

A tribute to John Sucee

John Sucee, former Operations Manager of Five Nations Energy Inc. passed away on September 8, 2011.



John Sucee with Ed Chilton
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On Thursday Sept 8, FNEI lost a dedicated manager and friend in John Sucee. John came to FNEI in late fall 2006, after Cecil MacDonald met him in an interview. While John was not successful in that interview, John had an obvious talent for maintenance – so John was contracted to join FNEI to assist in keeping the services on and workers safe.

In early 2007, he took on the role of overseeing the DeBeers modifications at the Kashechewan and Fort Albany transformer station sites – making sure that FNEI specifications were being met. At the same time he assisted in the work FNEI was carrying out in the addition of back up transformers and added switchgear at Fort Albany and Attawapiskat stations.

He enjoyed this work – and even relished his first helicopter ride in May 2007 as he worked at both Kashechewan and Fort Albany stations during break-up. The two major projects required frequent inspections and verifications for all of 2007, and at the same time, FNEI still needed John to tackle many maintenance challenges at all three sites.

After FNEI lost General Manager Cecil Macdonald in July 2007, it began a search

for a new maintenance manager. In October 2007, John was appointed the Operations Manager responsible for all Operations and Maintenance plus any station modifications or additions needed to provide reliable service to the three communities as well as the Victor Mine.

One memorable day

three owners, Fort Albany Power Corporation, Kashechewan Power Corporation and Attawapiskat Power Corporation.

In November 2008, John received news that he was suffering from an aggressive form of cancer. He continued to do what he enjoyed – maintaining the stations and worked until late spring 2009, but finally his illness prevented him from carrying out his duties. Even while hospitalized numerous times, he was checking the FNEI stations through the new fiber-optic links to the sites. His work ethic and maybe even stubbornness to not give



John Sucee (right) getting set for another helicopter ride.
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was in January 2008, when FNEI had a major problem with a switch at the Attawapiskat transformer. Fortunately, the community could be supplied by the new spare energized just days before – but the failed switch was a serious concern. Temperatures in January were typical James Bay cold, and the work on this switch was in very tight quarters, so no gloves could be worn. John spent hours outside working without gloves to repair the failed part, and his only comment was, “I like working outside – even in winter!”

John had the idea of reminding the communities that they are the owners of the stations and created the large metal signs on the station control buildings displaying the FNEI logo and the logo of its

up enabled him to enjoy a much longer time with his family. Typical John, he had his 61st birthday party in his Timmins hospital room on September 3rd 2011. You would expect that this would be a sad time – but he told everyone to enjoy this moment, and we all did.

Thanks John, from all of us.

FNEI Community

Donations

Creefest

Five Nations Energy Inc. (FNEI) is one of the sponsors of Creefest. This year, Creefest 2011 was held in Moosonee, ON. This is an event that has gained recognition and popularity throughout the years inside and outside our region, attracting many participants and visitors.

The Elders in the Mushkegowuk Territory had requested that Creefest be created for the Communities, Youth, Elders, and Families, to be able to celebrate their culture and traditions through this venue. Many people enjoyed the traditional foods that were prepared by the Elders.

The Youth in the region also had made a special request that a traditional and cultural component be included in the



Photo by Greg Spence

Creefest program, through a high school survey that was completed by Youth Coordinators from the Friendship Centre in Moosonee. The highlights of this special request included tamarack bird making, making of regalia, Pow Wow dance demonstration, and the significance of sweet grass in ceremonies.

Hats off to the Creefest Organizers

for another successful event!

Winter Sports

Each year, FNEI is asked to contribute towards various sports organizations in the Communities. In the past year, FNEI provided funds towards costs for hockey teams to participate in various hockey tournaments throughout the hockey season such as the Mushkegowuk Challenge Cup and the Little NHL. These are popular tournaments with the hockey teams in the Communities. Hockey is a major sport in the Communities enjoyed by many Youth. Playing hockey also provides a form of healthy exercise for the Youth in our region. Hats off to the Youth!!

Community School Trips

Each year, some schools in the Communities do fund-raising to be able to provide school trips for their students. Again, this year, FNEI provided funds towards costs for school trips. One of the

teachers noted that the students had varied career interests that ranged from mining, heavy equipment, energy production, to culinary, visual and cultural arts. These students were able to tour various colleges to see first hand what the colleges have to offer in terms of their students' career choices. Another teacher from another school noted

that for many of the students, it will be their first trip to a big city, and this opens their eyes and minds that there are career opportunities beyond their Community. This teacher also incorporates the subjects of Geography, History, Science, and an English curriculum, during the school trip.

