

For Immediate Release

Historic Niagara Electrical Generating Station celebrates 100 years of supplying power.

Niagara Falls, ON, 27 July 2005

The historic William Birch Rankine generating station marked its 100th year of supplying clean, efficient hydroelectric power today, during a special ceremony held at the facility to celebrate this important milestone. The plant, which is owned by Canadian Niagara Power (CNP), a division of FortisOntario Inc. first came on line on this date in 1905.

The beautifully designed and stately 600-foot facility will cease power production in 2009, when it will be turned over to The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) for tourism purposes. FortisOntario President & CEO Bill Daley noted, "Today we mark the beginning of the transition of the Rankine Generating Station from a producer of power to what we at Canadian Niagara hope will be a facility designed to enhance tourism opportunities and learning about hydroelectric heritage."

During the ceremony NPC Chairman Jim Williams praised the more than century-long partnership that has existed between the two organizations. "For 100 years now," he remarked "the power generated from the William Birch Rankine Generating Station has helped power our society, and it has helped shape what Niagara Parks has become. And for that we are truly thankful."

Ontario Energy Minister Dwight Duncan, area mayors and current and retired employees of CNP were also in attendance. Guests toured the facility, which is still producing power and viewed historical artifacts and photographs. Some of the generators operating at Rankine are original equipment installed 100 years ago. "What a testament to the reliability of the technology and the engineering foresight of the people who built this plant," Mr. Daley noted.

University of Waterloo Historian Dr. Norman Ball has been commissioned to write the history of Canadian Niagara Power. His book will be released in the fall.

The Niagara Parks Commission, an Agency of the Government of Ontario since 1885, operates to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Niagara Falls and the Niagara River Corridor for the enjoyment of visitors while remaining financially self-sufficient.

Headquartered in Fort Erie Ontario, FortisOntario is an innovative growth company with core businesses focused on electricity distribution, transmission and generation. FortisOntario is 100% Canadian-owned and a proud member of the Fortis Inc. group of companies. Fortis Inc. is a diversified holding company with investments in five electric distribution utilities, including Newfoundland Power, Maritime Electric, Belize Electric, Caribbean Utilities Company, and Fortis Ontario.

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