



VIEWPOINT

Port Dover Maple Leaf

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Citizens can help each other with Crime Stoppers

THERE are regular police reports about theft and other criminal activity that includes vandalism in the Port Dover area.

Part of the solution can come from the citizenry going about their daily life but with a cautious eye as to what is going on around them and noting what seems a little out of the ordinary.

Everybody has heard about Crime Stoppers but how many of us actually

call them? The number to call whenever a suspicious activity is noticed is 1 800 222-TIPS (that is 222-8477).

It only works when people call Crime Stoppers to alert them of possible criminal activity. It has been proven many hundreds of times across Norfolk County that at least one person has been nearby when a crime was committed, and may have seen something ... but did not

realize what was happening or did not bother to make that call.

For sure, every suspicious activity is not a criminal act but people should alert Crime Stoppers and let police decide what action to take.

It is a sad commentary that so much criminal activity and petty crimes take place. Part of a solution is for more of us to make that call to Crime Stoppers.

Plan is for Nanticoke stacks to fall at 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 28th



Karim El-Khatib, General Manager of Operations for Delsan-AIM, showing Joe Mateus, OPG Project Manager, and Dan Matten, the exclusion zone outlined on the board at the open house on January 25th.

By Brooke Morris

IN less than a month the Ontario Power Generation stacks at Nanticoke will be no more.

OPG is going ahead with its planned date of February 28 for the demolition of the two 198 metre (650 feet) smoke stacks.

They were built for the power plant which opened in 1972 and when it operated at its peak production levels was the largest coal-fired electrical generating station in the world.

For environmental reasons, the Ontario government decided to phase out all coal-fired power plants with two of the plant's eight units shut down in 2010, followed by two more a year later and the final four units stopped producing electricity in 2013.

An open house was hosted by Ontario Power Generation last Wednesday at the Nanticoke Community Hall to provide final details to the public regarding the demolition of the stacks.

VIEWING

Officials said there will be no public event for the dropping of the stacks due to safety concerns but spectators can watch from outside the OPG exclusion zone. Onlookers are advised not go onto any lake ice to watch the drop.

The exclusion zone extends 500 metres east, west and north of the site and 1000 metres (1 km) south into the lake. There will be police and security present to ensure the public does not venture past the safety line.

OPG is planning a live video feed so residents can watch the demolition from the comfort of their home. The links will be announced in February.

WEATHER

The demolition is scheduled for February 28th but the weather that day will be the deciding factor.

The drop is scheduled to go at 7:30 in the morning, if everything is right. But, if the weather is not ideal it will be an immediate call off.

"The only determinant is the wind," says Krim El-Khatib, General Manager of Operations for Delsan-AIM Inc. He explained that the winds need to be under 30 km/h otherwise the team loses the control that has been created in the planning. If wind speed or direction are not favourable, the job will be postponed to the following day.

The temperature will not affect anything. "It could be minus 20 and we wouldn't care. The only other factor that could potentially be a problem is low cloud cover." This would be a problem because of the echo the blast would produce as it bounces off the clouds.

There will be a weather station onsite monitoring the conditions and meteorologists from Environment Canada providing



Joe Mateus, OPG Project Manager, and Dan Matten

the crew with updates.

OPG's social media, @opg and website opg.com will provide updates.

STACKS

Joe Mateus, Project Manager at OPG states that the "prep work has been quite intense" and OPG is "working with very competent people." There are currently about 50 people behind the scenes making it happen, including the demolition contractor Deslan-AIM Environmental Services Inc.

Mr. El-Khatib confirmed that the east tower is to go down first.

He explained that the "delay [between the two towers fall] will be controlled by blast. The first tower needs to be at a 30 to 40 degree angle so the two towers fall on top of each other."

The stacks are being engineered to come down "like a lumberjack would drop a tree." Prior to the day, a 12-foot "mouth" on the inside of both towers will be created and filled with dynamite. "People talk about imploding stacks -- no -- just like a tree," Mr. El-Khatib said.

The stacks at Nanticoke consist of 1300 tonnes of concrete and have four steel flues weighing in at 400 tonnes of steel for each stack. They are 650 feet tall. There is a 900 foot wide gap between the two stacks.

Approximately 1000 pounds of dynamite will be used in this demolition.

Three layers of chain link and three layers of geotextile surrounding that will help contain the blast and stop shards from shooting out. On the lake side of the drop zone, temporary obstructions will help collect debris from the blast and protect the lake. The power house building is expected to shield the dust cloud over the land to the north.

The fresh water intake south of the demolition site has Hal-dimand County-approved protective covering on it.

On the day of the blast, there will be an estimated 30 workers on site. The blast itself only requires two people, referred to as "the blasters," who will be outside the exclusion zone in view of the towers.



The twin 198 metre (650 feet) stacks at Nanticoke are expected to drop the morning of February 28th.

Enlarged from a photo by Earl Hartlen and Brent Smith