Support to Women's Sports Teams

We have provided funds towards tournament costs for a hockey team made up of young women, and this team has been playing hockey and attending tournaments for the past three years. The broomball women's team, on the other hand, is new this year. One of the motivating factors to start a broomball team was women's overall health. The women's team has been practicing their skills and will participate in a broomball tournament this fall, and we wish them the very best in the tournament!

Timmins Native Friendship Centre BBQ

Each year, the Friendship Centre organizes a "Back to School BBQ" to raise funds towards purchasing backpacks for children and youth in Timmins. FNEI provided funds again this year towards the Back to School BBQ. Many children received back packs again this year filled with school supplies. The Friendship Centre assists families at risk to ensure the children are equipped with the supplies required to start a school year. The Friendship Centre is once again very pleased that FNEI, and other supporters, were able to provide funds towards this important initiative and to bring a smile to the children's faces!

FNEI encourages community groups within the Mushkegowuk region to seek donations. If you feel that your organization should be considered, please contact the FNEI office for the donation rules and an application form. FNEI will routinely collect the applications and will contact only those organizations under consideration.

To reach the FNEI office, please call: 705-268-0056 or visit us at <http://www.fivenations.ca> for more information.

Operations Update

The winter is coming and it is time for another update on the operations and maintenance activities of FNEI.

Beginning with staff updates we have a new member on our team: Danail Yakimov who is filling the Substation Electrician Position. Our apprentice, Robert Chokoomoolin is continuing his training to become a certified substation electrician as well as achieving his 309A construction and maintenance certification. Robert successfully finished Level one – Substation electrician training and is currently attending an eight week course at Northern College for his 309A.

Our main goal in the operations department is to keep the lights on in the communities. FNEI works hard to minimize the required outage time related to equipment failures and planned maintenance. This summer we invested over \$100,000 in very specialized testing equipment and are in the process of getting familiar with it. With our own equipment, we are able to utilise our maintenance time at the substations more efficiently, to gain experience, and to enhance our ability to respond faster in emergency situations. And it is cheaper than contracting.

Since the last newsletter we have had a few significant

projects along with regular routine maintenance.

At the Kashechewan substation several porcelain insulators skirts were damaged, which could cause expanding cracks and possible column collapse during regular equipment operation. The two damaged columns were replaced with the new ones. Subcontractors were hired to assist in order to reduce the length of the power outage. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and we had to work in the cold rain to complete the job in time. This was the first time we were able to use our new testing equipment to make sure that the equipment was in good operating condition after the repair.

A short planned outage was used to take

some insulators for testing from the K5A (Kashechewan to Attawapiskat) 132kV line. This job was performed by the Kashechewan and Fort Albany line crew under the supervision of Jim Quinn. All jobs were well organized and completed as planned.

One of the big upcoming projects will be vegetation control (brushing) under the transmission line to maintain safety and reliability.

All summer we were busy with routine maintenance at the substations. Local students were employed to assist in grass removal. We also focused on preventative maintenance including general inspections, small repairs and upgrades. Every piece of equipment, no matter how small, requires regular attention and has to be checked on schedule before



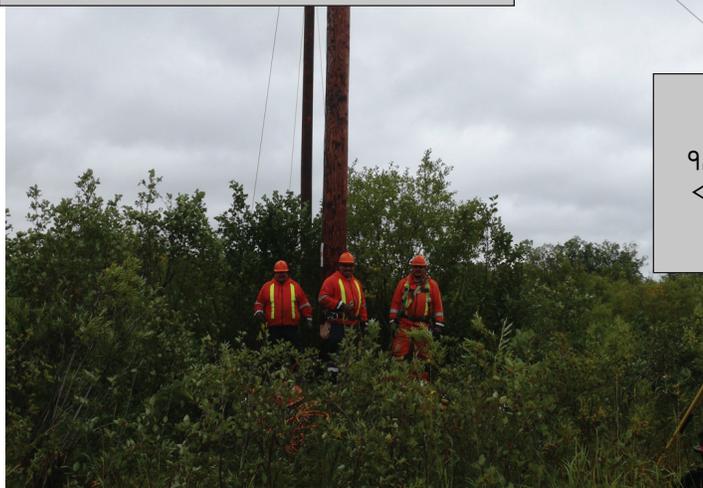
Fort Albany and Kashechewan workers performing maintenance work.

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Gary Taylor from PowerTel replacing equipment in Kashechewan.

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Fort Albany and Kashechewan workers during the testing of insulators on the Kashechewan to Attawapiskat line.

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some something happens. We all know it is much easier and cheaper to prevent damage then to repair after.

Over all this was a very productive summer and fall; a lot of maintenance tasks have been completed and we are ready to meet winter. Our ability to keep the lights on this winter will still depend a lot on Mother Nature, but we hope to pass it without many surprises.

