

Keeping you connected to the DGR



Marie Wilson

Inverhuron resident Donna Irvine is a community-minded citizen who believes in taking action wherever she sees a need.

“You can talk the talk, but if you want to see something done, you need to walk the talk,” she said in a recent interview.

So saying, when Donna, who lives on one of the busiest streets in Inverhuron, observed several instances of unsafe riding by young people on bicycles, she decided to use her position as vice-president/treasurer of the Inverhuron & District Ratepayers Association (IDRA) to plan and host, with support from the executive, the IDRA’s first ever Safety Education Day.

“I knew there was a need for safety information as it pertains to cycling, the use of fire extinguishers (many expire without people realizing the need to change them), water safety and boating, and since some of our residents have experienced break-ins over the years, we felt there was a need for information on home security,” she said. “NWMO keeps people informed with up-to-date information about what is happening with the DGR so we felt it was important for NWMO to have a presence so they could provide residents with opportunities to ask questions and get updated information about the project.”

Similar to a trade show, Donna invited several 911 groups and others to relay key safety messages about their subject areas with displays in Inverhuron Park on July 5. Participating groups included South Bruce OPP (strong emphasis on safe cycling), Tiverton Fire Fighters, Crime Stoppers of Grey Bruce, Bluewater Rescue (water safety), Inverhuron Provincial Park, ADT Security Systems, Emergency Management Services and Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) with the mobile exhibit about Ontario Power Generation (OPG)’s proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) for low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW) Project.

About 50 Inverhuron residents toured the exhibits where participants were given opportunities to: put their bikes through the paces of a safety check and learn about bike helmets and hand signals; gain some hands-on experience using a fire extinguisher while putting out a real fire, go aboard a fire truck; find out how to prepare a home emergency plan and build a 72-hour family emergency kit; learn how to prevent home break-ins; gain awareness about water rescue, who to call, and rules and regulations for boat owners; and, with the L&ILW DGR exhibit on hand, residents were invited to learn more about the proposed

project and how it will safely manage low and intermediate level nuclear waste for tens of thousands of years and beyond.

Donna said she was pleased with the respectable attendance for the IDRA’s first Safety Education Day from both exhibitors and local residents.

NWMO senior communication advisor Kevin Orr said, on behalf of NWMO, he was “very pleased to be asked to participate in the event, which gave NWMO another opportunity to meet face to face with Inverhuron residents.

And while we are discussing the topic of safety, it’s always worthwhile to go over some of the key safety case elements for the L&ILW DGR:

- The repository will be isolated from surface waters by its depth of about 680 metres (2,230 feet).

- Low-permeability rock formations that enclose and overlay the repository will safely isolate and contain the waste.

- Bruce nuclear site, host to the L&ILW DGR, is located within the tectonically stable interior of the North American continent, which is a region characterized by low rates of seismicity.

- The 450 million-year-old rock formations have remained stable through tectonic events, climate changes and several ice ages within the past million years – expected to remain stable for at least the next few million years.

- Properties of the deep

bedrock limit the rate of radionuclide movement through the rock to very slow rates – less than one millimetre per year.

- Low and intermediate level nuclear waste contains primarily shorter-lived radionuclides – the radioactivity decreases with time.

- The majority of the radioactivity will decay within or near the repository.

If you have questions about any of these safety elements or would like more information about the project, please feel free to call 519 368-1639 or visit our website at www.nwmo.ca/dgr.

NWMO will be at The Coast Is Clear Conference in Grand Bend on Aug. 20, the Nawash Pow Wow at Cape Croker on Aug. 21 and if you want to take in some surf and sand as well, visit the mobile exhibit at Sandfest in Sauble Beach Aug. 5-8. NWMO is also hosting two summer open houses, which will be held on Aug. 23 at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre in Southampton from 2 – 8 p.m. and at MacGregor Point Provincial Park on Aug. 24 from 2 – 9 p.m. (For more details, about these L&ILW DGR community events, check out our website).*



Marie Wilson, NWMO, and Gordon Barr, IDRA President, have a discussion about the DGR during the IDRA’s recent Safety Education Day.