand the habitat. Francis had previously worked on another fisheries study on the Mattagami River and was familiar with the process and equipment, and was able to use these skills on this work as well.

Several other TTN members have worked on other parts of the project already, including Damian Sutherland with Cam Portt on the fall fisheries studies. Please check the website to learn about any upcoming opportunities.

Needs Assessments

Coral Rapids Power is currently conducting a Needs Assessment for TTN members. This assessment will provide information to Coral Rapids Power in order to identify the strengths and needs of its members and key priority issues for employment initiatives to be addressed by TTN for its membership.

Please take the time to respond to the survey and questionnaire. We will have an online version soon!

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 continue to study the proposed project site and area.

We are continuing to seek funding support from the provincial and federal governments for the project, and are also examining how the Green Energy Act and the Feed-In-Tariff might apply to our project.

Key Project Updates Water Gauge

On August 29, 2009, the water gauge and gauge station that will measure the amount of water that flows through the New Post Creek was installed and generating data. The water gauge was installed approximately 4 km upstream of New Post Falls on the right bank of the New Post Creek.

The water gauge will continuously monitor level of the water in the creek and will be used to calculate data about the flows of water. This data will help to determine how much water is available for power generation. This in turn will determine the design of the generating station and the amount of revenue that will be generated by the water flow.

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New Post in the news!

The Honourable Donna Cansfield, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, made the closing keynote address at the Ontario Waterpower Association's annual Power of Water conference on October 16, 2009. In her remarks, she spoke about the New Post Creek project and the development of waterpower sites within protected areas, such as provincial parks.

She noted her continued support for these developments that will enable more green energy, and meet the need to maintain protection of certain areas.

The continued support of the Ministry of Natural Resources is important to ensuring the project is a success, and the public support of the Minister helps maintain the high profile of the project.

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Currently, the gauge is providing information on 'raw water levels'. Once sufficient data points are gathered, it will be used to define a 'flow curve' that will predict both water levels and flows in real time. The gauge will need to collect data over time in order to properly predict the water flows. It is important to collect more data in order to properly design the generating station and estimate the revenues from the power.

Fisheries Baseline Studies

Although the formal Environmental Assessment has not yet started, these assessments often require at least 2 years of fisheries baseline work. The baseline work will help to establish what spawning and habitat already exists in the area of study. The baseline work includes spring and fall spawning studies as well as habitat assessments.

To date, the 2009 spring and fall spawning and the summer habitat assessment work has been completed. The key areas of interest for all studies are the proposed intake area, areas upstream and downstream of the proposed intake on New Post Creek, the proposed tailrace area on the Abitibi River, and the section of New Post Creek from the base of the Falls to the Abitibi River. These areas are being studied because they have the highest chance of being affected in some way by the project.

To date, no spring or fall spawning areas have been positively identified. Spawning investigations are temperature dependent because walleye and whitefish are temperature sensitive and will only start spawning when the temperature of the water is within a certain range. The walleye spawning investigation must occur in the early spring and the whitefish spawning investigation must occur in the fall.

Detour Gold and TTN sign MOU

Coral Rapids Power is also working with Detour Gold on the proposed Detour Lake gold project. This project is unrelated to New Post Creek and does not involve Ontario Power Generation.

The Taykwa Tagamou Nation and Detour Gold have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), this will guide the Impact Benefit Agreement negotiations for the Detour Lake gold project. The MOU will help to ensure the mine benefits TTN members and is respectful of the environment. Detour Gold has committed to maximizing the number of training, employment, and business opportunities for TTN members.

Geotechnical and Geophysical Field Investigation

The five week preliminary geotechnical investigation program needed to support the feasibility study for the proposed Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station was completed in the last week of September 2009. The goal of the investigation program was to assess the overall feasibility of the potential site layout and project configuration from a geotechnical perspective. Coral Rapids Power has received financial assistance for this work from the ecoENERGY for Aboriginal and Northern Communities program.

This program included identifying the depth of bedrock at several points on the site and checking the type of soil at various depths. Rock and soil samples taken will be analysed in specialized laboratories to provide additional information for the project.



Jim (Cam Portt and Associates) and Francis Archibald (TTN) electrofishing during the habitat assessment this summer.

The work was completed in two phases. Phase I work involved a detailed geophysical survey (called seismic refraction). Phase II work included excavation of exploratory test pits, subsurface drilling and bedrock coring and a test called advanced cone penetration.

In Phase 1, a breeding bird survey of the site was conducted prior to cutting any trees to ensure that no bird nest/habitat was impacted. During Phase 2, an archaeologist was retained to complete a Stage 1 and 2 Archaeological Field Assessment & Monitoring for the field investigation program. The archaeological assessment was performed prior to commencing any intrusive work, and no archaeological artifacts were found.

The investigation program provided employment opportunities for TTN members. TTN members completed the line cutting/brushing for the seismic lines and assisted the seismologist during the geophysical survey in Phase 1. A TTN company (Island Falls Forestry Services) was hired to assist with the Phase 2 site preparation work which included brush removal and repair of the existing 6.5 km access road that connects the site to Otter Rapids Road, development of new site access trails, excavating test pits and installing erosion control facilities. Permits from MNR and Ontario Parks were obtained prior to work commencing.

The results of the geotechnical investigation will be used to support preliminary design and development of project costs for the New Post Creek project.

Logo Contest Winner!

Caleb Nelson is the winner of the logo contest for the Peter Sutherland Sr. Generating Station!

Congratulations Caleb! Look for the logo in our next newsletter.