

The leaves have fallen and winter is fast approaching. As the cold weather advances, most likely we'll be challenged by increasing cases of COVID. The safety protocols that we established at the beginning of this pandemic will continue to provide guidance to all our employees. I'm extremely pleased with how everyone in the north has worked so diligently to keep each other safe. We'll continue to work closely with health authorities and community leadership in order to safeguard everyone's health and safety. I want to assure you that as an essential service, Hydro One Remote Communities is ready and will continue to provide safe and reliable electricity.

- Keeping the Heat In – cold-weather energy-savings tips to help you lower your bill

- EnergyStar Appliance Rebate Program Application – money back for qualified appliances purchased by communities and customers
- Colouring Activity on electrical safety for children – all participants will be mailed a prize!

I wish you and your community
all the best as the holiday season
approaches.

Kraemer Coulter
Managing Director
Hydro One Remote Communities Inc.



LOCAL OPERATORS



JOHN TAIT

Hydro One Remote Diesel Generating Station Operator for Sachigo Lake First Nation

One of our long time operators, John Tait from Sachigo Lake First Nation, has been with Hydro One (or the old Ontario Hydro) since 1987. "I have worked with John for many years and his friendly, happy manner have made this a pleasure. He's dependable, hardworking, and always punctually reporting on the status of the station," said Front Line Manager of Operations for Hydro One Remotes Generation, Mike Hartviksen.

We had the pleasure of interviewing John a few weeks ago.

When did you start working with Hydro One?

My community, Sachigo Lake First Nation, first got electrical power in 1979. In the years before that, in preparation for electricity coming to the community, a number of the community members took electrical training and were hired by the band to wire houses and buildings – I was one of them. I continued to do electrical work in the community, and also started as the backup operator in 1987 when my brother was the operator. I took over as operator in 1989.

In your own words....What do you do?

I maintain the three diesel generating units at the station in the community, including monitoring fluid levels and changing the oil. I look after the plant and keep everything in order, safe and clean. There's a computer system that monitors the generators for problems and tracks the amount of hours they run. If there are any issues, I alert Hydro One Remotes.

What's the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is the people. I'm a people

In each of the 21 off-grid communities that Hydro One Remotes serves, there's one or more local community operators employed at our diesel generating stations. This adds up to over 30 local operators and back-up operators working and helping to maintain the diesel generators that provide steady, reliable power! Each operator serves as the "eyes and ears" of the diesel generating plant, maintaining equipment, performing maintenance, and notifying head office if there's an issue, such as a generator going down. With the help of local operators, the reliability of power in Hydro One Remotes served communities has been an impressive 99.9%.

person and have become good friends with many of the mechanics, electricians, linespeople and other tradespeople that come and work at the plant. It's very enjoyable, and I learn a lot from them.

What does it mean to you to be an operator?

It has been a good experience working as an operator. People may not realize that it's a big responsibility to keep power running all of the time. When I started as a backup operator, I didn't know much at all. Over time, I've learned a lot. As the years have past, the technology has changed, and as I've learned things, my work has become easier. Even though I've been at this for over 30 years, I haven't thought about retirement! I'll keep working as long as I can because I enjoy it.

What advice do you give to someone thinking about a career in the trades?

You can achieve what you want to be and there are many options: mechanic, linesperson, electrician and more.

What kind of things do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I like to get out on the land – in summer I go fishing and boating, in the fall, I love partridge hunting. In winter, I go rabbit snaring.

I want to thank the current band council, and past band councils for supporting me in my role over the years. I also would like to thank Hydro One Remotes staff for all the help and making my career so enjoyable.

We thank John, and all of our station operators for their dedication and hard work. We couldn't keep power running without you!



KEEPING THE HEAT IN

4 SIGNS YOU MAY NEED MORE INSULATION AND AIR SEALING:

1. Unusually high heating and cooling bills
2. Cold floors and walls in the winter
3. Drafty rooms
4. Mould on walls or in the basement

Heating your home is over 60% of your electricity bill. Did you know that up to 25% of your home heating costs might be attributed to heat leaking through doors, windows, outlets and vents?

The more heat you can keep in your house and stop it from leaking out, the less money you'll spend.

Insulation

- Insulation helps keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer. When correctly installed, insulation can deliver comfort and savings, especially during the hottest and coldest times of the year.

Seal outdoor outlets

- Don't forget your home's exterior! Make sure to use insulated electrical outlet boxes with proper sealing to prevent air leaks.



Fill the gap

- Up to 13% of your home's total heating and cooling could be escaping through the spaces around your windows and doors. Draft proof or weatherstrip around frames to prevent air loss.

Let the sunshine in

- On sunny winter days, open window coverings to let warm light in. Once the sun sets, close them to retain heat.

Add window film

- Seal your windows with inexpensive plastic film using a hair dryer. Both indoor and outdoor sheeting are available, so be sure to read the label.

Replace the filters

- Clogged furnace filters diminish your home's air quality. Plus, they use more energy and force the system to work harder. Check the furnace filters monthly, and remember to clean or replace them every 90 days, depending on whether they're disposable or permanent.

Woodstove

- If you cover the damper when you aren't using the woodstove, you'll avoid air leaks and heat loss.
- If you have a fireplace or woodstove, when you need more heat you may want to throw a log on the fire instead of plugging in a space heater – space heaters use a lot of energy and can be expensive.

Crawlspace

- Check out your crawlspace - turn on the heater and water heat trace systems just high enough to keep from freezing.
- Check out the vents and make sure they are sealed for the winter to keep the heat in and animals out.

For more energy-saving tips, visit
HydroOne.com/SaveEnergy.

WHAT DOES THE SERVICE CHARGE ON MY BILL COVER?

It's a fixed monthly charge of \$20.90 for costs related to meter reading, billing, customer service and account maintenance, and for general utility operations. First Nations customers living on a reserve receive the First Nations Delivery Credit of \$20.90 that's equal to the service charge.

If you don't see this credit on your bill and believe you should, call our billing department 1-800-456-5085.

OPERATION
PLAYGROUND

Earlier this fall, Hydro One Remotes partnered with Origin, CRCS Recreation and ESDC on "Operation Playground", a project that brought youth volunteers from Thunder Bay and Marten Falls together for training and construction of a new playground in Marten Falls First Nation.



www.HydroOne.com/Remote-Communities



For bill inquiries

tel 1-800-465-5085

For power outages & emergencies

tel 1-888-825-8707



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IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR JUST WANT TO SAY HI, CONTACT:

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www.HydroOne.com/Remote-Communities



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