



**Written Submission from the  
Samuel Wilmot Nature Area  
Management Advisory Committee**

**Mémoire du  
Samuel Wilmot Nature Area  
Management Advisory Committee**

In the matter of the

À l'égard d'

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.**

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Application to renew power reactor  
operating licence for the Darlington  
Nuclear Generating Station

**Ontario Power Generation Inc.**

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Demande concernant le renouvellement  
du permis d'exploitation d'un réacteur de  
puissance pour la centrale nucléaire de  
Darlington

**Commission Public Hearing  
Part-2**

**Audience publique de la Commission  
Partie-2**

June 24-26, 2025

24-26 juin 2025



Samuel Wilmot Nature Area Management Advisory Committee  
Municipality of Clarington  
40 Temperance Street, Bowmanville, ON L1C 3A6

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St  
PO Box 1046 Stn B  
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9

The purpose of this letter is for the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area Management Advisory Committee to provide comments relevant to the Darlington NGS – Application for Renewal of the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station Power Reactor Operating Licence. We wish to submit comments through this written submission only and do not request an oral presentation.

We are a group of volunteers appointed by the Municipality of Clarington to assist the Municipality and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in managing the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area. Our committee is dedicated to preserving and improving the condition of the Nature Area for the benefit of the wildlife that resides there and the enjoyment of the residents of Clarington. We also play an educational role for residents and visitors by organizing public presentations, events, and activities related to nature and the environment. Our committee does not have the expertise that would enable us to provide statements directly related to the operations of nuclear power generation. We therefore restrict our comments to detailing the supportive and productive relationship that our committee has had with Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Darlington NGS.

OPG works with community partners to support regional ecosystems and biodiversity through science-based habitat stewardship. They have been a longstanding supporter of our group's initiatives to maintain and promote biodiversity within the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area and along the Newcastle, Ontario waterfront. This enables us to provide comments based on first-hand experience with OPG's commitment to environmental education and habitat restoration. Over the last decade OPG has provided financial and logistical support for several events that our committee runs, and below we will highlight some specific examples that demonstrate the ongoing support from OPG for biodiversity initiatives in our community.

1. **Native Wildflower Planting** – May 2025 will mark the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the SWNA Management Advisory Committee running a native wildflower planting event. The project is part of an overall initiative to enhance local biodiversity by providing habitat and food sources for monarch butterflies and other pollinators, including many native bee species. The event is made possible through financial support from OPG which has enabled us to purchase 500-700 native wildflower seedlings annually since May 2017. The flowers are planted by members of our community, which engages them in local

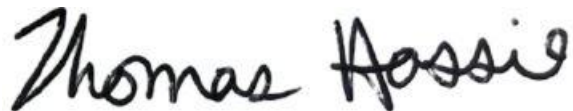
conservation and stewardship. Most of the planting has been done to restore a long strip of parkland along the Newcastle waterfront which is heavily visited by monarchs and birds during the fall migration. To date we have now planted no fewer than 4700 native wildflowers as part of the OPG-sponsored initiative. Without their support the project would not have been possible. This has led to a noticeable change from closely cropped grass to a wildflower meadow strip where at least 143 species have now been documented with 75 insect species, including 24 butterflies and 5 native bees.

2. **School Kids Pollinator garden** - Two classes, from Courtice Secondary School had grown a variety of pollinator plants in the school greenhouse as part of their curriculum and were looking for a place to plant them. OPG has had a long-term partnership with Courtice Secondary spanning more than 20 years and has also been a long-time partner with SWNA Management Advisory Committee. This connection enabled our committee to work with OPG and Courtice Secondary School to plant a pollinator garden within the SWNA boundaries. On Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2024, 44 students enjoyed a field trip to the OPG's Darlington Nuclear Information Centre where they learned about the importance of pollinators from the Pollinator Partnerships Canada organization. This was followed by some hands-on pollinator observations within the Information Centre's pollinator garden. They arrived at the SWNA by bus shortly after lunch and within a matter of minutes offloaded their seedlings and related materials, received instructions, and began planting. Seedlings were watered by the students and additional watering was done in the following days by SWNA Committee members. The garden was ringed with caution tape for protection.
3. **Bee Hotels:** To assist our native bee population in finding suitable nesting sites, we have installed a number of specially designed "bee hotels" at various locations throughout the SWNA including in and adjacent to our wildflower meadow garden. Installation was completed on in July 2022 by committee members and community volunteers. These special boxes were constructed by students at Courtice Secondary School as part of a program sponsored by OPG and donated to our Committee. They are made entirely from natural materials.
4. **Community Monarch Tagging** – Initiated in 2018, our committee has been running a community monarch tagging event in Newcastle in early September. During this event we provide community members with butterfly nets, and community members help catch monarchs, which we tag and collect data from, to contribute data to the Monarch Watch citizen science program. This event is run adjacent to the areas that, with the financial assistance of OPG, we have worked to restore by planting wildflowers. Despite the event's modest beginnings, community participation now regularly exceeds 100 participants, and we have expanded it to include other family-friendly educational activities. OPG has generously supported this event as well by providing some logistical support, equipment (e.g., tents) and kids activities (e.g., button makers, nature-themed colouring pages). This event critically links the spring planting initiatives with the fall butterfly migration helping community members see the value of restoring and maintaining wild and semi-wild spaces filled with native plants.

5. **Bring Back the Salmon** – In October 2024 our committee hosted a Community Information Session on the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program, where the speaker was part of the OPG Bring Back the Salmon initiative.

The above examples clearly illustrate the meaningful support that OPG has provided to assist our committee, and our community more broadly, in enhancing and maintaining native biodiversity. For over a decade they have demonstrated a clear commitment to providing meaningful contributions through education as well as on-the-ground land stewardship in ways that positively impact our community. The SWNA Management Advisory Committee wishes to express our appreciation to OPG, and we hope to continue our productive relationship into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Hossie". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Thomas Hossie, PhD  
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