

# WESTERN NEW YORK NEWS

## NIAGARA POWER PROJECT

NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER • FALL 2008

## YEAR ONE WITH A NEW LICENSE BRINGS MANY BENEFITS TO WNY

**O**n a variety of fronts, the New York Power Authority is making progress with its many relicensing commitments in Western New York.

A new 50-year license for NYPA's Niagara Power Project took effect on Sept. 1, 2007, and in the past year economic and environmental benefits have begun to flow to communities and organizations up and down the Niagara River. These include new hydropower allocations and funding awards for local stakeholder groups.

In fact, a benefit calculator showing the amount of expenditures paid by NYPA since the start of the new license is updated regularly on the Niagara relicensing website (<http://niagara.nypa.gov>).

There have been "behind-the-scenes" developments over the last 12 months as well, with design and planning work done on Habitat Improvement Projects (HIPs) and Recreational Enhancement Projects near the Niagara facility.

Construction began this fall in the Upper Niagara River on underwater structures similar to artificial reefs. Rocks and boulders have been assembled in various formations at four sites along the river bottom; these shelters allow fish to rest and forage more easily, encouraging resident populations of muskellunge, northern pike, wall-eye and large- and small-mouth bass.

An Ecological Standing Committee, composed of stakeholder groups and governmental agencies, helped identify and prioritize HIP opportunities; NYPA is also working with local sporting associations, including the Niagara Musky Association, whose members regularly fish the Niagara River and have volunteered to help monitor the new underwater HIPs.

Osprey are also receiving extra attention from the Power Authority. Considered a species of



*An underwater video camera, left, is used aboard a research vessel, above, to document aquatic habitat along the Niagara River bottom near Grand Island. NYPA began making habitat improvements this fall.*



"special concern," osprey populations are being encouraged with new nesting platforms being installed along the Niagara River.

This past spring, a pair of osprey assembled a nest atop NYPA's first platform, placed in Buckhorn Island State Park on Grand Island last year, in a joint effort with National Grid. This fall, a second osprey platform is planned for Beaver Island State Park, also on Grand Island, with additional platforms established elsewhere in coming years.

The next HIP on NYPA's schedule, planned for early 2009, will restore a former island near Tonawanda with the creation of approximately five acres of open marshland to support a variety of fish and wildlife.

Next year will also see the start of improvements to three recreational facilities, providing additional public fishing access along the Niagara River and at the north side of Lewiston Reservoir. ♦

## WNY NOTES

### Niagara PD Gets Two Electric Cars

**T**he Power Authority has helped the City of Niagara Falls purchase two electric vehicles that police will use for patrolling and parking enforcement duties.

In one of his first official acts as NYPA's new president and chief executive officer, Richard Kessel unveiled the cars outside City Hall with Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster in October. Known as the GEM e4, the vehicles are manufactured by Global Electric Motorcars, a Chrysler company located in North Dakota.

When fully charged, the GEM e4 can attain a top speed of 25 miles per hour and has a range of about 30 miles. The car's six 12-volt batteries



*NYPA President Richard Kessel, right, with Mayor Paul Dyster, left, and Officer Jeff Grzeskowiak.*

recharge in six to eight hours using regular household electric current (110 volts), without any special adaptor.

Previously, Niagara Falls State Park purchased nine electric vehicles as part of NYPA's statewide Green Zones Program, which helps replace gasoline and diesel vehicles in parks, downtown areas and on college campuses. ♦



**Horace Horton, NYPA regional manager for Western New York, is flanked by this year's recipients of NYPA's Niagara Power Project Relicensing Scholarships for Members of the Tuscarora Nation. Both Mia McKie of the Turtle Clan, left, and Wayland Wilson of the Deer Clan, are 2008 graduates of Niagara Wheatfield High School. As part of its Niagara project relicensing, NYPA will provide annually throughout the term of its new 50-year license two full tuition scholarships to Tuscarora students.**

# NYPA STATEWIDE

## POWER AUTHORITY TIDBITS FROM AROUND THE STATE

With this first edition of *NYPA Statewide*, the Power Authority is updating our newsletter communications with constituents in New York State. Our previous four-page *NYPA News* was distributed quarterly, with stories on Power Authority initiatives on energy efficiency,

renewable energy and other topics; power project updates; and energy news affecting the state. We have consolidated that newsletter into a one-page summary, to be distributed with our one-page regional newsletters, to residents around our major power projects.

### Kessel Named NYPA President and CEO



Richard Kessel

Richard Kessel, former chief executive officer of the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and former chairman of its Board of Trustees, became the new president and chief executive officer of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) on Oct. 14. Kessel negotiated LIPA's acquisition of the Long Island

Lighting Company, which contributed to an immediate reduction in utility rates on Long Island. He also led the decommissioning of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant. Also, two new members have joined the NYPA Board of Trustees. They are Eugene Nicandri of Massena, a former judge on the St. Lawrence County Court, and Jonathan Foster of New York City, an investment banker and private equity investor. ♦



Eugene Nicandri



Jonathan Foster

### NYPA Wildlife Festivals Successful

A total of 30,000 people attended four Wildlife Festivals conducted by the Power Authority around the state in late September. Three of the annual events were held at visitors centers of NYPA's major power projects in Lewiston, Massena and Schoharie County, and the fourth was held at the Utica Zoo, near NYPA's Clark Energy Center at Marcy. The Wildlife Festivals feature up-close encounters with live, exotic animals, from rainforest to farmland, as well as food, crafts, games, entertainment and other family fun.

The festival at Lewiston was a two-day affair, attracting 20,000 people from around Western New York. ♦



NYPA Wildlife Festivals in Schoharie County (top), Utica, Massena (right) and Lewiston (not shown) acquainted young people with a range of live animals, domestic and exotic, with a preserve-the-environment theme.



### NYPA Helps Ease High Heating Costs

The Power Authority is conducting a \$5 million "Weatherization Blitz" as part of a package of state initiatives announced by Gov. David Paterson to help New Yorkers reduce household energy use and heating bills this winter. NYPA will distribute "do it yourself" winterization tune-up kits and energy savings tip sheets to eligible customers served by municipal electric systems throughout upstate New York. The Power Authority also will join other state agencies in coordinating outreach efforts to help New Yorkers gain access to information and services. ♦



Energy savings will be in the bag with do-it-yourself kits.



Power Authority's Crescent plant on the Mohawk River.

### Fish Protection System Serves Plant

A new fish protection system at the Power Authority's Crescent hydroelectric plant on the Mohawk River near Colonie will further ease the way for blueback herring on their annual downstream migration to the Atlantic Ocean. The previous system, featuring underwater sound projectors, has been redesigned and relocated to keep more fish away from the powerhouse and direct them to a bypass atop one of three dams. The herring are repelled by the high-frequency sound, which is inaudible to humans. ♦

### NYPA Joins Grid-Electric Vehicle Study

NYPA has joined a collaborative with General Motors (GM), the Electric Power Research Institute and more than 30 top utilities in the United States and Canada to study the effect that widespread use of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) will have on the electric grid. The immediate goal is the development of two GM plug-in hybrid models, the Saturn Vue and Chevrolet Volt. PHEVs use domestically produced electricity delivered through the grid, lowering fuel costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Integrating PHEVs into the electric grid will require close collaboration between the automobile and electric utility industries, making the relationship between EPRI and its utility partners more important. ♦