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Ontario Power Generation Helping Enhance Education Opportunities in Kincardine

KINCARDINE – The Lake Huron Learning Collaborative (LHLC) is closer to realizing its plans for a Learning Centre in Kincardine thanks to a commitment of \$500,000 over the next four years from Ontario Power Generation (OPG).

OPG's support will help the LHLC build capacity to enhance the long-term education infrastructure of the Huron-Bruce region and continuance of established programs in Huron County. The Learning Centre for Kincardine would provide local graduating students and adults in search of post-secondary studies and skills training the opportunity to learn close to home.

Formed in 2004 by interested citizens, the LHLC began to investigate options for delivering studies at the college and university level. By working with the Town of Goderich, Municipality of Kincardine, boards of education, various non-profit organizations and supportive agencies at the local and county level, the LHLC has been able to form additional partnerships, including with the University of Western Ontario.

"I am thrilled that Ontario Power Generation has responded to the community by making this timely contribution to the Lake Huron Learning Collaborative" said Larry Kraemer, Mayor of Kincardine. "Having a good corporate citizen support our goal will help us make the Lake Huron Learning Centre Kincardine a reality and develop increased educational capacity in our communities and the Huron-Bruce region."

"OPG is pleased to support this exciting grass-roots initiative, which was identified by the community as an educational and economic development opportunity. Ultimately, this investment will help develop local talent that will benefit our future operations," said Tom Mitchell, OPG's President and CEO. "The partnership we established through our work toward a proposed Low and Intermediate Level Waste Deep Geologic Repository, and the associated community agreement, will be further strengthened by this endeavour. We intend to be part of this community for a long time."

In appreciation to the Municipality of Kincardine, the Westario Building in Kincardine will house the Learning Centre. By bringing post secondary education opportunities to the community, LHLC will have a positive educational and economic impact with the local availability of a broad range of courses, at varying levels, tailored to meet the economic and educational needs and challenges of the future. "To achieve and maintain a competitive edge, it is necessary to increase the number of residents with a certificate, diploma or degree by 17,440."* Source Trends Opportunities and Priorities (TOP) report, Bruce Grey Huron Perth Georgian Triangle Training Board, March 2009.

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